

Wallaby07

Taking Integrated Precision Warfare to New Heights



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Achieving Greater Friendship and Professionalism at AARM



The AARM is a good opportunity for our shooters to benchmark themselves against those from our neighbouring armies

Photograph courtesy of Pioneer

“To strengthen the strong bond of friendship between all ASEAN military leaders and members of ASEAN armies at all levels, and enhance and develop our soldiers’ skills in the use of their personal military weapons so that they can advance and develop their expertise to a higher level.” These opening remarks by the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army, General Veravith Kusaman, summed up the objectives and spirit of the 17th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM), which was held from 9 to 23 November 2007 in Ampur Prانبuri Province, Thailand.

The meet, which brings together some of the best shooters in Southeast Asia, was an opportunity for our Army’s marksmen to benchmark themselves against regional standards. 2SG Affandi bin Aziz, a shooter from our General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) team, felt that the meet was an enriching experience. He said, “It’s my first time representing Singapore in a competition and I’ve definitely learnt much from the trip. Besides accuracy and technical skills, trust is very important to a GPMG

team as you have to work closely with your partner and alert him when his shot is off target.”

While AARM is a shooting competition, there is a strong focus on interaction and cultural exchange between the different teams. For example, the highlight of the closing ceremony was a series of performances by the shooting teams, a good opportunity to share traditional dances and songs. 1SG Dhzul, a shooter from our Rifle team, said, “The meet was a chance to learn more about the people from other countries. The Thai culture impressed me — they emphasise showing respect through greetings and are very polite.”

This year, our men’s pistol team came in second and third for two separate matches. MSG Poh Lip Meng also came in second for the Men’s Individual Pistol Match 1. Our shooters will be training hard for AARM 2008, which will be hosted by the Philippine Army.

Facing Regional Challenges Together

After the September 11th attacks and the Bali bombings, terrorism and other unconventional threats have become a major concern for everyone. These concerns were reflected at the 8th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM) held on 20 November 2007 in Petchaburi province, Thailand, where most delegates highlighted the changing security context and the need to work together to address regional and global challenges. ACAMM is an informal forum for the ASEAN Chiefs of Army to share their experience, exchange views and pursue greater collaboration in common areas of interest. The theme was “Impact of Developments in Southeast Asia on the Regional Stability: ASEAN Armies’ Roles and Implementation”.

At the forum, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army, General Anupong Paojinda, said, “I strongly feel that the armies of ASEAN should find more ways to share our experiences, expertise and lessons learnt. This will not only enable us to perform our missions in our own country better, but we will also be successful in dealing with any types of security challenges in the region.” Singapore’s Chief of Army (COA) MG Neo Kian Hong agreed, adding that “professional exchanges like exercises, training courses and seminars have helped not only to facilitate knowledge sharing but also enhance networking and professionalism.” He emphasised that “such activities will build deeper understanding at operational level, and facilitate practical cooperation between ASEAN militaries in addressing the security



Our COA (left) engaging in a professional exchange with his counterparts from Indonesia and Brunei

A Tradition of Friendship: Ex Safkar Indopura

Safkar Indopura 2007 culminated on 29 November in a co-ordinated hill assault by forces from 5th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (5 SIR), and the Indonesian National Army (TNI-AD)’s 413rd Infantry Battalion. The 19th in the series, Exercise Safkar Indopura included map-planning exercises, war-gaming simulation, and a combined urban operations exercise.



CPT (INF) Harahap (left) and LTC Lim believe that the exercise strengthened their professional knowledge and improved the bonds between the two forces

Commanding Officer 5 SIR, LTC Andrew Lim, commented, “There were initial concerns over the language barrier, which we sought to overcome by starting a language program for our soldiers. This helped to breach a lot of the initial inertia as well as language issues. Furthermore, during the initial stages, we had to come to terms with the differences in cultures and the way we operate. But because we are all soldiers and all from South-East Asia, and there is a certain level of understanding from our long-standing relationship with TNI-AD, we were able to overcome these very quickly.” Our Indonesian counterparts were equally happy about the outcome of the exercise. CPT (INF) H S Harahap, Officer Commanding in Alpha Company of the TNI-AD’s 413rd Infantry Battalion, said, “I’m very glad to be here – we can learn and understand a lot about each other to strengthen our relationships. Through our professional exchanges on tactics, we can learn from each other’s strengths and better ourselves.”



COA (left) handing over the Exercise Torch to TNI-AD’s LG Cornel Simbolon, signifying the turn of Indonesia to host the next Ex Safkar Indopura

Exercise Safkar Indopura’s closing ceremony was attended by Indonesia’s ambassador to Singapore, His Excellency Ambassador Wardana, Singapore’s Chief of Army (COA), MG Neo Kian Hong and Indonesia’s Deputy COA, LG Cornel Simbolon. In his address, COA spoke on the regular interactions between the armed forces of both countries and said, “I am confident that we will continue to expand on these professional exchanges in the future. In doing so, we will deepen our mutual understanding and further strengthen our close bonds, both of which are important in achieving the goal of continued peace and stability in our region.”

