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Scholarship
Centre

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LEAD SERVE AND DEFEND

THE SAF SCHOLARSHIP



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LEAD, SERVE AND DEFEND

Embark on a leadership journey with The SAF Scholarship. Second in prestige only to the President's Scholarship, The SAF Scholarship provides opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Through a series of command, instructional and staff appointments, you will hone your skills as a leader, manager, planner and strategist. In addition, there will be opportunities to work with the wider Public Service and beyond. You will be groomed for top leadership appointments in and eventually beyond the SAF.

You will serve Singapore and Singaporeans, and shape the lives of those you work with as well as the future of the SAF. Most importantly, you will play a critical role in defending our sovereignty and way of life.

To be a recipient of The SAF Scholarship is to answer a calling of the highest order. It is not a job that you are choosing – it is a profession. And the profession of soldiering is one of duty and service for the nation.



“ IN SERVING THE NATION, YOU’LL ALSO DEVELOP AN INCREDIBLY BROAD SWATHE OF LEADERSHIP SKILLS. ”



LEADERSHIP POWERED BY PURPOSE

SENIOR LIEUTENANT COLONEL (SLTC) MIKAIL KALIMUDDIN

AWARDED THE PRESIDENT’S SCHOLARSHIP AND THE SAF SCHOLARSHIP IN 2005

SLTC Mikail Kalimuddin studied Economics and Political Science at Brown University, USA. The knowledge he gained put him in good stead to assess national defence issues within the context of world affairs.

His leadership experiences have seen him leading artillery fire missions as a Fire Direction Officer, grooming new generations of leaders as a Platoon Commander in Officer Cadet School, as well as being the

Commander of a Radar Battery in an Artillery Battalion. SLTC Kalimuddin has been involved in future planning for the Army and also delivering effective manpower policies for MINDEF.

Being in the military demands an incredibly broad swathe of leadership skills – critical and creative thinking, role modelling, coaching, providing guidance, managing people and systems, communicating effectively, and more. This encourages the development of a holistic

and wide range of leadership skills and styles.

“If you aspire to develop as a leader, your sense of purpose must be clear. Challenge yourself — nothing ventured, nothing gained.”

SERVICE TO THE NATION

COLONEL (COL) CHAN CHING HAO

AWARDED THE SAF SCHOLARSHIP IN 2000

Inspired by the passion and commitment of the in-service personnel he met at a scholarship tea session, COL Chan Ching Hao felt that the SAF was an obvious career choice. He has always identified with the Public Service, so being offered The SAF Scholarship was a huge honour.

After studying Mechanical Engineering in Cornell University, USA, he served his calling in the Republic of Singapore Air Force.

As the Commanding Officer of a fighter squadron, COL Chan led his men and women on flying missions to defend Singapore's airspace. Beyond protecting our skies, COL Chan has also served as the Deputy Head of Air Operations, where he led teams in developing future concepts for the SAF.

Throughout his wide spectrum of roles – from piloting to policy – COL Chan believes that what matters most is being rooted in the SAF's core values and one's

strength of conviction. The will to serve Singapore and Singaporeans must never wane.

"If being values-driven and taking on intellectual challenges inspire you, I would strongly encourage you to take up The SAF Scholarship," COL Chan says. "Working in the SAF will give you opportunities to make a difference and be part of things much larger than yourself."



“ I HAVE ALWAYS IDENTIFIED WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE. WORKING IN THE SAF WILL GIVE YOU OPPORTUNITIES TO BE A PART OF THINGS MUCH LARGER THAN YOURSELF. ”



“ I WANTED TO BE PART OF THIS FAMILY,
IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE, AND FULFIL
MY DUTY IN DEFENDING THE COUNTRY. ”



DEFENDING OUR WAY OF LIFE

MAJOR (MAJ) DAVID KAN

AWARDED THE SAF SCHOLARSHIP IN 2007

MAJ David Kan has always wanted to pursue a career that would make a difference in the lives of people around him. The SAF impressed him as a career in which individuals come together and train as a team to defend our country.

Initially, he had some concerns about taking up the scholarship and pursuing a career in the Republic of Singapore Navy. After speaking to his cousin in the Navy, MAJ Kan was reassured to learn that while the career would indeed push one's

limits, it would also enable one to mature quickly, and that the many experiences would prove richly meaningful. His concerns transformed into resolve, and motivated him to apply for The SAF Scholarship. With the scholarship, he pursued Mechanical Engineering at the University of Cambridge, UK.

Back in the SAF, he has already performed various roles, such as being the Operations Officer of RSS *Formidable**, and he is

currently the Commanding Officer of RSS *Justice***.

MAJ Kan believes that to defend the nation, the drive and passion must come from within. It's about being unwavering and steadfast.

