

armynews

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NOV / DEC 04 | ISSUE 114

pulse of the army



LOOKING 2 YEARS AHEAD

The reduction in Full-time National Service to two years means a shortened period of time to train our Full-time National Servicemen to be operationally-ready. Yet, looking at the ongoing transformation efforts in Our Army, ensuring combat effectiveness and delivering a positive NS experience within the shortened time will still be achieved.

6 SIR Turns Operational



A new chapter in 6 SIR's history unfolds as the unit turns operational

Our Army has taken a decisive step forward in its transformation journey. To create better mission responsiveness and a high-readiness core, the 6th Battalion Singapore Infantry Regiment (6 SIR) was designated to be the first Protection of Installations (POI) battalion, vigilant around the clock. A new chapter in 6 SIR's history began as the unit held its turn-operational parade at Maju Camp on 19 November.

At the parade, Chief of Army, MG Desmond Kuek and many senior commanders witnessed as Commander of 2nd People's Defence Force, BG Tay Swee Yee, declared 6 SIR operational. The soldiers of 6 SIR also put up an impressive display of their operational proficiency acquired after months of specialised training.

6 SIR will work round the clock and enhance security at four key civilian installations: Changi International Airport, Jurong Island, Sembawang Wharf and Exxon-Mobil Refineries. The men, rigorously trained in rules of engagement, will have the capability to deal with higher security threats when needed.

Commanding Officer of 6 SIR, MAJ Kong Kam Yean, said, "This will be a new challenge for the battalion. We do not have guiding posts to look for, our enemies will always have new tactics. We must learn to leap ahead, and be able to fight tomorrow's war with tomorrow's strategy and tomorrow's tactics. That is what we are trained to do, and Singaporeans can now be more assured knowing there is a dedicated force that can carry out its mission of protecting installations well."

Keep Running!

The Army Half Marathon (AHM) is over, but the running does not stop! Our Army has an active running culture where it is not just about keeping fit and healthy but also about bonding, fun and enjoyment. Here are a few runs and marathons that our soldiers took part in recently.

Standard Chartered Marathon 2004



The Commandos running the marathon together with their distinct banner at the Standard Chartered Marathon 2004

The Standard Chartered Marathon 2004 is a full 42.195-kilometre marathon. Held on 5 December, the marathon saw a large representation from Our Army, including 150 Commandos, 27 officers from the General Staff (GS) and 10 men from the 2nd Battalion Singapore Infantry Regiment. Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek also took part in the marathon.

Conquering the full marathon required proper planning and preparation. For example, the GS officers organised among themselves a progressive training programme that began immediately after the Army Half Marathon in

Reorganising 1 PDF, Progressing in Transformation



Senior commanders at the symbolic handover of the sub-units of 1 PDF to the Combined Arms Divisions

Our Army moved another step forward in its transformation journey on 6 December with the reorganisation of HQ 1st People Defence Force (1 PDF).

Forging the Spirit of the Bayonet



COL Winston Toh sharing the spirit of the Bayonet with seminar participants

The Infantry is forging ahead! Merging with 9th Singapore Division, developing new capabilities, and assuming new operational roles, there is no doubting the relevance and importance of Infantry today and well into the future. Yet the point of the Infantry Seminar held on 4 November was not about capturing the "hard" issues, but rather the "heart" issues — the Infantry Spirit: the Spirit of the Bayonet.

September. COL Daniel Chua said, "The progressive training prepared us well. But more importantly, after the practice runs on Saturdays, we do other things like going for lunch together, and this allowed for better bonding and building of relationships."

The full marathon was certainly a challenge for even the fittest runners. 1WO Foo Fook Boon said, "The run is twice as long as the Army Half Marathon. I can really feel the pulling pain in my knee after the 30 kilometre mark. But after so many years in the Army, we have been trained to be mentally tough so we know that we can finish the run if we just push on."

Our Army's substantial turnout at the Standard Chartered Marathon 2004 was affirmed when we came in first in the Non-profit Organisation Distance Challenge. Our 180 participants in this contingent clocked more than 7000 km that day!

Gombak Cross-Country Run



COA, MG Desmond Kuek flagging off the Gombak Cross-Country Run

Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek, witnessed the symbolic handover of the sub-units of 1 PDF to TRADOC and the Combined Arms Divisions. Command and Appointment Plaques were presented to Commander 1 PDF, COL Lee Ee Beck, and the Regimental Sergeant Major, SWO Yeo Boon How, during the parade.

