

armynews

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pulse of the army

ARMY OPEN HOUSE 04
SPECIAL!

ARMY
ARMY OPEN HOUSE 2004
where the action is

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

Army Open House 04 was a resounding success. Army News brings to you the ACTION and REACTION to Our Army's Event of the Year!

THE ARMY EXPERIENCE

The rite of passage for our soldiers was open for all to share in the Army Experience, with posters, videos, photographs and interviews of soldiers from recruits to Operationally-Ready National Servicemen (NSmen). With real gear, items and documents and even a recreation of a recruit's bunk, the authenticity of the Army Experience opened the eyes of many and brought back fond recollections for others.



3G ARMY TRANSFORMATION

A glimpse of Transformation in Our Army was shown to the public in a Transformation Exhibition that had visitors enthralled. From testing the Tactical Engagement System to Local Area Network gaming, from seeing the Advanced Combatman system to learning about the Army Experience at the heart of Transformation, it was a glimpse into the future for all.



LIVE-FIRING SAFARI

A new feature in AOH 04 this year was the Live-Firing Safari. On an open-cover tonner, visitors were taken through a battle scenario where they witnessed the capability of the Engineers, the firepower of the Artillery, and the skill of Our Army's snipers in dealing with the threat of terrorism.



MAIN STREET PARADE

Another novelty at AOH 04 was the Main Street Parade, inspired from Disney World's Street Parades. Mobile columns of military hardware paraded past an admiring audience, with lively performances on mobile stages by the Music and Drama Company, NS Idols and others. In the Night Show, MediaCorp Artists put in appearances to liven up the atmosphere even more.



MILITARY EQUIPMENT DISPLAYS



All of Our Army's Formations proudly displayed their latest hardware and innovations at the Military Equipment Display, a traditional crowd-puller. Besides weapons and equipment, rations, a camouflage painting station and lucky draws made for varied displays and an enjoyable time for one and all.

AOH 2004 ACTION!

The action at the Army Open House 2004 (AOH 04) was sprawled all over SAFTI Military Institute and Pasir Laba Camp. From dawn to dusk on 2 to 6 September, parades, military rides, exhibitions, challenges, and many other activities were running at full steam. Here are the various highlights of the action at AOH 04, which will surely live long in the memory of all 125,000 who were there!

ARMY INTERACTIVE WORLD



Calling the adventurous! At the Army Interactive World, participants were able to taste explosive and fast-paced action, with hands-on experience of live firing of the SAR-21, M-16 and the GPMG, an Urban Warfare scenario and a mock Standard Obstacle Course. It was THE chance to be a real soldier for a day!

MILITARY RIDES

On the roads of SAFTI MI and the rugged terrain of Pasir Laba, participants at AOH 04 were able to feel the power and speed of our metal steeds as they enjoyed rides in the Light Strike Vehicle and BRONCO All Terrain Tracked Carrier.



MILITARY SHOWS



What's AOH 04 without military shows? Performances by the SAF Band and SAF Provost Unit added pomp and grandeur, the Music and Drama Company provided a light-hearted touch while unarmed combat demonstrations, armoured infantry attacks and Guards rappelling set the blood racing. The Commando Red Lions also reprised their role from National Day Parade, thrilling crowds, with their free-fall display.

ARMY CHIN-UP CHALLENGE



The newly-launched Electronic Individual Physical Proficiency Test (IPPT) Scoring System (ELISS) for various IPPT stations was on display. Drawing the most attention, however, was the Chin-Up Challenge. Army personnel, students and members of the public all endeavoured to get into the Guinness Book of World Records for the most number of pull-ups done in a minute, cheered on by MediaCorp celebrities. AOH 04 also set a record for the most number of chin-ups - 50,076 - done at a public event. Lastly, a fiercely competitive Inter-Formation Challenge was won by the Armour Formation with 11,668 chin-ups done!

ARMY OPEN HOUSE- REACTION!

