

armynews

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pulse of the army



Living Our Best
GOING FROM GOOD TO GREAT

COA Visits Artillery



COA viewing the exhibits on display at 24 SA

On 5 April, Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek visited 24th Battalion, Singapore Artillery (24 SA) and Artillery Institute (AI) at Khatib Camp. During his visit, COA was briefed on the structure, vision, and developments in 24 SA and AI.

In a lively discussion with the men of 24 SA when he visited the unit, COA spoke about the role 24 SA plays in the Artillery formation and explained on the need for the unit to be clear on its role in the Artillery structure. He also stressed on the importance of the unit having an identity of its own and how it is important as a source of motivation for the men.

COA also visited AI where he was updated on the progress of the new Mortar Wing and its roles. He was briefed on the training components and routine of Artillery commanders. The recently launched Artillery Detachment Trainer was one such training component that helps train the men.

Before concluding the visit, COA urged the men to utilise the recently launched Training and Doctrine Hub structure that has been put in place to enhance their expertise and training experience. This will ensure that training will be carried out most effectively, leveraging on the resources that are available in the Army. **A**

A New Tradition, A New Wine, Our Army Wine



Our Army Wine will bear the name and brand of Our Army. Our Army now has its own unique wine! Launched on 4 April by Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek at the Rocky Hill Mess in the School of Infantry Specialists, the new Army Wine will be the preferred choice for all Army Functions.

Our Army Wine, a youthful 2004 vintage, is made from the fortification and combination of two distinct grapes, Cabernet and Shiraz, resulting in a unique blend of soft, ripe berry fruit flavours with a touch of vanilla oak. This blend is symbolic of the blending of technologies and new concepts into our people to realise the 3G Army.

The purchase of the Army Wine will be centralised and coordinated at Formation/Division/Unit level. A portion of the proceeds from the sales will be contributed to the annual Army Half Marathon Charity Drive. **A**

Army PRIDE Day - Recognising Our Innovators

In his address at the Army PRIDE Day 2006 at SAFTI MI Warriors' Hall, Chief of Army, MG Desmond Kuek spoke of the importance of PRIDE. He said, "PRIDE is about people. People who want to live their best are inspired to break new ground to achieve it. To live our best means empowering our soldiers and leaders to make the connection with Our Army's vision. Our soldiers have to lead and learn well, forge strong cohesion and identity links, uphold the values that define who we are and share experiences that are worthy of our pride and profession."

An exhibition showcasing the top WITs projects of 2005 was also held from 21 to 23 April.

Army STAR Awards

The Army STAR awards were presented to recognise deserving individuals for providing quality service. One of the winners was Ms Audrey Lim, Head Physiotherapist of the Soldier Performance Centre, HQ Army Medical Command (AMC). She said, "I'm very honoured to receive this year's Army Star Service Award. It gives me a sense of recognition and drive to providing even better customer satisfaction. I'm lucky to have a group of very capable team members always willing to do their best. It has always been HQ AMC's way to go the extra mile for our customers. All the positive feedback we have received have surely helped motivated us even more."

Challenging Contests

This year, the PRIDE organising committee incorporated a series of challenging contests aligned to the key thrusts of Our 3G Army. Requiring innovative thinking that promotes development and experimentation of ideas, the three contests also injected the element of fun into PRIDE Day.



Playing LAN the SAF way!

Operation Flashpoint: Electronic Soldiers

The SAF-developed multi-player first-person shooter computer game, Operation Flashpoint, has teams fighting not just with their guns, but also with realistic battle tactics, analytical thinking, teamwork and leadership. In a virtual environment as electronic soldiers, they must work as a team to complete various scenarios in terrains ranging from desert fighting, urban ops, night jungle warfare.

AI Wars

AI Wars is a game based on logic and strategy. This game allows our servicemen to learn Artificial Intelligence programming and explore the potential of using autonomous vehicles in operation. In this game, soldiers had to design and programme the best combat vehicles to outwit and destroy their opponents.

SOSTAC: IKC2 Tank Battle!

The highlight of the challenges incorporated into Army PRIDE Day was the SOSTAC, which stands for "Situational Analysis, Objective, Strategy, Tactics, Action, Command and Control". This is a tank battle simulation introduced for the first time in this year's Army PRIDE Day. It involves two teams, Red and Yellow, each controlling a miniature tank in a specially created landscape.



