

AIR FORCE 21

ABOVE ALL

JULY ISSUE • 03/08/106

RSAF'S BEST 2008



CONTENTS



AIR FORCE NEWS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

COL Tan Swee Bock

MEMBERS

LTC Dalbir Singh
LTC Lim Boon How
LTC Humphrey Chin
LTC Chong Gim Wah
MAJ Michael Wong
MAJ Pao Hung Ling
Mrs Christine Chia
Ms Felicia Gwee

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor

LTC Dalbir Singh

Assistant Editor

Ms Amanda Wong

Staff Writer & Photographer

CPL Malcolm Koh
PTE Daniel Soh
REC Joel Boey

The opinions and views are those expressed by the writers and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) or the Ministry of Defence. The material in Air Force News is not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the written consent of the RSAF.

We Value Your Feedback!

Air Force News would like to hear from you if you have any feedback or comments about our publication. Kindly drop us an email to-
afn@starnet.gov.sg

EXERCISES

- Many Forces, One Mission
- EX Pitch Black 08 3-4
- Training Amongst The Best
- EX Maple Flag 08 4
- Reinforcing Integrated Operations
- EX Lightning Warrior 08 5
- Enhancing Interoperability and
Friendship
- EX Air Guard 08 6
- Enhancing Integrated Defence
- EX Bersama Shield 08 6

OVERSEAS NEWS

- RSAF's Participation in
Darwin Open Day 6
- RSAF's Participation in
Orange Air Base's Open Day 7
- C-130 Deployments to
China and Myanmar for
Humanitarian Aid and
Disaster Relief Missions 7
- Black Knights Performance in
Bangkok in Commemoration
of RSAF-RTAF 25th Anniversary
of Exercises 8
- CDF Visits 150 SQN, Cazaux
Air Base, France 9

LOCAL NEWS

- RSAF and MIO Launch
Intelligence Officer
(Air-Intelligence) Scheme 9
- National Runway Cycling
and Skating 2008 10
- Creating Pilots – The SYFC
Wings and Awards Ceremony 11
- SYFC Familiarisation Flight 11
- RSAF – AAIS Career
Transition Job Fair 12
- SAF Commanders'
Sports Day 12
- Defence Finance Organisation
Visits PLAB and AFS 13
- Singapore Police Force Visits UC 13
- Mee Toh School Visits Air
Force Museum 13

AWARDS/CEREMONIES

- SAF and RSAF Officers'
Promotion Ceremony 14
- Recognising and Rewarding
Our Dedicated Warrant Officers 15
- RCGC and RGD1 02/08 16
- Officer Cadet Commissioning 17
- CAF Receives United States
Legion of Merit 17
- MSM Investiture for Chief
of Staff, USAF 17
- CDF Essay Competition 2008 18
- Joint Warrant Officers Course 18
- MINDEF PRIDE Day 2008 19

COVER STORY

- SAF Day Parade 2008 20
- RSAF Best Units 20-21

PROJECT CARDINAL

- CARDINAL Heartbeat 22-25

YOUR HEALTH

- Keeping Healthy
On Your Travels 26-27

OUR VALUED PARTNERS

- Indonesian Air Force Academy 28
- Commander, HQ Integrated
Area Defence System 28
- Assistant Director General
Operational Logistics,
Indian Armed Forces 28
- Command Chief Master
Sergeant, 13th Air Force, USAF 28
- Permanent Secretary
(Defence), Brunei 29
- Deputy Chief of Staff,
Indonesian Air Force 29
- Commander, 13th Air
Force, USAF 29
- RTAF – RSAF Junior Officers'
Exchange Programme 29
- Commanding General,
Philippine Air Force 30
- German Air Force
Working Visit 30
- Commander, Eastern Air
Command, Indian Air Force 30
- TNI AU – RSAF Senior Officers'
Exchange Programme 30

WORLD CLASS PEOPLE

- Professionalism in Action
– MSG Chua Hui Kia 31
- In Conversation with an Air
Operations Systems Specialist 32
- In Conversation with a
Senior Technician 33
- Building Bonds
– SSG(NS) Patrick Chong 34
- Experience of a Lifetime
– CPT(NS) Poh Cher Kiang 35
- Extended Service to the Nation
– NSF Technicians 36

BUZZ AROUND THE BASES

- CAF Visits 201 SQN, ALS – UC
and 122 SQN 37
- Change of Command for
Air Operations Control Group 37
- Change of Command
for Chief Air Force Medical
Officer 37
- 163 SQN's Anniversary
Celebrations 38
- Changes in Appointments 38

UPCOMING

- RSAF Open House 2008 39

Many Forces, One Mission – EX Pitch Black 08



F-16D Blk 52+ Fighting Falcons from 145 SQN preparing to depart for a night sortie.

The RSAF participated in the biennial large-scale multilateral air combat exercise, codenamed 'Exercise Pitch Black', held in Darwin, Australia, from 6 to 27 Jun 08. This year's Exercise Pitch Black is the largest to be held since it first started in 1990, with about 3000 participants from the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), United States Forces, French Air Force (FAF), Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Exercise Pitch Black provided the RSAF with an excellent opportunity to conduct large-force employment training and enhance interoperability with the other participating forces through combined air operations under day and night operational scenarios. In support of the exercise, the RSAF deployed 393 personnel and assets such as the F-16D Blk 52+, F-5, KC-135, C-130B, E-2C and ground based air defence systems.



Sharing on how the RSAF's involvement in Exercise Pitch Black has changed over the last 18 years, RAAF Air Commodore Neil Hart said, "The RSAF has certainly helped us in making the exercise more

complex and has brought more depth with so many different capabilities, from fast jets to tankers and ground units. And due to their continual involvement, we have since forged a very good working relationship between the two air forces."



Besides being the largest Exercise Pitch Black for the RSAF, it was also the first ever in which the role of Mission Director was assigned to the RSAF. "The Mission Director's role is a very critical one," explained RSAF Exercise Director, COL Anil Sankar. "There is a very high level of trust given to him by the Coalition Force Air Component Commander (CFACC), for him to guide the Mission Commanders to execute the mission well tactically, safely, as well as meeting the CFACC's intent. I think this really is a very remarkable position that the RAAF has offered to us," added COL Sankar.

Moreover, the large participation by foreign air forces is a significant



Foreign Military Observers interacting with RSAF Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) personnel.



boost to all participants involved. NATO's E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft Detachment Commander, LTC Hans Grunwald, a first time participant, was also strongly encouraged by how well the air forces interoperated. Said LTC Grunwald, "The professionalism of the individual nations and crews including the RSAF is absolutely outstanding. It is a big step towards improving our ability to operate in joint operations. We should encourage exercises like this to enhance the working relationship among all the nations."



"The exercise definitely helps every country involved to come together and work through all barriers. So far we have learnt how everybody may seem different and I'm very surprised how well everyone works together and how similar it is when we work on the common missions," reiterated Lieutenant Ashely Bower, a United States Navy F/A-18 pilot.



Professional exchanges were not kept only at management level, but for operators as well, as SAF's Ground Forward Air Controller, SSG Ong Ghee Hin, shares. "Exercise Pitch Black gave us a chance to learn from the RAAF Joint Terminal Air Controllers about their operational procedures and tap on their real operations experience," said SSG Ong.



Battery Commander, 111th Air Defence Battery, Australian Regular Army, MAJ Bede Galvin, also hailed the invaluable exchanges held between the Australian and RSAF's GBAD personnel at RAAF Base Tindal, 330km away from Darwin. Said MAJ Galvin, "Essentially, it is great for the soldiers and airmen involved in this exercise. We had a lot of engagements and information



Personnel from various countries discussing operational details.

passed between us, and we are really achieving the mission at hand. It has been very successful on every count."



The wide range of experiences to tap on was also a great learning point for 145 SQN pilot, LTA Calvin Lim. "It is not often that we get to work in such a large force exercise and plan how a real scenario actually happens. So this is a very dynamic environment here and is a very good opportunity for junior guys like us to work on our fundamentals and basics," said LTA Lim.



Sharing on how the exercise not only strengthens interoperability, but also improves relations between countries, Executive Officer, No. 18 SQN, RMAF, LTC Zahani Zainal Abidin, said, "We have been working closely with the RSAF and there has been no barriers. Exercise Pitch Black serves as a platform and eye opener at the operators level to know each other better and work in a synergistic way between both air forces."



An RSAF F-16D Blk 52+ Fighting Falcon prepares for launch as an RAAF F/A-18 takes off at RAAF Base Darwin.

Many Forces, One Mission – EX Pitch Black 08



There were also many lessons learnt and experiences gained by the Air Power Generation (APG) elements in the exercise, as RSAF Deputy Exercise Director – APG, LTC Stewart Ng, shares. “Our greatest achievement was to have all 17 aircraft airborne at a single given time. We were also reporting 100% serviceability of our aircraft everyday to achieve the



MAJ Chia Wee Lee (left) and his RAAF counterpart discussing mission tactics.

operational requirement for the planned missions,” said LTC Ng.

Another highlight of Exercise Pitch Black for the RSAF was the strong participation from National Servicemen (NSmen) and Full-Time National Servicemen (NSF). Explained RSAF GBAD Detachment Commander, MAJ Chia Wee Lee, “It is important to engage them and allow them to understand that when the RSAF is called upon, we are able to carry out our mission successfully. The tactical profiles flown here are also very realistic and it will definitely give them the enriching experience of achieving the mission.”



“It has been an eye opener,” said Tactical Control Officer, LTA(NS) Paul Seah. “Participation in Exercise Pitch Black allows us to see how the RSAF is able to plan and carry out multilateral operations in a large-force exercise. At the same time, we are

able to integrate our systems and push them to the limits,” he added.



RBS-70 Gunner, 3SG Chong Kaiyang, also lauded the exercise as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Shared 3SG Chong, “Over here, I start to learn things that I don’t normally do, see various aircraft types and meet our foreign counterparts. It definitely complements the training we receive back home as we are able to share and learn how we operate the equipment effectively.”

Concluded COL Anil Sankar on his greatest takeaway from the exercise, “The greatest joy is having the opportunity to work with friends that I have made during my career over the last 25 years. Having this friendship and being able to speak their language got things moving for us to enhance the interoperability amongst various foreign counterparts and expand our envelop for training.”

Training Amongst The Best – EX Maple Flag 08



Mistral Fire Unit acquiring a thermal lock-on during the exercise.

Exercise Maple Flag 08, the 41st in the series, was held from 5 – 30 May 08 at Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada. The annual international air combat training exercise, hosted by the Canadian Air Force, is one of the largest multinational exercises in the world, with the participation of countries such as Canada, the United States, Germany, the Netherlands, France and New Zealand. Exercise Director, Captain Carl ‘Sleepy’ Cottrell, said, “Exercise Maple Flag provides a scenario where participants are exposed to the awesome and sometimes overwhelming situations that occur in a large scale effort without the danger of being physically attrited.”

The RSAF participated in Exercise Maple Flag 08 Period 2, from 19 – 30 May 08, with its Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) detachment and Peace Carvin II (PC II) detachment. A GBAD detachment of one Rapier, one Mistral, one RBS-70 and one P-STAR were fielded while ten F-16s from PCII were deployed. A total of 42 personnel from the GBAD detachment

participated in this exercise. Among them, there was a team of four Ground Control Interceptors (GCI). Led by Commanding Officer, 165 SQN, LTC Chia Chien Wei, the GBAD units provided Low-level Air Defence and Surveillance to the simulated critical assets located within Cold Lake Air Weapon Range.

With the large scale of participation from multinational air forces and 1 million hectares of unrestricted airspace, the exercise provided vast opportunities for both our GBAD and GCI crew to exercise their operational skills. In addition, the realistic ‘combat’ environment also provided our people with the opportunity to strengthen their operational capabilities and benchmark themselves against some of the best air forces in the world.



Said LTC Chia Chien Wei, “The exercise has provided very valuable training for the GBAD detachment. There were a lot of lessons to be learnt from the planning to execution and consolidation phase. The opportunity to work alongside foreign forces exposed the crew to the complexity of multinational operations, and thus helped us develop our people professionally.”

A Staff Visit Team led by Commander (COMD) Air Surveillance and Control Group, COL Kwek Kok Kwong, visited the GBAD forces and paid courtesy calls to Deputy COMD, 4 Wing Airbase, LTC Day, and other key Canadian



2SG Perbu illustrating the RBS70 System's engagement procedures to US participants in Ex Maple Flag 08.

participants in Exercise Maple Flag.

“The flight profiles presented were like nothing we have experienced in Singapore. The F-16s, F-15s, F-18s, Alpha Jets, C-160s and EA-6s were flying in very tactical profiles, and they performed evasive manoeuvres and EW jamming. All these were very challenging,” said Air Defence Systems Specialist, 165 Sqn, Detachment Evaluation 2IC, 2SG Edwin Goh.



“We were given the opportunity to visit the USAF Mountain Home Air Force Base (266 Radar Sqn) Threat Emitter Detachment and interact with the other GBAD counterparts from the US and Netherlands,” added Detachment Officer Commanding, CPT Vijendran.

Reinforcing Integrated Operations – EX Lightning Warrior 08



AH-64D Apaches helicopters from 120 SQN took part in Exercise Lightning Warrior for the first time.

The RSAF and the Army participated in Exercise Lightning Warrior 08 at Lohatla Combat Training Centre, South Africa, from 10 – 27 May 08. The unilateral exercise was held to provide a platform for Air-Land integrated operations so as to strengthen and validate the vertical integration from the Division Headquarters to the sensors and shooters in the field. The RSAF deployed a total of 173 RSAF personnel from various units and squadrons for the exercise. In terms of assets, four AH-64D Longbow attack helicopters, four Searcher Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and two Portable Search and Target Acquisition Radars were deployed.



Exercise Lightning Warrior was a success in developing integrated strike capability across the SAF. RSAF Exercise Director, COL Yeo Peng, was pleased with the results of the exercise. Said COL Yeo, "Exercise Lightning Warrior is primarily a strike operation with the aim of developing the strike capabilities of the SAF. Through this exercise, we were able to take a significant step forward, growing into an integrated strike team. By working closely with the Army in exercises such as these, we are able to improve our response time, ensuring that we are able to achieve effective strikes within minutes and seconds."



For more effective Air-Land integration between the army and the air force, the exercise saw the deployment of a Division Strike Centre (DSC). The DSC coordinates a network of Air-Land sensor and shooter assets, allowing operators to see, strike and influence the battlefield decisively. Overall and Army Exercise Director, COL Lim Teck Yin, was pleased with the role the DSC played in the exercise, "In Exercise Lightning Warrior, we were able to use the DSC to maintain pervasive and persistent surveillance over the battlefield and to bring precise and timely fire to destroy targets, pushing the envelope for live-firing strike training for both the RSAF and the Army."

Exercise Lightning Warrior also marked the first time our AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopters were deployed to South Africa. The helicopters provided the air power to carry



The Searcher UAVs provided real-time images to enhance the Sensor-Shooter network for faster response.



EX Lightning Warrior saw the STORM team and the Apaches helicopters carrying out integrated operations to enhance the Sensor-Shooter network.



out strike operations on simulated targets. Explained Apache Pilot, LTA Justin Yap, "For Air-Land Strikes, the Apache helicopter acts as an aerial shooter of the integrated team. The participation of the Apaches this year has provided realistic training for both the RSAF and the Army and has enhanced the integration between the various air and land assets and thereby improving the overall training value of the exercise."



Supporting the AH-64D helicopters were the Searcher UAVs, which provided air picture and situational awareness through constant surveillance during the exercise. Said UAV Senior Technician, SSG Dominique Lim, "The UAV plays an integral role in this exercise as a 'sensor'. During strike operations, UAVs let the shooters involved know whether the target has been hit, while providing intelligence to the Army and the Air Force."

To coordinate the Sensor-Shooter network, the exercise also saw the introduction of the Strike Observers Mission (STORM) team. The STORM team focuses on coordinating the reconnaissance and destruction of targets, allowing sensors and shooters to engage targets in a shorter amount of time. "By integrating our varied capabilities into a coherent system, STORM allows the SAF to prosecute strikes at a more expedient tempo. In addition, by working together with the Air Force through STORM we also build human bonds, allowing us to operate as ONE SAF regardless of our service badge," said Commanding Officer, 21 SA, MAJ Dinesh Vasu Dash, who was in charge of various STORM teams.

Concluded Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, who visited the troops training at South Africa, "Nowadays, the battle moves much more quickly. The exercise confirms the SAF's capability to have comprehensive awareness and precision operations on multiple targets. This is a capability we are happy to have and reflects the effectiveness of the SAF's 3rd Generation Transformation."



Minister Teo interacting with the RSAF personnel of Exercise Lightning Warrior 08.

Enhancing Interoperability and Friendship – EX Air Guard 08

Exercise Air Guard, a bilateral exercise between the RSAF and the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF), was conducted in Singapore from 14 – 28 Apr 08.

