

NAVY news

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Three More Formidable Frigates Join the Row !

Into the Blue

"It is a new front for the Navy ... opening up a lot of new possibilities"

An Officer and a Specialist

"Correct work ethics to improve knowledge and skills will certainly ready yourself for all challenges"





Republic of Singapore Navy



RADM Chew Men Leong

Chief of Navy

A Word from CNV

Following RSS Formidable's commissioning last May, the commissioning of another three RSN frigates at the dawn of 2008 bring us a critical step closer towards the realisation of the Third Generation RSN – one that is formidable, balanced and flexible; and that is able to punch well above its weight. Through innovative and judicious development, we are in the process of developing a well-balanced set of capabilities that is sharp yet flexible.

The frigates will give the RSN a broad and potent range of capabilities in all three dimensions of warfare – anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine. Given their suite of C4I capabilities, they will form key nodes in the Integrated Knowledge-based Command and Control network of the SAF. Collectively, the frigates will provide a quantum jump in the Navy's fighting capability and strengthen our readiness to undertake a wide spectrum of missions.

The frigates will level-up the integration of maritime capabilities into the Third Generation SAF. As an integrated maritime fighting force, we will become more networked. Our capabilities will be magnified through extensive networking, exploitation of our new stealth advantage and tight integration of maritime platforms. This network goes beyond the Navy and will enable the Navy to plug into the rest of the SAF and most importantly playing a vital role in enhancing ONE SAF mission outcomes.

As the Navy's leading combatants, the frigates will play a critical role in defending Singapore's sovereignty and safeguarding our sea lines of communication and vital interests. At the same time, they will be at the front-line of nurturing strong defence relations and advancing our wider strategic engagements. The new capabilities they bring will provide the RSN with new options to interact and engage with regional and advanced navies at a significantly higher level – both in scope and complexity.

Our formidable naval capabilities is only possible given the dedication and commitment of the people behind them. It is your ideas, teamwork and energy that have enabled the the RSN to operationalise four frigates in a remarkable short period time. At the same time, the capabilities we have operationalised are well supported by a strong training system which ensures that our people are well nurtured and given the appropriate competencies. Superior logistics ensures that the sharp edge of our capabilities is sustained. Aptly, we throw the spotlight and pay tribute to the naval log community in this issue of Navy News. As we continue with our transformation voyage to operationalise new capabilities, let me take this opportunity to wish one and all in the navy family another satisfying new year of strong readiness, mission success, and enduring teamwork in safeguarding our seas.

Courtesy Calls



ADM Sumardjono,
Chief of Staff
Indonesian Navy



ADM Satirapan Keyanon,
Commander-in-Chief
Royal Thai Navy



RADM Phan Khue Tao,
Deputy Commander-in-Chief
Vietnam People's Navy

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Commissioning of Next Three RSN Frigates

A new milestone in the Navy's transformation journey was reached with the commissioning of three new frigates, RSS Intrepid, RSS Steadfast and RSS Tenacious on 5 Feb. The three formidable class stealth design frigates joined the first of its class ship – RSS Formidable – which was commissioned in May last year not only enhance the RSN's capabilities across all three warfare dimensions, but also add to RSN's ability to undertake a wide spectrum of operations.

"Being on a more sophisticated platform opens up a lot of different fronts as to how we are able to conduct our operations," said CPL Bernard an NSF on board RSS Steadfast. "There are many different aspects we can venture into. It is a new front for the Navy, so it is opening up a lot of new possibilities."

The frigates will accord the RSN with information superiority. Through the Integrated Knowledge-based Command and Control (IKC2) network, it would link up with other ships, aircraft, unmanned systems and shore Command and Control facilities, such that the different platforms and shore commands to work together as an integrated force. At the same time, the indigenously developed Combat Management System state-of-the-art data fusion, sense-making and decision support engines will enhance battle-space awareness and enable the orchestration of sensors and weapons employment at the force level. Not only do these new capabilities allow the RSN to contribute to the wider SAF outcomes, but the shortened RSN sensor-shooter loop also means that we will be able to see first, decide faster and act first.

This advanced technology that have been built into the frigates' design have enabled the RSN to do more with less.

"I think the most distinctive difference is that and has more advanced purpose-built systems. And on top of that, it has allowed us to operate slightly differently. There is a paradigm shift. There's more emphasis on letting the guys do their job. We empower our guys to make decisions as well," said CPT Lim Huay Wen, Operations Officer of RSS Steadfast.

In addition, CNV RADM Chew Men Leong also shared that the frigates "will create new options where we can interact with regional and advanced Navies at a significantly higher level". He added: "You'll see that the frigates will continue to be deployed in much higher level exercises of greater scope and complexity and in a sense, not only enable us to plug in to the wider security networks, but at the same time also enable us to actually benchmark ourselves, and through the process show what we are capable of."

Following the ceremony, distinguished guests were invited on board RSS Steadfast for a short tour of the ship. Minister for Defence Mr Teo Chee Hean also signed the ship's commemorative plaque. ~HK



Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean presenting the commissioning warrant to COL Giam Hock Khoon, Commanding Officer of RSS STEADFAST



20th EX EAGLE Still Soaring High !

The RSN hosted its first foreign exercise for 2008 with the Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) from 16 to 24 Jan. This year's exercise was the 20th in the series, which started in 1974, and marked an important milestone in the bilateral professional relationship between the two navies.

To celebrate the long standing ties between both navies, each navy hosted a commemorative dinner for the visiting navy in their respective host cities, Singapore and Jakarta. During the commemorative dinner in Jakarta, CNV RADM Chew Men Leong mentioned: "Our two navies are indeed natural partners because our strong friendship built up through many interactions have enabled us to work comfortably alongside one another. We in the RSN will continue to treasure and nurture this precious friendship we have with TNI-AL."

Ex EAGLE 20/08 was completed in 3 phases, with a shore phase in Singapore, a sea phase while en route to Jakarta, and a concluding shore phase in Jakarta. During the sea phase, the participating ships from both navies demonstrated their high levels of interoperability and professionalism through a series of exercises, which included a Maritime Interdiction Operation, an Anti-Submarine Warfare exercise and many others. For the shore phases conducted in both cities, professional interactions included exercise planning, briefings, and simulated exercises at the Tactical Training Centre (TTC) in CNB. RSS Valour, RSS Sea Dragon, RSS Daring and a Fokker-50 Maritime Patrol aircraft participated in the biennial exercise with their Indonesian counterparts.

