

*A family that fights together,
Stays together.
In deed, in unison and in spirit
We are our brother's keeper*



NAVY

news

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Issue 03 2006

NOTHING COMES CLOSE

ANOTHER SPLENDID CARAT

"Our missiles hit their targets spectacularly."

HOUSECALLS AT SEA

"Providing frontline medical service onboard."





Republic of Singapore Navy



■ RADM Ronnie Tay
Chief of Navy

A Word from CNV

MIDWAY through calendar year 2006, the RSN has continued to progress on its 3G transformational journey while at the same time maintaining a high level of operational readiness. We launched RSS Supreme in May. The launch of our sixth and final Formidable class frigate bears testimony to the close collaboration between our local industry and defence agencies and our foreign partners. We look forward to the next important phase of systems integration as we put our six new frigates through harbour and sea trials, before we commission them into service over the next few years.

Just recently in June, the RSN and United States Navy concluded another challenging annual Co-operation Afloat Readiness and Training or CARAT exercise which saw our two navies take interoperability to the next level by honing our combined quick response capabilities. At sea, our ships worked hard to achieve their challenging missions which incorporated more

tactical freeplay and various warfare and maritime security scenarios. Without a doubt, one highlight for us in the Navy was the successful firing of our Barak missiles by our missile corvette, RSS Vengeance, against drone targets in a combined anti-missile and anti-aircraft scenario. The complex multiple threat quick-draw engagement was a good test of the capability of the combat systems, the readiness of the ship's crew, as well as the performance of the various supporting parties. The combined effort of all involved from the RSN and USN was indeed rewarded with an excellent outcome.

This time of the year is also the happy season for promotions. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all who are getting promoted this year, and thank them for their significant contributions to the RSN. As a Navy family, we can join together to celebrate the successes of our individual members, as well as the successes of what we achieve together as a Navy. Well done!

Chief of Navy's Message



◀ Cover Page:
Photo by
CPT Chong Yuh Woei



◀ Back Page:
Text by LTC Irvin Lim
Photo by
CPT Chong Yuh Woei

Courtesy Calls



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■ RADM Jung Ok Keun
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Sixth Frigate - RSS Supreme - Launched!

IT has only been a short two and a half years since the launch of the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)'s first stealth frigate, RSS Formidable, in France. Now, with the launch of RSS Supreme, the RSN's sixth frigate and fifth to be built locally, the RSN's frigate programme has successfully ushered in a new phase.

Held at the Singapore Technologies Marine shipyard, this momentous occasion was officiated by Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Defence. Dr. Ivy Ng, Minister Ng's wife, officially launched RSS Supreme.

RSS Supreme, together with her sister ships, are key enablers to RSN's 3G initiative. Said Minister Ng in his address: "For the RSN, the frigates and the naval helicopters represent a quantum leap in the Navy's fighting capabilities. As a key node in our integrated warfighting system, their capabilities will be multiplied."



■ Frigate photo courtesy of PIONEER

The frigates "will increase our overall capacity to meet the demands of modern warfare and the widened spectrum of operations today and in the future," he added.

In the next phase of construction, RSS Supreme will undergo harbour

and sea trials. Meanwhile, the other five sister frigates of RSS Supreme are also undergoing various stages of their construction, with RSS Formidable expected to be fully operational in 2007.

- SW



A Last Sunset, "My Fair Lady"

SILHOUETTED against the setting sun, LST Ex-RSS Excellence (L202) made her last voyage under tow, a final journey signalling that her illustrious service with the RSN had indeed come to an end.

Built in Illinois, USA in Jun 1944, she saw action in World War II and the Korean War before being sold to RSN with 4 of her sister LSTs in 1975. Declared operational in May 1977, L202 made her maiden voyage to Brunei as a vessel of the Republic of Singapore Navy on 10 Jun 1977.

L202's sterling career with the RSN included notable contributions like Ops Surya Bhaskara Jaya, a socio-economic operation which saw her deployed to various parts of the Indonesian Archipelago to participate in humanitarian operations. She also took part in UN INTERFET operations in East

Timor. Most notably, L202 also played a vital role in the search and recovery operations off Palembang following the crash of Silkair MI 185.