The annual exercise saw the participation of a total of 70 personnel from the two air forces with six Mistral air defence missile systems, a P-STAR (Portable Search and Target Acquisition Radar), two F-16D Blk 52+ Fighting Falcon aircraft and two AH-64D Apache attack helicopters in simulated operational scenarios.



RSAF Exercise Director, LTC Teo Ping Siong, found the exercise successful in fostering bilateral ties between the two air forces. Said LTC Teo, "For this year's exercise, crews from both the RSAF and the RBAirF were organised into mixed-crew Fire Units from the start of the exercise. With the increased interaction, personnel from both air forces

got to understand each other better, both operationally and culturally."



RBAirF Exercise Director, MAJ Zainal Arifin Sulaiman, was equally pleased with the results of the exercise, "We were able to learn a lot from each other in terms of interoperability and cultural exchanges, while enhancing the mutual understanding among the personnel of the two air forces. In addition, the AH-64D helicopter, deployed in this exercise for the first time, also allowed us to gain new insights and experiences by injecting more realism."

Said CPL Benny Chuen, a Full-time National Serviceman Air Defence Weapons Operator, "The exercise provided an opportunity for us to share



experiences with RBAirF and allowed personnel from both air forces to forge strong friendships and build camaraderie."

Since its inauguration in 1994, Exercise Air Guard has provided an excellent opportunity to enhance interoperability and the long-standing bilateral relations between the RSAF and the RBAirF. The two air forces interact regularly through bilateral exercises and professional exchanges.



RBAirF personnel learning more about the RSAF's Mistral air defence missile system.

Enhancing Integrated Defence – EX Bersama Shield 08



The Hawk 127 aircraft of 76 SQN, Royal Australian Air Force, at Paya Lebar Air Base.

The RSAF participated in the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) air defence exercise code-named Exercise Bersama Shield 08. As part of the FPDA and the Integrated Area Defence Systems (IADS), the exercise was jointly hosted by Malaysia and Singapore and held over the Malaysian Peninsula and the South China Sea from 4 – 16 May 08. The opening and closing ceremonies for this FPDA exercise were held at Air Force School on 5 May and 16 May 08 respectively.

Exercise Bersama Shield is a multilateral exercise involving Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom and aims to build interoperability amongst the air, ground and naval forces of these nations. This exercise also serves as a platform for the various participating personnel to interact and train with their foreign counterparts, while enhancing regional security.



The benefits and effectiveness of this exercise are reflected in the words of Commander IADS, Air Vice Marshal Kevin Paule, "One of the intangible benefits of EX Bersama Shield is for all our people to come together in a concentrated period of time to practise our joint and combined operating procedures in a tactical environment. Each country is very experienced in practising their own techniques and procedures in their home countries. The benefits here are that we can

come together and learn from each other's procedures and we can learn a lot more about each other's culture, particularly in this region where the exercises are held."



Commander Air Surveillance and Control Group, COL Kwek Kok Kwong, also highlighted his views on the success of the exercise, "This was a great exercise as it provided a lot of opportunity for all the operators to share experiences with their counterparts. In such a large scale exercise with that degree of complexity, to be successful, the participants must be very open and sit down and plan together, briefing each other on local peculiarities and their own procedures to ensure the entire exercise is executed seamlessly. Also, in the aspect of defence relations among all the 5 nations, I must say that through this exercise we have fostered a lot of close links, so that's a good thing for all of us."

RSAF's participation in Darwin Open Day

On 14 Jun 08, 5 RSAF personnel from 145 SQN put up a static display of a F-16D Blk 52+ Fighting Falcon aircraft at the Darwin Open Day. The event was held to showcase the personnel and aircraft involved in Exercise Pitch Black and included aerial displays and an exhibition of military aircraft.

The RSAF and the F-16D Blk 52+ aircraft were well received by both the local community of Darwin and visitors of the other air forces at the airshow. The RSAF's presence at the airshow underscores the warm and long-standing defence relations between the RSAF and the Royal Australian Air Force.



The Darwin Open Day drew large crowds to view the static display from various nations.

RSAF's Participation in Orange Air Base's Open Day



The public in France got a chance to view the RSAF's TA-4SU Super Skyhawks.

On 18 May 2008, two of RSAF's TA-4SU Super Skyhawks from 150 SQN, RSAF's fighter pilot training detachment based in Cazaux, France, participated in the 2008 Orange Air Show, held in Orange Air Base, France.

The airshow attracted more than 40,000 people from all over Europe, entertaining the crowd with an impressive eight hours of non-stop flying displays and over 80 aircraft on static display. The RSAF's TA-4SU drew the attention of many visitors and aircraft enthusiasts due to its rarity in the region. Its unique form also sparked the curiosity of many visitors, who asked about its origin as well as the nationality of the personnel manning the aircraft.

The RSAF's participation at the 2008 Orange Air Show reflects the warm and long-standing defence relations between the RSAF and the French Air Force (FAF).

Said Officer Commanding, 150 SQN, MAJ Derek Pang, "The RSAF has consistently been supporting the French airshows, and our participation is testament of our long-standing friendship with the FAF. It also underscores the strong friendship and close ties between Singapore and France."



C-130 Deployments to China and Myanmar for Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief Missions



Unloading medical supplies, food and other relief supplies, for the victims of Cyclone Nargis, from the C-130 Hercules transport aircraft.

On 2 May 08, Myanmar was struck by Cyclone Nargis. Days later, on 12 May 08, China was hit by an earthquake which measured 7.9 on the Richter scale. The two natural disasters resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of lives with many more injured or displaced from their homes.

As a responsible member of the global community, Singapore was quick to extend a helping hand to the two affected nations. The RSAF played an important role in relief efforts by providing the transportation link between Singapore and the two nations, helping to transport the much needed aid in the form of medical supplies, food and other relief supplies to China and Myanmar to help them cope in this time of need.

To assist in relief efforts in Myanmar, a C-130 aircraft was deployed to transport medical personnel from the Ministry of Health, medical supplies and other relief supplies to troubled areas on 22 May 08. Deputy Commanding Officer, 122 SQN, and Aircraft Captain for the deployment to Myanmar, MAJ Goh Chong Bee, was thankful that the RSAF had the



RSAF personnel worked tirelessly to ensure that the supplies would reach victims of the Chengdu earthquake as soon as possible.



opportunity to offer aid to the affected people. "With the devastation in Myanmar so apparent in the news, I was really convinced that there was a need for victims to receive external aid. As such, I was happy to be called upon to help send aid to those who needed it."

122 SQN was also part of the relief efforts in China. Two C-130 aircraft from 122 SQN were deployed on 16 May 08 and 1 Jun 08 to ferry a SCDF Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team and relief supplies to areas affected by the earthquake. C-130 pilot, 122 SQN, and one of the two Aircraft Captains for the deployment to Chengdu, CPT Chew Chuen Hee, was grateful to be able to



put his training to use for a good cause. "Carrying out such Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations is one of the roles of my squadron and I feel that it is very meaningful to



An SCDF vehicle being loaded onto one of the two C-130 aircraft at Paya Lebar Air Base, headed for Chengdu.

be able to put my training into practice to help others," said CPT Chew.



Chief Warrant Officer, 122 SQN, 1WO Goi Siam Hang, another member of the Chengdu deployment, shared his sentiments. "As Singaporeans, we are able to live in relative comfort at home. As such, it is all the more important for us to help our fellow human beings in other parts of the world who need our help, offering them moral support and giving them the strength to carry on."



Both deployments were warmly received by locals from both countries. Said Aircrew Specialist, 2WO Vincent Teo, who participated in deployments to both Myanmar and Chengdu, "All of us really wanted to participate in this mission to use our training to help those affected by the disaster and the warm response of the locals and their gratitude only made it all the more worthwhile."

Black Knights Performance in Bangkok in Commemoration of RSAF-RTAF 25th Anniversary of Exercises



CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern (1st from left), ACM Chalit Pukbhasuk (2nd from left) and other senior Thai military personnel enjoying the thrilling aerobatics performance.

At the invitation of Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Chalit Pukbhasuk, the RSAF's Black Knights performed an aerial display at Wing 6, Don Mueang Airport, Bangkok, Thailand, on 24 Apr 08. This was the very first overseas performance by the RSAF Black Knights since it was formed in 1973.

The performance was held in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of Exercises between the RSAF and RTAF. The event graced by Singapore's Ambassador to Thailand, Mr Peter Chan, ACM Chalit, and CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, together with over 10,000 locals who gathered in the afternoon to catch the aerial display.

"The Black Knights are very honoured to be invited by Commander-in-Chief, ACM Chalit, for our very first overseas performance here in Bangkok. It is an honour to be performing for both the air forces, as well as for the people of Thailand,"



ACM Chalit presenting a token of appreciation to LTC Leng for the Black Knight's aerial display in Bangkok.



CAF, MG Ng, interacting with other senior RTAF officers during a dinner reception.

said Black Knights Team Leader, LTC Leng Wai Mun, on the significance of the performance in Bangkok.

Sharing on how the crowd enjoyed the show, a Thai local, Kunut Jaturasrivilai, said, "I came in a group to catch the Black Knights performance today, and it was a great performance by the Black Knights. I saw many children enjoying the show and they were all very excited."



Sean Goh, a Singaporean working in Bangkok, also caught the show and shared the same sentiments. "The show has been fantastic. Even some of the Thai commanders and people agreed that it has been a fantastic show. I particularly liked the Flaming Heart and the Knife-edge Pass, which I think requires a lot of skill," he said.

Amongst the crowd were a delegation of senior RSAF Officers, which



Singapore's Ambassador to Thailand, Mr Peter Chan, commending MAJ Jeffrey Nah for his performance.



CAF, MG Ng, and ACM Chalit cutting a cake to commemorate 25 years of RSAF-RTAF exercises.



The Black Knights team together with ACM Chalit (4th from left), Ambassador Chan (center) and CAF, MG Ng (4th from right), marking 25 years of bilateral exercises.

included Commander (COMD) Air Defence and Operations Command, BG Hoo Cher Mou, COMDAir Combat Command, COL Richard Pereira, and Deputy Head Air Operations (Strategic Planning), COL Neo Hong Keat.

The Black Knights performance in Bangkok underscores the strong and long-standing relationship that has been forged over the last 25 years between the RSAF and the RTAF. Both air forces interact regular through exercises, including Exercise Cope Tiger, and other professional exchanges.



Flight line crew during the recovery of the Black Knights aircraft at Don Mueang Airport.



Over 10,000 locals gathered to catch the aerial display by the Black Knights.



The Thai locals also had an opportunity to get up close and personal with the Black Knights team.

CDF Visits 150 SQN, Cazaux Air Base, France



CDF, LG Kuek, interacting with 150 SQN personnel at Cazaux Air Base, France.



CDF, LG Kuek, presenting CO, 150 SQN, MAJ Danny Koh, with a plaque during his visit.

On 5 Jun 08, CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, visited 150 SQN at Cazaux Air Base, France. During the visit, CDF was briefed on the squadron's operations and also visited the squadron's detachment premises and interacted with the detachment staff.

The visit allowed CDF, LG Kuek, to better appreciate and understand the RSAF's training detachment operations and the concerns of the RSAF personnel.

RSAF and MIO Launch Intelligence Officer (Air-Intelligence) Scheme

An inauguration ceremony of the Intelligence Officer (Air-Intelligence) [IO(AIR-INT)] scheme, officiated by CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, was held at the MINDEF Auditorium on 5 May 08.

The inauguration of the IO(AIR-INT), a new domain specialisation in addition to the existing domain specialisation under Military Intelligence Organisation (MIO), is a critical step in cementing the collaborative efforts between the RSAF and MIO in enhancing Air-Intelligence integration. It is also one of the key initiatives to develop its people under the 3rd Generation Air Force.

The IO(AIR-INT) integration will provide RSAF with the dedicated information dominance needed to conduct full spectrum integrated operations not only within RSAF, but also to meet the highly dynamic and sophisticated intelligence environment that the 3rd Generation SAF faces today.

"With the cross-pollination of aviation and air operational knowledge with deep intelligence expertise across the air and intelligence communities, the SAF will benefit from the enhanced Ops-Intelligence integration," said CAF, MG Ng in his opening address.



The IO(AIR-INT) Scheme was officially launched by CDF, LG Kuek, and witnessed by CAF, MG Ng, Director Military Intelligence, BG Tan Meng Dui, and COMD UAV Command, COL Sarbjit Singh.

During the ceremony, CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, presented the IO(AIR-INT) insignia to five RSAF personnel, representing different vocations in the RSAF, comprising Pilot, UAV Pilot, WSO(NAV), WSO(C3) and WSO(ADA).

Sharing on how the IO(AIR-INT) scheme will cement the Air-Intelligence integration with MIO, LTC Desmond Chong, AID, said, "The creation of the IO(AIR-INT) specialisation track is a significant step forward in allowing the RSAF and MIO to cross-share their respective expertise in air and intelligence domains for the greater benefit of the SAF."

Said CPT Shirley Che, 163 SQN, on her decision to join the IO(AIR-INT) scheme, "This new specialisation track offers me a greater insight into the Intelligence domain, and it provides greater learning opportunities for me to learn how intelligence functions in the SAF, not just within RSAF."

CPT Timothy Ang, 116 SQN, also shared his expectations of joining this scheme. "I'm excited to take part in this process towards strengthening Ops-Int integration, and to continue improving on existing processes, to effectively meet the demands of the 3rd Generation fighting force," said CPT Ang.



Five RSAF personnel received the IO(AIR-INT) insignia during the ceremony, including CPT Timothy Ang (1st from left), LTC Desmond Chong (3rd from left) and CPT Shirley Che (1st from right).

National Runway Cycling and Skating 2008

The annual National Runway Cycling and Skating (NRWCS) was held for the 13th time at Paya Lebar Air Base (PLAB) on 25 May 08. The event, jointly organised by SAFRA National Service Association, the RSAF and the Singapore Sports Council, was held on National Family Day in conjunction with National Family Week.

This year's event brought together over 8,000 people including National Servicemen (NSmen), members of community groups, families and the public for a morning of fun and bonding. NRWCS is the only event in Asia where Servicemen, NSmen and members of the public are able to cycle or inline skate on an aircraft runway. The highly anticipated event saw participants streaming in hours before the flag off time with their bicycles and inline skates. This year's Guest-of-Honour, Minister of State for Defence and SAFRA President, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, flagged off the participants before cycling alongside other participants on the runway.

Said Associate Professor Koo, "NRWCS is a much awaited event and, through the response this year, we can see that the cycling culture is taking root in Singapore. I am very happy that the Air Force and the SAF have taken the

initiative in organising this event and I hope to see a bigger crowd next year."



Organising Chairman, Commander PLAB, COL Tommy Tan, who also took part with his family, was pleased with the success of the event. "This is the only cycling and inline skating event

to take place on a runway and we are pleased to see Singaporeans from all walks of life joining us for this exciting event. We hope that the event will provide opportunities for NSmen, Servicemen and their families to bond with each other in a fun and relaxed environment," said COL Tan.

This year's NRWCS included, for the first time, a Go-Kart track where interested



NRWCS 08 included, for the first time, a Go-Kart track where interested participants could register for a drive on the runway.

participants could register for a drive on the runway. Said COL Tan, "Singapore has been trying to drum up support for the inaugural F-1 race in Singapore. The RSAF is glad to be able play its part by organising such an attraction to promote interest in motor sports."

Besides the cycling, skating and Go-Karts on the runway, a carnival fairground was also set up for performances, activities and games to encourage greater inter-generational family participation, promote family bonding and provide fun family entertainment. An AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopter and a Black Knights aircraft on static display were crowd favourites at the event, with many families clamouring for close up photos with both the pilots and aircraft.



Guest-of-Honour, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, flagged-off the event.



Who: Mr David V. Marren, a foreign cyclist at NRWCS

"Although I've cycled for practically all my life, this is my first time cycling on a runway. I've found it a great experience, and the fact that there are no cars to impede us makes it better. I would definitely make it a point to invite more of my friends along next year."



Who: Mr Tan Boon Tat and family, second time local participant at NRWCS

"We came together today as a family of 16, from myself all the way down to my grandchildren. This is our second time participating in NRWCS and, after last year, my children and grandchildren were all eager to participate in the event once more with me. With less obstructions, cycling on the runway is much safer, and really is fun for the whole family."



Who: Gary Goh, Aljunied Group Representation Constituency (GRC) Zone 8 Residents Committee Chairman

"I came here today with many residents in my GRC to exercise and enjoy the scenery along the runway. It was so enjoyable that I went for two rounds around the runway! The carnival activities were also fascinating, especially the bike show."



Who: Mansor Sawari, a regular participant at NRWCS

"We've come here as a group of cycling enthusiasts to participate in the event. We cycle regularly but NRWCS is especially enjoyable because of the smooth and spacious runway. The fine weather today also contributed to our overall enjoyment of the event. Next year I will try to bring a group of 30 for NRWCS!"



Who: 2WO Au Soon Leng, a Senior Technician from Air Logistics Squadron - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command

"I really appreciate the effort the RSAF has taken to organise such an event. Being at the event not only allows my family to spend an afternoon of family bonding time together, it also provides the rare opportunity for me to show them how a runway looks like so that they have an idea of what I do at work."



