

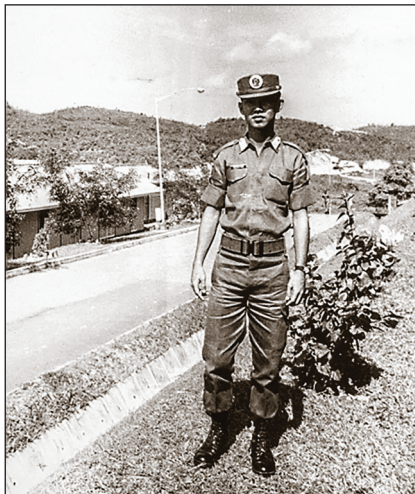


A field camp during section leaders' training, February 1968.
In the background, two trainees go about setting up the field toilet.



A signals exercise in
Tuas during officer cadet
training, August 1968.

In Officer Cadet School, with
the rolling hills of SAFTI in the
background, October 1968.





With section mates of Platoon 4, B Company, Officer Cadet School, 1968.



The Commanding Officer, Major Jagrup Singh (seated, centre), and officers of 6 SIR, 24 April 1969.

The OC of B Company,
6 SIR, Lieutenant Anthony
Nadarajan (*right*), conducting
an exercise debrief, 1969.



Lunch break during
platoon field training,
6 SIR, 1969.

Ee Hong Teck, who was
my platoon sergeant and
fellow national serviceman
in 6 SIR, 1969.





With Second-Lieutenant
Ang Chuan Seng, fellow
platoon commander
in 6 SIR, 1969.



With Second-Lieutenant Teo
Chye Lye, fellow platoon
commander in 6 SIR, 1969.



Our AMX-13 tanks making their debut during Singapore's National Day Parade, 9 August 1969.

Photo credit: Yusof Ishak Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Course mates of the 4th SATO Course, 5 April – 25 July 1970.

From left: Lieutenant William Lim, Captain Tan Chin Tiong, Lieutenant Mok Chuck Whye, and Lieutenant Wee Guan Yak.



Newly promoted to captain during my SATO course, 1970.



Sending-off Lieutenant-Colonel Anton Segev, Israeli Manpower Advisor, 1972.

From left: Sim Cheng Tee, Head, CMP Department, and his wife; CMP branch heads, Captain Ling Woo Leong and Captain Tan Peng Ann; and Lieutenant-Colonel Segev.



Celebrating the 50th anniversary of SAFTI's 3rd Officer Cadet Course at the Singapore Cricket Club, 17 November 2018.

Tan Chin Tiong (*second row, eighth from left*), with Lieutenant-General Winston Choo, former Chief of Defence Force, on his right, and Lieutenant-Colonel Albert Tan, OC of B Company, one of the two cadet companies, on his left.



At the Army Staff College, Camberley, UK,
January – October 1972.



With Bruneian course
mate at the Army
Staff College, 1972.



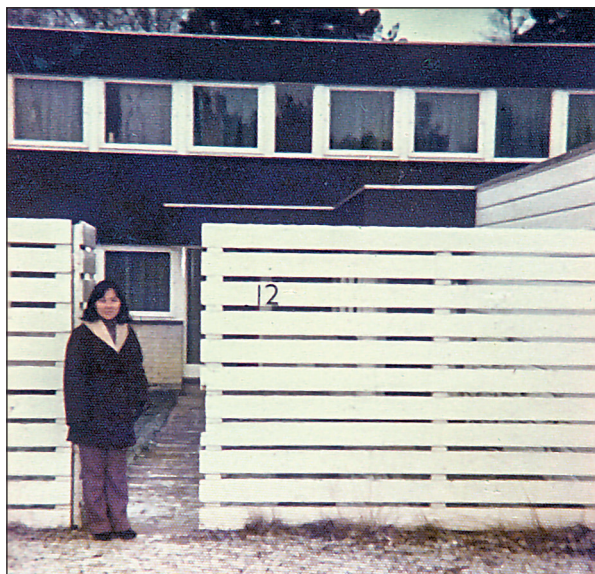
With Nigerian course
mate, Lieutenant-Colonel
Domkat Ali, at Pegasus
Bridge, Normandy, during a
battlefield tour, June 1972.



