

AIR FORCE

ABOVE ALL

ISSUE 111 • JULY 2009

BEST OF THE RSAF 2009



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Air Force News bids a fond farewell to Ms Felicia Gwee (former Member) and would like to express appreciation for her invaluable contributions. We wish her well in her endeavours.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Ms Heng Ai Buay as our Member.

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Engaging the Best – EX Maple Flag



Mistral Fire Units on the look-out where they were deployed at Jimmy Lake Range.

In 4 Wing, Cold Lake Air Force Base, Alberta, the Canadian Air Force hosted the 42nd series of the annual international air combat training exercise from 18 May – 12 Jun 09. Codenamed EX Maple Flag, the exercise is one of the largest multinational exercises in the world, with participation from countries such as Canada, the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Singapore.

The RSAF participated in the 2nd period of EX Maple Flag, from 1 – 12 Jun 09, with its Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) and Peace Carvin II (PCII) detachments. The GBAD detachment of three RBS70, one Mistral and one PSTAR systems were fielded while eight F-16 Fighting Falcons from PCII were deployed. The GBAD Detachment, led by MAJ Joey Watson, comprised a total of 40 personnel from Air Defence Group, Divisional Air Defence Group (DAG) and a team of



Ground Control Interceptors, while the PCII detachment was led by LTC Vincent Leong and comprised a total of 92 personnel. In addition Commander DAG, COL Loh Kean Wah, visited the detachment from 9 – 12 Jun 09 and also called on Commander, 4 Wing, COL St-Amand.

During the exercise, the GBAD detachment provided low level air defence and surveillance to simulated critical assets located within Cold Lake Air Weapons Range. With the vast and unrestricted airspace at EX Maple Flag, the wide array of fighter aircraft such as the F-15s, F-16s, F-18s, Alpha-Jets, Hawks and C-130s from the various air forces provided a realistic and experiential training opportunity for the detachment. MAJ Watson said, "In my



opinion, such training opportunities are valuable and provide our crew with dynamic and realistic training. The exposure also allows us to benchmark against some of the best air forces in the world. In doing so, the experience gives the crew a sense of achievement as well as a boost in their confidence and proficiency level."

The high exercise tempo, coupled with the daily mission planning cycles and briefs exposed the detachment to the complexities of multinational operations. Additionally, 'GBAD days' were implemented, where fighters were planned for dedicated sorties against GBAD protected targets, which together with the use of omega guns that simulate missiles being fired, further injected realism into the training as the smoke signatures prompted aircraft to adopt evasive manoeuvres, promoting an interactive training environment.



Detachment Evaluation Officer, CPT Lim Thong Lee said, "It was definitely an eye opener for first time participants. The tactics, evasive manoeuvres and low level flying left a deep impression in our minds. I believe the exercise participants have gained not just air defence proficiency, but also adaptability and survivability in a different deployment environment."

Strengthening Ties and Defending the Airspace – EX Airguard



EX Airguard involved highly realistic and challenging aircraft sorties for the Mistral Fire Units to train against.

Dispersed amidst the uneven terrain of the SAFTI Live-Firing Area, various well-camouflaged mistral firing units and a PSTAR detachment were stationed in preparation for a mock engagement with AH-64D Apache helicopters. This was the set-up for EX Airguard 09, a bilateral exercise between the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF) and the RSAF. Held from 30 Mar – 13 Apr

09, this segment of the annual exercise continued to provide an effective platform to foster bilateral relations and improve interoperability. Exercise



Director for this year's EX Airguard, LTC Teo Ping Siong, described the exercise outcome, "The exercise was very successful as all objectives were met. The flight profiles flown by the Apaches were very realistic and challenging for the Ground-Based Air Defence (GBAD) operators. Additionally, simulated opposition ground forces were also deployed to attack the Fire Units to test the vigilance of the crew in terms of field security."

The main purpose of the exercise was to foster closer ties between the RBAirF and the RSAF through the organisation

of mixed crew deployment training comprising officers, specialists and operators from both sides. Fire Unit 2nd In-Charge of one of the mistral crews, 3SG Desmond Soh, experienced first-hand the benefits of the mixed crew setup. "We were able to work together in harmony despite our different backgrounds, seeing beyond differences so as to forge great friendships during this 2 weeks of exercise," quipped 3SG Soh. His crew's Fire Unit In-Charge, CPL Mohd Adini Bin Haron, from the RBAirF agreed as he said, "I enjoyed working with the RSAF personnel as we learnt and shared experiences with one another. There was much cooperation and we gained a good understanding of each other's military capabilities and culture."

On top of the mutually beneficial interactions and promotion of bilateral relations, the exercise also provided

Strengthening Ties and Defending the Airspace – EX Airguard

realistic air defence training for GBAD operators, through tactical control by the PSTAR Detachment, with live sortie engagement. PSTAR Detachment Commander for the exercise, 2LT Jes Chng, was pleased with the results of the exercise. She elaborated, "EX Airguard has given our detachment an opportunity to learn beyond what unilateral



exercises can offer as we gain an understanding of the operations and culture of another armed force."

Apart from handling the realistic and challenging sorties that the Apache

helicopters flew, the mixed crew firing units from 18 Divisional Air Defence Artillery Battalion (18 DA Bn) and the RBAirF also needed to remain vigilant for simulated opposition ground forces. Head of Exercise Delegation for the



40-man Air Regiment RBAirF Contingent, CAPT Peter Bin Ulat, felt that the exercise and its activities had indeed enhanced bonding and camaraderie within and between the two air forces. "This year, some new activities were introduced in the exercise, particularly the team building event which enhanced cooperation and teamwork between the two sides."

EX Airguard 09 highlights the close and long-standing relationship that Brunei and Singapore share. The air forces of the two countries interact regularly through professional exchanges and exercises.



CPL Adini (left) and 3SG Soh (right) preparing for a mock assault by the Apaches.

Continuing Multilateral Defence Cooperation and Interoperability – EX Bersama Shield



EX Bersama Shield offered participants realistic scenarios as aircraft, ships and ground units operated at the same time.

The nations of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) were involved in the annual EX Bersama Shield, which took place over Malaysian and Singaporean airspace as well as the South China Sea from 18 – 29 May 09. The multilateral exercise, involving Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom, is part of an ongoing series of exercises aimed at training and improving the interoperability and professional relationships among the armed forces of the participating nations. The Main Exercise Brief and Post Exercise Debrief were held on 18 and 29 May 09 respectively.



At the exercise debrief, Commander Integrated Area Defence Systems (IADS), Air Vice Marshal Kevin J. Paule, said of the continued success of the FPDA and IADS, "One of the biggest successes that we have achieved is basically the continuation of multilateral exercises and activities that have been going on up till now. This ability of the five nations to come together and practise both conventional and non-conventional capacity building for the defence of the region is a benefit that we build up with each exercise."

Touching on one of the main changes for EX Bersama



COL Toh giving the opening address at the Post Exercise Debrief.

Shield 2009 was Chief of Staff, IADS, COL Henry Toh, as he explained, "For this exercise we went back to the basics and reinforced some of the fundamentals of the exercise. We did this by emphasising more on certain issues, for which we have received very positive feedback from the participants."



As a major exercise, EX Bersama Shield provides an opportunity for National Servicemen (NSmen) to engage in a large-scale multilateral exercise during their In-Camp Training (ICT). CPL(NS) Tho Chee Seng, a gunner from 160 SQN, felt the exercise was good training for the squadron and NSmen. He said, "The realism in EX Bersama Shield is much greater as there are aircraft flying real-time for us to engage, making the pace and tempo much more realistic."

EX Bersama Shield has validated new ideas with its successful run, paving the way for future exercises to take new steps forward. It has further reinforced the continuity and progression in training and interoperability that the Bersama series of exercises allows for the FPDA nations.

Building and Strengthening the Foundations – Fighter Goodwill Visit 2009



The senior officers of each country posing for a group shot after the Singapore delegation arrived in Bali, Indonesia.

Indonesia and Singapore share a close and long-standing bilateral relationship, one that has been fostered by mutual understanding and extensive interactions over the years. Such close ties are reflected and contributed by the bonds between the Indonesian Air Force (TNI AU) and the RSAF. One of the key opportunities for interactions between the two air forces is the Fighter Goodwill Visit that the two air forces take turns to host. This year, a 13-man delegation from the RSAF, consisting of pilots and a Weapons Systems Officer (Fighter), were hosted in Bali, Indonesia, from 16 – 19 Jun 09, by 10 pilots from the TNI AU, led by Commander, Hassanudin Air Force Base (AFB), AFM Putu Dunia.

During the visit, the participants interacted in a variety of settings, both formal and informal. These included dinners hosted by the TNI AU and the RSAF, as well as discussions and presentations.



F-16 pilot from 145 SQN, LTA Devdutt Sasidharan, described his experience, "I really enjoyed the informal sessions and getting to know the TNI AU pilots better... As a junior pilot, training is very important to me and so it is particularly interesting to see how my counterpart from another air force works and trains."

Led by Detachment Commander, LTC Ho Yung Peng, and attended by Commander, Fighter Group, Air Combat Command, COL Ho Foo Sing, the delegation shared their experiences and perspectives. These sharing sessions allowed participants to broaden their exposure.



F-16 Pilot from SQ 3, Iswahyudi AFB, CAPT Anjar Legowo commented, "I have made a lot of friends from the RSAF whom I will definitely keep in contact with to continue sharing our experiences. The friends I have made during this visit are certainly an expansion of my network, which will definitely be beneficial to me in my career and personal life."



COL Ho presenting a plaque to AFM Dunia as an affirmation of the close and long-standing ties that the two air forces share.



Participants enjoying themselves during the dinner hosted by the TNI AU delegation.



LTC Ho explaining the RSAF's flying culture during the formal interactions with the TNI AU pilots.

The visit also encourages the participants to learn more about the culture and lifestyle of each other's countries.



F-5 Pilot, LTA Tan Yit Chong, quipped, "The goodwill visit has been a remarkable experience. I would say that the best part is getting to catch up with old friends and updating on each other's lives. What's even better is that we make new friends and as we do that, we really get to understand our Indonesian neighbours better."



A particular topic of interest for the TNI AU was the RSAF's safety culture and emphasis. F-5 pilot and Commanding Officer of SQ 14, Iswahyudi AFB, LTC Ronny Moninoka, shared, "I hope to bring some of the knowledge that I have learnt today to our squadron, especially on the aspects of safety. We hope to be able to implement some of these ideas into our squadron, and to move towards a zero accident goal as well."



Professional interactions like this, as well as exercises like EX Elang Indopura, enhance and reflect the warm relations between the TNI AU and the RSAF. AFM Dunia said of the visit, "This visit is very important as the young officers will be seniors eventually and as neighbours who are mutually responsible for the peace of the region, fostering good relations between our pilots from the start of their careers is definitely mutually beneficial." LTC Ho reinforced AFM Dunia's sentiments, "As you understand how your neighbour operates, you will be better able to work with him more closely and effectively. From this experience, I would say that the TNI AU and the RSAF have attained a level of mutual understanding that could only be earned with first-hand experience."



An RSAF pilot waves goodbye to his new friends from the TNI AU as he prepares to fly home from Ngurah Rai AFB.

CAF Visits RSAF Detachment at the Gulf of Aden



MG Ng in a group photo with some of the personnel deployed to the Gulf of Aden.

CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, and Commander Participation Command (PC), BG Wong Huat Sern, visited the men and women of the RSAF Super Puma detachment deployed onboard a landing ship tank (LST) on 25 May 09. The 50-strong detachment was part of the SAF's first tri-service overseas mission in the Gulf of Aden.

Over 240 men and women from the three Services were deployed to the Gulf of Aden from 9 Apr – 31 Jul 09, working closely with their American, Turkish and South Korean counterparts to conduct round-the-clock patrols and surveillance in support of international efforts to counter piracy in the region.

The visit took place in the Omani city of Salalah located northeast of the Gulf of Aden during a scheduled port call by the LST. Accompanied by senior Navy and Army



MG Ng meeting up with the personnel from the detachment to the Gulf of Aden

commanders, MG Ng was briefed by the Commander of the Task Group (TG), LTC Richard Lim, on the TG's operations and was apprised of the latest developments as well as significant events that occurred since operations began. RSAF Detachment Commander, LTC Ong Jack Sen, also gave a presentation on the helicopter detachment's achievements and the challenges of conducting operations off a naval platform. MG Ng took the opportunity to answer questions fielded by RSAF personnel regarding the new Career Construct.

On 26 May 09, MG Ng made a courtesy call on Senior Air Staff Officer and Acting Commander, Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), Air Commodore Abdullah Khaseeb, at the RAFO HQ in Muscat. During the visit, MG Ng thanked the RAFO for their support for the SAF's operations in the Gulf of Aden.

RSAF's Participation in the Tours and Cazaux Airshows



RSAF personnel explaining some manoeuvres to the enthusiastic visitors to the airshow at Tours Air Base.

150 SQN, operating the A4SU Super Skyhawks in Cazaux Airbase France, has been a regular participant in the annual airshows organised by the French Air Force (FAF). This year, the squadron participated in 2 airshows in June held at the Cazaux and Tours Air Bases. The 2 airshows each comprised an impressive 8-hour non-stop flying display segment and over 80 aircraft on static display. These airshows each drew approximately 30,000 visitors from across Europe, with much attention drawn by the RSAF Super Skyhawks due to its rarity.

For the airshow in Cazaux, 3 Skyhawks conducted a flypast in sequence with 4 French Alpha-Jets. Despite the rain, visitors still stayed to watch the flypast and were not



The RSAF Skyhawks (left) preparing to launch for the aerial display with the FAF Alpha-Jets during the airshow at Cazaux Air Base.

disappointed as they witnessed a well coordinated and synchronised display of the ground and air operations. Following the successful airshow in Cazaux, 150 SQN proceeded to deploy to Tours Air Base to take part in the airshow there.

Commanding Officer, 150 SQN, LTC Danny Koh, commented on the significance of the RSAF's participation in the Cazaux and Tours airshows. "The RSAF has enjoyed warm defence relations with the FAF and a demonstration of that is our annual participation in airshows organised by the FAF. The synchronised flypast by the Skyhawks and the Alpha-Jets further symbolises the teamwork of pilots from the two air forces."

RSAF Weapons Load Crew Attains Top Award at USAF Competition

A RSAF Weapons Load Crew (WLC) team, consisting of 1SG Ng Wee Sin, 1SG Malcolm Zhang and 1SG Fabian Lim, was awarded the WLC of the Year Award during the Luke Air Force Base (AFB) Maintenance Professional of the Year Ceremony.