Who: 1SG(NS) Wilson Leong, Air Operations Systems Specialist, Flying Support Squadron - Paya Lebar Air Base

"This is my third time participating in this event and I find it very interesting and enjoyable. This year, I brought my family and also some friends for the event. As a NSman from PLAB, I appreciate mass events because they let me come back to the air base."

Creating Pilots – The SYFC Wings and Awards Ceremony



Minister of State for Defence, Associate Professor Koo, presenting the 'Best in Flying Excellence Award' to Jonathan Ow.

In 1971, the Junior Flying Club was formed to promote interest in aviation and to nurture aspiring pilots for the RSAF. The Singapore Youth Flying Club (SYFC), as it is known today, continues to train and generate pilots out of passionate and aspiring youths. To date, SYFC has conducted flying courses for over 4900 students and awarded more than 750 Private Pilot's Licence (PPL) Wings. On 26 Apr 08, 37 of these students received their PPL Wings at a ceremony held at SYFC, Seletar West Camp, which was

officialated by Minister of State for Defence, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee.

In his speech, Associate Professor Koo congratulated PPL recipients on their achievement while encouraging them to pursue their passion in aviation. "Many RSAF pilots first learnt to fly at the SYFC. This is a natural step-up for those who wish to further pursue their passion in flying. Joining the RSAF will also allow you to enter an operational environment – you will be tasked with real missions, the success of which often depends on how well you pit your skills against other pilots," said Associate Professor Koo.

Amongst the recipients was SYFC and Singapore Technologies (ST) 'Best in Flying Excellence Award' recipient, Jonathan Ow from Singapore Polytechnic. For Jonathan, the decision to join the SYFC came naturally as he had always harboured the ambition of becoming a pilot. "The SYFC provides an easy introduction to flying and, since I plan to take up flying as a career, I was glad to have the opportunity to learn how to fly at a younger age," said Jonathan.

The SYFC experience exceeds the mere honing of aviation technique; more importantly, it builds in its members



the determination to succeed in the process of doing so. Said SYFC and ST 'Best in Ground School Excellence Award' recipient, Trixie Tan from Raffles Junior College, "My flight instructors and flight mates in the SYFC were an inspiration to me during the course. The competitive spirit and dynamism was incredible and spurred me to put in my all during every training. It was my joining the SYFC that really spurred me to want to pursue a career in the RSAF."



Of this year's cohort, 19 students have applied to join the RSAF with PPL recipient and pilot trainee, NgYeow Choon from Victoria Junior College, being amongst those who have already been accepted into the RSAF. Said Ng, "I chose the RSAF because it offers a very dynamic career and I feel that it is a good place for me to challenge myself. The new situations that a RSAF pilot faces every day ensure that he never stops thinking, which is excellent for personal development."

SYFC Familiarisation Flight

As part of a collaboration with the Singapore Youth Flying Club (SYFC), the RSAF rewards trainees for their outstanding performance and dedication to flying by giving them the chance to fly on-board the F-16D fighter aircraft. Hosted by Tengah Air Base (TAB), top students Jonathan Ow, 20, and Justin Tan, 19, who received their Private Pilot License (PPL) earlier in April 08, were taken on a familiarisation flight by Deputy Commanding Officer, 140 SQN, MAJ Boh Choun Kiat, and Squadron Pilot Attack Instructor, CPT Ben Lim on 6 Jun 08.

Gushing with excitement after the flight, Jonathan said, "The F-16 is so much faster than what we fly at the SYFC – the afterburner take-off, the landing speed and the climb rate are much greater. When you compare the amount of Gs you can pull, the most I did at SYFC was 5.5 but I did 8.8 here, so you can tell how the F-16 is much more powerful. The controls of the aircraft were also very agile, with just a flick of the joystick the aircraft would respond immediately."



Together with the familiarisation flight, 18 other SYFC trainees were given the rare opportunity to visit TAB to get a feel of the daily operations of 140 SQN and TAB. They also witnessed the launch of the two F-16D fighter aircraft that their friends were in. Said Jacqueline Yeo, 17, of the visit, "We learnt about how the air base works and got an overview of the F-16 and its specifications. The briefing really opened our eyes and being taken to the shed to see how they do pre-flight checks on the plane and taxi out was a unique experience." The RSAF's emphasis on safety was certainly noticed by the students, as Dominic Lee, 20, noted, "There was a lot of



ground crews checking the plane before it even taxis out, so I think that makes it very safe to fly in the air force."

Justin shared his interest in joining the RSAF after the flight, "Getting the chance to fly in the F-16 was like a dream come true because since I was young, I had always wanted to fly fighter jets. Now I am definitely signing up with the air force to pursue my passion for flying and experience even more with the RSAF."

Traditionally, the SYFC is a talent pool for prospective pilots of the RSAF as it develops a strong interest in flying. In activities such as this, the RSAF encourages SYFC trainees to strive for excellence and to work hard in their training.



(From left to right) MAJ Boh Choun Kiat, Jonathan Ow, Justin Tan and CPT Ben Lim before the familiarisation flight.

RSAF – AAIS Career Transition Job Fair

The RSAF and the Association of Aerospace Industries Singapore (AAIS) jointly organised a series of job fairs at Tengah Air Base and Sembawang Air Base on 2 May and 23 May 08 respectively. The series of job fairs, first held in 2004, have been highly successful in helping RSAF personnel, especially Senior Technicians, transit into the aerospace industry.

During the job fair, Senior Technicians from the various formations were given the opportunity to interact and establish contact with major players in the local aerospace industry, such as Singapore Aero Engineering Services Pte Ltd, Goodrich Aerostructure Service Centre – Asia Pte Ltd and Eurocopter South East Asia Pte Ltd. Representatives from the participating companies gave presentations and put up an exhibition to inform interested Senior Technicians about career opportunities in their respective companies.



The job fair was successful in addressing concerns participants had regarding their future career prospects and helping to facilitate a smoother transition into civilian life. Said

SSG Chua Chong Lian, an F-16D Blk 52+ Senior Technician from Aircraft Operations Maintenance Squadron, "I'm interested in continuing my career in the avionics industry and, after attending the job fair, I feel reassured knowing that there are job opportunities in this field."



Added 1SG Edward Scully, a Super Puma Senior Technician from Air Logistics Group – Sembawang Air Base, "The job fair has been very useful and beneficial to me. It's great to know that the skills and aptitude



Ms Lynn Tan (left) engaging participants in an informal discussion.

the RSAF has instilled in me will be useful in paving the way for my future career."

Indeed, with the RSAF having established a reputation for its strong work ethics and high safety standards, it is no wonder that its personnel are sought after by many companies in the local aerospace industry. Said Human Resource Assistant Manager, Eurocopter South East Asia Pte Ltd, Ms Lynn Tan, "Besides technical skills, former RSAF personnel are imbued with the right work discipline, ethics and safety-minded culture. Such qualities would make them marketable in the aerospace industry."



RSAF WOSAs completing Premium Plan 1 were more informed about future career opportunities through the job fairs.

SAF Commanders' Sports Day



CAF, MG Ng, also joined in with the fun during the Chain-of-Command Relay event.

The inaugural SAF Commanders Sports Day, organised by Army Fitness Centre, was held on 27 Jun 08, at SAFTI Military Institute.

This is the first sports day which involves all the Services. The event kicked off with a 3km jog around the compound before the various groups headed off to participate in the different games which included swimming, football, rugby, basketball and volleyball. After these games, there was an inter-service tug-of-war competition and the Chain-of-Command (COC) Relay, with CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern and Commander (COMD) Participation Command (PC), BG Wong Huat Sern participating in the latter.



The RSAF's team playing volleyball, a game which they obtained the top score.

The event was a great success as it allowed the participants to loosen up and better interact with their counterparts from the other Services in an informal setting.



Air Power Generation Command – Tengah Air Base, Chief Warrant Officer, MWO John Chia, said, "Sports and games are an avenue where people can come together in an informal setting to get to know each other better. Through these interactions, personnel from the three Services can form bonds and build bridges to integrate the SAF at the tactical level."



To maximise inter-service interaction, the organisers formed teams comprising personnel from the Air Force, Navy, Army and Joint. "Such a team composition proved to be a great opportunity for us to mix with the other formations and get to interact and understand them better through these interactive activities," explained COMD PC, BG Wong.



More than just about an integrated SAF, the event also aimed to promote personal development. "Such events achieve the multi-pronged goals of developing Service identity, team collaboration, and sportsmanship while simultaneously encouraging health and fitness, which are musts for the SAF. It not only promotes inter-Service interaction, but also intra-Service interaction by bringing junior commanders together with the senior commanders," said CPT Boh Lee Wee from Air Intelligence Department, who also participated in the COC Relay.

Defence Finance Organisation Visits PLAB and AFS

On 20 Jun 08, a delegation from the Defence Finance Organisation (DFO) visited Paya Lebar Air Base (PLAB) and Air Force School (AFS), so as to have a better understanding of RSAF operations and training matters and thereby enable financial frameworks, policies and processes to be better designed to meet the need of the RSAF.

Headed by Director DFO, Mr Liew Choon Boon, the delegation comprised 28 officers. They visited Air Power Generation Command (APGC), where they were hosted by Commander (COMD) APGC, COL Tan Kah Han, and Deputy COMD PLAB, LTC Pek Hong Hwa. The delegation was briefed on the operational structure and requirements of APGC and also visited the Hush House for a brief and demonstration on noise reduction measures and its operating costs.

The delegation also visited AFS where they were briefed on the Computer Aided Instruction materials and introduced to the Aircraft Recognition Resource Centre.



Director, Defence Finance Organisation, Mr Liew, touring the Hush House used for ground run testing.

Singapore Police Force Visits UC

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Command (UC) welcomed a delegation from the Singapore Police Force on 4 Jun 08. Hosted by Commander UC, COL Sarbjit Singh, the delegation, led by Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Goh Liang Kwang, was briefed on the capabilities and operations of UAVs in the SAF. The visit concluded with a visit to the UAV simulator and a static display of the Searcher and H-450 UAV.



The visit allowed the delegation to learn more about the RSAF's UAVs.



Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Goh Liang Kwang, learning more about the UAV Simulator.

Mee Toh School Visits Air Force Museum



Staff from Mee Toh School toured the Air Force Museum for a better understanding of the RSAF's rich history and heritage.

On 30 May 08, 65 teaching staff from Mee Toh School visited Air Force Museum. The visit was part of the RSAF's ongoing efforts to reach out to the community and schools and to introduce them to RSAF operations, training and organisation, as well as to update them on the RSAF's transformation towards a 3rd Generation Air Force.

During the visit, the participants were taken on a guided tour around the Air Force Museum. The participants also viewed a video presentation on the operational role of the RSAF and its contribution to Singapore's defence.



The visit was successful in allowing the teaching staff from Mee Toh School to have a better understanding of RSAF's rich history and heritage as well as an appreciation of the importance of flying activities to Singapore's defence. Said Principal, Ms Fong Bee Cheng, "I had often wondered how the RSAF operates – how it manages to defend our skies so successfully. The guided tour through the museum today really allowed me to learn a lot more about the RSAF."



Added Vice Principal, Mr Ng Song Beng, "I have learnt about the part the RSAF plays in Singapore's defence through the visit. The effort the RSAF has made to stay relevant and remain a First Class Air Force has made me feel confident that they have the ability to safeguard our nation."

SAF and RSAF Officers' Promotion Ceremony



Minister Teo, Associate Professor Koo, together with MINDEF and SAF senior officers with the promoted officers.

The annual RSAF and SAF Officers' Promotion Ceremonies were held on 24 Jun and 26 Jun 08 respectively. The SAF Officers' Promotion Ceremony saw a total of 48 senior RSAF officers promoted to their next higher rank of LTC and above, with COL Ng Chee Meng and COL Richard Christopher Pereira joining the ranks of Brigadier-General (BG). 173 other junior officers from the RSAF were also promoted to the rank of CPT or MAJ at the RSAF Officers' Promotion Ceremony.



COMD Air Combat Command, BG (then COL) Pereira, who received his new rank and promotion certificate from Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, shared his joy with the people around him.

"It is a great honour not only for me, but for the many committed and motivated people around me whom I had the privilege to work with. This promotion serves as a recognition of the good work that they have done," said BG Pereira. He further shared his drive throughout his career, adding, "An important source of motivation is to realise that what we are doing contributes to a much stronger RSAF and SAF, which is necessary for the protection of Singapore."



COMD Air Defence Group, COL (then LTC) Chee Wai Mun, attributed his achievements to the RSAF. Said COL Chee, "The RSAF has given me

a great and valued experience in terms of career opportunities and different job exposures. I've grown a lot with the RSAF and I owe it to the air force for bringing me up to be what I am today."

Head Certification and Standards Branch, Aeromedical Centre, LTC(DR) (then MAJ) Gan Wee Hoe, who received his promotional certificate from CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, shared similar sentiments. "Having to juggle different portfolios has been a motivation and makes me realise I cannot fail, as these roles have been given to me because it shows that the organisation trusts and believes in me. It motivates me to constantly be on my toes," shared LTC(DR) Gan.



Unconditional support from the family is also something Commanding Officer (CO), 121 SQN, LTC (then MAJ) Song Chun Keet, is thankful for during his line of service. "Definitely, family support is an important factor. I have been overseas for a period of time and my wife followed me as well. She was always there for me and certainly my pillar of strength," said LTC Song.



COMD Helicopter Group, COL (then LTC) Sunny Yun, saw the promotion as a chance to contribute more towards the RSAF as well. "I believe that with this promotion, it

will better allow me to influence all the people whom I work with to work towards a ONE SAF. In particular it will be the Air-Land issues, which I can use my appointment to forge closer ties with the Army and Navy," said COL Yun.



For CO, Flying Support Squadron, Tengah Air Base, LTC (then MAJ) Ramesh Tiwari, the promotion will continue to spur on the ongoing efforts in his unit. "My focus is developing my men and bringing my unit to the next level into the 3rd Generation RSAF. Things have been moving on pretty well and we are going to move on ahead with this transformation journey," said LTC Tiwari.



The promotion also served as a recognition of the many hours of hard work put in by CPT (then LTA) Kee Choon Yong, a pilot from 127 SQN. Said CPT Kee, "I feel proud and honoured to be promoted. I will continue to be passionate about my job and still continue to love what I do and explore new things along the way and learn more as I move along with the force."



Recognising the contributions by the National Servicemen (NSmen) towards the RSAF, 27 NSmen were also promoted during the RSAF Officers' Promotion Ceremony, with MAJ(NS) (then CPT) Shaun See being one of them. Said MAJ(NS) See on his promotion, "This came as a nice surprise to me and I'm thankful to the organisation for recognising the contributions of NSmen. As a NS Officer, I feel that it will be a rewarding experience if I can touch people's life, move people forward and contribute towards the nation at the same time."



Minister Teo shaking hands with LTC(DR) (then MAJ) Gan Wee Hoe and COL (then LTC) Sunny Yun (1* from right).



CAF, MG Ng, interacting with the new promotees and their spouses during the dinner reception.

Air Force News congratulates all Officers who have been promoted and wishes them well in their careers and future endeavours!

Recognising and Rewarding Our Dedicated Warrant Officers



Minister of State for Defence, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, MINDEF and SAF senior officers with the promoted Warrant Officers from the RSAF.

222 Warrant Officers were promoted on 19 Jun 08, in a ceremony held at The Chevrons. Guest-of-Honour, Minister of State for Defence, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, presented the certificates of promotion to the Warrant Officers promoted from MWO to SWO, while Chief of Defence Force, LG Desmond Kuek, presented the certificates to those promoted from 2WO to 1WO and 1WO to MWO.

The ceremony, which was graced by the various commanders and heads of departments, is an annual event held to accord due recognition for the effort and contributions of the Warrant Officers to the SAF. Air Force School (AFS) Training Officer, MWO (then 1WO) Joe Loh, said of his promotion, "It is indeed an honour and privilege to be promoted as it is a testimony to the efforts that I have put in. For this I have to thank the organisation for the trust and confidence that it has placed in me and of course my wife and family for always supporting me."

As Warrant Officers, they are the men and women who lead and teach the personnel on the ground, moulding them to work with the RSAF. "As a Warrant Officer I am given a position of responsibility where I have to lead the next generation of soldiers and leaders whilst the RSAF

and SAF transform into a 3rd Generation Fighting Force," explained Chief Warrant Officer, Transport Group – Air Combat Command, MWO (then 1WO) P. Jegathesan.

With this transformation, the Warrant Officer corps has to perform similar roles, but in different ways so as to exploit fully the enhanced technology and integration that comes with it. MWO Loh outlined the lessons that he tries to impart to his students at AFS, "They have to learn to lead up, lead across and lead down, they have to learn to learn so they remain relevant to the organisation and learn to communicate because people must understand the purpose, intent and rationale of what they are doing before they can be committed to it."

