

NAVY

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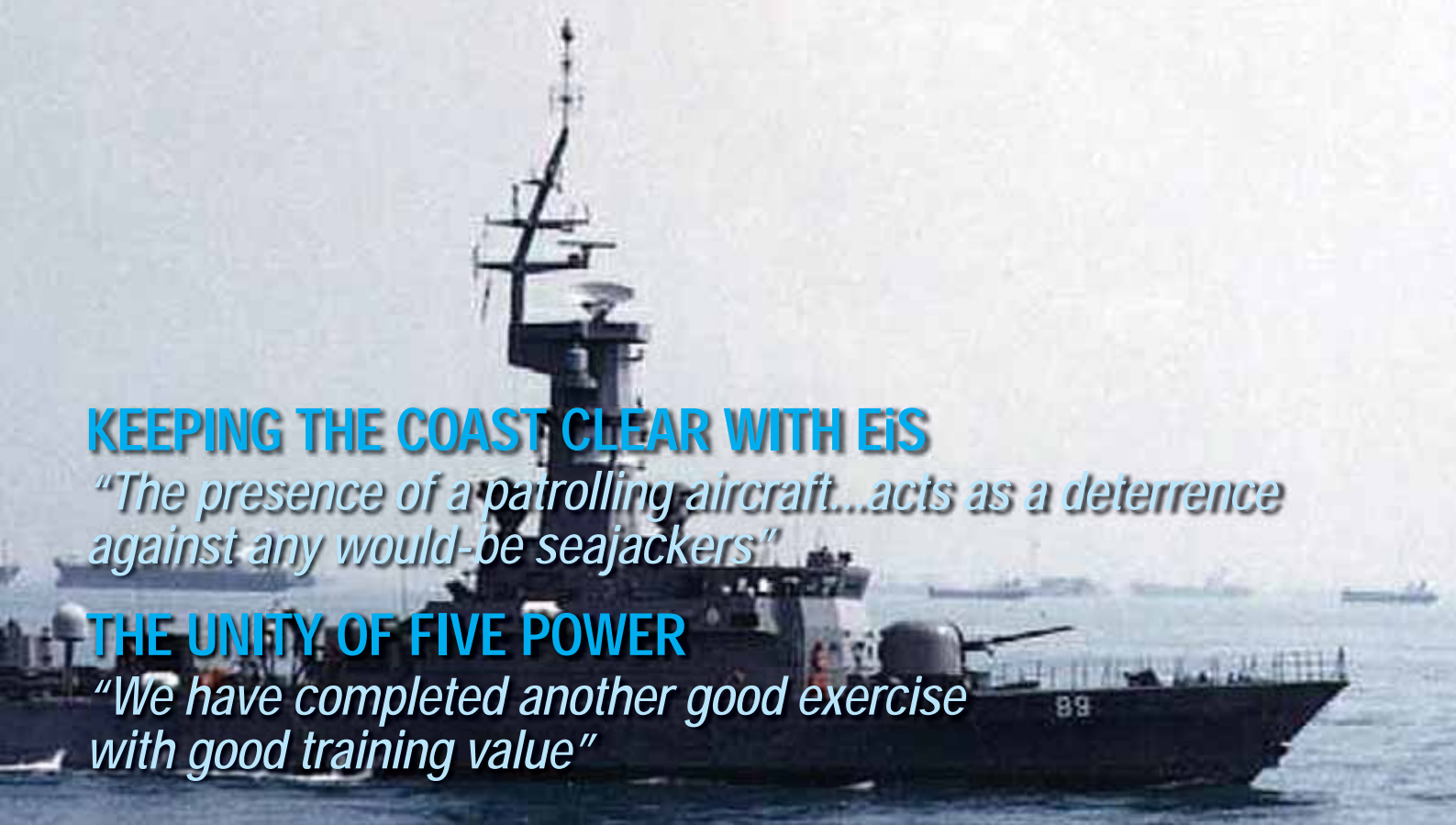
EYES in the Sky... and at Sea

KEEPING THE COAST CLEAR WITH EIS

"The presence of a patrolling aircraft...acts as a deterrence against any would-be seajackers"

THE UNITY OF FIVE POWER

"We have completed another good exercise with good training value"





Republic of Singapore Navy



■ RADM Ronnie Tay
Chief of Navy

A Word from CNV

The RSN was kept busy over the past two months. In the area of maritime security, our ships continued to maintain a high operational tempo while yet another watershed initiative was launched - the "Eyes in the Sky" patrols by maritime patrol aircraft by the littoral states over the Malacca and Singapore Straits. This new set of patrols adds significantly to the various measures that have been undertaken to enhance regional maritime security, and underscores the commitment of the participating countries to keeping our common waterways safe and secure.

Our Navy's ships and people also participated in several major exercises recently, such as Exercise Bersama Lima with the FPDA forces, Lionzeal with the Royal New Zealand Navy and Lejon Singa with the Royal Swedish Navy. All these exercises served to strengthen the excellent relationships with our maritime partners and friends, and allowed for much mutual learning and sharing of best practices.

I would like to take the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of some members of our Navy family. In the last issue of Navy News, you would have read about LTC David Foo who became the first submariner from this part of the world to successfully graduate from the very tough Netherlands Submarine Command Course; this course is also known as the "Perisher" course because of its very high drop-out rate. You would also have read about SSG Sekar who had done exceedingly well and won many awards for his diploma studies at Ngee Ann Polytechnic under the Navy's sponsorship. In this issue, I would like to congratulate MAJ Henry Low and CPT Tan Say Yong for their outstanding performance at the US Naval Staff College and US Naval Academy respectively. Outside of work, I am impressed by the strong spirit displayed by SSG Philip Lee and 1WO (Ret) Jeffrey Ng Poh Tin as they pursue their interest for remote-control car racing and running respectively. Indeed, for each of them, their strength of character, passion and dedication have contributed to their successes. Well done!

