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Md Hashim takes over as army deputy chief

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Assistant Army Chief of Staff (Personnel) Lt-Jen Datuk Md Hashim Hussein today officially took over as the army deputy chief.

The 50-year-old career officer, who had the distinction of being the first commander of the Malaysian battalion serving under the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia, succeeded Jen Datuk Mohd Zahidi Zainuddin, who is now the army chief.

Mohd Zahidi and Md Hashim were promoted in a reshuffle of the army top brass following the retirement of former army chief Jen Datuk Ismail Hassan on Dec 31.

Mohd Zahidi received his promotion last Tuesday at a simple ceremony at the Defence Ministry.

Today's function which was also held at the Defence Ministry was witnessed by senior army officers.

Coincidentally, both officers had been former commanders of the Rapid Deployment Force. This time, however, their roles have been reversed.

In 1995, it was Mohd Zahidi who took over from Md Hashim, who was the first commander of the elite RDF.

The Johor Baru-born Md Hashim joined the army after graduating from the Royal Military College and his first posting after commissioning in 1966 was to the 9th Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment.

After the first posting, Md Hashim rose through the ranks holding various command and staff duties, earning a Master's degree along the way.

Md Hashim was promoted to Brig-Jen in 1994.

After Bosnia, he took over command of the RDF and it was during his tenure as the commanding officer the brigade was declared operational by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Oct 10, 1994.

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