Participating in a map exercise, Army Staff College, July 1972.



With my course mates from Indonesia and Malaysia during the visit to the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR), West Germany, August 1972.



My wife, Maureen, at our quarters in the grounds of the Army Staff College, 1972.



Maureen (*last row, left*) at St. Catherine's Preparatory School, Camberley, 1972.



Maureen with our elder son, Gerald,
at 2 Brompton Road, our SAF
quarters in Seletar Airbase, 1973.



Maureen with our sons, Gerald and Emille, at our home at 1 Kasai Road, Seletar Hills, 1975.



Sng Seow Lian, one of two SAF officer cadets—the first to be sent—trained at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, UK, 1971–73.



With Sng Seow Lian, who edited my memoirs, 3 June 2025.



4 SIR Change of Command, 28 August 1973. Lieutenant-Colonel James Chia (*foreground, second from left*), the outgoing Commanding Officer, being given a farewell.



Taking over command of 4 SIR from Lieutenant-Colonel James Chia, 28 August 1973.



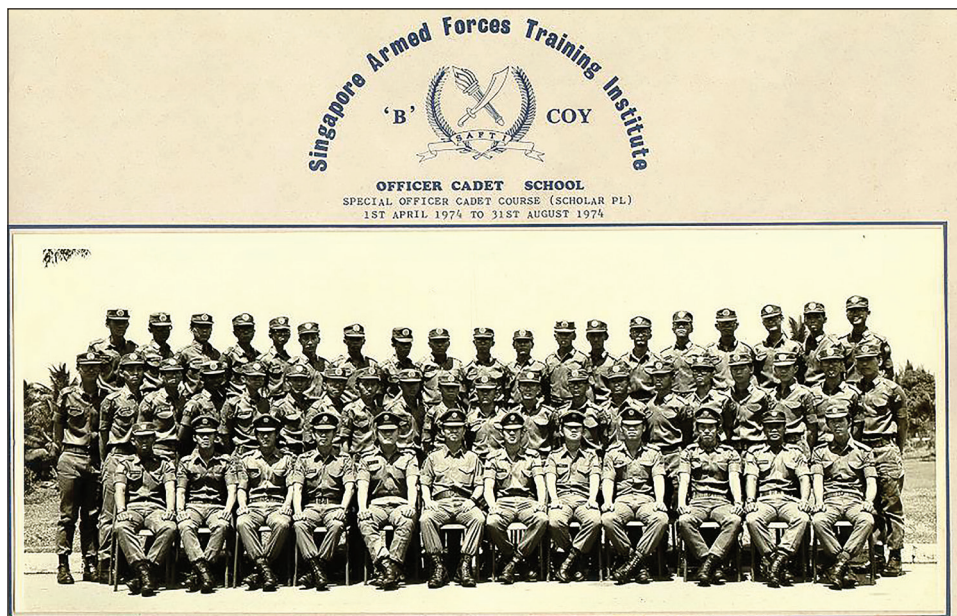
Dr Goh Keng Swee, the Acting Prime Minister, taking the salute at the National Day Parade on 9 August 1973. The Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, was on sabbatical leave.

Photo credit: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



The armoured column during the National Day Parade held at the Padang, 9 August 1973.

Photo credit: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



The scholars in the Special Officer Cadet Course, with Commanding Officer OCS, Lieutenant-Colonel Tan Chin Tiong, 1974.



Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Special Officer Cadet Course, at One Farrer Hotel, 31 August 2024.

Mindef headquarters (dubbed the White House) was converted from the former British Army Tanglin Officers' Mess building in 1973. In 2002, its ownership changed hands again when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took over the building.

Photo credit: Mindef, Knowledge Research and Archives Group (KRAG)



The Mindef Lunch Club was on the ground floor of the "White House".

Photo credit: Mindef, Knowledge Research and Archives Group (KRAG)



With Brigadier Kirpa Ram Vij, Director General Staff, 1973.



With Lieutenant-Colonel Quek Poh Huat (*centre*), Head Actuation Department, Logistics Division, and Ong Kah Kok, Director Logistics Division (*right*), 1974.



Colonel Koh Tin Fook was Head Joint Research Department before he retired from the SAF to join the public service. Earlier, he had served as Commanding Officer of the Officers' Personnel Centre and Secretary of the Wranglers' Committee.



