

# armynews

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Issue No. 140 MAR / APR 2007

*pulse of the army*



**Leading the SAF and  
Our Army on the Next Lap**  
**ARMY WORKPLAN 2007: OUR PEOPLE, OUR EDGE**



## Army Welcomes New Chief

"He has a wealth of experience and shares the same collective vision for our Army. With his drive, passion and professionalism, and his commitment to building a strong culture and experience in the Army, I am confident that he will lead the Army on to new heights. I trust that you will give him all your support as he takes on this next phase of our journey towards the next generation," This tribute was paid by the outgoing Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek to his successor, BG Neo Kian Hong, at the COA Change of Command Parade held at Pasir Laba Camp on 20 March.

Our new COA, BG Neo, has had an illustrious military career dating back to March 1983. His numerous leadership appointments include Chief of Staff-Joint Staff; Director, Joint Operations and Planning Directorate; Commander, Army Training and Doctrine Command; Commander, 9th Singapore Division; Assistant Chief of the General Staff (Operations); Assistant Chief of the General Staff (Personnel); Commander, 7th Singapore Infantry Brigade; and Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, Singapore Guards.

BG Neo also served as the SAF's contingent commander for the International Force for East Timor in 1999, and played a pivotal role in establishing the national contact and tracing system during the 2003 SARS crisis. He attended the Indonesian Army Command and Staff Course in 1994. We welcome BG Neo as our new COA, confident that he will build upon the achievements of MG Kuek and lead our Army to greater heights.

As our Army welcomes its new chief, we will also remember the progress made under the leadership of MG Kuek in our transformation towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Fighting Force. Not only did he significantly improve our Army's combat capabilities in the areas of command and control, fire-power and urban operations, he also encouraged organisational excellence through the Army culture framework of L.I.V.E (Leadership and Learning, Image and Identity, Values, and a positive Army Experience). BG Neo paid tribute to MG Kuek's leadership. "You inspired the Army and brought us up to the heights of our aspirations with the breathtaking transformation journey. With your steadfast leadership and clear vision, you have steadied the Army and the Army emerged stronger than before."



Our new COA, BG Neo (right, in LSV) has a wealth of leadership experience that he will tap on to bring Our Army on the next lap

## A New Leader for the SAF

Having left an indelible mark in Our Army's Transformation, MG Kuek will be scaling new heights as the new Chief of Defence Force (CDF). He assumed his new appointment at a Change of Command Parade held at the SAFRI Military Institute on 23 March, with Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean as the Witnessing Officer. In his speech, MG Kuek acknowledged the able leadership of the outgoing CDF, LG(NS) Ng Yat Chung. He said, "In his four-year tenure as the CDF, LG Ng raised the operational readiness of the SAF and steered the transformation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation SAF. The high level of readiness and capability we have attained has allowed the SAF to respond swiftly and decisively to a range of operations, including inter-agency efforts to secure Singapore against global terrorism, maintain maritime security, and assist in humanitarian and disaster relief operations in our region when called upon to do so. Under LG Ng, the SAF has become a more integrated force, and is well positioned on its first spiral of networked capabilities."

MG Kuek also praised LG(NS) Ng for his unwavering efforts to champion organisational learning in the SAF. He elaborated, "He has been instrumental in fostering a more open and conducive learning culture, with strong emphasis on growing the knowledge repositories that are vital for success in our complex operating environment."

## The SAF Transformation Continues

In his farewell speech, LG(NS) Ng reflected on the advancements made during his four years as CDF, "We acquired new technologies, in the areas of the Integrated Knowledge Based Command and Control System (IKC2), precision strike and unmanned systems, as well as major fighting platforms like F15SG, the Naval Helicopters and Leopard II Main Battle Tanks. We have complemented them with new operational concepts to derive transformational outcomes in war-fighting. We would transform the way we fight such that the SAF's capability would no longer be dependent purely on numbers and supremacy of individual platforms, but based on a total systems and network-centric approach."