Chief of Navy's Message



◀ Cover Page:
Photo by NRC



◀ Back Page:
Text by LTC Irvin Lim
Photo courtesy Helicopter
HMAS Adelaide

Courtesy Calls on CNV



■ CDRE David Anson,
Deputy Chief of Navy,
Royal New Zealand Navy



■ RADM Hery Didik Purnomo,
Commander Eastern Fleet,
Indonesian Navy

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Exercise Bersama Lima 2005



"THE Unity of Five" – an appropriate name for the recently-concluded Exercise Bersama Lima 2005, part of the series of annual maritime exercises aimed at fostering defence co-operation among countries of the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA). The FPDA countries consist of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Singapore, with this year's exercise being hosted by the Royal Malaysian Air Force. A total of 16 ships split into three Surface Action Groups (SAGs) and a large detachment of air assets took part in the exercise. LTC Irvin Lim, CO RSS Vigour, as RSN CTG led the navy's task group consisting of RSS Vigilance, RSS Sea Lion, RSS Punggol, RSS Kallang, RSS Gallant and RSS Justice. RSS Centurion assisted in submarine serials and RSS Endeavour was also on hand to provide invaluable logistical support for the RSN ships.

The exercise comprised three main phases, namely the shore preparation phase in Singapore, the Force Integration Training (FIT) phase and the LIVEX or war exercise phase. The shore phase included a Joint Operations Planning Course which helped officers from each

country familiarize themselves with one another's procedures. During the subsequent FIT phase from 15 – 21 and 24 – 25 September, conducted in the vicinity of Pulau Tioman, the ships participated in a variety of serials including air defence, subsurface warfare and air/surface gun firings. There were also numerous seamanship evolutions conducted, such as refueling-at-sea and emergency drills. All these served well to promote interoperability between ships of different countries, which culminated during the LIVEX sea phase from 26 – 27 September with a simulated war campaign.

Promoting good defence diplomacy was high on the list of goals, with professional and personal interactions between personnel from different navies forming an integral part of the exercise. Ship crews also had the opportunity to duel it out on the sports field during the Perth Cup sports tournament in Tioman. Another major highlight of the exercise was the Banyan celebration held in Tioman, featuring cultural performances and home-style cuisine from each navy. Our very own Lion Dance troupe wowed the crowd with their prancing prowess: "It's great

to be here to participate in a colourful multicultural event in a naval setting, and I'm especially proud to represent Singapore," said LTA Ray Ong, Troupe captain from RSS Vigour. The RSN's food contribution of nasi briyani and curry chicken was also extremely well-received by our foreign shipmates. Besides these shore-based interactions, daily seaboard transfers during exercises at sea also gave personnel from the participating navies the opportunity to be sea-riders onboard one another's ships for a day.

RSN Deputy Ex Director COL Foo Toon Lim said in his closing address, "In a nutshell, we have completed a good exercise with good training value. Besides achieving a high extent of interoperability, we also derived a better understanding on the complexity of managing an exercise covering both operational and tactical plays." Indeed, Ex Bersama Lima 2005 was a professionally enriching experience for all involved, and the RSN looks forward to next year's Exercise Bersama Padu 2006 to be hosted by Singapore.

- Article contributed by LTA Toh Wei Song



Second Minister For Defence Visits Changi Naval Base

AS part of a series of familiarisation visits to the different units of the Singapore Armed Forces, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Defence, Dr. Ng Eng Hen, visited Changi Naval Base (CNB) on 26 Sept.

Dr. Ng spent the afternoon touring the various facilities in CNB, including stops at two Republic of Singapore Navy ships, RSS Vengeance and RSS

Chieftain.

Accompanied by host Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay and Fleet Commander RADM Chew Men Leong, the minister also witnessed a demonstration of the capabilities of the Unmanned Surface Vessel Protector.

Dr. Ng's visit concluded with a 'Meet the People' session at the Fleet Command Building.



-SW



EX LION ZEAL 05

EXERCISE LION ZEAL 6/05, aimed at fostering closer relationship between the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) and the RSN, was conducted in Singapore from 29th Aug to 2nd Sep 05. Together with HMNZS Te Kaha with her SH2G Sea Sprite helicopter, RSS Valour, RSS Vigilance and RSS Fearless participated in this exercise under the Commander Task Group, LTC Joe Cheong, CO 182/189 SQN. Overseeing the exercise were the RNZN Maritime Component Commander, Commodore Jack Steer and Commander COSCOM, Col Tan Wee Beng.

This year's exercise covered a spectrum of naval missions from conventional warfighting to maritime security serials, reflecting the importance of both conventional warfighting and maritime security competencies to both navies. The serials carried out included a Night Encounter Exercise (NEX), Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercise (ASWEX),

Anti Air Towed Target Shoot (AATTS), Gunboat Threat Serial, Joint Boarding and Critical Contact of Interest (CCOI) Tracking.

Three officers from RSS Fearless were given the opportunity to sail on board HMNZS Te Kaha during the sea phase of the exercise. They observed the conduct of the serials on the bridge and in the operations room of the frigate. LTA Daniel Lee shares, "The ship officers and crew went out of their way to accommodate us and make us feel right at home. It is not often that we have the chance to sail onboard a foreign warship, and it was indeed an eye-opening and learning experience."

Looking ahead, the LION ZEAL series of exercise will continue to remain relevant, as both navies look to the future of LION ZEAL with confidence and optimism.

Article contributed by CPT Guo Jinghua

EX Lejon Singa Turns 10

EXERCISE Lejon Singa, the annual Mine Countermeasure (MCM) Exchange Programme of the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and the Royal Swedish Navy (RSwN), was successfully conducted from 20 to 30 Sep.