MWO Jegathesan summed up what he felt is important as a motivated and committed member of the RSAF, "You have to be self-driven, you have to set targets for yourself, you have to have principles and at the end of the day, you must have a certain amount of passion to work in this organisation. The mindset of country before self has to be very clear."

Air Force News congratulates all promoted Warrant Officers on their new ranks and wishes them the best in their future endeavours!



MWO Loh receiving his new rank and certificate of promotion from CDF, LG Desmond Kuek.



CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, presenting MWO Jegathesan with his new rank and certificate of promotion.

RCGC and RGDI 02/08



RSAF senior officers and the graduands of RCGC 02/08 posing together for a memento photo.

On 22 May 08, 70 graduands received their Certificates, Vocational Wings and Brevets and Ceremonial Swords from Guest-of-Honour, COS(AS), BG Charles Sih, at the RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony, held at Air Force Museum.

During the ceremony, the top trainees were bestowed with an award for their excellent performances to ace in their respective courses, which included the Transport Wings Course (TWC), Fighter Wings Course (FWC), WSO(C3) Course, WSO(ADA) Course, UAV Wings Course, as well as the Air Logistics Officer (Supply) Course (ALOC).

Clinching the 13th ALOC Top Trainee was OCT Freddie Goh, who attributed his success to his fellow course mates. "I am honoured to have attained this award. However, it would not have been possible without the help of my fellow course mates, who have certainly made this course an enjoyable experience," said OCT Goh.

LTA Toh Ghee Zhen, the Best Trainee for the 129th FWC, also shared similar sentiments, saying, "Besides the support of our family and friends, peer support also motivated us to overcome the many challenges faced while training in France during the Advanced Jet Training phase."

The Best Trainee for the 22nd WSO(C3) Course, LTA Phua Jia Kai, shared that technical knowledge was not the only thing the cadets learnt. Said LTA Phua, "The thing I appreciate most is that it has been a very good learning journey for myself. It is not just how to be a good controller, but the soft skills that we picked up and polished along the way."



Sharing the joy of the graduands were the family members present at the ceremony. Mr Phua Soo Hong, the father of LTA Phua, was elated that his son attained the Best Trainee award. "Winning the award was something he always aimed for, and we are very proud of him that he has been able to do so. I really hope that with this, he will continue to serve the nation with his best," said Mr Phua.

The defence of the nation was also the most important source of motivation for Full-Time National Serviceman, OCT Jerry Chua, Best Trainee for the 26th WSO(ADA) Course. "Being an officer was something I always wanted to be, as the defence of the nation lies in our hands. The core values of 'Loyalty to Country' and 'Fighting Spirit' also pushed us to overcome whatever that came our way," said OCT Chua.



The ceremony also saw OCT Louisa Tan from the 22nd WSO(C3) Course, as the only female graduand this time round. "I was inspired to join the RSAF by my sister who works in MINDEF, as well as the interest and the love to serve the country. Even though the course was challenging, we took up the challenge and that's when we learn and grow," shared OCT Tan.

For OCT Jeffrey Ng, Best Trainee for the 13th UAV Wings Course, the course seemed daunting at times, but family support proved essential. "Parental support is very vital in this course. It is always good to know that our parents are always there to give us unconditional support and give us a pat on our shoulder when the going gets tough," shared OCT Ng.



Said Mr and Mrs Ng who were present at the ceremony, "Our family has always been supportive of his decision to join the RSAF as that was something he wanted to do all along. He has been very diligent and self-motivating and we are very comforted that he is enjoying what he is doing."



The ceremony was immediately followed by the RSAF Graduation Dining-In, which was held at the Paya Lebar Officers' Mess, where Distinguished Speaker, LTC(RET) Timothy De Souza, congratulated the graduands and encouraged them of the exciting future ahead in the RSAF.

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

Top Trainees for RCGC 02/08



Name (From left to right)	Category
LTA Phua Jia Kai	22 nd WSO(C3) Course
LTA Ng Zi Hao	132 nd Transport Wings Course
LTA Toh Ghee Zhen	129 th Fighter Wings Course
OCT Chua Kwee Teck Jerry	26 th WSO(ADA) Course
OCT Ng Zhao Hong Jeffrey	13 th Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Wings Course
OCT Shao Biaoming	26 th WSO(C3) Aerodrome/Par Course
OCT Goh Shun Hui Freddie	13 th Air Logistics Officer (Supply) Course

Officer Cadet Commissioning

556 Officer Cadet Trainees, of whom 60 were from the RSAF, were commissioned at a parade held at SAFTI Military Institute on 14 Jun 08. The parade marked the end of 38 weeks of rigorous training for the cadets and served to commission these cadets as officers in the presence of family and friends. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Wong Kan Seng, officiated at the commissioning parade.

The Officer Cadet Course not only trains cadets physically, it also hones their mental resilience. Prior to their commissioning, the cadets completed weeks of training at Officer Cadet School where they learnt planning, analytical, combat and leadership skills. Said Deputy Prime Minister Wong, "You will bear heavy responsibilities as leaders and commanders. More important than being physically fit and tough, you need to inspire and motivate the men and

women you lead to give their best... Stand by the tenets of the Officers' Creed: Lead by example; Excel in everything you do; Overcome adversity with courage, fortitude and determination."

During the parade, OCT Jerry Chua received the prestigious Sword-of-Honour for his outstanding performance during the Weapon Systems Officer (Air Defence Artillery) course. Said OCT Chua, "I feel very honoured to be able to receive this award today as it serves as recognition of my commitment to serve Singapore. This award will constantly spur me to improve, no matter what the challenges ahead are."

The parade also featured the commissioning of a female RSAF cadet, Weapon Systems Officer (Command, Control and Communications), OCT Louisa Tan. "Although it was tough being in a male dominated



OCT Jerry Chua receiving the Sword-of-Honour from Deputy Prime Minister Wong.



environment I realised that, in the long run, it is not your gender that matters. As long as you don't give up you will definitely reach your goals," said OCT Tan.

CAF Receives United States Legion of Merit

CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, was presented the United States' Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) by former Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force (USAF), General Michael Moseley, on 10 Apr 08.

The Legion of Merit award, conferred on behalf of the United States Government, recognises MG Ng's efforts in strengthening the close relationship between the USAF and the RSAF during his service as CAF since March 2006.

"The award is a great honour for me personally but more importantly, it signifies the long-standing relationship between the USAF and the RSAF. It is a reflection of the strong bonds and the ability of the USAF and RSAF to operate together. The RSAF would like to thank the USAF for its support in providing us with access to training airspace, facilities and technology over the years," said MG Ng at the award ceremony.

Previous recipients of this award include former Chief of Navy, RADM(NS) Ronnie Tay, and former CAF, MG(NS) Lim Kim Choon.



Former Chief of Staff, USAF, General Moseley, presented the Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) to CAF, MG Ng.

MSM Investiture for Chief of Staff, USAF



Minister for Defence, Mr Teo (left), General Moseley (centre) and MG Ng (right) at the Meritorious Service Medal investiture ceremony.

Former Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force (USAF), General Michael Moseley, was conferred Singapore's prestigious military award, the Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera) [Meritorious Service Medal (Military)], by Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, at an investiture ceremony held at MINDEF on 10 Apr 08. The medal was awarded to General Moseley in recognition of his significant role in forging closer bilateral ties between the USAF and the RSAF.

Under General Moseley's leadership, professional interactions between the USAF and the RSAF have grown in scope and depth. The two air forces engage in a wide spectrum of activities in the form of exercises, visits, staff talks, seminars, and courses. The RSAF has also benefited significantly from the invaluable support and assistance rendered by General Moseley for its training in the United States. In particular, General Moseley's personal support has been instrumental in the setting up of the upcoming F-15SG detachment in Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho.

As part of his visit, General Moseley also called on Minister Mentor, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Minister Teo, CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, and CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern.

CDF Essay Competition 2008

On 25 Jun 08, winners of the CDF Essay Competition were presented prizes by CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, at the Officers' Mess, SAFTI Military Institute. The annual competition, organised by *POINTER* magazine since 1987, encourages SAF officers to actively research and reflect on professional issues, and share their knowledge, ideas and views through writing. The RSAF contributed 11 out of 20 winning entries for this year's competition.



CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, with the prize winners for the CDF Essay Competition.



Of the 11 RSAF prize winners, 5 were awarded the Merit Prize while the other 6 were awarded the Commendation Prize. Commanding Officer (CO), 126 SQN, LTC Lim Kok Kheng, from Participation Command received a Merit Prize for his essay entitled 'Redefining Air Participation Operations – A Conceptual Transformation for 3rd Generation SAF'. Said a delighted LTC Lim, "As a member of Participation Command, integration

among the three Services was of personal interest to me. At this current stage, as we're redefining processes, I'm interested in how the RSAF can participate more actively in the Land and Sea campaign and, as such, my essay offers a glimpse of how we might fight together as ONE SAF in the future."

Clinching the Commendation Prize for his essay, 'The Evolution of Insurgency and its Impact on Conventional Armed Forces' was CO, 6 DA Bn, MAJ Tan Giam. MAJ Tan took the opportunity to share tips for future participants in the



competition. "To write a good essay, one must be diligent and be willing to put in hard work. I spent many late nights reading, researching and proofreading my essay and I hope that my work has offered some useful ideas on counter-insurgency for conventional armed forces."

Air Force News congratulates all prize winners on their outstanding contributions and achievements.

Joint Warrant Officers Course

The 37th Joint Warrant Officers Course (JWOC) Promotion Ceremony and Dining-in was held on 17 Jun 08 at the Chevrons and officiated by Chief of Navy (CNV), RADM Chew Men Leong. The event saw 151 Master Sergeants from the three Services promoted to Warrant Officers as they received their promotion certificates, together with a set of epaulettes bearing their new rank of 2WO. The RSAF graduands in the top 10 percent of this JWOC were MSG A. Kumareson, MSG Ong Hong Tat, MSG Chua Ti Hian, MSG Oh Yew Gin and MSG Jimmy Yu.

MSG Kumareson, who also clinched the Overall Best in Knowledge award, said of his achievement, "I think it is important, at the individual level, to have a positive attitude towards the organisation as it has given us so much support. It is only natural that we should reciprocate by doing the best that we can in all that we do."

The two-month course seeks to build and develop the leadership and etiquette of participating students as well as to promote interaction among the three Services. "The most important lesson I have learnt from the course is the networking with personnel from the other Services, how we integrate with each other and learn about



CNV, RADM Chew, presenting the promotion certificate to MSG Kumareson.

each others' job and vocation, as well as experiences, all of which allows us to integrate more as a tri-Service force," said 116 SQN People Developer Standards In-Charge, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command, MSG Ong Hong Tat.

The development of these values was emphasised amidst the rigour of tests, assignments and projects making the course a challenge both mentally and physically. The understanding and relations between personnel from the different Services after JWOC would be critical in ensuring that the SAF works seamlessly in times of peace and war as a 3rd Generation SAF.

"We learn not just about 3rd Generation RSAF or Army or Navy, but about the ONE SAF and what we are going to



Graduands reciting the Warrant Officers' Creed.



do in future as Warrant Officers. We knew the individual parts and pieces of the SAF as we worked in our respective units and Services and when we came to JWOC, those pieces of the jigsaw puzzle were fitted together into the overall picture that we can see. Through those lessons, we learnt about the things that are about to happen in the future that really makes our careers more exciting and challenging," said F-5 Airframe Specialist, Air Logistics Group – Fixed Wing 1, Air Power Generation Command, MSG Jimmy Yu.

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

MINDEF PRIDE Day 2008



Minister Teo viewing the displays at the MINDEF PRIDE Day Exhibition at Toa Payoh HDB Hub.

The 21st MINDEF PRoductivity and Innovation in Daily Effort (PRIDE) Day was held on 28 May 08 at the Toa Payoh Housing Development Board Hub, with the theme '1-Action@PRIDE: Involve, Inspire, Innovate'. Besides fostering an innovative and creative mindset in our people, the theme reaffirms MINDEF/SAF's emphasis on personal involvement in the PRIDE movement. Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, was Guest-of-Honour for the event, which showcased and celebrated the efforts of MINDEF/SAF to improve work processes and operations.

At the award presentation ceremony, Minister Teo presented a total of 123 awards to individuals, groups and units from MINDEF and the SAF in recognition of their outstanding contributions. At the exhibition which was open to the public from 29 – 30 May 08, Minister Teo officially launched the 'Information on Preparation for National Service' (iPrepNS) website, which won the 'Work Improvement Teams – Outstanding Team Award'. iPrepNS is an interactive multimedia website aimed at helping pre-enlistees prepare for and their parents understand full-time National Service.

Notably for the RSAF, this year's Best Work Improvement Teams (WITS) project was the 'Improved Operational Readiness by Oil Leak Detection' project by the team of SSG Dexter Chitra, Air Logistics Group – Rotary Wing. The project pioneered the idea of using ultraviolet light to search for sources of oil leaks during aircraft engineering inspection. This innovation is significant as it is the first in the world and has extensive benefits. As Minister Teo commented in his address, "SSG Chitra and his team



SSG Chitra explaining his team's project to Minister Teo at the MINDEF PRIDE Day exhibition.

refined this technique and developed a quick and accurate way of detecting sources of oil leaks in aircraft, something that was once thought impossible. This technique has been shared throughout the RSAF and can also be applied to equipment used by the other Services."

On his project, SSG Chitra shared his team's motivation and rationale. "In the United States, some of the aircraft were old. So we were concerned because some engines would come back with a lot of leaks and oil stains. While the gauge might show that it is still tolerable, we did not want to take any chance as the safety of the aircraft and the lives of the pilots were at stake. Thus we came up with this idea and project to solve the problem."



Another successful WITS project on display was 'The Protector – Securing Rounds for Operations', led by Platoon Commander 'A' Flight, Field Defence Squadron – Paya Lebar Air Base, 2LT Emanuel Goh. "My team did this not for the money or recognition, but rather to let the men who go out for duty have the peace of mind that

their rounds are safe, as well as for use in operations. In the end we had the best of both worlds since my crew got the recognition for our work and the men can now have the peace of mind," said 2LT Goh.

Air Force News congratulates all award recipients and wishes them the best in their future endeavours and innovations!



RSAF Winners for MINDEF PRIDE Day posing for a memento photo with Minister Teo, MINDEF and SAF senior officers.

SAF Day Parade 2008

SAF Day Parade 2008 was held on 3 Jul 08, at SAFTI Military Institute Parade Square, with over 4,000 active servicemen and NSmen taking part in the Parade. The Parade Commander was LTC Loh Long Sze from the RSAF. Guest-of-Honour, President S R Nathan, officiated at the event. During the occasion, Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, presented the Best Units Awards and SAF Best NSmen of the Year Awards to the winners.

From the RSAF, SSG(NS) Patrick Chong and CPT(NS) Poh Cher Kiang were the winners of the SAF Best NSmen of the Year Awards while 149 SQN, 121 SQN and 3 DA Bn were the winners for the Best Fighter Squadron, Best Tactical Support Squadron and Best Ground-Based Air Defence Unit respectively.



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

Best Fighter Squadron – 149 SQN



The Flying Shikras of 149 SQN believe in the value of teamwork and, in accordance with their motto, the importance of being 'Steadfast'. This belief is what helps them overcome difficulties and surmount challenges, under any conditions, to rise to our nation's defence.

Formed in 1985 as the second squadron to be equipped with the RSAF's first supersonic fighter jet, the Northrop F-5E/F Tiger II platform, 149 SQN is a testament to the F-5s' fighting capabilities and high manoeuvrability. While it is the oldest operating fighter platform employed by the RSAF today, the F-5s have, time and again, proven that they are capable of matching up to the latest fighter jets.

This year, the Flying Shikras achieved the Best Fighter Squadron award for the 5th time, with previous years

being 1987, 1988, 2002 and 2004. Throughout the years, 149 SQN had proven itself as a consistent competitor for the prestigious title, often coming very close to clinching the top spot.



In a reflection of the importance of human skills and resources to the success of 149 SQN, Commanding Officer, 149 SQN, LTC Foo Yang Ge, said, "I think that the people we have in 149 SQN are the greatest and most important assets. Without them, no matter how sophisticated your piece of machinery could be, you will not be lethal against any of your adversaries. I believe that 149 SQN has maintained a strong bond and family spirit and it is through this that we have progressed and excelled."



"The most important value we have is teamwork, teamwork not just amongst the aircrew or the logistics but rather amongst everyone who is a Shikra. We always work seamlessly together whenever there is a tasking or something that the squadron needs to achieve," quipped LTA Wong Yu Zhou, a F-5 pilot, further emphasising the importance of teamwork and esprit de corps to the Flying Shikras. "We are able to achieve success in the various missions and operations, not just by single individual efforts but rather the strength of the whole, so I would say that teamwork is our winning formula!"



This sentiment is shared by the men both in the air and on the ground as Principal Log Cell Controller, 2WO Mageswaran, said about the cohesion and close bonds in 149 SQN, "There are no distinct lines differentiating the operator and logisticians, instead we work together as a team and as a family, which is why we call ourselves the Fighting Shikras."