Article contributed by CPT Woon Jun Yang



Fleet Commander and RADM Agus Suhartono forging closer ties



MILAN 2008

Led by Deputy COSCOM Commander COL Harris Chan and Commanding Officer 194 SQN LTC Tan Yong Kee, the officers, crew and attached personnel on the RSS Katong and RSS Punggol sailed a total of 960 nautical miles to Port Blair to participate in MILAN 2008 from 19 to 23 Jan. The furthest ever ventured by MCMVs, the crew took part in the Maritime Seminar, where professional views on topics such as maritime security, crisis control and maritime pollution were presented.

A key highlight of MILAN 2008 was the "Cultural Night" where participating countries put on special cultural performances from their homelands. RSN's very own Indian dance performance led by Ms Rita from HQ COSCOM was one of the most well-received. Ending with a ceremonial sail pass, MILAN 2008 provided many opportunities for interactions and exchanges between the participating navies, and achieved its aim of "Building Friendship Across the Seas".

SSG Ang Kar Choon, CWES RSS Punggol sums up his MILAN 2008 experience, "I'm proud to be part of MILAN 2008 as it has broadened my horizon. Not only on our primary operational mission, but importantly the interaction and friendships built with other counterparts from the foreign navies."

Article contributed by CPT Shawn Tham





ReMIX

Regional Maritime Information eXchange

WPNS ReMIX Training Seminar

A new module was recently introduced at the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) Regional Maritime Information Exchange (ReMIX) Training Seminar held at the Orchard Parade Hotel on 22 and 23 Jan, to enhance the real-time maritime information sharing system. Attended by participants from 17 WPNS member countries and defence attaches, the participants were showed how to use the new features such as Open & Analysed Shipping Info-System (OASIS) and Sense-Making, Analysis and Research Tools (SMART). OASIS contains shipping database which provides a platform to support the sharing of shipping information database. SMART, on the other hand, provides a set of tools to detect anomalies on the database, connecting the relation among the areas of interest. Enhancements also included interactive tools that allow the instant communication or information sharing among users, similar to instant messaging on the Internet.

At the end of the seminar, the participants had ample opportunity to familiarise with the system while engaging in training session involving simulated maritime security-based scenarios. The seminar also provided a great opportunity for the participants to interact and many went home with more acquaintances from across the WPNS community and increased confidence in utilising ReMIX.

ReMIX was introduced at the 10th WPNS in Oct 06 to facilitate better information sharing at the operational level among the WPNS community. ReMIX allows real-time information sharing of maritime incidents to enhance the maritime situational awareness of the WPNS countries, and also to facilitate operational response when required.

Article contributed by LTA Benson Han



SAFETY - A NEW NAVY CORE VALUE

A new core value was introduced to the RSN at the 19th RSN Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) Day on 4 Jan. Underscoring the importance of Safety in the RSN, it stresses that safety has to be a commitment by everyone in the Navy and that it should be part of everything we do. "By adopting safety as a core value," explained Chief of Navy RADM Chew Men Leong, "I hope we can build greater resolve and commitment in ensuring safety of our personnel at all levels of the RSN... It takes a lot of leadership by example, constant vigilance, rigorous sharing of lessons learnt and most of all, personal vigilance and responsibility."

One of the basic focus to facilitate a SAFE culture within the Navy is an open and blame-free reporting environment that would still need to be cultivated. In his opening speech, CNV said: "The ideal is when everyone, as a member of the Navy family, readily comes forward when a near-miss occurs or a hazard is spotted." He reiterated that, "Professional as we are, we are still capable of mistakes from time to time... We need to learn from them, not hide them for the fear of punishment."

The spirit of open-sharing was well-illustrated during the presentations by crew members of RSS Persistence and RSS Vigilance. At the end of the day, safety culture can only be at its strongest when everyone takes ownership. To put it simply, Safe and Accident Free Environment (S-A-F-E) is the safety vision that all of us should pursue. ~RO



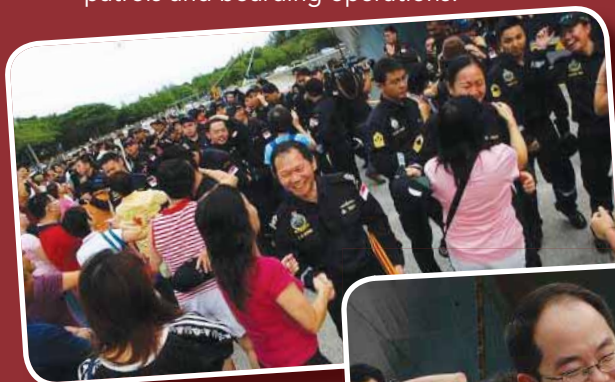
Gulf Homecoming Ceremony

Personnel from RSS Persistence and their loved ones were in for a joyous pre-Christmas treat as the Landing Ships Tank (LST) returned to Singapore waters, coming alongside Changi Naval Base (CNB) on 22 Dec 07. The 180-strong crew had spent the previous three months out and about in the Northern Arabian Gulf, continuing Singapore's active involvement in the reconstruction efforts of Iraq.

The fourth deployment of its kind, the LST's versatility and multi-role capability in an operational environment was tested at full stretch, performing onerous duties ranging from support logistics for other navies' vessels and helicopters, to maritime security operations including patrols and boarding operations.

Among the eager crowd of family and friends awaiting Persistence's return at CNB was Mr Jimmy Lim, father of 2SG Leon Lim, a Gunner on board and one of the handful of NSF's who voluntarily extended their full-time national service to partake in the operation. "I think my son did grow up a little bit over the past few months!" said a beaming Mr Lim. "I believed that the RSN would have done a good job of taking care of him... I encouraged him to go for this mission, especially since you can't find this sort of experience in Singapore." 2SG Lim echoed a similar sentiment: "I believe that training makes a person, and when you've had training, you require something to prove your worth – I was given the opportunity to do so and I took it."