Dr Goh Keng Swee being briefed on an SAF field hospital deployment, 1975. Yap Neng Chew, Second Permanent Secretary (Defence), and Colonel Winston Choo, Director of General Staff, were on his right.



The SAF Planning Team for infantry and commando training in Heng Chun (恆春), Taiwan, March 1975.

From left: Goh Chin Heng, Kwang Kok Yeow, Lien Beng Thong, and Boon Hon Lim.



With the SAF Infantry Training Team in Heng Chun (恆春), Taiwan, April 1975.



With Colonel Jagrup Singh, Commander Area 3 / Chief Infantry Officer, at the Waiorua Training Area in New Zealand, 1976.



The SAFTI crest was conceptualised by Dr Goh Keng Swee at a meeting with George Bogaars, Permanent Secretary; Tan Teck Khim, Director of General Staff; and Lieutenant-Colonel Kirpa Ram Vij, Director of SAFTI. It was approved on 6 June 1966.



The motto "Towards Excellence" was added to the SAFTI crest on Dr Goh's suggestion in 1975.

7 SIR Officers Dining-in, 1972.

From Left: Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Chan, Commanding Officer; Captain (Dr) Tan Chui Tin, Battalion Medical Officer; Captain Chan Chik Weng, General Staff Officer; and Lieutenant Ng Say Keong, Company Commander.



Colonel Ha Weng Kong (*second from left*), Chief Armour Officer, hosting a visit to SAF Armour by Malaysian Armed Forces officers (*extreme left and extreme right*), April 1981.





Major Yap Chin Hoe, Commanding Officer 2 GDS.

Major Tham Chee Onn,
Commanding Officer 1 GDS.



Colonel Chew Bak Khoon, Chief of
Communications and Electronics.



Colonel Lui Pao Chuen, Director of Special Projects,
later inaugural Mindef Chief Defence Scientist, in the
turret of a V-200 armoured personnel carrier fitted
with the RBS-70 surface-to-air missile, 1983.

Colonel Gurcharan Singh, Head Operations Department, General Staff Division, who wrote the seminal paper proposing a General Staff in 1976.



With Lieutenant-Colonel G. Arumugam, who facilitated the integration of the Plans and Organisation Departments in the General Staff in 1977.



With Neo Poh Chuan, who, as 2 SIB Operations Officer, assisted me greatly in my duties as 2 SIB General Staff Officer.





Receiving the Colonel rank insignia from Dr Goh Keng Swee at the promotion ceremony for senior officers, July 1976.



Receiving the Public Administration Medal (PPA) (Gold) Award from President Benjamin Sheares, January 1977.

Study Visit to Israel, May 1977.

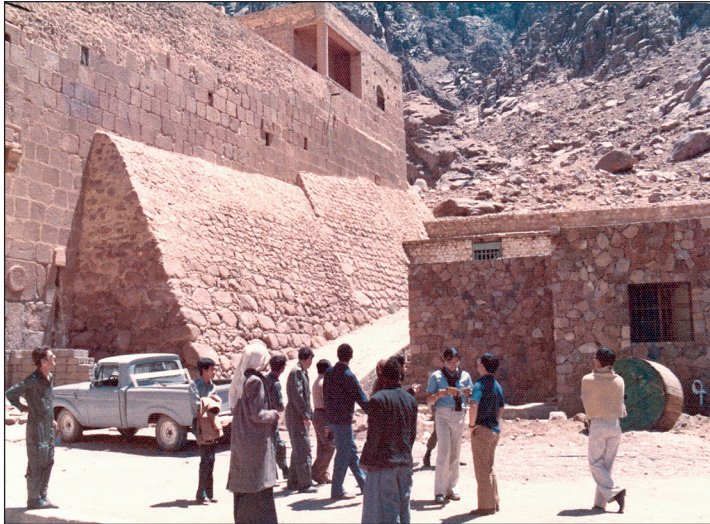
From left: IDF liaison officer, the two Israeli drivers, Colonel Tan Chin Tiong, Brigadier-General Winston Choo (Chief of General Staff), Pek Beng Choon, Lee Hsien Loong, Stephen Wong, Eric Lim, and Colonel Yehuda Gonen (IDF Defence Attache in Singapore).