MG Kuek has pledged to build upon what LG(NS) Ng had achieved, "The SAF will continue on its journey towards a 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation full spectrum force - one that is integrated, networked, cohesive and focused in its mission to deter threats to Singapore's security and sovereignty; and should deterrence fail, to effect a swift and decisive victory. To do so, we will continue to maintain a high level of operational readiness against any contingencies; we will lead and train our soldiers, sailors and airmen well; and we will operationalise new capabilities in integrated knowledge command and control systems, precision strike and unmanned warfare - all as part of the one integrated SAF that we envision. Our servicemen will be nurtured to develop new competencies, and we will engage our people intellectually, emotionally and professionally to strengthen their commitment to the defence of Singapore and to excellence in all that we do in the SAF."

We wish LG(NS) Ng all the best in his future endeavours.



MG Kuek taking his oath to perform his duties as CDF, with Mr Teo as Witnessing Officer



The SAF is in good hands as LG(NS) Ng (left) hands over the symbol of command to MG Kuek

**"The SAF will continue on its journey towards a 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation full spectrum force - one that is integrated, networked, cohesive and focused in its mission to deter threats to Singapore's security and sovereignty; and should deterrence fail, to effect a swift and decisive victory."**

**-CDF, MG Desmond Kuek**

## Army Exudes Fitness at Singapore Biathlon

At this year's Singapore Biathlon, soldiers from Our Army gave their all and lived to be their best. Along with participants from the other Services, the public and countries as far as New Zealand, they challenged themselves to complete the 1.5-km swim and 10-km run. Held on 17 March at East Coast Park, the event was jointly organised by SAFRA, the Republic of Singapore Navy and the Singapore Sports Council. As the largest Olympic-Standard biathlon in Southeast Asia, it attracted a record of more than 1900 participants.

Minister of State for Defence, Associate Professor (A/P) Koo Tsai Kee, officiated the event and flagged off the Men's Open. He said, "The popularity of endurance sports in Singapore is increasing and the Singapore Biathlon has been receiving a steady increase in participation. While the numbers may not look big, it is a notable achievement in the world of endurance sports."



A/P Koo (flagging off) commended the organisers for attracting a significantly larger number of international participants



CPT Ooi (front row, left) believes that a positive attitude contributes to a positive experience

CPT Ooi Aik Hwee, a participant in the Men's Open, commented that keeping fit has brought him a long way from being an obese recruit, to clocking a respectable timing for the biathlon. He said, "During the race, my pride and stubbornness enabled me to clear my mind and continue running despite the pain. Taking pride in your own ability is important. It is the first step to taking pride in our Army."

## Army Museum Nears Completion



The exhibits planned for the museum will include uniforms and equipment from previous generations



Guests from the Army Conference showed their support for the Army Museum, which will conserve the army's heritage



Construction continues on the Army Museum

guests were also treated to a video presentation of the progress on the museum, including aerial footage on the construction site. They then viewed the various exhibits which would be displayed in the museum. One of these is a doorway from Tanglin Camp dating back to the 1960s. This door is historically significant as back then, all servicemen had to walk through it during their enlistment.

On 19 March, members of the Army Conference added sand to a barrel of concrete mixture, before it was scooped into a square recess to mark the topping off in the construction of our Army's museum.

This event, held at the site of the Army Museum near the Singapore Discovery Centre, was a symbolic recognition of the Army leadership's support for the Army Museum. The

The Army Museum of Singapore will be opening by the end of this year.

## Art in the Army: NSman Shares His Experiences

As part of its effort to reach out to the public, the Army Museum has organised an art competition for all secondary and tertiary level students, to generate interest in military life. The themes are 'Our Army - Our People' and 'Our Future Army', reflecting the personal journeys of our servicemen and the Army's ongoing transformation. Students are encouraged to draw on the memories of relatives who were once servicemen, to obtain ideas to use for their artwork.