Held on 7 Mar 09, the ceremony signified the end of a competition among the best WLCs of each squadron in Luke AFB. The RSAF team came up tops, above the rest of the 7 teams, most of which had many more years of experience working as a team. The awards were presented by 402nd Maintenance Wing Commander, Warner Robins Air Logistics Centre, Robins Air Force Base, Brigadier General Mark Atkinsons.

The RSAF Peace Carvin II detachment had been participating in this competition since 1994, and while the detachment had previously won quarterly

competitions, this is the first time that a RSAF WLC team is presented with the WLC of the Year – the top award in a USAF Weapons Loading Competition.



The winning WLC team from the RSAF impressed the judges with their skills and professionalism.

The RSAF and MINDEF PRIDE Conventions

The RSAF and MINDEF Productivity and Innovation in Daily Effort (PRIDE) Conventions 08/09 were held at Air Force School (AFS) Auditorium and Toa Payoh Housing Development Board (HDB) Hub on 16 Apr 09 and from 2 – 4 Jun 09 respectively.

MINDEF PRIDE Convention



DPM Teo giving his opening address at the MINDEF PRIDE Convention 2009.

Guest-of-Honour, DPM and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, highlighted the essence of this year's MINDEF PRIDE Day during his address at Toa Payoh HDB Hub on 2 Jun 09. DPM Teo said, "Being innovative does not require us to provide complicated solutions to complex situations. More often than not, the solution starts with simple ideas."

His statement underscored this year's theme of 'Simple Ideas, Big Difference', one that many could relate to and follow through with. One such example is the project by team TANDEM RAIDERS of Air Logistics Group – Rotary Wing (ALG – RW). Their project tackled



DPM Teo learning more about the H-shaped frame at the MINDEF PRIDE Convention 2009.

the problem of the cumbersome A-shaped frames that were previously used to off-load the blades of a Chinook helicopter for maintenance. The team eventually designed a H-shaped frame which was more portable, less prone to damaging the Chinook and could be set up with lesser people.

The team's success is just one of many great ideas that started from a simple idea, but ended up making a big difference. A



member of the team, SSG Ang Hwa Chuan, described how the team thought of the idea after an observation during

work. He said, "We were working at the flight line when we saw the flight line crew using a 2m ladder to do their servicing on the Chinook helicopter. That ladder could be folded into a more compact size of 1m tall, making it easy and convenient to transport. The team felt the idea could be translated to our own equipment, which sparked off the idea of the H-shaped frame."

DPM Teo also presented various awards to the deserving recipients. These awards included the MINDEF Star Service Award and the Minister for Defence Award (MDA). The MDA is a prestigious annual competition among units on their excellence in PRIDE, welfare and organisational excellence. The 2009 winner for the MDA was ALG – FW1, with ALG – RW and 128 SQN receiving the Commendation Award and Commendation (Combat) Award respectively.

The MINDEF PRIDE exhibits were on display for the public to view from 2 – 4 Jun 09, showcasing some of the more outstanding innovations from various teams.

The RSAF and MINDEF PRIDE Conventions

RSAF PRIDE Convention



3SG Vikneswaran explaining his project to MG Ng during the RSAF PRIDE Convention.

This year, the RSAF PRIDE Convention was organised by Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Command (UC) and was officiated by CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern. The convention gave participants the opportunity to learn more about several of the outstanding Unit Suggestions Management System (USMS) and Work Improvement Teams (WITS) projects through presentations and static displays.

In addition, this year's PRIDE convention featured a presentation by Group Director of Innovation & InfoComm Technology at Land Transport Authority (LTA), Mrs Rosina Howe. In her presentation, Mrs Howe shared on the various initiatives that the LTA has implemented to drive productivity and innovation in the organisation.

The event concluded with a prize presentation which honoured outstanding RSAF projects and recognised the efforts of the

coordinators, facilitators and leaders who had actively promoted productivity and innovation.

Winner of the Best USMS Suggestion (Support) was MSG (then SSG) Wena Law from Air Logistics Group – Fixed Wing 1 (ALG – FW1). Her suggestion 'Alternative Airborne Radio Interchangeability', developed from her initial discovery of the similarities between the existing and alternative radios. After in-depth research and examination, she found that the similarities meant the radios were interchangeable, allowing for greater flexibility for the RSAF. MSG Law commented on her project, "This project is an innovative yet simple solution that enhances the organisation's capability, as our aircraft are now able to use the alternative airborne radio. I am happy to receive the award today and it will certainly spur me on to contribute more to the RSAF."

Other projects were even applicable outside of the RSAF, allowing their benefits to spread even further. One such project was the 'Prevention Of Water Ponding Along Air-Con Brackets', headed by 3SG Vikneswaran, a Supply Supervisor in UC. Explaining his project in detail, 3SG Vikneswaran said, "Air conditioner compressors are not completely seated on brackets and are thus highly prone to collecting water which creates breeding spots for mosquitoes. We thus came up with the idea of filling the bracket

with cement to prevent water from collecting on the bracket. That proved to be a successful and permanent solution." The implication of this is that their idea can be implemented in other buildings with external brackets.



MG Ng presenting the award for Best USMS Suggestion (Support) to MSG (then SSG) Law.

With team effort and its positive culture, Aviation Wing of AFS attained this year's Best Unit WITS Management System Unit (Combat) award. Wing Commander, LTC Eddie Tan described his approach to creating a culture of creativity and innovation,



"My philosophy to encourage the formulation of ideas is, basically, to create the correct environment so as to allow ideas to proliferate and flourish. With such a

conductive atmosphere, I believe that the guys will truly be able to express their ideas freely and be willing to try them out."

The Minister for Defence Award 2009

The prestigious Minister for Defence Award (MDA) was introduced in 1992 to accord recognition to units or organisations that excel in the MINDEF PRIDE Movement. Units nominated for the award undergo a comprehensive judging of their PRIDE activities, from WITS and USMS to organisational excellence. Winner of the award in 2009 was ALG – FW1, a testament to the unit's emphasis on strong foundations and a culture of organisational excellence.



This culture is one that Organisational Excellence Officer, CPT Ang Chin Beng, is proud of. CPT Ang said, "Organisational excellence is an

on-going journey of continuous improvement and innovation towards excellence. ALG – FW1 has always strived towards being the leading operational logistics squadron and winning the MDA was a beacon affirming us that we are on the right track!"

As a Group, ALG – FW1 is committed to a continuous cycle of improvement and excellence, a drive that can only be fuelled by dedicated personnel. The importance of each member of



ALG – FW1 in meeting the standards is a fact apparent to every personnel. A specialist in ALG – FW1, SSG Kok Yit Sin, described the belief he holds, "I feel

that people are the most important assets in an organisation. Without people, there would be no leaders to nurture and develop. It is people who shape the organisation's culture."



Commander, ALG – FW1, LTC Ang Hang Guan, was clearly proud of his Group's significant achievement. When asked about his feelings on his Group

receiving the award, LTC Ang quipped, "Winning the MDA award has certainly demonstrated the unit's commitment to striving for excellence. It is also a testimony to the strong innovative culture of the unit. This award will undoubtedly motivate the men and

The RSAF and MINDEF PRIDE Conventions

women of ALG – FW1 in their relentless quest for continual improvement. ALG – FW1 will continue to build on its strengths and reach for greater heights. I am truly honoured to be a member of the ALG family.”

Recipient of the MDA – Commendation (Combat) for 2009 was 128 SQN. Operating the SEARCHER UAV platforms, this award shows the squadron's versatility in implementation and management.



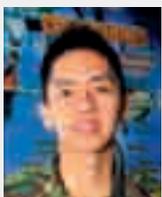
128 SQN Commanding Officer (CO), LTC Paul Tan, explained his pride in the unit's achievement, “The growing importance of UAVs has translated to 128 SQN's increase in responsibility towards the organisation, and saw us participating in numerous local and overseas exercises with other units across the entire SAF. As the CO, I am extremely proud that we have not only excelled operationally, but at the same time we are able to succeed in areas outside of the operational context.”

Besides being a recognition of the unit's work, awards and competitions such as the MDA competition spur units to strive for constant improvement. Internal Pilot,



128 SQN, SSG Satvinder Singh, described his experience, “MDA promotes the spirit of healthy competition, one that I experienced first-hand as the squadron and myself put in more effort to ensure that we would achieve more than just a nomination. For that objective, every individual came together in spirit and soul to work towards it.”

Definitely the MDA is also about daily excellence, a point emphasised by Project Officer, LTA Tan Yi Wei. LTA Tan said of attaining the achievement, “Winning the MDA – Commendation (Combat) is a result of continuous effort from everyone in the squadron. Last minute work would not have produced the results that we have managed to achieve.”



This year, the MDA – Commendation went to ALG – RW, a Group which has consistently performed well in the competition. Led by Commander ALG – RW, COL Low Eng Siang, the Group has internalised the concepts and



values of organisational excellence. COL Low said of the Group's ‘winning formula’, “ALG – RW prides itself on being able to weave the elements of organisational excellence into our day-to-day operations. We carry on with life as per normal and the process is not something special we do but rather it is part and parcel of our routine.”

Above that, the competition spurs personnel to take a step forward to



contribute. UWMS, Higher Award and Innovation Officer-In-Charge, LTA Sebastian Zheng, described how he took action, “To help strengthen the PRIDE foundation, I looked for courses for our PRIDE activists to attend so that they can then use the skills learnt to guide the unit towards innovation and excellence.”

Air Force News congratulates all award recipients and wishes them all the best in future competitions.



Military Domain Experts Scheme

Interested in the Military Domain Experts Scheme?

With the transformation to the 3rd Generation SAF, there is a greater need for personnel to possess deep professional expertise in key military domains. MDES is designed to recruit, groom and retain talent for deep specialisation in engineering, nursing, intelligence and other areas. The scheme will focus on developing and retaining the expertise in these military domains to complement the Officer and Warrant Officer Corps.

HR Cascade Brief 2009



Head Air Manpower, COL Tan Swee Bock, giving a brief overview of the New and Enhanced Career Schemes.

HR Cascade Briefs for Warrant Officers and Specialists (WOSpec) and Officers were held on 31 Mar 09 at Paya Lebar Briefing Hall and Air Force School Auditorium respectively. More than 600 people attended the brief, which was organised by Air Manpower Department.

Head Air Manpower, COL Tan Swee Bock, began the session with a brief overview of the Enhanced WOSpec Scheme, the Enhanced Officer Scheme, and the New Military Domain Experts Scheme (MDES). His presentation showed how the career schemes would better meet organisational demands and individual aspiration. This was followed by a Question and Answer session chaired by CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern.

In the months of Apr–Jun 09, cascade briefs were jointly conducted by the SSSOs and AMD to reach every man and woman of the RSAF. It is important that our people understand the rationale and the key features of the new career construct.



MAJ Gabriel Tham, an Air Engineering Officer from Air Logistics Department, will be switching to the Military Domain Experts Scheme next year. "The longer career that MDES provides exposes me to different appointments. This allows me to build a breadth of experience while deepening the knowledge and expertise required in my specialisation," he said.



Commenting on how the Enhanced Officer Scheme allows for more opportunities to undergo personal and professional development, Officer Commanding from 163 SQN, MAJ S Vengadeshwaran, said, "All these training and study courses will help us better prepare for the new operating context of the RSAF. Also, it ensures that I

will be equipped and prepared for career transition, regardless of my age."

The introduction of the 3WO rank facilitates the WOSpecs' smooth transition from Specialist to Warrant Officer. "For our Specialists, the new 3WO rank gives them recognition of their ability. The opportunity to join the Warrant Officer

Corps early is positive recognition for senior Specialists. This helps to meet the aspiration of our servicemen who wish to upgrade themselves professionally and academically," Chief Warrant Officer, 165 SQN, MWO Loh Chin Boon, said.



Participants actively took part in the question-and-answer session.

The New SAF Career Schemes at a Glance

The Enhanced WOSpec Scheme	The Enhanced Officer Scheme	The New MDES Scheme
Career opportunities to age 55	Career opportunities to age 50	A uniformed career scheme with 8 ranks
Single stage Premium Plan	Seamless Career from SAVER End Date (SED) with Retention Bonuses	Professional upgrading opportunities
New 3WO rank attainable as early as the 6 th year of service	No change in SED, contribution rates or vesting scale	Tenured appointments for MDE 7 and MDE 8
CARE contribution will start upon attainment of 3WO rank	Retention Bonuses paid out after SED at ages 45 (for officers with SED at 42/44), 47,48,49 and 50	Salaries benchmarked to market equivalent with added premium
Earlier full vesting for Premium Plan Funds at age 50 instead of 53	Credits for sponsored NTU Masters degree achieved while on CSC	Full CPF Scheme for career opportunities to age 60
For newly recruited specialists, earlier Retention Bonuses at the end of 6 th year of service	Credits for UniSIM bachelors degree achieved through Professional Military and Education courses	Periodic Retention Bonuses
	Short Sabbatical being explored	

National Runway Cycling and Skating 2009



Guest-of-Honour, MOS and SAFRA President, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee (NRWCS) flagging-off the event.

On 21 Jun 09, over 7,000 people had the opportunity to cycle or skate down a runway at the 14th National Runway Cycling and Skating (NRWCS). The annual event, which was held at Paya Lebar Air Base, was jointly organised by the RSAF and SAFRA National Service Association.

Following the flag off by Guest-of-Honour, Minister of State for Defence and SAFRA President, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, participants streamed down the runway in their bicycles or inline skates. Associate Professor Koo, CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, and many other senior MINDEF/SAF personnel also joined in the crowd for a leisurely ride along the runway.

As with previous years, NRWCS was held in conjunction with the National Family Celebrations '09. Coincidentally, this year's NRWCS fell on Father's Day. To commemorate the occasion, various activities were organised to celebrate the role that fathers play in the family. This included a Super Daddy contest where fathers put their strength



Over 7,000 participants had the opportunity to cycle or skate down the Paya Lebar Air Base runway.

and talents to the test. Mr Abdul Manaf bin Abdullah, who was awarded the title of 'Most Talented and Sexiest Daddy', shared his sentiments about the event. "I've had great fun showing my children what a cool daddy they have. My kids like the NRWCS and so do I!"

Featuring a host of other fun and engaging activities and performances (including a Parent-Child Lookalike Contest, stunt bike performances, cheerobic performances, Zovb ball try-outs, and performances by the SAF Music and Drama Company), the event had something for everyone. A static display of the F-16D+ also proved popular with many clamouring to take photos with the aircraft.



Shared Deputy Organising Chairman, Commander Air Logistics Group – Fixed Wing 1, LTC Ang Hang Guan, "The response for this year's NRWCS has been overwhelming and, as organisers, we are delighted to see a crowd full of happy faces. We are thinking of new ways to make next year's event just as fun-filled and enjoyable. We hope that the public joins us in eagerly anticipating next year's NRWCS!"

During the event, Air Force News caught up with some of the participants to see what they had to say...