Ex-RSS Excellence was finally de-commissioned at Tuas Naval Base on 23 Nov 2000 after completing an illustrious career of 22 years with the RSN. Witnessing her final departure from Changi Naval Base, her last Commanding Officer, LTC Gregory Goh, (currently CO 195 SON), had this

to say: "Watching the last sunset, when RSS Excellence was towed away on 25 Apr, brought back a gush of memories I had onboard. She was indeed, 'My Fair Lady'".

Indeed, she was certainly "Fair Lady" to many an officer and seaman who had handled her over the years, and she will remain firmly etched in the memories of many in the RSN.

- Article contributed by MAJ Cheong Eng Kim





■ CAPT Alfred Collins and COL Joseph Leong shake hands to another successful exercise



■ The AEGIS Destroyer USS Hopper

EX CARAT 2006

Story by Joel Ng,
With contribution by
CPT Alex Heng & CPT (DR) David Law
Photos by Sterling Wong

Another Grandslam!



PERSONNEL from the United States Navy (USN), the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) joined hands with those from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and the Singapore Police Coast Guard for this year's Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Exercise held in Singapore from 29 May to 13 Jun.

As in previous years, this year's Exercise CARAT, the 12th in the series, is a complex multi-faceted exercise, aimed at enhancing regional cooperation, promoting understanding between the two nation's forces and continuing the development of interoperability and operational readiness.

At the Opening Ceremony on 30 May, RSN Fleet Commander, COL Tan Kai Hoe remarked: "Exercise CARAT has proved to be highly successful in fostering interoperability, mutual understanding and friendship between the USN and RSN... This interoperability has brought tangible benefits to the RSN." RADM William R. Burke, Commander, Task Force 73, reinforced this message in his opening address, "The ability of various naval forces to work together efficiently... is a real necessity."

One of the new milestones for CARAT 06 was a combined boarding exercise by USN and RSN Fleet ship boarding teams during the sea phase. Also, for the first time, a joint symposium on maritime security was conducted, in addition to numerous other symposiums and exchange programmes.

A major highlight of the exercise was the firing of missiles at drones flown by the USN on 8 Jun. SSG Teo Wee Leong from RSS Vengeance recalls the thrill of firing off the last of three Barak missiles from his ship that day: "The conditions that morning were somewhat less than ideal, with light rain and a cloudy sky. Nevertheless, the firing went well and our deadly accurate missiles hit their targets spectacularly. I feel very excited

and happy about this achievement. All that training, system maintenance and hard work paid off – it's a real accomplishment for the ship crew and our navy."

As part of the exercise, a logistics symposium was held at Changi Naval Warehouse on 1 Jun to enhance logistics interactions between Naval Logistics Organisation (NLO) and USN COMLOG WESPAC (CLWP). The eagerly anticipated symposium provided valuable insights and learning points for both logistics communities. Sharing of perspectives and panel discussions on topics like Total Asset Visibility, Naval Combat Systems Sustainance and Underway Replenishment At Sea (RAS) were featured.



CARAT 06 also featured a Medical Exchange of 38 delegates from the RSN Medical Service, the USN Medical Service and HQ Medical Corps from 31 May to 1 Jun. The delegates gained a better understanding of issues like the USN's use of the mobile Shipboard Surgical System and the SAF's measures to contain a potential Avian Influenza Pandemic. Visits to Changi Naval Medical Centre, the Naval Hyperbaric Centre, Subsafe Recompression Chambers and USS Tortuga were also conducted.

Despite the hectic exercise schedule, volunteers from the USN and RSN were able to take a day off to participate in a joint community relations project at MINDSville@Napiri. The volunteers cleaned up the premises, organised games for the residents and entertained them with a sing-a-long session. HT1 Corey Wilhite from the USS Hopper said of his experience: "We're helping to do a little maintenance here... just hanging out and having fun with the people... we had a good time, and it's been fun so far!"

"We benefit immensely from working with the Singapore government and Navy...when we pool our resources together, we're able to make it even larger and better," said CAPT Alfred Collins, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 1, at the successful conclusion of this year's exercise.

Commenting on the significance of such bilateral professional interactions, COL Joseph Leong, Commander 1st Flotilla said: "CARAT is just another piece of the widening interactions we have with the USN in various operations... CARAT allows us to exchange valuable experience and expertise, and to build the basis to work together when the need arises in the future."



■ Plenty of opportunities for professional exchanges and interjection



■ Strengthening community relations with song and games



■ Combined boarding training at sea



A Warm Gulf Homecoming for Endeavour

RETURNING from their three-month long deployment from the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG), the crew and attached personnel of RSS Endeavour met with much fanfare and excitement as families and friends gathered on the wharf to greet the proud vessel as it pulled alongside Changi Naval Base on the morning of 27 May.