SOSTAC tank battles shows IKC2 in action with realistic terrain

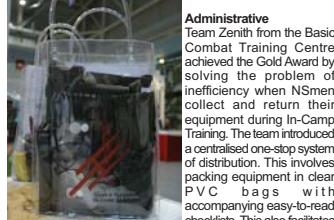
Each miniature tank is equipped with two cameras, one providing the tank commander view, the other providing the tank driver view. An additional camera attached to a floating balloon simulates an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. Using the visual input from these three feeds alone, the team has to seek and destroy the enemy tank as well as capture checkpoints scattered across the landscape. This game serves as a simplified representation of IKC2 and deepens the understanding of the concept for both players and spectators.

Members of the SOSTAC organising team, 1SG Neo Kheng Yew, explained, "We came up with the concept of this game with the aim of simplifying IKC2 so everyone can understand

it better. The challenge lies in using wireless equipment (six cameras and two remote controls) simultaneously, which causes interference. We had to innovate and we learnt new things along the way."

Cream of the WITs Crop

The best of 2005's WITs Projects were on show at the Warriors Hall and these have greatly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of Our Army in various areas.

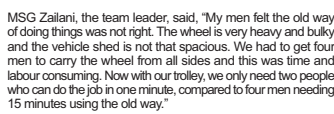


BCTC's clear PVC bags allow quick verification of contents

otherwise taken up precious NS training time.

Safety

Team Brain Booster found the changing of spare wheels for five-tonner trucks a difficult process in areas with space constraints. The old method required four men to move the heavy wheel by hand. This may cause injuries and even damage the equipment. The solution? The design of a wheel trolley that improves the safety of the technicians changing the wheel. The wheel is placed onto the trolley, and is secured in place, thanks to the ingenious design. Because the trolley requires only two people to work, space is no longer an issue. For this, the team from 6th Direct Support Maintenance Battalion received the Gold Award.



The green trolley is placed under the tyre, allowing it to be pushed rather than lifted



Training

The team from the Commandos introduced a new concept for the Military Freefall Course. The new course system has four days of local ground training, followed by eight days of training in the United States including the unprecedented use of wind tunnels in simulating actual freefall experience.

Besides enhancing safety, the new course has also resulted in a greatly improved pass rate for participants.

Operations

A notable project from the Operations category was the design of a new field pack for our soldiers. Team Spartan from the 6th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment, noted that the current field pack design has drawbacks, namely the lack of capacity and the "First in, Last out" method of packing which is inefficient when specific items are needed from the pack.

Team Spartan designed their "Spartan" Field Pack, which places emphasis on the qualities of "Comfort, Capacity, Ruggedness and Customisation". The new pack is very customised for various scenarios. It also facilitates quicker access to equipment by compartmentalisation and the use of more access points. Truly a fitting pack for our 3G Soldiers!

Economic Drive Committee

From Team HQ Maintenance and Engineering Support and Defence Science and Technology Agency was a multi-million dollar savings project to more cost-effectively maintain the Armour Gunner Tactical Simulator (AGTS). By reviewing the Operations training requirement with the School of Armour and restructuring the maintenance scope, the team was able to save more than five million dollars over three years. **A**

Launch of Training Hub



Chief of Army MG Desmond Kuek and BG Hugh Lim, Comd TRADOC

At the Army Training Workplan Seminar 2006 held on 5 April at Khatib Camp, an integrated Training and Doctrine Hub was launched by Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek.

This new networked structure, comprising HQ Training and Doctrine (HQ TRADOC), former G6 Army, NSAD and Training Institutes aims to strengthen the governance of training,

deepen professional competencies, and deliver a positive training focus. This hub will also provide a unified executive agency to set the direction and drive the pace of Army training and doctrine in support of 3G Force Transformation.

Commenting on the new Hub in his address during the seminar, COA said, "Realising the 3G Army is more than developing hardware and systems or constructing a force structure. A real 3G capability will come about only with complementary 3G operational thinking, concepts and doctrine; and only if our people live their best by having the open learning culture to explore advanced and innovative solutions, while keeping grounded and well-trained in the realities and fundamentals of soldiering and war-fighting".