Colonel Tan Chin Tiong and Stephen Wong at an IDF fortified position in the Sinai Desert.

From left: Lee Hsien Loong, Stephen Wong, Brigadier-General Winston Choo (Chief of General Staff), Pek Beng Choon, Brigadier-General Jacob Elazari (Chief of Staff, Israel Central Command), Tan Chin Tiong, Eric Lim and IDF officer in the West Bank.





Saint Catherine's Monastery at the foot of Mount Sinai.



The biblical "Burning Bush"
in the grounds of Saint Catherine's
Monastery.

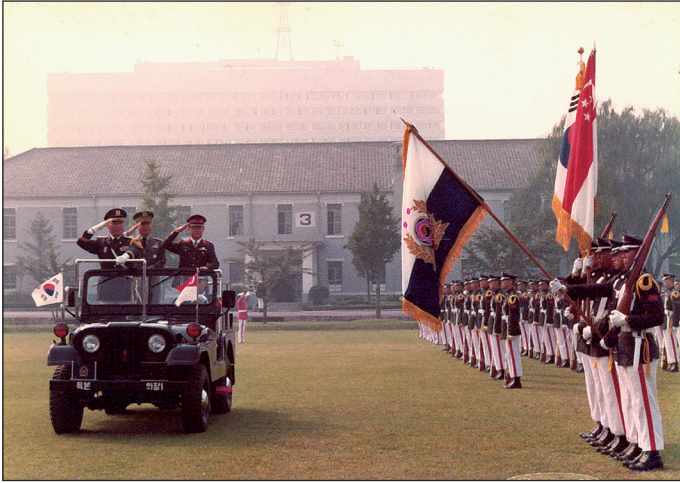


On board the USS *Midway* for Exercise Merlion V, December 1977.

From left: US embassy officials, Colonel Tan Chin Tiong, ACGS (Plans and Training); Colonel Khoo Eng Ann, Commander RSN; Colonel Liu Ching Chuan, Deputy Director RSAF; and Brigadier-General Winston Choo, Chief of General Staff.



At the Royal Ordnance Factory in the UK for its Army Equipment Exhibition accompanied by Major Low Yee Kah (*left*), SAF Weapons Staff Officer, 1978.



Representing the SAF at the Republic of Korea's
30th Armed Forces Day celebration, September 1978.



Courtesy Call on General Lee Sae-Ho, Chief of Staff,
Republic of Korea Army, September 1978.

Visit to Japan for seminar
with veterans of the Malayan
Campaign, October 1974.

From left: Goh Lye Choon, Chng
Teow Hua, J.C. Cooke, (Mindef
official), Cheong Kun Hung, Tan
Chin Tiong, and ColonSel Winston
Choo (Director of General Staff).



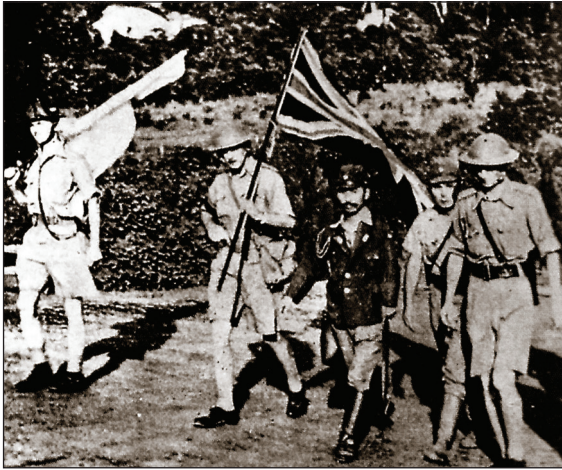
SAF seminar participants at
dinner in Ginza, Tokyo.

Seated, from left: Cheong Kun Hung,
Colonel Winston Choo (Director of
General Staff), and J.C. Cooke.

Standing, from left: Kwan Yue
Yong, Tan Chin Tiong, Goh Lye
Choon, and Chng Teow Hua.

Meeting with the Japan
Self-Defence Agency.





