

28 JUN 2003

Army-Commando

ARMY CHIEF FINALLY GETS HIS GREEN BERET

MELAKA, June 28 (Bernama) -- Army Chief Jen Datuk Wira Mohd Shahrom Nordin was today accepted as a member of the army's elite force when received his green beret at a ceremony in Kem Sungai Udang here.

Special Operations Force Chief Brig-Jen Datuk Mohd Rodi Zakaria presented the green beret to Mohd Shahrom.

"Today, I am finally a member of this privilege group," said Mohd Shahrom, 55, who hails from Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan. He joined the army 35 years ago.

He said in 1968 he wrote to his superior to join the commando unit but was rejected and was offered the post of an adjutant instead.

"My interest in joining the elite force started when I was serving as a platoon leader in Kem Segenting near the country's border with southern Thailand," he said.

Mohd Rodi meanwhile said that in addition to high-ranking military officers, the honorary green beret was also given to VIPs who included Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the special operations force was expected to move out of Kem Sungai Udang Kem to Mersing, Johor in January next year.

Kem Sungai Udang however would remain as a training centre, he said.

-- BERNAMA

NO ABG