Story by Poon Hwa Yee

Army Open House 2004 (AOH 04) was for people of all ages. It was open to Army units on 2 and 3 September and the public from 4 to 6 September. In particular, 6 September was designated Army Family Day for Army regulars to share what they do with their families.

With the wide variety of engaging activities and informative displays, and the helpfulness and friendliness of the soldiers on duty, visitors definitely had to leave with satisfied smiles on their faces. And they did!

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean opened the AOH 04 at a ceremony on 4 September. RADM (NS) Teo toured the Open House with members of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Defence and Foreign Affairs and the Advisory Council on Community Relations in Defence.

THE LESS FORTUNATE

Some of the less fortunate members of society from old folks' homes and special children's homes were personally escorted by soldiers and helpers to visit AOH 04 on 3 September. The old folks got to enjoy the military shows while the special children got to view the equipment displays as well. Our Army does care!



"I am very happy to see all of you. You're like my own grandchildren!"
- Lim Geok Eng, from the Villa Franca Home for the Aged

STUDENTS

On 2 and 3 September, students from secondary schools, junior colleges, polytechnics and institutes of technical education visited AOH 04. For many, the chance to be a soldier for a day was unforgettable.



"I liked the Urban Warfare Zone and the feel of the laser shooting. I'm going to try the real live firing later!"
- Tharenil, a St. Andrews' Secondary School student



"I'm really enjoying Army Open House. Everything was very cool."
- Azlan, a Institute of Technical Education (Ang Mo Kio) student



"The Army Open House helps me feel what it is like to be a real soldier."
- Deng Yuqing, a Punggol Secondary School student

OUR ARMY FAMILY DAY

OURSELVES AND OUR FOLKS

Of course, AOH 04 was for our own soldiers too. Throughout the few days of AOH, regulars, Full-Time National Servicemen and Operationally-Ready National Servicemen came to savour for themselves the sights and sounds of the Army.

At the first-ever Army Family Day on 6 September, all regulars were encouraged to bring along their families to AOH 04. Coinciding with the school holidays, Army Family Day saw more than 18,000 Army personnel and their family members, giving a lively atmosphere and allowing an enjoyable time for one and all.



"It's good to have Army Family Day. I brought my family along and they are enjoying themselves!"
- DXO Serene Fua



"I am very impressed with the live firing area; my son got the shock of his life when the SM1 tank fired!"
- 2WO R A Rahman



"Having one day of the AOH designated as Army Family Day was just brilliant. I brought my daughter and we enjoyed ourselves very much! The souvenir umbrella was most handy and will remind her of this special day in the September holidays until the next AOH!"
- MAJ Low Siew Huang

GRASSROOTS LEADERS

More than 110 grassroots leaders and their families visited AOH 04 on 3 September. Hosted by Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Defence and Environment and Water Resources, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, the visit included firepower demonstrations and a viewing of the Army Experience and Army Transformation exhibits.



"My family is enjoying today's programme. I think the Army Open House is getting better and better over the years."
- Raymond Lye, from the Pasir Ris West Constituency

"If I didn't come here today I wouldn't know that the Army is using such high-tech equipment nowadays."
- Loo Lay Yeo, from the Tampines West Youth Executive Committee



THE YOUNG ONES

The very young were easily occupied for a full day at the Junior Warriors' Zone. There, children were able to dress up like soldiers in a fashion parade, or take part in activities like balloon sculpting and a drawing competition as well as getting to watch a hilarious mime show.



"My kids are enjoying the games and all the rides on the vehicles, even the stationary ones. They find the military vehicles and the helicopters very fascinating."
- LTC Desmond Yeo on his three kids



"I want to join the Army! I like the guns and the uniform!"
- Nine-year-old Jeffrey Wong

AN EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD STICK

Visitors were invited to write their thoughts on AOH 04 on stickers that were pasted on a wall that eventually formed a huge montage of 7500 stickers. From the responses, our Army is clearly well-loved!



