

AIR FORCE

ABOVE ALL

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TOWARDS THE 3RD GENERATION RSAF



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EXERCISES

EX Bersama Shield	3
EX Hotshot 06	3

OVERSEAS NEWS

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations	4
RSAF takes part in Rochefort Air Show 2006	4

LOCAL NEWS

121 SQN's Legacy of Safety Honoured	5
The PRIDE of the RSAF	6
Runway Cycling 2006	7
SYFC Familiarisation Flights at PLAB and TAB	7
The End of the Runway, the Start of the Flight for Senior Technicians	8
Celebrating 21 Years of Excellence- The AFAB Transfer Ceremony	8
16 th RSAF NSmen Seminar	9
ES (R), RSAF Enterprise System	9

AIR FORCE 21 VISION

Towards the 3 rd Generation RSAF	
- Forging Ahead Through Transformation	10-11

COVER STORY

145 SQN Attains Full Operational Capability	12
Heralding the Future - 120 SQN Inauguration	13

FEATURE

SAF Day Parade 2006	14
RSAF Best Units 2006	14-15

OUR PEOPLE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Learning for Success - RSAF CLASS Graduation	16
RSAF performs at the CDF Essay Competition	16
RSAF Scholar tops United States Air Force Academy	17
RSAF Specialist tops JWOC 2006	17

AWARDS/CEREMONIES

2006 Promotion Ceremonies	17-18
The 02/06 RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony	18

YOUR HEALTH!

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	19
------------------------------	----

VISITS

Royal Thai Air Force Officers' Exchange Programme	20
Chief of Air Staff, Indonesian Air Force	20
International Air Cadet Exchange 2006	20

BUZZ AROUND THE BASES

Grassroots Leaders Visit Tengah Air Base	21
PS(D) Visit to Changi Air Base	21
JC Students Visit Tactical Air Support Command	22
ITE Colleges visit Paya Lebar Air Base	22
Changes in Command and Senior Appointments	22
Get up Close and Personal with the Air Force!	
- RSAF Open House 2006	23

EX Bersama Shield



The exercise enhanced the inter-operability of the RSAF with the other participating nations' air forces.

RSAF participated in a Five Power Defence Agreement (FPDA) combined air defence exercise, code-named EX Bersama Shield 06, over the South China Sea and airspace of Singapore and Malaysia, from 24 Apr to 5 May 06.

Even though FPDA member nations of Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, United Kingdom and New Zealand meet annually for the multi-lateral exercise, the enthusiasm of the participating personnel was evident when they attended the exercise mass brief at Air Force School.

RSAF committed an array of aircraft, ranging from the E-2C Hawkeye and F-16 Fighting Falcon, to helicopters such as the CH-47D Chinook and Super Puma. A 35mm Anti-Aircraft Artillery



RSAF EX Director/Chief Safety Officer COL Albert Kow addressing exercise personnel during a mass briefing.

gun unit was also deployed for the exercise. The Royal Malaysian Air Force participated with aircraft such as the MiG-29 and the KC-130, while the Royal Australian Air Force's Hawk 127 Lead-in Fighter took part for the first time.

The exercise served to strengthen the capability of participating forces in areas like Maritime Interdiction Operation, Anti-Air Warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare and Anti-Submarine Warfare. It also enhances the inter-operability of the participating nations' air forces.

Exercise Bersama Shield is one of two FPDA exercises conducted yearly.

EX Hotshot 06



CAF, BG Ng Chee Khern, presenting CO 144 SQN, LTC Edmund Tan, with the winner's cup for Best Hotshot Squadron. Congratulations!

EX Hotshot 2005/2006 Winners

Best Hotshot Squadron	144 SQN	Best Dedicated Crew Chief	2SG Ong Yong Sheng, 143 SQN
Best Hotshot Pilot	LTA Elvin Eng, 144 SQN	Best Weapon Load Crew	SSG Lee Chai Tee, 143 SQN
Best Pilot in Air-to-Air Gunnery	CPT Alex Chan, 140 SQN	Best Logistics flight	140 SQN
Best Pilot in Bombs	CPT Ray Lee, 140 SQN	Best Logistics Support Team	ALS-PLAB
Best Pilot in Strafe	CPT Shamkumar, 140 SQN	Best Armament team	140 SQN

EX Hotshot, RSAF's annual competition for pilots and logistics crew, was held from 10 to 12 Apr 06. The competition featured events and scenarios which pitted pilots and logistics crews from various squadrons across the RSAF against one another.

In a ceremony held at Tengah Air Base on 12 Apr 06 to honour the competition's winners, Chief of Air Force, BG Ng Chee Khern presented the Best Hotshot Squadron award to 144 SQN for emerging tops in the exercise.



"Bringing back the trophy to PLAB is a big achievement," said CO 144 SQN, LTC Edmund Tan. He added that the men from his squadron had put a lot of effort into the exercise and that they were happy with the results they had achieved.



Emerging as Best Hotshot Pilot was 144 SQN's LTA Elvin Eng. LTA Eng was elated to have been able to uphold PLAB's pride by doing well in the competition. LTA Eng had clinched the 'Best Hotshot Pilot Award' during the 03/04 competition as well. This second win validated his piloting skills as he explained, "It was a relief to win it and prove to critics that the first win wasn't just luck."

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations

On 27 May 06, Java was hit with what The World Bank classified as one of the worst 10 disasters in the past 10 years – an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale. Days earlier, incessant rains had caused flash floods and mudslides in five districts in Northern Thailand, namely Nan, Phrae, Lamphag, Uttaradit and Sukhothai – the likes of which had not been seen in Thailand for at least 50 years.

In these times of distress, Singapore was quick to extend its helping hand. The RSAF was pleased to be a part of this effort to reach out to our neighbours and to respond to their dire need.



127 SQN was part of the operations, and was deployed to Thailand to conduct flood relief missions on 26 May 06. These included search and rescue operations, casualty evacuation and the transportation of personnel out of troubled areas. Said CO 127 SQN and Helicopter Detachment Commander, LTC Chin Pak Chuen of his detachment which returned on 31 May 06, "We feel it is a great challenge and an honour to conduct this mission, and to show compassion for those affected."



CDF, LG Ng Yat Chung and CAF, BG Ng Chee Khern sending the detachment from 127 SQN off.

The SAF and SCDF also collaborated in the aftermath of the recent Java earthquake crisis, deploying medical aid to attend to its casualties. Senior Medic of Changi Air Base, SSG Lynn Lem Tsu May and Senior Medic 3IC of Paya Lebar Air Base, 1SG Karrie Yap Hui Wen were part of the RSAF detachment which was deployed on 28 May 06. During their deployment, they formed a mobile medical team, and provided attention to casualties who could not make the long journey to a medical facility by travelling to the various villages instead. When asked what their most memorable experience was, SSG Lynn and 1SG Karrie unanimously cited the appreciation of the villagers as their greatest reward. "They actually cooked food for us, and they appreciated our presence there. The kids were very adorable, though sometimes naughty, and were quite difficult to handle at first



1SG Karrie (left) and SSG Lynn with CAF at the Home-coming ceremony.

because they were screaming from the pain. But after the treatment we could see the smiles on their faces."



A Home-coming ceremony was held in the Air Force Museum in honour of the detachment's efforts on 7 Jun 06. Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean expressed his appreciation for their contributions, and emphasised the importance of their participation. "The important thing is to be there. To lend moral support and psychological support to both the authorities and the people. It helps them to know that there are others who have come to their aid, and gives them the strength and resolution to carry on," said Mr Teo.

RSAF takes part in Rochefort Air Show 2006



DY CO 150 SQN, MAJ Benny Chan (7th from left), his crew and French liaison, CPT Bruno Penot (9th from left) with the TA-4SU static display at the Rochefort Air Show.

On 21 May 06, two TA-4SU Skyhawk aircraft and 13 personnel from 150 SQN participated in the Rochefort Air Show 2006 held at Rochefort Air Base, France. 150 SQN, currently based in Cazaux Air Base, France, operates the TA-4SU aircraft for jet training. The

show was the first of five shows in five air bases across France scheduled for this year's "Meeting De L'Air", an annual event organised by the French Air Force (FAF). Revenues generated from the sale of entrance tickets and souvenirs are donated to various charity organisations.

The Rochefort Air Show, which featured aircraft static displays as well as an 8-hour flying display, was evidently popular as audience turnout rapidly escalated to an estimated 20000. Singapore's TA-4SUs, which were part of the static display, generated a fair amount of attention and interest from the public due to their rarity in the region, and many questions pertaining to the origin of the aircraft and the crew's nationality were raised by curious visitors.

The last air show 150 SQN participated in was at Cazaux Air Base, France, in June 2005, where the squadron participated in both static and flying displays. RSAF's participation in "Meeting De L'Air" extends from the warm and long-standing relationship between the RSAF and FAF, and aims to further the already strong defence relations between the two air forces.

121 SQN's Legacy of Safety Honoured



CAF, BG Ng Chee Khern (front row, centre) and senior commanders, with the proud officers and crew of 121 SQN.

Changi Air Base was abuzz with the celebratory mood on 21 Apr 06, as 121 SQN commemorated the attainment of 33 years and 121,000 hours of accident-free flying. The achievement, an incredible accomplishment in itself, was made even more significant considering the frequency of flying and the nature of operations the Fokker 50 squadron is involved in.