This year's exercise, the tenth in the series, focused on sea training and diving, and the neutralising of explosive ordnance and Improvised Explosive Devices.

This annual exchange programme highlights the close relations and strong cooperation between the RSN and RSwN. It provides a platform for both navies to share expertise in MCM operations, and is a showcase of the regular interaction that has further strengthened professional ties and built camaraderie between the personnel of both navies. -SW



■ Commander Coastal Command COL Tan Wee Beng (2nd from right) with RSN personnel at sea



Back Paddle



EXERCISE Lejon Singa 2005 marks the 10th anniversary of the bilateral event which is hosted alternately by the Republic of Singapore Navy and the Swedish Navy. It is aimed at improving co-operation and ties between both navies.

The series of exercises was formalised on 28 Nov 1995 when then Royal Swedish Navy Chief Vice-Admiral Peter Nordbeck and then-CNV RADM

Kwek Siew Jin jointly signed the Lejon Singa Exchange Programme Document (EXPRODOC) at Tuas Naval Base.

Exercise Lejon Singa was the fruit of the collaboration between both navies in the Mine Countermeasure Vessel (MCMV) project in which the RSN bought a total of 4 MCMVs (RSS Bedok, RSS Kallang, RSS Katong and RSS Punggol) which were commissioned the same year in October. -YK

187 RSN Personnel Receive SAF Overseas Service Medal/Certificate Of Commendation



■ COL Miranda receiving his medal from Minister Teo

187 Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) servicemen and women were awarded SAF Overseas Service Medal and Certificates of Commendation in a ceremony officiated by Minister for Defence Mr. Teo Chee Hean at the MINDEF auditorium on 23 Sep. The awards were given in recognition of RSS Resolution's contributions to the multinational effort for the reconstruction of Iraq. The ship and her crew had been on a three month deployment to the Gulf from Nov 04 to Mar 05.

In his speech to those present, Mr. Teo praised the award recipients for "having demonstrated professionalism, commitment and tenacity in the face of adversity, and they have done the SAF and Singapore proud." He also expressed his appreciation to the families of the personnel involved, stating their support was also vital to the RSN being able to carry out their duty to the nation.

Commanding Officer RSS Resolution LTC Lee Swee Ann was one of many who were honoured to be part

of the ceremony. He said: "It was a very satisfying task to help another country in need, this ceremony affirms my crew's belief that we are indeed being acknowledged for the hard work put in."

For 2SG Koa Mui Ling Fareedal, the biggest challenge of the entire operation was more than going through the coldest winter the Gulf had seen in decades or the long hours required for each workday. She confided that homesickness was an ever-present problem but the unity and spirit of RSS Resolution's crew made the ship a home away from home in a foreign and potentially hostile area of operation.

At the ceremony, Mr. Teo also presented unit citations to two of RSN's Landing Ship Tanks, RSS Endurance and RSS Resolution. The former was deployed in 2003 also in support of the reconstruction efforts in the Gulf. -YK



■ COL Chng (right) receiving his plaque from CNV

LTC Sean Lee took over the command of the Naval Diving Unit (NDU) from COL Chng Ho Kiat at a Change of Command Ceremony held at NDU on 5 Oct. Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay witnessed the ceremony.

NDU Change of Command

In his inauguration address, LTC Lee said: "I am proud to inherit a strong organisation with good safety culture, people who are tightly-knit and highly professional, with a 'can do' and 'never say die' attitude."

LTC Lee also paid tribute to the numerous achievements of COL Chng and thanked him for his contributions to NDU. "For the invaluable contributions and your selfless passion, NDU is indebted to you, COL Chng, and on behalf of NDU, I wish you success in your future endeavours," LTC Lee surmised.

In his farewell speech, COL

Chng said: "To all the divers out there who are always looking to push the limits, find new challenges and taking on any competition head on, thank you for making it all worthwhile. You have shown me the way to embrace life, simply put: "The only easy day was yesterday."

COL Chng will be moving on from the SAF after a meritorious 20 years of service in the RSN. He will transit to a second career with the Ministry of National Development where he will oversee "finance, manpower, policy research, corporate planning and public affairs matters." -SW

Commander 1st Flotilla Change of Command Ceremony

COL Joseph Leong assumed the appointment of Commander 1st Flotilla on 05 Oct 2005. The taking over Command Ceremony was held in the Tuas Naval Base Auditorium, with Fleet Commander RADM Chew Men Leong as the Witnessing Officer.

Graced by distinguished guests, senior officers and personnel from the 1st Flotilla, the event proceeded with the presentation of Letter of Appointment with a solemn oath-taking ceremony before the newly appointed Flotilla Commander delivered his Inaugural Speech.



■ COL Leong (right) receiving his certificate from FC

COL Leong now holds the concurrent offices for both Commander 1st Flotilla and Commanding Officer 188 Squadron.

- Article contributed MAJ Lee Wai Lum

Swift Action and fast Response DIVING TO THE RESCUE

Story by Lin Yuankai. Photos by Mervyn Lim

MATERIAL evidence for law enforcement proceedings submerged in murky depths? Military equipment lost in sea? Possible survivors trapped in aircraft wreckages out in the waters?

Time to call in the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Diving Response Team to enter the scene.

A typical DRT comprises of six personnel from the Naval Diving Unit. They undertake tasks such as the recovery of military equipment and evidence to be used in civil courts, search and rescue missions in aircraft mishaps and sunken vessels. Due to the nature of their missions, DRTs are able to be readily deployed by land, air and sea within half an hour of the first request for their assistance.