Grooming Our NSmen for Higher Appointments

CPT (NS) Tan Tze Hian believes that a boss should always keep in close touch with his people, to learn and understand their work. As a Business Unit Manager with Eli Lilly and Company, a global pharmaceutical corporation, he applies this philosophy in his daily work. He also uses it to good effect in his other job — as Battalion 2nd-in-Command of the 434th Battalion Singapore Armoured Regiment. Recently, CPT (NS) Tan took a step towards being a more effective commander when he graduated from a eight-month NS Command and Staff Course (NS CSC) on 16 November, along with 27 other NS Officers.



CPT (NS) Tan believes it is crucial to connect with his people, whether in the Army or the commercial world

For CPT (NS) Tan, many of the skills he picked up and uses in Army life are also applicable to his commercial job. This includes the skills he practised during the NS CSC. CPT (NS) Tan, who was named one of the three Distinguished Graduates of the course, said, “Whether you are a military commander or a marketer, you need to motivate your people to ensure that standards are met. It’s important to interact with them and talk to them, even about the little things.”

Top Graduate MAJ (NS) Alan Teo, from HQ 3rd Division, agreed that the course has been very useful. He said, “One of the key things emphasised was the process of critical thinking as



Dr Ng (right) shares with MAJ (NS) Teo (centre) and other graduands at the Istana

well as creative thinking. The course has given us a good framework to develop our thought processes.”

The NS CSC is conducted annually to groom NS officers who demonstrate the potential for higher command and staff appointments. Besides operational military knowledge, the course includes modules on security and policy studies. At the Graduation Ceremony at the Istana, 2nd Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen emphasised the important responsibilities of the graduands, “As commanders, your leadership will determine

the cohesiveness, morale and readiness of your units. It will also determine the effectiveness of their training, the quality of their NS experience and whether their time as citizen soldiers has been well spent.” He added, “NS commanders must constantly communicate and inspire a sense of purpose by updating their men on the challenges in our security environment, so that their commitment is constantly renewed. Besides having the skills to fight and the technological capability to maintain the SAF’s edge, our people must know why they are called to serve.”

Kudos to 6 Div for ADSOM/ADMM Success



The ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting at Shangri-La hotel was a huge success thanks to the organisational capabilities of 6 Div

“The meeting was a great success, and I appreciate the extra effort taken by the organising committee to ensure that all organisational and hospitality elements of the meeting proceeded smoothly.”

Mr Teo Chee Hean
Minister for Defence

The ASEAN Defence Senior Officials’ Meeting (ADSOM) and ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) were successfully convened at the Shangri-La Hotel from 15 to 17 October and 13 to 15 November 2007 respectively. These events raised the level of cooperation and collaboration on security matters in our region. The smooth conduct of these events did not happen by chance. A major contributing factor was the hard work put in by 6th Singapore Division (6 Div), together with other MINDEF/SAF agencies, including Defence Policy Office, MINDEF Public Affairs, Foreign Military Liaison Branch,

Military Police Command, 1st Transport Battalion, 6th Army Maintenance Battalion, and external agencies such as the Singapore Police Force.

Drawing on its strong teamwork, professionalism and efficiency, 6 Div was able to quickly organise itself into various specialised sub-committees and working groups. Under the able leadership of the Organising Committee, chaired by Commander 6 Div, COL Lim Teck Yin, no effort over the months of preparation was spared in ensuring that the key aim of ‘providing a hospitable and dignified setting for a fruitful engagement’ was achieved. To coordinate all the various activities, an operations hub was set up to integrate the timetables and plans of the many parties involved. A member of the Organising Committee, MAJ Simon Koo explained, “As in military operations,

the operations hub served as a ‘nerve centre’ to command and control all activities during ADSOM and ADMM. Maintaining round-the-clock situational awareness allowed for timely decision-making, ensuring the success of both events.”

MAJ Koo elaborated, “As in such events, there were many changes and mostly at the very last moment. It was from these situations that our ability to respond quickly in an integrated manner was most evident. Most importantly, the success also reflects our leadership effectiveness and our ability to organise major events efficiently with military precision.” Indeed, the honour of organising the conferences had provided 6 Div the invaluable opportunity to rally its members and was a great learning experience that will stand the Division in good stead for its future endeavours.



The operations hub allowed MAJ Koo (standing) and his colleagues to coordinate all activities and respond quickly to last-minute changes

Wallaby07

Taking Integrated Precision Warfare to New Heights

The concept of the Third Generation SAF envisages the three Services working seamlessly together as one fighting force, and the air-land integration in Exercise Wallaby 07 reflects this vision. This One SAF journey began in 2004, where Exercise Forging Sabre held in the USA's Mojave Desert had demonstrated the Army's capability to conduct integrated fires. Exercise Director for this year's Exercise Wallaby and Chief Armour Officer, BG Philip Lim, elaborated, "In 2005 and 2006, these capabilities were extended down to the Combined Arms Division. In this particular exercise, we are extending these capabilities a few steps further, to the Brigade as well as to the Battle Group so that we have power right down to the edge."