121 SQN is on a round-the-clock standby for National Search and Locate operations. In addition, the squadron had also participated in Operation Flying Eagle in the aftermath of the Asian Tsunami and has been conducting regular patrols over the Straits of Malacca as part of the Eyes in the Sky initiative.

To honour 121 SQN's achievement, Guest-of Honour for the event, Chief of Air Force (CAF), BG Ng Chee Khern; COMD Changi Air Base, COL Ng Chee Meng, CO 121 SQN, LTC Joachim Lee and Deputy President, Singapore Technology Aerospace Engineering, Mr Ho Yuen Sang, signed a commemorative plaque which will be displayed in the base.



"To be able to clock such accident free mileage is testimony to the hard work and sweat from all in the squadron," said squadron CO, LTC Joachim Lee. "I must say that the training,

discipline and professionalism of our personnel have played a huge part in making this possible," he added.

LTC Lee also lauded the contributions of squadron personnel of past generations who were gathered at the event. "I must admit that they have played a really significant part in this achievement. I was a student in the squadron long ago and now have taken over many of the good practices that were laid down many years ago," he said.

One such person who can share such an acclamation for forming the squadron's impenetrable bedrock of safety is LTC (RET) Yang Ming Hooi. LTC (RET) Yang served in the squadron from 1975 to 1988 flying the Skyvan – predecessor to the Fokker 50, then returning to the squadron in 2001 before completing his career with the RSAF in 2003. Having experienced operations on both the Skyvan as well the Fokker 50, LTC (RET) Yang has had first-hand knowledge of the foundations of safety that were laid in the squadron in its early days and can testify that the values imbued then, still resonate through the squadron today.

LTC (RET) Yang recalled numerous challenging operations from the days of the Skyvan, such as having to land in a football field in Pulau Tioman and night-time Search and Locate operations in Bali following a volcano eruption. He expressed his pride in the fact that the men and women that run the squadron today have upheld the culture of safety that allowed the squadron to accomplish such missions safely and successfully in the past.



"I'm so glad that the guys here now have reached today's level... I'm very proud of each and every one of them to have come this far and to have achieved this objective," he said.

As an RSAF squadron, 121 SQN is unique in that almost half of it is comprised of personnel from the Navy. Naval Officers serving as Tactical Co-ordinators and Naval specialists working as Sensor Operators, collaborate closely with Airforce personnel to fulfill the squadron's role of Maritime Air Surveillance.

To Naval Combat System Specialist, SSG Sivalingam, there exists no distinction between squadron personnel from the two services. "We work as a family and are very close," he said.



"There are no lines drawn between us."

Perhaps only 121 SQN's exceptional safety record is as unique as the composition of the squadron. Few other squadrons in the air force have come close to achieving what the men and women of 121 SQN have.

In CAF BG Ng Chee Khern's words, "121,000 flying hours is equivalent to about 13.8 years worth of accident free flying and that is very impressive indeed."

The PRIDE of the RSAF



CO, ALS-PLAB, COL Low Chin Hun receiving the Minister for Defence Award from Mr Teo Chee Hean.

Air Logistics Squadron - Paya Lebar Air Base (ALS-PLAB) once again emerged as the SAF's leading unit in the realm of innovation, receiving the coveted Minister for Defence Award for the fourth time in five years at the 19th MINDEF Productivity and Innovation in Daily Effort (PRIDE) Day.

The event, held at SAFTI Military Institute on 26 May 06, saw Minister for Defence Mr Teo Chee Hean and Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay present awards to 166 units, Work Improvement Teams and individuals who have contributed to the MINDEF PRIDE Movement.

The Minister for Defence award, the highest accolade bestowed upon any unit at the event, honoured ALS-PLAB for excelling over the past year in various areas, namely: the Work Improvement Teams scheme (WITs), suggestions schemes, resource utilisation, Organisational Excellence, safety, as well as Training and Welfare.

To win the award once is in itself an honour but to win it four times consecutively speaks volumes of the strong institution of values that has allowed the squadron to innovate, improve and excel.



"The unit has a very strong culture of not being satisfied with the mere status quo but to continually find new solutions in daily work," said CO, ALS-PLAB, COL Low Chin Hun.

Receiving the outstanding WITs Project Award was another unit from PLAB. The "Innovative Integrated Pass Verification System (PVS)", brainchild of five Full-time National Servicemen from the base's Field Defence Squadron, may revolutionise the way guardrooms in bases across the RSAF function.

Eliminating thick files of printed clearances, the electronic system contains built-in clearances and pre-registered nominal rolls of visitors entering the base, making it easier for the base guards to verify identities and issue passes. Also, with the PVS,



CPL Pan (2nd from right) briefing Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean on the features of the Pass Verification System.

passes handed out can be scanned, revealing a photograph and particulars of their rightful owner. This would significantly reduce the likelihood of unauthorised usage of passes and enhance base security.



CPL Pan Zheng Xiang, the leader of the five-man team, attributed the project's success to the passion and drive of the whole team. "Even as NSF's, we felt that we could contribute in enhancing the base's security," said CPL Pan. His teammate, 3SG Luther Kim (left) also conveyed his pride and sense of achievement on the successful project, which the team had spent many days working after office hours to complete.

Another individual equally deserving of commendation was Ms Angie Lew, an Admin Supervisor from the Air Force Recruitment Centre. Ms Lew received the Star Service Award for her exemplary performance in service delivery.



"I'm very happy and honoured. I never expected to receive such a prestigious award so it was really a surprise to me," said Ms Lew.

Consulted by a pilot whose place in a local university was in jeopardy due to certain complications, Ms Lew had gone out of her way to contact the university, iron out the misunderstanding and reserve a place for the serviceman. For her efforts she even received a call from the pilot's family, thanking her personally for her efforts.

For Ms Lew, the award serves as a recognition of her good work and an incentive to continue to do more than what is expected of her.

"It actually motivates me to provide better service in the future. I'm very happy that my hard work has been recognised," she said.

Runway Cycling 2006



A line-up of cyclists preparing for the event's flag-off.

SAFRA, the RSAF, and the Singapore Sports Council jointly organised the annual Runway Cycling once again this year on 28 May 06. Started in 1996, this year's event was held at Paya Lebar Air Base (PLAB) with Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee as Guest-of-Honour.

Though slated to flag-off at 8.15 am, enthusiasts were streaming in as early as 6.30 am, and turnout exceeded the expected number of 6000. Perhaps this was in part due to the novelty of the event. Runway Cycling is touted as a one-of-a-kind in South-East Asia - where all operational activities are halted to allow the public to cycle with family and friends on a usually restricted runway. Said Commander PLAB, COL Peter Ware, who also took part in the event with his wife and three children, "The public is coming here for fun... and it's a pleasure for the working people on the ground to be able to perform this event for the public. It is an



Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee (left) enjoying a leisurely ride with COL Peter Ware.

operational runway and we do have operational duties but I think that once a year we can afford to free up the runway to host this public event."



A new attraction this year was the Endurance Challenge involving a 30km route for cyclists and a 15km one for skaters. Participants who completed the route were presented with a special certificate to commemorate their accomplishment. 71 members of MTB-Singapore, a group of biking enthusiasts, took part in this Challenge. While the 30km route wasn't particularly challenging to the group, who regularly covers distances of "70 to 80km", the completion of the Challenge provided official recognition of their capabilities. "We will definitely put this on our website," quipped member, Mr Rasidi Ahmad.

SYFC Familiarisation Flights at PLAB and TAB

The RSAF collaborates several times a year with the SYFC to provide unique experiences for Singapore's youth flyers to encourage their passion for flying as well as to reward them for their dedication to the club.



On 1 Jun 06, PLAB hosted newly joined Secondary 1 members of the SYFC. They were treated to a tour round the base's premises and they even had the chance to board a C-130 aircraft for a familiarisation flight around Singapore. "I was quite excited because I had never been into a military plane before," said youth flyer Jonathan Tham Chun Yiu, of Hwa Chong Institution.

Tengah Air Base also hosted two members of the SYFC on 16 Jun 06. These were graduating members who had put in outstanding performances throughout the course of their CCA. Dinesh George John and Richmond Go Keng Hwee, both of whom have signed on as pilots in the RSAF, were invited on-board the F-16D fighter aircraft for the ride of their lives. The power and speed of the aircraft seemed to enthrall Richmond Go. "All we did previously in the SYFC seems very, very slow... the take-off just pushes you all the way back into the seat." Gushed Dinesh, "It was by far the best thing I have ever done."



Richmond Go (centre left) and Dinesh John George (centre right) of the SYFC preparing to board the F-16D fighter aircraft with their host pilots from 143 SQN, CPT Lester John Fair (1st from left) and LTA She Wan Goh (1st from right).

The End of the Runway, the Start of the Flight for Senior Technicians



An RSAF senior technician seeking clarification on some of the points raised in presentations at AFS.

While their career in the RSAF will one day draw to a close, senior technicians in the RSAF can look forward to greener pastures. A collaboration between the RSAF and the Association of Aerospace Industries, Singapore (AAIS), through the RSAF-AAIS Career Transition Scheme, commits to help servicemen in career transition and to optimise manpower resource for Singapore's growing aerospace industry. For RSAF senior technicians, this scheme translates into a wide range of job opportunities when they leave the RSAF.