Later, BG Hugh Lim, Commander TRADOC, delivered his keynote address in which he aptly summed up what this launch signifies. He said, "In launching the new Army Training and Doctrine Hub, we are re-positioning Army training to realise the new fighting concepts and force structures envisaged. Much of the responsibility for realising the first spiral of transformation rests with the Training Community. At the same time, we must lay the

Enhancing Frontline Medical Support - Army's Latest Medical Shelter System

At the Army Medical Command Workplan Seminar 2006 held at Nee Soon Camp on 28 April, Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek unveiled the Army's latest medical shelter system.

With the launch of this new medical shelter system, higher level surgical support can be provided swiftly at the frontline, in war or in Peace Support Operations (PSOs). The new system goes beyond mere provision of basic health care with its four expandable 1-3 20-foot containers encompassing an operating theatre, a high dependency ward, a normal ward and a laboratory/x-ray facility. With these near-hospital level facilities, major operations can be performed with less risk in a sterile environment.



Using makeshift structures as hospitals will no longer be necessary with these containers around

The containers can also be transported via commercial trucks, trailers, C-130 aircraft and Landing Ship Tanks. Such transportability allows swift deployment to where it is needed most.

CPT Lim Poh Thiam is a Nursing Officer who has served in PSOs in East Timor and Aceh. He is trained in the use of the new medical shelter system. CPT Lim said, "In previous PSOs, we had to make do with makeshift structures as hospitals. With this new system, we can just ship in the containers by air or sea and set it up where ever we need it. The facilities it has are good enough to do major surgeries, blood analysis and other more advanced procedures previously impossible in the field. This is a big step forward in Our Army's frontline medical support." **A**



The operating theatre container is well-equipped and provides a conducive environment for frontline surgery

Commandos Prepare for Tomorrow's Challenges

At the Commando Formation Workplan Seminar held on 28 April at Pasir Ris Camp, Chief Commando Officer, COL Eidik Yeo, summed up the past achievements and presented the key thrusts of the Commando Formation for the new workyear. Topping the list was a strong focus on Counter Terrorism. Fighting this threat requires the establishment of the 3G Special Forces, for which the Commando Training Institute (CTI) has been set up to meet this challenge.



The logos of Commando Training Institute HQ and its three centres of excellence were unveiled by COA

The Commando Training Institute was officially inaugurated by Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek, later that afternoon. As part of the inauguration, COA also unveiled the logos of Commando Training Institute HQ and its three centres of excellence, namely Special Operations Tactical Centre (SOTAC), Special Operations Training Support Centre (SOTSC) and Special Operations Training Centre (SOTC). These training centres aim to provide more focused and specialised training for the Commando family.



Commander TRADOC launches the Satellite Interactive Laboratory

To support this new thrust of the commandos, a new Satellite Interactive Laboratory was also launched by Commander TRADOC, BG Hugh Lim, the day before. This new lab will enable our commandos to learn the theory aspects of their trade at their own pace using courseware. At the same time, the labs also allows the trainees to interact online among themselves, thus enhancing the positive experience of this learning environment.



The advancement in IT technology has greatly enhanced the training efficiency for CPT(NS) Chan and his men

For CPT(NS) Chan Hean Leng, the incorporation of advanced IT technology and the networking with other units has been a great leap for him and his men in their training experience. Now, he is able to monitor updates during field exercises from the Satellite Interactive Laboratory. "One are the days of tele-ing maps which are troublesome and time consuming. With the latest information technology, I am able to get precise updates from the field over LAN in the fastest possible time," said CPT(NS) Chan.

1WO Sundram, RSM of SOTC, commented, "The training modules now are very focused and the infrastructure allows us to develop our people, creating an IT learning environment coupled with people oriented management."

With the best training facilities and support established, the Commando TI is all set to achieve its vision of "Uncommon People, Uncommon Place". **A**

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LIVING OUR BEST: Going from Good to Great

At the 2006's Army Workplan Seminar, Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek, set the direction for Our Army in the new work year. In his speech, COA reflected on our 3G journey over the last three years and shared his vision for the future.



Our Journey Thus Far

Three years ago, the transformation journey was launched with the theme 'Breaking New Ground' to challenge existing mindsets in every area. This was followed by 'Strengthening our Core', reflecting our singular focus on getting our fundamentals right. Last year, we centered on 'Making the Connection', to help everyone understand the connection between available resource and desired outcome, what we needed to change or keep to build the next generation Army and finally, what and why we were doing these.