It is this belief that drives the men and women of 149 SQN to do their best in everything they attempt, every day. "Every event that we participate in is a challenge in itself, so we have to work and plan and do our best towards overcoming these challenges, and achieving the objectives successfully," continued 2WO Mageswaran.

Best Tactical Air Support Squadron – 121 SQN



As one of the oldest Tactical Air Support Squadrons in Singapore, 121 SQN has one of the finest work cultures in the RSAF. The squadron comprises men and women who hold firm to the RSAF core value of 'Team Excellence' and who believe in working together towards a common goal.

This year, the shared dedication of 121 SQN has been recognised with the squadron clinching the Best Tactical Air Support Squadron award for the fourth time in the squadron's history. Together with this award, 121 SQN is also celebrating another milestone of having achieved 121,000 accident free flying hours in 2006.



"These achievements were made possible not by the efforts of the leadership alone. Everyone in the

squadron played a part in making this achievement possible," said Commanding Officer, 121 SQN, LTC Mervyn Tan. "Everything we do in our squadron requires the cooperation of others, and it really is the spirit of Commitment and Unity within our squadron that allows the squadron to meet their objectives and strive towards excellence."



As the only squadron operating the Fokker 50 aircraft, 121 SQN is unique in that it works closely with the Navy to conduct Maritime Surveillance Operations. Said CPT Goh Kar Hock, a Tactical Coordinator, "The squadron emphasises on Professionalism, Teamwork and Safety and I am honoured to work with such a passionate team."

To assist in aircraft maintenance, a team of technical staff from Singapore Technologies (ST) Engineering has also been attached to 121 SQN. One of them is Service Engineer, Mr Elvin Tan. Mr Tan has worked with 121 SQN for a total of 26 years, spending 16 years as a RSAF personnel before transferring to ST Engineering and continuing the good work of maintaining the aircraft in serviceable condition, every time. Said Mr Tan, "Having worked with 121 SQN for so long, I must say that I really enjoy working with them because the squadron consists of many hardworking dedicated men and women who are committed to operational excellence. Moreover, the culture of Team Excellence also includes ST Engineering personnel, allowing integration with ST personnel and the squadron to be especially good."



His sentiments were echoed by 1SG Edmund Louis Nathan, an Air Crew Specialist. "In 121 SQN we value people. We treat everybody equally and we're all like a big family. As one family, we make a concerted effort not to get complacent, to keep improving and to do our best in all our endeavours. Clinching this award is a proud moment for us all."

Best Ground Based Air Defence Unit – 3 DA Bn



Providing air defence for the nation has always been one of the key missions of the RSAF. Who better to be tasked with this important role than the Vigilant and Valiant men and women of 3rd Divisional Air Defence Artillery Battalion (3 DA Bn)?

This is so, as the pursuit of the Best Ground Based Air Defence Unit title has always been a competitive one. However, nothing could get in the way of 3 DA Bn as they beat the odds to clinch the coveted title for the second year running.



"We were all ecstatic when we first heard the results," said Head Unit Logistics Cell, MSG Amarjit Singh. "However, the award did not really come as a surprise to me, as everyone in the unit has been putting in their very best over the year," he added.

Recognising that the award would not have been possible if not for the commitment of each

individual, MSG Amarjit shared, "Ownership is something we emphasise a lot on. This ensures that everyone here has a part to play, so that we can focus on completing each allocated task and do it to our very best."



The strong camaraderie in 3 DA Bn is another factor that is being attributed to the success of the unit, explained Platoon Commander, Alpha Battery, CPT Ng Aik Boon. "We have forged very strong friendships within the unit over the years. It is the unit being a closely knitted family that motivates us to work together and look out for each other. This propels us to strive for excellence in all that we do," said CPT Ng.

Sharing on how 3 DA Bn has seen an increase in contribution towards the 3rd Generation RSAF, CPT Ng said, "Besides providing round-the-clock air defence for the nation, we have to work closely with our Army counterparts as well. With these two missions in mind we will continue to maintain our standards and strive for excellence in our key missions."



Other than fulfilling operational duties, different roles have also been tasked to 3 DA Bn in recent years, explained Commanding Officer 3 DA Bn, LTC Alvin Yeo. "Over the last year, we have been involved in the National Day Parade (NDP) and the Global Air Power Conference. We will also be involved in this year's NDP as well," said LTC Yeo.

LTC Yeo further cited the culture of the unit as the most important quality that allowed 3 DA Bn to continue its tradition of excellence. "Professionalism and Team Excellence are core values all of us believe in strongly. We ensure that the unit will progress together and each individual will 'never walk alone'," LTC Yeo added.

Asked on the future plans for 3 DA Bn, LTC Yeo said, "Having won the Best Unit award twice in a row and with most in the unit being soccer enthusiasts, I am sure everybody is motivated to aim for the 'Hat Trick' next year."

CARDINAL Heartbeat

Air Operations Department CARDINAL Time – Cohesion

Air Operations Department (AOD) held a run-and-soccer session at Gombak Recreational Centre on 9 May 08 as part of the CARDINAL Cohesion Time. The purpose of this activity was to promote cohesion within AOD. As



Head Air Operations (HAO), COL Lim Yeong Kiat, commented, "The activities will allow the people to interact as AOD is dispersed with units like Flight Test Centre (FTC) and 110 SQN that are based in PLAB, and in a working environment where they hardly operate or work in big teams or together. This is a good



HAO, COL Lim, playing a friendly soccer game with other AOD personnel.

opportunity for people to see who is in AOD and to get to know each other better."

The event kicked off with some participants going for a run, while the rest enjoyed a friendly game of soccer with COL Lim. After the sports activities, the participants adjourned to the Warrant Officers' Mess for refreshments and interaction where



they met colleagues and new friends. "This event promotes cohesion in AOD as we get to see each other face-to-face since most of the time we work together only though the phone or



HAO, COL Lim, interacting with personnel from AOD.

email," said Chief Warrant Officer, FTC, 1WO Sim Hock Guan.



Invaluable to many of the participants was the chance to interact in an informal setting with HAO as 2SG Chaw Yui Teeng, Senior Technician, 110 SQN quipped, "I think it is a good time for the people in AOD to mingle with the other people while making more friends, knowing more people."



The success of this inaugural AOD Cohesion Time was evident and was encouraging to the CARDINAL Officer of AOD, LTC Upanand Nair. As he explained, "This is a good start and

I hope it catches on as word slowly spreads that this is both a chance to have a good time and to engage in some people development. We intend to do this at the AOD level with everyone together at least once a quarter, leaving the other times for the units to run their own cohesion programmes."

Air Defence and Operations Command Warrant Officers' Air Time



Warrant Officers from ADOC discussing ideas and views in the workshop.

Air Defence and Operations Command (ADOC) held a Warrant Officers' (WO) Air Time on 21 May 08 at the ADOC Officers' Mess. The purpose of the air time was to allow ADOC's senior management to engage and interact with the warrant officer and specialist community.



The event began with a short workshop, before a dialogue with COMD ADOC, BG Hoo Cher Mou, to allow the warrant officers to prepare questions through creative discussion. As

2WO Darren Tang, organiser of the air time said, "We have organised it such that we held a workshop before the actual air time, which warms the warrant officers up for the dialogue session. Thus when commander comes they are ready and prepped with questions to engage him.



BG Hoo having a dialogue session with the Warrant Officers of ADOC.

The eventual result is as that the discussion was very intense and that there was no silent treatment."

This resulted in greater mutual understanding between COMD ADOC and the warrant officers as both sides could get their ideas across easily. "This air time has allowed us to better understand that we are the middle echelon between the management and the servicemen. From commander's emphasis we know that we play a very important role and so



when we hear the people express their opinions and feelings from the ground, we also start to think about how we can contribute more to our own units," quipped Senior Technician, 2WO Aw Lay Yan.



The execution of the event at ADOC Officers' Mess also aided to breach the gap between the senior management and the warrant officers due to the informal setting. As the lowest ranked specialist at the air time, Dy WO In

Charge, Logistics, 203 SQN, SSG Kelvin Tan, felt this was especially useful, "As it was put to us that rank was not an issue, that encourages sharing. Also, we were given the right to uncensored questions and so the air time allowed for some frustrations, which both commander and the WOs are already aware of, to be brought in a setting that allows for a more open way of looking at it."



Overall, the event was a resounding success as gaps were bridged and doubts clarified, resulting in a very fruitful session. As Air Defence Systems Specialist, 2WO Eu Kong Wai, said, "From the conversation

with commander during the event, we have learnt a lot in respect of what he expects and wants from us, being WO appointment holders, and the men. With that, we can then cascade that to our men so as to provide the proper guidance and information to them."

CARDINAL Heartbeat

UC Learning Day

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command (UC) held a Learning Day on 29 Apr 08 to update and engage all UC personnel on the RSAF and UC Workplan as well as update them on the progress of the RSAF's restructuring and CARDINAL Efforts.

There were group discussions and interactions for both the Officers and Warrant Officers, Specialists and Airmen (WOSA) corps. This gave the participants the opportunity to discuss the potential obstacles to the success of CARDINAL and what more can be done.

Officers and WOSAs of the supervisory level also attended 4 experiential workshops conducted by trainers from

the Centre of Management Development. The workshops covered topics ranging from leadership, coaching, team-building and communications, which are the essential tools for managing personnel under their supervision.



Development to provide coaching and informative tips on leadership and other

CPT Timothy Ang from 116 SQN said, "The Learning Day is a good platform to reinforce CARDINAL initiatives and engage everyone in discussions. Involving the experts from the

Centre of Management Development to provide coaching and informative tips on leadership and other initiatives was also important in our journey towards the 3rd Generation Air Force."



Participants of the workshop openly shared their thoughts and views with each other.

PC Learning Day

On 9 Jun 08, Participation Command (PC) organised a Learning Day at Chong Pang Camp. The Learning Day was held to update personnel on new developments within the RSAF, allow them to learn new skills and encourage them to use these skills to participate more actively in RSAF and PC Workplan initiatives.

During the event, participants viewed a video on the RSAF Workplan and were briefed on the PC Workplan by COMD Tactical Air Support Group, COL Yeo Yee Peng. They were also updated on the progress of the 3rd Generation RSAF transformation through presentations on the ongoing restructuring process and the various CARDINAL initiatives implemented within PC and the RSAF. In addition to this, participants were given the opportunity to learn new skills and share ideas with each other through a series of workshops.



Generation transformation had been discussed during the learning day, the fact that each was discussed in depth improved my understanding of both the restructuring of Commands and the various CARDINAL initiatives put into place within my unit."

It was apparent that many of the personnel present learnt much from the Learning Day. Said Air Crew Specialist, HQ Heli, 1WO Krishnan, "While many things regarding the RSAF's 3rd

involved in the event – all personnel of rank 3SG and above were invited to attend the Learning Day. This allowed many to benefit from the various workshops and presentations held. It would definitely be beneficial for more such events to be organised in the future."



Added Officer Commanding, Logistics Flight, 120 SQN, MAJ Tan Pau Siang, "The Learning Day was especially successful because of the wide range of ranks



Participants from across Participation Command learnt new skills from the workshops.

APGC – SBAB Learning Day



The Learning Day provided an opportunity for participants to share ideas and interact with each other.

The Air Power Generation Command – Sembawang Air Base (APGC – SBAB) Learning Day was held on 9 Jun at Sembawang Air Base and Nee Soon Camp. The event provided an opportunity for participants to be updated on the RSAF's 3rd Generation transformation and the RSAF's and APGC's Workplan.

During the event, participants viewed the RSAF Workplan video and were briefed on the APGC Workplan and the various CARDINAL initiatives. They also had the chance to upgrade their skills through a series of workshops held during the learning day. The event concluded with a dialogue session with senior management of APGC which provided a forum for personnel to raise issues for clarification while at the same time allowing senior management to understand issues and concerns from the ground.



The Learning Day proved to be beneficial to the participants. Said Senior Technician, Air Logistics Group – Rotary Wing, SSG Ivy Teo, "The Learning Day allowed

me to learn many new skills to improve my performance in the RSAF. I found the various workshops useful. The leadership workshop, for one, allowed me to learn to be a better leader within my unit."



Officer Commanding, Aviation Group Support Flight, LTA John Yeo, shared the same sentiments. Said LTA Yeo, "Through the Learning Day I learnt more about the three key thrusts in the CARDINAL initiative. This knowledge gained will allow me to initiate CARDINAL activities in my unit in a more focused manner."

CARDINAL Heartbeat

APGC – PLAB Learning Day



Participants learnt new skills which will enable them to contribute more effectively to the RSAF.

On 26 Jun 08, Air Power Generation Command – Paya Lebar Air Base (APGC – PLAB) organised a Learning Day at Paya Lebar Air Base. The event provided an opportunity for participants to learn new skills to enable them to contribute more effectively to the RSAF while at the same time equipping the supervisors of APGC with the requisite CARDINAL tools-of-the-trade to enable them to

become effective catalysts for change on the ground.

During the event, participants viewed various Learning Booths and attended a series of workshops aimed at allowing them to upgrade their skills. They also viewed the RSAF Workplan Video which showcased the RSAF's 3rd Generation transformation and were briefed on the APGC Workplan.

The APGC – PLAB Learning Day concluded with presentations on the various CARDINAL initiatives to emphasise on the spirit of cohesion, learning and sharing.

"The Learning Day allowed me to learn more about both the RSAF and myself. The various workshops, such as the workshop on 'Effective Leadership',



have enabled me to be more effective in the future," said OIC Communications Navigations Electronics Welfare, Air Logistics Group – Fixed Wing 1, CPT Loh Kiam Meng.



Added Aviation Vehicle Specialist, Airfield Maintenance Squadron – Aviation Ground Support Flight, 1SG Prakash, "The 3rd Generation SAF is about developing thinking soldiers. For the RSAF to progress from its current state we need soldiers who are able to operate effectively. Learning Days are integral to the realisation of this goal."

ADOC Learning Day



Participants of the ADOC Learning Day shared on their experiences to each other.

The Air Defence and Operations Command (ADOC) Learning Day was held at Chong Pang Camp on 4 Jul 08. The event enabled participants to better cope with changes in the cross-functional working relations within the RSAF.

During the event, participants viewed the RSAF Workplan Video and were briefed on the ADOC Workplan and the various RSAF CARDINAL initiatives. Conducted by professional coaches from Centre for Management Development, the event featured a series of workshops that were aimed at developing the participants' leadership qualities, as well as their personal and social skills.



"We are all leaders in our own rights, but to be an effective leader in the RSAF which is currently undergoing transformation, we have to change our mindsets and paradigms so as to

be transformational leaders rather than transactional leaders, to value add to the 3rd Generation transformation," said PRIDE Officer 203 SQN, CPT Eugene Tan.

Expressing her satisfaction with the workshops, Communications Specialist, HQ ADOC, SSG Bharathi Sarlen, said. "We learned about coaching, people development and different methods of communication. Today's session has taught me much more by opening my mind to more insights and better my understanding of such issues."



LCP Kenneth Wang breaks Singapore's Long Jump Record



LCP Wang jumped 7.41 m to break Singapore's Long Jump Record.

A lean young man standing at 1.84m, the first impression that LCP Kenneth Wang Kan gives is of a sportsman, even in uniform. The former Raffles Junior College student is now based at Chong Pang Camp and juggles between service and his gruelling long jump training, which takes over 4 hours of his daily time.

On 18 May 08, LCP Wang broke Singapore's longest-standing jumps record during the Singapore Athletic Association's 3rd All-Comers' Meet when he jumped 7.41 metres. This beat the previous record, set 26 years ago in 1982 by Ng Yee Ming, by 7cm. As LCP Wang said happily, "I feel really good about breaking the record since I have been aiming for it for 3 years now!"

The ambitious Full-Time National Serviceman (NSF) does not plan to stop here and hopes to bring himself to greater heights in future, "Hopefully, after the South-east Asia Games, I can get to the Asia games in 2010 and if that goes well, perhaps even the Olympics in 2012," quipped the 21-year-old. With what began as merely a way of passing time, LCP Wang has progressed

into an excellent athlete over the years. Describing his passion for jumping, LCP Wang said, "I started jumping just as a Co-Curricular Activity and over the years I slowly developed the passion for it."

Speaking fondly of his officers, LCP Wang was grateful for the generous support his officers had given him during his service, "My officers have been very supportive of my jumping. In fact, after I broke this record my ma'am congratulated me and bought some chocolates for us!"

Air Force News congratulates LCP Wang for his significant achievement and wishes him the best in his future endeavours.

CARDINAL Heartbeat

Engaging the Heart – A Warrant Officer's Perspective



Not long ago, RSAF personnel from Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Command (UC) were mobilised to provide surveillance support for the island wide search for escaped terrorist, Mas Selamat bin Kastari. As the Chief Warrant Officer of 128 SQN, 1WO Krishnasamy was directly involved in the surveillance efforts undertaken by UC. The committed member of Project CARDINAL's Community of Practice decided to share on the positive impact of the CARDINAL initiatives on UC's personnel involved in the surveillance operation.