Our technicians had the chance to learn more about job opportunities at a series of three job fairs organised on 17 Apr 06 at Tengah Air Base, 20 Apr 06 at Air Force School, and 21 Apr 06 at Sembawang Air Base. The job fairs involved a number of companies, some of them giants in



Asst. Manager of Human Resources, SIA Engineering Company, Mr Vikas Chandiramani answering further queries at the reception.

the local aerospace industry such as SIA Engineering Company, Eagle Services Asia, and Nordam Singapore Pte. Ltd. Representatives from these companies presented pertinent information such as job scope, required qualifications, pay package, promotion paths, and sponsorship schemes for further studies. They also answered our servicemen's queries in the question and answer session.

While there would be issues associated with transition, RSAF technicians were assured that with the right attitude and training, their advancement would be relatively faster than their counterparts with less aircraft related job experience. Mr Lim Yeow Khee, Vice President of the Quality and Safety Division, SIA Engineering Company, said, "It takes about ten years to build up a full-

fledged technician. But having worked in the RSAF, you have a quick jump to the end... Your knowledge build-up is faster." The chance to have a change in working environment and job scope, through the benefits of the RSAF-AAIS tie-up, appealed to some. SSG James Tan explained, "Having been in the technical field for ten years, I want to explore business support. We've studied our own part-time courses, and having more opportunities will be a good thing for us."

The RSAF senior technicians aren't the only ones benefitting from RSAF-AAIS Career Transition Scheme. Their competencies and experience play a great part in aiding the growth of the local aerospace industry for many years to come. Said Mr Lim, "Singapore needs 16,000 new aircraft technicians and engineers in the next 10 years, and the Air Force has the experience ready for us to tap."

Experience aside, Mr Lim asserted that RSAF technicians are exceptionally distinguished because of the safety culture that has been instilled in all of them. "Safety – it's something we cannot teach. But when we take an RSAF person, we already know he has a safety culture, we know he understands aviation safety. All these things are fantastic assets to our industry, and we shouldn't lose that."

Celebrating 21 Years of Excellence – The AFAB Transfer Ceremony



HAL, BG (then COL) Tsoi expressing RSAF's appreciation towards the staff and crew of AFAB for their outstanding efforts.



HJL, BG Philip Lim Feng (left) receiving the Letter of Transfer of AFAB from HAL, BG (then COL) Tsoi Mun Heng (right).

The Air Force Armament Base (AFAB) held a Transfer Ceremony on 12 Apr 06 to mark the end of an old chapter and the start of a new one under the centralised SAF Ammunition Command. AFAB was commissioned in 1985 to maintain the RSAF's arsenal, as well as to supply live ammunition to local exercises, overseas detachments, and project trials. Under the SAF Ammunition Command, the crew of AFAB will now work jointly with the Army and Navy to manage the ammunition of the SAF as a whole.

As the AFAB's operational phase under the RSAF came to a close, AFAB's Commanding Officer LTC Lim Bock Aeng returned the Symbol of Command to Head Air Logistics (HAL), BG (then COL) Tsoi Mun Heng. In his appreciation speech, BG Tsoi paid especial attention to AFAB's impeccable safety record of zero explosive accidents throughout its 21 years of operations. He attributed this record to AFAB's strength,

as seen from their mission statement, "To enhance RSAF's total mission success safely through superior logistics". In addition, he also noted that the AFAB has been clinching the MINDEF Excellence Award (MEA) Commendation and Special Commendation awards since 2002, and had obtained the Innovation Class in 2005. BG Tsoi presented LTC Lim with a Successful Command Plaque and an Appreciation Plaque to AFAB, showcasing RSAF's recognition of AFAB's operational excellence.

At the close of the ceremony, the letter of transfer was presented to Head Joint Logistics (HJL), BG Philip Lim Feng to symbolise the transfer of AFAB to his command. BG Tsoi articulated his vision for the future of AFAB, "I am confident that the unit will grow into a versatile and highly competent entity that is responsive and cost-effective to better serve the 3rd Generation SAF in the defence of our Nation."

16th RSAF NSmen Seminar



The seminar's Q&A panel, from left: Deputy Division Air Liaison Officer, 25 DIV, MAJ(NS) Sim Kok Wah; Head Air Intelligence, COL Tan Boon Kim; Chief of Air Force, BG Ng Chee Khern; Head Air Logistics, BG (then COL) Tsoi Mun Heng; Head Air Manpower, COL Tan Swee Bock and DY OC, Maintenance and Control Flight, Air Logistics Squadron-Paya Lebar Air Base, MAJ (NS) Liu Yuen Kiong.

The 16th RSAF NSmen Seminar was held at Air Force School on 23 May 06. An annual event, the seminar serves to update RSAF's Operationally Ready NSmen on the latest developments and changes to issues and policies concerning them.

Officiated by Chief of Air Force (CAF), BG Ng Chee Khern and attended by commanders and approximately 350 NSmen from units across the RSAF, this year's seminar addressed issues revolving around the theme of "Towards the 3rd Generation RSAF: Forging Ahead Through Transformation".



In his Keynote Address, CAF outlined the challenges facing RSAF and stressed that RSAF's transformation efforts would be necessary and will gain momentum in the months to come. He also reiterated the importance of our people in the continuing transformation effort. "It is the commitment and dedication of our people that has put us up so highly on the world map - an Air Force that many others around the world would want to benchmark

against," said CAF during his speech.

The seminar featured presentations on a variety of topics, including the evolving role of NSmen in RSAF's 3rd Generation transformation journey and updates on new e-initiatives for NSmen that have been implemented and some that will be coming online.

The seminar concluded with a Q&A session chaired by CAF. The session aimed to obtain feedback on how the NS experience could be made more enriching and meaningful and clarify NSmen's concerns.

ES(R), RSAF Enterprise System

ES(R), RSAF Enterprise System, is a strategic system that integrates with other MINDEF/SAF enterprise capabilities to enable RSAF in its transformation into a 3rd Generation fighting force. It is more than a replacement of the existing Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) and Financial Management Information System (FMIS).

ES(R) aims to streamline information management and put in place a single integrated system that will support end-

to-end business from platform/system acquisition management, to training, exercise and operations budgeting, to logistics and maintenance execution, to business monitoring and reporting. ES(R) will also enable total asset, inventory, maintenance and cost visibility.

ES(R) will also draw in additional users from Operations, Training and Plans community using new modules such as Acquisition Management and TXO (Training/eExercise/Ops). This will bring

about better organization alignment and integration of business for RSAF.

ES has successfully gone live for Navy, Army, Joint and RSAF's Ground Logistics users. ES(R) implementation has started since Sep 05, and will be rolling-out to all the RSAF units (local and overseas permanent detachments) and strategic partners in Apr 07.

— LTC Yao Shih En, Hd ESPO, ALD

TOWARDS THE 3RD GENERATION RSAF – FORGING AHEAD THROUGH TRANSFORMATION

Over the next few years, as the RSAF shifts from charting the transformation process to taking more concrete steps in our transformation journey, it will invariably lead to numerous changes in operational mindsets, structures and work processes. Hence, our vision of the 3rd Generation RSAF must be a constant anchor to provide direction and focus amidst all these changes.

Moving on from Operational Strategies that were covered in the 2005 RSAF Workplan, RSAF would now need to execute the various Transformation initiatives. Thus "Forging Ahead" reflects the RSAF actively moving forward to realise these strategies. Hence, the theme and tagline for the 2006 RSAF Workplan is "Towards the 3rd Generation RSAF: Forging Ahead Through Transformation".

"It must have already occurred to many of you here that new capabilities and therefore responsibilities will change your current structures. As you forge ahead this year, the Air Force will see significant realignment of its Command and Control structures. This is inevitable. Some elements of restructuring will be put in place this year for a more responsive Air Force." – Dr Ng Eng Hen, 2nd Minister for Defence, RSAF Workplan Presentation 2006

THE 3RD GENERATION RSAF VISION

3rd Generation RSAF is about transforming into a 3rd Generation fighting force. The 1st Generation RSAF was about Air Defence. The 2nd Generation RSAF was about Air Superiority, where RSAF is able to decisively secure the airspace so that our Army and Navy could operate unimpeded and also a more balanced force structure with diverse capabilities. The vision of the 3rd Generation RSAF will see a balanced and integrated force structure with the versatility to provide a full spectrum force, capable of dominating the ground and maritime theatres from the air, without diluting our present core Air Defence and Air Superiority competencies. This will be made possible with technological advancements, namely precision weapons, enhanced capability of sensors and increased battlefield persistence with long-endurance unmanned capability.