“Stay positive, give your best in what you do, and do not be afraid to take up daunting challenges and unfamiliar tasks as these are the best opportunities to grow.”

*A *Formidable*-class frigate that is capable of dealing with multidimensional naval threats from the air, surface or underwater.

**A *Fearless*-class patrol vessel that is responsible for the coastal defence of Singapore.

SERVING BEYOND THE SAF

The SAF has a strong record in grooming young talents into our leaders of tomorrow. Many of our talents have made successful transitions into key leadership appointments in the Public Service and private sector after their careers with the SAF.

Here's a look at where some of our talents are today.

PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE



Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister



Teo Chee Hean
Senior Minister & Coordinating
Minister for National Security



Chan Chun Sing
Minister for Trade and Industry



Tan Chuan-Jin
Speaker of Parliament

THE SINGAPORE PUBLIC SERVICE



Lai Chung Han
Permanent Secretary (Education),
Ministry of Education



Lim Chuan Poh
Chairman, Singapore Food Agency



Ng Chee Khern
Permanent Secretary (Smart
Nation and Digital Government),
Prime Minister's Office

Chairman, Government
Technology Agency of Singapore
(GovTech)

PRIVATE SECTOR



Chew Men Leong
Chief Marketing Officer,
ST Engineering



Lee Seow Hiang
CEO, Changi Airport Group



Lim Kim Choon
Non-Executive and
Non-Independent Director,
The Stratch Group Limited



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must be a Singapore Citizen at the point of application
- Good GCE 'A' Level or International Baccalaureate results, Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent
- Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records
- Strong leadership qualities
- Qualify for and excel in Officer Cadet School
- Possess a strong interest in a military career
- All MINDEF/SAF scholarships are open for application to both genders

VALUE OF AWARD

- Full salary for the duration of studies (including bonuses)
- Full tuition fees and other approved academic charges
- Maintenance and other allowances, e.g. books, clothing, computer
- Return airfare
- One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programmes
- Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable

COURSE OF STUDY

You can choose to pursue your studies in any of the following disciplines*:

- Arts / Social Sciences
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Engineering
- International Relations
- Law**
- Life Sciences
- Mathematics
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Science / Natural Sciences

Note:

*If you are pursuing your Master's degree, you must complete your studies in 4 years. You can choose your course of study with the exception of professional courses such as architecture, medicine, dentistry, etc.

**Applicants intending to pursue a degree in law should note that they will not be called to the Bar while serving in the SAF.



UNIVERSITIES

Our talents typically go to top and renowned universities in the USA or UK.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- Carnegie Mellon University
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- Yale University

UNITED KINGDOM

- Imperial College London
- London School of Economics and Political Science
- University College London
- University of Cambridge
- University of Oxford

Note:
The above lists are not exhaustive. You may also apply if the universities you're interested in are not listed, but applications are subject to approval.

SUPPORT DURING YOUR STUDIES

MINDEF Scholarship Centre will be your point of contact and support for all your personal administration, academic and military needs when you are studying.

An in-service talent will also be assigned to you as a mentor to advise and guide you during your studies.

VACATION ATTACHMENT

Stay updated with the latest developments in MINDEF/SAF. Vacation attachments will be arranged for you during the summer holidays.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) COURSES

Upon completing your first year of studies, you will spend 8 – 10 weeks at the PSC Scholars' Mid-Course Programme held in Singapore during your summer vacation. This includes a unit attachment in MINDEF/SAF and a seminar on public policy where you will sharpen your understanding of the civil service.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications typically open in September of each year and close in mid-March of the following year. We encourage all applicants to apply early.

You can submit your application for The SAF Scholarship via the PSC website at www.psc.gov.sg. You will need to indicate your career choice: Uniformed Services – Singapore Armed Forces when filling in your application.

SELECTION PROCESS

(1) PSC INTERVIEW BOARD

After submitting your application, you will be called for an interview with PSC should you get shortlisted.

If you are found suitable, you will be offered The SAF Scholarship provisionally and be referred to MINDEF/SAF for further consideration.

(2) MINDEF INTERVIEW BOARD

You will meet with the MINDEF Interview Board to confirm your suitability for the scholarship. Your OCS performance will be a key factor in this interview.

The board looks for candidates who demonstrate leadership potential, good

character, a strong desire to realise their potential, a passion to serve the country and a keen interest to pursue a challenging and fulfilling career with MINDEF/SAF.

The scholarship is awarded based on merit, you will be awarded the scholarship if you meet the criteria and are found suitable by the interview boards. There is no quota for the number of scholarships awarded annually.

(3) AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIP

After accepting the scholarship, you will depart for your studies in August / September of the same year, depending on the country of study.