CNV RADM Ronnie Tay was present to congratulate each and every one of the brave men and women of the Task Group (TG). In his address, CNV reaffirmed the importance of their contributions and presented Letters of Appreciation to the commanders and representatives from the various elements of the TG.

While in the Gulf, RSS Endeavour served as the Surface Action Commander of the coalition ships in the area. She had to play a wide variety of roles, from protecting the oil platforms in the area to providing meals to the coalition forces stationed there. She was also the Forward Support Base for Iraqi naval vessels operating in the AO.

CPT (DR) Robin Goh imparted medical skills to the members of the Iraqi Medical Association: "The main difficulty we encountered was language. Our Iraqi comrades are not very conversant with English. Hence, all our notes were translated into Arabic and lessons were conducted in the presence of an Arabic translator."

One of their Iraqi trainees was the first to respond to an accident involving a fisherman. The trainee bandaged the patient's wound with an SAF bandage and kept him in a safe condition until the RSN medical team arrived. CPT (DR) Goh said: "It's heart-warming to know that our training has made a positive difference."

Another major challenge of the long deployment afar was simply keeping the ship running well throughout. SSG



■ CNV presents a Letter of Appreciation to CPT (DR) Robin Goh



■ SSG Mervin Quek & wife



■ LTC Thng & daughter



■ Naval Staff welcoming back our brave sailors

Tan Chee Wan, Chief Engineering Specialist on RSS Endeavour, had to maintain the ship's machinery, keep it in peak condition, as well as cope with last-minute activations. "We learnt how to work within manpower constraints," he said.

RSS Endeavour included a number of NSFs in its crew, like CPL Chew Yi Yang. He was able to "gain insights into how other navies function" during the numerous personnel exchange opportunities. "Providing training sessions for other navies was also a fulfilling experience," he said.

A primary role of the TG was to ensure the security of the Al-Basrah oil terminal. To this end, divers from the Naval Diving Unit (NDU) were attached to the vessel. SSG Mervin Quek was in a team that regularly boarded and searched oil tankers heading into the

oil terminal: "It was a tiring but new experience for us. We brushed up on our boarding skills and learnt a lot about oil tankers as well as how to move on one."

CO Endeavour, LTC Thng, paid a tribute to his crew: "I'm very fortunate to have well-motivated people onboard. They were spurred by the desire to do well and carry the flag... to achieve and not let people back home down. Of course, we missed our families, and we're all happy that we're back now."

Naturally, many of the TG's returning personnel had their loved ones at home foremost on their mind. As SSG Ireynn Koh, a Chief Weapons Specialist quipped: "My mother is not here today because I asked her to stay at home to cook for me! The first thing I want to do now is to eat what she has cooked, and then take a good rest!"

-JN

Back Paddle



SINCE the the launch of the RSS Endurance in Mar 1998, the four LSTs of 191 SQN have marked numerous milestones of achievement. They have come a long way since the RSS Endurance's maiden round-the-world voyage in 2000, during which it participated in the USN's 6th International Navy Review, and the RSS Resolution's successful firing of the Mistral SAM during Ex Carat in the same year. The

RSN's humanitarian efforts have featured the LSTs on their frontlines, from the simple transportation of supplies to earthquake victims in Gujarat, India in Feb 2001 to the massive emergency relief effort to tsunami-hit Meulaboh in Indonesia in Jan 2005. LSTs have also been previously deployed to the North Arabian Gulf region twice to support the multi-national coalition operations there.

Malacca Straits Patrol (MSP) JCC TOR & SOP Signing Ceremony

CHIEF of Defence Force, LG Ng Yat Chung, met with the commanders of the armed forces of Malaysia and Indonesia to sign the Malacca Straits Patrol (MSP) Joint Coordinating Committee Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures in Batam, Indonesia on 21 Apr. This agreement relates to the three states' coordinated patrols to secure the Malacca Straits.

Since the inception of the patrols in Jul 04, the number of piracy attacks in the Malacca Straits has declined significantly. The sea patrols were



■ Photos courtesy of PIONEER

complemented by the introduction of air patrols in September the same year. Speaking on the significance of the occasion, CDF LG Ng Yat Chung said: "The MSP arrangement demonstrates

the political resolve of our respective countries in meeting the security challenges in a holistic, cooperative and committed manner."