The reorganisation of HQ 1 PDF would allow 1 PDF units to strengthen the rear area security of the Combined Arms Divisions and also help TRADOC develop civil-military doctrine as part of the current operational reality.

COA said, "In the new security paradigm that we face today, there is a need for the Army to transform itself to deal with an expanded spectrum of operations from peace to war. 1 PDF is a part of this change effort. This integration into the Divisions will infuse them with the capability and expertise to deal with a wider range of operational scenarios and to transit seamlessly from one phase of operations to another."

In his opening address to 400 Infanteers at the Officer Cadet School Auditorium, Guest-of-Honour, Commander 9th Division/HQ Infantry (9 Div/Inf), COL Winston Toh said, "When all else fails, let the Bayonet decide. The symbol of the Bayonet represents the Infantry. The Spirit of the Bayonet represents the perseverance of the Infantrymen. The unwavering determination of Infantrymen will prevail and go on to succeed in whatever is assigned to them."

At the seminar, COL Toh also introduced a Formation Logo Design competition and a proposed Infantry Proficiency Badge. Infanteers all across the Army were invited to come up with ideas for a new 9 Div/Inf logo that can best capture what the Infantry is all about.

Throughout the Seminar, serious discussions on strengthening the Infantry and the participants' aspirations for their Formation were interspersed with rousing Infantry cheers, proving that the Spirit of the Bayonet is alive and well. LTC Simon Chang, Commander 3rd Battalion Singapore Infantry Regiment said, "I enjoyed this seminar a lot. This seminar managed to bring the Infantry together, build up a sense of belonging and make people feel good about being an Infanteer."

The Gombak Cross-Country Run was held on 19 November with more than 200 participants from Army, Air Force, Navy and Joint Staff taking part in the 4.8-kilometres Inter-Service and Individual Competition and Healthy Lifestyle Fun Runs around the Gombak Complex. Guest-of-Honour, COA, MG Desmond Kuek flagged off the runs.

In the Inter-Service Competition, Our Army won the Challenge Trophy. CPT Peh Lik Chun was one of the runners in the competitive run; finishing third among the runners aged between 25 and 29 years of age, he said, "I enjoyed the run. The terrain is different from other runs like the Army Half Marathon. It is undulating, demanding and definitely challenging."

LIFE Runs



LIFE Runs organised in units across the island bear testament to Our Army's running culture

Not forgetting the LIFE (Lifelong Investment in Fitness and Exercise) Runs around Our Army, such as the GS LIFE Run held every Friday afternoon at the Gombak Complex, the running culture is clearly evident in Our Army.

Training Transformation Contextualised



Commanders discussing about the right-hand side of Our Army's transformation

Senior Commanders from Our Army gathered at 6th Singapore Division's Cobra's Nest for the Training Transformation Workshop, with Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek as the Guest-of-Honour. The workshop was held on 25 November and jointly organised by G6-Army and HQ TRADOC.

Highlighting the Path of Future Land Warfare



Mr Teo Chee Hean launching the SAF Tech X exhibition with the Tactical Mobile Robot

Spearheading the 3G Army Transformation with cutting-edge technology — this was the theme for the Land Warfare Technology Seminar, organised by G5-Army that was held on 10 November at the Suntec International Convention and Exhibition Centre. Chief Defence Scientist, Professor Lui Pao Chuen was the Guest-of-Honour at the seminar.

Participants at the seminar caught a glimpse into how weapons, equipment and warfare concepts for future operations would be employed. Distinguished speakers from Our Army, Defence Science Technology Agency and Singapore Technologies spoke on topics including Integrated Knowledge Command and Control, urban warfare and 3G manoeuvre forces, giving the participants a clearer understanding on the capabilities, potential, and challenges

MINDEF and DARPA Join Forces in Defence Technology Research

Contributed by G5-Army

MINDEF is collaborating with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) in the United States (US) to explore and exploit technologies to enhance SAF 3G transformation. Under a Project Agreement (PA) that was signed on 13 September between MINDEF, the US Department of Defense (U.S. DoD) and DARPA, the SAF and US Army will jointly conduct experiments and research and development on land warfare concepts and technology.

Professor Lui Pao Chuen, MINDEF's Chief Defence Scientist said, "This partnership is a testament to the strategic bilateral relationship we have with the U.S. DoD. The PA will provide a good platform for the exchange of ideas and expertise between our defence engineers and their counterparts in US. We are happy to be the first amongst U.S. DoD's international partners to establish such a collaboration in the area of future combat systems."

