



# NEWS RELEASE

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## President Tan Confers Top Military Award on Chief of the Malaysian Armed Forces

13 Aug 2014



*President Tony Tan Keng Yam congratulating General (GEN) Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr) Zulkifeli bin Mohd Zin after conferring the Distinguished Service Order (Military) on him at the Istana.*

Chief of Defence Force of the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF), General (GEN) Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr) Zulkifeli bin Mohd Zin was conferred Singapore's highest military award, the Darjah Utama Bakti Cemerlang (Tentera) Distinguished Service Order (Military)], by President Tony Tan Keng Yam at the Istana this afternoon.

Guests at the investiture included Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister of State for Defence Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Permanent Secretary for Defence Chan Yeng Kit, Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant-General (LG) Ng Chee Meng, as well as senior government officials and military officers from Malaysia and Singapore.

GEN Zulkifeli received the award for his significant contributions in strengthening the relationship between the MAF and the Singapore Armed Forces as MAF Chief of Defence Force since June 2011. Under his leadership, interactions between both armed forces have expanded in both scope and depth. The two armed forces interact regularly through bilateral activities such as Exercise Semangat Bersatu and Exercise Malapura, which celebrated their 20th and 30th anniversary respectively this year. Both armed forces also work closely together at the multilateral level under the ambit of the Five Power Defence Arrangements, the Malacca Strait Patrols and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus framework. These interactions and cooperation have fostered mutual understanding and camaraderie among the officers and men of both armed forces, as well as contributed to regional peace and stability.

GEN Zulkifeli, who is in Singapore from 12 to 13 August 2014, called on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the Istana on 12 August, and Dr Ng and LG Ng at the Ministry of Defence before the investiture. During the calls, both sides reaffirmed the strong bilateral defence ties and expressed commitment to deepen the bilateral defence relationship through more interactions at all levels.

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*GEN Zulkifeli calling on Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen at the Ministry of Defence this morning.*

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