- JN

Taking PRIDE In Our Work

Stories by Joel Ng
Photos by Sterling Wong

MINDEF PRIDE Day



Ronnie Tay, were present to give out the awards during the event.

The exhibition featured the various projects initiated by groups of innovative SAF personnel to improve their working environments and processes. MSG Kelvin Lee from TMB worked on a project to expedite the servicing of the Patrol Vessels' 595 Engine's piston crown. His team won the National Innovation Quality Control Circle (Gold) Award. "We are very happy that all our hard work has been recognised," MSG Lee says.

NDU's enterprising creation of a LED-based navigational aid for seaboat operations won Best WITS Project (Safety) Award, among many others. The new device quadruples the distance at which a seaboat is visible, immensely improving diving safety. MSG Ng Kheng Tiong says, "We're very surprised and exhilarated to receive this award... to take this from an idea into an actual physical creation."

Ms Joey Low (right), Secretary to CO 188 SQN, received the prestigious MINDEF Star Service Award, which recognizes her star-quality service in her unit. "It's a real sense of achievement! It's good to know that there's some recognition for all the hard work."



RSN PRIDE Day



PERSONNEL

from all over the RSN gathered in the Tuas Naval Base Auditorium for RSN PRIDE Day 2006 on 25 Apr. The purpose of the PRIDE philosophy is to instil in servicemen the spirit of innovation with regards to their work environment and processes and engender ownership in

our servicemen of their work.

After a dazzling video presentation on some of this year's keynote initiatives, CNV RADM Ronnie Tay gave his opening address. Following that, awards were presented to the various servicemen, units and formations that have put forward the best projects and suggestions over the past work year.

The majority of awards went to NDU, which was recognized as the Best USMS Formation, and NALCOM, which received the award for Best UWMS Formation. In particular, 1SG Ng Oei Tat from 182/189 SQN was the Best Individual Suggestor with his mind-boggling 500 USMS suggestions.

After the award presentation, those present were invited to the foyer to view the static displays of the award winning projects and suggestions.



RSN 39th Anniversary cum Central Mess Opening



IT was amidst a foreboding morning thunderstorm that the Navy family gathered to commemorate the RSN's 39th Anniversary at Changi Naval Training Base (CNTB) - RSS Panglima - on 5 May. Although the sky was ominously overcast with lightning flashing menacingly in the distance, the marching contingent nevertheless adamantly marched onto the parade square as scheduled for the parade segment to begin. Unfortunately, as the dark clouds prevailed, the outdoor programme was cancelled for safety reasons and the wet weather programme initiated.

Despite the abrupt change in plans, the mood of the audience gathered in the CNTB auditorium remained upbeat. During his opening address, Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay took the opportunity to touch on the various milestones for the RSN in the past year, like the acquisition of new weapons platforms, introduction of experimental technologies and opening of CNTB. He also highlighted the RSN's involvement in the patrols of the straits around Singapore and the deployment of RSS Endeavour in the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of the multi-national coalition. Expressing his thanks for their commitment and contribution to the RSN, he urged all in the Navy family to

continue to forge ahead to form a strong foundation to build the 3G Navy.

An award presentation, acknowledging the sterling efforts of the RSN personnel and teams that have made possible the RSN's successes over the past year, then followed. Among the numerous awards presented, RSS Vengeance received the RSN Best Ship Award, with RSS Dauntless clinching the RSN Top Gun Award and the COSCOM People Excellence Award. CPT Samuel Tan, XO of RSS Dauntless Team 2, says "Winning the RSN Top Gun Award is a testament to our training and preparation for the firings amidst the high operational and exercise tempo in 182/189 SQN. The COSCOM People Excellence Award reflects on our commitment in opening to the ship's crew avenues for development and encouraging a healthy balance between work and leisure."

The focus of the day's celebration then shifted to the official opening of RSN Central Mess, a spanking new seaside complex that houses the Officers' Wardroom, the Warrant Officers' Mess and the Specialists' Mess. The spacious and sea-facing messes feature amenities for recreational pursuits like table soccer, projection screens for movies and pool tables. The new co-located premises aim to facilitate greater bonding and interaction amongst navy personnel across the ranks.