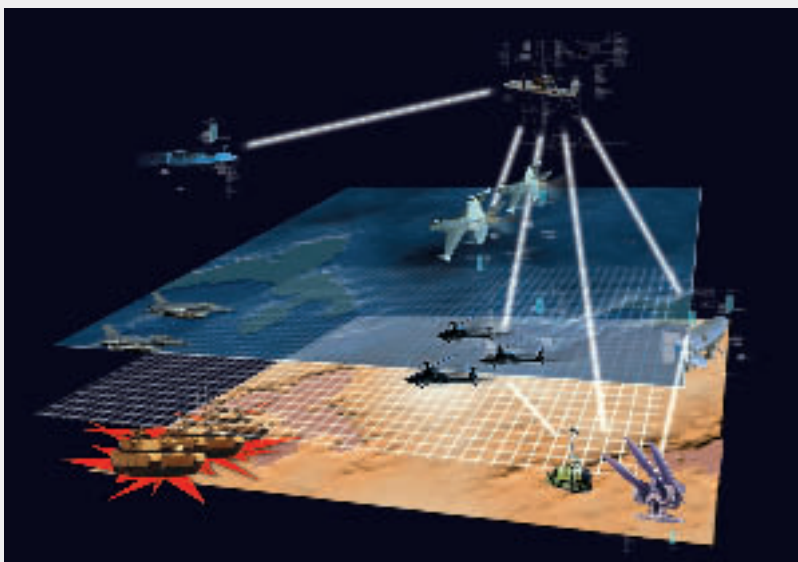
BUILDING BLOCKS FOR THE 3RD GENERATION RSAF

To realise this vision of the 3rd Generation RSAF, 4 building blocks are identified, namely Concepts & Technology, Organisation, Readiness, Standards and Safety and most importantly People & Culture. Significant programmes in these key building blocks will be initiated over the next few years.

CONCEPTS AND TECHNOLOGY

"Increasingly, technological advancements will allow air power to dominate the ground even more, overcoming traditional difficulties that had limited airpower's effectiveness in striking ground targets. We now have precision weapons that can accurately pick off small ground targets even when launched from aircraft flying at high speeds and high altitudes. The capability of sensors to discriminate ground targets from clutter in all kinds of weather conditions will increase. Even one of the greatest handicaps of air power, the lack of persistence over the battlefield, is being overcome by the development of long-endurance UAVs and loitering air-to-ground weapons." - BG Ng Chee Khern, CAF, then COS(AS), RSAF Workplan Presentation 2006

As Dominate From the Air becomes a key mission of the 3rd Generation RSAF, the Air Force will be expected to take on more significant roles in influencing the overall SAF battle. Hence, one of the RSAF's primary tasks remains securing air dominance so that the SAF operations will be unhindered by hostile air threats. The unifying theme for both capability and technology to work around would be a Recognised Surface Situation Picture. The RSAF will build networks that can sort and fuse data from different sensors, which can then be used centrally to deliver effective strikes and operational-level manoeuvres, or even be distributed to ships and battalions to support their tactical actions. To ensure seamless integration and minimise collateral damage, precision weapons can be designed to tap into the Surface Picture, so that what you see is what you hit.



TOWARDS THE 3RD GENERATION RSAF – FORGING AHEAD THROUGH TRANSFORMATION

ORGANISATION

Organisation structures will have to be evolved to keep pace with the new concepts and technologies. The RSAF will transit from a structure revolving around airbases to one that is centred on Functional Commands. The shift to Functional Commands will give focus to mission development, thus enabling a smooth peace-to-war transition. RSAF's closer integration with Army, Navy and Joint will enable it to better undertake integrated operations to fulfil SAF mission objectives.

READINESS, STANDARDS AND SAFETY

"As we move forward in the journey of change, there will be some discomfort, uncertainties or even messiness. Francis Bacon, a famous English philosopher, once said : "If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts, but if he will content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties." - BG Tan Meng Dui, COMD ADSD, RSAF Workplan Presentation 2006

Our vision of developing a 3rd Generation RSAF must not compromise current operations, core proficiencies and safety standards.

In order to maintain the SAF's current operations, deterrence posture and also our country's diplomatic space in international forums during this transformation phase, an Air Defence and Operations Command (ADOC) and a new Air Operations Department (AOD) will be created by the second quarter of this work year. With ADOC anchoring our peacetime force employment responsibilities and operational readiness, we will then have the confidence to act decisively in other areas of transformation.

We must also ensure that our foundational skills remain at high standards that they currently are. The squadron identities will be kept intact so that the basic fighting unit of the Air Force remains highly operational and effective. The bulk of the reorganisation changes will affect mostly the command and control layers above the squadrons, at the level of the Commands and HQ RSAF.

Amidst all the changes, safety remains a priority. We will continue to keep Safety in our sights. The 3rd Generation RSAF will still need to anticipate potential danger areas and be proactive in preventing accidents and incidents. AFI must continue to perform its crucial

role, our commanders must continue to keep safety a command responsibility and our People must internalise safety in all aspects of work.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

The most important building block of 3rd Generation RSAF is the culture, psyche and spirit of the People. As we embark on the process of transformation into the 3rd Generation RSAF, we will be challenged by various changes in culture and organisation. We must look beyond vocations and specialisation if we are to build an integrated Air Force operating in an integrated SAF. Commanders and leaders will play an important role in rebuilding the bonds of the community in the reorganised RSAF, with the new twist that common missions and purposes, rather than skills and specialisation, will unite people. Personnel will be affected by the restructuring and new relationships will take time to build. But this process can be hastened if our People are open to new ideas and are ready to embrace change. To achieve our vision of World Class People, our personnel will continue to be well trained and developed to achieve their potential so as to meet the exciting demands during this transformation period.



"This sense of history is important. It is important because the hardest part of transformation is breaking down mindsets of what can and cannot be done. We must believe that we can transform the RSAF... 17 years from 1968-1985 may not seem a lot but we delivered to MINDEF an operationally-ready 1st Generation RSAF that could defend the nation's skies. 2 decades from 1985-2005 may not seem a long time but we delivered to MINDEF a macro-competent, first class 2nd Generation RSAF that is a strategic deterrent in peacetime and a lethal air superiority force in war." - BG Ng Chee Khern, CAF, then COS(AS), RSAF Workplan Presentation 2006



145 SQN Attains Full Operational Capability

The RSAF's 145 SQN was officially declared fully operational by Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean on 24 May 06 at a ceremony held at Changi Air Base (East).



Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean (front row, centre right) and Chief of Air Force, BG Ng Chee Khern (front row, centre left) with RSAF officers and crew of 145 SQN at the 145 FOC Declaration Ceremony.



BG Ng Chee Khern (right) witnessing the unveiling of the commemorative plaque by Mr Teo Chee Hean.



Mr Teo Chee Hean pinning the squadron badge on CO 145 SQN, LTC Lim Tuang Liang.



145 SQN's Full Operational Capability symbolises a step forward in the RSAF's transformation into a technologically advanced defence force. The F-16D Blk 52+ fighter aircraft it operates is a multi-role combat platform equipped with state-of-the-art capabilities. CO 145 SQN, LTC Lim Tuang Liang (left) expounded on these capabilities, "The Conformal Fuel Tanks and the Litening III advanced targeting pods enable the aircraft to have better endurance while delivering precision-strike capability to achieve a 'one shot one kill'." The aircraft is considered one of the most sophisticated and advanced multi-role fighter aircraft in the world and its ability to perform



in all missions, by day and night and regardless of weather, makes it integral to the joint operational capability of the 3rd Generation RSAF. WSO (Fighter), CPT Suresh Haridas (right) concluded, "What FOC means is that from now on, 145 SQN can take on more challenging missions that the RSAF has trained us to do."

145 SQN previously operated the A-4SU fighter aircraft. Among other awards, it notably won Best Fighter Squadron in 1998 and 2000, which attests to the professionalism and operational readiness of its crew. The squadron has come a long way since its transformation from

the A-4SU fighters to the F-16D Blk 52+ fighters in May 2004. The squadron's 20 fighters, which were originally situated in Texas, USA, had to be first delivered to Singapore – a feat involving a journey of over 16,000km, 7 mid-air refuellings, and a total flight time of 21 hours for each aircraft. The squadron then quickly achieved its Initial Operational Capability in Dec 2004, and has since participated in a number of events and exercises including EX Cope Tiger, EX Wallaby and the Five Power Defence Arrangement Exercise. Said Mr Teo in his speech, "145 SQN has a key role to play in the transformation of the RSAF. The CO and men of 145 SQN have shown what can be accomplished with dedication, professionalism and the will to succeed."

Heralding the Future - 120 SQN Inauguration



Mr Teo delivering his speech at 120 SQN's inauguration ceremony.



CO 120 SQN, LTC Sew briefing Mr Teo on the various controls and capabilities of the Apache Longbow attack helicopter.

The RSAF added a cutting edge to its aerial arsenal as Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean inaugurated 120 SQN - the first local AH-64D Apache Longbow squadron - at Sembawang Air Base, on 26 Jun 06.

"The Apache attack helicopters bring to the SAF a true 3rd Generation capability, as they seamlessly integrate with fighter aircraft, sensors such as unmanned aerial vehicles, artillery, armour and troops on the ground. The networking of the various systems and platforms will give the SAF a quantum leap in total capability," said Mr Teo in his speech during the ceremony.

The inauguration of 120 SQN is a key feature in RSAF's transformation into a 3rd Generation Air Force. The squadron's development through the years reflects the RSAF's transformation journey. Originally inaugurated in 1969 as RSAF's first operational unit, 120 SQN has come a long way since its formative years when it operated the French Aerospatiale Alouette. The squadron had subsequently upgraded its fleet to the UH-1H and Bell 212s and now stands ready to embrace the introduction of the Apaches.