1SG Justin Kwek of the Ship Security Team was no stranger to the Gulf, having completed one deployment in the past. He cited his account of the transforming landscape: "The first time I went there, the Iraqis didn't have any force or means of protecting themselves, relying solely on others for support. This second time round when I returned to the Gulf, they are running their navy and even operate their own the boarding teams. Although it's a small gradual step, there are on going changes." He adds, "It is good to see the Iraqis standing up for their own." ~RO



FLEET CHANGES COMMAND



Another change in RSN senior management was marked by the Change-of-Command ceremony for Fleet Commander at Changi Naval Base Parade Square on 21 Dec 07. The ceremony, officiated by Chief of Navy RADM Chew Men Leong, saw RADM Ng Chee Peng taking over command of Fleet from RADM Tan Kai Hoe.

"RADM Ng Chee Peng needs no introduction. He is no stranger to the Fleet, having served onboard the MCVs, where he later rose to command RSS Victory and then the 188 SQN and the First Flotilla," said RADM Tan during his speech. "RADM Ng has always impressed with his brilliant mind, his strategic vision, his diligence, his earnestness... so I am sure the Fleet will benefit from his ability to see the larger perspective. With RADM Ng's many abilities, I am certain that there is no better person to lead the Fleet to greater heights."



COL Joe Cheong, Deputy Fleet Commander, shared that RADM Tan was "a formidable Commander – one who has awesome fortitude & foresight" and a "capacity to keep pace with so many things that happened in the Fleet". During the change-of-command dinner, he also paid tribute to RADM Tan's leadership, and said, "despite all the challenges you have in your tight schedule, you are always there both at work and at play, to lead and also to reach out to the ground."

Since relinquishing command of Fleet, RADM Tan has taken up the office of Chief-of-Staff – Naval Staff. ~KS



36th Joint Warrant Officers Course



17th Advanced Leadership Programme

GRADUATION CEREMONIES GALORE !

Kicking off the trio of graduation ceremonies on 18 Dec 07 was the 36th JWOC Promotion Ceremony and Dinning-in held at Orchid Country Club. 102 specialists from the SAF, 20 from RSN, received their much deserved promotion certificates from the Guest-of-Honour, CNV RADM Chew Men Leong. 2WO Lou Mun Fai and 2WO Goh Kok Leong received the Book Prize Award for being the top graduands in the Navy cohort.

Embarking on the next stage of their military careers as Warrant Officers, 2WO Goh said, "I feel happy and honoured to be awarded such a prize for the Navy. There are 20 of us and the competition was stiff and tedious. Achieving the award was really something I wanted to accomplish and I am extremely happy with the results!"

Next up, 25 Chief Petty Officers (CPOs) received their graduation certificates from Commander TRACOM COL Tan Wei Ming on 8 Jan at a ceremony held at IMOS.

COL Tan highlighted traditional view of "Training for Performance" has shifted with the enhanced curriculum to the new approach of "Learning for Capability". This is part of the training transformation to prepare the new generation of CPOs to the requirements and challenges that WOSR cohorts will face in the future.

One of the graduands of CPOC 03/07, SSG Zen Lim reflected, "As SAF embark towards a 3rd Generation transformation we must have the right attitude towards learning and to keep pace with the training transformation as well. Although this new curriculum is much more challenging, particularly with emphasis on staff writing, research analysis and problem solving. It not only trains us to prepare for today, but also to be ready for tomorrow and the future."

And last, but not least! 95 Warrant Officers (WOs) from SAF Tri-Services, including WO Mark Pirikahu from RNZN, attended the 17th Advanced Leadership Programme (ALP) from 8 to 30 Jan. Sergeant Major Micheal Pickett of the US Army who is on a Singapore/US exchange for two years and one of the Directing Staff during the course had this to say of

the WOs gathered, of which 14 are RSN WOs, "You are the future leaders of SAF. It is important for you to embrace this understanding. You should live the vision and fully support this great nation. Realise you are one of the key players in the defence of Singapore, embrace the challenge."

ALP is part of SAF's training and education effort, which aims to further develop Warrant Officers' leadership skills and to keep them updated with the latest developments in the SAF. This programme also fosters strong and lasting friendships among all students, which will augment SAF's effort towards a united force or "ONE" SAF as we integral to become one vital force.


"The modules and lectures covered in the ALP has been of great value to me in that it has reminded me of the roles and responsibilities of a WO in the SAF," said 2WO Elangovan of HQ COSCOM.

Congratulations to all the graduands from these three programmes and may they put their new abilities to good use in the RSN. ~LL



Chief Petty Officers Course 03/07

BRAVE AT THE FRONTLINE with CNV On Board



"The fact we have a peaceful day, day after day, everyday, basically means that you have done your job well," said CNV RADM Chew Men Leong when he sailed with RSS BRAVE on a routine patrol in the Singapore Strait on 7 Dec 07.

With that, CNV gave a big pat on the back to our patrolling ships for working hard to shine through the many challenging operational conditions and complexities of maritime security operations undertaken daily by our sailors. Such tasks include close escort missions and monitoring of critical vessels of interest, or even boardings if required.

CNV also took time to interact with the ship officers and crew with a highly interesting dialogue session aboard. A wide spectrum of issues ranging from operational matters to human resource policies were candidly discussed, with CNV personally addressing the ship crew's concerns and questions; all whilst calmly braving the rough sea-states typically experienced during the monsoon season at the tail end of each year.

Said PTE Daniel Lau: "To have CNV sailing with us, listening to our concerns and interests, is really a special privilege. It is a good feeling knowing that the people up there really do care for our well-being."

"Ask anyone who has sailed and he will tell you that we have never been more motivated to sail for our patrols after hearing what CNV has said to us," added CPT Tang Chee Wah, Executive Officer, RSS Brave.

Article contributed by CPT Tan Weiquan Desmond



Commissioning of the 58th MID

Midshipmen from the 58th Midshipman Course graduated with the traditional march past, together with contingents of graduating officer cadets from the other Services, at SAFTI-MI parade grounds on 15 Dec 07.



Amongst the 35 graduating midshipmen, one special individual of note was MIDS Wilson Zhang Yousheng. This is not only due to the fact that he had won the prestigious Navy Sword-of-Honour for the graduating batch, but also because he is one of the few naval specialists to have successfully commissioned as a naval officer.