In conjunction with this competition, Army Museum arranged for Calvin Tan, a lecturer of sculpturing and drawing at Nanyang Polytechnic, to hold an art workshop in St. Andrew's School on 28 February. Students interested in art or the military were invited to attend. In his presentation, Calvin explained how he gained artistic inspiration from ordinary objects and settings he encountered while serving NS. Calvin also shared his experiences as a freelance craftsman of military model figurines.



Calvin told students that they can use art to express intense feelings and messages



Calvin's sketches represent his feelings and thoughts on his in-Camp Training as an NSman

A man with passion for his craft, Calvin hopes his sharing inspired the students to articulate their own artistic ideas. He said, "By giving them something fun to do, they will be motivated to put in effort and thus gain something out of the experience. The competition can boost awareness about the Army by prompting the students to do research. They will then learn more about issues such as the need for National Service."

Students also brainstormed for ideas which they could use for their artwork. Some of them remarked that Calvin's sharing on Army life had been an eye-opener. His sharing gave them better insights to prepare them for national service.

Ken Yap, a lower secondary student and aspiring sculptor, felt that the presentation was an interesting experience. He said, "I would like to make a plastic model of a robot for the competition. I also hope to one day be a successful artist as I find creating art enjoyable."



# ARMY WORKPLAN 2007: OUR PEOPLE, OUR EDGE

Our Army has done well in the last few years. While breaking new ground, it has remained firmly grounded and focused in its mission and vision.

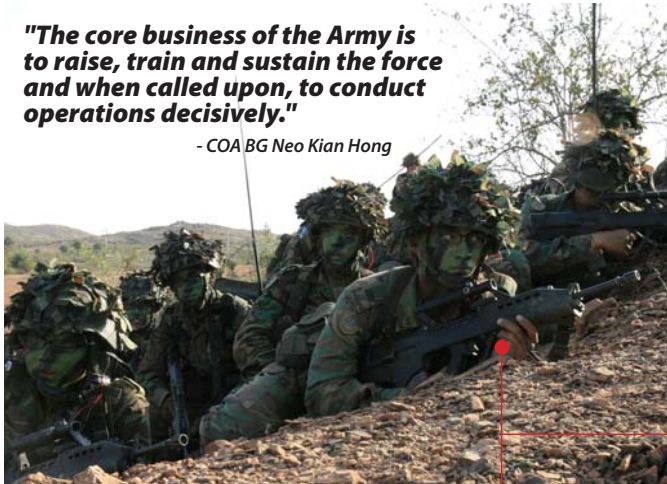
In a post-911 era, our Army has actively helped to counter the threat of terrorism on our shores and also widened its spectrum of operations to include more overseas assistance and relief missions.

Strong progress has also been achieved in our transformation journey. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Army, as part of an integrated SAF, will be a full spectrum force that is leaner, better networked, more agile and lethal.

The main commands of the Army and the organising concept for the General Staff have been established. With the main structures in place, our Army now has the big picture stability. It is time to deliver the capabilities. At the Army Workplan Seminar in March, Chief of Army (COA), BG Neo Kian Hong gave his strategic directions when he spoke on the need to continue building on our systems and people to sustain our edge.

**"The core business of the Army is to raise, train and sustain the force and when called upon, to conduct operations decisively."**

- COA BG Neo Kian Hong



## Raise, Train and Sustain

In providing his direction for our Army in 2007, BG Neo succinctly summarised its core business as "to raise, train and sustain the force and when called upon, to conduct operations decisively." Besides maintaining its high operational readiness, the Army must also continue to transform its training and build for the future. The foundation for these was laid last year when the General Staff was re-organised into networked hubs and the main commands established. The capability development, training and operations hubs, supported by the combat service support and human resource hubs, will drive the Army's concept-to-capability cycle. BG Neo explained this simple but powerful process, "First a concept is developed. Then, the force is built and trained. Next, the force conducts an operation, learns and contributes to a new concept. And the cycle continues." This efficient cycle and its processes will enable our Army to stay agile and relevant, as it adapts to emerging challenges.