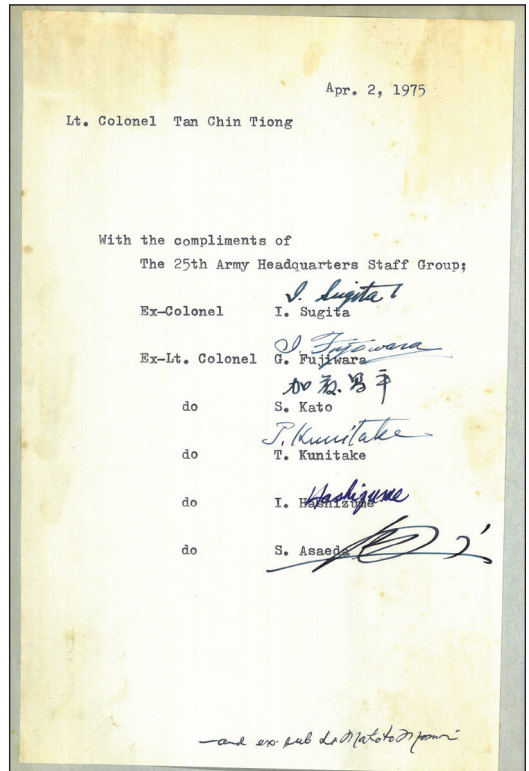
British military officers accompanied by the Japanese victors on their way to the Ford motor factory at the foot of Bukit Timah Hill, Singapore, to sign the surrender documents, 15 February 1942.

From left: Major Wils, Brigadier Newbigging, Colonel Ichiji Sugita (who was to conduct seminars for senior SAF officers in 1974), Brigadier Torrance, and Lieutenant-General Arthur Ernest Percival.



Lieutenant-General Yamashita Tomoyuki, Commander of the Japanese 25th Army, and Lieutenant-General A.E. Percival, Commander of British Commonwealth forces during the Malayan Campaign, discuss surrender terms at the Ford motor factory, Singapore, 15 February 1942. On Yamashita's left is Colonel Ichiji Sugita.

Autographed note by veterans of the Malayan Campaign who were members of the Japanese 25th Army Headquarters Staff Group that participated in the October 1974 seminar in Tokyo.



Participants of Exercise Rainbow, held at the Singapore Command and Staff College (SCSC), then at Fort Canning, 1975.

Standing, from left: Lieutenant-Colonel Goh Lye Choon, Lieutenant-Colonel Chng Teow Hua, Japanese instructor, Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Chan, Ichiji Sugita (Head of the Japanese Team), Colonel Patrick Sim (Commandant, SCSC), Japanese instructor, Lieutenant-Colonel Jimmy Yap, Lieutenant-Colonel Ha Weng Kong, Major Tan Boon Hock.

Front row, from left: Major Cheong Kun Hung, Captain Lee Hsien Loong, Major Chan Sek Sung, Major Seng Peng Khoo, Major Wong Siew Pong, Lieutenant-Colonel Clarence Tan, Major Neo Poh Chuan, Lieutenant Chua Chin Kiat.



German consultant, Lieutenant-General Siegfried Schulz, conducting a lesson on coastal defence during a Senior Commanders Course, November 1982.

Presentation of exercise battle plans at the Senior Commanders Course conducted by Lieutenant General Siegfried Schulz, 1982.



At the IDF Armour Training School, Beersheba, during Project Table, December 1981.



Briefing to Singapore dignitaries.

Dr Goh Keng Swee (*with dark glasses*) and Dr Phay Seng Whatt, Chairman Public Service Commission, being briefed by Captain Wee Kia Pak during their visit to an artillery battalion, 1975.



Hotel New World Collapse, 15 March 1986.

The Minister for Home Affairs, S. Jayakumar, briefing Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew on the rescue operations. The Deputy Commissioner of Civil Defence, Colonel Chng Teow Hua (*in uniform*), recently posted from the SAF, commanded the operation.



From left: Chan Boon Kiong, Director Emergency Planning (Home Affairs), Colonel Chng Teow Hua, Deputy Commissioner Civil Defence, and Tan Chin Tiong, Permanent Secretary (Home Affairs), were on site during rescue operations.



Hastily set up Singapore Civil Defence command post at the disaster site.



Engineers from Singapore Mass Rapid Transit (SMRT) Corporation involved in tunneling efforts to rescue trapped victims.

Dr Goh Keng Swee
on a visit to the SAFTI
construction site, 1966.