BG Lim also commented, "This exercise has significantly enhanced the confidence of our troops in our combat systems. Previously, all they see are platform fights, but today they see that we are able to bring together the capabilities of air as well as land in a closely coordinated manner." This is possible through the use of the Air Force's Mobile Command and Control (Mobile C2) Cabin, which provides a Common Operating Picture for both the Army and Air Force. LTC Perry Tan, Detachment Commander of the Mobile C2 Cabin, explained, "The control centre contributes two key enhancements to our war-fighting capabilities. Firstly, it provides the division commander and the troops in the field better situational awareness of what is happening in the air-land theatre. Secondly, it allows the commander more effective employment of the air power in terms of firepower, force projection as well as protection of the division assets."

These improved capabilities were noted by Commanding Officer, 21st Singapore Artillery, MAJ Dinesh Vasu Dash, who was a Forward Observer in Exercise Wallaby 1998. He said, "There is certainly a marked improvement from what I saw here nine years ago. We have very successfully integrated the Air Force, in not just ferrying our reconnaissance troopers to the frontline, but also to integrate fires from the Air Force onto the target. All this indicates that we are indeed working towards the notion of One SAF."



BG Lim (right) observing the integrated live-firing Exercise in this year's Exercise Wallaby from a Bionix II Infantry Fighting Vehicle

Working as One SAF

This is the first time that the Air Force is bringing a spectrum of organic assets, such as the Apache Attack Helicopters and Super Pumas, as well as non-organic assets like the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. This enables the Air Force to collaborate with the Army and develop air-land processes that will allow the Apaches to work closely with the highly dynamic and maneuverable Armour forces on the ground. This year's Exercise Air Director, COL Yeo Yee Peng, commented, "We are exploring datalink capabilities so that the information given to the Air Force is much more accurate and without ambiguity. This will allow the Army commanders to harness air power and out-manoeuvre the enemy forces." Speaking on the challenges of the air-land integration, COL Yeo highlighted on the importance of compatible communication technologies and the need to accept each others' cultures. He elaborated, "What is critical is to build ties that will provide the mutual trust and confidence to leverage on each others' capabilities. As the exercise progresses, I can see this culture gap narrow. As personnel from the two Services work with each other, I notice an increased confidence in their abilities to work as one integrated SAF."

Another component of the air-land integration sees the Commandos identifying targets on the ground and sending their co-ordinates to the Apaches. Once the Apaches are in position for the strike, the Commandos would then use their laser targeting device to pinpoint the target for the Apaches. One of the Apache Pilots, LTC Ng Wei-Jin, was full of praise for this year's Exercise Wallaby. He said, "We had a lot of integration with the Armour unit and their vehicles, which made the exercise more realistic for both us and the troops on the ground. Furthermore, the Commando lasing gives us more precise information on enemy troops, which minimises collateral damage and the amount of time we have to spend in hostile territory. We just need to verify the target, fire the missiles and get out quickly." His Commando counterpart, CPT Alvin Tjioe, elaborated on the benefits of this air-land integration, "We increase the precision of fire, so the rate of accomplishment and probability of accomplishing a

mission is higher. We increase the chances of acquiring targets and we shorten the loop as well. This is possible with all the improvements that we have. Previously, we relied on our radio sets and gave a verbal talk down to the pilots. Nowadays, we have computer systems and software so we have direct link by data with the pilots. So this really speeds things up and helps the mission to go smoothly."



COL Yeo (left) believes that it is important for the Services to build mutual trust and confidence to work as an integrated SAF

Fighting as One System

BG Lim also spoke on the significance of the exercise, "It's not always easy to bring all the components together. In Exercise Wallaby 07, we have taken elaborate steps to train as a total system. This is because in the 1st and 2nd Generation Army, we fight with platforms, while the 3rd Generation Army uses system fights. This is why it is important for us to come together and train together in this kind of system – so that we can harness all components to conduct integrated strikes."

MAJ Dinesh was in charge of ensuring that his Primus battalion delivered precision fires when required, and was struck by the complexity of the exercise. He said, "Previously, this used to be a straightforward battalion or brigade attack – with the different components firing on different locations. This exercise sees us doing more complex maneuvers, and we have taken the extra step of integrating fires onto the same location. While this sounds simplistic, the level of detailed coordination that is required in order to prevent any untoward incidents indicates that the Army is rapidly maturing and will soon culminate in its vision of integrated precision warfare."