## Building for the Future

Through its past experiments with new concepts, our Army has the confidence and big picture stability to build for the future. The concept of spiral development will see new platforms such as the Leopard Main Battle Tank being introduced in the near future, and our Army must continually free capacity to receive them. Project teams will be formed for all key programmes. BG Neo explained his direction on this, "These teams will be guided by sponsoring Division and Formation HQs on operational concepts. This way, Divisions and Formations are not distracted from their primary roles of supervising training. At the same time, they remain involved so that they can introduce new capabilities smoothly when they are ready." With this tight integration in capability development, our Army will be well positioned to deal with future operations.

## Training for a Learning Army and Thinking Soldiers

BG Neo said, "The Learning Army Thinking Soldier initiative envisions an Army where our leaders are able to learn collaboratively and quickly, make sense of complexities and decide, while our soldiers are able to appreciate the intent of higher command and take their own initiative for action on the ground." Our soldiers must be continuously improving, learning from their past and current experiences so as to stay prepared and sharp for future undertakings. TRADOC and the training institutes will continue to be strengthened to develop our 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Fighting Force. To prepare and train our soldiers more effectively, new pedagogies and enhanced curricula have been introduced. In a conscript Army like ours, training concepts and methodologies will take cognisance of the emerging demographic profiles in Singapore. As our education system changes, we need to keep pace with future servicemen who have different ideas and aspirations. There is also a need for continuing efforts to strengthen their commitment to defend Singapore.

While it is critical that new capabilities be introduced into our Army quickly, currency in our forces must also be maintained. Our Army's core competence must be in close-in battle. The key here is small unit training, which must culminate in field exercises and live-firing, with the latter providing the closest proxy to real operations and allows troops to achieve high confidence. Small units are therefore the tip of our spear and must be kept sharp.



## Ready and Learning From a Wide Spectrum of Operations

Our Army will continue to play its part in SAF operations. The High Readiness Core of operationally-ready units, organised under the Operations Hub, are ready to meet immediate contingencies. Our Army will also continue to engage in overseas missions, the latest being reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan as part of the team from the New Zealand Defence Force. There will always be lessons learnt from all operations and it is imperative that they are ploughed back into the system. This will also pay dividends in the area of safety. Incidents have dropped significantly in the last one year and this focus must continue as safety is an operational requirement.



## Our People, Our Edge

To harness the full potential of our newly organised networked Army is to bring out the best in our people. BG Neo commented, "A networked organisation is better able to harness its full potential to appreciate complexities, design systems solutions and at the same time empower local actions. To ensure that it works for us, we have to expand our leadership skills, change the working relationship between people, i.e. mindsets and culture, and also ensure that there is a buy-in or engagement to the common purpose."



## Every View is Valued

Today's battles are no longer conventional and the common assumption that "Boss knows Best" no longer works in scenarios that demand collective wisdom to make sense. BG Neo elaborated, "In emerging situations, the decision makers listened carefully to as many stakeholders as possible to make sense. Every view is valued." At both levels of decision-making and ground operations, leaders have to continually consult and learn as they operate. The SAF leadership competency model developed by the Centre for Leadership Development encapsulates these new realities in leadership and will be systematically deployed on the ground. Coaching will also be introduced to facilitate learning and reflection for leaders so that they can continually grow and be more effective.

**"With all our efforts in safety, incidents have dropped...We must continue our focus as safety is an operational requirement."**

- COA, BG Neo Kian Hong

## Open Culture

A thriving networked environment requires an open culture. But it does not come naturally as many feel that their views will not be taken seriously. But in an increasingly complex and fast changing environment, a collective appreciation is needed to make sense of the complexities. This is what some call "system intelligence", best exemplified by Singapore's experience in managing the 2003 SARS outbreak. Our various agencies and people had a shared perspective and were willing to work together. Building shared perspectives reinforces commitment and leads to willingness to collaborate.

