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President Nathan Confers Top Military Award on Malaysian General

20 Jul 2011



President Nathan congratulating General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Azizan bin Ariffin after conferring the Distinguished Service Order (Military) on him at Istana.

General (GEN) Tan Sri Dato' Sri Azizan bin Ariffin was conferred Singapore's highest military award, the Darjah Utama Bakti Cemerlang (Tentera) Distinguished Service Order (Military)], by President S R Nathan at the Istana this afternoon.

The medal was awarded to GEN Azizan for his significant contributions in strengthening the defence ties between the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). GEN Azizan was the Chief of Defence Forces of the MAF from September 2009 to June 2011. Under his leadership, professional interactions between the two forces have grown in scope and depth. With GEN Azizan's support, both armed forces interact regularly through bilateral activities such as Exercise Semangat Bersatu and Exercise Malapura, as well as through multilateral activities such as the Five Power Defence Arrangements. Both forces

have also been working closely to enhance maritime security through the Malacca Strait Patrols. These interactions and initiatives have enhanced the mutual understanding and friendship between personnel of the two armed forces.

Guests at the investiture included Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen, Permanent Secretary for Defence Chiang Chie Foo, Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant-General (LG) Neo Kian Hong, as well as other senior government officials and military officers from Singapore and Malaysia.

GEN Azizan, who is in Singapore from 19 to 20 Jul 2011, called on Dr Ng and LG Neo at the Ministry of Defence before the investiture. The Distinguished Service Order (Military) was previously awarded to Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, then Minister of Defence, in 1995, and to former MAF Chief of Defence Forces GEN Tan Sri Dato' Sri Abdul Aziz Zainal in 2009.



General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Azizan bin Ariffin calling on Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen at MINDEF.

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