MIDS Wilson Zhang standing proud with his family

"Prior to my education overseas, I was a 2SG on board RSS Resolution and served as a Weapons Electronic Specialist. I really enjoyed my life as a specialist onboard Resolution," recalled MIDS Zhang. "I really felt that I wanted to serve the Navy in a leadership role to inspire my men. I believe my CO saw that in me and recommended me for conversion to become a Naval Engineering Officer. I went through a selection programme, passed and here I am today - a commissioned officer!" said a beaming MIDS Zhang.

"I feel very proud to receive the Sword-of-Honour. Without the support of my parents, my wife and my sister, I would not have been able to make it. I would like to thank them for their support!" ~KS

Specialist who took up the OFFICERSHIP CHALLENGE

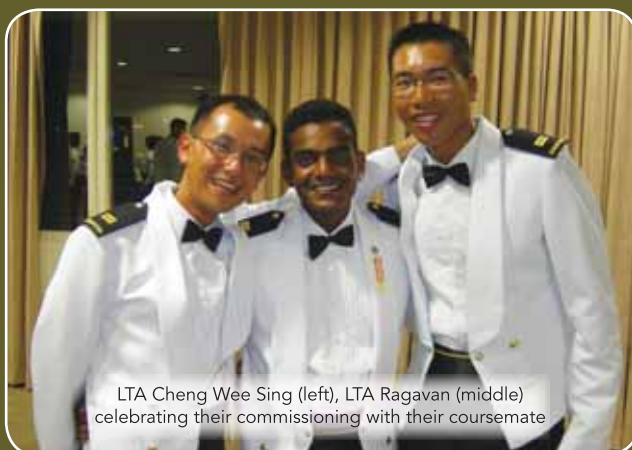
How does one become an officer? When faced with this question, it is easy for one to simply say, "Pass 'A' levels then go through Officer Cadet School" or "Sign on with the SAF under scholarship". However, while that may be true to a certain extent, did you know that there is a path that specialists could aspire to to become officers? Navy News interviews some former specialists, through their determination, ambition and hard work, now serve as officers of the Navy – LTC Lim Hoon Min, LTA Ragavan, LTA Cheng Wee Sing and LTA Lim Chai Meng. They represent just some of the many successful specialist-officer converts the RSN has seen over the decades.

LTC Lim was a Missile System Specialist who graduated from Singapore Polytechnic with a diploma in Electrical/ Electrical Engineering and joined the RSN in Jun 85. LTA Ravagan, Lim Chai Meng and Cheng Wee Sing had all been working onboard ships as Specialists prior to their conversions.

When asked what motivated them to strive to become officers, LTA Cheng summarised it best: "Why, the opportunity to be exposed to a position of greater responsibility and leadership in the Navy, of course!" LTA Lim added: "The thrill of being exposed to a wider spectrum of operations in the Navy, hence appreciating how the Navy contributes to the defence of Singapore, was what attracted me!"

LTC Lim who also clinched the prestigious Sword-Of-Honour was a graduate of the 20th MIDS batch some two decades ago. He shared that although he had no advantages over the other officers academic-wise, he had a slight edge as he had a "familiarity with the Navy culture, organisation and inspirations"! He added that "good work ethics and learning attitudes that you picked up from senior specialists was a definite advantage."

LTA Ravagan felt that he had the upper-hand in terms of Navy culture and general ship knowledge which he had already been "accustomed to", although he had faced the same difficulties as the rest in all other subjects. For LTA Lim, he felt that the course emphasised a lot on leadership which is different from the course for specialist and had experienced some difficulties in re-learning some of the processes in becoming an officer.



LTA Cheng Wee Sing (left), LTA Ragavan (middle) celebrating their commissioning with their coursemate

LTA Cheng and LTA Ravagan both graduated from OCS on 9 Jun 07 and felt a mixed sense of happiness and stress when they stood proudly at their commissioning parade. LTA Lim, felt that it was a unique occasion and he felt proud" that he "could be an example for other specialists who wish to follow the same path."

Although everyone had words of encouragement for future specialists who aspire to become officers, perhaps LTC Lim summed it up best with this advice: "Ground working experience and intimate appreciation of issues at the specialist level helps to mold the leadership method, model and style that is effective and efficient at higher levels. Cognitive skills that are sharpened regardless of previous work experience and work capacity are always valuable. Correct work ethics and attitude to improve knowledge and skills will certainly ready you for all challenges. Do well in the specs vocation, hone your cognitive/knowledge/learning attitude and the attributes will put you in good stead to do well in the MIDS course and progression as an officer. The journey is one of continuous learning and improvement. Be confident in your capabilities and contributions." ~KS

Backpaddle



The RSN has long believed in providing career development opportunities to deserving personnel to realise their true potential. Back in Dec 1978, the first batch of specialists were commissioned as officers in recognition of their high performance, strong potential and sound leadership qualities.

These personnel were 2LT Koo Hong Kee, a naval diver, 2LT Raymond de Silva, an instructor at the Midshipman School, and 2LT Amarjit Singh, a gunner. The three of them had been sergeants and were selected to enter the Midshipman School. Prior to their commissioning, no one could attend the Midshipman course to become naval officers without possessing at least 'A' level qualifications. ~LL

ENSURING EVERY

The clock strikes seven and dusk is draping over Tuas Naval Base. The people have mostly retired home, drained after a hard day's work. One group of people, however, is still working. They are the technical specialists from Tuas Maintenance Base's (TMB's) Mechanical and Engineering, and Weapon System Workshops. Tonight, they are racing against time to prepare the ground for an emergency docking. The ship had suffered a propulsion defect while out at sea and has to be docked the very next day. This gives the team less than 24 hours to pool together the right expertise from TMB, Naval Material and Transport Base and the Squadron. It was a task requiring seamless collaboration. The challenge now is to do it in double quick time, without compromising on quality and safety.



And the clock is ticking...