"The transformation from a Utility to an Attack squadron, from operating an analogue to an advanced digital aircraft, epitomises the transformational journey of the SAF," added Mr Teo.

The Apache, with its advanced avionics and weapon systems, enhances the operational capabilities of the SAF for air-land integrated operations.

"The Apache is already network ready with its current suite of avionics," said CO 120 SQN LTC Sew Chun Liang. "Able to

overcome any terrain to stealthily maintain its presence in the target area, the Apache can link up efficiently with all network ready forces in the air and on the ground and effectively execute missions in a highly dynamic battle environment.

In addition, the advent of the Apaches will strengthen RSAF's capability to undertake a wider spectrum of missions for the defence of Singapore.

"We will be working closely with other units in the SAF to expand our operations to cover the full spectrum of requirements from Peacetime to War," said LTC Sew.

One of the most technologically advanced attack helicopters in the world, the Apache is equipped with the state-of-the-art Longbow Fire Control Radar that enhances radar target detection range and tracking ability, as well as precision strike capability under all weather conditions. The helicopter is capable of carrying a range of weapons such as the Hellfire air-to-surface missile and Hydra Rockets. It is also equipped with a 30mm automatic chain gun, located under its fuselage.

However, despite the focus on technology in transformation, it is RSAF's people who will indeed remain at the forefront of the transformation journey. Behind every attack helicopter lies the passion, dedication, and skills that make the Apache an integral part in our nation's defence.



Mr Teo pinning the squadron badge on members of 120 SQN.



"It is a very exciting and challenging experience to operate this aircraft," said CPT Cheong Kok Seen, an Apache Pilot. "There is great self-satisfaction if you are able to integrate all those systems onboard and bring out the strike capabilities of the aircraft," he added.



Pilots aren't the only ones who find working on the state-of-the-art Apaches a pleasure. "I feel privileged to be among the handful of specialists working on this fine machine," said

SSG Colin Yap, a Dedicated Crew Chief who is responsible for preparing the aircraft for its daily missions and ensuring that it is always in tip-top condition. "Besides, its ease of maintainability makes it a joy to work on," he added.

SAF Day Parade 2006



Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, inspecting the RSAF Guard-of-Honour with CDF, LG Ng Yat Chung.

This year's SAF Day Parade, held once again at SAFTI MI on 1 Jul 06 celebrated 39 years of the SAF. It was officiated by Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean and saw a new pre-parade segment, which drew wows from the crowd with stellar performances by the Silent Precision Drill Squad and the SAF Military Band. Of note was that this year's Parade Commander was an RSAF officer,



The colour party marching past, led by the Colours of the three Services and Parade Commander, LTC Chee Wai Mun.

Head Plans and Policy Branch, Air Manpower Department, LTC Chee Wai Mun. Mr Teo presented winners of the Best Unit awards 2006 with their respective trophies. Among these were the Best Fighter Squadron won by 140 SQN, Best Tactical Support Squadron won by 112 SQN, and Best Air Defence Artillery Unit won by 160 SQN.

RSAF Best Units 2006

Best Fighter Unit - 140 SQN

As the first Air Defence Fighter Squadron in Singapore, 140 SQN must be used to breaking new grounds - from piloting some of our nation's first few fighter aircraft, the Hawker Hunters, to breaking the sound barrier, and on 1 Jul 06, becoming the first squadron in Singapore to win the Best Fighter Squadron Award for the 10th time.

Said CO 140 SQN, LTC Vincent Leong Khum Keong of this year's win, "It is testament to the operational readiness of the squadron, and has boosted the morale of our people quite a fair bit as this is actually a very prestigious award."

LTC Vincent attributed the squadron's win to three aspects of the Squadron's culture, "Professionalism, a sense of belonging, and a sense of mutual respect... are the main things that contributed to us winning the award this year" He added that these aspects have promoted "a very open consultative atmosphere where personnel are free to articulate what they feel may be better for the squadron without fear of repercussion or reprimand." This allowed the squadron to continually improve upon itself and eventually, win the award.

In addition to professionalism, sense of belonging, and a sense of mutual respect, sheer hard work has also played a major role in pushing the fighter squadron to its victory this year. As part of this year's Best Unit Competition, SSG Tan Thiam Chye, Team IC of the Weapons Load Crew and his colleagues had to race to load their aircraft with two 550 pound bombs, two sidewinder missiles, and 510 rounds of the anti-aircraft gun.

Their initial loading time during practice was 9 minutes. In order to reduce this loading time, SSG Tan and his team watched videos replaying how they had performed and continually refined their



CO 140 SQN, LTC Vincent Leong Khum Keong and the outstanding men of 140 SQN.

loading process without compromising safety standards. This was no easy task and the team had to work an average of 10 hours a day, utilising any time they could spare between daily duties to practise their loading. They even occasionally returned on Sundays to put in eight extra hours of effort.

SSG Tan and his team's effort eventually paid off, and they clocked a stunning six minutes and fifteen seconds at the competition itself. This eventually boosted the squadron's overall points, and indubitably contributed significantly to the squadron's overall success. "We were all driven to win," said SSG Tan of his team's extraordinary effort. "Though we insisted that Sunday sessions were on a strictly voluntary basis, everyone still turned up for the practice... We're very happy to have won."

RSAF Best Units 2006 (con't)

Best Tactical Support Unit - 112 SQN

112 SQN has proven that being one of the youngest units in the RSAF has not deterred it from being the best. 'Determined to Deliver' is its motto and delivered it has, with the 5 ½ year-old squadron clinching the Best Tactical Support Squadron award.

The Squadron's primary role is to provide air-to-air refueling capabilities for the RSAF, with their KC-135R aircraft being capable of ferrying troops, supplies and equipment to anywhere in the world. Over the past two years, the Squadron has participated in numerous local and overseas joint exercises like EX Wallaby, EX Sindex and the Korat detachment and missions to the Gulf in support of international reconstruction efforts to rebuild Iraq. The Squadron was instrumental during EX Fast Reach in providing air-to-air refueling support to 9 F-16s all the way back from CONUS to Singapore. The Squadron also participated in the first RSAF detachment at Udon, Thailand by providing refueling support for the fighters.

Commenting on 112 SQN's achievement, Commanding Officer of 112 SQN, LTC Sivaraman, said that clinching the award, despite having to operate on multiple fronts- the Squadron's deployment to the Gulf and Thailand, home-based operations in Singapore, and participation in Operation Flying Eagle, was due to the Squadron's commitment towards excellence. 'I am always emphasizing the notion of excellence and for the most part, the aircrew and ground-



The 'Twisters' of 112 SQN, and the winning team.

crew have been very receptive to all the inputs and directions given by management. There is always an element of team spirit that pulls the guys together. The whole idea of looking out for each other, backing each other up and making sure things happen our way- that's the 112 SQN spirit', added LTC Sivaraman. 2 WO Tan Boon Keng and LTA Yusri Abu Bakar both echoed this view, with 2WO Tan stressing that 'strong leadership, sheer determination and hard work' were the key ingredients while LTA Yusri added that the win had only spurred them "to strive for greater heights, and to continue improving in their respective areas".

Best Air Defence Artillery Unit - 160 SQN

The men and women of 160 SQN are no strangers to accolades. This year's Best Air Defence Artillery (ADA) Squadron, 160 SQN has emerged victorious for a record 14 times in the history of the competition – a tradition of excellence that makes it the most decorated of ADA squadrons. This year's victory is made sweeter however by virtue of the fact that it marks a hat-trick of wins for the squadron.

"The consecutive wins bear testimony to the culture of excellence in this squadron," said CO, LTC Tan Boon Kiat. "This is a culture that transcends individuals, as the NSFs, Regulars and even NSmen who have participated in the squadron over the last 3 years have been different but they all share the same culture of team excellence," he added.

Operating the 35-mm Oerlikon Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun – the most established weapon in ADSD's arsenal - 160 SQN provides point defence for our Island within an integrated air defence umbrella.

Apart from regular in-country exercises, 160 SQN has been involved in overseas exercises such as EX Wallaby and EX Cope Tiger over the last year. Their emergence as Best ADA Squadron bears testimony to the professionalism and diligence displayed by the squadron's personnel over the year.

"Our servicemen are constantly fine tuning their professional



Top Gun - 160 SQN is Best Air Defence Artillery Unit for the third time in a row.

standards and always working with a strong team spirit," said the squadron's S3, MAJ Kuek Kwang Hiong, adding that the squadron has matured by being receptive to open discussion and criticism.

Such an attitude stems from the passion that the men and women of 160 SQN have for their work. "Every individual has the passion to put in their best in everything they do," said 1SG Raymond Quah, an Air Defence Systems Specialist. "What is important now is to think of ways to improve ourselves and our system in order to enhance operational readiness," he added.

Learning for Success - RSAF CLASS Graduation



The Graduating Warrant Officers together with Principal, Singapore Polytechnic, Mr Low Wong Fook (front row centre), HAL, COL Tsoi Mun Heng (6th from left) and COMD AFS, COL William See Kok Kee (6th from right).