BG Neo also stressed on the need to be transparent in this age of the New Media and a more informed conscript Army. He said, "It is better to face reality and always have a strong professional basis in whatever we do. And we must be prepared to explain our rationale." As we work towards an integrated SAF and increasingly collaborate with external agencies, BG Neo also called for a strong culture of teamwork and cross-functional cooperation, "We should be less fixated on reporting channels and be more concerned about the outcomes that we must collectively deliver."

## Engagement – Know, Believe and Act

BG Neo believes that it is not enough to just know and believe. He said, "We need to be committed and engaged. We have to identify with our vision and mission and be moved to take action. We have developed the L.I.V.E framework with this in mind. We must feel proud of our missions, our achievements and our values...Individually and collectively, we must feel we own the Army and want to do the best for it."



**"The strength of the Army and the SAF does not come from just buying platforms, but in our ability to develop innovative concepts, build effective fighting systems and train our forces in a very fast cycle that keeps us ahead."**

- COA, BG Neo Kian Hong





Supporting and Recognising our WOSPECs



Just as SAFTI MI is the home of the Officer Corps, the Specialist and Warrant Officer Institute (SWI) serves as the key training institute for our Warrant Officers and Specialists (WOSPECs), focusing on their professional development in our Army. The commissioning of SWI at Pasir Laba Camp on 26 March was a nostalgic moment for many senior WOSPECs, especially those who remember the old SAF Infantry Non-Commissioned Officers School at Pasir Laba before it was renamed School of Infantry Specialists and relocated to Pulau Tekong. As our WOSPECs play an important role in our Army by bridging the gap between officers and the men, it was indeed appropriate that the expanded Continuous Learning Academic Study Scheme (CLASS) was announced at the commissioning of the SWI.

**More CLASS for WOSPECs**  
At the commissioning of SWI, Minister for Defence Mr Teo Chee Hean announced that MINDEF would sponsor up to 60

full-time sponsorships each year for outstanding WOSPECs to pursue part-time or full-time undergraduate studies at approved institutions. This is made possible under the expanded CLASS, which since its introduction in 2001, has allowed more than 300 WOSPECs to complete ITE, Diploma and Advanced Diploma programmes as part of the scheme.

Explaining the rationale behind this move, Mr Teo said, "There will increasingly be new organisational demands in the 3rd Generation SAF for higher educational qualifications and deep technical expertise in the WOSPECs Corps. Our Warrant Officers holding senior operational and training appointments will benefit from the wider perspectives that a degree education provides, and they will be better able to lead and motivate the increasingly better educated regulars, NSFs and NSmen in the SAF. We will also need well-educated and technically savvy WOSPECs in the highly technical areas of C4I, precision strike, and unmanned systems to keep these sophisticated systems operational and effective."



The benefits of higher education have been clearly recognised by MSG Hardeep Singh and MSG Ivan Low, both trainees of the 10th Army Warrant Officers Course. MSG

Singh has a diploma in human resource and hopes to pursue further studies in that area. He commented, "Higher education will give me a different perspective on how to lead people, manage my men and how to get things done in a more efficient way." Likewise, MSG Low stressed the importance of keeping up with our Army's development when he said, "Right now, technology is advancing, and so is our Army. If I don't catch up with technology, I will definitely lose out in terms of my knowledge and competencies. I plan to take a diploma in either management or technology, which will allow me to use my new-found knowledge to my unit's advantage."

**Building On Our Heritage**  
The new SWI also includes a Leaders Heritage Trail which was opened on 9 February by then-Chief of Defence Force (CDF), LG(NS) Ng Yat Chung. It displays sculptures and bas-reliefs which depict various facets of the roles of the WOSPEC Corps. The themes include Regimentation and Discipline, Administration, Training, Operations, Role Modelling, and Bridging the Officers and Enlistees. A sculpture of Warrant Officers from the three services emphasises their duty as first-line leaders of men, and the strength, dignity and pride that they exemplify in fulfilling this duty.

SAF Sergeant Major, SWO Francis Ng believes that the Warrant Officer's role as a guide and mentor is a memorable and satisfying one. His advice to the next generation of soldiers: "Values are important; know what you stand for and what you represent. Be willing to go the extra mile in everything you do and you will make a difference."