COA summed up our journey in these words, "The scope and pace of change has been unprecedented. Our people engaged in a myriad of new initiatives and worked tirelessly to establish a high readiness core, to strengthen our training core."



Banding together for a Positive Army Experience.

Realising Our 3G Army

Moving forward, COA painted a vision of "a highly networked force that is learner, more lethal, more agile, and more survivable – ready and capable across a spectrum of operations from peace through to war."

These capabilities will be progressively capitalised over the next fifteen years through an approach of spiral development. This means continual introduction of new technology and ideas in each spiral, which builds new capabilities and avoids block obsolescence. All the while, a stable operational footing is maintained to guard against current threats.

LIVE – Towards Greater Performances

COA re-emphasised the importance of the ACE movement and its LIVE framework when he said, "When we can get the Culture and Experience right, we will have the necessary heartware to power towards stronger commitment, will to fight, combat effectiveness, organisational excellence - and ultimately peak performance." He commended LIVE-embracing units, especially those that have achieved excellent results in the best unit competition.



Development Hub will drive the development and implementation of new concepts, systems and technology



Integrating the Training Institutes will improve our soldiers' training programmes



Current operations like Ops Bacinet will be managed by the Operations Hub



Speedy and efficient logistical support with the CSS Hub

Reaching New Heights

A key development this year is the re-organisation of the General Staff (GS) into five overlapping and networked hubs or communities of practice and knowledge to better allow Our Army to combat peace-time threats. COA explained, "Since the set-up of the GS 30 years ago in 1976, we have largely retained its linear, functional, hierarchical structure. Although we still require this basic frame, looking ahead, it will be increasingly important to matrix across functional lines to allow a stronger integrated and networked orientation...If the 3G Army is to fight as a networked force, we must start a pervasive habit of operating in a networked organisation in peacetime, and foster a learning climate through more permissive organisational structures."

The five hubs are:

Ops

It will command and control all forces that are assigned for operations.

Dev

This hub integrates concepts, systems, training, doctrine and human capital development so as to realise new capabilities. A Chief of Staff will be established in GS to address future force development issues on a dedicated basis.

Training

G6-Army will be amalgamated with HQ TRADOC to form an integrated Training Hub. This will strengthen training governance, deepen professional competencies, and deliver quality training and experience. All Training Institutes will be networked in the Training Hub to share best practices and align combined arms training across arms.

CSS

G4-Army will be transformed into the Combat Service Support (CSS) Command. Army Maintenance and Engineering, Supply, Transport, and Medical will all be organised as distinct entities under this task-organised Command. This allows more seamless transition from peace to war, a readier structure to respond to current operations, and tighter integration across functions within the CSS community.

HR

The Human Resource (HR) Hub focuses on human capital development. Strategic HR planning will ensure that the right people are in the right jobs, with the right skill sets and attributes to achieve best effect. Unit HR management will also be made more efficient by centralising transactional services at Camp Admin Centres and National Service HR Centres, so that G1s and Manpower Heads can focus more now on performance management and ground feedback.

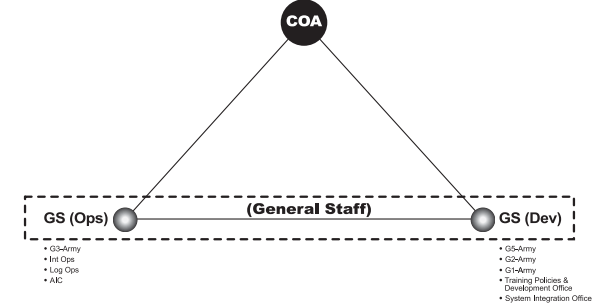
This new organisational model will give the Army the capacity to meet high operation readiness needs, while concurrently maintaining the bandwidth to raise, train and sustain the full force potential of the Army, as well as develop new capabilities for the future.

To ensure the success of the new structure, COA also stressed the need for an accompanying change in culture and mindset. He said, "A networked organisation must be enabled by people who think cross-functional and can lead multi-disciplinary teams to achieve the task, and are willing to live their best and give their all for the greater good."