Navy servicemen who patronised the Central Mess for the first time were elated by what it had to offer. MSG Brian Ng from NDU felt that the Specialists' Mess' ambience and accessibility were the definite "draw factors". SSG Andy, also from NDU, said "We can't ask for more... It's got everything!"

As for the Officers' Wardroom, LTA Alex Koh (above, extreme right) from TMB felt that its environment and sea view were the things he enjoyed best about it. In the same vein, LTA Ang Chi Lin (above, second from right) from NAS brought our attention to the space and layout of the Wardroom, which accords privacy for personal conversation yet still creates a sense of coziness.

The Central Mess also has practical functions, as 2WO Chai from 171 SQN pointed out. "By locating the messes close together, we can have more interaction with officers... the juniors can also have the opportunity to ask their warrant officers questions during our informal interactions." Further, he suggested that since the Central Mess is located close to CNB, it avails itself as a natural venue to entertain foreign ship personnel when they visit.

With the opening of the RSN Central Mess, our Navy marks yet another historic milestone as we forge ahead to create the Navy of the future.

-JN



55th MIDS Commissioning Parade

FORTY Midshipmen from the 55th cohort of the MIDS Wing were commissioned as officers in a parade at the SAFTI Military Institute on 10 Jun. The ceremony was officiated by Deputy Prime Minister, Co-ordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Law, Prof S Jayakumar.

The midshipmen, together with 445 other cadets from the other services, wowed the crowd with their precision foot drill. The ceremony also saw MID Leong Mingjie, a recipient of the SAF Academic Scholarship (SAS) receiving the coveted Sword-of-Honour. "I definitely feel proud to receive this award... I want to thank my family and my friends in MIDS Wing who have supported me."

Another SAS scholar, MID Dolly Sim, was awarded the Sword-of-Merit.

"I'm very happy that I have excelled in the course... Being one of the three females in the batch, I feel proud to be in the top 10%."

The participation of our Bruneian comrades was also recognized. MID Afizan Bin Safrudin from the Royal Brunei Navy who chose to undertake his cadet

training in Singapore over Dartmouth, U.K: "I heard it (the Midshipman course here) is more challenging... Here, I learn a lot more."

Navy News congratulates all the newly commissioned officers and wishes them all the best for their future endeavours as naval officers.

- JN



■ Hooray! Officers at last!

Chief of Navy Visits 194 Squadron



CHIEF of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay visited 194 Squadron on 22 May. Since his last visit in Apr 2003, numerous changes have been made to improve the Squadron's operational readiness. This visit, hosted by LTC Tan Yong Kee, CO 194 SQN, was aimed

at giving RADM Tay a rundown on the initiatives undertaken to enhance the conduct of MCM operations and was an opportunity for him to interact with the officers and WOSRs of 194 SQN.

MAJ Serene Chua, OPS O 194 SQN and her team updated CNV on the operational developments and initiatives undertaken by the Squadron. These included modifications to the recovery hook method for Mine Disposal Vehicle recovery, additional measures to ensure successful Mine Disposal Charge firing and enhancement to the preparation of decompression chamber for Transfer-Under-Pressure Operations.

During RADM Tay's interactions with the personnel from 194 SQN, various queries and concerns were raised. RADM Tay provided a better perspective

on various strategic and organisational issues. In addition, RADM Tay also met up with the Officers-Under-Training (OUTs) to interact and exchange views.

RADM Tay concluded his visit by highlighting that the field of Mine Counter-measures (MCM) is a unique and interesting area, which requires knowledge and expertise. Through excellent process and people management and the use of modern technology, the future development of MCM is potentially limitless, and 194 SQN can take pride in being a part of it. The visit ended with a presentation of a memento to CNV by LTC Tan.

- Article contributed by LTA Nicholas Chen



Making Waves in UK JSWOC



■ MWO Lim (seated, third from right) with his coursemates

MWO Lim Chock Sing from the RSN had the golden opportunity to attend the 10th Joint Services Warrant Officers' Course (JSWOC) in the United Kingdom from 27 Feb to 10 Mar. He has made history by being the one of the first two overseas students to attend this course.

The Joint Services Warrant Officers' School (JSWOS), which conducts the JSWOC, is housed in the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom

at Shrivenham. It is aimed at developing an awareness of joint, multinational and multi-agency operations, as well as of operational-level planning for Warrant Officers (WOs). It is designed to be a high-tempo course to maximise limited resources, as well as to whet WO's appetite for self-learning and empower them as agents of change in their units.