The commissioning of SWI represents our Army's effort to further the leadership development of its WOSPECs as part of its 3rd Generation Transformation, and underscores the importance of our WOSPEC Corps as the backbone of the Army.

Communicating the 3rd Generation Army to Our People



As part of Our Army's effort to showcase and communicate its ongoing 3rd Generation Transformation journey, a series of visits was recently organised for our soldiers and a group of polytechnic lecturers.

**Demonstrating Mobility and Firepower**  
A Bronco All-Terrain Tracked Carrier rumbling across a bridge launched by the Bionix-Launched Bridge. Bionix II Infantry Fighting Vehicles screeching to a halt and firing at far-away targets, destroying them in minutes. These were all scenes from the mobility and firepower demonstrations held in the Lim Chu Kang Live-Firing Area on 26 March. It was held for trainees of the 10th Senior Leadership Programme from the Specialist and Warrant Officer Institute and specialists from 3rd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment.

After the demonstrations, MWO Augustine Tessensohn, a trainee in the 10th Senior Leadership Programme commented, "I was amazed by the fantastic fire-power and swiftness of the Armour forces, especially the Bionix II. This provides us with the ability to deploy and strike fast, and then get out quickly once the job is done."

Cadets from the Officer Cadet School's Delta and Sierra Wings also got a chance to view the demonstrations, as well as take rides on the vehicles used on 27 March. OCT Ye Rouyin from Sierra Wing was very excited after her ride on a Light Strike Vehicle (LSV). She said,

"I could feel the power of the vehicle, and given the chance, I would like to learn how to manoeuvre it."

**Showcasing our Capabilities**  
The Officer Cadets also had a chance to view an impressive display of hardware when they visited Stagnant Camp on 9 April. The same programme was also held on the following day for a group of polytechnic lecturers. Besides the viewing of hardware, the visitors toured the SAF Centre for Military Experimentation, where they learnt about 3rd Generation Army concepts such as sensor-shooter coordination and Integrated Knowledge Command and Control (IKC2) systems.

OCT Lee Han Ting was impressed by the abilities of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) in contributing to sensor-shooter coordination in the 3rd Generation Army. He said, "The UAV helps to detect enemies before they detect you. This gives the 3rd Generation Army an edge in battle."



explain the fighting prowess of the Army with eagerness, enthusiasm and firebrand. I can only say that I feel a lot more secure knowing that we have an excellent 3rd Generation army that is 24/7 in capability and commitment."



OCT Ye (right) listening intently to a safety briefing prior to her LSV ride

Thinking Soldier – Types of Fitness

Any soldier could tell you that keeping fit is an important component of being operationally ready. Do you know that there are different types of fitness? To provide deeper understanding on fitness, the Army Fitness Centre has published a handbook to provide commanders with additional knowledge on the subject. Based on this handbook, Army News will be bringing you a series of features to enhance your fitness knowledge and well-being.

Physical Fitness vs Combat Fitness – What is the Difference?

Physical Fitness is defined as the 'ability to carry out daily tasks with vigour' and enables the soldier to effectively function at work, training and other activities while staying

healthy. Combat Fitness refers to 'the ability to carry out mission tasks without undue fatigue' and helps the soldier to think and act decisively in a combat scenario. Thus, Physical Fitness is geared towards the daily well-being of the soldier while Combat Fitness concentrates on the soldier's performance within a mission environment. A balanced physical training approach would include both Physi-



The IPPT system provides a framework for promoting Physical Fitness, as it focuses on general health as opposed to specific combat-related activities

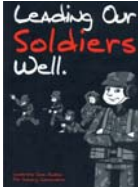
cal Fitness and Combat Fitness. To illustrate, the Individual Physical Proficiency Test (IPPT) is for Physical Fitness, while the Standard Obstacle Course (SOC) tests for Combat Fitness. They complement each other to ensure overall fitness standards for our soldiers.