This was, but one of the many incidents etched on the mind of 1WO Neo Chin Thiam, a hull specialist and seasoned logistician in Naval Logistics Command (NALCOM). With many years of experience under his wings, he has encountered numerous incidents which have proven to him the importance of logistics. These range from the regular and routine knowledge sharing with budding Combat Technicians, to the unexpected and challenging task of emergency ship docking, to the downright unnerving and stressful task to pool together varied resources for humanitarian assistance missions like Operation Flying Eagle within a short notice. Tough as they may be, it was, ironically, the most trying of events which have made his career most fulfilling.

His sentiments are shared by 2WO Shy Wee Min, a pioneer in the Enterprise System (ES) development team. Partaking in the design, testing and roll-out of the pilot ES system for the SAF, 2WO Shy remembered: "We had to put in more than 14 hours a day, just to iron out all the wrinkles and creases before the system could be launched." The work had seemed endless, but he is proud that his efforts have contributed towards accelerating the response of logistics to operational needs. "Supply, maintenance and finances can now all be monitored and managed at the convenience of a click," he shared with pride.

Since the formation of Naval Logistics Department (NLD) in 1978 and NALCOM in 1986, the naval logistics community has transformed over the years to meet the Navy's growing and widening spectrum of operational requirements. Today, they work as one seamless organisation – Naval Logistics Organisation (NLO), balancing forward planning for new capabilities with preparedness for current operations.

"We are moving away from a passive, reactionist approach towards to a more proactive, pre-emptive one," CPT Steve Choo Guan Huat, from Tuas Maintenance Base's (TMB) Reliability, Availability and Maintainability (RAM) Branch declares, "Using solid science and engineering, we conduct data-collection, trending, and analysis to seek out problems even before they occur" he says, "That way, we give ourselves time to work out the most optimal solution, thereby granting us technical as well as economical prudence."

In this respect, he has firm help from his colleagues at NLD, where system engineers such as MAJ Chen Te-Bin, Platform Systems Engineer and Ms Yeo Li Lan carry out long-term planning. Leveraging on the wider defence ecosystem, they ensure that all Naval systems are well-supported throughout their life cycle. If necessary, remedial actions such as replacement, upgrades or policy-revisions are initiated to nip the problems upstream. Their

THING RUNS LIKE CLOCKWORK

work is aided by like-minded individuals on the ground such as SWO Phui Peng Sim who shares, "Our work may not be very obvious to all, but when we fail to deliver, the consequences will be."

In the spirit of NALCOM's motto – Prepared and Ready, the naval logisticians believe in the continuous improvements to the processes to optimise the efficiency of their work. 1WO Kwek Kim Meng, Group IC for CMB's Radar and Navigational Systems (RNS) Workshop, together with his dynamic team of technicians, have implemented an improved method of preventive maintenance check on systems which transcends the traditional alarms-and-button test towards a more in-depth and analysis-based approach. "It is usually too late by the time an alarm sounds," he warns. The work is tedious, for it involves ploughing through throngs of unprocessed data of the systems' operating log. The rewards, however, have been uplifting. Defect rates have been slashed by half since the method came into being, and technicians now have more knowledge at their fingertips than they had ever imagined.

Preparing NALCOM to support the RSN of tomorrow, COL Sng Yeow Liang, Commander NALCOM said that "We need to exercise flexibility and challenge established norms when the situation warrants it. Not only to respond better to the fast changing and complex environment, but also to pre-empt our combatants' needs and deliver superior results."

This proactive spirit has evidently put them in good stead. As the Navy transforms and take on a widened spectrum of operations, NLO is well-poised to provide ever-ready support. As MSG Kumaran Naidu, CMB Ordinance Team IC, puts it, "With the operationalisation of the Frigates, our work is just starting."

However, there is a strong sense of satisfaction derived despite all the hard work that needs to be put in. "When we were activated to help with the victims of the 2004 Tsunami, we had

"When a Navy man has to fight, he knows that he is not alone."

Behind him, there is a system which ensures that he is in a position to win even before the first shot is fired."

to do overnight loading, while keeping normal operations going, despite facing a shortage of manpower," said 2WO Ganasegaran, Chief Engineering Warrant Officer, RSS Endeavour. MSG Yogesvari, Chief Naval Supply Assistant, RSS Persistence agrees: "We have to think of everything and cater for even needs of the attached staff cause this is operations

and everyone's depends on each other... I don't think anything can be done without logistics."

Indeed, logistics is hard work, especially in the face of evolving operational demands. "In the mid-80s, logistics was commonly described with 3 Rs – delivering the Right product, to the Right place at the Right time. Today, it is widely described with 9 Rs – delivering the Right product, to the Right place at the Right time, in the Right quantity, with the Right quality, at the Right cost, to the Right person by the Right procedure and the Right customer service experience," said COL Chen Yeang Tat, Head Naval Logistics. Borrowing a favourite quote from Minister for Defence Mr Teo Chee Hean, he said, "When a Navy man has to fight, he knows that he is not alone. Behind him, there is a system which ensures that he is in a position to win even before the first shot is fired." And for the Navy, this system is a strong and dedicated team from NLO who is always ready to go the extra mile in supporting their combatant counterparts.

Just as the clock continues to tick.

Article contributed by Ms Loke Jie Hung, LTA Adam Goh and LTA Teo Huipin





Change of Command Ceremony (Ship)

Every naval combat officer worth his or her salt, it is said, looks forward to the time he or she is entrusted with the responsibility to command a warship. It is without doubt that the epitome of a naval career is taking command of a warship for it is a job like no other. There is little written on the tradition of change of ship command but there are many practices which over time, became customary for the event.

In many navies, and likewise the RSN, the crew of a ship will be exercised in various drills before the commanding officer and the relieving officer change command. The relieving officer officially takes over command of the ship after a formal ceremony rich in customs and tradition.

The change of command ceremony marks the passing of authority, responsibility and accountability from one officer to another. The ceremony is typically held in the presence of a witnessing senior officer, invited guests and officers and crew of the ship.

Traditionally, an appropriate guard formed by members of the ship is paraded and readied for inspection by the commanding officer and relieving officer. In the RSN, a three-man colour party is formed by a junior officer and two specialists instead. The colour party marches in with the ensign which the relieving officer holds on to with one hand as he swears in to his new appointment as the ship's new commanding officer.

