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Syed Hamid: Our troops overseas envy of others

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Malaysian troops serving overseas are the envy of other multinational troops because they received Hari Raya goodies from home every year.

Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said today other Muslim troops were not as fortunate as the Malaysians.

"We are lucky to have people back home who care for the troops during festivals," he said.

He was receiving donations as part of the package of goodies from 20 organisations and companies at Wisma Pertahanan in Jalan Padang Tembak.

Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti) president, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, the wife of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was among those who presented donations for the Raya packages.

Also present were Armed Forces chief Jen Tan Sri Ismail Omar, Army chief Jen Datuk Seri Che Md Noor Mat Arshad, Royal Malaysian Air Force chief Lt Jen Datuk Ahmad Saruji Che Rus and Royal Malaysian Navy chief Laksamana Madya Datuk Seri Ahmad Ramli Mohd Nor.

A total of 1,099 Malaysian troops are serving overseas.

Of this number, 1,053 are stationed in Bosnia-Herzegovina under the Malcon III banner and the rest serving as United Nations observers in Liberia, Kuwait, Angola and Western Sahara.

Among the organisations and companies which contributed Raya goodies were Army Officers' Wives Association (Bakat), Kuala Lumpur Hilton, Kentucky Fried Chicken Holdings, Nestle Bhd, Sime Darby Bhd and Shell (M) Trading Sdn Bhd.

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