MAJ Dinesh (right), explaining the role of the Primus to Minister of State for Defence, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee



The Commandos pinpointing the targets for the Apaches is reflective of the close cooperation between land and air forces

MAJ Dinesh attributes this success to a few factors, including the high level of networking technology employed. He commented, "For this exercise, the Battlefield Management System (BMS) has been used successfully on a large scale. This allows us to have an idea of the kind of forces we have – from reconnaissance troopers to artillery pieces to engineers. In a distributed and rather cluttered battlefield, it allows us all to know where the friendly forces are, the potential locations of enemy forces, and then determine how best to synchronise fires." LCP Chia Sin Wei, a Signaler from 41st Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (41 SAR), elaborated, "Previously, when we depended on voice communications, they were compromised by interference or distortion. With the computerised BMS, we are able to use the Short Message Service function, which makes communications clearer."

Another platform used in the integrated precision warfare is the Mortar Tracked Carrier (MTC), which can provide support fire at a rate of 10 bombs per minute. It is networked to the 3rd Generation Armoured Battle Group via the Mortar Platoon Management System (MPMS). The MPMS allows the mission objectives to be sent to the individual MTCs, pinpointing the enemy forces and ensuring that the mortars are on target. 3SG Chew Kia Hong, a Mortar Detachment Commander from 41 SAR, elaborated, "The MPMS also helps me with waypoints of the roads that I am navigating, and to avoid obstacles in the

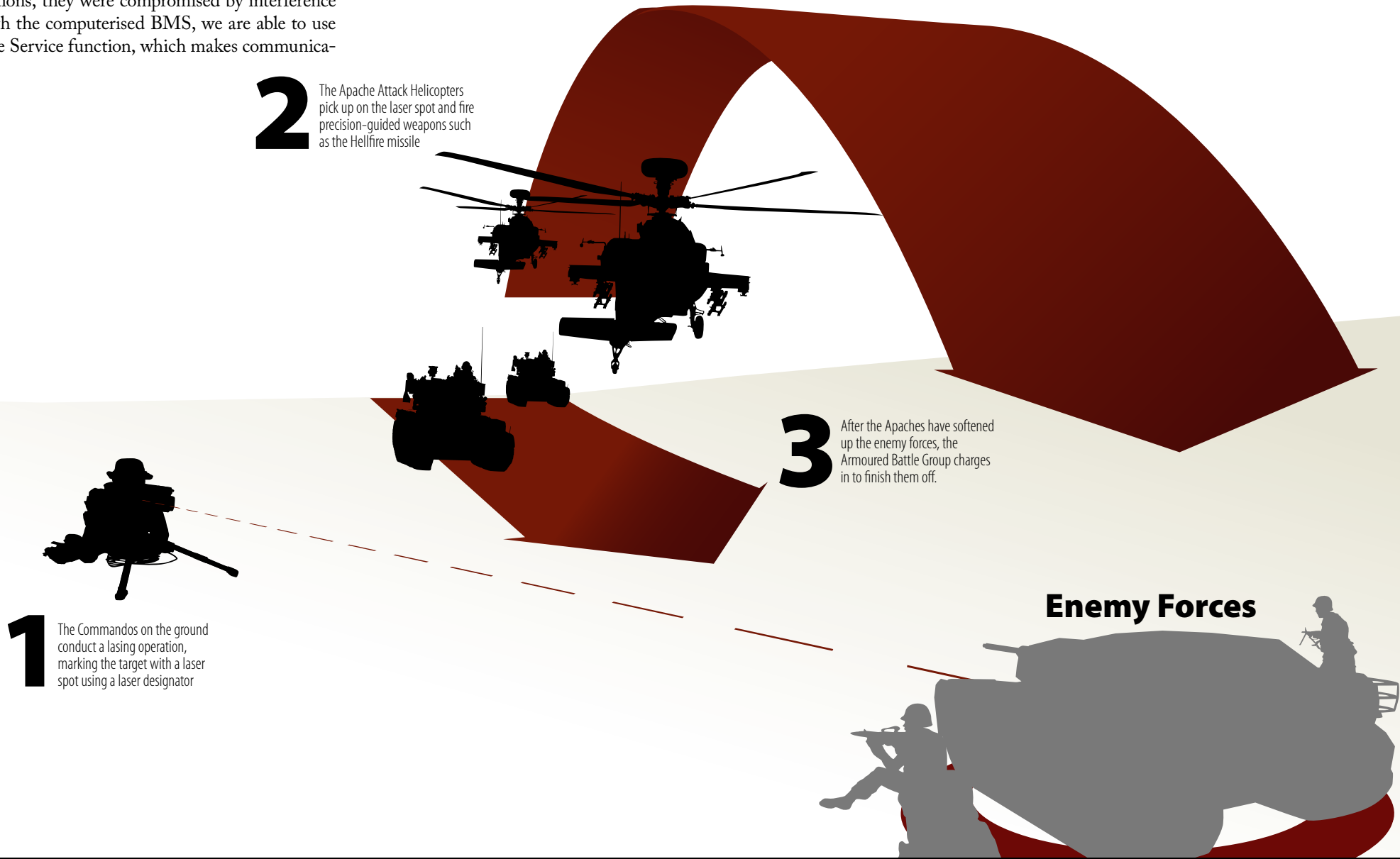


This exercise has increased our troops' confidence in operating the MTC

way. We are able to know where we are, and the location of the enemy forces once it is transmitted to us. This exercise has allowed me to gain more confidence in using the MPMS and the MTC itself."