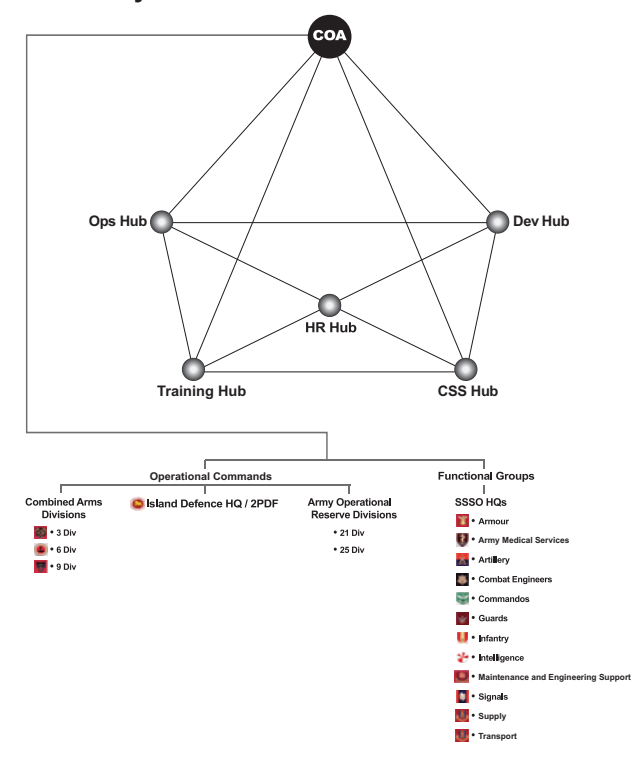
Conclusion

COA concluded by challenging all to live our best, "People typically change because they need to, because they can, or because they want to be more effective. I would like to add that we embrace change because we believe in living our best...The attitude of living our best is what inspires us to lead and learn, forge strong bonds of cohesion and identity in our hubs and units, uphold the values that define who we are as leaders and soldiers, and ensure that the experience we share is worthy of our pride and our profession as an Army, as a 3G Army."

General Staff



New Army Structure : Hubs & Commands



Feature Story

40 SAR's Great Indian Adventure

From February to March, 40th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (40 SAR) took part in Exercise Pouncing Tigers held in Babina, India. It was to be a Positive Army Experience for the soldiers in 40 SAR, many of whom had never been to India before, let alone train bilaterally with the Indian armoured forces. Braving the harsh terrain and completing many live-firing missions left lasting lessons and memories in the hearts and minds of these soldiers. Here, soldiers from 40 SAR speak out about their LIVE experiences!



Working together in a foreign land built strong bonds

Leadership and Learning

3SG Ian Ang, a Vehicle Commander, learnt much through crossing the unfamiliar and rough terrain. "Being in a foreign land with unfamiliar terrain, we needed a lot of teamwork to overcome the challenges and succeed in the missions. The lessons learnt include tactical awareness that vehicle commanders require to avoid detection from the enemy, for example, taking a proper hull down position so neither the vehicle's front nor its flanks are exposed. In Indian terrain, such a position was not easy as the plains were very open. We were exposed to a lot of different scenarios and our tactical knowledge improved vastly.

Some nights were so cloudy and moonless that we had trouble seeing ahead even with night vision devices. There were many potholes, wells and other obstacles that we had to avoid relying on what little vision we had. Successfully going through all these has improved our night confidence a lot!"

LTA Jeremiah Ong, a platoon commander, felt the exercise let the Armour Combat Team show off their true potential.

"We learnt how potent and lethal the Armour Combat Team can be in the vast and open terrain of India which allowed us to fully exploit our fighting capabilities, movement techniques, battle formations and firing positions. We also put our gunnery skills to the test by engaging targets at distances never imagined before under our local conditions."

CPL Lau Yi Ki, a driver, experienced new challenges in driving there. He explained, "Besides having to avoid hitting animals and obstacles such as wells larger than even the vehicle itself, the terrain in India made outfield in Singapore look like a smooth road! The desert training area was so sandy and uneven, it made visibility very low. We could barely see the antennae of the vehicle in front. I really learnt the importance of goggles and facemasks. After all these, I can now control the vehicle better."



Planning and executing strategies in unfamiliar terrain improved the tactical knowledge of our soldiers

Image and Identity

2LT Chang Shi Hao, a Mortar Platoon Commander, described their interactions with the Indian Army. "In a cross-familiarisation session with the Indian Army, we viewed their weapon capabilities and fighting strategies and they did likewise. For me, it's a once in a lifetime experience. Their equipment is totally different from ours. As a Mortar PC, I was naturally



The dusty plains reduced visibility, making driving more difficult

Experience

LCP Sivalingam, a tank gunner, gained great experiences not only on our SM-1 tank but also on the Indian Army's T-72. "Our SM-1 and the Indian Army's T-72 tanks really showed their power. I had the chance to practise firing at moving targets but best of all, I got to fire one round from the T-72! This was my most memorable experience."