Who: Operations Officer, Fighter Group, LTC Gan Eng Leong, and family (left).

"NRWCS is an event which I attend every year with my family. They are always very interested to learn more about what I do as a RSAF serviceman and NRWCS gives them a glimpse of my role in the RSAF, in a fun and informal setting."

Who: Base Chief Warrant Officer, Air Power Generation Command – Paya Lebar Air Base, MWO Andre Ravi, and family (right).

"It's always good to start the day in a healthy way and I believe that exercising as a family helps to bring it together. I will keep coming back and so will my family!"



Who: 1SG(NS) Seah Boon Ding, a National Serviceman from Aircraft Specialist Maintenance Squadron, Air Logistics Group – Rotary Wing.

"I came here to have fun and I sure did! I saw many friends from my squadron and had a great time catching up with them, to reminisce the good old times."



National Runway Cycling and Skating 2009



Who: Course Manager, Aviation Management and Services, Temasek Aviation and Aerospace Centre, Temasek Polytechnic, Mr Paul Yap. Mr Yap led the largest group participating in NRWCS, consisting of 109 students from his course.

"NRWCS is an event that Temasek Polytechnic supports strongly. My students' field of studies involves aviation and NRWCS provides an opportunity for them to take a look at runway lightings, signages and markings. It is perhaps the only place in the world where we can get such a close view of a runway!"

Who: Mr Ogston Sewart, a foreign visitor from Tasmania who came specially for the event.

"I've skated all over the world but never did I imagine that an air force would let the public skate on its runway. I came to Singapore specifically to participate in this event and I'm going to keep coming back every year!"



Who: Ms Yam Yih Ling (1st from right) and Ms Yam Yueon Choon (2nd from right), daughters of Mr Yam Lye Chee who, at 87 years of age, was the oldest participant at NRWCS. Pictured together with them was Mr Yam's grandson, Yam Guo Liang.

"My father cycles every morning and has cycled for many years on his own. NRWCS has been memorable and special for us as we were able to come as a family to celebrate Father's Day by doing something my father enjoys."

Defence Management Systems Course 2009



Photo taken at the DMSC 09 opening ceremony: Participants include foreigners from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, China, India and the United States.

The Defence Management Systems Course (DMSC), held from 13 Apr – 30 Apr 09 at the National Service Resort and Country Club (NSRCC), saw a total of 60 participants from MINDEF/SAF, Defence Science and Technology Agency, Defence Science Organisation, Singapore Technologies, various government ministries and foreign countries. This is the first time foreign participants attended the DMSC.

Apart from enabling participants to examine the concepts, challenges and skills required in defence and technology, the course also aims to promote networking among officers from the organisations represented.

During the opening ceremony held at Air Force School Auditorium, the Guest-of-Honour, Permanent Secretary for Defence Development [PS(DD)], Dr Tan Kim Siew, said, "This DMSC grooms our people in the defence ecosystems to speak a common language, which is a necessary 1st step in achieving ecosystem-wide integration."



One of the course participants, Deputy Commanding Officer, Air Logistics Squadron, Air Defence Operations Command, LTC (then



MAJ) Liew Hin Ban, shared his views on the course. "This course widened my network of contacts in the military and defence industries and equipped me with valuable knowledge on the complexity of the defence system through the case-studies shared," he said.



Mr Ryan Eric Brookes, a participant from Defence Technology Agency of the New Zealand Defence Force, added, "Apart from networking with personnel from other Air Forces, I'm also quite keen to learn more about management systems and how I can apply them when I return."

The DMSC concluded with a graduation and closing ceremony at the NSRCC on 30 Apr 09. The ceremony was graced by Permanent Secretary for Defence, Mr Chiang Chie Foo.

SAF Day Parade 2009



President S R Nathan inspecting the RSAF Guard-of-Honour.

SAF Day Parade 2009 was held on 1 Jul 09 at SAFTI Military Institute Parade Square with over 3,000 regulars, Full-time National Servicemen and NSmen taking part. The event, which was organised by Air Power Generation Command, was officiated by President S R Nathan.

Explaining the significance of this event, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, said in his SAF Day Message: "SAF Day commemorates and recognises our men and women in uniform – regulars and national servicemen – who carry out the mission of the SAF with excellence, professionalism and fighting spirit."



of being part of a parade officiated by the President is also a rewarding experience!"

This year's RSAF Guard-of-Honour Contingent Commander, CPT Mark Koh, is a Staff Officer from Air Logistics Department. "The experience of motivating my contingent during the rehearsals has taught me how to manage my men and upholding the key thrusts of CARDINAL in my leadership. Besides that, the chance



of being part of a parade officiated by the President is also a rewarding experience!"

A first time participant of the marching contingent, PTE Benjamin Wong, a Force Protection Trooper from Sembawang Air Base's Field Defence Squadron, gushed, "Being part of the Guard-of-Honour contingent is an interesting and fun experience, especially when you're right in front, standing proud for the RSAF. Apart from that, I also appreciate the symbolism behind the 3 Services coming together as one to commemorate this day," he said.



of being part of a parade officiated by the President is also a rewarding experience!"

Explaining his reason for volunteering to be part of a marching contingent, LCP Pereira Ashley, a Force Protection Trooper from Paya Lebar Air Base's Field Defence Squadron, shared his sentiments, "I volunteered as I was motivated by my family members' previous participation in the National Day Parade's marching contingent. Though the training was tough, I felt honoured to be part of the Guard-of-Honour as not many would have such an opportunity."

During the parade, CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, led the SAF personnel in reciting the SAF pledge to reaffirm their loyalty to the nation and their commitment to the



CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, leading SAF personnel in reciting the SAF pledge together with CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, COA, MG Neo Kian Hong, and CNV, RADM Chew Men Leong.

defence of Singapore. DPM Teo, also presented the Best Unit Awards and the SAF Best NSmen of the Year Awards to the winners.

From the RSAF, 144 SQN, 112 SQN and 3rd Divisional Air Defence Artillery Battalion were the winners of the Best Fighter Squadron, Best Tactical Support Squadron and Best Ground-Based Air Defence Unit Awards respectively, while CPT(NS) Lim Say Wei and SSG(NS) Gwee Geok Hwee were the winners of the SAF NSmen of the Year Awards.

Before the parade, the SAF Day Combined Rededication Ceremonies were held at four locations around Singapore. During the ceremony, over 850 NSmen from 180 companies and their employers reaffirmed their commitment to the defence of Singapore.

DPM Teo, who officiated at the first ceremony held at the Singapore Chinese Orchestra Concert Hall, said in his SAF Day Rededication Speech: "The support from employers and family members for National Service underpins its success. During difficult economic times, this support, which makes it possible for our National Servicemen to focus on their training and operational duties, is even more important. The SAF thus owes its strength to all Singaporeans, who have proven steadfast and true in their commitment to national defence. This spirit of unity and solidarity will enable us to overcome any difficulties and come out stronger."

From the RSAF, the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command was the supporting unit for the ceremony held at Orchid Country Club. This ceremony, which led 160 NSmen in the recitation of the SAF pledge, was officiated by Minister for Finance, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam. CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern and other senior officers were also present at this ceremony.



CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, reciting the SAF pledge at the SAF Day Combined Rededication Ceremony held at Orchid Country Club.

SAF Learning Festival



CDF, LG Desmond Kuek and CAF, MG, listening intently to an explanation by Head Air Training, COL (then LTC) Leong Kum Wah at the RSAF booth.

"Realising the 3rd Generation SAF Training – Delivering the Edge" was the theme of the inaugural SAF Learning Festival, which was officiated by CDF, LG Desmond Kuek. Held from 25 – 26 Jun 09 at SAFTI Military Institute (SAFTI MI), the festival aimed to showcase the SAF's 3rd Generation training and development advances, while reinforcing the SAF's image as a leading educational, learning and training organisation. Explaining how the idea of a learning festival was conceived, the festival's chairman, COL Chiang Hock Woon, said, "The SAF recognised that the learning media and methods of the 21st century soldier have changed. This event aims to showcase strategies for leaders to understand their soldiers' learning style and to engage them better."

At the Exhibition Hub in the Warriors' Hall, the Training Command of each of the 3 Services put up a comprehensive display of their training and development ideas. At the RSAF's booth, participants were able to try the PC-21 Desktop Trainer, experience the PC-21 Debriefing System, and see how the Training Management System is currently used to track and analyse a trainee's progress.



Commenting on the uniqueness of this festival, Mr Michael Hanna, an external exhibitor for the RSAF from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, remarked, "Comparing to similar festivals open to the general public, the participants at this festival are SAF personnel who will be using our products in their transformation in training. As an exhibitor, it feels gratifying to be able to



COL Yeo, speaking during the RSAF's session on 'The 3rd Generation RSAF's Training Transformation' in the Conference Hub.



CDF, LG Desmond Kuek and CAF, MG Ng, viewing the Virtual Reality Aircraft Recognition System, while Commander, Air Force School, COL Yeo, points out an aircraft to SAF Learning Festival Overall Chairman, COL Chiang.

engage more with them in that context." On hearing the benefits of the Training Management System, OCT Timothy Ng from the Officer Cadet School's Army Wing suggested, "I think it'll be great if the Training Management System could be implemented across all 3 Services!"



Participants were also able to experience Air Traffic Control (ATC), Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), and Aircraft Recognition simulators. Sergeant-Major Michel Pickett from the United States Army, who is currently on an exchange programme here, said, "The ATC Simulator is an impressive set-up and a good representation of an air traffic controller's job." After inquiring about the specifications of the ATC simulator, SCT Gordon Koh from the RSN's Institute of Maritime Operations and Systems exclaimed, "What really sparked my interest was the fact that a more elaborate system with a 360 degree view is used by trainees in Air Force School!"



As part of the SAF Learning Festival, master classes, discussions and presentations were also held at the Conference Hub in SAF Advanced Schools. Emphasising the purpose of the conference, Conference Chairman, Mr Koh Lin Kee, said, "We want to instill into the participants a heightened awareness of learning pedagogies, which they can put to use in their training methods." During the conference which was officiated by Commandant SAFTI MI, BG Jimmy Tan, renowned speakers from local and foreign universities and institutes spoke on the 21st century learning practices used in engaging 'Generation Y' learners.



In response to the talks on Generation Y, LTA Raphael Leong, a Project Officer from Air Operations Department, said, "I consider myself part of Generation Y and I'm sure the RSAF's efforts to embrace the Generation Y will definitely reap results for both myself and the RSAF." 2WO

SAF Learning Festival



Tan Check Hwee from 121 SQN, who attended the session by Professor David Hung on 'New Models for Learning in the 21st Century', said, "I've learnt quite a few communication techniques which can be applied to my work."

The Commander of each Service's Training Command also gave presentations on their respective transformations in training. Commander Air Force School, COL Yeo Yee Peng, and Head Air Training, COL (then LTC) Leong Kum Wah, spoke on 'The 3rd Generation RSAF's Training Transformation', and held a question-and-answer session to address the questions raised by the participants. "I think conducting all the training under one roof allows greater interaction and integration among the different vocations," CPT Ang Peng Peng, an Air Engineering Officer from Air Force School, said regarding the RSAF's



new training structure. "This would enhance the trainees' learning experience."

Both the Exhibition and Conference Hub, organised by Officer Cadet School and Centre for Learning and Military Education respectively, provided opportunities for the sharing and networking of ideas across all the Services and varying levels of Command in the SAF.



Conducted using a Café style set-up, Master classes allowed personnel from all 3 Services to share their learning experiences openly.

SAF Commanders' Sports Day and SAFSA Logo Unveiling



RSAF personnel participating in the 3km ONE SAF Run.

The 2nd SAF Commanders' Sports Day was held on 17 Apr 09 at SAFTI Military Institute. The event, organised by Singapore Armed Forces Sports Association (SAFSA), was attended by personnel from all three Services. It provided an opportunity for participants to engage in friendly competition in sports and games, hence building esprit de corps and team cohesion.

After completing warm-up exercises, personnel participated in the 3 km ONE SAF Run. Participants then split up for the various games, including football and swimming. Inter-Service competitions, including a Golf Accuracy Chipping Competition, a Falling Plates Shooting Competition, and a Chain-of-Command Relay were also held, with the RCAF coming in 2nd for the Falling Plates Shooting Competition.



The RCAF came in 2nd for the Falling Plates Shooting Competition.



CPT Seah Geok Huay, an instructor at Air Force School, shared, "The SAF Commanders' Sports Day is one of the few events whereby personnel from all three Services come together for informal bonding. Through the sports and games that we participated in, we were able to get to know one another better."



Air Defence Systems Specialist, 163 SQN, 2WO Soh Tiam Kee, agreed, "Through this event, I have made more friends, within the RCAF and with personnel from the other Services. For the Air Force, I feel that our core value of Team Excellence really showed as we worked together



CDF, LG Kuek, launched the new SAFSA logo at the SAF Commanders' Sports Day.

and tried our best in the sports and games."



Commented SAF Sergeant Major, SWO Jeffrey Chung, "As men and women of the SAF, all of us work together daily to defend Singapore, building professional relationships. However, such events allow us to bond together on a personal level, and such bonds are also necessary for us to become ONE SAF. I'm definitely looking forward to next year's sports day!"

Following the conclusion of the sports and games segments, the new SAFSA logo was launched by CDF, LG Desmond Kuek. The event concluded with a dialogue session with LG Kuek.

RSAF – AAIS Job Transition Fair

On 4 Jun 09, the RSAF and the Association of Aerospace Industries Singapore (AAIS) collaborated to bring the RSAF – AAIS Job Transition Fair to Paya Lebar Air Base, for relevant personnel who have recently left service, or are about to leave service.

The fair attracted local and international aerospace corporations and training institutions, like Singapore Technologies Aerospace, Goodrich Aerostructures Services Center Asia Pte Ltd, Singapore Aero Engine Services Pte Ltd (SAESL), Aerospec Supplies Pte Ltd and Air Transport Training College.

Organising such fairs is part of the RSAF's initiative to help its personnel transit to their second careers. Senior



Technician at Air Logistics Group – Fixed Wing 1, 1SG Loh Yih Wei, said of the RSAF's initiative, "This is proof of the type of organisation that the RSAF is. It shows concern for the career and well-being of all its personnel, even those who are about to leave. Holding this job fair is one of many attempts to give personnel like us, who are leaving, more options to consider for our second career."

The fair is held annually and serves to create a bridge between personnel leaving service and commercial employers who wish to employ personnel with specialised skill sets. Ms Chiu, a Human Resource Executive at SAESL, explained how ex-RSAF personnel have benefited her organisation, "Some of the RSAF technicians have specific skill sets like engine knowledge. For them, within a very short time they are already able to work on their own. For RSAF personnel with less specific skill sets, they are also able to be independent in just 2 to 3 months with some training and supervision."



