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NEWS RELEASE

28 July 2006

CDL BAGS HIGHEST TOTAL DEFENCE AWARD FOR EMPLOYERS

For the first time, City Developments Limited (CDL) will be presented the *Minister for Defence Award*, the highest accolade presented to employers at this year's Total Defence Awards (previously known as the SAF Awards for Employers and the Total Defence Awards for Civil Resource Owners). This special honour is only accorded to employers who have shown consistent and unequivocal support to the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and Homefront Ministries towards national defence, National Service (NS) policies and their employees' NS activities.

CDL will also be inducted into the prestigious *Minister for Defence Awards (MiDAS) League*, where it will serve as role model for other companies to emulate. This is the highest award any organisation can receive.

This is however, not the first time that CDL has been recognised for its strong support for NSmen. CDL has previously won the Distinguished Defence Partner Award and its precursor, the Special Mention Award.

Mr Kwek Leng Joo, CDL's Managing Director said, "Where national security is concerned, it is the responsibility of every citizen to do the best they can for the larger benefit of the country. CDL strongly believes in creating a conducive and supportive environment that allows NSmen amongst our employees to be fit and diligent, so that they can respond when called upon by the nation to fulfil their national duties."

CDL has various schemes in place to recognise the contributions made by its NSmen. This includes CDL's offer to match the SAF monetary reward dollar-for-dollar when employees do well in their IPPT. This encourages NSmen to aim for gold as not only will they be awarded \$400 by SAF, CDL will also match it with another \$400. In addition, CDL NSmen are also given a full day leave on the day of their IPPT test so that they can remain focused on the test. In addition, to ensure that NSmen stay fit all year round, staff games and exercise programmes are also organised to promote an active lifestyle after work.

CDL never fails to grant leave to all male employees who need time away from work to fulfil NS duties. "I have had no problems obtaining official permission or applying for leave to respond to recalls or attend SAF training. Our immediate superiors would also ensure that all outstanding work and duties are properly handed over to our fellow colleagues before the ICT," said Mr George Chee, CDL's Quality Inspector and First Sergeant (NS) in the army. With good planning and support of the staff, CDL has had no NSmen deferment for more than a decade.

The Minister for Defence Award will be given to CDL this evening at the Total Defence Awards Presentation Ceremony and Dinner to be held at Suntec City Convention and Exhibition Centre.

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