Students from Singapore Polytechnic would have become accustomed to attending their classes alongside some senior course-mates over the last school year. The pupils in question were in fact members of the RSAF WOSA community who had been pursuing an Advanced Diploma in Aerospace Engineering and Management (AAEM).

Now in its fifth year, the course is designed to provide aerospace engineering technologists and specialists with further

knowledge in aerospace and aviation principles, concepts and practices and in the management of people and processes, operations and technology. In addition, the course serves to enhance their opportunities for advancement in their career in the RSAF.

"The course has provided us with a very good opportunity to upgrade ourselves," said 2WO Chua. "The knowledge we've attained is specially designed for air force specialists," he added.

The AAEM course is one of many programmes under RSAF's Continuous Learning Award Study Scheme (CLASS) which aims to provide academic upgrading for Warrant Officers and Specialists. Courses under the CLASS scheme such as the AAEM and Mechantronics Engineering are designed to update participants on the advances in the realm of aerospace technology and enhance their relevance in a changing and complex environment.



Emerging as the course's top student was 2WO Chua Lee Huat, a Senior Technician from Air Logistics Squadron – Tengah Air Base. 2WO Chua and his fellow coursemates received

their certificates of participation from Principal, Singapore Polytechnic, Mr Low Wong Fook in a certificate presentation ceremony held on 5 Jun 06.



"The multi-disciplinary nature of my course of study adds versatility to my capabilities," said 1SG Too Thiam Sew, who graduated with a Diploma with Merit on 22 Jun 06, from the Mechatronics

Engineering course held at Nanyang Polytechnic. "I am confident of adapting to a wide range of concepts with flexibility and making positive contributions to the organisation," he added.

RSAF performs at the CDF Essay Competition



The prize winners with CDF, LG Ng Yat Chung (centre) and COMDT MIHQ, BG Jimmy Tan (5th from the left).

The Republic of Singapore Air Force was well represented at this year's CDF Essay Competition, producing 5 out of 16 names on the winners' list. Coming in third for his essay, 'Modern Peacekeeping Operations and its Implications for the Role of the Militaries in Asia', was MAJ Benedict Ang from Air Plans Department, HQ RSAF. 'It is always an honour to fly the RSAF flag high', said MAJ Ang. According to MAJ Ang, the secret to success is to 'pick



MAJ Benedict (right) receiving his prize from CDF, LG Ng Yat Chung.

a current and relevant topic, develop an opinion and focus on developing a coherent thread of argument to support it'.

CDF, LG Ng Yat Chung and POINTER Advisory Board members graced the prize presentation ceremony that was held at the SAS auditorium, SAFTI MI on 21 Jun 06.

RSAF Scholar tops United States Air Force Academy



CPT Shawn with his trophy for Outstanding Cadet in Military Performance.

CPT Shawn Ingkiriwang has much to be proud of. Not only was he promoted to his current rank from LTA in the recent RSAF Promotion Ceremony, but more importantly, he is the year's top United States Air Force Academy

(USAF) Scholar, which places him among the likes of predecessor and fellow high-flyer LTC Low Chung Guan, who won the USAFA Overall Top Graduate Award in 1995.

Since 1988, the RSAF has been sending distinguished officers to the academy under the SAF Academic Scholarship (Military), or formerly known as the Military Training Award. In June 2003, CPT Shawn was sent to study in USAFA, Colorado, for four years as RSAF's 14th scholar. As only one RSAF candidate is selected to attend USAFA annually, the selection process was rigorous, comprising several fitness tests and three interviews, the last of which was conducted by former US Defence Attache in Singapore, COL James Tetjen.

Once in the academy, it was either up or out. Out of an initial approximately 1300 officer cadets, only 879 made it to the graduation ceremony. What drove CPT Shawn was the success and hard work of his Singaporean predecessors who, said he, "have set a precedence of excelling and doing their best to represent their country." True to his drive, CPT Shawn led his squadron as its commander to win the Air Force Space Command Trophy for the Outstanding Squadron of the Year Award, a first in the history of the squadron.

Now in the process of completing his Basic Wings Course, CPT Shawn aspires to pilot the F-16 fighter aircraft and, as he states, "to continue to serve the Air Force and my Nation to the best of my abilities."

RSAF Specialist tops JWOC 2006



2WO Tamarasi (then MSG) receiving her book award from Chief of Army, MG Desmond Koh.

2WO Tamarasi (then MSG) did RSAF proud by emerging not only as the top graduate from RSAF, but also as the overall top graduate in the tri-service 33rd Joint Warrant Officers Course (JWOC).

On 29 Jun 06, 2WO Tamarasi and 48 other personnel from RSAF graduated from the Joint Warrant Officers Course. Chief of Army, MG Desmond Koh, who was Guest-of-Honour at the Promotion Ceremony, presented the graduates from all three services with both their promotion certificates as well as their new epaulettes, bearing the rank of 2WO. 2WO Tamarasi was awarded a book prize for topping the course in the RSAF.

"It was a very challenging course... It could start as early as 6.45pm and end around 8pm. You have to have a lot of dedication because you can't study on weekdays so you would need to devote more time during the weekends," said 2WO Tamarasi of the

course, which spanned over some two and half months.

But 2WO Tamarasi persevered, and cited these reasons for her eventual success, "What got me through this course was my passion for the job, as well as the responsibility of becoming a Warrant Officer, as I now have to lead and be a role model. Of course, family support is a must because I've had to commit a lot of time. My husband supported me - he's very understanding."

Air Force News congratulates 2WO Tamarasi on her shining success, and all JWOC graduates on their promotion to Warrant Officers.

AWARDS/CEREMONIES

2006 Promotion Ceremonies

In recognition of the hard work, commitment and effort put in by RSAF Officers and Warrant Officers, various promotion ceremonies were held towards the end of Jun 06. The annual SAF Warrant Officers Promotion Ceremony was held on 21 Jun 06 while the RSAF Promotion Ceremony for Air Force Officers was held on 27 Jun 06. In addition, the annual SAF Officers' Promotion Ceremony for officers to be promoted to Lieutenant Colonels (LTCs) and above was held on 29 Jun 06.

SAF Warrant Officer Promotion Ceremony

Officiated by Chief of Defence Force, LG Ng Yat Chung, the SAF Warrant Officers' Promotion Ceremony was held at the Chevrans on 21 Jun 06. For the Air Force, a total of 13 1st Warrant Officers were promoted to the rank of Master Warrant Officer and 46 2nd Warrant Officers were promoted to the rank of 1st Warrant Officer.



2006 Promotion Ceremonies (con't)

Of the promoted personnel was MWO (then 1WO) Lim Seng Yong, Chief Warrant Officer of the AETI Wing at Air Force School. "I feel happy to be promoted and that the organisation has recognised my contributions and performance," said MWO Lim about his promotion.

"This promotion is an indication from the organisation that they have the trust in us to take on the additional responsibility that comes with this rank," he said, adding that he was looking forward to the new challenges that lay ahead.



BG (then COL) Tsoi Mun Heng, HAL, receiving his promotion certificate from Minister for Defence, Mr. Teo Chee Hean.

SAF Officers' Promotion Ceremony

The SAF Officers' Promotion Ceremony was held at the Ministry of Defense (MINDEF). Chief of Defence Force (CDF), LG Ng Yat Chung officiated the ceremony that saw the promotion of Majors (MAJ) in either rank or grade. Minister for Defence, Mr. Teo Chee Hean, graced the ceremony for the promotion of LTCs and above. RSAF officers promoted in both ceremonies included both Regulars and Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen).

Head of Air Logistics, BG (then COL) Tsoi Mun Heng, headed the list of RSAF officers promoted, rising to the rank of Brigadier-General (BG). When asked about how he felt on receiving his star, "I am very honoured and privileged to be given this rank, and am humbled by the responsibility it entails. I look forward to the challenges of meeting up to this responsibility".

The 02/06 RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony



CAF, BG Ng Chee Khern (front row, centre) with the officers and graduates of the 02/06 RCGC.

23 recently commissioned RSAF officers, consisting of 12 pilots and 11 Weapons Systems Officers, were awarded their certificates, ceremonial swords, and vocational Wings or Brevets from CAF, BG Ng Chee Khern on 19 May 06, during the 02/06

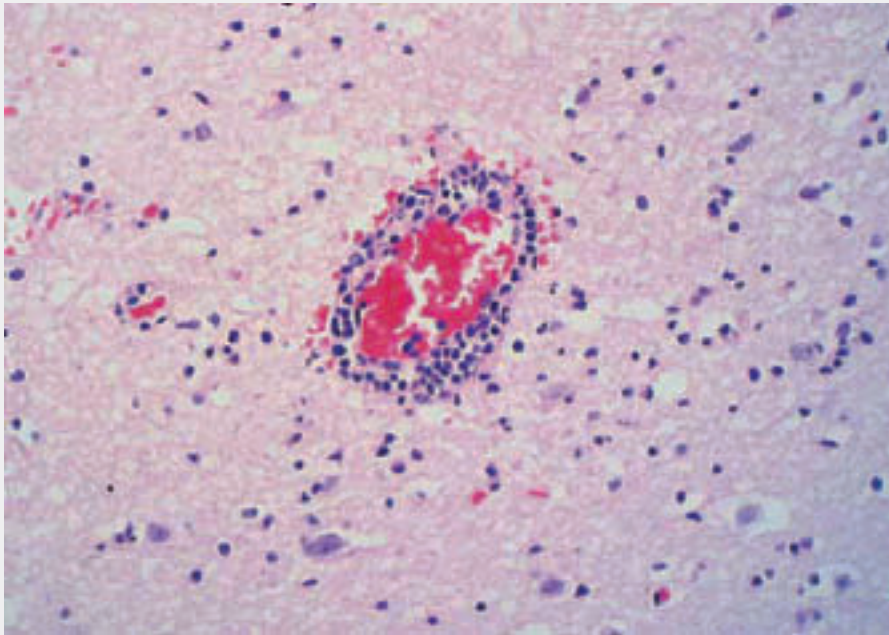
RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony (RCGC) that was held at the Air Force Museum. These newly commissioned officers also attended the RCGC Dining-In ceremony, held on 20 Jun 06 at Paya Lebar Officers Mess located at the Air Force Museum as part of the graduation celebrations.



