

Higher allowance

Army reserves to be paid more for training

The Star - 5/4/2007

KUALA LUMPUR: Training allowances for army volunteer reserves have been increased by a third.

Reserves who attend local training will be paid for the number of hours they spend, from a minimum two hours to a maximum of 12 hours, said Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yesterday.

The new rate for officers is RM5.80 an hour compared with the old rate of RM4.35 while the new rate for other ranks is RM4 an hour compared with the old rate of RM3, he said.

They will receive a maximum allowance of RM69.60 and RM48 respectively for each training session in a day, he said.

Local sessions for border practical training,

shooting, map and compass reading, and special courses for officers are carried out after working hours or during weekends.

Najib said the increase was effective from March 1 and would benefit 45,775 people - 4,200 officers and 41,575 from other ranks.

It will also benefit 2,693 public university students who are cadet officers of the Reserve Officers Training Unit (Palapes).

The total increase would raise expenditure by RM11.44mil a year, Najib said.

The last revision was made in November 2000.

Besides the allowance, those who attend training will continue to receive allowances based on their ranks and the number of



Welcome news: Najib elaborating on the training allowances at a press conference yesterday. With him is Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin. — Bernama

days they attend.

Those who attend all training sessions will receive a maximum of RM520 a year, said Najib.

He added that volunteers would also receive free meals when undergoing at least a 10-hour session.

"The Government is undertaking to improve

the volunteer service and to attract more people to join the force," he said.

On another question, he said the Machap by-election would still be held even if the general elections were not too far away.

He also said that talks between Proton Holdings and Volkswagen Group would resume soon.