"This PA marks a significant step forward to transform the Army into a third generation fighting force, which is better networked, equipped and trained. This collaboration with DARPA will allow us to tap on their rich experiences and adopt an alternative

Sharpening and making training more efficient has taken on greater relevance in light of the reduction in Full-time National Service to two years. There were thus many issues for the commanders to discuss in the workshop, including the need, challenges, key thrusts and initiatives for training transformation.

Notable initiatives to transform training for soldiers include the adoption of Problem-based Learning by School of Logistics for its courses. Instead of following strictly to the course syllabus, students were instead given scenario-based exercises and challenged to come up with solutions to them. This innovation was found to generate more interest amongst the students and make them more eager to learn.

COA in his closing address noted, "We have much more capable soldiers in Our Army today. It is a question of us recognising what has changed and finding what we have to do to leverage on these changes. We also have to see what we are doing right in training and see whether we can do it better. These are the two ways in which we contextualise training transformation."

for land warfare in the future.

SAF Tech X, a static display exhibition open to the public, was held in conjunction with the seminar. It showcased technologies developed by the SAF and other defence companies, as well as those of universities and secondary schools. One of these was the Tactical Mobile Robot, developed by Our Army and used by Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, to launch the exhibition.

Assistant Chief of General Staff (Plans), COL Wong Ann Chai, said, "This seminar is really meant for the young officers who will shoulder the burden of leading the Army. The earlier we introduce them to the processes of future warfare, the better. Hopefully spearheading change in the Army will become a lifestyle to them."



Cutting-edge technology on show at the exhibition held in conjunction with the Land Warfare Technology Seminar

approach to integrating new operational ideas with technology," said COL Wong Ann Chai, Assistant Chief of General Staff (Plans).

Following the signing of the PA, Director of DARPA, Dr Tony Tether visited Singapore from 26 to 30 October. He met Mr Chiang Chie Foo, Permanent Secretary (Defence) and Mr Richard Lim, Defence Science Technology Agency's Chief Executive for discussions on the bilateral relationship and collaborative work with the local defence community.

This collaboration will strengthen the two countries' defence technology capabilities as the organisations synergise their efforts in the work on future land warfare concepts, unmanned aerial vehicles technologies and command and control issues for land operations. Our Army will leverage on this strategic relationship to share and exchange technology and experience with both the US Army and DARPA as part of the building blocks towards 3G Army Transformation. This collaboration will inherently shorten the lead time to experiment new operational war fighting concepts and introduce transformational technologies through shared learning as both armies embark on their transformation journeys.

Change at Helm of CPC-PMC



LTC Tan Ying assumes command as CO CPC-PMC

On 6 December, LTC Tan Ying took over as Commander of CPC-PMC People Matters Centre (CPC-PMC) from outgoing Commander LTC Koh Tong Seng.

LTC Tan said, "Over the next few years, CPC-PMC will focus more on one of our core functions in career planning. Increasingly, our Warrant Officers and Specialists are more educated, better trained and have higher aspirations. Our key challenge then is to ensure a Route of Advancement that is challenging and rewarding, while meeting the 3G Army requirement."

Warrant Officers Rejoin Specialists' Mess

Contributed article by 3 DIV



The Army-wide initiative for Warrant Officers to rejoin the Specialists' Mess will strengthen the bonds within the ranks of the WOSE Corps

A new chapter began in the history of the 3rd Singapore Division (3 DIV) when its Warrant Officers rejoined the Specialist Mess on 25 November. This occasion was even more significant in that it marked an Army-wide initiative for the Warrant Officers to rejoin the Specialists' Mess, and to strengthen the WOSE Corps.

Commander 3 DIV, BG Loh Wai Keong, was present to unveil the new Warrant Officers and Specialists' Mess plaque. In his address, BG Loh envisaged that Warrant Officers would play an active role in nurturing, grooming and galvanising their younger Specialist colleagues. He also highlighted that this was the beginning of a host of changes to make messes rallying points for Commanders as well as places to promote the Army culture and experience.

At the Amalgamation Ceremony, Chief of Staff, COL Wong Meng Keh, also took the opportunity to thank the Warrant Officers for their invaluable contributions to the Officers' Mess over the years. He also commended the strong bond that has developed between the ranks and stressed that this bond must be maintained.

To round up the evening, a combined Mess Happy Hour was organised for all the servicemen, epitomising the camaraderie and esprit-de-corps in the Tiger Family.