"Dear all, Friday and Saturday of your open days were one of the most remarkable days of my stay in Singapore. Every SAF staff was very polite. All the instructions were very easy to understand. Thank you very much."
- F. Evdmann

"I like to thank you for a very informative and exciting day here at SAFTI and really much appreciate your friendliness. I think you are doing a great job and that's why Singapore citizens support you"
- Sebastian Feuerpfel (Germany)

"As a lady, I respect those soldiers to bear the heat and training. I believe it is not easy being a soldier. It takes commitment, integrity and a man to be one. Thank you for defending our nation."
- Ginny04

"...My mother-in-law, a hale and healthy 67+ year-old...decided to visit the AOH 2004 and since neither myself nor my wife was free, she had to make the trip herself...What impressed her most though, were the soldiers who were manning the stations and also those responsible for the queues and organisation...My mother-in-law was also very delighted that your soldiers, in cognizance of her age, took special care when she boarded some of the military vehicles and equipment. She was pleasantly surprised with the initiative and creativity shown by some of your soldiers in accommodating her e.g. positioning her in a good position when taking photographs for her... Last night, during dinner, she exclaimed that it would be a real regret if she had not visited the AOH. She was obviously delighted with the whole experience and was decidedly impressed with our remarkable young soldiers..."
- MAJ Ong Chun Teck / Student SCSC.

WORDS FROM THOSE AT THE HELM...



"My thanks to all the officials and soldiers on duty. I found them exemplary in their bearing, attentiveness and cheerfulness. Keep it up. It makes the Open House a great experience when our people demonstrate such commitment and professionalism. And it makes Singaporeans proud to be part of Our Army. Well done."

A SMS message from COA, MG Desmond Kuek, to the AOH 04 organisers



"As we draw the curtains on AOH 04, I discovered that our people, possessing the right values and committed to the mission, are indeed the core of Our Army's strength. I felt a very deep sense of pride and satisfaction, not just because of the phenomenal success of AOH 04, but also because of the knowledge that we have many of such people in Our Army."

- AOH 04 Executive Committee Chairman, COL Tan Cheng Peng



Reliving The AOH Experience!



Then And Now

Open To The Past

Photos from the Centre For Heritage Services

Ever wondered what Army Open House was like 10, 20 or 30 years before?

In the early days, Open Houses were tri-service affairs, timed to mark the celebration of SAF Day. They were not centralised, with various military camps all showcasing how life in uniform was like.

Since 1969, when SAF first threw open its doors to the public, thousands of civilians have had the chance to learn about military life, view military displays, and just have a great time during Open House days.

Take a look at some of our earliest pictures of SAF/Army Open House - while many things have changed, the good fun, lively atmosphere and festive spirit remain to this day! 📷



Many of the displays afforded opportunities for exploration



The Army Open House was full of cheer right from the very beginning



Family merriment



Army tanks and vehicles had always been a favourite attraction

Passing On The Baton

INCOMING

COL Lee Shiang Long
LTC Lee Ngian Sang
LTC Ng Ying Thong
LTC Liaw Yeow Hong
LTC Ong Ann Kiat

Chief Sig Offr
CO Sch of Arty
CO 4 SIR
CO 2 Sig Bn
CO 3 Sig Bn

OUTGOING

COL David Koh Tee Hian
COL Tan Chong Boon
LTC Chia Choon Hoong
LTC Kelvin Koh Chi Wee
LTC Darius Lim Jin Wui

Quiz Of The Month

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

SEND YOUR ANSWERS TO THE EDITOR, ARMY NEWS

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or E-mail:
armynews@starnet.gov.sg

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

Specialist and Warrant Officer Institute (SWI)

Contest rules: This contest is open to all Army personnel except the executive staff of Army News Section. Each person is allowed one entry. Prizes are not exchangeable for cash. Winners will be notified by E-mail. The judges' decision is final.

All entries must reach us by **15th October 2004**.



State the duration of Army Open House 04

Closing Date : 15th October 2004

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

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**Thank you for making
AOH 04 a resounding success!
See you next time!**