Using the datum which is a marker lowered down to be used as the centre of the range for the diver's search efforts, the divers will then proceed with their mission within 20-30 metres of the marker. Even with the use of sophisticated equipment such as handheld sonar and side-scan sonar, the process is often long and tedious due to the poor visibility of the Singaporean waters.

MSG David Ling, a DRT supervisor and a member of NDU for 10 years, elaborates: "Poor visibility is probably the difficulty which is hardest to overcome. Not everybody can work underwater in effective blindness as it is a totally different environment altogether. Of course, if the currents

are unfavourable, it can be a double challenge, even a hazard to any well-trained diver when he has to cope with the water conditions while attempting to complete his task."

Working in the DRT is essentially diving with a human touch, reasons MSG Chris Chia, who has been working in NDU for 12 years and in the DRT for five. As a DRT supervisor, there is the usual responsibility of a leader in taking care of your men during operations but also to successfully communicate with other agencies such as the Singapore Police Force (SPF).

"When the task involves another human being such as Search and Rescue, the DRT does not normally come into contact with any victim's family. However, we do witness the distress and sadness amongst them," explains MSG Chia. "Of course we feel for them, but we do not let this affect us adversely in our performance, rather we try to use this to spur us on instead."

DRT members on standby are always on the alert to move off at a moment's notice. The Emergency Response Vehicle of NDU is customized to accommodate all equipment that may be used by the team on standby. MSG Ling confides: "It is always an adrenaline rush when we are suddenly deployed. However, through constant equipment checks and training, we ensure that we are always up to the task."



■ Men you can count on - MSG David Ling (above) and MSG Chris Chia (below)



The Merger of 182/189 Squadron - A New Voyage Begins...

ON 10/10 at 1000hrs, the 182/189 Squadron started a chain of events to commemorate the merging of the two patrol vessel squadrons. While we may not fully appreciate the numerological significance of the date and time of this celebration, many of us certainly hoped that the merged squadron would score a perfect 10 on the charts.

The events for the day started with the unveiling of the banner (left) by the Squadron Commander of 182/189 Sqn, LTC Tan Suan Jow. The rest of the banner revealed the mystery of 10/10, while

at the same time, uncovering plans for the upcoming grand celebrations of the merger.

Besides uncovering the banner, LTC Tan also hung up his wishes for the combined squadron on the newly set-up "Wishing Bamboo" of the Squadron. Many other members of the Squadron followed the example of LTC Tan and dedicated their best wishes to the Squadron in accordance with an ancient Japanese tradition.

The 10/10 event is just one of the many celebrations that the squadron

has in store to mark the merger. All the festivities would lead to, and culminate in one final celebration party at Sentosa, Tanjong Beach on the 25 Nov 2005.

Very little is made known about the 25th Nov event at present, except for a cryptic list of "appetisers" released by the planning committee, which include "Breaking the Ice", "182/189 and the Giant Jigsaw", "Make me an Idol", "Electric Eels and Jacob's Ladders" and a grand prize – a romantic trip for two to a mysterious location overseas...

- Article contributed by the Family of RSS BRAVE

RSN Officers Excel at US Naval Courses



■ MAJ Low with Mr Richard Armitage (LEFT)

TWO RSN officers received top accolades in their respective courses of study in the US this year. MAJ Henry Low, CO Vigilance, successfully completed a demanding graduate-level Naval Staff College Course (NSC) as a distinguished graduate at the United States Naval War College while CPT Tan Say Yong, currently enrolled with the 33rd NJOC, graduated from the US Naval Academy as the top foreign graduate.

MAJ Low enrolled in the 23-week long NSC this January in preparation for increased responsibility in command and staff positions. Subjects of study included Strategy and Policy, Joint Military Operations, National Security Decision Making and International Law, all of which provided MAJ Low with a better understanding of how US

military and naval organisations plan and operate their forces in support of national policies.

As the only Singaporean in a class of 40, he had an opportunity to present on the history, culture and armed forces of Singapore. He also wrote a prize-winning essay on "The Proliferation Security Initiative Dilemma: To Join or Not to Join?" MAJ Low's paper was awarded the Walter B Woodson, Jr., International Essay Award, given to the best research paper submitted by a NSC student for the cohort.

"I am very grateful to the RSN for placing its trust in me by enrolling me for this course. It has certainly provided me with a greater understanding of the US national policies and joint military operations. It has also deepened my insights with greater clarity on US interests and the high level of engagement the US Navy shows in our immediate region," said MAJ Low.

Like MAJ Low, CPT Tan was the sole Singaporean in his undergraduate degree cohort at the USNA. A SAF Merit Scholarship holder, CPT Tan forsook civilian colleges to enrol in the USNA

in 2001 and graduated in May this year with a degree in Economics as the top foreign graduate in a class of 976 officers.



■ CPT Tan shakes the hand of President Bush

During his term at the USNA, the premier US Navy institution that produces junior officers for the US Navy, CPT Tan was appointed Brigade Chief of Staff in his senior year - the highest position ever held by a foreigner at all US military schools. With the appointment, he was put in charge of supervising the daily activities of over 4000 midshipmen.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the once-in-a-life time experience and learnt more about myself as a leader. I believe I am an even better officer today who leads my men well because of it," said CPT Tan with deep conviction. -SW

36th CSC Graduation at the Istana

THE 36th Command and Staff Course (CSC) was concluded in a graduation ceremony held at the Istana on 7 Sep. Minister for Manpower and 2nd Minister for Defence Dr. Ng Eng Hen presented certificates to 115 graduates from the cohort. The 36th CSC was introduced to a significantly revised curriculum, which aimed to provide the CSC graduate with the knowledge, competencies and capacities to lead in a more dynamic and uncertain strategic environment.