With him were (*from left*),
Colonel Yaakov Elazari,
Israeli advisor; Ho Pak Thoe,
SAFTI Project Officer; George
Bogaars, Mindef Permanent
Secretary; Thiruchelvarayan,
PWD; Howe Yoon Chong,
Chairman HDB, who
later succeeded Dr Goh
as Defence Minister;
and Lieutenant-Colonel
Kirpa Ram Vij.



The 3rd Pacific Armies
Management Seminar in Honolulu,
Hawaii, January 1980.

From left: Colonel Tan Chin Tiong;
Major-General Glenn Kay Otis,
Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations
and Plans), US Army; Major-General
Herbert E. Wolff, US Army Western
Command; and Captain George Yeo.

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew on a visit
to SAF Kilong Camp, Brunei, 1981.

Front row, from left: Defence
Minister Howe Yoon Chong,
Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, and
Foreign Minister S. Dhanabalan.

Second row, from left: Head, Civil
Service, Sim Kee Boon; Mindef
Permanent Secretary Lim Siong Guan;
and Deputy Chief of General Staff
Brigadier-General Tan Chin Tiong.



Visit to Israel by Defence Minister
Howe Yoon Chong, April 1980.

At an IDF battalion base camp
in the Golan Heights.



Mr and Mrs Howe Yoon Chong at the
Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem.



Bird's eye view of Masada National Park.



At the Wailing Wall, Jerusalem.

With Eddie Teo,
Director Security and
Intelligence, at Masada.



From left: Philip Yeo, Second Permanent Secretary
(Defence); George Yeo, Staff Officer; and
Brigadier-General Tan Chin Tiong, Deputy Chief
of General Staff; at the Weizmann Institute.



Military chiefs representing *(from left)* Australia, Singapore,
United Kingdom, Malaysia, and New Zealand at the FPDA Exercise
Conference in Canberra, Australia, 19–20 November 1980.



Exercise Sunrise in Taiwan, 1981.

With Lieutenant-General Siegfried Schulz for Exercise Sunrise.



Major Law Chwee Kiat, as Exercise Sunrise Operations Controller, assisted Lieutenant-General Schulz in planning the exercise. Chwee Kiat was Director and Commander of Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) before he retired from the SAF.



Major James Tan, Commanding Officer of 46 SAR, in Taiwan for Exercise Sunrise.



Toasting Taiwanese senior officers at Exercise Sunrise's appreciation dinner.

From left: Lieutenant-Colonel Lim Poh Seng, Chief Engineer Officer; Major Yeo Eng Chiang, RSAF Controller; Brigadier-General Tan Chin Tiong; Taiwanese senior officers; and German logistics adviser, Major-General Heinz Freygang.

Visit to the Khmer
People's National
Liberation Front
(KPNLF) at Srong
Srang Camp,
Cambodia, 1981.

With Son Sann
(with dark glasses),
KPNLF Provisional
President.



With Prum Vith, Commandant Srong Srang Camp,
on my right and Colonel Ha Weng Kong on my left.

At Srong Srang Camp
with two Cambodians (*on
my right*) and Clarence
Tan and Cheong Kun
Hung (*on my left*).





Briefing President Devan Nair on his visit to the SAF, 1981.
From left: Lieutenant-Colonel Chin Chow Yoon, President Devan Nair, Defence Minister Howe Yoon Chong, and Brigadier-General Tan Chin Tiong.

Addressing officials and participants of FPDA Exercise Starfish II on board RSS *Persistence*, off Pulau Tioman, 3-4 June 1981.



With Malaysian officers at FPDA Exercise Starfish II reception on board RSS *Persistence*. Colonel Khoo Eng Ann, Commander RSN, is on the right.



Defence Minister Howe Yoon Chong presenting awards to SAF units on SAF Day, 1 July 1981.



With Defence Minister Howe Yoon Chong (*in dark suit*) watching the RSAF's aerobatics display on SAF Day, 1 July 1981. Ministers among the audience were Dr Yeo Ning Hong (*far left*), Goh Chok Tong (*fifth from left*) and S. Dhanabalan (*sixth from left*).



Farewell dinner for Defence Minister Howe Yoon Chong, 1 June 1981.