The Future of Precision Fires

Moving ahead, our Army is well on its way towards the 3rd Generation Army, integrating precision fires from both air and land platforms. BG Lim shared, "If we continue to expand these capabilities right down to the lowest tactical units, we will be able to bring to bear significant combat power even at the lowest level. This is a significant combat multiplier – we could have a scenario where a platoon could take on a platoon; different from the past where we would need a company to capture and fight a platoon. So in the long term, what we see is that an Armour Brigade will be able to take on an opposing force of a similar size many times over. But above all, we have always emphasised that behind the machine is always the humans, and we want to make sure that our troops are confident, committed and competent in the way they conduct operations."



Exercise AGNI Warrior 2007
Enhancing Operational Readiness and Defense Ties

Exercise Agni Warrior 2007, the fourth in a series of annual bilateral exercises held between the SAF and the Indian Army, was held from 15 October to 6 November 2007 at Devlali, India. This latest bilateral exercise saw stronger interaction and integration between the two Armies. Led by Commander 3rd Singapore Division Artillery, COL Terry Siow and Commanding Officer 20th Battalion, Singapore Artillery (20 SA) LTC Lim Wei Lian from the SAF, and Commanding Officer Colonel Harish



Our Army's FH88 gun in action during the live-firing exercise



CPL Zhu was pleased with the opportunity to learn from a foreign professional army

other's working procedures, tactics and weapon systems. During the field exercise, the commanders from both sides conducted joint planning and operations, while the gunners had the chance to witness the firing of the Indian Army's 105mm light guns. As CPL Zhu Liang Lin, an artillery gunner shared, "It was an invaluable experience for all of us for we had the golden opportunity to work with and learn from the experienced Indian Artillery gunners. I was impressed by their smooth gun drills which are a result of their regular and demanding training."



3SG Boey's confidence in himself and the SAF's capabilities had been significantly enhanced through the exercise

The participants from both armies made full use of this exercise for professional exchanges. Sharing sessions were held at both the commanders and gunners levels to facilitate better understanding of each other's working procedures, tactics and weapon systems. During the field exercise, the commanders from both sides conducted joint planning and operations, while the gunners had the chance to witness the firing of the Indian Army's 105mm light guns. As CPL Zhu Liang Lin, an artillery gunner shared, "It was an invaluable experience for all of us for we had the golden opportunity to work with and learn from the experienced Indian Artillery gunners. I was impressed by their smooth gun drills which are a result of their regular and demanding training."

Our soldiers also did the SAF proud through their strong performance, reinforcing their standing as a well-trained national service force. 3SG Daryl Boey, a gun de-



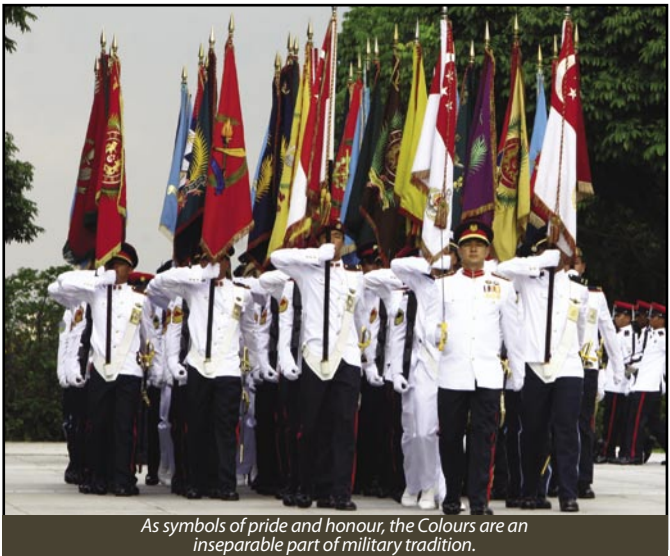
Military Colours
Pride, Honour and Loyalty

In our series on Army customs and traditions, we next look at Military Colours. The term 'Colours' refers to all classes of military flags, namely standards, guidons, and banners. In the SAF, Colours are awarded to units in recognition of their achievements. In addition, they symbolise the pride, honour, and loyalty of the men in a unit. To understand the unique role and status of the Colours, we need to know their historical origin.

Origin of the Colours

Colours were first used as a form of identification in battle in the early 17th Century. The ability of an army to hold its formation during battle was crucial to obtaining victory. However, it was easy for soldiers to lose their positions amid the confusion of the battlefield. It was therefore decided that each regiment would carry a flag into battle as a rallying point for its troops. Unlike the Colours today, which usually bear a state or regimental crest, these early flags were rudimentary banners of a single colour, hence the term 'Colours'.