In his speech to those present, Dr. Ng also emphasised on the important role that the graduates would serve in the organisation, highlighting the fact that they, as senior commanders "must ensure that the SAF can deliver the operational performance that will achieve strategic outcomes in the changed circumstances

of the future so that the SAF will continue to be relevant to Singapore's security and be able to deter and if deterrence fails, achieve a swift and decisive victory."

Topping the RSN cohort was MAJ Raymond Ong Yew Kuan. According to MAJ Ong, one of the key lessons learnt in the course was that "older sea-dogs can learn new tricks and improve on old ones." He found the course to be professionally challenging and intellectually stimulating. He also thanked his wife for her unwavering support.

The cohort of the 36th CSC was the largest in recent history and also comprised officers from Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United States and one police officer from the Ministry of Home Affairs. The participation of foreign officers allows SAF officers to forge and



Top Navy graduand MAJ Raymond Ong (LEFT)



strengthen ties with their counterparts from other armed forces.

- YK

Long Service Award and SAF Tour Award Ceremony

A total of 142 Long Service Awards and 10 SAF Tour Awards were handed out by Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay in an award ceremony held at Tuas Naval Base on 6 Sep. The awards were in recognition for the recipients' long years of dedicated service in the SAF.

-ML



Keeping track with Eyes i

DURING the last Shangri-La Dialogue held here in June this year, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Dato' Sri Haji Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak proposed the "Eyes in the Sky" (EIS) concept to enhance the security of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Being a strategic channel vital to international commerce, the security of the Straits is of paramount importance to the three littoral states – Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore, as well as user states and other stakeholders. As such, the three littoral states as well as Thailand agreed to enhance cooperation by conducting combined maritime air patrols over the Straits of Malacca and Singapore while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the littoral states.

The launching ceremony of the inaugural EIS air patrol was held on 13 Sep at Subang Air Base in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the event was attended by the Malaysian DPM and Minister of Defence, Singapore Minister for Defence Mr. Teo Chee Hean, as well as the Defence Chiefs and representatives of the four countries. In his speech, DPM Najib Razak said that the initiative would enable the countries involved to share resources and at the same time send a strong message to the international community that “we (the countries involved) are serious” about the security of the Malacca Straits.

Each participating country is to conduct EIS air patrols in designated sectors along the Malacca and Singapore Straits at a frequency of up to twice a week. Each participating country is also to provide up to two persons as part of the "Combined Mission Patrol Team" (CMPT) on board the Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA).

These countries will also set up Monitoring and Action Agencies (MAAs), which will maintain a listening watch during all EIS flight missions. Upon contact with any suspicious contacts or incidents, patrolling aircraft will broadcast to all MAAs, which will subsequently co-ordinate among themselves and undertake any necessary follow-on responses within their respective territorial waters.

DPM Najib Razak also added: "This initiative highlights the sense of togetherness among ASEAN countries."

In an email interview, LTC Joachim Lee, Commanding Officer of 121 SQN, which operates the MPA deployed in the EIS, spoke to Navy News on Singapore's involvement in the patrol.

LTC Lee said: "The Malacca Straits is one of the busiest seas lanes in the world, carrying much of the world's sea borne cargo every year.

However, it is also very narrow at certain parts of the straits, thus making it easier for pirates to potentially hijack merchant ships plying the route.

"With EiS, the presence of a patrolling aircraft, whether Malaysian, Indonesian or Singaporean, acts as a deterrence against any would-be seajackers."

LTC Lee added: "The aircraft are also on the lookout for suspicious activities which might signal potential piracy activities, upon which the MPA would attempt to contact any ship that might be under threat, and at the same time, inform the Maritime Action Agencies (MAAs) of such a situation for the subsequent co-ordination with surface patrol vessels."

The Coast Clear in the Sky

Story and Photos by Mervyn Lim,
with contributions from 121 SQN



2 THE SUN Wednesday, September 14, 2011

NATIONAL

All can take part in patrols: Najib

by R. Manirajan
manirajan@the-sun.com.sg

NG: The international community can take part in air patrols of the Straits of Malacca if the principles of national sovereignty and the integrity of the littoral states are adhered to. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is also the Eye in the Sky (EIS) project, said this in a reference to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand — which he led yesterday.

He said guidelines will be drawn up for the participation of the international community under which the littoral states will provide the designated areas for patrol.

Speaking to newsmen after launching Phase 1 of EIS, Najib said littoral state representatives will accompany those from the international community during patrols under Phase 2.

He said any country is welcome to take part.

"We are open to considering the participation of any country including the United States."

"We are also on the lookout for those who can provide night capability technology."

After the launch, Najib and his counterparts from the littoral states witnessed a Royal Malaysian Air Force plane with a mixed crew from the respective states take off on its first surveillance mission from the Subang airport here.

Aircraft were also provided by Singapore and Indonesia.

Najib said the EIS project is a good example of Asian solidarity and sends a clear signal to the international community that the littoral states are committed to safeguarding the security of the

Malacca Straits.

Meanwhile, Singapore Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean said the initiative strongly supports the initiative and hopes the sovereignty of individual littoral states will be mutually respected by the international community.

The EIS was proposed by Najib during the Shangri-La dialogue in Singapore in June this year, after strong overtures from the US which wanted tighter security along the Straits to curb piracy.

In a joint statement yesterday, the littoral states said the EIS is a component of the Malacca Straits

Security Initiative, and the armistice of the participating countries would provide the resources of maritime patrol aircraft and a combined patrol team.

An EIS operation centre will be established in each of the port states to coordinate the flight schedule and each state will conduct up to two patrols a week along designated sectors.

A monitoring and action agency will also be set up in each state to establish a listening watch during all EIS flights and coordinate follow-on responses within their own territorial waters, if required.