Ms Chiu telling interested personnel more about SAESL.

Farewell Dinner for RSAF Senior Officers



BG(NS) Chee Wee Kiong (left) and COL(NS) Kow (right) enjoying a conversation with MG Ng over dinner.

A farewell dinner was held for senior officers from the RSAF on 8 May 09, at the Sembawang Air Base Officers' Mess. Hosted by CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, and senior commanders from the RSAF, the dinner was held in recognition of the contributions that the senior officers had made during their tenure with the RSAF.



COL(NS) Albert Kow receiving his plaque from MG Ng after the dinner.

These contributions were not without reciprocation, a fact that officers like COL(NS) Albert Kow appreciate deeply. The veteran with 34 years of experience, who was last Chief of Staff, HQ Integrated Area Defence Systems and Commander Tactical Air Support Command before that, described his experience with the RSAF, "I joined

the RSAF when I was only 16 years old and left it with the experience, knowledge, training, exposure and spirit of what it takes to be successful. The RSAF helped me grow up in my early years and when I first joined the organisation, it taught me the meaning of what it means to be determined and focused, as well as the true meaning of dealing with challenges. Above all, these experiences, its principles, values and thought processes are applicable in my daily life as well."

During the dinner, MG Ng presented each senior officer with a farewell gift, which was either a plaque, or an aircraft model. MG Ng's wife, Mrs Elaine Ng, presented the tokens of appreciation to wives who were present.

Intelligence Officer (Air-Int) Communication Session and Medallion Presentation



The panel for the dialogue session consisted of BG Tan, COL Tham, COL Lim, COL Tam and MAJ Ng.

On 28 Apr 09, an Intelligence Officer (Air-Int) [IO(Air-Int)] communication session and medallion presentation was held at Tengah Air Base Briefing Hall. The session aimed to provide updates to the IO(Air-Int) community on recent developments.

Additionally, new members were inaugurated into the community as 21 new IO(Air-Int)s received their medallions from Director Military Intelligence, BG Tan Meng Dui, who was Guest-of-Honour of the event. The day's proceedings concluded with a dialogue session, with BG Tan, COL Tham Chong Yean from Joint Intelligence Department, Commander Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command, COL Lim Tuang Liang, Head Air Intelligence, COL Tam Peng Yew, and Branch Head (Designate) in Air Manpower Department, MAJ Ng Boon Ching. The dialogue session allowed the participants to clarify any concerns or related issues on their vocation.

A Step Towards Their Dreams – The SYFC Wings and Aviation Awards Ceremony



The two student speakers, Lee Yun Hui (left) and Bertrand Na (right), posing with the Piper Warrior II aircraft.

For 31 students at the Singapore Youth Flying Club (SYFC), 25 Apr 09 marked a milestone in their aviation goals as they received their Private Pilot's License (PPL) from Minister of State for Defence, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, during the SYFC Wings and Aviation Awards Ceremony, held at SYFC, Seletar West Camp.

Besides the PPLs, Associate Professor Koo also presented the awards for Best in Flying, Best in Ground School as well as Certificates of Recognition to Singapore Youth Flying Club teachers. In addition, the Singapore Technologies (ST) Excellence Awards were presented by Executive Vice President (Aircraft Maintenance and Modification), ST Aerospace, Mr Lim Serh Ghee. Recipient of the Best in Ground School award and one of two speakers, Bertrand Na from Raffles Junior College said of the significance

of the PPL and his future aspiration, "I had always considered joining the RSAF and my time in SYFC as well as my achievement of getting the PPL have firmed my decision to do so as I have experienced real flight and proved my aptitude for it."

The other speaker, Lee Yun Hui of National University of Singapore High School, said of flying after getting her PPL, "My father is a commercial pilot while the style of flying in SYFC is somewhat more militarised. When I compare what I know of commercial and military flying, there are differences and what really appeals to me now is that the RSAF is much more versatile and hands-on."

Since its establishment in 1971, SYFC has conducted 239 flying courses and trained over 5100 student pilots, with 783 of them receiving the coveted PPL. The fact that about a quarter of RSAF pilots, as well as many commercial pilots, were once SYFC members is a display of how SYFC is a relevant source of talent for the RSAF and the nation's aviation industry.



Reflecting on his views of a future with the RSAF, Alexander Michael Goetze, cadet at Officer Cadet School and former student at St Andrew's Junior College, said, "Besides the exhilaration of flight, joining the RSAF puts me amongst the elite and having attained our PPLs, we have gotten the recognition that after balancing studies and flying, we can do it. The RSAF seems like the best medium through which we can maximise our potential."

SYFC Familiarisation Flight



Tan Keng Liang (1st from left) and Jonathan Tan (3rd from left) were treated to a flight on board 140 SQN's F-16D fighter aircraft.

On 5 June 09, two young aspiring pilots were given an exclusive opportunity to fly on board the RSAF F-16D Fighting Falcon. At 19 years of age, Jonathan Tan of Singapore Polytechnic and Tan Keng Liang of Temasek Polytechnic, had the most enviable opportunity to experience up to 9-Gs during the flight. Hosted by 140 SQN at Tengah Air Base, the familiarisation flight serves as a reward to trainees of the Singapore Youth Flying Club

(SYFC) who have shown outstanding performance and dedication to their flying training.

"It was definitely an exhilarating experience – the Gs and the capability of the F-16 were simply astounding! It was a whole new perspective of Singapore up there!" said Jonathan who has signed up with the RSAF. Sharing the same sentiments was Keng Liang, who has also decided to join the RSAF, "It is a privilege for us to pilot such a robust and agile aircraft, and we are very thankful for this familiarisation flight."



Reflecting on how the lessons taught in SYFC had helped steer his career path towards the RSAF is Khee Zi Yang of Anglo-Chinese School (Independent). "SYFC sparks our interest in aviation and together with our passion and dedication towards our flying training, it will prepare us trainees for what is to come when we join the Air Force."

The RSAF collaborates with SYFC through such activities as a form of encouragement to SYFC trainees to further excel in their flying training and raise their awareness of career opportunities in the RSAF.

Officers' and Warrant Officers' Promotion Ceremonies

SAF Officers' Promotion Ceremony



BG Kwek receiving his certificate of promotion from DPM Teo.

The annual SAF Officers' Promotion Ceremony was held at the MINDEF Auditorium on 25 Jun 09. The SAF Officers' Promotion Ceremony saw 464 officers, including 36 RSAF officers, promoted to their next higher rank of LTC and above. 189 junior officers, including Regulars and Operationally-Ready National Servicemen (NSmen), were also promoted to their next higher rank of CPT or MAJ. The promotions took effect from 1 Jul 09.

During the promotion ceremony, DPM and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, and CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, presented the certificates of promotion to officers promoted to the ranks of COL and above, and officers promoted to the rank of LTC, respectively.

One of the five Colonels to receive their BG rank from DPM Teo, was Commander, Air Defence and Operations Command, BG (then COL) Kwek Kok Kwong. BG Kwek shared on what continues to draw him to the RSAF, even after 23 years of service, "Defending the country is a very honourable task which I find very fulfilling and meaningful, and that is what keeps me going ... Also, a profession in the SAF offers the unique opportunity to lead big operations with a big group of people towards a common vision or mission. This is a very enriching and unique experience. To me, this experience is one that few other organisations can offer."

It is from such an experience that personnel are given the encouragement and opportunity to strive for excellence. Head Air Plans, COL (then LTC) Mervyn Tan, explained the motivation in his work that allows him to excel, "My department is one that thinks ahead of how best to position the organisation to ensure the strength and health of the capabilities that we acquire. The sheer importance of the responsibility is motivation enough for us to do our best."



The annual promotion ceremony reflects the emphasis that MINDEF places on rewarding and grooming officers who have performed well and demonstrated the potential and commitment to hold key leadership positions in the 3rd Generation SAF. It is with this knowledge that officers like Branch Head in Air Plans Department, LTC (then MAJ) Adrian Toh, are assured that they have been doing the right thing. LTC Toh said of his promotion, "The SAF promotes officers



based on their merit as well as potential. To me, this is the organisation's affirmation of what I have done and what I can further contribute to the SAF. With this, I'm grateful and stoked to continue doing what I have been doing; perhaps even better and to a wider scope for the organisation."



Agreeing with LTC Toh was Programme Manager, Defence Science and Technology Agency, LTC (then MAJ) Dilipkumar, who said, "The promotion serves as a confidence booster to motivate me even further as I know that the effort that I have been putting in is being acknowledged. This serves as a booster for me to carry on what I have been doing and to strive to contribute even more."



Deputy Commanding Officer, Air Logistics Squadron, ADOC, LTC (then MAJ) Liew Hin Ban, spoke of the SAF's emphasis on promotion by merit, he said, "The organisation practises meritocracy and it is because of this principle that people can progress through the ranks and are able to upgrade themselves. Case in point is that I started out as a Senior Technician with a diploma and along the way the organisation sponsored me for a degree programme to eventually be an Air Engineering Officer. This holistic and meritocratic way of developing people is one of the hallmarks of the SAF."



Family support is also important for many officers and is something that Branch Head in ADOC, LTC (then MAJ) Tan Yen Ling, is glad to be blessed with. LTC Tan said, "Managing work and life will always be a challenging issue, so I am glad that I have had very strong support from my family these past years. It also helps that my husband understands the nature of my work, especially when I have to go off for duty at short notice or in the middle of the night."



DPM Teo interacting with some of the newly promoted generals and their spouses [from left - Commander, 6th Singapore Division, BG (then COL) Ishak bin Ismail, Commander, Maritime Security Task Force, BG (then COL) Tan Wee Beng, and BG Kwek]

Officers' and Warrant Officers' Promotion Ceremonies



NSmen were also recognised for their contributions to the organisation as they received their respective promotions. Deputy Commanding Officer, Field Defence Squadron – Paya Lebar Air Base, MAJ(NS) (then CPT) Hui Choon Kuen, was pleased with his promotion and the new dimensions it allows him to explore. MAJ Chui said, "I am grateful for this recognition and the opportunity to serve my country even more as I am able to take on a wider range of responsibilities and contribute to the RSAF in more and different ways than before."



A big step forward for her career, the promotion was something Military Psychologist at Applied Behavioural Sciences Department, MAJ Boh Lee Wee, was grateful for. She elaborated, "The best way to show my gratitude to the organisation is to continue to put in my best in my current appointment, as well as in future appointments."

Air Force News congratulates all officers who have been promoted and wishes them all the best in their careers and future endeavours!

Warrant Officers' Promotion Ceremony



MWO John Lee receiving his promotion certificate from CDF, LG Desmond Kuek.

208 Warrant Officers, comprising 48 RSAF personnel, were promoted on 19 Jun 09 at the Warrant Officers Promotion Ceremony held at The Chevrons. During the ceremony, Warrant Officers who were promoted from MWO to SWO received their promotion certificates from Minister of State for Defence, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee. CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, presented the certificates to those promoted from 2WO to 1WO, and from 1WO to MWO.

Warrant Officers are an integral part of the SAF, playing a pivotal role in ensuring the efficiency and operational readiness of the SAF units. The annual Warrant Officers Promotion Ceremony, which is attended by various senior SAF and MINDEF officers, serves to recognise the effort and contributions of the Warrant Officer Corps.

Flight Engineer from 122 SQN, newly-promoted 1WO Rezel Brian Luke, shared his sentiments on being promoted, "I'm really overjoyed that I have been promoted today. I've always made the effort to be dedicated and committed to the RSAF and I'm glad that my efforts have been recognised. I look forward to contributing to the RSAF in an increased capacity in the future."

Besides recognising the efforts of dedicated Warrant Officers through promotion, the RSAF also provides opportunities for deserving Warrant Officers to upgrade themselves. Staff Officer, Air Training Department, and newly-promoted MWO John Lee, is amongst those who have been sponsored to study for a Bachelor's Degree under the CLASS programme. "I am thankful to the RSAF for this opportunity to pursue a degree in Aerosystems. My studies in this field will definitely help me in my



1WO Aw Lay Yan receiving her promotion certificate from CDF, LG Desmond Kuek.

career in the RSAF. The opportunity to study under the CLASS programme, and the privilege of being promoted today is not only a recognition of my effort, it also opens up the possibility of contributing in an increased capacity to the RSAF in the future," said MWO Lee.

As a forward-looking organisation, the RSAF has made plans to ensure that the career path of its Warrant Officer Corps is well taken care of. Shared Deputy Flight Warrant Officer, Air Defence and Operations Command, newly-promoted 1WO Aw Lay Yan, on her feelings about being in the SAF's new career schemes, "I will be signing up for the Military Domain Experts Scheme and am excited about the career opportunities that it opens up. The scheme truly shows that the RSAF always has its people's interests at heart."

Air Force News extends its heartiest congratulations to all promoted Warrant Officers and wishes them the best in their future endeavours!



CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, presenting the promotion certificate to 1WO Rezel Brian Luke

The RSAF Best Units 2009

Best Fighter Squadron – 144 SQN



The Blackites of 144 SQN work together as a team to achieve excellence.

144 SQN bagged the award for the third time. Once again, they proved that operating an older fleet of aircraft is no barrier to being the best. The squadron, which operates the F-5S/T fighter aircraft, emerged top in this year's Best Fighter Squadron competition.

Inaugurated in 1979, 144 SQN commenced its operations with the F-5E/F fighter aircraft at Tengah Air Base. In 1985, the squadron moved to Paya Lebar Air Base where it became the first RSAF squadron to operate the multi-role supersonic F-5S/T fighter aircraft. Tasked with air-to-air and air-to-ground missions, the squadron's primary role is in air defence.

Best Tactical Support Squadron – 112 SQN



The squadron faced harsh conditions, such as sandstorms, during their deployments to the Gulf, but that did not stop them from performing exceptionally.

Into its 9th year of operations, 112 SQN has achieved the title of the Best Tactical Support Squadron, an honour they last received in 2006. Operating the KC-135 platform, 112 SQN provides air-to-air refuelling support to a large variety of aircraft types. This has made the squadron invaluable not only to the nation's defence but also to the various overseas operations that the SAF conducts.

Despite operating the largest platform in the RSAF, 112 SQN is a relatively small unit in terms of personnel strength. However, to Commanding Officer, LTC Zakir Hamid, this is no disadvantage but rather a factor that pushes the squadron to strive for even greater heights. Speaking about

Best Ground Based Air Defence Unit – 3 DA Bn



A commander searches the skies with his binoculars while a gunner performs sentry duties on a well-camouflaged V200 vehicle mounted with the RBS-70 system.

A 'Hat-Trick' would best describe 3rd Divisional Air Defence Artillery Battalion's (3 DA Bn) achievement this year, having won the Best Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) Unit Award consecutively for the past 3 years.