Minister Howe chatting with *(from left)* Lieutenant-Colonel Lee Hsien Loong, Lieutenant-Colonel Clarence Tan, and Lieutenant-Colonel Boey Tak Hap.

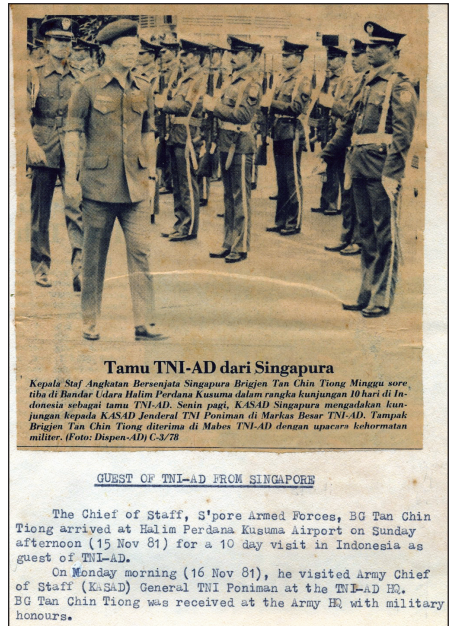
Brigadier-General Tan Chin Tiong presenting a memento on behalf of the SAF to Defence Minister Howe Yoon Chong.



Brigadier-General Tan Chin Tiong receiving the Public Administration Medal (Gold) (Military) Award at the National Day Awards Investiture from President Devan Nair, 4 December 1981.

Visit to the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), November 1981.

Arrival at Halim Perdana Kusuma Airport on 15 November 1981 as reported in the local media.



With Colonel Tan Chin Wooi, SAF Defence Advisor at the Singapore Embassy in Jakarta, who coordinated my visit to the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI).

Visit to Borobudur, Indonesia.





With fellow participants at the SAF Small Arms Competition held at Yishun range, 17 January 1982.

Photo credit: 南洋商报 (*Nanyang Siang Pau*), 17 January 1982, p.11.



The visit of Dr Yeo Ning Hong (*sixth from left*), Minister of State (Defence), to the Singapore Command and Staff College then at Seletar Camp, February 1982.

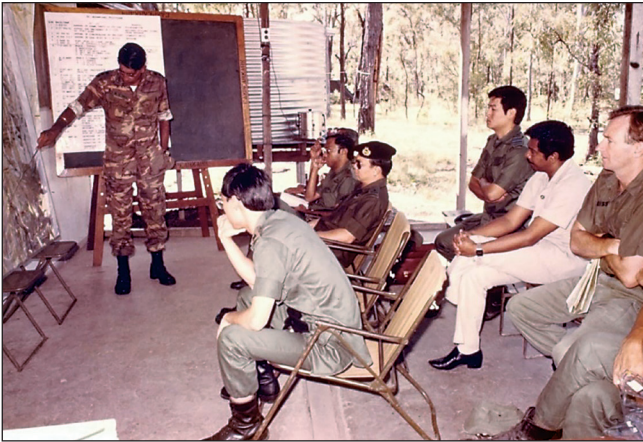


Visit to Brunei, 1982.

The RSAF helicopter detachment at Brunei International Airport.



SAF jungle survival lesson in Terburong, Brunei.



Exercise Boomerang, held at Shoal Water Bay, Queensland, Australia, 24–28 March 1982.

A briefing on the exercise by Colonel M.S. Gill, director of the exercise.



Colonel R. Menon (*far left*) was Deputy Director of Exercise Boomerang.



With troops during Exercise Boomerang.

Standing on the left is Lieutenant-Colonel Goh Siak Khim, Commander 7 SIB, Exercise Chief Controller.

Being briefed by
Major Mukhtiar Singh,
Commanding Officer
of an artillery unit,
supporting 3 GDS.



Being briefed by Major Ng Keok Jin, CO 3 GDS, the Exercise Battalion.

From left: Major Soon Eng Boon, Lieutenant-Colonel T.A. Balasingam (Chief Engineer Officer), Australian Liaison Officer, and Brigadier-General Tan Chin Tiong.



Official visit of Lieutenant-General Prayuth Charumani, Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Army, 3-5 March 1982.

Receiving Lieutenant-General Prayuth Charumani.

Courtesy Call on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education Dr Goh Keng Swee by Lieutenant-General Prayuth Charumani, Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Army.



