

Mr **Melvyn Ong Su Kiat** was enlisted into the Singapore Army in Jan 1994 and commissioned as an Officer in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) in Oct 1994. Over his 29 years in the SAF, he has held several senior positions, including the appointments of Commander of the 7th Singapore Infantry Brigade, Head Joint Plans Transformation Department, Chief Guards Officer, and Chief of Army.

In 2018, he was appointed Chief of Defence Force, during which he enhanced Singapore's peace and security and led the SAF in high key security operations, including the DPRK-US Singapore Summit and the 33rd ASEAN Summit in 2018. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he led the SAF's pandemic response and ensured that the SAF maintained a high degree of operational readiness. He oversaw the formation of various SAF Task Forces comprising more than 7,000 personnel to support the Government's COVID-19 operations. Under his stewardship, the SAF made significant progress in its next generation transformation efforts, most notably the establishment of the SAF's fourth Service, the Digital and Intelligence Service.

Aside from his military appointments, Mr Ong had served as Deputy CEO of the Early Childhood Development Agency jointly under the Ministry of Social and Family Development and Ministry of Education from 2013 to 2014, where he contributed to setting up this new agency and developing policies in the early childhood sector.

He was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Gold) (Military) in 2018 and Meritorious Service Medal (Military) in 2021 for his contributions to the SAF. He was also conferred the Bintang Kartika Eka Paksi Utama (Indonesia), the Panglima Gagah Angkatan Tentera (Kehormat) (Malaysia), the Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang (First Class) (Brunei), and the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant (Thailand), among other honours.

Mr Ong received his education in Singapore in Anglo Chinese School (Independent) and National Junior College. In 1994, he was awarded the SAFOverseas Scholarship to pursue his undergraduate studies in the United Kingdom, where he graduated with a Master of Science from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1988.