Besides the official turnover of responsibility from one officer to another, the ceremony offers the outgoing commanding officer an opportunity to say goodbye to his previous crew and also the new commanding officer a chance to greet his new crew. As part of the ceremony, the outgoing commanding officer will deliver his farewell speech at the rostrum and is usually followed by the incoming speech of the relieving officer. After the speeches, the witnessing officer presents the relieving officer with the Letter of Appointment, which accords the relieving officer the official authority of command.

At the end of the ceremony, the new commanding officer and his predecessor return to the ship, welcomed by the executive officer and the crew. The change of command ceremony always stirs the emotions of those in attendance. The formality of the ceremony and the significance of command reinforce unit pride in naval service.

"It was an emotional event for me when my previous CO handed over. I felt like I was bidding farewell to someone close to me, a leader and mentor." – LTA Wong Sin Kai, Gunnery Officer, RSS Independence Crew 1

"Command is the only ship appointment that is marked by such a formal ceremony. It's certainly an appointment that all of us aspire to." – CPT Christopher Tan, Additional Officer, RSS Victory

Article contributed by CPT Herbert Pang and CPT Christopher Tan



COL Giam Hock Koon (left) handing over the symbol of command to LTC Seah Poh Yeen (right)

REGULAR BLOOD DONATION

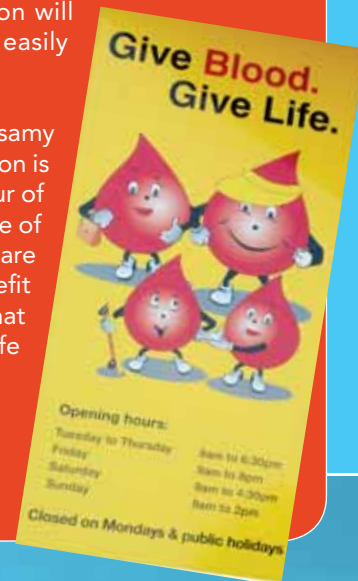
"There are many misconceptions of donating blood. People say that you will put on weight, you will fall sick easily and you will be tired all the time. I can safely say that these are all myths. Even if they were true, if you donate blood with the intention of saving a life, they do not mean a thing." 2WO S. Velaisamy shares with Navy News his conviction for blood donation.

2WO Velaisamy made his first donation at the age of 20 and since then has become a regular donor over the past 31 years: "At that time, I was not a very regular donor and it was only in 1982 that I became a serious donor. Until now, I can still remember that day. There was a fire incident onboard MV Cypros at Sembawang Shipyard. It was a very serious incident and I can remember very clearly the broadcast calling out for blood donors as there was an insufficient blood at the Blood Bank to treat the many casualties. I am glad that my blood had saved someone back then!" To date, 2WO Velaisamy has made a total of 122 donations and with numerous appreciation awards from the Singapore Blood Bank.



Aside from the regular blood donations, 2WO Velaisamy also donates blood platelets and blood plasma through special processes known as Plateletpheresis and Plasmapheresis respectively – processes whereby the specific components of the blood are extracted while returning the remaining components to the donor's body with no ill effects. "Some people are born with blood diseases or other problems which could be life threatening and requires blood to survive. Where else could they get blood, but from another human being?" 2WO Velaisamy says. "If one does not help another, the other person will die. Imagine the ill person could easily be your own family member."

As a parting shot, 2WO Velaisamy shares with a smile: "Blood donation is easy, it takes no more than one hour of your time. It does not hurt and none of the myths about blood donation are true. You never know who will benefit from receiving your blood and that person can be leading a healthy life today because of you." ~KS



SAILORS WITH WINGS

Over at Changi Airbase, you would frequently see a group of naval personnel walking around. This is a small and tight knit group of RSN personnel who are working closely with our Air Force counterparts within 121 SQN to ensure the maritime security in the Singapore waters. These Tactical Co-ordinators and Senior Operators fly up to the skies in the Maritime Patrol Aircraft to conduct air patrols of the Straits that complement the efforts of our ships.

Besides having to familiarise themselves with a brand new platform, the naval aircrew also have to adapt to a whole new working culture. "Working onboard an air platform requires very high situation awareness as every task must be executed timely and efficiently. The posting to 121 SQN has also broadened my view as I have the opportunity to interact with different forces in many foreign naval and air exercises," said MSG Koh Seng Leong, Chief Sensor Operator and Senior Instructor.



Post 9/11, many new and unprecedented challenges have surfaced in the context of maritime terrorism and transnational piracy. "Internally, 121 SQN have stepped up and broadened its operators' training to handle maritime security operations," said MAJ Yeo Wee Kiang, OC A TACCO. Today, the MPAs also participates in the "Eyes in the Sky" arrangement, as part of the air patrols over the Malacca Strait with the other littoral states.

The hard work by the naval aircrew have not gone unnoticed. On 30 Nov 07, 1WO Tan Toh Leng was awarded the "Outstanding Mission Crew Service Award", and MSG Ng Meng Thiam and MSG Koh Seng Leong were awarded with "Letter of Commendation" by COL Lim Yeong Kiat, Commander Changi Air Base. "With the valuable knowledge and technical skill they bring, the naval aircrew have made a large difference to the success of the missions. I look forward to greater integration between the two services for fulfillment of the objectives of ONE SAF," said LTC Mervyn Tan, Commanding Officer, 121 SQN. ~HK

NDU Injury Prevention Seminar

With only a week left before the Singapore Biathlon, NDU organised the RSN Sport Injury Prevention seminar at NDU Auditorium on 21 Feb to create awareness and better understanding of the ways to prevent sport injuries.

Focusing on swimming and running, Ms Grace Heng, an exercise scientist from HQ Army Medical Services shared with the participants some tips to help them prepare for the Singapore Biathlon. Besides the usual advice such as ensuring that the participants have sufficient rest and are properly hydrated, she also touched on specific stretches that can help prevent injuries, particularly to the knee joint.

"Attending the seminar has enabled me to know more about preventing injuries related to sports. Now I'm more aware of stretching exercises that I can incorporate in my daily fitness regime," said PTE Bryden Yow.