Director of DARPA, Dr Tony Tether came to Singapore and met top defence officials to discuss the collaborative efforts between the two countries

What is DARPA?

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is the central research and development organisation for the U.S. DoD, and pursues research and technology where risk and payoff are both very high and where success may provide dramatic advances for traditional military roles and missions. DARPA is responsible for managing the US Army Future Combat Systems concept and technology development, where it identifies promising systems and technologies for achieving US Army's future full spectrum force.

LOOKING 2 YEARS AHEAD

When Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean announced in June the reduction of Full-time National Service (NS) from two and a half to two years, he affirmed that the leaner SAF will always be ready to carry out its mission when called upon, fully maintaining its operational readiness and standards.

Mr Teo explained that the change had been enabled because of two main factors. Firstly, with the ongoing transformation to the 3rd Generation SAF, there is less reliance on the raw number of soldiers but more on superior technology and capabilities of our servicemen. Secondly, the surge in the intake of Full-time National Servicemen (NSFs) from 2006 onwards will ensure that the SAF's operational readiness and standing force requirements are maintained in the two-year NSF system even as it continues to experiment with new concepts, doctrine and force structures.

The change has since been implemented progressively, with two- and four-month reductions for current NSFs and those who enlisted over the past six months. Starting in December, enlisted servicemen will experience the full reduction in NS to two years.

Together with the reduction of Full-time NS duration, training programmes have been revamped and procedures are streamlined to maintain fighting competency and ensure a positive NS experience for all servicemen. As the implementation of the two-year NSF duration goes into full swing, we take a look at the changes and challenges in the reformed training that our NSFs will undergo.

Story by Ivan Chan



A TIME OF REFRESHING CHANGE: These are the very first batch of recruits who will experience the full effects of the reduction in Full-time NS to two years.

OPTIMISING TIME, TRAINING AND PEOPLE



- The Physical Training Phase of Basic Military Training (BMT) for NSFs who do not attain at least Silver for their National Physical Fitness Award (NAPFA) prior to enlistment has been shortened from six to four weeks.



- For NSFs who have achieved at least Silver for their NAPFA prior to enlistment, the current overall reduction of eight weeks in NS duration will remain. This reduction will be granted in two revised segments - four weeks at the beginning of their service during the BMT phase, and four weeks at the end of their Full-time NS period.



- In BMT, training administration has been improved, with the overall duration optimised to nine weeks. BMT training will remain rigorous, but its progressive training programme will help to ease the transition for the recruits, and prepare them for their next stage of training at the School of Infantry Specialists (SISPEC), Officer Cadet School (OCS) or operational units.



- Time is saved with the use of innovations like parallel training. For example, at the live-firing range, while part of a company does live-firing, the remainder will attend lessons at the company line instead of waiting at the training shed.



- Similar to BMT, the 42-week officer training duration at OCS has been optimised to 38 weeks, with improvements made to training administration and learning methods.

- To improve training efficiency and bring about a positive NS experience at OCS, some exercises have been combined into a longer, integrated exercise. The exercises are also designed to be more realistic and challenging for the officer cadets.



QUOTES



"We want to give our cadets quality learning and a quality learning experience. By building on the expertise they already have, using the latest learning sciences and training pedagogies, we can continue to develop effective, passionate and dedicated officers in the shortened time."

COL Ong Yu Lin,
Commander of OCS

"We can still train our men to the required standards. The important thing for us is to continuously streamline our training. The important thing for the NSFs is to persevere and set their hearts and minds to the training that they undergo."

MAJ Elijah Lim,
Chief Instructor of SISPEC

"The PTP training now has a revised syllabus, one that is more specific and focused, like having exercises that focus strictly on specific muscle groups. We will work closely with the recruits to realise their potential and motivation."

2LT Tan Chee Yang,
Platoon Commander of a PTP Company in BMTC

"Training is rigorous and I have definitely seen results. I'm assured that I can pass my IPPT (Individual Physical Proficiency Test) by the time my PTP finishes - in fact, I'm aiming for a Silver!"

REC Colin Lim,
in a PTP Company in BMTC

Then & Now

Where Army Memories Begin

The raw recruit's first impression of the Army comes as he looks at the Basic Military Training Centre – the place which he will call home for the very first time. As time passes, such impressions and the recruit's experiences become memories – of unforgettable sergeants, rigorous training, packed cookhouses, spartan bunks and even haunted houses. Army News takes you back in time to the scenes which have left many soldiers with their earliest memories of Our Army!



