

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

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Dili, 26 August 2002

NEW FORCE COMMANDER ARRIVES IN DILI

The new Commander of the UNMISSET Peacekeeping Force, Major General Tan Huck Gim has arrived in Dili.

Major General Tan, from Singapore, will officially take over command of the PKF from Lieutenant General Winai Phattiyakul on the 30th August 2002.

Major General Tan, enlisted into the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) in 1973 and was commissioned as an Artillery Officer in 1975,

Prior to his appointment in East Timor, Major General Tan was the Commander of the 9th Singapore Division of the SAF.

Over his career, Major General Tan has held a number of command and staff positions including Assistant Chief of General Staff (Intelligence), he has also undertaken training at a number of institutes including the Brigade-level Staff and Tactics course in New Zealand.

Lieutenant General Winai and Major General Tan, will this week have a handover period with Lieutenant General Winai scheduled to depart home for Thailand on Friday afternoon.

The media are invited to attend the official Force Commander handover ceremony at PKF Headquarters, Dili, on Friday, 30th August 2002 starting at 9am with a media conference to be held at 9.45am involving Major General Tan and Lieutenant General Winai.

Media attending the ceremony are requested to be at HQ PKF at 8.50am.

PEACE KEEPING FORCE BACK UP POLICE

The Portuguese Battalion, that forms part of the UNMISSET Peacekeeping Force, has provided security back up support to UN Police and East Timor Police in Dili, East Timor.

Portuguese Battalion, deployed in Dili, East Timor, assisted in the maintenance of the security situation by providing reinforcement security to the police and prison guards at Becora prison.

The Peacekeeping Force will continue to work closely with The UN Police and East Timor Police.

193 prisoners broke out of Becora prison on 16 August 2002 after managing to overpower prison guards.



MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

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Last Thursday three escapees returned to BECORA and four turned themselves in at the BOBONARO Police Station. This leaves the number of escapees still at large at forty-four.