The month long search for the escaped fugitive was unique in more than one respect. Although the workload was tiring, with personnel having to operate UAVs from dawn to dusk, including flying during graveyard shift and operating during weekends for almost a month, UC was able to keep its personnel motivated through the implementation of CARDINAL practices. Explained 1WO Krishnasamy, "The key thrust of CARDINAL efforts put in during operations such as these is 'Engaging The Heart'. For the whole duration of the operation, I was able to see Commanders and many personnel in senior leadership positions make an effort to personally show care and concern for the various men under them. For example, the Command Executive Officers (CXOs) and Senior Executive Officers (SXOs) went beyond their call of duty to care for their servicemen. Besides ensuring that the crew operating the UAVs were alert and well rested, ensuring that safety requirements were met, CXOs and SXOs also played an important part in keeping up the morale of the people. I remember CXOs and SXOs spending time to speak with their men to keep their motivation up. This simple contribution reflects the care and concern the officers had for their men, and truly reflects the CARDINAL spirit."

These CARDINAL efforts were inspired by senior management who made an effort to lead by example. "During late night operations, senior management, including COMD UC, COL Sarbjit Singh, Dy COMD UC, LTC Ng Boon Heong, and the various Principal Staff Officers, walked the ground through late night and graveyard shifts to ensure that UC personnel remained focused on mission success. During these walks, senior management also helped to keep the morale of personnel high by taking care of their welfare and ensuring that both operational and logistics personnel were able to operate in comfort," said 1WO Krishnasamy.

Added 1WO Krishnasamy, "We must thank CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, for taking the first step and making the effort to visit UC to spend time to motivate servicemen by highlighting the important role that UC played in the surveillance operation. The visit really motivated the men, making them feel that what they were doing was critical to national security."

The CARDINAL effort put in resulted in UC personnel developing an attitude befitting a World Class People throughout the entire operation. Recounted 1WO Krishnasamy, "There was not a single case where personnel had taken medical or personal leave and had subsequently needed to be replaced throughout the operation. Through care and concern of the management, the personnel managed to stay healthy and adjust external commitments to ensure continuity in the operation, ensuring mission success."

Concluded 1WO Krishnasamy, "The month long surveillance operation has not only validated our capabilities as a First Class Air Force, it has also proven the necessity of the CARDINAL movement through its success. The operation has shown that if we remain committed, and Engage The Heart of all RSAF personnel, we will be able to soar to greater heights."

– 1WO Krishnasamy,
Chief WO, 128 SQN

Keeping Healthy On Your Travels

The number of people travelling internationally is increasing every year with more than 840 million international tourist arrivals being reported in 2006. In the RSAF, servicemen are frequent travellers as well, travelling not just for holiday, but also for overseas exercises, courses and conferences. Depending on your medical history, purpose and destination, international travel can pose various health risks.

For all who are planning their next trip, you should know where you can source for relevant travel information, understand the travel-related health risks involved and finally know how to take the necessary precautions so that your journey is a safe, enriching and enjoyable one.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Before leaving home, you should consider the following:



- Your destination
- The duration and season of travel
- Your purpose of travel
- The standards of accommodation, water and food hygiene at your destination
- Your personal/risk-taking behaviour if any
- Your underlying health/medical history

Developed nations where accommodation, hygiene, sanitation, medical care and water quality are of a high standard pose relatively few health risks to the traveller. Personnel being deployed for disaster relief and engineering projects or tourists who venture into remote areas of the world would need to be more careful in order to avoid illness.

You should be aware of any disease outbreaks in the country you are visiting before you see your doctor. A useful source of such information is available on-line in the form of travel advisories on 'Prevnet', the SAF HQMC Preventive Medicine Branch's intranet website¹ or the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC)'s internet site². You should also be prepared for new outbreaks of infectious disease that might occur in the event of unforeseen natural or man-made disasters.

The duration of the visit and the behaviour of the traveller are equally important in determining his likelihood of exposure to infection. Generally, being in a foreign country for 30 days or more will put you at higher risk of contracting illnesses more prevalent in that country and your vaccination requirements will thus change. Risky behaviour can range from drinking water from unsafe sources, sleeping without mosquito

nets to having casual unprotected sexual contact. All these will also influence your risk of exposure to various diseases.

The purpose of the visit and activities you are likely to perform there will also likewise affect your associated health risks. A study trip to attend a conference in an urban city is very different from a training exercise in a rural area where one might be expected to spend days out in the field performing physically demanding tasks. Existing medical problems could thus potentially be made worse depending on the nature of your trip.

MEDICAL CONSULTATION BEFORE TRAVEL



All travellers with any pre-existing medical problems or on long-term medication should always consult their family physicians regarding their fitness to travel. This will provide the opportunity for your doctor to ensure any medical condition you might have is sufficiently stable, will not worsen during the journey, and that you have sufficient medication to last the duration of the trip. Certain categories of prescription medicine might even require a doctor's letter to certify it for personal use. You should keep in mind that medical help overseas may not be as easily accessible as it is here at home and a check-up prior to leaving is always recommended, especially if one expects to be outstation for an extended period of time.

For official duties overseas, SAF serviceman should clarify regarding the need for medical review. In general, all downgraded personnel and permanent staff being deployed to overseas bases or for overseas exercises need to be reviewed by their Medical Officers (MOs) before departure. Personnel who are not downgraded should also consult their MOs in the event they develop new medical conditions prior to departure.

In the event that you do end up seeking medical attention overseas, having the name and contact details of your doctor with you as part of your travel documents, together with a doctor's letter containing information about any medical condition, allergies and treatment, and details of prescribed medication would be most helpful as well.

Web references:

- ¹ http://web.intranet.defence.gov.sg/JOINT/Preventive_Medicine_KP
- ² <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>

Keeping Healthy On Your Travels

Travellers intending to visit a remote destination or one in a developing country should also consult their doctors 1-2 months in advance to seek advice regarding travel advisories, required vaccinations, antimalarial medication and other medical items that may be required for your journey. This lead time will give the traveller enough time to receive vaccinations, some of which might require multiple doses to be given over up to a month to confer protection. If needed, a specialist travel medicine clinic is also available at Tan Tock Seng Hospital for consultation.



A dental and for women, gynaecological consults are also advisable before travel to developing countries or prolonged travel to remote areas. For SAF-related travel, any overseas trip for 30 days or more requires a dental review and appointments can be made at your nearest dental centre. Healthy expectant mothers are generally fit for travel except if close to their expected date of delivery. Travel to malaria-endemic areas, high altitudes and remote areas should as far as possible be avoided during pregnancy and vaccination requirements need to be adjusted accordingly as well.

MEDICAL KIT AND TOILET ITEMS



Example of a Basic Medical Kit.

Your doctor can also assist you in assembling a basic medical kit that includes medication to treat simple ailments such as colds, diarrhoea and headaches, and dressings for small cuts and abrasions. These items

can either be prescribed or bought over-the-counter from a pharmacy and could potentially save you that troublesome trip to a doctor or hospital while overseas in an unfamiliar environment. A suggested list of such items is included in the table below:

First-aid items	Additional items as required
Adhesive tape	Anti-diarrhoeal medication
Antiseptic cream/ solution	Anti-fungal powder/ creams
Bandages/ gauze	Antimalarial medication
Eye drops	Condoms
Insect repellent	Medication for any pre-existing medical condition
Insect bite creams/ lotions	Sedatives
Nasal decongestant for colds	Water purification tablets
Oral rehydration salts	
Scissors and safety pins	
Simple pain-killers (e.g. Panadol)	
Sterile dressing	
Thermometer	

Table 1: Contents of a Basic Medical Kit

In addition to medical items, travellers should also be mindful not to forget to bring enough general toilet items and other essentials such as shaver blades, sanitary napkins, sunblock, lip balm, moisturiser and lens cleaning solution for contact lens users.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Medical care overseas is often available only at private centres and may be costly. In remote areas where a good standard of medical care is not readily available, repatriation back to Singapore for medical care may be required at a considerable financial expense as well. As such, travellers' health insurance that covers changes to the itinerary, emergency repatriation, hospitalisation, medical care in the event of accident or illness is always recommended, especially for destinations with significant health risks or poorly accessible medical care.

Although some would rather dispense with the trouble, identifying the likely hazards, understanding the health risks and taking the necessary precautions to avoid them will go a long way in keeping you healthy on your travels. Make your next trip as enjoyable as you planned it. Bon voyage.

References:

- World Health Organisation International Travel and Health Ed. 2008
- HC-53 – Requirement for FFI Medical Examination revised 30 Jan 08

Indonesian Air Force Academy

A group of 63 Indonesian Air Force (TNI AU) Academy cadets and 10 instructors visited the RSAF from 21 – 24 Apr 08. The visit is part of its curriculum to expose its cadets to air forces in the region and their capabilities.

During the visit, the delegation visited Air Force School (AFS), Helicopter Simulation Centre and SAFTI Military Institute, where they viewed various RSAF facilities and capabilities, and interacted with RSAF personnel.

The visit underscores the close and long-standing relationship between the TNI AU and the RSAF. The two air forces collaborate regularly through exercises like Exercise Camar Indopura and Exercise Elang Indopura as well as other professional exchanges.



Wing Commander (Aviation), LTC Eddie Tan (1st from left), giving an overview of AFS to TNI AU personnel.

Commander, HQ Integrated Area Defence System



AVM Paule and MG Ng engaging in warm and open conversation.

Commander, HQ Integrated Area Defence System (IADS), Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Kevin Paule, made a call on CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, in MINDEF, on 23 Apr 08. The call was part of his visit to Singapore and the RSAF in conjunction with the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) Consultative Council meeting.

The IADS was formed in 1971 under the FPDA to co-ordinate the area defence of Singapore and Malaysia. AVM Paule's visit reflects the close and long-standing defence relations between the RSAF and the IADS.

Assistant Director General Operational Logistics, Indian Armed Forces

Assistant Director General Operational Logistics, Indian Armed Forces (IAF), MG Arvinder Singh Lamba, visited Changi Air Base (East), on 25 Apr 08. This was part of a visit by the IAF Inter Service Working Group to study the concept, planning and implementation of integrated logistics systems in the SAF with a view to refine the IAFs' approach to joint logistics.

The delegation, hosted by Deputy Commander, Changi Air Base, Air Power Generation Command, LTC Foo Jeong Nan, toured various Air Logistics Squadron (ALS) facilities such as the ALS Heritage Room, Avionics Servicing Bay, and the Maintenance Hangars.

The visit underscores the warm and growing defence relations that India and Singapore share. The two armed forces co-operate and interact regularly in professional exchanges and exercises.



MG Lamba learning more about the implementation of integrated logistics systems in the SAF.

Command Chief Master Sergeant, 13th Air Force, USAF



MG Ng and CMSGT Salzman engaging openly in friendly conversation.

Command Chief Master Sergeant (CMSGT), 13th Air Force, United States Air Force (USAF), CMSGT Todd Salzman, conducted a working visit to Singapore from 5 – 7 May 08.

During his visit, CMSGT Salzman called on CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern. He also visited Air Force School (AFS) where he was briefed on the operations and training plans in AFS. He then toured the training facilities of AFS, including the Radar and Tower Simulator, as well as Air Force Museum.

CMSGT Salzman's visit reflects the warm and long-standing relations between the USAF and the RSAF, which interact regularly through professional exchanges and exercises such as Exercise Cope Tiger and Exercise Red Flag.

Permanent Secretary (Defence), Brunei

Permanent Secretary (Defence), Brunei, Dato Majid Mangashah, visited the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Command (UC) on 6 May 08. Commander UC, COL Sarbjit Singh, hosted the visit.

Dato Majid was briefed on UC's operational capabilities and the SAF's integrated approach to UAV capability development. He also toured the various facilities at UC, such as the UAV Flight Simulator, and viewed a static display of the RSAF's Searcher UAV and H-450 System.

Dato Majid's visit underscores the long-standing defence relations between Singapore and Brunei.



Dato Mangashah being briefed on the Searcher UAV.

Deputy Chief of Staff, Indonesian Air Force



AM I Gusti Made Oka learning more about the EC-120 Flight Simulator.

Deputy Chief of Staff, the Indonesian Air Force (TNI AU), Air Marshal (AM) I Gusti Made Oka, conducted a working visit to Singapore from 14 – 16 May 08.

During his visit, AM Oka called on COS(AS), BG Charles Sih. AM Oka also visited 124 SQN, where he was briefed on the roles and responsibilities of the squadron and toured the EC-120 Flight Simulator.

AM Oka's visit reflects the warm and cordial relationship between the RSAF and TNI AU. Both air forces interact regularly through professional exchanges and exercises such as Exercise Camar Indopura and Exercise Elang Indopura.

Commander, 13th Air Force, USAF

Commander, 13th Air Force, United States Air Force, LG Loyd Utterback, visited the RSAF on 22 May 08, as part of his transit visit to Singapore. During his visit, LG Utterback called on COS(AS), BG Charles Sih.

LG Utterback also visited Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Command (UC) where he was briefed on UC's operational capabilities, the SAF approach to UAV Capability development and Changi's Command and Control Centre. His visit included a visit to the UAV Flight Simulator and a static display of the RSAF's Searcher UAV and H-450 System.

LG Utterback's visit underscores the warm and growing defence relations between the RSAF and the USAF. Both air forces interact regularly through professional exchanges and exercises such as Exercise Pitch Black and Exercise Cope Tiger.



LG Utterback presenting a memento to COS (AS), BG Charles Sih.

RTAF – RSAF Junior Officers' Exchange Programme

A delegation of officers from the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), led by Group Captain Chuchart Boonchai, visited Singapore from 26 – 30 May 08, as part of the RTAF – RSAF Junior Officers' Exchange Programme.

Hosted by LTC Lim Chee Meng from HQ RSAF, the delegation was briefed on the RSAF's operations at MINDEF. Thereafter, the delegation visited Headquarters Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Command (UC) at Tengah Air Base where they were briefed on UC and UAV surveillance operations. The delegation also visited Murai Camp to view the UAV simulator as well as static displays of the Searcher UAV System.

The programme also visited Air Force School (AFS), where they viewed the Radar and Tower Simulators. The RTAF personnel also visited Flight Simulation Centre, where they were introduced to the Air Mission Trainer. In order to have a better appreciation of the SAF Officers' training structure and framework, the delegation also visited SAFTI Military Institute.

This exchange programme underscores the close and long-standing relations between the RTAF and the RSAF. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of exercises between the two air forces, which interact regularly in professional exchanges, goodwill visits and exercises such as Exercise Cope Tiger.



The RTAF delegation and their RSAF hosts posing for a memento photo at UC.

Commanding General, Philippine Air Force



CAF, MG Ng, and LG Pedrito engaging openly in warm and friendly conversation.

The Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), LG Pedrito Cadungog, called on Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, and CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, on 3 Jun 08. LG Cadungog was on his introductory visit to Singapore from 1 – 4 Jun 08, at the invitation of CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern. As part of his programme, LG Cadungog visited Sembawang Air Base, Air Force School and Air Force Museum.

LG Cadungog's visit underscores the warm and friendly ties between the RSAF and the PAF.

German Air Force Working Visit

A delegation from the German Air Force (GAF), led by Deputy Director, GAF Transformation Centre, COL (GS) Bernhard Pölling Westhofen, visited Singapore from 11 – 13 Jun 08 as part of a working visit to learn more about the RSAF.

The delegation was briefed on various aspects of the RSAF, including its 3rd Generation Transformation and its new structure. The GAF delegation, in turn, also gave a presentation on their own transformation efforts. Overseas experiences such as Operation Flying Eagle were also shared with the GAF delegation.

The GAF delegation also visited the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Command (UC), where they got a better appreciation of the RSAF's UAV capabilities and the role of UC towards the SAF's integrated operations before viewing the simulators as well as static displays of the Searcher UAV System.

The visit allowed the RSAF and GAF to gain a better understanding of each other's operations and build closer relations between the two air forces.



The GAF delegation and their RSAF hosts posing for a memento photo.

Commander, Eastern Air Command, Indian Air Force



AM Shiv Kumar Bhan toured 145 SQN at CAB(East).

Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command, Indian Air Force (IAF), Air Marshal (AM) Shiv Kumar Bhan, visited Singapore from 11 – 13 Jun 08 as part of an Officer Interaction Programme between the RSAF and the IAF.

During his visit, AM Bhan called on COS(AS), BG Charles Sih. He visited the Flight Simulator Centre, where he was briefed on the operational capabilities of the RSAF and the Air Mission Trainer. AM Bhan also visited Air Force Museum, 145 SQN at Changi Air Base (East) and 120 SQN at Sembawang Air Base.

AM Bhan's visit reflects the warm and growing defence relations between Singapore and India. Both air forces interact regularly through professional exchanges and exercises such as Exercise SINDEK.

TNI AU – RSAF Senior Officers' Exchange Programme

A delegation of 4 senior officers from the Indonesian Air Force (TNI AU), headed by Commander of Education Command, TNI AU, Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Dradjad Rahardjo, visited Singapore from 23 – 25 Jun 08 for the 3rd TNI AU – RSAF Senior Officers Exchange Programme.