First joint straits patrol takes off

MIRAN: The four nations guarding the Malacca Straits will set joint air patrols of the vital sea lanes yesterday when an RMAF plane took to the air with Singaporeans on board.

The Hercules C-130 took off from Subang air base with a crew of seven Malaysians and three Singaporeans.

Regular flights over the waterway a hour for planes, are set to follow, with involvement from Indonesia and Thailand. The other littoral states are the Philippines and Vietnam.

The planes will operate from all four countries, using radar and digital imaging to spot piracy and detect small and fast-moving vessels to intercept them.

"The bulk of the international community depends on the safety and security of the Straits of Malacca and it is incumbent upon us as littoral states to ensure the safety and security of the straits," said Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean, accompanied by his Singaporean counterpart, Teo Chee Hean.

The narrow, 200km waterway carries a quarter of global trade and nearly all oil imports for Japan and China. There are fears it could become a target for a terror attack.

Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore launched coordinated patrols of the strait last year, but



'Eye in the sky' launched

World community can join effort to patrol straits

By M. S. Rajan
m.s.rajan@the-sun.com.sg

INDIA, SINGAPORE: Members of the international community, including the US, can participate in the effort to patrol the Malacca Straits, Singapore Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean said yesterday.

Najib, who is also Defence Minister, said the primary objective of the programme was the security and safety of the straits of Malacca.

"This has been the first step in the international community's effort to patrol the straits," he said.

"The bulk of the international community depends on the safety and security of the Straits of Malacca and it is incumbent upon us as littoral states to ensure the safety and security of the straits," said Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean, accompanied by his Singaporean counterpart, Teo Chee Hean.

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About the Maritime Patrol Aircraft

THE Fokker 50 Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) is used to conduct Maritime Air Surveillance or Maritime Aerial Surveillance. It can also be used for Search and Locate operations and is able to cover a large area of the Singapore Straits, the Malacca Straits and the South China Sea.

One of the key roles that the Fokker 50 MPA is tasked to conduct is the patrol of our Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs). To maintain and sharpen her operational capabilities, 121 SQN regularly employs the Fokker 50 MPA in multilateral exercises both locally and overseas.



■ Pioneer Frigate Coxswain - MWO Richard Goh

Formidable 'Heartware' And Hardware

Story by Lin Yuankai
Photos by Mervyn Lim

WITH so much emphasis on the advanced technology employed in RSN's newly acquired stealth frigates, it is often all too easy for us to forget about the servicemen and women onboard that have to deal with this technology in their everyday lives. As Commanding Officer RSS Formidable COL Jackson Chia points out: "The capability of the ship ultimately boils down to its crew. Without crew competency or efficiency, any equipment onboard is equivalent to being useless."

COL Chia also added: "The frigate also improves the welfare of the men. For example, the men can now have their own personal bunks instead of having to share space onboard other ships. Officers tend to take these fringe

benefits for granted but since taking command, I've learnt that such things mean a lot to the men."

Coxswain MWO Richard Goh highlights the importance for the crew of RSS Formidable to be proficient in the handling of the stealth frigate which is the first of six to be back in Singapore for harbour trials. He explains: "Being the pioneer crew of a stealth frigate, these men and women have to take on the role as mentor for the future crew of other frigates. There are new problems encountered in dealing with an unfamiliar ship platform every workday, but we can reduce the difficulties for our colleagues if we perform our duties well."



■ Heart at work - Integrating man and machine

NSFs Onboard Frigate – A First for Positive Experience!



■ Hands-on training on deck

IT is never an easy task manning the weaponry of a ship. Especially so when the ship represents RSN's transition towards the vision of a 3G SAF with significantly enhanced technology and tasked with the mission of enhancing the security of our nation's vital waterway.

For that is the task shouldered too by Formidable's pioneering group of Full-time National Servicemen (NSFs) gunners, working hand-in-hand with the regular crew.

CPL Toh Yee Cheong, 21,

comments: "The first aspect of the frigate which strikes you is its size. Also after seeing the technology employed within, it's not difficult to realise that RSN has improved leaps and bounds in its operational capabilities. Of course, that's heartening to know for the defence of the country."

In spite of the advanced automation within the stealth frigate, LCP Lim Teng Yau, Antonio, 20, firmly believes that the crew cannot afford to rest on their laurels. LCP Lim draws similar comparisons to working



onboard other ship platforms. He elaborated: "Each crew member has to learn to be independent because we are often working at half the usual crew strength of a similar class of ship. Yet, we need to cultivate the practice of teamwork because our actions are often inter-dependent on each other to make the ship work well."

Currently undergoing harbour trials, RSS Formidable has a considerably hectic sailing schedule as she works towards her commissioning. However, PTE Lin Mingwei Jonathan, 18, sees this as "an experience and a fond memory from National Service he will cherish."

"All this sailing is necessary for the crew to get used to the rigours of handling the new platform. Furthermore, when all eyes are on us as the pioneer crew of the revamped 185 Squadron, we better train hard!" he quipped.

Having little or limited experience onboard ship platforms, does RSS Formidable intimidate them? Not at all, it seems. As CPL Toh Yee Cheong elaborates: "We underwent broad-based training programmes beforehand and adapting to your workplace is just part and parcel of everyday life. The senior crew has been very supportive and patient, particularly to the NSFs. It's been a pleasure working here!"

Journal Reflections on MSTD 02/05



■ The voyage of professional naval learning and sharing begins...

"WITH the conclusion of the Midshipmen Sea Training Deployment (MSTD), gone was my eagerness to finish training and return to Singapore. In its place, a sense of accomplishment grew within me as I looked back at the six weeks spent at sea.