It is important that our soldiers possess both physical fitness and combat fitness, so that they can be effective in the our Army. The multiplied effect of being 'fighting-fit' enhances other components of soldier readiness, such that a combat fit soldier thinks and makes better decisions in a combat environment.



SOC specifically tests for combat skills such as climbing and balancing, while bearing the personal equipment used in a combat situation

Leading Our Soldiers Well



"Leading soldiers well does not come automatically, and certainly not just because you wear the rank." MG Desmond Kuek

These words by the then-COA, MG Desmond Kuek, succinctly explain why, in 2004, he wrote a note 'Leading Our Soldiers Well', sharing with all Army leaders the 10 aspects of leadership. It

was his hope that they would reflect and build upon his words, thus enhancing the Army's leadership capabilities. The leadership qualities addressed in his note include humility, determination, dedication, and initiative.

In conjunction with the launch of the Army Culture and Experience movement, the core group of the 1st Battalion Singapore Guards 11th mono-intake completed a set of leadership case studies based on these 10 leadership principles. They were subsequently compiled into a handbook titled "Leading Our Soldiers Well". Each of the case studies was written with a deliberate twist to the plot to provoke thinking, debate and self-reflection.

NITES OFF! Hosted by Toshi and Jia Yi, Monday to Friday, 8-10pm

From discounts to the best deals, get them all here on Nites Off! Together with all your shout outs, prizes to win, find out the best hang out places for servicemen!

Your hosts for Nites Off Toshi and Jiayi promises two hours of fun on air, Mondays to Fridays on 883JiaFM. Watch out for our on-air contest "The Immediate Challenge" where you get to win great prizes!

Two listeners will be selected to answer 3 trivia questions on MINDEF, Entertainment, sports and about Singapore etc. The listener who is leading gets the chance to choose either to answer "The Final question" by himself or lets the other party to do so. Correct answers will be awarded with 5 points each and the same marks will be deducted for wrong answers. You will never know who the eventual winner is until the very last minute! Stay tuned to 883JiaFM to find out who gets to walk away with fantastic prizes!

Log on to [www.883jia.com.sg](http://www.883jia.com.sg) for more details of "The Immediate Challenge"!

Passing On The Baton		
APPOINTMENT	INCOMING	OUTGOING
COMD 6 DIV	COL LIM TECK YIN	BG RAVINDER SINGH
COMD 8 SAB	LTC TOH BOON YIN	COL WOO YEW CHUNG
CO 4 SR	LTC LEE THIAN BOON BRANDON	LTC TAN LEONG BOON
CO 2 GSTB	MAJ ABDUL NAGIB BIN HUSSAIN	—
CO 745 GUARDS	MAJ KWAY JASON	—



Quiz Of The Month - MAR / APR

Send us the correct answer and win a \$20 Takashimaya Gift Voucher. There will be 2 winners!

**Q: What is the core business of the Army as explained by COA at the 2007 Army Workplan Seminar?**

Closing Date: 30 MAY 2007

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank / Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NRIC: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact No: \_\_\_\_\_

1. This contest is open to all Army personnel except the executive staff of Army News Section.  
2. Each person is allowed one entry.  
3. Winners will be notified by Email. Prizes are not exchangeable for cash.  
4. The judges' decision is final. Please send us your entries via mail or Email (see bottom right corner of page).  
5. Names not collected within a month of notification will be forfeited.