Graduating at the ceremony in the presence of their friends and family was a fitting reward for the months of labour the graduates had put in. Best Trainee in the 22nd Aerodrome/ Precision Approach Radar Course, OCT Jonathan, got through the course by looking at the challenges in a positive light. He explained, "What helped me through this mentally-draining 6 months

was the right attitude of wanting to learn, and always seeking to improve and not be complacent and rest on my laurels." Graduating at the ceremony, his sense of joy and achievement was apparent as he quipped, "It is like seeing a rainbow after a thunderstorm."

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease



A HFMD-causing Enterovirus 71 infection.



Rashes on the soles is a symptom of HFMD

The Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease, or HFMD in short, is an acute, self-limited viral disease that occurs worldwide. While epidemics are rare and small in proportion, local cases have risen sharply, doubling from 174 cases per week in February to 331 cases per week in March. The disease affects mostly children under the age of 10. Adults, however, are not exempt from this affliction. In this issue, we tell you both how to identify it, what to do if you or your family contract the disease, and how to avoid contracting the disease.

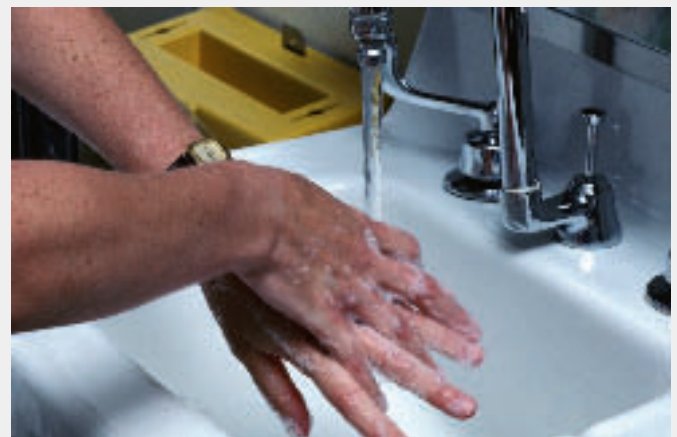
HFMD is caused by more than 80 members of the Enterovirus family, and is transmitted through direct contact with an infected person's respiratory droplets, saliva, and vesicular fluid, and by indirect contact with items contaminated by secretion of infected persons.

Most of the time, the disease is little cause for concern. Being acute, the disease exhibits a quick onset followed by a severe, but very short period of infection. Also, being a self-limited disease, it is little affected by external treatment, but instead ends once it has run its course. In fact, the disease is asymptomatic 50-80% of the time. That means that one can be infected and can spread the disease, yet not experience some or even all of the symptoms during its duration. These symptoms include fever lasting 2 to 3 days, rashes over the palms, soles, feet, and buttocks, and mouth ulcers affecting the gums and the sides of the tongue. Victims may also experience cough, running nose, and vomiting. Most of these symptoms will resolve themselves together with the disease in 7-10 days, with no lasting adverse effects. Readers with children, however, should be more wary of HFMD. Not only are children more susceptible to the disease, it can also lead to potentially fatal complications such as myocarditis and encephalitis. These complications, when they do occur, tend to do so in young children under the age of 5. There is no need to panic, however, as these complications are rare. Families with infected children should just bring them to see a doctor for observation immediately, and conduct close monitoring at home for symptoms of complications such as chest pains, palpitations,

seizures, fever persisting past 3 days, and headaches and vomiting persisting past 10 days.

In cases without complications, drugs and measures are available to treat the symptoms. While there is neither vaccine nor cure for the virus, antipyretics and cool baths can be taken to reduce the body's temperature against fever, IV drips can be used to rehydrate the body, and medication can soothe the sores and rashes.

Finally, cliché as it sounds, prevention is better than cure. Emphasis on the maintenance of personal hygiene at all times can save you and your family a great deal of pain, irritation, and trouble, not to mention money. These measures include frequent hand-washing, and the non-sharing of utensils and drinking cups. Should you or your family still contract the disease, however, it is in the interest of all parties for the one who is infected to stay at home for 7-10 days, away from one's workplace, friends, or school.



The regular practice of good hygiene can save you the pain of contracting HFMD.

Royal Thai Air Force Officers' Exchange Programme



Members of the visiting delegation pictured with COMD Sembawang Air Base, COL Tan Wee Ngee (8th from left) and several other RSAF officers.

A delegation of officers from the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) visited Singapore from 22 to 27 May 06 as part of the RTAF-RSAF Junior Officers' Exchange Programme (JOEP).

During their stay, the officers visited Sembawang Air Base, the Air Defence Systems Division and Air Force School. The visitors were briefed on the roles and capabilities of the institutions they visited and were given tours of the various facilities there.

Inaugurated in 1992, the RTAF-RSAF JOEP serves to promote greater interaction between the junior officers of both air forces, and to familiarise them with the military, political and social environment of the host country. RTAF and RSAF enjoy excellent relations, and the JOEP is one of the many avenues for maintaining this relationship.

Chief of Air Staff, Indonesian Air Force

Newly appointed Chief of Air Staff, Indonesian Air Force (TNI-AU), Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Herman Prayitno made his introductory visit to Singapore from 24 to 26 May 06.

During his visit, ACM Herman called on both Chief of Airforce, BG Ng Chee Khern as well as Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean. Several other formal activities were lined up for ACM Herman over the course of three days. These included a visit to ST Aerospace on 25 May 06 and a visit to Tengah Air Base (TAB) on 26 May 06, where he viewed a static display of RSAF's weapon systems. He also went on a familiarisation flight on-board a Super Puma helicopter.

ACM Herman was presented with the RSAF Honorary Wings during his visit to Air Force School on 25 May 06. The



Team excellence built upon the warm friendship between the two Air Forces.

RSAF Honorary Wings, initiated in 1982, is presented to foreign military officers who have made significant contributions to the enhancement of bilateral defence relations.

ACM Herman's visit underscores the warm, friendly, and long-standing defence relations between Singapore and Indonesia.



Chief of Air Staff, ACM Herman Prayitno (right) inspecting the Guard-of-Honour along with CAF, BG Ng Chee Khern (second from right).

International Air Cadet Exchange 2006



The cadets with pilots and crew, just prior to their flight on board the Fokker 50 Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

Air cadets hailing from various nations who shared a passion for aviation visited RSAF's Changi Air Base, Sembawang Air Base, the Flight Simulator Centre and Air Force School in a series of visits on 1, 2 and 5 Jun 06. The visits were part of the International Air Cadet Exchange 2006 programme.

The cadets toured facilities such as the radar and tower simulator in Air Force School, and enjoyed familiarisation flights on board the Fokker 50 Maritime Patrol Aircraft and the CH-47D Chinook helicopter during their visit.

Held annually, the IACE is an exchange programme hosted by the National Cadet Corps (Air) for officers and cadets from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, the United States and the United Kingdom. The IACE fosters international understanding, goodwill and friendship among youths who have an interest in aviation, via the annual exchange of air cadets between air cadet organisations of participating countries.

Grassroots Leaders Visit Tengah Air Base



Deputy CO of 111 SQN, MAJ Teo Kian Hong explaining safety procedures for the E-2C Hawkeye to Mdm Noormala and other grassroots leaders.

Grassroots leaders had the opportunity to find out more about the RSAF and Tengah Air Base (TAB) during the Grassroots Leaders' Visit to TAB 06 on 22 Apr 06. The visit featured briefings and presentations by then Senior Parliamentary Secretary (now Minister of State) for Defence and the Environment and Water Resources, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee as well as Deputy Commander TAB, COL Sarbjit Singh. These presentations covered both the RSAF's and TAB's key milestones as well as their current roles in the defence of our nation. The visit also addressed issues that are close to the hearts of residents,

such as noise disturbance, and night training through a question and answer session.



The visit was well received, as Mr Joseph Foo, Citizens' Consultative Committees (CCC) Chairman for Pioneer Constituency, had remarked after the session, "We are much enlightened as to how the Air Force works, and what the various components of the Air Force are."

The need to remain operationally ready and to have a well-trained task force was at the heart of the presentations to the Grassroots leaders. It was explained that certain disturbances were inevitable, but policies have been put in place to alleviate the noise effects of training. Among these were policies such as the cessation of all flights past 2300 hours, less training during examination periods, higher flight altitudes, and detours around residential areas during take-off and landing. Grassroots leaders were urged to convey the importance of training for national security to their constituents. Among those who appreciated this need was Mr Jagjeet Singh, Assistant Secretary CCC, Tanjong Pagar.



