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Change in Chief of Navy

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Outgoing Chief of Navy Rear-Admiral Ng Chee Peng (left) and Incoming Chief of Navy Rear-Admiral Lai Chung Han (right).

Rear-Admiral (RADM) Lai Chung Han, currently Deputy Secretary (Policy) at the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), will take over from RADM Ng Chee Peng as Chief of Navy on 1 August 2014. This change is part of the continuing process of leadership renewal in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF).

Since joining the SAF in 1988, RADM Ng Chee Peng, 44, has served the SAF with distinction. Through the course of his career, RADM Ng has held, amongst others, the appointments of Commanding Officer of RSS Victory; Commanding Officer of 188 Squadron; Commander of 1st Flotilla; Director (Policy); Fleet Commander; Chief of Staff-Naval Staff; and Chief of Staff-Joint Staff. RADM Ng has held the post of Chief of Navy since 29 Mar 2011. As Chief of Navy, RADM Ng has maintained the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) high state of operational readiness by leading it through the successful conduct of local and overseas maritime operations. He laid the foundations for the RSN's future capabilities by operationalising new platforms such as the ARCHER-class submarines and reorganizing the RSN's operational, training and safety systems. He also introduced various initiatives to better engage RSN servicemen and to further strengthen their commitment to defence. He also initiated efforts by the RSN, e.g. Navy@VIVO, to reach out to the public and the wider community. Under RADM Ng's leadership, the RSN has made valuable contributions to international counter-piracy efforts and played a key role through its command of Combined Task Force 151 in the Gulf of Aden. RADM Ng also enhanced the coordination of our national maritime agencies in detecting and responding to maritime threats, by establishing and operationalising the National Maritime Security System.

The incoming Chief of Navy, RADM Lai Chung Han, 41, joined the SAF in Jan 1992 and was awarded the SAF (Overseas) and President's Scholarship in 1992. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Economics) from the University of Cambridge, UK, and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University, USA. In the course of his military career, he has held, amongst others, the appointments of Commanding Officer of RSS Valiant; Office Director of Future Systems Directorate; Commanding Officer of 188 Squadron; Director (Policy); and Fleet Commander. RADM Lai has been Deputy Secretary (Policy) MINDEF since Sept 2012.

MINDEF wishes to express its appreciation to RADM Ng Chee Peng for his dedicated service and sterling contributions to MINDEF and SAF.