CPL Timotheus Koh, who has a keen interest in astronomy, added, "In Singapore we don't see many stars. But in Babina, the stars were so bright and formed a kind of celestial tapestry against the pitch-black sky. It was like a picture straight out of National Geographic!"

Conclusion

The first Army unit to conduct a battalion-level bilateral exercise with the Indian Army, 40 SAR returned from its great Indian adventure with newfound confidence and stronger bonds of kinship between soldiers. Just as the tourist billboard at New Delhi airport had promised, the experiences of commanders and soldiers of 40 SAR turned out to be indeed "Incredible".

LIVE
TO BE YOUR BEST

Feature Story

Fitness Is For Life



3SG (NS) Heng Ting Guan believes in a consistent fitness regime

Our regular Full-Time as well as Operationally Ready Servicemen undergo rigorous training which prepares them for the demands of defending our nation.

It is especially important to recognise that fitness is not just an important component during active Army service, but it is also

beneficial to our health and quality of life in the long run. Having a high fitness level also helps an individual to be mentally fit, enabling him to be more focused and alert when carrying out his daily activities.

Many people have this false belief that they can simply regain their fitness level within a short duration. Actually, fitness cannot be built up overnight. It involves a constant and progressive routine that has to be carried out over a period of time. This ensures that you do not over-exert your body when you engage in physical activities, thus protecting yourself from injuries.

An example of a NSman who takes his physical fitness seriously is 3SG (NS) Heng Ting Guan. He was a former instructor at Basic Military Training School, who is currently pursuing a degree at a local university. For him, fitness extends beyond his Army days. He said, "While being fit is important to those in the Army, it is also beneficial to those who have completed their Full-Time National Service as it helps them perform better in their daily lives, in whatever they are doing. Therefore, after my National Service I decided that I want to maintain my fitness level."

3SG (NS) Heng also shared on how he has been juggling his campus

schedule with his fitness routines. He said, "I always set aside three alternate days in the week to have a one-hour session. I like to carry out different forms of exercise to have some variation in my routine. In addition, when I am feeling stressed out with my studies, I will take a quick 30-minute jog or swim. After this, I will feel so much more refreshed and invigorated."

As a firm believer in physical fitness, 3SG (NS) Heng also actively participates in major sporting events such as long-distance running. He revealed some tips on how to carry out constant and progressive training routine. He said, "When I am training for a sporting event, I do not just give myself a heavy routine for preparation. I also do it consistently and progressively. Usually I will start my preparation three months before the actual event. If I am training for a 10-km run, I will start off with 4-km in the first month, 8-km in the second, and 10-km subsequently. This progressive technique is to get your body to gradually tune up for the big day. You cannot force your body in too short a time, you have to give it time to get accustomed."

3SG (NS) Heng's excellent tips will definitely be useful for aspiring participants of the Army Half Marathon in August. Go for it!

Passing On The Baton

INCOMING

LTC Tan Kay Chuan	Comd ATI	COL Lim Jit Chek
LTC Ng Wai Kit	Comd 3 Div Arty HQ	COL Tan Chong Lee
MWO Chelliah Puananathren	Div SM CSS Command	-
MWO Lim Seng Hin	Fmn SM MES Command	-
MWO Lim Swee Hean	Fmn SM (CAH) Army Med Command	-
1WO Dewenderan	Fmn SM SUP Command	-
1WO Tan Chin Soon	Fmn SM TPT Command	-

OUTGOING

COL Lim Jit Chek
COL Tan Chong Lee
-
-
-
-
-

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QUIZ OF THE MONTH

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

LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

Q: Name the framework COA introduced at the 2005 workplan seminar

A: L.I.V.E

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.
The Judge's decision is final. Please send us your entries via mail or Email (see bottom-right corner of page).

All entries must reach us by 30 Jun.