Commanding Officer, MAJ Garrick New, shared how a strong family culture which centred around the motto, 'You'll never walk alone', was 3 DA Bn's key ingredient of success. "There is always this

The RSAF Best Units 2009

The essence of the 144 SQN spirit is encapsulated in its adopted mascot, the Blackite. A mysterious bird that is unpredictable and deadly, it strikes its prey with precision and deadliness. The Blackite exemplifies the spirit of team excellence, perseverance, dedication and professionalism. Shared Pilot, LTA Zhang Zhewei, "Everyone from 144 SQN readily identifies himself as a 'Blackite'. This common identity serves to remind each 'Blackite' to be capable and ready to serve the squadron to the best of his ability."



Flight-Line Crew, 1SG Leong Quan Sheng, echoed LTA Zhang's sentiments, "We don't make a distinction between pilots and ground crew as we are all part of the squadron. Through dialogue sessions, as well as other activities, we build the right connections to work efficiently and effectively with one another."



In such a cohesive environment, it is no wonder that the joy of winning the title of Best Fighter Squadron is shared amongst all. Said Chief Warrant Officer (CWO), 144 SQN, 1WO Elangovan, "We are all delighted to have won! As CWO, I help equip the men not just with skills, but also with the knowledge that our role is critical to the nation's security, and hence Singapore's success. I'm glad that they have understood, and have all done their best."



"In my squadron, we work hard not to win accolades but to fulfil the overall mission entrusted to us – to defend Singapore," explained Commanding Officer, 144 SQN, LTC Chia Shih Koon. "We do this by developing each member into a professional, instilling in them team excellence, and ensuring that everyone understands the mission and has a clear understanding of his role in the mission. I am honoured that everyone has played their part in achieving Best Fighter Squadron this year."



his squadron, LTC Zakir shared, "We have developed a keen ability to multi-task effectively. Each individual is entrusted and empowered to determine the course of the squadron. I believe it is a result of the commitment and desire to win the award by each individual in 112 SQN that made us successful."

The success of the squadron is not just a recognition of the excellence that it has displayed, but also acts as a motivation for the squadron to continue to do its best. Deputy Officer Commanding, CPT Daniel Quek, described his feelings, as well as those of his men, "We are really excited that 112 SQN has received this award. It shows that our hard work and commitment have paid off. Personally, this award assures me that I have been taking the right approach



in my job and that I should not only maintain but also seek to improve standards in the future."



One of the hallmarks of success for 112 SQN and an indication of the squadron's commendable ability to operate at multiple fronts is its support of reconstruction efforts in the Gulf. Chief Warrant Officer and Boom Leader, 1WO Bhonesveran, related on how the squadron rose up to the challenges faced, "One of the challenges the squadron faced was the deployment to the Gulf. We thoroughly prepared ourselves to complete the operation successfully and safely, always keeping the national flag flying high."

It is a close-knit team that produces the results and in the words of LTC Zakir, their motto, 'Determined to Deliver', symbolises the values and strengths of the men of 112 SQN, and "represents our pledge towards a common objective and a desired outcome."

willingness among our people to help one another in achieving a common goal because of this family culture that we're committed to," he said.



Winning this award for the 5th time in total is evident of a passionate and committed team behind 3 DA Bn's daily operations. Air Defence Weapons Operator, CPL Low Tian Chin, said, "I'm willing to give my best for 3 DA Bn because I feel part of this unit. Our superiors have also set good examples for us to follow, which has helped us in always doing our best."

Providing air defence for the nation is one of the key missions of the RSAF which 3 DA Bn has supported well. "It proves that we're not a flash in a pan," Battery



Sergeant Major, 2WO Ong Kok Wah, said, as he explained how their three-time win was representative of 3 DA Bn's excellence in operational readiness. "We've a solid foundation in quality and safety, and dedicated people," he said.



CPT Ong Kheng Lee, a Platoon Commander, added how clinching the award was a challenge when 3 DA Bn started 24/7 operational duties. "It took a great deal of effort in winning this award and many of us were overwhelmed with joy on hearing the results," he said. "Now, we're motivated to clinch this award again next year!"

RCGC and RGDI 02/09



CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, together with RSAF Senior Officers and graduands of the second RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony of the year 2009.

75 graduands received their Certificates, Vocational Wings, Brevets and Ceremonial Swords from the Guest-of-Honour, CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, at the RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony (RCGC). The ceremony, held on 21 May 09 at Air Force Museum, was followed by the RSAF Graduation Dining-In (RGDI), which was held at the Paya Lebar Officers' Mess. Best Trainees of the respective courses were also recognised at the ceremony with MG Ng presenting the awards to them.

Best Trainee of the 16th UAV Wings Course, CPT Victor Chen, shared his sentiments, "The course has helped me to develop as a leader and relate better to the RSAF's Core Values. The challenges faced during the course had also developed a stronger sense of determination and perseverance in me," he said.

Best Trainee of the 28th Weapon Systems Officer (C3) Aerodrome/Par Course, OCT Zhang Yingliang, found his vocation unique for a Full-Time National Serviceman. He shared his sentiments, "I felt very fortunate to be part of the RSAF because of the strong bonds we share with our instructors. With that in mind, I developed a strong motivation to do well."

Best Trainee of the 25th Weapon Systems Officer (C3) Course, OCT Jason Kan, said, "Every time I felt like giving up, I would remind myself that I've a family that would always support me, and how much I want them to be at my commissioning parade," he said. His father, Mr Frankie Kan, commented that his son has matured and become more disciplined after joining the RSAF. "He has benefited so much from joining the RSAF. I'm confident that this is the right place for him."



Explaining why he chose to take up the 15th Air Logistics Officer (Technical) Course, Best Trainee, OCT Choo Zhi Zhong, said, "I didn't want my job to be purely engineering. The job of an Air Engineering Officer is very dynamic and challenging, and also gives me many leadership opportunities."

Best Trainee of the 30th Weapon Systems Officer (Air Defence Artillery) Course, OCT Sanatana S/O Veeraya, shared an interesting perspective. "Professionalism is a very unique core value. It binds the rest of the core values together, and also encompasses everything from the way we work and play to the way we think and act," he explained.

LTA Bronson Teh, the Best Trainee of the 133rd Fighter Wings Course, said, "I achieved this award because I enjoyed what I did, and



because of that, I was always very interested to find out more, and hence, I did better each time." During his 2-year training overseas, his girlfriend, Meldys Tan, was one of his pillars of support. "When he felt stressed during his training in France or Australia, I would call him to encourage him or just provide a listening ear," she said.

The RGDI ceremony was preceded by a symbolic mixing of the Air Force Spirits by Commander Air Force School, COL Yeo Yee Peng, and witnessed by CAF, MG Ng. After the mixing, the graduands proceeded to the Paya Lebar Officers' Mess for the RGDI. During the dining-in, the Distinguished Speaker, COL(NS) Kelvin Teoh, gave an inspiring speech to motivate and prepare the graduands for officership in the RSAF.

Air Force News congratulates all graduands and wishes them the best in their future endeavours!

Best Trainees for RCGC 02/09



Name (From left to right)	Category
OCT Choo Zhi Zhong	15 th Air Logistics Officer (Technical) Course
OCT Kan Jia Sheng Jason	25 th Weapon Systems Officer (C3) Course
LTA Bronson Teh	133 rd Fighter Wings Course
CPT Victor Chen Kanghao	16 th UAV Wings Course
OCT Zhang Yingliang	28 th Weapon Systems Officer (C3) Aerodrome/Par Course
OCT Sanatana S/O Veeraya	30 th Weapon Systems Officer (Air Defence Artillery) Course

Joint Warrant Officers Course



Directing Staff and RSAF graduands of the 39th JWOC posing for a group photo.

41 RSAF Master Sergeants out of a course of 153 were promoted to the rank of 2WO at the 39th Joint Warrant Officers Course (JWOC) Promotion Ceremony held on 16 Jun 09 at The Chevrons. Guest-of-Honour, COA, MG Neo Kian Hong, presented promotion certificates to all the newly promoted personnel. This year, four RSAF graduands, 2WO (then MSG) Sabastian Tan, 2WO (then MSG) Chia Hui Joo, 2WO (then MSG) Gavral Gan and 2WO (then MSG) Chua Hui Kia, were awarded the Distinguished Graduand award, which was given to students who graduated in the top 10 percent of their Service.



The two-month course aims to equip its students with skills and knowledge to serve in the SAF as Warrant Officers. For Senior Technician, Air Logistics Group – Fixed Wing 2, 2WO Gavral

Gan, the course was especially useful in honing his leadership skills, as he was appointed as Course Leader for the RSAF students. "As Course Leader, I was given the responsibility to lead the RSAF students in various areas during the course. This is similar to my future role as a Warrant Officer, where I will be expected to lead the next generation of soldiers and airmen," said 2WO Gan.

While students are expected to prepare academically for the various tests, assignments and projects during the course, they are also encouraged to interact with their course mates from all three Services. Said Senior Technician, Airfield Maintenance Squadron – Changi Air Base, 2WO Chia Hui Joo, "While the skills and knowledge we have gained during the course will definitely prove to be useful, I believe what is equally important are the bonds that I have



forged with my course mates. The friendship and the understanding that we have built with one another during the JWOC will definitely help us when we work with one another in the future."

Among the four Distinguished Graduands was Senior Technician, Air Logistics



Group – Fixed Wing 2, 2WO Sabastian Tan. 2WO Tan was also awarded the Overall Best in Knowledge award. He shared, "To be chosen to attend the JWOC and to have the opportunity to

learn from experienced instructors and Directing Staff has been a privilege for all of us. I believe that we are all looking forward to beginning a new phase of our career as Warrant Officers!"

Air Force News congratulates all JWOC graduands on their promotion to Warrant Officers and wishes them the best in their future appointments.

Officer Cadet Commissioning Parade



Newly commissioned 2LT Sanatana S/O Veeraya was all smiles as he posed with his family members.

530 officer cadets were commissioned at the SAFTI Military Institute on 13 Jun 09. Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Professor S. Jayakumar, reviewed the commissioning parade which included 71 Air Force

officer cadets. The parade marked the completion of 38 weeks of rigorous training, through which the officer cadets could develop their combat, planning and leadership skills.

From the RSAF, the Sword-of-Honour (SOH) recipients were OCT Sanatana S/O Veeraya of the 30th Weapon Systems Officer (Air Defence Artillery) Course, OCT Jason Kan of the 25th Weapon Systems Officer (Command, Control and Communication) Course and OCT Choo Zhi Zhong of the 15th Air Logistics Officer (Technical) Course.

"Receiving the SOH is definitely a significant stage in my career as an officer as it is a recognition of my hard work

during the 38 weeks. I'm very thankful for the support of my family members, instructors and peers as they are the motivation that spurred me on. The core values of the SAF have taught me well and as an officer now, I will uphold the core values and instill them in my people," shared OCT Sanatana.

Addressing them at the parade, Prof Jayakumar said, "As you begin your journey as an officer of the SAF, you are entrusted with the duty of leading the men and women under your charge into battle when called upon, to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Singapore and to preserve the peace and security that we enjoy."



CARDINAL Heartbeat

2nd UC NSmen Engagement Day

The 2nd Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Command (UC) NSmen Engagement Day was held on 13 Mar 09 at SAFRA Mount Faber. The event aimed to provide a semi-formal setting for NSmen to interact and bond with one another.

A video by UC, showing the history, capability and future of UAVs was screened, before Commander UC, COL Lim Tuang Liang, gave his opening address. COL Lim also presented awards, promotion certificates and medals to deserving NSmen in recognition of their dedication and contributions. The participants also had a sharing session with their respective squadron Commanding Officers, allowing them to exchange views, ideas and feedback on various issues. Finally, games like telematches, outdoor archery and an 'Amazing Race' were held to promote friendly competition and cohesion among the participants, with COL Lim presenting the prizes to the winners.



COL Lim presenting the Best NSmen Award to SSG(NS) Tam Kwong Ching from Air Logistics Squadron, UC.

A PRIDE Initiative from US – Peace Prairie PRIDE Workshop



Participants giving presentations to share their suggestions.

On 27 Mar 09, Peace Prairie (PP) Detachment conducted a Productivity In Daily Effort (PRIDE) Workshop for its personnel as one of many initiatives introduced by PP PRIDE Office for the new work year. The workshop aimed to promote a culture of innovation, reinforce the importance of PRIDE and

set the right emphasis and scope for the new year.

The workshop began with the screening of a PRIDE video, followed by discussions on the relevance and importance of PRIDE. To encourage out-of-the-box thinking, games were conducted to help personnel experience methods of igniting creative ideas. Besides that, a Work Improvement Teams (WITS) brainstorming session and Unit Suggestion Management Scheme (USMS) generation exercise were conducted to help emphasise to personnel the importance of WITS and USMS.

During the workshop, the 'Peace Prairie i-movement' work-plan effort was introduced, to boost the exposure of PRIDE in PP. The i-movement

will implement initiatives to achieve the targets to 'promote & sustain a culture of innovation', 'Internalise & encourage creative thinking' and 'create excitement and commitment in PRIDE'. To augment the new effort, the new Peace Prairie PRIDE award was implemented and given to outstanding individuals and teams for their contributions.



SSG Tan Hock Wee was the first winner of the Outstanding USMS Award. He commented on the new award, "I believe that with these new awards up for grabs, more personnel will be motivated to brainstorm for better ideas, achieving greater cost savings for the RSAF in the process."

UC's 2nd Anniversary

On 24 Apr 09, the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command (UC) celebrated its 2nd Anniversary at the Chevrons with a commemorative dinner and photo exhibition. The event also commemorated the achievement of 20,000 flying hours by the Searcher UAV when the Guests-of-Honour, Director of Military Intelligence (DMI), BG Tan Meng Dui, and CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, signed on the wings of a UAV Searcher model.

Commander UC, COL Lim Tuang Liang, felt that the event was an excellent opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the UAV community. "The achievement of 20,000 flying hours by the Searcher UAV is a significant milestone because of the logistical challenges faced. Even so, the engineering community has been remarkable, enabling the UAV platform to be improved and operated safely," he said.



MG Ng, BG Tan and COL Lim at UC's 2nd anniversary cake-cutting ceremony.



MG Ng and BG Tan commemorating UC's achievement of 20,000 flying hours by the Searcher.

CARDINAL Heartbeat

HQ ADOC, AOCG and HQ ASCG Family Day

The Headquarters Air Defence and Operations Command (HQ ADOC), Air Operations Control Group (AOCG) and HQ Air Surveillance and Control Group (HQ ASCG) Family Day was held at Singapore Discovery Centre on 3 June 09.