During their stay, the delegation called on CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, and visited Air Force School, where they were briefed on its structure, syllabus and facilities before visiting the Aviation Classroom, Radar and Tower Simulator and the Enhanced Learning Space Classroom.

The delegation also visited the Flight Simulator Centre at Paya Lebar Air Base to view the Operational Flight Trainer and Air Mission Trainer and visited the Air Combat Manoeuvring Instrumentation Centre for a brief on the system.

This visit reflects the warm and friendly relations that the RSAF and TNI AU share. The two air forces interact regularly through professional exchanges such as Exercise Elang Indopura and Exercise Camar Indopura.



AVM Dradjad Rahardjo learning more about the F-16 Simulator at FSC.

Professionalism in Action – MSG Chua Hui Kia



“The RSAF has challenged us to realise our potential and it is up to us whether we want to make the change to be the best that we can be.”

-- MSG Chua Hui Kia

Regularly, the RSAF selects personnel to attend various courses around the world so as to upgrade their skills and give them opportunities to learn from other Armed Forces and gain different perspectives. Air Combat Manoeuvring Instrumentation In-Charge, 110 SQN, MSG Chua Hui Kia was one of only two RSAF personnel chosen to attend the United States Air Force (USAF) Non-Commissioned Officer course from 15 Apr 08 to 22 May 08. Doing the RSAF proud, he not only clinched the Distinguished Graduate Award, but also obtained the Academic Achievement Award, making him the winner of two of the four top awards. Just last year Dedicated Crew Chief, 144 SQN, MSG Jimmy Yu, clinched both the Distinguished Graduate Award and the Commandant’s Award.

Learning about USAF policy and concepts would no doubt pose a challenge for a foreign military student due to the unfamiliarity of the culture and environment. Said MSG Chua, “During the first three weeks, I was working at maximum capacity as I had to adjust to a different learning approach and culture. For example, if we have 4 topics for tomorrow’s lesson, the instructors would expect you to have read it the night before and to have prepared for a test, if any.” Added MSG Chua on how he surpassed these odds, “Like we deal with finding work solutions in my squadron, I am used to doing independent research and then optimising the solutions through collective brainstorming. This method of problem solving proved useful in modules where I had to handle and discuss unfamiliar topics and issues.”

As a pre-requisite for Technical Sergeants in the USAF for promotion to the rank of Master Sergeant, the intensive 6-week course also focused on an array of disciplines, apart from academics, which are critical to leadership. In the face of such a demanding course, MSG Chua stepped

up to the challenge. Describing an incident, he said, “One of my instructors told me she has the impression that Singaporeans always put in their best in every task they undertake, as she noticed that even during a ball game I was really running and pushing myself hard, which also seemed to be the case for everything else I did. When I think back about what she said, I realised it is probably because I believe that if you want to do something, you should put in your best effort, an attitude I picked up from my 13 years in the squadron, which is also really a part of our culture in the RSAF.”

“The course has definitely helped me become a better leader by giving me the exposure to the necessary tools for handling and managing people, which I believe is the toughest thing that any work centre has to handle, since emotions and expectations always come into play when dealing with people. The course gave me a better picture of how to think about and handle human-related problems and situations, something that I could apply in my squadron as part of Project CARDINAL. In fact, after my return, I joined my squadron’s CARDINAL Team as Occupational Wellness IC,” said MSG Chua of what he had gained from the course.

On hindsight, MSG Chua spoke of the similarity between the RSAF and USAF, “My main takeaway is that like RSAF, USAF also believes that everybody in the Air Force is capable of creating change, of making a difference. The RSAF has challenged us to realise our potential and it is up to us whether we want to make the change to be the best that we can be.”

Air Force News congratulates MSG Chua on his exceptional performance and achievements and wishes him the best in his future endeavours.

In Conversation with an Air Operations Systems Specialist

"The most crucial aspect is that I am playing a part in the defence of my country – what more can one ask for?"

-- SSG Jerich Chia



The integrity of Singapore's airspace is upheld round the clock through the vigilance of a group of personnel known as the Air Operations Systems Specialists (AOSS). Men like SSG Jerich Chia, an AOSS in Air Surveillance and Control Group (ASCG), handle radar surveillance as air defenders, ensuring that all flying objects are identified and are not a threat to the nation.

To emphasise the critical and ever-vigilant nature of the AOSS vocation, SSG Chia said, "For air defenders like us, we work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We play a vital role in the defence of Singapore by constantly ensuring that all flying objects are identified and accounted for. You could say that we are in the thick of action every single day."

Within the air defenders community, the AOSS vocation also handles the coordination and monitoring of air traffic in bases or operations centres. Regardless of whether they are working in an air defence or air traffic environment, the AOSS have to perform technical roles on top of their operational ones, as SSG Chia elaborated, "On top of our primary role of 24/7 radar surveillance we also have a technical side to the job, where we maintain our systems and ensure that they are running all the time and in the best condition. So these dual roles that we have to balance and perform are a challenge that we face each day."

The job is not one that is confined to a radar system in an office, proven by the fact that AOSS regularly get

the chance to participate in overseas detachments and exercises. "As AOSS, we get numerous opportunities to go for detachments and exercises overseas. For example, in the start of 2008 I went to Exercise Cope Tiger, a multilateral exercise held in Chandy Range, Thailand, involving the Thais, Singaporeans and Americans."

Safeguarding our skies leaves no room for carelessness or mistakes and it is with such a mindset that an AOSS has to work. SSG Chia said of the safety culture in the RSAF, "Not just for AOSS, but for any personnel in the RSAF, there is a strong safety culture embedded in all of us because it is so present all the time in our work. Being immersed in this culture, it just becomes a part of us and ultimately being safety-minded is a very important trait."

Having already signed his second contract to remain with the RSAF for the next 20 or so years, SSG Chia is a man fully prepared to commit to his country and vocation. Speaking passionately of his career choice, SSG Chia said, "As a career, it realises your maximum potential, gives every individual many opportunities for overseas detachments and leadership or management positions. Being an AOSS is to be in an exciting vocation without a dull day."

"The most crucial aspect is that I am playing a part in the defence of my country – what more can one ask for?"

In Conversation with a Senior Technician



"I was thrilled by the possibility of being able to work with a sophisticated, multi-million dollar aircraft."

-- 2WO Lim

Ever since he was a young man, 2WO Lim Seng Kee had been interested in aircraft. Hence, it was no surprise that he seized the opportunity to put his Mechatronics training into practice, in the RSAF, when he got to know of the Senior Technician vocation through a newspaper advertisement. Said 2WO Lim, "Back then I had just finished my polytechnic education and, as someone interested in technical operations, I was thrilled by the possibility of being able to work with a sophisticated, multi-million dollar aircraft."

With his background in Mechatronics, 2WO Lim was given the opportunity to first specialise in Ground Support Equipment, being trained as an Electromechanical Equipment Senior Technician. Subsequently, he took a conversion course and was trained as a Non-Destructive Inspection (NDI) Senior Technician. As a NDI Senior Technician, 2WO Lim performed Non-Destructive testing on aircraft components. In 2006, 2WO Lim was awarded the Class Advanced Diploma Sponsorship where he gained an advanced diploma in Aerospace Engineering and Management and subsequently became a Dedicated Crew Chief (DCC). Shared 2WO Lim, "Not many RSAF personnel have had the opportunity to work in the non-aircraft trade and in the first line. As a Senior Technician, I really appreciate the opportunity to convert to different specialisations within the vocation, allowing us to take on many new roles."

2WO Lim took the opportunity to describe his role as a DCC in daily operations. "As a DCC, I oversee the preparation of the aircraft. For example, I help to pump fuel into the aircraft to ensure that the aircraft is able to go for its mission and I also help to tow the aircraft onto the airfield. My squadron often participates in Search and Rescue Missions where we help to bring people who require urgent medical attention to hospital in the quickest time possible."

"Our role in the squadron is similar to the role of the pit crew in Formula One races. When the aircraft comes in, we check the aircraft and prepare the aircraft for its next flight. The time critical job ensures that our operations stay dynamic as any delay could mean the difference between success or failure of the mission."

Added 2WO Lim, "I am also responsible for other men under me. I often have to apply man-management skills to motivate them to do their best in their daily routine."

2WO Lim revealed that he is grateful that he had chosen to become a Senior Technician. In fact, he enjoys every moment of it. Explained 2WO Lim, "As a Senior Technician, I often get to accompany the Super Puma aircraft on various detachments and missions. The feeling of being more than 7000 feet above the ground, on a Super Puma, is simply beyond description – it's something most would not have been able to experience in a 'normal' career. I do not regret choosing the Senior Technician vocation and encourage all who have the urge to give their best to their country to join the RSAF as a Senior Technician."



2WO Lim helping to prepare a Super Puma aircraft before flight.

Building Bonds – SSG(NS) Patrick Chong

*“... we will be there
for each other to
protect our nation.”*

-- SSG(NS) Chong



The protection of our aircraft and the critical assets within our air bases is an important task, handled by the men of the Field Defence Squadron (FDS). The task of ensuring these men are well trained and ready for their mission, rests on the shoulders of SSG(NS) Patrick Chong, Company Sergeant Major of 'B' Flight in FDS – Changi Air Base. In CAB serving his National Service (NS), he was in charge of executing the training and discipline of NSmen in his flight.

Now as an NSman, besides participating in training, SSG(NS) Chong still helps to run training during In-Camp Training (ICT), selflessly sharing his knowledge and experience with his men while always emphasising on safety awareness. During a recent High Key ICT, he kept the morale of his men high and constructed a safe and well-coordinated schedule for the drivers to adhere to when there was a shortage of drivers. This dedication to the training, planning, logistics, safety and welfare was instrumental to the success of the training. “My satisfaction comes from training the NSmen and knowing we have provided a good service to them. When the NSmen come back to thank you for the good ICT, that everything is well planned and they do not have to worry about training or their rations, we really feel satisfied with what we've done,” explained SSG(NS) Chong.

As a leader, SSG(NS) Chong does not separate himself from his men. In fact, he puts extra effort into bringing himself closer to them, regardless of rank or appointment. Approaching the end of his NS cycle, the sense of brotherhood he feels for his colleagues and men is even more evident. “I'm going to miss the company and all the people that I have known over the last 10 years. I remember how after ICT we would have outings to meet up and catch up with each other over lunch. Even during ICT we would go out for a drink and have a good time on our days off,” he highlighted.

It is thus little wonder that, despite his downgrade to PES C2, the 32 year old is still contemplating an extension of his NS under the ROVER Scheme, reflecting his positive attitude and sense of duty towards the RSAF. Now working as an auditor for Great Eastern Life Assurance, he makes it clear that his NS and ICT days in the RSAF have been invaluable to him. “The NS days helped a lot because you get to work with a lot of people and there is a lot of relationship building and knowing what is expected of us in meeting requirements.”

SSG(NS) Chong has a clear and strong belief in the bonding ability and essence of NS. As SSG(NS) Chong said, “We have built our relationship over 10 years of ICT. We know each other's expectations and have gone through the hardest times together – we've worked hard together and laughed together. We know that we can work well with each other, and in a real war or anything that comes along, we will be there for each other to protect our nation.”

SSG(NS) Chong is truly a deserving recipient of the SAF Best NSmen of the Year Award. Air Force News congratulates him on his achievement and wishes him the best in his future endeavours.



SSG(NS) Patrick Chong receiving the SAF Best NSmen of the Year Award from Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, during SAF Day Parade 2008.

Experience of a Lifetime – CPT(NS) Poh Cher Kiang



“... I really want to help pass down the strong bond between the squadron and the cohesion and commitment to each newcomer...”

-- CPT(NS) Poh

The RSAF commemorates its 40th Anniversary this year, celebrating its progress from a 1st Generation Air Force to the 3rd Generation Air Force it is today. Along with this, the RSAF also remembers the personnel who, through these 40 years, have contributed to the development of the RSAF. Through the years, each generation of RSAF personnel has passed its heritage to the next, contributing to the development of the RSAF.

Among those who have made an active effort to contribute their knowledge for the benefit of the RSAF is CPT(NS) Poh Cher Kiang, a Weapon Systems Officer (Air Defence Artillery) from 160 SQN, who operates the 35mm Anti-Aircraft Oerlikon Guns. While some believe that they learn from their experiences, CPT(NS) Poh Cher Kiang takes it a step further. He believes that each RSAF personnel must share his individual experiences to allow for the collective progress of the RSAF. Therefore, during his In-Camp Training and whenever he is available, CPT(NS) Poh helps to strengthen the bonds among the personnel in his squadron. “In terms of age and time spent in the RSAF I can be considered to be between the older personnel and the newer personnel. I try to act as a link between these two groups of people to facilitate information sharing between the two, so that both parties know what happened in the past while at the same time remain updated on new developments,” said CPT(NS) Poh.

During his time in the RSAF, CPT(NS) Poh also kept a journal detailing processes, experiences and suggested methods of improvement he had come up with. Said CPT(NS) Poh, “My journal contains the writings and pointers that I had noted. I note down points that I feel others can learn from, in every aspect of training. I recorded details of both overseas and local training as I believe that it is very important for us to learn from the experience of both ourselves and, more importantly, others who have gone before us to help the RSAF improve.”

CPT(NS) Poh put his vast experience into practice during his squadron’s live-firing exercise held in Woomera, Australia, in 2007. “The experience I gained from attending previous live-firing exercises ensured that I could share my experience on range control – how the range and targets are set up. Me being there for previous

overseas exercises also meant that I was able to prepare my men for the live-firing, ensuring mission success while at the same time not compromising safety standards or system readiness.”

CPT(NS) Poh’s extraordinary desire to share his knowledge arises from his desire to help pass down the heritage of his squadron to newer personnel. Elaborated CPT(NS) Poh, “My squadron has one of the longest history in the RSAF. The ‘Gunner Heritage’, our strong heritage passed down for many batches and I really want to help to pass down the strong bond between the squadron and the cohesion and commitment to each newcomer to our squadron, and I want it to remain that way.”

After leaving the RSAF, CPT(NS) Poh joined Footworks Pte Ltd as an Operations Manager. There, CPT(NS) Poh continues to apply the principles that he had learnt in the RSAF. Added CPT(NS) Poh, “My time in the RSAF has really helped me in my current job. The discipline and professionalism in the RSAF allowed me to become a more organised person and, as an officer, I also learnt many human management concepts, which I find useful in my current managerial position. I am really grateful to the RSAF for this.”

CPT(NS) Poh’s desire to serve the RSAF has enabled him to clinch the SAF Best NSmen of the Year Award this year. Air Force News congratulates him on his achievement and wishes him the best in his future endeavours.



Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, presented the SAF Best NSmen of the Year Award to CPT(NS) Poh Cher Kiang during SAF Day Parade 2008.

Extended Service to the Nation – NSF Technicians

“The close relationship amongst the squadron personnel was also an important factor in why we decided to extend our service.”

-- 3SG Vincent Hon



(From Left to Right) 3SG Kevin Yin, 3SG Tan Ying Da, 3SG Vincent Hon and 3SG Alex Yeo from 145 SQN.

Full-Time National Service (NS) is a commitment that every able-bodied 18 year old male makes to our nation. For a group of Full-Time National Servicemen (NSFs), they had clearly displayed their commitment and deemed NS as an excellent opportunity for learning and self-improvement.

With NSFs being a vital resource in the RSAF, there is a need to tap on their abilities and capacity. To this effect, this year's Exercise Pitch Black 08, held in Darwin, Australia, featured a total of five NSF Technicians – 3SG Kevin Yin, 3SG Alex Yeo, 3SG Tan Ying Da and 3SG Vincent Hon from 145 SQN together with 3SG Gerald Poh from 149 SQN, who voluntarily extended their NS to be part of the six-week exercise.

Their Role-

“As a Dedicated Crew Chief, our primary role in the squadron is to launch and receive the aircraft,” said 3SG Yin. The diversity of the job also makes their role even more interesting, as 3SG Tan explained, “We may also assume different roles, which include maintenance, scheduled servicing, refuelling and configuration changes.”

Their Motivation-

If one was wondering how four NSFs from 145 SQN would be extending their service together, it wasn't a group decision initially, 3SG Hon shared. “Initially, we heard that we were able to extend our service from one of our peers, and that made us quite inclined to the idea of extending. Soon, it turned into more of a peer influence and we decided to extend together,” quipped 3SG Hon.

“Being part of Exercise Pitch Black is particularly meaningful to me as a NSF,” said 3SG Yeo. “As I have a Diploma in Aeronautics, this will enhance my experience in this field. It also gives me an opportunity to interact with personnel from foreign air forces,” he added.

Besides personal motivation, squadron and family support further encouraged their decision. Said 3SG Yeo, “My parents actually stood by my decision, as it not only gives me an opportunity to travel with my squadron mates, but more importantly, to gain more working experience.”

“The close relationship amongst the squadron personnel was also an important factor in why we decided to extend our service. Our Commanding Officer and Chief Warrant Officer were very pleased and commended us for extending our service so as to be part of the exercise,” added 3SG Hon.