**FEB / MAR Quiz** 12. What is the banner of the US Army now known as?  
A. HQ CSS COMMAND

**FEB / MAR Winners**  
1) CPT FOO HANG HAN YUEN, NRIC: SX000815B  
2) CPT (NS) LEONG WENG KOK, NRIC: SX0009386

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# EXERCISE BOLD KURUKSHETRA 2007

## Armour's Incredible Training Experience

'Incredible India', the tag line of the Indian Ministry of Tourism took on a new meaning for men from the 46th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (46 SAR) when they participated in Exercise Bold Kurukshetra 2007, conducted from 1 February to 29 March. This annual bilateral exercise with the Indian Armoured Force was held in central India. Our forces engaged in various live-firing and manoeuvres, strengthening their operational readiness and ties with our Indian counterparts. Since its inception in 2005, Exercise Bold Kurukshetra has grown to include a joint-planning exercise involving HQ 4th Singapore Armoured Brigade (4 SAB) and the participating Indian Armour Brigade. The exercise had also seen the fielding of more capabilities, such as the Bionix-Launched Bridge and Bronco All-Terrain Tracked Carrier.



Commanders from both forces exchanging professional knowledge on tactics and doctrine in the Indian Brigade Command Post.

Prior to the exercise proper, both forces spent time and effort to familiarise themselves with each others' equipment and operating procedures so as to ensure operational readiness and safety. The exercise commenced with 46 SAR and the Indian Army's Armoured Force securing initial enemy-defended positions to facilitate the advance of the rest of the joint-task force. The exercise culminated with both forces synchronising their manoeuvre to destroy the enemy mobile force. Such cooperation between the two forces showed our Army's ability



LTC Koh (left) sharing a lighter moment after the exercise with his Indian counterpart, COL Manoj Tiwari.

to operate alongside and learn from the regular and experienced India Army.

The exercise also highlighted the emphasis our Army places on realistic training. Live-firing of the SM-1 tanks, M113 Ultra Armoured Personnel Carriers, Spike and 84mm projectiles was orchestrated in a single battle manoeuvre plan to enhance the operational readiness of our forces. 1SG Alan Teng, a Pla-



Jubilant exercise troops from both countries posing for a group photograph reflecting the strong professional ties between the two armies.

toon Sergeant from 46 SAR commented that the simultaneous live-firing of various armoured weapon platforms was a highly realistic experience. He said, "At the Form-Up-Point, I could hear and feel the mortar firing. As the vast training ground allowed combined live-firing among different force elements, the exercise has been a highly realistic one."

The vast terrain in central India provides scope for a wide spectrum of realistic training. This year, the Mini-UAV was deployed in India for the first time in support of the exercise. Commanding Officer 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, MAJ Seet Uei Lim emphasised the benefits of fielding the Mini-UAV in India. He said, "The terrain and wind conditions are very favourable to conduct tactical UAV operations."



MAJ Seet (left) briefing General Officer Commanding, 31st Armoured Division, Major General AK Singh (centre) on the capabilities of the mini-UAV.

The Indian Army welcomes and is supportive in terms of air-space permission, as they share our belief in the central role of combat intelligence."

The extensive plains also allow our armoured forces to hone their long-range gunnery skills and execute complex manoeuvres. Commanding Officer 46 SAR, LTC Gerard Koh, was thrilled with the training opportunities the terrain offered. He said, "This place is amazing for gunnery, and we've had a live-firing almost every other day. We have also been able to push the limits of both men and machines, making them more rugged."

Besides honing our fighting capabilities, the exercise has strengthened our ties with the Indian Army. At the closing ceremony, Brigadier TPS Waraich, Commander of the Indian Armoured Brigade and LTC Tan Kian Heong, Commander 4 SAB commended the commanders and men from both armies for their professionalism and commitment in the successful execution of a highly complex live-firing manoeuvre. COL Manoj Tiwari, Commanding Officer of the participating Indian exercise force said, "We've been conducting complex manoeuvres including live fires in many of our previous exercises. However, this exercise has been unprecedented, this shows the amount of mutual understanding between the two armies."

By giving our Army a chance to train alongside a regular, war-proven force, the exercise has been a fruitful experience for our men. It demonstrated how our armoured force is stepping up to the challenges of our Army's transformation into a 3rd Generation Fighting Force, by using cutting-edge technology such as Mini-UAVs and sensor-shooter coordination in a highly networked fashion. It has also brought the armoured forces from both armies closer and to a new level of operational understanding and cooperation. This augurs well for our future overseas training and ties.