During the course, MWO Lim learnt of the relationship between UK

defence policy, strategy and doctrine. He also learnt about the capabilities, organisation and interdependence of the UK's Armed Services in peace and during conflict. In addition, he was called to demonstrate communication, judgement and planning skills.

On MWO Lim's performance, Director JSWOS, Lt Col M Witchurch commented, "Future international students will find this a hard act to follow. His willingness to get involved and learn from his British colleagues did him much credit. He was a model ambassador for your country and he can be proud of the way he conducted himself and represented Singapore".

Reflecting on the experience, MWO Lim said, "SAF should continue to subscribe to this course to expose selected WO's to a high-level course that provides a huge exchange of ideas, initiatives and operational experiences. Such exposure will certainly help in our transformation efforts."

-/N

RSN Officer Bags Admiralty Binoculars Award



"A fine young officer... a tremendous tribute to him, his family, the Republic of Singapore Navy, as well as Singapore," commended His Excellency Sir Alan Collins, the British High Commissioner to Singapore, when speaking of the RSN's LTA Chew Cheong Chew, the winner of the Britannia Royal Navy College (BRNC) Dartmouth Top International Young Officer of 2005 Award. LTA Chew received this award, also known as the Admiralty Binoculars Award, from His Excellency [pictured above] in a ceremony at the Sembawang Naval Wharves on 18 May.

The BRNC has been training young naval officers to meet the challenges of the front line young men and women into fit, professional and compassionate



naval leaders since 1905.

In the words of his Divisional Officer at Dartmouth, LCDR Harris, LTA Chew is "the epitome of a high calibre Naval Officer and a credit to his nation... exceptionally well motivated, unfailingly polite and universally popular."

"I'm overwhelmed and very happy to receive this award... I tried to do my best over there." LTA Chew said. The son of a factory supervisor and a full-time homemaker, LTA Chew's first trip to the UK saw him appointed the Senior International, and he had to represent the ten international officers in his batch. "I feel that my enthusiasm and the way I listen to people helped me win the award," he says.

Recalling his sea training phase

onboard the frigate HMS Chatham, LTA Chew had to endure rough sea states of up to level 7 in the forbidding North Sea. He also received instruction in topics such as meteorology, radar operation and radio communications.

-/N



■ LTA Chew stands tall with his mates

Homecoming of RSN's 1st MIDS Batch

SOME 20 retired naval personnel, mostly from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)'s first batch of midshipmen, returned to visit Changi Naval Base on 3 Jun. The 'class of 74', as they were fondly known, toured RSS Persistence and RSS Formidable.

The visit was organised by Head MINDEF CIO Office, Mr. Cheok Beng Teck, who was also a former Naval officer. Said Mr. Cheok: "The group of us meet regularly. Some of them indicated that it would be a good idea to have a

gathering in the Navy, so I took up the challenge of organising the visit for them."

The visit was one of hearty laughter and comradeship, as the retired officers caught up with one another and also shared their past experiences and knowledge with personnel on both ships.

Fellow 'class of 74' officer, Mr. Chia Chor Leong, now a lawyer, reflected after the visit, "I'm very impressed by how far the RSN has come. It's a very

different navy from what we knew, and it inspires great confidence. We really enjoyed our trip."

Surmised Mr. Cheok: "It would be great if the RSN could continue to show such appreciation for people who've contributed in the past by maybe organising such visits for personnel who've reached 50. It would be a good way for the RSN to show that it appreciates those who've contributed in the past."

- SW



Temasek Seminar Visit to CNB

WHAT better way to teach a lesson on Singapore's defence and security than to bring them on a field trip to one of the nation's newest and most important military installations? This was the learning experience that 150 junior college students got when they visited Changi Naval Base (CNB) on 31 May as part of the annual Temasek Seminar.

The visiting students were first given a welcome brief, in which they got better acquainted with the roles and importance of the RSN in defending Singapore's vital Sea Lines of Communication, Maritime Security as well as Humanitarian Relief and Disaster Assistance efforts.

The twin highlights of the day were tours onboard the stealth frigate RSS Formidable and the Landing Ship Tank (LST) RSS Resolution. Naval officers were on hand to explain the various features and functions of the vessels to the students, as well as to answer any questions they had on the ships and on the RSN in general.

Overall, the trip was very well received by the students. "The visit has been very cool, as we got a chance to see the insides of the ship," said Shaun Poon,

a student from Temasek Junior College. "I especially liked the commanding view, standing on the ship's bridge!"