To pay tribute to the squadron was the top priority for 3SG Poh. “The squadron has groomed me and given me much guidance to be a competent professional. So the extension is to show my appreciation to them,” said 3SG Poh. “Participating in such a large scale exercise also allows me to boost what I have already learnt and learn even more from our foreign counterparts.”

Their Experience Down Under-

Being part of the advanced party for 149 SQN, 3SG Poh spent a week at Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Tindal as the Flight Line Crew to receive the F-5 fighters deployed for the exercise. Sharing his experience from his first exercise, 3SG Poh said, “I love it. The enriching experience, the foreign land, the excitement and the sense of satisfaction and fulfilment all sums up my feelings about this overseas detachment.”

While it had been a short and fruitful deployment for 3SG Poh, the other NSF Technicians from 145 SQN were also deployed to RAAF Base Darwin for the whole duration of six weeks. Attributing the main challenges to the environment, 3SG Yin said, “The main difference operating in Darwin as compared to Singapore has to be the weather. It is very hot and dry and we work in the open, so extra measures are taken to ensure that we are hydrated all the time.”

Having to work in a coalition environment was also a major boost for 3SG Yeo and 3SG Tan. “As many countries are participating in this exercise, we got to see many other aircraft types, such as the F-111 and the F/A-18s. These are planes that we would not have the opportunity to see back home,” quipped 3SG Tan.

“An International Night was also organised for the exercise participants to get together, and it was a good platform for us to interact with some of our foreign counterparts,” added 3SG Yeo.

Lastly, work experience gained through the participation in Exercise Pitch Black was not the only take-away for 3SG Hon as he shares, “Having to live away from my family and friends has made me more independent. It certainly has been a great learning experience for me.”



3SG Gerald Poh from 149 SQN.

CAF Visits 201 SQN, ALS – UC and 122 SQN



CAF, MG Ng, with personnel from 201 SQN.



CAF, MG Ng, interacted with personnel from ALS-UC.



CAF, MG Ng, chairing a dialogue session with 122 SQN personnel.

CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, visited 201 SQN, Air Logistics Squadron – Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command and 122 SQN on 29 May, 24 Jun and 4 Jul 08 respectively. The visits were part of CAF's visits to the RSAF units, to better understand the units' developments, operations and challenges, as well as to meet and interact with the servicemen to understand their concerns and to discuss manpower and operational issues.

Change of Command for Air Operations Control Group



COL Henry Toh (left) handing over the command of AOCG to LTC Francis Ngooi (right).

The command of the Air Operations Control Group (AOCG) was handed over from COL Henry Toh to LTC Francis Ngooi at a Change-of-Command Parade held at Chong Pang Camp on 25 Apr 08. Commander (COMD) Air Defence



The Change-of-Command Parade was witnessed by COMD ADOC, BG Hoo Cher Mou.

and Operations Command (ADOC), BG Hoo Cher Mou, witnessed the Change-of-Command Parade.

Having joined the RSAF and commenced his pilot training in 1980, in his 28 years

of service, COL Toh has held important appointments including Deputy Commander Air Force Operations Group and then COMD AOCG. COL Toh assumed the appointment of Chief of Staff, HQ Integrated Area Defence System on 31 May 08.

Incoming Commander, LTC Ngooi joined the RSAF in 1985 and has since had a fulfilling journey. LTC Ngooi graduated from the 31st Singapore Command and Staff Course in 2000 and was awarded the Distinguished Graduate Award. He has since held command and staff appointments including Commanding Officer, 122 SQN and Head, Transport Operations Branch AOD, HQ RSAF.

Air Force News congratulates COL Henry Toh and LTC Francis Ngooi on their new appointments and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Change of Command for Chief Air Force Medical Officer

On 9 Jun 08, the command of the Chief Air Force Medical Officer (CAMO) was handed over from COL(DR) Chong Chun Hon to LTC(DR) Robin Low at a Change-of-Command Ceremony held at Air Force Museum. The ceremony was officiated by CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern.

COL(DR) Chong joined the SAF as a Medical Officer in 1988. He has held numerous key staff appointments both in Air Force Medical Service and HQ Medical Corps. He was Head, Aeromedical Centre since 2003, and continued to hold this concurrent appointment after taking over command as CAMO in Dec 03.

Incoming CAMO, LTC(DR) Low joined the SAF as a Medical Officer in 1995 and has since had an illustrious career.



COL(DR) Chong Chun Hon (left) handing over the Symbol of Command to LTC(DR) Robin Low (right).

LTC(DR) Low's previous command and staff appointments include Commander, SAF Medical Training Institute and Head, Aeromedical Centre, an appointment which he has assumed since Oct 07.



LTC(DR) Robin Low receiving the Letter-of-Appointment from CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern.

Air Force News wishes COL(DR) Chong Chun Hon the best in his future endeavours and congratulates LTC(DR) Robin Low on his new appointment.

163 SQN's Anniversary Celebrations



CO, 163 SQN, LTC Vincent Yap, presenting the 163 SQN 25th Anniversary Magazine to BG Hoo.

2008 marks 163 SQN's 26th Anniversary and the squadron marked the occasion with an 'I-Hawk Homecoming Night' on 9 May 08, where past COs, RSMs, and alumni were invited back to celebrate the squadron's development and mission success.

163 SQN's celebrations were accompanied by the launch of the 163 SQN 25th Anniversary magazine by COMD Air Defence and Operations Command, BG Hoo Cher Mou. The magazine serves to commemorate the squadron's Silver Jubilee through a collection of photographs and captions.

Said CO, 163 SQN, LTC Vincent Yap, "As we celebrate 25 years of proud history, I sincerely hope that this magazine will be able to serve its intent of forging a stronger sense of identity and pride. This magazine is also a tribute to all the men and women of 163 SQN and its extended family in the Hawk Flight – ALS, STE and DSTA, who have contributed to the service of 163 SQN and the RSAF."



Changes in Appointments

Changes in Senior Staff Appointments

Defence Attache (Washington),
Joint Intelligence Department – MINDEF
– 7 Jul 08
Incoming: COL Cheng Siak Kian
Outgoing: BG Lim Keng Yong Richard

Chief of Staff, HQ Integrated Area Defence
System, HQ RSAF
– 31 May 08
Incoming: COL Toh Chor Kah Henry
Outgoing: COL Kow Chong Swee Albert

Head, Air Plans Department,
HQ RSAF
– 13 Jun 08
Incoming: LTC Tan Wei Ming Mervyn
Outgoing: COL Cheng Siak Kian

Director, NEXUS
– 18 Jun 08
Incoming: COL Lim Kok Siong
Outgoing: COL Tan Wee Ngee

Changes in Command Appointments

Chief Air Force Medical Officer,
Aeromedical Centre
– 9 Jun 08
Incoming: LTC(DR) Robin Low
Outgoing: COL(DR) Chong Chun Hon

Deputy Commander, HQ Air Defence and
Operations Command,
Air Defence and Operations Command
– 18 Jul 08
Incoming: COL Leong Choong Yew
Outgoing: COL Chen Cary

Changes in Command Appointments

Deputy Commander (Air)/CO, Air Wing,
Officer Cadet School, SAFTI MI
– 23 May 08
Incoming: LTC S Amudhan
Outgoing: LTC Tan Kiam Hong Anthony

Wing Commander, Air Engineering Training
Institute Wing,
Air Force School
– 18 Jun 08
Incoming: LTC Derek Tan Chee Hiang
Outgoing: LTC Loh Siang Wei

Deputy Commander, HQ Sembawang Air
Base, Air Power Generation Command
– 23 Jun 08
Incoming: LTC Lim Bock Aeng Arthur

Commander, Air Surveillance and Control
Group, Air Defence and Operations Command
– 17 Jul 08
Incoming: LTC Tan Ying Kiat
Outgoing: COL Kwek Kok Kwong

CO, Field Defence Squadron,
Sembawang Air Base
– 16 May 08
Incoming: LTC Lum Chee Ming
Outgoing: LTC Dorai Asokumar

CO, 145 SQN, Fighter Group,
Air Combat Command
– 22 May 08
Incoming: LTC Tommy Tan Ah Han
Outgoing: LTC Lim Chee Meng

CO, 113 SQN
– 28 May 08
Incoming: MAJ Loh Hock Leong
Outgoing: LTC Lee Hwee Leng

CO, Field Defence Squadron,
Paya Lebar Air Base
– 30 May 08
Incoming: LTC Dorai Asokumar
Outgoing: LTC S Amudhan

CO, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Training
School,
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command
– 5 Jun 08
Incoming: LTC Chong Yong Nam
Outgoing: LTC Chan Weng Cheong

CO, Flight Simulator Centre,
HQ RSAF
– 5 Jun 08
Incoming: LTC Chan Weng Cheong Benny
Outgoing: LTC Yeo Sai Meng Benedict

CO, 121 SQN, Transport Group,
Air Combat Command
– 11 Jun 08
Incoming: LTC Song Chun Keet
Outgoing: LTC Tan Wei Ming Mervyn

CO, Central Ammunition Base
– 23 Jun 08
Incoming: LTC Tan Yong Hoe
Outgoing: LTC Lim Bock Aeng Arthur

Detachment Commander, Peace Vanguard
Detachment, HQ Helicopter Group,
Participation Command
– 8 Jul 08
Incoming: LTC Pang Kok Pin
Outgoing: LTC Tan Pheng Seong Samuel

CO, 163 SQN,
Air Defence and Operations Command
– 18 Jul 08
Incoming: LTC Simon Lee Wee Chek
Outgoing: LTC Vincent Yap Yong Hwa

Changes in Chief Warrant Officer (Chief WO) Appointments

SQN Chief WO, 149 SQN, Fighter Group,
Air Combat Command
– 1 Apr 08
Incoming: 1WO Goh Han Meng Benedict
Outgoing: MWO Seow Jeffery

SQN Chief WO, 120 SQN, Helicopter Group,
Participation Command
– 22 Apr 08
Incoming: MWO Chia Gim Hua

SQN Chief WO, 143 SQN, Fighter Group,
Air Combat Command
– 30 Apr 08
Incoming: 1WO Yeong Wai Yiu
Outgoing: 1WO Chong Leong Hin

SQN Chief WO, Flying Support Squadron –
Tengah Air Base,
Air Power Generation Command
– 30 Apr 08
Incoming: MWO Manickam Kupu Rajoo
Outgoing: 1WO Lee Seck Chye

SQN Chief WO, 203 SQN,
Air Surveillance and Control Group
– 30 May 08
Incoming: 1WO Lee Seck Chye
Outgoing: 1WO Tam Wai Seng

SQN Chief WO, 150 SQN,
Flying Training School
– 15 Jun 08
Incoming: 1WO Lim Choon Poh Perry

Wing Chief WO, Air Defence Systems Wing 2,
Air Force School
– 3 Apr 08
Incoming: 1WO Tam Wai Seng

Wing Chief WO, Air Defence Systems Wing 1,
Air Force School
– 30 Apr 08
Incoming: 2WO Lim Song Guan
Outgoing: 2WO Subramaniam

Wing Chief WO, Aviation Wing,
Air Force School
– 30 Apr 08
Incoming: 2WO Arul Hillary

RSAF Open House 2008

The Republic of Singapore Air Force turns 40 this year! As part of the 40th Anniversary Celebrations, SAF and RSAF servicemen, including NSmen, will be able to visit the Open House on 28 and 29 Aug 08 during the exclusive preview days. The RSAF Open House 2008 will be open for the public on 30 and 31 Aug 08. The event will showcase the 3rd Generation RSAF and the capabilities that the RSAF has developed over the years. Exciting highlights include aerial performances, aircraft rides, displays of our advanced weapon systems and carnival activities for all! So visit the RSAF Open House 2008 this August and find out more about the force that is like nothing on earth at the **RSAF Open House 2008!**



Aerial and Operational Displays

The 3rd Generation RSAF that is full spectrum, integrated and highly responsive, will be putting up an exciting demonstration of RSAF forces in action across a wide spectrum of missions, together with the Army.

Of course, a must-see in RSAF Open House are the aerial displays! This year, this crowd favourite will feature: **The F-16 Fighting Falcons, AH-64D Apache attack helicopters, Chinook under-slung operations, Free-falling parachuting performances by the Red Lions, Displays of Air Defence capabilities from the 35mm AA Guns, I-Hawk and Mechanised IGLA.**



Aircraft Rides

Catch the rare opportunity to ride aboard the C-130 Hercules, Fokker 50 or Chinook aircraft by taking part in the Aircraft Rides Lucky Draw Contest!



Carnival Activities

There will be many fun-filled carnival activities and games stalls waiting for you at the Open House. Also take part in the lucky draw contest to win yourself a ride on a hot air balloon to gaze down onto the Open House from more than 150 feet above the ground!

RSAF 40th Anniversary Commemorative Stamps and Book

The RSAF 40th Anniversary Commemorative Stamps and Book will be available for purchase after their launch on 28 Aug 08, at the SingPost and SAF Officers' Wives Club booths respectively.



Exhibitions

There will be 5 segments in the exhibition halls that will bring you through the 40 years of development in RSAF and showcase the RSAF's transformation into the 3rd Generation Air Force! Take a walk through: Heritage Segment,

RSAF Structure Segment, Operational Concept Segment, People Segment and Technology Segment



Other Attractions

- Guests will be able to get a rare opportunity to experience state-of-the-art simulators, that are used to train our pilots, at the Flight Simulator Center!
- Visit Air Force Museum upon your arrival at Open House 08 and witness the remarkable progress of the RSAF over the last 40 years!



- Drop by the SAF Officers' Wives Club booth to purchase rare RSAF commemoratives and memorabilia that are not available elsewhere. Used books will also be sold as part of this fund raising activity. All proceeds will go to the 'SAF Benevolent Fund' and 'Food From the Heart' Fund.



Performances

Be entertained by MediaCorp Artistes Jessica Liu (30 Aug, Sat) and Dawn Yeoh (31 Aug, Sun) at the main stage during Open House 2008! There will also be entertaining performances

by our very own SAFRA Radio and the SAF Music and Drama Company. The SAF Provost Unit will also be performing their ever-popular and highly precise drill sequence.



Static Displays

Aircraft enthusiasts can look forward to a vast display of aircraft and weapons systems in the RSAF Open House 2008. Don't miss the chance to see them up close: **The Black Knights F-16C Fighting Falcon, AH-64D Apache attack helicopter, the New Hermes-450 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, Watch arming demonstrations from the Weapons Load Crew**, guess the timing of the arming procedures correctly and win a Hamilton Watch! And many more!

Also, the Black Knights pilots will be making special appearances for photo opportunity. Come and collect one of the exclusive Black Knights posters that are personally signed by all our 6 Black Knights pilots (while stock lasts)!

UPCOMING EVENTS AUGUST - OCTOBER 08



RSAF Open House



RSAF Day Parade

THE AIR FORCE

RSAF
40TH
ANNIVERSARY
Full Spectrum. Integrated. Flexible.

AL WINDUSTRIEN

RSAF OPEN HOUSE

THE 3RD GENERATION AIR FORCE

PAYA LEBAR AIR BASE

30-31 AUGUST 2008

9AM - 7PM

ATTRACTIONS

- Rental Display Aircraft Rules
- Aircraft Grounding Demos
- Kabau - Your - Air Force
- Concert

3rd Generation RSAF Exhibition

- Carnival Activities
- Hot Air Balloon
- Concert

HOW TO GET THERE

The public is strongly advised to use the following public transport. There are very limited car park lots available at Paya Lebar Air Base.

By MRT
 Hopping Station - Take free shuttle service @ Hopking Bus Interchange
 Esplanade Station - Take free shuttle service @ Esplanade Bus Interchange
 The Paya Lebar Station - Take SBS Service 96 @ The Paya Lebar Bus Interchange

By Bus
 Take SBS Service W and eight opposite to Fort Museum

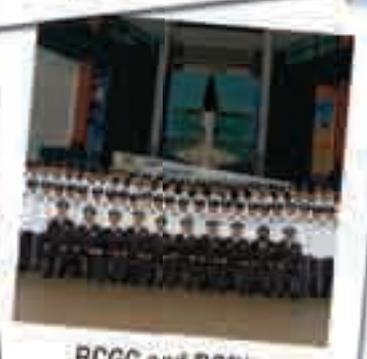
By Taxi
 Night or designated taxi drop-off point along Airport Road



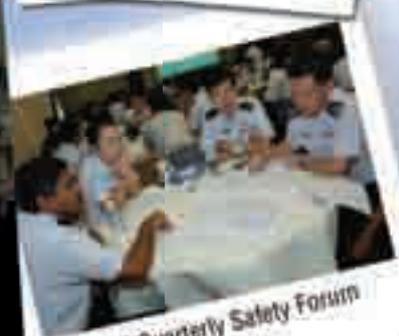
Exercises



NSmen Seminar



RCGC and RCDI



CAF Quarterly Safety Forum

For more information, visit the openhouse.rsa.gov.sg website.