Eventually, the Colours became a source of morale and pride for soldiers. Men were inspired to keep fighting when they saw their flag flying high, and because of their symbolic importance, the number of enemy Colours captured in battle became a mea-



As symbols of pride and honour, the Colours are an inseparable part of military tradition.

sure of the extent of victory. Capturing an enemy's Colours was considered a great honour, while losing one's Colours was a severe humiliation. Hence, a group of soldiers, the Colours Party, was assigned to protect the Colours whenever they were brought into battle.

The Colours Party consisted of a young officer, known as the Ensign, who carried the Colours, and five of the bravest sergeants. An obvious target for the enemy, they were expected to defend the Colours with their lives and thus took part in some of the fiercest fighting in the battlefield. In modern ceremonies, the Colours Party is represented by a junior officer and accompanying sergeants and warrant officers.

Colours in the SAF

Colours are no longer carried into battle, but they are still retained in modern armies as symbols of tradition and glory. In addition, they promote esprit de corps and instil pride and loyalty in soldiers. Colours also bear the badges that commemorate the achievements of the regiment.

There are two types of Colours in the SAF: the State Colours and the Regimental Colours. Until 1997, services, formations, and units were awarded Regimental Colours about five years after they had been formed, and were awarded State Colours two years after they received the Regimental Colours. It was subsequently decided that since both types of Colours served the same purpose of inspiring soldiers, State Colours would be awarded to the three Services and SAFTI Military Institute (SAFTI MI) while Regimental Colours would be awarded to units and formations. All other State Colours, as well as the Regimental Colours of the Republic of Singapore Air Force and the Republic of Singapore Navy, were retired at the 1997 SAF Day Parade. New Colours are always consecrated by religious leaders before being presented by the President of Singapore. Among the most prestigious Colours a unit can be presented are the SAF State Colours (upgraded from the SAF Regimental Colours). Every year, the Best Combat Unit is appointed the custodian of the SAF State Colours.



Mr Teo exchanging gifts with Lieutenant General BS Pawar

tachment 21C said, "The exercise was the first live-firing experience for most of the gunners, and offered them a highly realistic training that cannot be conducted locally. This exposure has allowed us to build greater confidence in ourselves, the SAF and its capabilities."

The exercise was witnessed by Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean and the Commandant of the Indian School of Artillery, Lieutenant General BS Pawar. Together with the successful conduct of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra 2007 earlier, this exercise further underscores the strong relations between the two Armed Forces.

Contributed by 20 SA



The SAF State Colours are placed in the custody of the Best Combat Unit

On parade, the Colours are arranged according to the date they were granted, with the oldest Colours on the left and the newest Colours on the right of the observer. There are some exceptions to this rule. The HQ Commandos Formation Colours, for example, precede the Colours of the 1st Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (1 SIR) despite being granted later. Colours are also used to depict differences in seniority. Each of the six infantry battalions has a distinct background colour; yellow (1 SIR), red (2 SIR), green (3 SIR), blue (4 SIR), brown (5 SIR), purple (6 SIR).

The function of the Colours today is more symbolic than practical, but their importance is difficult to overstate. They are the embodiment of an institution's history, honour, and tradition. In some armies, standing orders are given that the Colours should be destroyed if they are ever in danger of falling into enemy hands. Colours may no longer be used on the battlefield to identify regiments to men, but through Colours, men can identify with the regiment or army that they proudly fight for.

Readers interested in learning more about the various SAF Colours can refer to the book "Our Army: Customs and Traditions". Our next instalment in this series will examine the ceremonial uses of the Colours.

Time to Celebrate and Bond

Our Army works hard to attain a high level of operational readiness. We have made strong progress in our transformation towards a 3rd generation fighting force and as 2007 drew to a close, we kept a high level of vigilance to ensure that our country remains safe during the festivities. Despite this operational focus, we have

never lost sight of the core belief that our Army is all about our people. Various Army communities in their own special ways have taken time out to celebrate as one family. Such activities build bonds and recharge our people so that we are ready to face new challenges.



The Army Leadership bonds with a bowling game during the Army Planning Seminar in October 2007



During the HQ TRADOC Family Day in November 2007, servicemen and their family members participated in various cohesion games



Servicemen from the CSSCOM sharing the joys of their Family Day with the residents from Bethany Methodist Nursing Home



"Please miss! Please miss!"

Army Officers' Race to Success at Pontiac (USA)

Each year, a team of National University of Singapore (NUS) Engineering undergraduates design and build a Formula-style race car from scratch for the highly prestigious International Society of Automotive Engineers (Formula SAE) competition held at Pontiac, Michigan, USA. Only 130 race cars from top colleges and universities around the globe qualified for the competition, making NUS's inclusion an achievement in itself.