With Major-General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh at the dinner hosted by Dr Goh Keng Swee for Lieutenant-General Prayuth Charumani, Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Army.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Dr Goh Keng Swee hosting a dinner for the distinguished Royal Thai Army visitors. He is flanked by Major-General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh and Lieutenant-General Prayuth Charumani.

Extreme left: Brigadier-General Tan Chin Tiong and S. Dhanabalan.

Official visit to the Royal Thai Army Headquarters, April 1982.

Reviewing the guard of honour escorted by Lieutenant-General Prayuth Charumani, Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Army.



Return visit to the Royal Thai Army, 8–12 June 1982.

The visit was hosted by Major-General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Chief of Operations, Royal Thai Army.





Signatories to the Agreement on Exercise Crescendo on training in Thailand, Major-General Pramote Thavorncharn, Chief of Staff, Royal Thai Army (*left*), and Brigadier-General Tan Chin Tiong, Deputy Chief of General Staff, Singapore Armed Forces, 20 July 1982.



With Colonel Ayupoon Kamasuta, Thai Defence Advisor in Singapore, during Exercise Crescendo discussions.

Visit to the Philippines Armed Forces,
July 1982.

With Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos,
Chief of the Philippines Constabulary, at
Philippines Armed Forces Headquarters.



Ho Sun Yee, second officer cadet from
the SAF to attend the Philippines Military
Academy (1974–78), where he achieved
the Presidential Award for being the top
graduate. Sun Yee was among the pioneer
officers who established SAF's 1 GDS.



SAF delegation being introduced to
Lieutenant-General Fabian Ver,
Philippines Chief of Armed Forces.

The SAF delegation with
Singapore officer cadets
and their instructors
at the Philippines
Military Academy.

Brigadier-General Tan
Chin Tiong (*fourth from
left*) is flanked by the two
Singapore officer cadets.



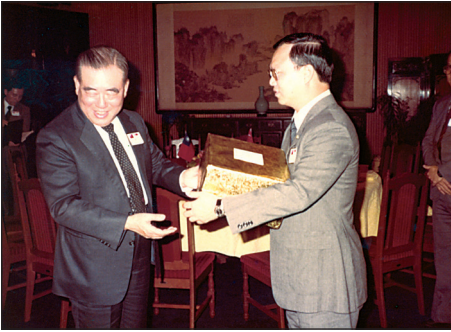


Courtesy Call by Air Chief Marshall Ashadi Tjahjadi, Indonesian Air Force, on occasion of Exercise Elang Indopura II, July 1982.



Delivering the opening address for Exercise Elang Indopura II at Paya Lebar Airport, 6 July 1982.

Front row, from left: Air Chief Marshall Ashadi Tjahjadi, Indonesia; Colonel Khoo Eng Ann, Commander RSN; and Major Soon Eng Boon, RSAF.



Visit to Starlight training in Taiwan, 1982.

With General Hao Pei Chun, Chief of General Staff, Ministry of National Defence, Taiwan.



Call on Taiwanese Marine Corps Commandant, Major-General Lo Chang, 1982.



High-spirited SAFTI officer cadets in Hengchun (恆春) Camp.

Visiting SAF troops on tank training in Hukou (湖口) Camp.

On the left is Lieutenant-Colonel Goh Lye Choon, Commander Starlight.





My farewell parade, 1 August 1982.

Taking the salute at my farewell parade escorted by *(left)* Colonel Lee Hsien Loong, Chief of Staff, General Staff.



Inspecting the Guards contingent.

Inspecting the RSF
contingent.



Inspecting the RSN contingent.



Inspecting the SAF
Women contingent.





My farewell dinner, 1 August 1982.

Arriving with Maureen for my farewell dinner.



Major-General Winston Choo, Chief of General Staff, speaking at my farewell dinner.

With Colonel Khoo Eng Ann,
Commander RSN.



From left:
Lieutenant-Colonel Chin Chow
Yoon, Colonel Lee Hsien Loong,
and Major-General Winston Choo.

With Major-General Winston
Choo and Lieutenant-
Colonel Peter Ho.





Farewell gift from Major-General Winston Choo and SAF Senior Officers.



Farewell gift from SAF Regimental Sergeant Majors.