These bunks at Nee Soon Camp housed many batches of recruits in the past



Polishing boots till mirror-shine, no less



While the personal weapons for soldiers have improved, the basic regimes are still very much alive today



The look and feel of a typical building at the School of Basic Military Training back in the 70s



Booking out as it used to be



A familiar name, but an unfamiliar sight for many of our soldiers today. This building, like many others, was torn down in the 90s to make way for new, modern training facilities



The Standard Obstacle Course (SOC) has always been a staple of BMT training since its earliest days

BMTC Today



The recruit's first glimpse of BMTC – which will turn into memories in time to come

Defining Moments

The Difference Pride Makes



LTC (NS) John Lynn, Commanding Officer of 308th Battalion Singapore Combat Engineers (308 SCE), firmly believes that soldiers perform to their best when they have a sense of pride and recognise the importance of their duties. He recounts an experience during his National Service experience which illustrates his belief.

The Challenge

"There was this company of soldiers who performed below standard in their In-Camp Training. It was unacceptable.

The reason for this performance wasn't that they were no good. The trainers and the men, however, had differences in expectations.

So these guys had to do the In-Camp Training again. I was asked to come in and help out as the frame 2IC (2nd In-Charge)."

"Why Do You Do What You Do?"

"I looked at the bunch of guys. They were visibly discouraged and very upset. So I gathered them together for a pep talk. I asked them, 'Why do you do what you do?' I asked them to contemplate and imagine what would happen if enemies overran our country. I asked them, 'What would happen? Where can you run? If you run and you read the news about what is happening here, how would you feel?'

I tried to give them a sense of pride. I told them that I was not from their unit and I have heard all kinds of things about them, but I still believed in them. I said, 'We are going overseas for this In-Camp Training and we are going to show that we are the best.' I talked and communicated with them. We did it informally. We sat in circles, in small groups and we just talked.

Then we went for the overseas training and it was the best In-Camp Training performance ever!"

"Believing That You Are The Best"

"The men were so motivated. Even when they were just marching from point A to point B, they were doing it with so much pride. Every exercise that these guys did, I could see that they were trying to prove to me that they were the best. Even our hosts in the camp thought they were regulars!

The reason for this change was that the men believed that they were the best. I kept reminding them of this. I told all the commanders to go back to their platoon and section to tell their guys that they are important and that they are the best. I told them to find a laid-back and informal setting like in the canteen or in the company line. It reminded them that they are not transferring information, but emotion. Loyalty and pride are emotions.

I told the commanders to move around the men, to pat them on the back and connect with them. It may sound clichéd but the truth is that the men seldom hear words of encouragement from commanders.

At the end of the In-Camp Training, the trainers wrote a report and said that this was the best model In-Camp Training that they had seen. This was all simply because we kept telling the men that they were the best, believed in them and appreciated what they did."

Feeling Appreciated

"I always thank the men for their contribution and dedication after each In-Camp Training. As long as the soldiers feel proud of what they do and are appreciated for their efforts, they will be the best soldiers you can ever have." [E]

Passing On The Baton

INCOMING

COL Lim U Yang Hugh
COL Lim Chern Tjunn Philip
COL Tan Cheow Han Bernard
LTC Tan Ying
LTC Loganathan S/o Ramasamy
MAJ Ng Hock Sing
MAJ Teo Wee Leong Vernon
MAJ Lee Kuan Chung

HQ 6 DIV Comd
ACGS (Ops)
ACGS (Pers)
CO CPC-PMC
CO ALTI
CO 24 SA
CO SOCE
CO 3 Guards

OUTGOING

BG Chin Pei Chen
COL Lim U Yang Hugh
COL Lawrence Chua
LTC Koh Tong Seng
LTC Yap Meng Hong
LTC Ang Heng
LTC Koa Boon Teck
LTC Tay Boon Khai



COL Lim U Yang Hugh
HQ 6 DIV Comd



COL Lim Chern Tjunn Philip
ACGS (Ops)



COL Tan Cheow Han Bernard
ACGS (Pers)

Quiz Of The Month

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

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

June 2004

OUR LUCKY WINNERS

- Ms Sheryl Poh NRIC : S 8037850 E
- Ms Teoh Gim Yang NRIC : S 7100301 I

- This contest is open to all Army personnel except the executive staff of Army News Section.
- Each person is allowed one entry.
- Winners will be notified by E-mail. Prizes are not exchangeable for cash.
- The judges' decision is final. Please send us your entries via mail or email (see bottom-right corner of page).

All entries must reach us by 25th January 2005.