To give an added boost to participants, sports vendor from Adidas was invited to share their knowledge on choosing shoes and attire for the biathlon. "I am happy to see that the seminar has generated keen interest amongst the crowd, especially for commanders who can now provide better advice and design more effective training programmes for their trainees," said organiser of the event 2WO Lim Hock Chuan. ~HK



Navy Personnel Bag Bronze Award In Lectora Competition



Our very own Material System instructor, Ms Rajalikshmi Ramasami, from IMOS did the Navy proud by achieving a Bronze Award (Open Category) for Best Demonstration of Instructional Design at the recent Lectora eLearning Courseware Competition 2007/2008. She was recognised for her development of a courseware to introduce trainees to the Fulfilment of Material Request of the Enterprise System, established in 2005.

"Hands-on training on Enterprise System is normally conducted at the Enterprise System Project Office (ESPO) at Old Airport Road. However, after the development of this emulator, training can now be conducted at the TRACOM Computer Aided Instruction Centre instead. There is no need to cater for transport to send trainees to & fro ESPO, transfer rations and to test the training system at ESPO prior to the training," said Ms Rajalikshmi. "After using the emulator, trainees have given positive feedback. What can be more rewarding to me than this!"

The annual Lectora eLearning Courseware Competition 2007/2008 Awards Ceremony was held at The Fullerton Hotel on 11 Jan. Aimed at showcasing and recognising outstanding samples of eLearning courseware and encouraging the use of interactive web-based learning resources for the purpose of teaching and learning, the competition has attracted the attention of schools, ministries and multinational companies. ~KS



Ms Rajalikshmi with her Bronze Award

En Garde!

Anyone for Historical European MARTIAL ARTS ?

"Living a life less ordinary!" That has always been MAJ Tome Loh's philosophy in life.

You see, MAJ Loh is not just an aficionado who collects and displays ornamental swords. He is also an avid practitioner in the increasingly popular sport of Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA) – a form of martial arts much-admired worldwide for its value, both in self-defence and as a holistic discipline in the training of a person's character. Specifically, MAJ Loh studies the late Medieval techniques of Master Fiore di Liberi, a medieval master of arms and the earliest master of the Italian school of swordsmanship which is an advanced martial arts system of grappling, dagger, short sword, long sword, poll axe, and spear.

"The attraction of the art comes from the journey of rediscovering and reconstructing the traditional art of European swordsmanship," shares MAJ Loh. "Unlike modern day sport fencing, the primary focus of HEMA is on learning a true historical battle form, rather than as a competitive sport.

In addition, MAJ Loh points out that HEMA is nowhere close to "Hollywood" sword techniques, which one often sees on television and in the movies. "While the two disciplines may share a common historical background, theatrical swordplay serves merely as a form of enticing visual display for audiences," says MAJ Loh. HEMA on the other hand, is a form of functional martial arts, capable of being used for self-defence. Moreover, HEMA emphasises on the practicality and historical accuracy of the Swordsmanship practiced.

Outside of his hectic naval career, MAJ Loh takes time off once a week for HEMA training. Having practiced the art for more than a year, MAJ Loh is now a Fellow with the Pan-Historical European Martial Arts Society (PHEMAS) and will commence his advanced training soon. When asked about potential hazards of the sport, he assured me that due care is exercised to ensure that learners of the art are able to enjoy the sport in a safe and controlled environment. In concluding my interview with him, MAJ Loh commented that he wishes to extend an invitation to the larger naval community to join him in partaking in the increasingly popular sport of HEMA.

Interested individuals can learn more about HEMA through the following website www.phemas.com, or turn up on Sundays from 7-9pm at the Eurasian Community House, 139 Ceylon Rd, for a complimentary hands-on introduction.

Article contributed by CPT Ng Wei Hao



COMMANDER COSCOM

WELCOMES THE LUNAR NEW YEAR WITH FRONTLINE 24/7 TEAM



'Huat ah!' the R.E.A.L. Force (182/9 SQN) welcomes the new year with a loud cheer

"Gong Xi Fa Cai!"

You would have thought Tuas Naval Base (TNB) would be a quiet place during Lunar New Year, wouldn't you? On the contrary, TNB was festooned with festive joy of the season. Commander COSCOM, COL Tan Wee Beng visited TNB to bring festive greetings to the operational units.

COL Tan went around to visit the duty personnel from the various squadrons, and even participated in 'lao yu sheng' at 'C' Pier. During his visit, COL Tan thanked the people for their commitment to operational duties, and for sacrificing their time with their family over the Lunar New Year. He then reiterated the importance of COSCOM in ensuring the security of our waters. The recent cases of smugglers and sea robbers foiled by patrolling ships bear testimony to the significance of COSCOM operations.

Everybody was in high spirits despite having to report for duty during the festive season, knowing well that their contribution ensured that their families, friends and the rest of the nation could safely celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Article contributed by COSCOM

1st Flotilla 16th Anniversary Amazing Race

Smiles and excitement were evident on the faces of more than 500 men and women from 1st Flotilla who flocked to Sentosa on 14 Jan. They were there to participate in the Flotilla's very own unique version of "The Amazing Race – Sentosa" to celebrate its 16th Anniversary.

This year's event was organised by the WOSPEC from 188 SQN. Despite the busy schedule, 1st Flotilla made an effort to take time off for this celebration.

Aimed at strengthening cohesion and bonding among 1st Flotilla personnel at all levels, participants of the race had the opportunity to learn more about Singapore's history and culture together, while visiting various attractions, such as the Carlsberg Tower, the Merlion, Dragon Trail, Underwater World, Siloso beach and Tanjong beach, to solve quizzes.

As COL Wellman Wan, Commander 1st Flotilla put it: "Cohesion and commitment is also about being able to play hard together as well."

Article contributed by CPT Thomas Ng Soon Kang





Sharing The Spirit of CHRISTMAS



The Society for the Aged Sick was filled with unusual sounds of chatter on 21 Dec 07. Together with pupils from Katong School, a number of COSCOM personnel came together to celebrate Christmas with the residents.

Rather than the usual round of cleaning and painting of the premises, special performances were planned. These included items such as Christmas caroling by a choir made up of COSCOM personnel from the various squadrons, a "Pipa" (traditional Chinese musical instrument) rendition of Christmas songs by 3SG Marleen of RSS Independence and a Taiji swordplay demonstration by LTA Jessie of RSS Bedok. There was also a fun-filled magic show that included live animals by professional magician Joe Yu. In addition, a special soft diet meal was specially prepared for the residents. Commander COSCOM, COL Tan Wee Beng, also distributed Christmas goodie bags to those who were bed-ridden.