"Our Air Force is always ready 24 hours round the clock so that we, as Singaporeans, can sleep soundly in our homes because there is that protection... That itself is very satisfying and confidence-building for us in this time when there are terrorist threats."

All in all, the visit proved to be highly informative to the grassroots leaders, and could be summed up in the words of Mdm Noormala Bte Ramli, Secretary Marsiling Zone 9 Residents' Committee, "This is very interesting and very impressive.. a very educational tour."

PS(D) Dialogue with Changi Air Base

On 29 May 06, Permanent Secretary of Defence, Mr Chiang Chie Foo, visited Changi Air Base (East) to helm two dialogue sessions with personnel in the base.

The visit opened with a briefing on 145 SQN operations for Mr Chiang. Following the briefing, the two separate dialogue sessions were held with the officers and the WOSAs of CAB. Together with Commander CAB, COL Ng Chee Meng, Director Manpower, Mr Lam Yi Young, Director Defence Executive Services, COL (NS) Png Bee Hin, and Head Plans and Policies Branch, Air Manpower Department, LTC Chee Wai Mun, Mr Chiang fielded questions and issues close to the hearts of the base personnel.

One such question addressed considerations for reviewing the Premium Plan. Another one related to the possibility of plans to match Diploma holders who upgrade their qualifications with an equivalent military career structure in the SAF. Issues pertaining to the RSAF's transformation into a 3rd Generation air force, such as right-sizing due to transformation, were also addressed. The broad scope of topics even extended to avenues for community outreach as personnel explored the possibility of involvement



The panel at the dialogue session comprising (from left) Director Defence Executive Services, COL (NS) Png Bee Hin; Commander Changi Air Base, COL Ng Chee Meng; Permanent Secretary of Defence, Mr Chiang Chie Foo; Director Manpower, Mr Lam Yi Young, and Head Plans & Policies Branch, Air Manpower Department, LTC Chee Wai Mun.

in Military Operations Other Than War (OOTW) such as peace support operations in the Gulf, even if their parent units are not involved.

JC Students Visit Tactical Air Support Command



Students from the Temasek Seminar getting a close-up view of an RSAF UAV aircraft.

As part of the Temasek Seminar 2006, selected JC 1 students from Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), National Junior College, Raffles Junior College, and Yishun Junior College visited Tactical Air Support Command (TASC) on the afternoon of 5 Jun 06.

The visit to TASC was organised with the purpose of showcasing the RSAF's capabilities as well as to generate excitement and interest

in the upcoming Temasek Seminar 2006. Students from the four colleges were treated to an in-depth guided tour of the Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) deployed at the base. Staff from the base gave students a rare view of the inner circuitry and workings of the aircraft, and some students even had the chance to operate a UAV simulator used to train budding external pilots to operate the UAVs.



For Anna Cai of Raffles Junior College, who had never visited a military base before, the trip was an eye-opener. "I think what was impressive was looking at all the equipment that Singapore uses like the simulators and the mobile stations... it has a bit of semblance to what we see on TV. Previously we really had no idea what it's all about, so coming here has opened my mind."



What interested Daryl Chia of Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), however, was not so much the display of advanced technology but the rather detailed explanations of the utility of the aircraft.

"I think that most of us tend to focus so much on technology that we don't see how it's applicable... so this helps us know a bit more of what the Air Force does."

The Temasek Seminar will be held on 26 Jul 06. The annual seminar, organised by MINDEF Scholarship Centre, was first introduced in 1991 to encourage top JC1 students to consider a career in the SAF as well as to increase their awareness of the importance of defence and security challenges.

ITE Colleges visit Paya Lebar Air Base



Students from ITE College East pose for a rare souvenir - a snapshot with RSAF's CH-47D Chinook.

Students from ITE (Institute of Technical Education) College East and ITE College Central were treated to a field trip with a difference as they visited Paya Lebar Air Base (PLAB) on 30 and 31 May 06 respectively. The students toured numerous units and facilities on the base and in the process were exposed to a sizeable slice of life in the RSAF.

For the students, many of whom have not been to an airbase before, the experience was indeed a novel one. They seized the opportunity to venture into aircraft on display such as the C-130 Hercules and the KC-135 Stratotanker. They were also

given tours of various facilities on the base, such as the Flight Simulator Centre and the adjacent Aeromedical Centre and Air Force Museum.

"I never knew that there was a plane that could refuel other jets," said Delvina Lee, a Multimedia student from ITE East, shortly after she emerged from a KC-135 Stratotanker.

In all, the visit proved both educational and enjoyable for the students, providing them with a clearer picture of the roles and capabilities of PLAB and the RSAF.

Changes in Command and Senior Appointments

CHANGES IN SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

Head, Air Plans — 17 Jul 06

Incoming: COL Cheng Siak Kian

Outgoing: COL Andy Tan Teng Lock

Head C4 Ops, Joint Communications and Information Systems — 20 Jun 06

Incoming: LTC Yong Yoke Chuang

Head, Joint Communications and Information Systems — 22 May 06

Incoming: COL Nee Bor Wei

Deputy Head (Planning and Control), Air Logistics Department — 24 Apr 06

Incoming: COL Lee Ling Wee

Outgoing: COL Yeo Chin Hock Mario

Head SAF Operational Research Office/Head Operational Research Branch (Joint), Joint Plans and Transformation Department — 1 Apr 06

Incoming: LTC Tan Too Ping

CHANGES IN COMMAND

CO, Field Defence Squadron - Paya Lebar Air Base — 30 Jun 06

Incoming: LTC S Amudhan

Outgoing: LTC Goh Churn Yen

CO, Flying Support Squadron - Sembawang Air Base — 28 Jun 06

Incoming: LTC Chua Michael

Outgoing: LTC Quek Chiew Teck

COMD, Peace Vanguard Detachment — 23 Jun 06

Incoming: LTC Tan Pheng Seong Samuel

Outgoing: LTC Wong Weng Chong Christopher Gerard

CO, 143 SQN — 29 May 06

Incoming: LTC Archie Ong Su Chuin

Outgoing: LTC Loh Kong Wai

CO, 150 SQN — 24 May 06

Incoming: LTC Ho Wai Mun

Outgoing: LTC Chin Koi Sheng

CO, Air Logistics Squadron, Air Defence Systems Division — 3 May 06

Incoming: LTC Tong Wee Li

Outgoing: LTC Chan Chee Cheong Michael

CO, Air Logistics Squadron - Tengah Air Base — 20 Apr 06

Incoming: LTC Cheong Han Kwok Francis

Outgoing: COL Lee Ling Wee

Get up Close and Personal with the Air Force!

- RSAF Open House 2006

Aerial displays, familiarisation flights and fun for the whole family – these are just snapshots of the activities that will be offered to visitors when the RSAF Open House returns to Paya Lebar Air Base (PLAB) from 1 to 3 Sep 06 after a three year absence since 2003. Held in conjunction with RSAF's 38th Anniversary, the ever-popular event is expected to draw over 100,000 visitors.

Air Force News presents a sneak peek at what visitors can expect to see and experience during the memorable three days:

Aerial Displays

Come witness a varied aerial display of technologically advanced aircraft

- Observe the formidable AH-64D Apache attack helicopters in action
- View CH-47D Chinook helicopters carrying out underslung operations
- Be captivated by the F-16D Blk 52+ solo aerobatic performance
- Witness an aircraft scramble demonstration by F-5s/16s

Static Displays

Feast your eyes on the 3rd Generation Air Force! Visitors will be treated to a display of the entire arsenal of the RSAF and will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with RSAF's latest acquisitions and many more.

- F-16D Blk 52+ Fighting Falcons - the most advanced fighters in the RSAF
- AH-64D Apache Longbow Attack Helicopters
- Mechanised Igla weapons system
- I-Hawk weapon system

Witness the aircraft arming demonstration for the F-5, F-16 and AH-64.

Site Visits

Take tours of a different sort and gain rare insights into the RSAF.

Visit the Base Central Debriefing Station (BCDS) to view the advanced air combat manoeuvring instrumentation system that allows our pilots to perform air combat training.

Tour the Air Force Museum, which illustrates the development of the RSAF from 1st Generation to a potent 3rd Generation Air Force through photographs, models and displays.

Visit the Flight Simulator Centre (FSC) and observe how our pilots train to do air combat and handle emergencies.

Performances

Be enchanted by song and dance performances by the SAF Music and Drama Company (MDC).

Look out for the remote control aero-model flying demonstrations by members of the Singapore Youth Flying Club (SYFC).

Kiddy and Carnival Zones

Children can look forward to a thoroughly enjoyable time, with a host of activities lined up for them:

- Play at the inflatable playground
- Enjoy fire engine rides
- Construct aeroplane models
- Free aviation games
- Win attractive prizes

Those hungry and thirsty after a long day can indulge in a wide variety of local delights available at the carnival.

Technology: One of the building blocks of a 3rd Generation RSAF

- Our new F-16 D Blk 52+ fighters play a vital role in securing air dominance.*