OUR LUCKY WINNERS

1) 1SG Herman Shah 2) 2SG Shaffree

NRIC : S XXXX243 E NRIC : S XXXX634 D

Name the hub responsible for managing current operations

Closing Date - 30 Jun

Answer :
Rank / Name :
Unit :
E-mail :
NRIC :
Contact No. :

Feature Story

424 SAR: Standing Down With Pride



The Proud Men of 424 SAR during their standing down parade On 18 March, 424th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (424 SAR) having completed 14 years of glorious training and achievements, was officially stood down and entered into the MINDEF Reserve (MR). 424 SAR began its journey with servicemen from the first batch of 'A Level mono-intake in the Armour formation who were enlisted into 42 SAR in 1992.

Since then, the men have trailed a glorious path with 424 SAR, which won the Best SAF (NS) Armour Unit accolade in 1993 and 2004. CPT (NS) Su Kim Guan, Battalion 2nd In-Command (2IC) of 424 SAR, attributed the unit's accomplishments to the excellent trainers and right mindset within the unit. He said, "We had trainers and active commanders who spent time and effort to brace us for the various exercises and tests. We also had very dedicated NSmen who were very cooperative and focused during each and every In Camp Training (ICT) we attended. Everyone played their part in contributing to a rewarding ICT with their combatant friends and to hone their

skills for any eventuality of a confrontation."

He also pointed out his unit's motto of "Don't Pretend" as a unique recipe to ensure that the men knew what their roles were. He said, "To succeed as a unit, everyone must know exactly what to do and to do it well. Or else we would just be a bunch of men pretending to know all, and that would pose a danger to ourselves and others around us."

CPT (NS) Su recalled the feeling of being awarded the Best (NS) Armour Unit as a memorable one. He said, "Winning those awards were tremendous and amazing feats that no one really expected. We were exhilarated when we got news of the award. The commanders were ecstatic since they spent the most time in coordinating the ICTs and exercises."

Besides winning awards for being the Best (NS) Armour Unit, 424 SAR is the only NS Armour unit to have undergone two Armour Fighting Vehicle (AFV) platform changes, from the M113 to the ULTRA and then on to the Bionix.

These platform changes presented great challenges that required them to work together. It was daunting at first, but the men were determined to learn and keep up with new technology.

CPT (NS) Su credited the successful conversions between different platforms to the excellent trainers and men who were willing to learn. He said, "We took the conversion as a need to be up to speed on operating

modern machines and weaponry, and of course to protect ourselves with improved armour capabilities. Fortunately, the unit had high energy team members who adapted to the new variants quickly. Having excellent trainers in Armour Training Centre (ATC) (now Armour Training Institute) also helped tremendously. We are very grateful for them."

Lastly, CPT (NS) Su shared some of his personal defining moments in his Army days and the various experiences he faced juggling between work, family and training. He said, "For me, I had the opportunity of riding in state-of-the-art fighting vehicles, fire really high calibre and sophisticated weapons. Not everyone in the Army gets to experience the adrenaline rush when carrying out these exercises. On the more personal touch, the friends that I've made within the unit over these past 15 years have brought a new meaning to the saying of going through 'thick and thin' for me. These are not just men that I have trained with, they are people whom I trust my life with. Thankfully, I have employers who support National Defense and an understanding spouse that I go home to."

Lastly, he ended off by dispensing some words of wisdom to those currently serving out their National Service cycle. "It might seem like a hassle while you're in it but you bring away intangible memories, friendships, and experiences that I know I will miss. As for the commanders in the unit, make every team member own their roles, this helps everyone establish a sense of belonging to the unit."

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ENGINEERS SHOW THEIR STUFF!

The **Engineers Week** is an annual event that showcases the capabilities of the Singapore Combat Engineers to other Army units and the public. From 3 to 7 April, Seletar Camp hosted many visitors from Army units, the National Cadet Corps and Tertiary Institutions.



More than 2000 visitors including students, visited Seletar Camp during Engineers' Week

MOBILITY

One of the three core functions of Our Engineers is to facilitate the movement of Our Army over geographical or enemy-planted obstacles like rivers, ditches and mines. Through a vast array of specialised equipment such as the Mine Clearing Vehicle and the M-2 COMET, nothing will stop Our Army with the Engineers around.

RIVER CROSSING

Our Engineers overcome the physical barrier of waterways with rafting vehicles such as the COMET. This vehicle drives like a normal one on land but within seconds is able to convert to a raft for ferrying troops and vehicles. The best part is, the COMET can combine with others of its kind to form a raft platform, increasing its load capacity.