The importance of MSTD to the Midshipman course is that it serves as a practical application period for the theories the midshipmen have learnt. To learn theories would only be the first step. The subsequent step would be application of the many theories. Since errors will only become apparent as the knowledge is applied practically; MSTD was the time for us to practice as much we could.

When we began MSTD, the 54th Mids were totally 'green'. Being onboard the ship had taken me out of my comfort zone. Onboard ship, thirty-seven of us, plus thirteen pre-Mids, were squeezed together into one mess. Suddenly, we had fifty heads jostling for two showers that had one fifth the area of the heads in SAFTI-MI. Yet when rushing for time, teamwork was the key to getting everyone showered and mustered. Furthermore, being crammed together in one mess, like sardines in a can, strengthened our bonds and helped us to better know the midshipmen from other divisions.

As a result, I have taken away much more than I have given.

The knowledge, experiences, and friendships earned, was much more than the number of hours put in studying or on watch. MSTD was a trying period, but ultimately, it was a success, and the 54th Mids have emerged from it better. It was the experiences not reflected in the training programme that will probably stick with me for life. Who can forget the groaning in the mornings we awoke for middle watch? Freezing to death on the slope of Mt. Bromo with the buddies in your tent? The many hands extended to a friend in need? Or even discovering that you had, in the morning's drowsy haze, worn your friend's shoes or clothing..."

- Article contributed by MIDS Brian Yeong



ITE Students Visit TNB



WITH the aim of getting more of our young Singaporeans to know the Navy better, the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) organised a visit for some 1200 Students from various Institute of Technical Education (ITE)s to Tuas Naval Base (TNB) over two days on 8 and 9 Sep.

Students were first treated to a video highlighting the RSN's deployment in Operation Blue Orchid (OBO) and



Operation Flying Eagle (OFE), in Iraq and Meulaboh respectively. After which, there was a short quiz where prizes were presented to the students who were able to correctly answer the questions based on the videos.

The highlight of the day for the students were the ship tours. Students climbed onboard one of the RSN's ships and saw for themselves what life

onboard a ship was like. They were given tours around the ship, from the bridge to the cabins and suffice to say, many of them enjoyed their first experience onboard the RSN ships.

Judging from the smiles on the faces of the students, the visit proved to be both an enriching and enjoyable one for the ITE students.

-ML

'Defenders of Our Seas' Celebrate 34 Years of History!

A nail-biting soccer match...An exhibition chronicling milestones in the Fleet's history...and a Food Fest...

The Fleet celebrated its 34th Anniversary on 1 Sep at CNB Sports Complex with these activities – a decidedly refreshing spin on the occasion, traditionally marked by parades and tele-matches. As the organizing secretariat CPT Ong Ming Yi explained: "The theme of this year's celebration is 'Transforming Our Fleet: We all play a part' therefore we tried to create an experience that is memorable and inclusive for all participants".

Fleet Commander, RADM Chew Men Leong presented the annual awards to the deserving NS-men of the formation. According to CPT (NS) Subramaniam, who received the NSman of the Year award, "This is a great honour for me and my team. I would like to thank my Squadron and the Fleet for the award, and I am happy that the Navy recognizes the contributions of not just regulars, but NSmen as well."

The various Fleet squadrons and units then showcased their heritage and achievements in the Professional Exhibition, through which the byte-sized

knowledge of the Fleet was increased significantly through the captivating Quiz. Out on the soccer pitch, the Fleet Soccer Final kicked off, with the team from HQ Fleet and 171 Squadron doing battle with the team from 1st Flotilla. After a valiant fight by both sides, the team from 1st Flotilla emerged 2-1 as winners.

After the match, RADM Chew presented awards to all winners of the day's proceedings. To the strains of "Happy Birthday", RADM Chew, CWO Fleet SWO Chow Yoon Siong and SSG Manjit Singh (birthday boy that day) cut the Anniversary cake with a gleaming ceremonial sword.

Rounding off the celebrations, all Anniversary participants were treated to a sampling of delicious cuisine created by nine teams from the Fleet. Chefs beamed with pride as participants enjoyed the sumptuous spread, including such delicacies as a lobster cold dish and vegetarian shark's fin. Ultimately, in the words of committee member LTA Kim Jixian, "Everyone worked hard, and the entire Fleet played a part to make this celebration truly special."

- Article contributed by LTA Tong Hong Tat



TRACOM Carnival Time!

TRACOM celebrated its Anniversary on 9th Sep for the first time in its new home at Changi Naval Training Base (CNTB). More than 1000 personnel turned the training base into a fun, carnival-like atmosphere for celebration of TRACOM's 11th birthday.



RSS PANGLIMA was transformed into activities zones, which included the Kids Carnival Zone, Fun Carnival Zone, LAN Gaming Zone and Hawker Fare Zone. Exhilarating sea sporting activities were available from STC-Changi and provided unlimited fun and sea adventure for all seafarers. On the sunny PANGLIMA Boulevard, all were treated to sumptuous spread of hawkers' food fare, candyfloss and drinks. IMOS trainees pitted their creativity and innovative skills against each other in teams and came up with 4 carnival booths of their own.

The less fortunate in our society were not forgotten during this fun-filled day. Our people spent \$2755 on Navy Memorabilia, a charity movement by the Officers' Wives Club (OWC), where sales proceeds were donated to designated charities and the SAF Benevolent Fund. It was heartening to see many of our instructors took turns as "baits" on the dunking machine to raise funds.

The carnival activities have certainly made the 11th TRACOM Anniversary a truly exciting, fun and memorable event. It has certainly bonded the spirit of togetherness for our TRACOM staff and their family members.

- Article contributed by MSG Lee Way Chung.



■ Going bananas on water!

Anything but (re)Tired!