CPT Perh (in car) and CPT Chor (right) posing before the gruelling 22km Enduro Race at the Ford Proving Grounds in Romeo, Michigan

In 2007, the five-man team comprised two NSmen and three Army regulars. The team accredits much of their success to the firm foundations that the Army laid for them. CPT Chen Guoxian from 1st Army Maintenance

Base cited some of the SAF core values as key building blocks to his ability to contribute effectively to the team, explaining that "the anguish that comes along among the high expectations could be draining if not for the fighting spirit inculcated during my experience in the Army." He also believes that the discipline he was taught during his Army training helped him to stay focused and not succumb to "temptations to chill out or hang out with friends even after long periods of fruitless research". It also helped him to juggle the demands of the competition and his hectic university schedule. Amidst the inevitable design conflicts, CPT Chen stressed the importance of "staying professional and assessing the situation to determine what needs to be changed or forgone", epitomising the professionalism of an Army officer.

CPT Daniel Perh from the Guards Formation, the driver for the team, also values the experience the Army gave him in the competition. Owing their success to the focused minds that the Army bred in the team, he said, "We were neither the most innovative team nor the most competitive, yet we managed to achieve remarkable scores at the competition just by keeping ourselves tightly focused on the objectives of the competition."

In addition, CPT Anthony Chor from 1st Army Maintenance Base believes that his three

year stint in the NUS Formula SAE project has taught him skills relevant to his vocation as a Military Engineering Officer (MEO), honing his technical competency in various areas. However, he regards his increased "self-awareness" and "appreciation of how individuals can affect organisational dynamics" as his most valuable take-away.

The team's showing at the Formula SAE competition, finishing top in Asia and 14th internationally, is testament to the multi-faceted skills developed within our Army and the continual learning process that they go through to better serve the nation. CPT Chen likens the need for cohesiveness of the NUS Formula SAE team to the SAF, stating that he has grown "appreciative of the need for aligning everyone to the SAF mission, as only people with conviction and belief can create wonders".

Quiz Of The Month - NOV / DEC

Send us the correct answer and win a pair of Golden Village movie tickets. There will be 5 winners!

Q: What are the three key platforms involved in the air-land integration in Exercise Wallaby?
Closing Date : 15 February 2008

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 us at armynews@starnet.gov.sg.
5. Prizes not collected within a month of notification will be forfeited.

OCT / NOV Quiz

Q: What recently-introduced OCS initiative trains officer cadets in decision-making?
A: Think and Act Like A Commander (TALAC)

OCT / NOV Winners

- 1) CPT GERALD ANG NRIC: S0000097J
- 2) CPT (NS) TAN KIM SOONG NRIC: S0000074A
- 3) 3SG CHING CHIN KIAT NRIC: S0000988Z
- 4) 2WO GOH BUEH CHENG NRIC: S0000818B
- 5) LCP ABDUL MUNIR NRIC: S0000069C

Winners are to contact Army News at 64270465 for collection of prizes.

Always Vigilant

Celebrating Peace with Security



It's important for our troops to protect vital installations such as Jurong Island against the heightened threat of terrorism during the festive season

As the nation ushered in the new year and celebrated as one, a group of soldiers marked the new year on standby and operational duties at various locations, including Sembawang Wharves, Jurong Island, Seletar Camp and Nee Soon Camp. In recognition of the sacrifices made played by these servicemen, they were visited by Chief of Army (COA), MG Neo Kian Hong on New Year's Eve. Army News was there to find out more:

Guarding Sembawang Wharves and Jurong Island

The soldiers of the 5th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (5 SIR) were deployed at Sembawang Wharves, Jurong Island, Changi Airport and Exxon Mobil Refinery to protect these vital installations against any threats. Among those deployed at Sembawang Wharves was 3SG Muhd Fauzan, who commented, "The festive season is a time of celebration for the rest of the country. For us being deployed here, our main duty is to ensure the safety of Singapore. While initially my family was unhappy that I couldn't celebrate the New Year with them, I explained to them that I'm doing a very important job and they accepted it." His counterpart at Jurong Island, CPL Seng Chang Yeang, shared similar sentiments, "It is natural to feel sad that we are being deployed over the festive season, but we all understand the need to protect a strategically important place like Jurong Island. Because everyone is in a holiday mood, the chances of a security threat are higher. I told my family that I'm a soldier, and it's my duty to defend Singapore."

For the Team Commander at Sembawang Wharves, CPT Johnson Tan, it was his third festive season deployment in seven years. He said, "At the end of the day, I know that we have a job to do. So I try not to think so much of the festive season, and focus on getting the job done." CPT Tan also tried to instill the same attitude in his men, "I make it a point that before and after each deployment, I will talk to them to remind them why they are doing this, maintain their focus, and at the same time, lighten up the mood."

In his interaction with the men from 5 SIR, COA thanked

the troops for their sacrifices and commitment during the festive season. He said, "It is extremely important for us to conduct these duties, especially in the midst of the terrorist threat around the world. Singapore is doing very well because we have managed to keep it safe. Thank you all for allowing us to enjoy our holidays in peace."