This river crossing capability was demonstrated to visitors through a typical river crossing assault scenario as our soldiers captured an enemy-held bank with assault boats and rafting vehicles.



The COMET can join up to form a large raft capable of transporting even tanks and five tonners across rivers with ease

MINE CLEARING

Mines are a deadly menace that endangers both soldiers and civilians on the battlefield. Our Engineers are well-equipped with many mine-clearing machines, avoiding the use of the tedious and dangerous manual method. Machines such as the Mine Clearing Vehicle and the Mine Plough physically destroys or neutralises the mines. Alternatively, explosive devices such as the Cobra-Projected Line Charge detonates the mines from a safe distance, clearing a vital lane through the minefield.



The Mine Clearing Vehicle is equipped with a motorised flail that whips the ground at high speed, destroying or detonating any mine embedded in the soil

The various units of the Combat Engineers combined their efforts and organised a "Safari Park Experience" for their visitors, using the large land area of Seletar Camp to the maximum. At various stations based around the camp, visitors learnt about Our Combat Engineers' three core functions of Mobility, Counter-mobility and Survivability. Army News paid Seletar Camp a visit and captured Our Engineer's dazzling array of capabilities.

BRIDGING GAPS

Should there be impassable ditches in the terrain, the Engineers will be there with their mechanically-launched Bridges to overcome the problem. These bridges are quickly deployable and highly mobile. The newest addition to the Engineers' arsenal is the Foldable Longspan Bridge which span a distance of 45 m.



The SM1-launched Bridge and the Armoured Vehicle Launched Bridge seen above help Our Army to overcome terrain obstacles

COUNTER MOBILITY

Part of the Combat Engineers' job is also to slow down the enemy's movements. This is done through emplacing tactical obstacles like anti-tank ditches.

SURVIVABILITY

Survivability of our troops in battle is enhanced by constructing shelters, weapon pits and command posts. In addition, our Combat Engineers also have the means to counter Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosive (CBRE) threats.

COUNTERING CBRE THREATS

The 36th and 39th Battalions, Singapore Combat Engineers are the CBRE units, specialising in the detection and nullification of CBRE threats. The unit works closely with the Police Force and other agencies to protect our people from danger.



CBRE personnel are well-trained and equipped for any threats

A Positive Engineer Experience

While it is tough physically to be a Combat Engineer, the vocation is also a rewarding one. Three Engineers from the 35th Battalion, Singapore Combat Engineers explain why.

2LT Shaun Low spoke about the importance and values of an Engineer. He said, "Engineers help support manoeuvre forces to overcome all sorts of obstacles by creating a path.

Engineers must have good planning, multi-tasking and strategising skills since as a support component, we will never number more than the manoeuvre forces, but yet we are vital combat force multipliers. Creativity is also important, as it helps to solve problems on the ground. Things don't always go according to plan.

We are one of the smaller formations and so we are all very close, forging very close friendships in the formation. I have made many friends here in the Engineers, so I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

3SG Glenn Goh said, "I didn't know anything much about the Engineers before I came. I thought they were just some construction workers. But I soon realised my mistake and came to learn that Engineers play an essential combat support role in Our Army. We are like the backstage crew of a theatre show, without us the show can't go on."

PTE Kong Zi Long concluded, "An Engineer needs a lot of physical power for all the work we do. Equipment like bridges are extremely heavy. However, I am proud to be an Engineer as we are supporting pillars of the Army."

2LT Julian Poh, a Platoon Commander from the 1st Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment, was one of the visitors of Engineer Week. He expressed great admiration for the spectrum of capabilities the Engineers possess. "Today, I learnt how much effort each and every Engineer puts in to create a path for the main force. From now on, I won't take all these for granted. Besides supporting the Army, they also keep the public safe from CBRE threats. I have great respect for the Engineers!"



Disposing of dangerous chemicals requires intense concentration and nerves of steel

VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL CONSTRUCTION

Our Engineers are well-trained in Vertical and Horizontal Construction. Vertical Construction includes the assembly of modular structures such as the new Sang Yong Kong field camp and repair of reinforced concrete buildings.

Examples of Horizontal Construction are the creation of Points of Entry, landing sites, drainage systems.



An example of Vertical Construction in action during Operation Flying Eagle