- JN



■ TJC students captivated by the workings on the bridge"

NO SEASICK PARADE ONBOARD, DOC!

Our Navy NSmen MOs and Medics Take to the Seas for a Nautical ICT Experience

Article contributed by 2LT Shane Soo
Photos by CPT Chong Yuh Woei



NSMEN Medical Officers (MO) and medics are a common sight onboard our ships during major deployments. Be it a three days long or three months long deployment, our NSmen medical personnel, together with their NSF and Regular medical colleagues, are on standby 24/7 to help keep our shipboard combat personnel in the pink of health and fighting fit.

Navy News is pleased to have the opportunity to speak with three operationally ready NSmen Medical Team members who sailed onboard RSS Vigour for their In-camp training (ICT) recently on two separate deployments. They are, CPT (NS) Dr Benedict Tan, 39, Asian Games Gold Medalist and Sports Medicine Practitioner; CPT (NS) Dr Ivan Choo, 36, a Family Practitioner; and Combat Medic CPL (NS) Michael Chang, 31, a Business Consultant for ERICSSONS.

Med Team to the Rescue

The role of the Medical Team is to provide on-scene medical aid to ill or injured personnel onboard during ship deployments at sea. The Medical Team is also trained and equipped to render emergency rescue on patients with serious ailments or injuries at sea prior to medical evacuation.

“Thankfully, most of the patients we tend to are usually those with minor ailments, such as coughs, your common colds and diarrhea,” says Dr Choo.

Braving Rough Seas

Rough seas can affect even the most experienced of sailors. Just ask our nation’s veteran champion sailor Dr Ben Tan and he will readily tell you: “We must adjust to the confined spaces on board a warship amidst the pitch and roll. The experience is unlike sailboat racing where we spend the vast majority of the

time above decks, and not confined in a cabin below deck.”

“Yet despite sometimes experiencing seasickness themselves, we really appreciate it when our MO and medics brave the rough seas to take care of our crew onboard,” says 2WO Chiam Yeow Teck, Coxswain RSS Vigour.

“It’s our duty and responsibility,” says Dr Tan matter-of-factly.

Meeting New Mates

Not permanently attached to any single ship also means seeing new sets of faces for every ICT sea deployment, and it takes time to build rapport with the ship’s crew. However, it is this interaction with the ship’s crew onboard the different classes of ships that makes each medical attachment an unique and memorable experience for the NSmen medical team.

"During my ICT onboard one of the navy's ships, the CO even asked me to join him and other officers for board games one evening," Medic Chang recalls. "During my National Service days, we don't even get to 'smell' the CO, so I thought that was a nice navy family gesture."

A Time for Learning and Sharing

Although each NSmen ICT experience is different and not all may feel the same way about their experience, the MOs and medics we interviewed look forward to their time serving ICT onboard our ships.

According to them, ICT provides them with a chance to take a break from their routine work, and catch up on other important things in life. For Medic Chang, ICT "enables me to catch up with friends that I've known since I was 19 years old." For Dr Choo, it "offers a break from routine family practice, and provides me with time to catch up on developments in the medical world, especially through the reading of medical journals that I had always wanted to read but could hardly find the time."

Each sailing trip also provides opportunities for the NSmen MOs and medics to update themselves on shipboard medical drills and operational procedures, as well as learn more from their fellow shipmates from the different shipboard vocations. With plenty of opportunity for healthy interaction and sharing onboard, they often come away with newfound knowledge and renewed respect for the seafaring profession.

"I ask questions and try to keep updated for each deployment. While I was on a Midshipman Sea Training Deployment sometime ago, I attempted sitting in for the cadets' astro-navigation classes and even tried to learn how to use the sextant to shoot the stars for a fix of the ship's position. But in the end, I decided to stick with the GPS!" laughs Dr Tan.

"Of course, how meaningful each recall stint is really depends a lot on the ICT programme. But at the end of the day, it is up to each one of us to make each deployment a meaningful learning and sharing experience, while providing frontline medical service onboard the ships," he adds.

■ Dr Ivan Choo (right) in action onboard



■ Medic Chang (left) and Dr Ben Tan make an ICT 'house-call' at sea



■ Dr Ben Tan (right) with Vigour's Coxswain 2WO Chiam Yeow Teck

17th RSN Safety Day 06



THE 17th RSN Safety Day and Sharing Forum was held at Changi Naval Base on 18 and 19 May. CNV RADM Ronnie Tay was the Guest-of-Honour for the opening ceremony of the event.