What is the duration of the new officer training course in OCS?

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

Closing Date : 25th January 2005

Thinking Soldier

How To Successfully Change Your Career

Why do most people who wish to change career paths remain stuck in the wrong careers? Herminia Ibarra explores this in her article "An alternative approach to changing careers", from which the following extract is taken.

"Am I doing what is right for me, or should I change direction?" Are you considering switching your career?

We tend to think that the way to successfully switch careers is to determine beforehand what we intend to do and then go about researching on that job, so that we can make an informed decision. However, we fail to think that is not how change happens.

Change comes about first by doing, and then knowing. Why is this so? Changing careers means redefining our work identity. The "plan and implement" method of changing careers will not work. Only understanding your working identity will.

Many people take the conventional route when switching careers. Even though they make an effort to reinvent themselves, they remain stuck in the wrong career and never realise their potential and gain fulfilment. The problem lies not in their motive but in their method.

The Conventional Method and Why it Fails

The conventional method begins with determining what you want to do clearly, then using knowledge to identify jobs where your passions, skills and experience can match, and lastly, seeking advice from the people who know you best and from professionals. This method, however, leads to failure. Let us see why:

The method begins with knowing oneself, which is crucial. Knowing oneself, however, is usually the outcome of the reinvention process. It should never be the first input as it causes paralysis. It is important to act and to practise.

Seeking advice from others may not be a good idea. The people closest to you, although well-meaning, will only hinder you by limiting you. Mentors and co-workers can also hinder you by being too pragmatic and telling you about the realities of the marketplace.

Steps to a Successful Career Switch

So, what is the successful way of switching careers?

The "Test and Learn" model of change is a three-step process that will establish your



Chief of Army, MG Desmond Kuek wishes all Army personnel a Happy New Year!

POWER 98 Has Found The BEST BUDDIES In The Army

Power98's BEST BUDDY AWARDS 2004, brought to you by Our Army – The Decisive Force, found the best buddies in the SAF: Kelvin and Wenyao, 2 NSman infantry officers, and rewarded them with \$2000 CASH!

Over 3 months, Power98 put the call out for buddies in the Army, Navy and Air Force to reunite and reminisce the good times! Hilarious and heartwarming experiences were shared live on national radio from the Power98 studio and each pair of buddies received a \$100 dining voucher. The finals saw the top two pairs of buddies, with the most number of SMS and email votes from listeners, compete in a game of 'Taboo' to see how well they worked together. It took a gripping tie breaker to decide the eventual champions!

The Best Buddy Awards took place on The Chill Out Hour, weeknights 8pm to 9pm, with DJ-in-Command, Sebastian, on Power98. Log on to the Chill Out Hour web page at www.power98.com.sg for pictures and stories from Power98's BEST BUDDY AWARDS 2004. [E]

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Army News extends our heartfelt thanks to outgoing Chairman of our Editorial Board, COL Lawrence Chua (left) for his leadership and advice during his tenure. Army News also welcomes COL Bernard Tan (right) as the new Chairman of our Editorial Board.

Give Us Your Feedback

If you have any suggestions or feedback about our newsletter, we want to know!

Do not hesitate to write in to us at :

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SAF's strength lies in the spirit of the people

Don't let your guard down, ministers tell soldiers at an elaborate...

SAF's strength lies in the spirit of the people...



SAF Chief, President Li & Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the SAF 50th Anniversary...

NS cut by six months

24 months will do, thanks to Strait's high-tech gear to improve training

NS cut by six months...



Giving a run for the money...



ஏயர்ஸ் லீட் ஒப்கத்தில் 60,000 ரூப்

Text in Tamil regarding military operations or equipment.



3G warrior

Warrior text describing the soldier's capabilities.

OUR ARMY IN THE NEWS

Times the benefits of new weapons to the changes in...
NS duration, here's a look at some of the news articles on...
Our Army over the past year.

Combat medics to carry heart zipper

Text describing the new medical equipment for combat medics.



Text describing the image.

THE NEWS

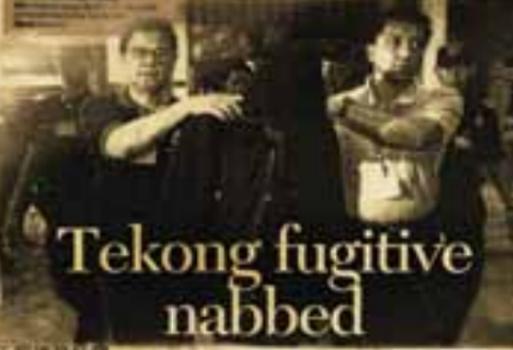


SAF seeks meaner machines

Text describing the SAF's search for more advanced machinery.