"It was indeed a memorable event to end the year with. The frontline 24/7 units not only protect Singapore but also made time to organise such an event for the less fortunate amidst our hectic schedule. It is really something special I take away as a lesson in life," said CPL Javier Chia, an NSF from COSCOM.

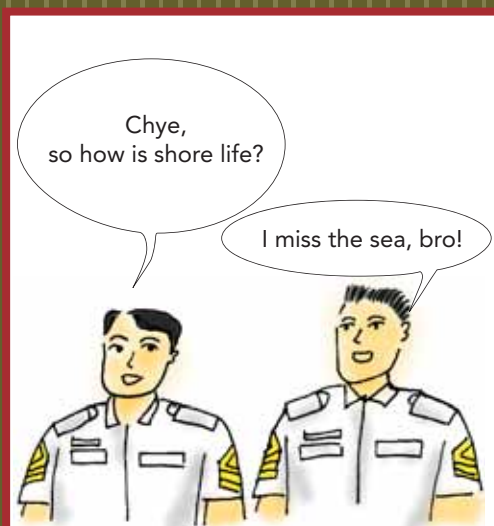
Article contributed by 2WO Leong Yew Wah

Nauti Knot

by Kool Krab



NO SMOKE ! Double Your Sea Allowance Now !



NOD Family Day

On 26 Jan, members from the NOD family took time out from their busy schedule to spend a meaningful day together. Together with their families, they embarked on a farm tour that included destinations such as the Hay Dairies Goat Farm, Hausmman Tropical Fish Farm and also Bollywood Veggies.

At Hay Dairies, an educational talk was given on the little known facts of goat rearing, such as herding and milking; while eager kids had a chance to try their hand at feeding young goats, also known as kids. The fish farm visit was equally exciting, where the children were challenged to net as many guppies as possible from the pond. Seemingly easy at first, the competition frayed the nerves of even the most patient child.

Everyone's palates were also challenged by the unique flavours of the organic food served for lunch at Bollywood Veggies. To top off the culinary experience, sugar canes were passed around at the end of the meal, leaving the elders to wax nostalgic and the young to pick up an age-old skill. The visit ended with a goodie bag giveaway to all families – each containing quails' eggs and goats' milk, tapioca leaves, and not forgetting – the guppies caught earlier in the day. ~RO



JC Rugby Invitational at Changi Naval Base

A total of 545 players comprising of students from various Junior Colleges and institutes of higher learning were gathered at Changi Naval Base to participate in the RSN Rugby Students Invitational 2008 on 26 Jan. Gracing the event was Chief of Navy, RADM Chew Men Leong.

The event saw the various Rugby and Touch Rugby teams from the schools matching up against each other for overall champion for the respective sports. Also, the event was aimed towards engaging and providing the students with a better understanding of the Navy and our role in the defense of Singapore.

After many tough and impressive matches, Temasek Polytechnic bagged the overall champion for Girls Touch Rugby while Catholic Junior College bagged the overall champion for Boys Rugby.

"The event was enjoyable, well-organised and challenging. Even though we did not win the champion's title, we are still proud to have done well during the JC segment," said Chan Biqing of the National Junior College Girls' Rugby Team. "The event also revealed to me a different side of the Navy and I am looking forward to more of such invitationals!" ~KS



We Are The Champions, Again !!!

The RSN Shooting Team has done it again at this year's 20th Inter Formation Air Weapons Competition!

After winning last year, the team set their sights for gold again. Having worked and trained hard, victory was made all the sweeter as there were no any national or SAFSA shooters in the RSN team. With dedication, passion, self-sacrifice coupled with the strong support from their commanders, the RSN team achieved a sterling grand slam result at this year's competition, which was held from 8 -10 Jan.

"During the competition, I motivated the team to stay focused and calm. Nobody expected us to win again, as we were not the favourites this year. So we've done the unexpected with our consistency and 'never-give-up' team attitude," said the team manager 2WO Yang Choon Soang.

Article contributed by 2WO Yang Choon Soang

Event	Ladies	Men
Air Pistol	4th Ms Lee Ming Huey / MSG Linda Low / SSG Stephanie Liew / SSG Lee Hui Min	3rd 2WO Lim Hye Huat / MSG Ng Chong Wei / 2WO Lim Ghee Hong / PTE Koh Ghee Hong (TEAM)
Individual Air Rifle	5th SSG Zoe Goh Hwee Hoon / 6th LTA Jasmine Liew Pei Ling	6th MSG David Chan / 8th MSG Kelvin Ow
Air Rifle	1st SSG Koh Ann Chyi / SSG Zoe Goh Hwee / CPT Wendy Leong / LTA Jasmine Lew Pei Ling	3rd MSG David Chan / MSG Kelvin Ow / MSG Phang Chung Liang / SSG Steve Ng Sio Hui (TEAM)



Gombak Tri-Mess Bowling



Besides the usual prizes for the top five teams and the top ten bowlers, the scores from the 120 competitors were also pooled together to determine the Champion Mess. After three intensive rounds of falling pins, the Joint Staff Officer Mess finally emerged as the Champion. Gracing the competition was guest of honour, Chief of Defence Force LG Desmond Kuek, who also had a go at the pins.

Personnel from various units, based in Gombak, came together on Chinese New Year's Eve on 6 Feb to take part in the Combined Mess Bowling, the first combined tri-mess activity. "I'm heartened by the turnout and participation on the actual day. The people who came enjoyed thoroughly. Hopefully, this will be a good platform for interaction between the officers, specialists and warrant officers," said LTC Stanie Lim, organising chairman of the event.

During the event, various Navy units also took the opportunity to gather for activities such as NOD's Monthly Sports Day and NID's Cohesion and Mess Activities, which provided an opportunity for everyone to take a break from work and have a chance to interact with others in the informal setting. ~HK



For faithful service defending our seas...
Cross not lightly her bow;
For blessings to all who will sail on her...
Take a bow