Like last year, the theme of this year's Safety Day was "I am responsible for the SAFETY of my team".

After several safety presentations, including one on "Navigation Safety" by RSS Brave and one on "Nalcom Safety Management Framework" by HQ NALCOM, CNV presented the Safety awards to this year's winners.

NALCOM received the award for RSN Best Safety Management Committee while SSG Brian Wong from TRACOM won the prize for Best Safety poster.

- SW



RSN Appreciation Dinner 2006



THIS year's Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) Appreciation Dinner for long-serving personnel who have left the navy was held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel on 26 May. Guest-of-Honour, CNV RADM Ronnie Tay, members of the Naval Staff and the 27 ex-servicemen and their spouses had a great time at the dinner.

The dinner served as an avenue for RSN to express gratitude and appreciation to the ex-servicemen

and also to recognise their lifelong contributions and dedication to the Navy family. The dinner was well received by the guests who were glad for the opportunity to rekindle old friendships and also be updated on the current happenings in the RSN.

RADM Tay presented farewell gifts to the ex-servicemen and their spouses, acknowledging them individually for their efforts over the years. The evening event was made complete by the unique yet soothing sounds of the SAF Music and Drama Company's Fusion Ensemble, which performed both old and new favourites to those present. Also, video presentations featured RSN personnel who had worked with the ex-servicemen recalling memorable experiences they had together and wishing them the very

best for the future.

- JN



35th RSN Track & Field Meet

THE 35th RSN Track & Field Meet Finals, graced by Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay, was conducted in TNB Sports Complex on 10 May. Over 450 RSN athletes and spectators participated in this annual event hosted by CMB.

This year's athletes broke a total of 8 RSN records, including the 200m (Men Open) and Shotput (Men Open) records, which have stood for 16 years. The HQ RSN/NDU team once again clinched the RSN Track & Field Challenge Trophy

after fending off strong challenges from FLEET.

The most anticipated event was the Tug-of-War finals. The NALCOM/WARCEN team was unable to repeat its feat of dominating this event and lost out to HQ RSN/NDU after a tough fight.

MAJ Frankie Lee from HQ RSN/NDU and CPT Adeline Kuah from FLEET captured the Best Male Athlete and Best Female Athlete awards with commanding displays of 3 Golds, 1 Silver and 3 Golds, 2 Silvers respectively. 2WO John Clarence Lange (HQ RSN/NDU) was recognized as Best Team Manager for leading his team to victory over the other formations.

- Article contributed by CPT Ng Geok Siong



■ The cry of victory from HQ RSN/NDU.

Naval Merit Award Presentation Ceremony



FORTY-EIGHT students, whose parents are Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) service personnel, received the Naval Merit Award (NMA) from CNV RADM Ronnie Tay in a ceremony at the RSN Central Mess on 2 Jun.

Established in 1974 with the objective of defraying part of the cost of servicemen's children or sibling's education, the NMA has helped many needy and deserving families over the past three decades.

However, due to the introduction of many similar schemes at the SAF,

community and national level over time, this will be the final year in which the NMA will be awarded. Servicemen who have a genuine financial need for their children's education will continue to be served by existing schemes that are available, like the SAF Central Welfare Fund (CWF) Bursary.

Naval Personnel Department would like to thank all in the Navy Family who have supported the NMA in one way or another over the years.

- JN



RSN Air Weapons Competition 06

THE RSN Air Weapons Competition 06 was held at SAFSA Shooting Club, SAFRA Yishun Country Club on 14 Jun.

The Guest-of-Honour for the event was Deputy Commander COSCOM, COL Dexter Chia. The competition also served as a qualifying round to select participants to compete in the 2006 SAFSA Inter-Formation Air Weapons Competition (IFAWC).

NALCOM emerged as the overall

champion, with HQ RSN/NDU and COSCOM finishing as 1st runners-up and 2nd runners-up respectively.

The organizers would like to extend their thanks to MSG David Chan of NALCOM, Captain of RSN Shooting Team, for his contributions and guidance given to the teams, as well as MAJ Tan Hong Teck from NsuWC and 1WO Ong Hock Lai from NDU for their support and encouragement.

- Article contributed by 2WO Yang Choon Soang