Tempat Terumbu di Tembakau

Text in Tamil regarding military or industrial matters.



Tekong fugitive nabbed

Text describing the capture of a fugitive.

Safety hazards? Soldier's one call reaches top brass

Text describing a soldier's call to top brass regarding safety hazards.



購家人六年秘密研制“冠军”

Text in Chinese describing the development of a 'Champion' product over six years.



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pulse of the army

TSUNAMI
RELIEF EFFORT
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

“We share a common humanity with those who have been hit. We had to act and try to make a difference to them.”

-PM Lee Hsien Loong

Speed And Commitment On The Relief Front

Wreaking havoc on countries around Asia, the sudden wave of tsunamis on 26 December left countries across Asia with destroyed land and lives. Responding swiftly and decisively to the crisis, Our Army immediately activated standby teams and specially assembled disaster assistance teams, comprising medical, engineer, communications and ground elements, for deployment to Indonesia. On the home front, our soldiers have also actively assisted in collecting funds and packing relief supplies to assist in the humanitarian effort.

Here is a look at the speedy, concerted relief efforts that Our Army has taken in the immediate week following the disaster.

Story by Poon Shau Yi

Sunday, 26th December

Earthquake And Tsunamis Strike

An earthquake of magnitude 9.0 was triggered off the western coast of Sumatra. It set off a chain reaction that created aftershocks and tsunamis that left a trail of destruction across countries in Asia and Africa.

Wednesday, 29th December

Medical Team And More Supplies

Advance elements of an SAF medical team and 2 Chinook helicopters headed for Medan.

Consignments of relief and medical supplies were airlifted to Thailand and Sri Lanka.



The Chinooks leaving for Indonesia to assist in ferrying medical teams and supplies, rations, water and humanitarian aid workers.



Relief and medical supplies, including tents and blankets, were prepared for airlifting to Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Thursday, 30th December

More Helicopters And Medical Aid

The remainder of the 25-man SAF medical team and 2 Super Puma helicopters departed for Indonesia.

Two Chinook helicopters and 2 Super Puma helicopters also left for Phuket, Thailand.



Our soldiers boarding the Chinook, bound for Indonesia.



Our medical team and supplies arriving in Indonesia to provide prompt medical assistance.

Friday, 31st December

350 Personnel On Board Ship To Indonesia

A Landing Ship Tank (LST), RSS Endurance, left for the west coast of Sumatra to deliver supplies to wrecked coastal villages and towns and serve as a helicopter staging area. On board the LST were some 350 SAF personnel including medical, engineer and communication teams.



Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean speaking to the men before they left for Indonesia on the RSS Endurance.



Our engineer team loading onto the LST heavy engineering equipment to clear roads and debris.



RSS Endurance leaves with 350 personnel to deliver supply and aid to the casualties on the west coast of Sumatra.

Advance Team Deployed

An advance team with medical, engineering, communication and ground elements also departed for Medan from the Paya Lebar Airbase. The team, led by Commander 7th Singapore Infantry Brigade, COL Tan Chuan-Jin, would clear debris and offer medical and food aid to the disaster-affected areas.



The advance team being briefed before setting off on their mission.



"We are deeply moved by the incident... our morale is good now, our people are professional, we are confident we can do a good job."

COL Tan Chuan-Jin

Collection At SPH HQ

Soldiers from Ordnance Engineering Training Institute started to assist in the six-day collection and packing of medical supplies, food and water at the Singapore Press Holdings Too Payoh Headquarters for the Singapore Red Cross.



Our soldiers loading food and medical supplies donated by the public into containers.



"I am very touched and impressed with our chaps who have spent their New Year's Eve and Day itself here at last notice. It really shows that our guys have got the heart and are willing to help out."

MAJ Bernard Sabai

Tuesday, 28th December

Recce Team And Supplies

A reconnaissance team and a plane load of relief and medical supplies were swiftly despatched to Medan in a C-130 aircraft.

Upon arrival, the reconnaissance team set out immediately to gather comments and requests from senior Indonesian Army personnel and survey the Command and Control Coordination Centre For Disaster in Aceh, before returning to Singapore on the same day.



COL Toh Boh Kwee handing over relief and medical supplies to North Sumatra Governor Rizal Nurdin for distribution to the disaster-affected areas.