- Try Keeping up with this Senior Veteran Pace-setter



1WO(Ret) Ng running fit into his golden years

MEET 1WO(Ret) Jeffrey Ng Poh Tin. Many in RSN may have seen him running in Tuas Naval Base, Sembawang Camp, MacRitchie Reservoir, or in the Woodlands vicinity, where he lives. His youthful look belies his 56 years of age. His impressive IPPT gold award scores would definitely put many youngsters to shame (15 chin-ups, 40 sit-ups, 9:17 min for 2.4km run in WY04).

For this disciplined and die-hard athlete, daily runs has become part of his healthy lifestyle routine that he will feel "awkward" if he misses a minimum dose of it. With more than 30 years of service behind him, Jeffrey has

represented the units that he served, RSN and even SAFSA, in numerous running/swimming events ranging from short swim sprints to long distanced running races.

A MR25 running club member, his intense passion in running has seen him participate in numerous local/overseas marathons. Some of his regular events include the bi-monthly 5km time-trials (organised by MR25), progressive cross country runs, Army Half Marathon, Singapore-Johor 2nd link 10km run, Singapore Marathon and even the Penang Marathon.

To "veteran" Jeffrey, when it

comes to keeping fit, being "old" is never an excuse. Many younger guys have found it hard just to keep pace with Jeffrey during his 'relaxed' runs.

Jeffrey is also a source of inspiration at work. Last year, he motivated 3 of his colleagues who usually only managed to meet the minimum requirements for IPPT to achieve Gold awards. When it comes to staying fighting fit, 1WO(Ret) Jeffrey Ng is like a treasured bottle of wine - he certainly gets better with age!

- Article & Photos contributed by:
1WO Neo Seng Gee



■ *Rising above the crowd to stay sporting fit*

34th RSN Cross Country Meet



THE RSN held its 34th RSN Cross Country Meet cum 5th A.C.T.I.V.E Day on 29 Sep. The event was graced by CNV RADM Ronnie Tay.

Spirits were high amidst showers of blessings from heaven. The weather finally cleared in the late afternoon and the A.C.T.I.V.E Day events took place. The participants were led to aerobic

warm-ups by professional aerobic instructors prior to the starting of the competitive event.

Living up to their reputation, NDU/HQ RSN did extremely well by taking both the first and second placings in the Men's Team event. FLEET came in as second runner-up.

NALCOM clinched the Women's

Team Champion with much vigour and determination. TRACOM fought hard to come in second-place.

The RSN Cross Country Championship 2005 title was retained by NDU/HQ RSN, the defending champion. This is the 4th consecutive year that they have won the championship title.

- Article contributed by CPT Victor Choo

MINDEF ACTIVE Day



"HEALTHY Forces, Healthy Nation". That is the theme for this year's Mindef All Companies Together In Various Exercises or ACTIVE Day.

Held at the sports complex of Bukit Panjang Camp on 28 Oct, Chief of Air Force, MG Lim Kim Choon, who is also the Chairman of the Mindef Healthy Lifestyle Steering Committee (MHLSC) was at hand to unveil the new MHLSC logo. In his opening address, MG Lim emphasised the importance of having a healthy lifestyle in the Singapore Armed

Forces.

To kick-off the day, a mass exercise was conducted by fitness instructors. The participants went through a rigorous 40-minute kickboxing aerobic workout.

But the highlight of the day was the inter-service games. The participants from the Navy, Air Force, Army and Joint Services and Mindef Public Affairs Department were pitted against one another in Street Soccer, Captain's Ball and Table Tennis.

The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) were well represented in the games and did very well in both Street Soccer and Captain's Ball and emerged as 1st Runners-up in both these two competitions, edged out by the Joint Services in both finals.

At the end of the day, what was more important was that the message of having a healthy lifestyle was successfully conveyed through the many games played.

-ML

Speed Demon By Remote

Story by Mervyn Lim Photos courtesy of Tekka Mall



- SSG Lee's driving ambition - To beat the best in the world in the hot race to the finishing line

FANCY having the thrills, the spills and all the excitement of being in a Formula 1 race without the dangers that goes along with it? What's more you don't even need a driving license to do so. The answer is found in remote control car racing, in which SSG Philip Lee has found much satisfaction.

The Engineering Naval Specialist with 195 SQN has won countless awards and even represented Singapore in regional and international competitions. In fact, just this year alone, SSG Lee has already won 10 races so far this year.

"I started picking up remote control car racing as a hobby many years back along with my cousins," said SSG Lee. "I was very interested in car engines and found all these very fascinating. And as time went by, I got into competitive racing about four or five years ago and I guess I'm pretty lucky to have come this far."

SSG Lee has also spent "a couple of hundred of dollars" on the maintenance and replacement parts of his cars.

But the price he has paid pursuing his hobby has paid off. SSG Lee will represent Singapore in the Kyosho Regional Championships. Should he

break into the top four positions, SSG Lee would qualify to pit his skills against the world's best in the Kyosho World Championships in Paris next year.

SSG Lee actually did well enough to qualify for the world championships last year but he was unable to compete in the championships due to work commitments.

To SSG Lee, however, his place in the world championships is not a given. "I will just try my best and give it my best shot. You never know what would happen in a race."

To prepare for the race, SSG Lee would be traveling to Brunei a few days before to test out the conditions

and to get accustomed to racing in an unfamiliar racetrack.

And SSG Lee won't be alone. His wife, who loves racing as well, would be traveling along with him to give him all the support he needs.

When asked about the secret of his success on the racetracks, SSG Lee summed it best when he said: "Practice makes perfect, but perfect practice makes you even better!"

Indeed with his perfect practice, we can expect SSG Lee to do Singapore proud as this speed demon burns the rubber competing with the very best from around the world on mini-racetracks.





Beyond showboating,
Show of flag, show of force...
Show of five power unity
In formation friendship