The event's programme included a 3D iWerks movie and a guided National Education (NE) tour. After a scrumptious lunch with a wonderful lake-view, participants proceeded to the auditorium to gauge their NE knowledge in a NE quiz. The family day provided a good opportunity for participants to enjoy themselves and to bond with their family.



Commander Air Defence and Operations Command, BG (then COL) Kwek Kok Kwong, in a memento photo with HQ ADOC personnel.

Developing our People – Tools of the Trade

Tools of the Trade (TOTT) is an initiative to support the RSAF's aim of developing our people systematically and holistically under the 'Developing Professionals' thrust in Project CARDINAL. Air Force News takes a look at some of the workshops and courses that have been conducted in conjunction with the TOTT initiative.

150 SQN – 'Developing Professionals in Impactful Presentation Skills'



Participants of the 'Developing Professionals in Impactful Presentation Skills' Workshop in a group photo.

150 SQN in Cazaux, France, conducted its first TOTT course, titled 'Developing Professionals in Impactful Presentation Skills', from 10 – 12 Apr 09. The workshop was conducted by Mr Albert Kho from the Centre of Management Development.

The 'Developing Professionals in Impactful Presentation Skills' course was chosen as the contents would benefit all personnel in their areas of work, regardless of vocation and seniority. The course encouraged participants to explore their ability in presentation regardless of their experience levels, while their peers provided feedback.



Throughout the two-day course, participants were invigorated by newly gained knowledge on the art of presentation. CPT Malcolm Pinto, a participant at the workshop, shared, "We

were tasked to present a topic of our choice on the last day of the course. The objective of the presentation was for us to practise effective delivery of presentation using the skills acquired during the course. The presentations were then recorded and played back at the end for critique, which was an invaluable experience for all of us."

Overall, the course was well conducted and well received by the squadron personnel. Notably, the course benefited the squadron as it was observed that the quality of presentations improved after the course. Individuals were able to present with more confidence and capture the attention of the audience.

Peace Prairie Detachment – 'Looking IN, Reaching FAR© and Building Team Resilience...'

On 19 and 20 Mar 09, Peace Prairie Detachment successfully conducted four TOTT courses for its personnel. This was achieved through partnership between Air Training Department (ATD) and the CMD.

The courses identified by the detachment in consultation with ATD were tailored to suit the different ranks and experience levels in the detachment. The courses conducted were, 'Looking IN, Reaching FAR© and Building Team Resilience for a Transformational Organisation', 'Developing Professionals Through Effective Leadership for senior WOSAs and junior officers' and 'Mentoring @ Work'

Over the two days, detachment personnel acquired basic mentoring skills using the G.R.O.W. model. They also gained a better understanding of different leadership styles that will help them develop a 'personal action plan' to improve their own leadership competencies.



Shared 2WO Jack Tan, a participant at the course, "The course has been an eye-opening and enriching learning experience! The skills and knowledge I have acquired will

undoubtedly benefit me in the future. It has proven to be far more interesting and beneficial than I expected!"



Members of the Peace Prairie Detachment who participated in the TOTT courses engaging in a time of sharing and learning.

IAF – RSAF Safety Exchange Visit



The IAF – RSAF Safety Exchange visit allows the two air forces to extensively discuss various aspects of safety.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and RSAF hold an annual Safety Exchange visit, with a delegation travelling to the other country for a series of briefs and discussions

on safety-related issues. This year the IAF delegation, led by Command Flight Safety and Inspection Officer of the South Western Air Command, Group Captain Ashutosh Kumar Agarwal, was in Singapore for discussions from 20 – 21 Apr 09.

Hosted by Head Air Force Inspectorate, COL Ng Chee Keong, the IAF delegation engaged in safety-centric discussions at Air Force School. Apart from the discussions, the delegation also visited Flight Simulation Centre at Paya Lebar Air Base, where they had a chance to try the F-5 simulator.

The annual Safety Exchange visits between the IAF and RSAF reflect the warm and long-standing relationship that the two air forces share. The IAF and RSAF interact regularly through such professional exchanges and exercises like EX SINDEK.

ROKAF – RSAF Air Force to Air Force Talks

The Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) and the RSAF had their air force to air force talks when a ROKAF delegation, led by Director of Policy Planning Division, COL Bae Soon Kuen, was in Singapore from 27 – 29 Apr 09.

Besides engaging in discussions, the delegation made a courtesy call on Chief of Staff (Air Staff), BG Hoo Cher Mou, at MINDEF. The delegation also visited Air Force School (AFS), where they viewed the Radar and Tower Simulator, and Air Force Museum, for a deeper appreciation of the RSAF and its past. This visit underscores the growing relations between the ROKAF and the RSAF.



The ROKAF delegation with their hosts at AFS, Dy Commander AFS / Wing Commander Aviation Wing, LTC Eddie Tan, and Wing Commander of Command, Control and Communications Wing, LTC Muralidharan.

Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Studies



Brigadier-General Gaston Clouthier presenting a token of appreciation to then Commander AFS (Designate), COL Yeo Yee Peng.

A delegation from the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Studies, led by Special Advisor to Chief of Air Staff and Project Officer Centennial of Flight, Brigadier-General Gaston Clouthier, visited Air Force School (AFS) on 7 May 09 as part of a working visit to learn more about the RSAF.

The delegation was briefed on various aspects of the RSAF, including System Acquisition and Air Logistics Organisation Transformation. This was followed by a tour of the Radar and Tower Simulator and the RSAF's Virtual Reality Aircraft Recognition System.

This visit reflects the growing relations between the RSAF and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, USN



Director DSCA, VADM Wieringa, was presented with an overview of SBAB from its control tower, with Commander Helicopter Group, COL Sunny Yun, looking on.

On 14 May 09, Director Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), Vice Admiral (VADM) Jeffrey A. Wieringa of the United States Navy (USN), visited Sembawang Air Base (SBAB) as part of the 7th International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEX) Asia 2009 programme from 12 – 14 May.

The visit, hosted by Commander Participation Command (PC), BG Wong Huat Sern, aimed to give the delegation updates on the RSAF's naval helicopter programme as well as to review support issues in overseas detachments. This was followed by a visit to the Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower and tour of the CH-47 Chinook Flight Simulator where VADM Wieringa had a hands-on experience in trying out the simulator.

During his visit, VADM Wieringa called on CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern. VADM Wieringa's visit to Singapore accentuates the strong and long-standing defence relations between Singapore and the US.

IAF Working Visit to APGC



Group Captain Dixit trying his hand at the RSAF's Air Mission Trainer.

Two officers from the Indian Air Force (IAF), Director, Air Staff Requirements, Group Captain Ashutosh Dixit, and Joint

Director, Foreign Procurement Wing, Wing Commander Kapil Rastogi, were on an introductory visit to Air Power Generation Command (APGC) from 9 – 10 Jun 09.

Hosted by Commander Paya Lebar Air Base, LTC Archie Ong, the delegation was briefed on the workings of APGC and the RSAF's Performance-Based Logistics. The delegation also made a courtesy call on Commander APGC, COL Sarbjit Singh, before proceeding to visit the Base Central Debriefing Station, Flight Simulation Centre and Air Force Museum. The visits served to give the IAF officers a better understanding of the RSAF's training and history through the various briefings and hands-on experience with the Air Mission Trainer.

The IAF and the RSAF share a warm and long-standing relationship, which is reflected in such visits and professional exchanges, as well as exercises like EX SINDEK.

Chief Of Staff, Republic of Korea Air Force



GEN Lee was presented with a memento by MG Ng to commemorate his introductory visit to Singapore.

Chief of Staff, Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF), General (GEN) Lee Kae Hoon, made his introductory visit to Singapore from 25 – 27 Jun 09.

GEN Lee called on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, and CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern. He visited Paya Lebar Air Base and was briefed on the RSAF's and Air Power Generation Command's operational capabilities. GEN Lee also viewed the Air Mission Trainer at the Flight Simulator Centre and enjoyed a guided tour of the Air Force Museum.

GEN Lee's visit underscores the warm and friendly ties between Singapore and South Korea. The RSAF and the ROKAF interact regularly through visits, professional exchanges and mutual attendance of courses. Such interactions have strengthened the mutual understanding and friendship between personnel of the two air forces.

Commander, National Air Defence Command, Indonesian Air Force

Commander, National Air Defence Command, Indonesian Air Force (TNI AU), Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Dradjad Rahardjo, visited Singapore from 29 – 30 Jun 09. During his visit, AVM Rahardjo called on CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern and Director Military Intelligence, BG Tan Meng Dui.

AVM Rahardjo visited Headquarters Air Defence and Operations Command (ADOC) where he called on Commander ADOC, BG (then COL) Kwek Kok Kwong, and learnt more about the operational capabilities of 203 SQN. He also viewed a static display of Ground-based Air Defence systems at Lim Chu Kang Camp II.

AVM Dradjad's visit reflects the warm and long-standing defence relations between the two air forces. Both air forces interact regularly through professional exchanges and exercises such as EX Elang Indopura and EX Camar Indopura.



AVM Dradjad Rahardjo (left) learning more about the RSAF's Ground-based Air Defence Systems.

RTAF – RSAF Junior Officers' Exchange Programme



Head Air Intelligence, COL Tam Peng Yew, RTAF Air Attaché, GPCAPT Mana Prasopsri (2nd from right) and the RTAF delegation engaging in warm and open conversation.

Since its inauguration in 1992, both the RSAF and the RTAF concurrently host each other's junior officers as part of the RTAF – RSAF Junior Officers' Exchange Programme. The programme serves to promote interaction between the officers

of the two air forces, while also exposing them to the military, political and social environment of the host country. This year, the RTAF delegation, led by Deputy Director of Personnel, GPCAPT Preecha Thamrat, and Deputy Director of Technical Division, GPCAPT Tosaporn Netharn, was hosted by the RSAF team, led by Head Air Force Information Management Centre, LTC Alvin Yeo, from 29 Jun – 4 Jul 09.

During their visit, the RTAF delegation visited SAFTI Military Institute, Air Force School and Air Force Museum to learn about the training and history of the RSAF. To familiarise the RTAF delegation with the RSAF's helicopter capabilities, the delegation visited 120 SQN and the Helicopter Simulator Centre at Sembawang Air Base. The delegation also made a courtesy call on Head Air Intelligence, COL Tam Peng Yew.

The visit highlights the close and long-standing relationship that the RTAF and RSAF share. The two air forces interact on a regular basis through professional exchanges such as this, as well as through exercises like EX Cope Tiger and mutual attendance of courses.

Defence Attaché, Japan

Outgoing Defence Attache, Japan, CAPT Kazuyuki Odora, made a courtesy call on CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, on 3 Jul 09. Incoming Defence Attache, CAPT Tomonori Kobayashi, was also introduced to MG Ng during the call.

CAPT Odora's call underscores the cordial and growing defence relations between Japan and Singapore.



MG Ng Chee Khern and CAPT Kazuyuki Odora engaging in warm and friendly conversation.

Headquarters Integrated Area Defence System Staff Visit

A delegation from Headquarters Integrated Area Defence System (HQ IADS), led by Commander, IADS, Air Vice Marshal Kevin Paule, visited the RSAF on 7 Jul 09. During their visit, the delegation made a courtesy call on Commander Air Defence and Operations Command, BG Kwek Kok Kwong.

The IADS delegation was briefed on the RSAF's operations at MINDEF. Thereafter, they visited Air Defence Group at Chong Pang Camp where they were briefed on Air Defence Group's operations. The delegation also viewed a static display of the RSAF's Ground-Based Air Defence systems.

The IADS was formed in 1971 under the Five Power Defence Arrangements to co-ordinate the area defence of Singapore and Malaysia. The visit reflects the close and long-standing relations between HQ IADS and the RSAF.



Commander IADS, AVM Kevin Paule (5th from left), Commander Air Defence and Operations Command, BG Kwek Kok Kwong (4th from left), and the IADS delegation in a group photograph.

Influenza A (H1N1) – A Threat Beyond Borders

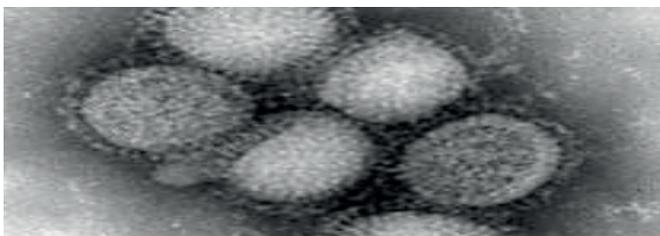
The tremendous surge of Influenza A (H1N1) infections that originated from Mexico and spread rapidly to America, Canada and the rest of the world, continues to be a persistent threat to both affected and unaffected countries. As of end June 09, there were approximately 70,000 cases of Influenza A (H1N1) infections officially reported. This spread eventually arrived at our shores and as of end July 09, Singapore had about 1200 confirmed cases. Read on to find out more about this virus and how we can protect ourselves. Everyone has a crucial role to play in the battle against the current Influenza A (H1N1) threat.

All you need to know about Influenza A (H1N1)

What is Influenza A (H1N1)?

Influenza, commonly known as the flu, is caused by the influenza virus. Influenza A (H1N1) (previously referred to as a 'new strain of swine flu') is a new strain of influenza virus that spreads from human to human.

There are 3 basic types of influenza virus – A, B and C. The virus contains proteins known as hemagglutinin and neuraminidase on their surface. It is through these surface proteins that the various subtypes of influenza virus are identified. In the case of Influenza A subtype H1N1, it contains hemagglutinin 1 and neuraminidase 1.



What is so unique about the Influenza A (H1N1)?

The influenza virus is capable of exchanging viral genes with other strains of influenza virus found in other animals and humans. It is through this exchange of viral genes that new strains of influenza virus are formed annually. The influenza A subtype H1N1 virus is a result of the combination of avian, swine and human influenza virus genes.

Is my body able to fight off the Influenza A (H1N1)?

Our body has a very unique and versatile immune system. Each time our body is attacked by a foreign organism (for example, a virus), the immune system reacts by creating defences and antibodies to fight against the invaders. The immune system is able to remember and recognise organisms that have previously attacked it and should the same or similar organisms be encountered again, it is able to fend off the attack more easily and successfully. However, when faced with a completely new adversary like the novel strain Influenza A (H1N1) virus, the immune system tends to react less effectively. Time would be required to build immunity against it.

Why is Influenza A (H1N1) a cause of concern?

With an entirely new virus circulating widely in the human population, mutations occur frequently and unpredictably. Thus the emergence of a more deadly virus can happen. The inherent nature of the virus can also change over time as the pandemic goes through several waves of national and international spread.

How does Influenza A (H1N1) spread among humans?

Spread of Influenza A (H1N1) is similar to seasonal flu. It can be spread when an infected person speaks, coughs or sneezes. It can also be spread when a person touches a contaminated surface before touching his nose or mouth.