Our reconnaissance team discussing with senior Indonesian Army personnel the types of aid that they would like Our Army to provide.

WORDS FROM OUR SERVICEMEN



"Although we only knew about this deployment two days ago, we have had many meetings and briefings. We have made a lot of necessary arrangements. I believe we are prepared to go for this mission."

SSG Mizianne Chow



"There is a big pool of NSmen doctors and volunteers who are prepared to volunteer at any time to help out with disasters like this. We want to contribute and this is something meaningful to us, beyond what we do everyday."

LTC (ROV) DR Low Cheng Ooi



"It is really sad to see the photos in the papers, all the people suffering, without enough food and water. I want to do something to help them."

LCP Turisman



"I want to contribute and do something. There are so many casualties in this disaster and I want to help in any way I can."

CPL Shamraj



"I feel that this is very meaningful. Even though it is New Year's Day and we were activated at the last minute, everyone volunteered and turned up to help out even though it is New Year's Day."

2SG Lim Zhi Cheng

MESSAGES TO OUR SERVICEMEN

"When you go there, you will face a very difficult time, because the people there are facing great difficulties. Do your best, take care of yourselves and take care of your buddies. Bon voyage!"



Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean

"We appreciate very much your willingness to commit at such short notice. As a country, an armed forces and a neighbour, we want to do all we can."



Chief of Army, MG Desmond Kuek

We Just Want To Say...

TSUNAMI
RELIEF EFFORT
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

As our soldiers give their all in helping the affected, many have expressed support and encouragement and applauding them for the sacrifices they have made. From the closest next-of-kin of the soldiers to the youngest primary school student who has only a slight impression of Our Army, everyone has joined together to wish our soldiers the very best!

Our soldiers' efforts have not gone unrecognised by the international community, other helpers or the people they have helped. For their selfless humanitarian acts, our soldiers have garnered widespread praise and gratitude. ➤

Story by Ivan Chan

"The Singapore government's military response to the emergency in Aceh has been nothing less than outstanding. It has done a phenomenal job; all the aid agencies and the UN are very grateful for the enormous and fast response the military in Singapore brought to bear on this disaster."

Mr Jahn Budd, UNICEF Head of Communications in Indonesia

Well Done. Keep It Up!



"We received help from MINDEF to transport our supplies. It is something really helpful for us and for the victims. The Indonesian Minister of Social Affairs was deeply impressed by the professionalism demonstrated by the SAF troops."

His Excellency, Mochamad Slamet Hidayat, Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore



"My husband is doing wonderful deeds for the victims in Indonesia. There will always be a question mark over his safety, but I support my husband for whatever he is doing - this is his job, duty and responsibility."

SSG Judy Law, wife of MSG Yeo Siong, who is in Indonesia



"We really appreciate the Army staff, especially the manpower support. Without them, we can't do so much!"

Mr Terence Lau, Supervising Officer at SPH Collection Centre



"I think the Army guys are doing their very best and are doing a very good job."

Ms Debbie Yap, volunteer at SPH Collection Centre



"We need the strong Army guys to help us with the loading. They are very good, very efficient, and sped up the process a lot."

3SG (NS) Zeng Jiaqi, volunteer at SPH Collection Centre



"I am not worried for my son as I know that he will be very well taken care of. I told him to be strong to carry out his work there."

Mrs Ng Peng Hock, mother of LTA Ng Zhi Wen, who is in Indonesia

From Our Schools, With Love

At Teck Ghee Primary School in Ang Mo Kio, the teachers have been devoting some lesson time to educating all the students about the tsunami, the devastation and the relief efforts.

Not only have the school's 900 students responded generously in donations, they have also written notes of encouragement to the soldiers and volunteers who have gone overseas to help. Mrs Eileen Lum, a parent volunteer at the school, said, "This is one way where we use real-life experiences to educate the students. They have been very enthusiastic, and we have seen an overwhelming response from them." ➤



Well wishes from Teck Ghee Primary School's students will be sent to our soldiers who are helping out in Aceh.



Students looking at the push-cart which has pictures of the tsunami incident.



A young student expressing her appreciation for our soldiers with a simple drawing.

What the children say:

"Singapore is very proud of you. Keep it up!"

Terenz Carino

"Your bravery will be remembered."

Kenneth Ong

"I drew something for the soldiers. I like the soldiers so much!"

Tiru Kumarran

"We'll pray hard for your safety."

Ooi Xue Ting

"You are noble, you sacrifice so much just to help others."

Woo Kuen Kuen

...Thank You.