COA thanking 3SG Muhd Fauzan (right) and his colleagues for their commitment

EOD on Standby: "Just another day at work"

At Seletar Camp, two Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams from the 36th Battalion, Singapore Combat Engineers (36 SCE) were on standby, ready to move off at very short notice to deal with unconventional threats. These include homemade bombs, chemical and radioactive threats, or anything that poses a threat to the peace and security of Singapore. One of the team commanders, SSG Ang Khai Hean, commented, "There's not much difference between being on standby on a normal working day or the festive season. We are a high readiness unit, and today's just another day at work." His Platoon Commander, LTA Jonathan Lin from 36 SCE, was thankful for the support of his family, "My family understand the position that I'm in, and fully support me on this. They are also very proud of what I'm doing, and for this I'm very grateful."

vation works. One of them gave me a Singapore IC, which I found suspicious as he didn't appear local to me. Shortly after he had entered the camp, I checked his book-in/book-out slip, and discovered that the IC number, address and date of birth stated did not match those on the IC given. This was when I started to suspect that he was an illegal immigrant. We immediately brought him and his counterpart back to the pass office for further questioning, and he was unable to provide the details printed on the IC. He finally admitted that he had picked up the IC from the floor and used it illegally. His counterpart also confessed to using a fake work permit."

PTE Tan's continued alertness also helped to capture two other men who were also using fake work permits. PTE Tan recounted, "On the way back to the pass office, I overheard one of them calling up their colleagues to warn that they had been caught. This was when we prowled the camp for the others. One was found hiding in a simulator room undergoing renovation while the last one was caught when he tried to leave the camp." Speaking on the importance of his job, PTE Tan shared, "My

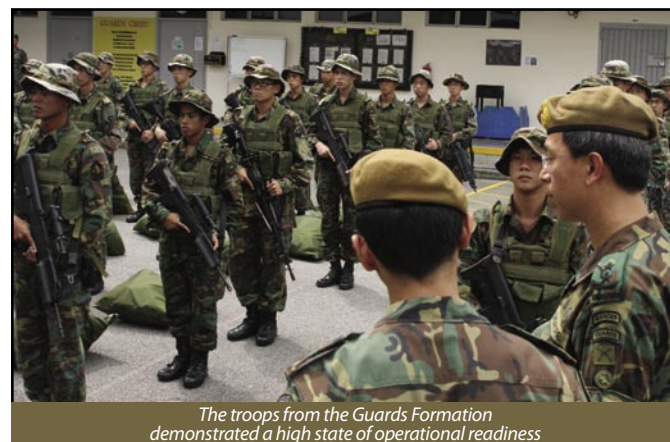
Both SSG Ang and LTA Lin were also pleased with COA's visit to their unit on New Year's Eve. SSG Ang said, "By coming here, COA shows that he's very concerned about what we do on the ground and how we feel about our duty. He helped us to understand the importance of performing this duty, and showed us that the higher command cares about each individual soldier on the force." Similarly, LTA Lin commented, "In light of COA's effort to come down and visit us, I can see that he's a very caring commander. He has our interests at heart and goes out of the way to touch base with the ground troops. This has encouraged me greatly, boosted the morale of my men, and I feel appreciated."



Our EOD troops are well trained and prepared to deal with a wide spectrum of unconventional threats

Always Ready for Operations

COA also visited the Guardsmen, who demonstrated their high readiness to be deployed for operations at any time. Speaking to the troops, COA shared, "Someone has to be in a state of readiness, and we want to make sure that while some in the SAF rest, there are people who are on duty and are clear on why they are doing it. It is important for you to remain sharp while you are deployed."



The troops from the Guards Formation demonstrated a high state of operational readiness

CPT Raymond Koh, an Officer-Commanding from Guards, has faith in his men's abilities, "As we belong to the high readiness core, this is part and parcel of the job. From the amount of preparatory training, I'm pretty confident that when the button is pressed, my guys will be able to fulfill their duties diligently." This was echoed by CFC Muhd Hafiz, "The force is ready to deter any terrorist threats after all the training and preparation we've done. In any kind of situation, timing is the most important and we must be tip-top."

Vigilant Around the Year

The need for vigilance is not limited to festive periods. Regimental Police (RP) guard our camps throughout the year to ensure the security of our installations. One incident that highlights the importance of our RPs occurred on 15 November 2007, when four illegal immigrants were caught using a lost Identification Card (IC) and fake work permits to gain access to Amoy Quee Camp. Army News speaks to the alert RP, PTE Tan Cai Fu, whose alertness enabled him to detect the ploy.

PTE Tan recalled, "That morning, two foreign nationals were changing passes at the Pass Office to access the camp for reno-

role is to ensure that the camp is as safe as possible. The incident shows that if we stay alert and perform our routine checks and procedures diligently, we can deal with threats to the camp all year round."



PTE Tan's alertness and thoroughness in conducting security checks have helped to secure his camp