Influenza A (H1N1) – A Threat Beyond Borders

Is Influenza A (H1N1) infection serious?

To date, there have been 6 cases of Influenza A (H1N1)-related deaths. However, most people develop mild illnesses and recover fully.

The following people, however, are more likely to develop serious complications from the Influenza A (H1N1) infection and are considered high risk people:

- Persons with underlying medical conditions (asthma, chronic lung disease, heart disease)
- Persons undergoing chemotherapy
- Persons undergoing dialysis
- Elderly with multiple medical problems
- Pregnant women
- Young children below 2 years of age

What are the signs and symptoms of infection?

The symptoms of Influenza A (H1N1) are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu. These symptoms can vary in severity from mild to severe, and include the following:

- Fever (> 38°C)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Body ache
- Tiredness

When is a person with Influenza A (H1N1) infectious?

Infected people may be able to infect others 1 day prior to the onset of symptoms and up to 7 days after becoming sick. Hence, it is possible to catch the flu from someone before he is unwell, as well as when he is unwell.

Are there any available treatments for Influenza A (H1N1)?

There are antiviral medications available to treat Influenza A (H1N1), such as oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) and zanamivir (Relenza®). They fight against the Influenza A (H1N1) virus which is reproducing itself in the body. When taken early (within 2 days of the appearance of symptoms), these medications may:

- Reduce the severity of the infection with faster recovery from the illness.
- Prevent serious complications.

Does vaccination help?

The current seasonal influenza vaccine will not provide protection from this new subtype of Influenza. There is no vaccine to protect humans against Influenza A (H1N1) currently but there is ongoing research to develop one.

What can I do to protect myself and others against the Influenza A (H1N1)?

With the Influenza A (H1N1) appearing to be more contagious than seasonal influenza, it is important to maintain good personal hygiene and be socially responsible by:

- Washing your hands regularly and thoroughly with soap and water, especially before touching your eyes, nose or mouth.



- Turning quickly away from anyone near you if you are about to cough or sneeze, and do not cough or sneeze at him.
- Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Dispose of the tissue properly in the dustbin after use.
- Avoiding crowded places if you are unwell and wear a surgical mask to cover your nose and mouth.
- Staying home from work or school when you are sick and monitor your own temperature regularly.
- Using a serving spoon when sharing food at meal times.

Also, leading a healthy lifestyle helps to build up your immunity and protects against infection.

- Eat a balanced diet, including plenty of fruit and vegetables.
- Be active. Do 30 minutes of physical activity at least 5 days a week.
- Learn to relax and have enough sleep and rest.
- Do not smoke.

When do I need to seek medical help?

If you have developed fever (temperature > 38°C) with either cough, runny nose or sore throat within 7 days after returning from any Influenza A (H1N1) affected areas or after close contact with a person with Influenza A (H1N1).

Provide your doctor accurate information regarding your recent travels and contact with any persons suspected of having flu.

– Article contributed by RSAF Medical Service



Flying High – National Servicemen of the Year 2009

Each year, the SAF gives out several awards to recognise and reward deserving National Servicemen. These awards include the SAF NSman of the Year Award, the Formation NSman of the Year Award and the Letter of Commendation.

This year, two NSmen from the RSAF, CPT(NS) Lim Say Wei, and SSG(NS) Gwee Geok Hwee, were awarded the SAF NSman of the Year Award during the SAF Day.

Shared CPT(NS) Lim, a E-2C Pilot from 111 SQN, “NSmen are not only important in their civilian roles, but also in the capacity that they serve within the SAF. We have the potential to be the success factor in any operations we undertake. This is why I believe that it is important for me to be committed to the RSAF in whatever responsibilities I undertake.”

SSG(NS) Gwee, a Senior Technician in Aircraft Operations Maintenance Squadron, Air Logistics Group – Rotary Wing, shared similar sentiments, “I’ve always been enthusiastic about In-Camp Training because I find it meaningful. I still feel like part of the RSAF even after I have left the Service and it will always remain an integral part of my life. I will continue to do my best to serve the RSAF and my country.”

Air Force News congratulates all recipients of the SAF NSman of the Year Award, the Formation NSman of the Year Award, and the Letter of Commendation and wishes them the best in their future endeavours.



SAF NSman of the Year, CPT(NS) Lim Say Wei, receiving his award from DPM Teo.



SAF NSman of the Year, SSG(NS) Gwee Geok Hwee, receiving his award from DPM Teo.

SAF NSmen of the Year

Command	Unit	Winner
Air Combat Command	111 SQN	CPT(NS) Lim Say Wei
Air Power Generation Command	AOMS, ALG – RW	SSG(NS) Gwee Geok Hwee

Formation NSmen of the Year

Command	Unit	Winner
Air Power Generation Command	FDS – TAB	CPT(NS) Tang Poh Kee
		CPT(NS) Ong Kok How
		LTA(NS) Hue Tse Leong
	FDS – CAB	CPT(NS) Yong Choon Wee Melvin
	AOMS, ALG – FW1	SSG(NS) Teo Kwee Peng Francis
	AOMS, ALG – RW	1SG(NS) Goh Yang Sheong Video
Air Defence and Operations Command	165 SQN	CPT(NS) Lim Sze Quang Christopher
	160 SQN	CPT(NS) Desmond Lee Ti-Seng
Participation Command	9 DA Bn	MAJ(NS) Tham Kim Cheong Gabriel
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command	ALS – UC	SSG(NS) Tam Kwong Ching

Driven By Passion – MAJ(NS) Ooi Soon Teck

“It’s the passion for my work that keeps me going, even as a NSman.”

-- MAJ(NS) Ooi



Reflecting on his previous years with the RSAF, MAJ(NS) Ooi Soon Teck, an Air Engineering Officer (AEO) from Air Logistics Group – Fixed Wing 2 (ALG – FW 2), felt that his career in the RSAF had not only fuelled his interest in engineering, but was also a place where he developed a passion for the work culture within his unit.

In a nutshell, his job as an AEO is to provide engineering and maintenance support to aircraft assigned to ALG – FW 2. “Apart from being in charge of a group of Aircraft Technicians locally, we also lead maintenance teams during overseas detachments and exercises,” he said as he related his past experiences – ferrying the RSAF F-16s from the United States to Singapore and in EX Cope Tiger with the E-2Cs and F-16s. “As an AEO, there are ample opportunities to tackle problems creatively, especially when we are out of our ‘comfort zone’. During deployments and overseas detachments, we were required to solve problems independently. Being able to overcome these problems gave us satisfaction and elevated one’s confidence by a notch each time,” he said.

Now a NSman, his appointment as the Deputy Commanding Officer (Dy CO) of ALG – FW 2’s Aircraft Operations Maintenance Squadron sees him leading his squadron in the launch, recovery and servicing of aircraft in daily flying operations. Besides his supervisory role in the squadron, he also meets the unit’s key appointment holders (Regular and NSmen) monthly to develop a new NSmen management framework that groups NSmen from different flights into fixed teams for their In-Camp Training (ICT). “Our purpose is to eventually establish fixed NS teams that are ready and capable of supporting flying operations on their own. By having such fixed teams, camaraderie can be developed among the NSmen who are from various flights, so as to ensure the effective launch and recovery of aircraft,” he explained.

His commitment to developing this framework with

the other NS key appointment holders in the unit often requires him to return to his unit at short notice. MAJ(NS) Ooi elaborated, “It’s the passion for my work that keeps me going, even as a NSman. Prior to leaving the regular service, I was asked by Commander ALG – FW 2 if I would want to take on a higher appointment as a NSman. I readily agreed to it because the RSAF had become a part of my life. Also, I personally like the way my unit engages me as a NSman. The Commander would find time to meet us whenever we are back for ICT. He makes us feel wanted in the unit and we will continue to serve with dedication for we can feel that our time and efforts during ICT are being appreciated. My employer has always been very supportive of my ICT too.”

MAJ(NS) Ooi currently works as an engineer in Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) and has been handling project acquisitions for the RSAF. “I was delighted that I was offered a career in DSTA as my work there allows me to continue to work with and contribute to the RSAF. Also, in my current job, my prior knowledge of the RSAF has helped me guide my junior project engineers to better appreciate the user’s requirements and facilitate the project implementation in the bases. My previous stint in the RSAF has definitely been enriching for me,” he said.

During his ICT, the reunion with his colleagues is a heartening experience for him. “I feel attached to my unit because I’ve been through both the good and challenging times with them. Seeing them again simply makes me feel very happy!” he exclaimed.

Given his positive outlook on life, he shares his wealth of experience readily with his unit mates. “When I’m back for ICT, it’s really a joy to be able to share my experiences from both the RSAF and DSTA with the junior AEOs. I will always encourage them to look at the brighter side of things and make positive contributions to influence the outcomes in whatever we do,” he said.

Maintaining Situational Awareness – 1SG(NS) Perryn Seah



“Ultimately, our mission is to help our fighter squadrons achieve operational readiness, without compromising safety.”

-- 1SG(NS) Seah

Coordinating the movement of vehicles and aircraft within the airfield is an important task, and is managed by a group of personnel known as the Air Operations Systems Specialists (AOSS). Men like 1SG(NS) Perryn Seah, an AOSS from Tengah Air Base’s Flying Support Squadron (FSS – TAB), ensure that every movement within the airfield is accounted for.

“As Ground Controllers, we plan and coordinate the safe and timely launch and recovery of aircraft according to the flying programme, while also ensuring that ground traffic is safe and expeditious. Ultimately, our mission is to help our fighter squadrons achieve operational readiness, without compromising on safety,” he said.

The AOSS vocation replaced the Air Defence Operator (ADO) vocation in 1998 with the introduction of the Operator Maintenance scheme. 1SG(NS) Seah felt that the scheme was very appropriate. “When I converted from an ADO to an AOSS, we learnt how to fix and maintain the operational capability of our radios,” he explained. “So in case of equipment failure, we could fix it immediately without the need to wait for a technician. This greatly improved our efficiency, and also added an additional technical role to my vocation.”

Besides taking part in EX Cope Tiger in Thailand, 1SG(NS) Seah also won the Outstanding Servicemen Award in 2004 during his 6 years as a regular in the RSAF.

Now as an NSman, 1SG(NS) Seah returns 4 times a year to the Air Traffic Control Tower in TAB for his In-Camp Training (ICT). “To maintain a high level of situational awareness for our job, we spend 2 weeks controlling each time we return for ICT. This includes coordinating the taxiing aircraft, flying support activities and even the movement of vehicles in the airfield,” he said.

1SG(NS) Seah, currently a sales engineer in Schmidt Electronics Private Limited, relates his present job to his previous work as an AOSS in the RSAF. “When interacting with customers, I’m able to apply the skills of acquiring situational awareness and being decisive, which I’ve learnt as an AOSS,” he said.



1SG(NS) Seah at work as a Ground Controller.

In Conversation with a WSO(ADA)

"I have found a fulfilling career that has continuously developed and challenged me to strive to become better."

-- MAJ Chiong



Ever since its inception as the Singapore Air Defence Command in 1968, one of the primary concerns of the RSAF has been the defence of Singapore's airspace. The RSAF not only employs a variety of aircraft, it also utilises a range of High-to-Medium Air Defence and Short-Range Air Defence missile systems to ensure a high degree of vigilance and responsiveness to any aerial threat.

The task of operating our Short-Range Air Defence systems falls squarely on the shoulders of the men from Air Defence Group and Divisional Air Defence Group (DAG). Amongst those tasked with this responsibility is Operations Officer, 3 Divisional Air Defence Artillery Battalion, MAJ Kenneth Chiong. Sharing his insights, MAJ Chiong provided a glimpse into the role of the Weapon Systems Officer (Air Defence Artillery) [WSO(ADA)] in the RSAF. Said MAJ Chiong, "As a WSO(ADA), I am called upon to be one of the 'defenders of the skies'."

Elaborated MAJ Chiong, "Besides having the responsibility to plan and manage air defence, the WSO(ADA) is also in charge of training our personnel to operate our systems. To carry out operations effectively, we need to ensure that our men know when to fire, and how to maximise the capability of the weapon systems against the aerial threat. This often requires us to instil in them in-depth knowledge and physical and mental toughness; and to do this, we need to ensure that we ourselves have these qualities."

WSO(ADA)s in DAG have a unique role as the Group plays a part not only in the National Air Defence domain, but also Air Defence of the Army. "The various supported Army units leverage on our expertise to protect their assets against air threats. We are often seen as the 'Subject Matter Experts' or 'Air Force Conduit' to the various Army units" elaborated MAJ Chiong, "As such, in addition to working with others in the Air Force, we often work closely with our Army counterparts. This means that we are given a greater degree of exposure at an early stage to the

different entities in the SAF and this, I believe, has fostered professional development in us."

Like many other WSO(ADA)s MAJ Chiong had the opportunity to participate in overseas exercises. He shared, "The RSAF has provided various training platforms for us to hone our skills. Overseas exercises allow us to gain operational confidence and the RSAF does provide such training opportunities, by allowing us to participate in exercises such as EX Maple Flag and EX Cope Tiger. Such opportunities have allowed us not only to gain vital training experience, but have also enabled us to engage and benchmark ourselves against other air forces while also providing an opportunity to experience a different professional and social culture."

When asked about his greatest take-away as a WSO(ADA), MAJ Chiong was clear, "I have found a fulfilling career that has continuously developed and challenged me to strive to become better, both professionally and personally. Having spent 12 years in the ADA community, I have also learnt the importance of 'Team Excellence', which is also one of the RSAF's core values. When each member accepts full responsibility and strives for excellence in his roles, trust and performance will increase exponentially and the team will be ready to take on any challenges."

Added MAJ Chiong, "On a personal level, it's equally fulfilling to have been able to meet my wife, a fellow WSO(ADA), during my studies and while working with her!"

Though being a WSO(ADA) may be challenging at times, MAJ Chiong had this to say to anyone aspiring to be one, "As a WSO(ADA), you will be progressing in an exciting domain that requires you to be physically fit and mentally agile. I encourage anyone who is prepared to take up a dynamic career, and thrives on excelling in a physically and mentally challenging domain, to join the RSAF as a WSO(ADA)!"

In Conversation with an Air Vehicle Specialist



"After carefully considering the various roles that I would get to play as an AVS, I decided to follow my passion for heavy machinery with the RSAF."

-- MSG Sri Ram

For the RSAF, refuelling is not so simple as driving up to the nearest petrol station to get a full tank, especially not when the 'vehicle' involved is a finely-tuned state-of-the-art aircraft operating under varying conditions. This is where Operations In-Charge at Airfield Maintenance Squadron – Tengah Air Base, MSG Sri Ram, comes in. As an Air Vehicle Specialist (AVS), operating heavy vehicles and refuelling aircraft are only part of his job as he also ensures that critical additives to the fuel, like the Fuel System Icing Inhibitor, are of the right proportions.

Working together with logistics and maintenance ground crew, MSG Sri Ram is part of a seamless team effort that ensures that the RSAF's aircraft can complete their flights successfully. Describing the feeling he gets whenever he sees aircraft take-off and land successfully, MSG Sri Ram said, "One of the most enjoyable things for us is to see aircraft launch and recover safely as we know that we played the vital role of delivering the support and fuel that allows the plane to fly and achieve air superiority."

His career choice stemmed from a childhood passion in the raw muscle of heavy machinery as well as the unique exposure and training offered by the RSAF. MSG Sri Ram shared the reason for his choice then, "I have always had a passion for heavy vehicles and in the RSAF, I would get the opportunity to operate a wide variety of vehicles. After carefully considering the various roles that I get to play as an AVS, I decided to follow my passion for heavy machinery with the RSAF." In addition, the RSAF entrusts AVS to operate the machinery solo once the personnel is ready and well-trained. He added, "This is unlike the commercial world where you only get to do so by your 30s. The RSAF offers one a very challenging and exciting exposure

at a young age as an AVS can even operate the machinery by 25."

As AVS, they are trained to operate and specialise in more than one specific vehicle type, such as the Foreign Object Debris 'Killer', Low Loader and Aircraft Refuelling Bowser. With such a wide spectrum of machinery, the tasks that MSG Sri Ram undertakes are diverse. Recounting one of his most memorable experiences, he said, "I once had to transport an aircraft after midnight from TAB to CAB (East) on a Low Loader and we were escorted by military police. Besides being a highly challenging job, such a task is very rare and I am certainly privileged and honoured to have been given the opportunity to complete it."

The vocation, however, is not all about wheels and steel. Like all vocations in the RSAF, MSG Sri Ram is also nurtured as a leader and professional. MSG Sri Ram highlighted the training in soft skills that he has received from the RSAF, "The RSAF has groomed me in the various areas of management by providing courses such as management development, leadership development and time management. These skills benefitted me not just in my work but also in my personal life as I manage my work-life balance better and more efficiently."

With the implementation of the Military Domain Experts Scheme (MDES), MSG Sri Ram can look forward to a longer career with the RSAF. To MSG Sri Ram, going along with the MDES is a natural progression. He explained, "The new challenges I anticipate as well as the job satisfaction I have and the stability of a career in the RSAF are clear reasons for my decision to stay on. I will continue to contribute to the RSAF for as long as I can do so, to the best of my ability."

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Visits TAB



DPM Teo interacting with personnel of TAB.

On 5 May 09, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, visited Tengah Air Base (TAB). The visit served to give DPM Teo a better understanding of the operational capabilities of TAB.

During the visit, DPM Teo was briefed on base operations, as well as the enhanced capabilities after improvements were made as the RSAF continues with its transformation process. DPM Teo was happy to note the good progress made thus far and that this would build the foundation for further improvements as the RSAF continues with its transformation to a 3rd Generation RSAF.

The visit ended with DPM Teo interacting with the personnel from the air base.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Visits PC



Air Gunner Instructor, MSG Fong Tat Choy briefing DPM Teo on the capabilities of the Super Puma's side door gun.

On 14 May 09, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, visited Participation Command (PC).

During the visit, DPM Teo was briefed on PC's operations and the Super Puma Squadrons' (125 and 126 SQN) operational roles in the SAF and RSAF as well as its present involvement in the SAF's Task Force aiding in international efforts to combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden. DPM Teo then viewed a static display of the Super Puma at 125 SQN, where he was briefed on the capabilities of the aircraft.

The visit ended with DPM Teo interacting with the squadron personnel to better understand their concerns and to discuss manpower and operational issues.

28th Foundation Course's visit to PLAB



The participants from the 28th Foundation Course being briefed on the operations of the Flight Simulation Centre.

On 11 May 09, participants from the 28th Foundation Course in the Civil Service College visited Paya Lebar Air Base (PLAB), hosted by Permanent Secretary for Defence Development, Dr Tan Kim Siew.

During the tour of PLAB, the Foundation Course participants were given an insight into the Air Combat Manoeuvring Instrumentation system and the training conducted in the Flight Simulation Centre.

A dialogue and question-and-answer session, chaired by Dr Tan, helped address any queries that the participants had about developmental issues in the RSAF and manpower policies in the SAF.

A Different Classroom for Polytechnic Lecturers



The lecturers learning more about the RSAF's H-450, at Murai Camp.

On 15 May 09, a total of 96 polytechnic lecturers from Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic and Singapore Polytechnic, were briefed on UAV Command (UC)'s operational capabilities. The visit was hosted by Minister of State for Defence, Associate Professor (AP) Koo Tsai Kee.



The visit proved to be an eye-opener for Mrs Lim-Loke Yuet Lin, Deputy Director for Resources in Ngee Ann Polytechnic who commented, "It is excellent that our armed forces are kept up-to-date with advanced systems and that gives citizens like me the security and confidence in our nation's self-defence."

A question-and-answer session was chaired by AP Koo, COMD UC, COL Lim Tuang Liang and Director Nexus, COL Lim Kok Siong, to answer queries from the group, and this was followed by static display of the UAV Searcher and Hermes 450. The lecturers also had the rare opportunity to view the UAV Searcher flying demonstration and experienced the UAV simulator. Mr H R



Mohandas, a lecturer in Aerospace Engineering at Republic Polytechnic, shared, "The RSAF is a nimble and efficient organisation in implementing prudent measures like simulators to keep training cost relatively low."



Dr Audrey A. Yuen, a lecturer in Biotechnology from Singapore Polytechnic, School of Chemical & Life Sciences, shared the same sentiments, "The training approach undertaken by the RSAF has definitely helped to reinforce the security network of Singapore. With RSAF's constant vigilance of our land, we can feel at ease."

NIE Trainee Teachers Visit to the RSAF

On 5 Jun 09, 949 trainee teachers from the National Institute of Education (NIE) visited the RSAF to learn more about its role in national defence. With the large number of visitors, they were briefed in the Air Force School Auditorium, where LTC Harold Cheng from Defence Industry & Systems Office gave them an overview of the RSAF. The trainee teachers also viewed the



RSAF 40th Anniversary Video, which Ms Fiona Shi of Lianhua Primary School found especially meaningful. She said, "The video was very inspiring, it helped us realise the importance of national sovereignty and the role that the RSAF plays in ensuring the security of our nation. This is a very important lesson and is one that we definitely have to convey to the schoolchildren."

The trainee teachers viewed static displays of the F-16D Block 52+, F-5S/T, C-130 transport aircraft and the I-HAWK missile system. Apart from the static displays, they also visited Air Force Museum, Aeromedical Centre, Flying Simulation Centre and Base Central Debriefing Station. These served to give the trainee teachers a comprehensive view of the RSAF's operations, training and history so that they would be better able to explain its importance to their students.



Mr Daniel Sham of Millenia Institute said of the role of teachers in the defence of Singapore, "As teachers, we have to inculcate a sense of belonging and pride of being a citizen

of Singapore, especially for the males. I teach at Millenia Institute, so the guys I teach would be serving National Service in just one or two years' time. I hope that I would be able to inculcate that sense of pride in them so that they would know and feel that they can make a difference to the defence of our nation."



The visit to the Aeromedical Centre allowed the trainee teachers to get a peek into how pilots train on ejection seat procedures.

Civil Service College Visit to Air Force Museum



The participants of the course learning more about aircraft platforms that have been phased out of the RSAF.

As part of a National Education course conducted for the Immigrations and Checkpoints Authority (ICA), the Civil Service College sent a group of its participants to Air Force Museum on 1 Jul 09.

There, the group viewed various static display of ex-RSAF aircraft as well as mementos, articles and displays depicting the RSAF's history and its transformation into a 3rd Generation Air Force. The visit

served to give the visitors a better perspective of the RSAF's journey through the years and its active role in the nation's defence.

One of the officers from the ICA, Mr Sidek Ali, said of what he gained from the visit, "This visit opened our eyes to what the RSAF has been doing, not just for Singapore but also the international community, when it extends a helping hand to its friends in need in the region and beyond."

Change of Command for Commander Air Power Generation Command



Outgoing Commander APGC, COL Tan, handing the Symbol of Command over to incoming Commander APGC, COL Singh.

The command of Air Power Generation Command (APGC) was handed over from COL Tan Kah Han to COL Sarbjit Singh in a Change-of-Command parade on 17 Apr 09. Held at Paya Lebar Air Base, the ceremony was officiated by CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, and witnessed by senior commanders from the RSAF.

Outgoing Commander APGC, COL Tan, joined the RSAF as a pilot in 1985, flying the A-4 and F-16 aircraft. He also held various command and staff appointments including Commanding Officer (CO) 140 SQN, Detachment Commander of Peace Carvin III, Branch Head in Air Operations Department (AOD), Deputy Head Air Operations, Deputy Commander Tengah Air Base (TAB) and Head Air Training Department.

Incoming Commander APGC, COL Singh, joined the RSAF as a pilot in 1983, and had flown both the F-5



CAF, MG Ng, presenting COL Singh with the Letter of Appointment.

and F-16 aircraft. Like COL Tan, he has held a variety of command and staff appointments including CO 144 SQN, Branch Head in AOD, Deputy Head Air Operations and Deputy Commander TAB. Before taking up command of APGC, COL Singh held the appointment of Commander Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command.

The handing over of the command of APGC marked the end of COL Tan's illustrious career with the RSAF. "The RSAF has moulded, trained and nurtured me to be who I am today. It has raised me up and given me the opportunities to push my personal limit beyond what I had expected of myself. Personally, it is CARDINAL at its best and for that, I am eternally grateful," reflected COL Tan on his career with the RSAF.

Air Force News wishes COL Singh and COL Tan the best in their future endeavours.

Change of Command for Commander Air Force School



COL Koh (left), handing over the Symbol of Command to incoming Commander AFS, COL Yeo (right).

On 18 May 09, the command of Air Force School (AFS) was handed over from COL Koh Teow Huat to COL Yeo Yee Peng at a Change-of-Command ceremony held at AFS Auditorium. The ceremony was witnessed by CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern.



CAF, MG Ng, presenting COL Yeo with the Letter of Appointment.

Outgoing Commander AFS, COL Koh, joined the RSAF in June 1985 and completed his Weapon Systems Officer (Air Defence Artillery) training that same year. He had held various command and staff

Change of Command for Commander Air Force School

appointments, which include Commanding Officer of 3rd Divisional Air Defence Artillery Battalion, Branch Head in Air Plans Department, Commander Divisional ADA Brigade in Air Defence Systems Division, and Commander Divisional Air Defence Group in Air Defence and Operations Command.

Incoming Commander AFS, COL Yeo, joined the RSAF in March 1983 and qualified as a fighter pilot in 1987.

He had assumed a wide range of command and staff appointments. These include Commanding Officer, 143 Squadron, Branch Head in Air Operations Department, Deputy Base Commander in Paya Lebar Air Base, Commander Tactical Air Support Group, and Head Operations Development Group, Participation Command.

Air Force News wishes COL Koh and COL Yeo the best in their future endeavours.

Changes in Appointments

Changes in Senior Staff Appointments

Director (Policy), Policy 4, MINDEF HQ
– 6 Jul 09
Incoming: LTC Ng Kian Huat, Roland

Changes in Command Appointments

Commander Air Power Generation Command (APGC)
– 17 Apr 09
Incoming: COL Sarbjit Singh S/O Tahil Singh
Outgoing: COL Tan Kah Han

Detachment Commander, Peace Carvin V Detachment, HQ FG, ACC
– 18 May 09
Incoming: LTC Lim Chee Meng

Commander Air Force School
– 18 May 09
Incoming: COL Yeo Yee Peng
Outgoing: COL Koh Teow Huat

CO, 127 SQN, Helicopter Group (HeliG), PC
– 22 May 09
Incoming: MAJ Kevin Wee Kim Aun
Outgoing: LTC Low Chung Guan

Commander Tactical Air Support Group, Participation Command (PC)
– 8 Apr 09
Incoming: LTC Chew Chee Mun
Outgoing: COL Yeo Yee Peng

CO, Airfield Maintenance Squadron (AMS), Tengah Air Base, APGC
– 20 May 09
Incoming: MAJ Ng Cher Yong
Outgoing: LTC Chan Kim Hoong

Commanding Officer (CO), 144 SQN, Fighter Group (FG), Air Combat Command (ACC)
– 7 Apr 09
Incoming: LTC Chia Shih Koon
Outgoing: LTC Gan Eng Leong

Changes in Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Appointments

SQN CWO, 111 SQN, Transport Group, ACC
– 15 May 09
Incoming: 1WO Ng Hwee Chuan
Outgoing: 1WO Subramaniam Selvakumar

Group Chief And Logistics WO, ALG – Fixed Wing 2, APGC
– 9 Jun 09
Incoming: MWO Ong Ah Hock
Outgoing: MWO Gan Teck Lee

SQN CWO, AMS, Sembawang Air Base, APGC
– 26 Jun 09
Incoming: 1WO Lee Cheng Koon
Outgoing: 1WO Tan Seow Lim

SQN CWO, AMS, Changi Air Base, APGC
– 23 Jun 09
Incoming: 1WO Ching Kian Hin
Outgoing: 1WO Lee Cheng Koon

SQN CWO, Flying Support Squadron, Paya Lebar Air Base, APGC
– 22 Apr 09
Incoming: 1WO Tan Kah Ming
Outgoing: 1WO Dasaradha Thulaisidas

SQN CWO, 124 SQN
– 04 May 09
Incoming: 2WO Lee Yang Juay

Group Chief And Logistics WO, Air Logistics Group – Fixed Wing 1 (ALG – FW1), APGC
– 12 Jun 09
Incoming: MWO Wong Leong Kwan
Outgoing: MWO Ng Chong Soon

SQN CWO, Aircraft Specialist Maintenance Squadron, ALG – FW1, APGC
– 12 Jun 09
Incoming: MWO Koh Nai Kuan
Outgoing: MWO Wong Leong Kwan

SQN CWO, 125 SQN, HeliG, PC
– 1 July 09
Incoming: MWO Selvanathan S/O Selvarajoo
Outgoing: 1WO Loh Chee Wai

NATIONAL RUNWAY CYCLING & SKATING 2009



Upcoming Events

- CAF Quarterly Safety Forum
- F-5 30th Anniversary
- National Day Parade
- SAFRA Singapore Bay Run & Army Half Marathon
- RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony and RSAF Graduation Dining-In
- SAF Overseas and Merit Scholarships Award Ceremony
- WOSA Forum
- Officer Cadet Commissioning Ceremony
- Command and Staff Course Graduation Ceremony
- RSAF 41st Anniversary Celebrations

