

# NAVY

## news

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Issue 01 2004



FIRST OF CLASS

## Formidable Into The Future

### Feature:

#### Strong Endurance

*"We were a diverse group of people  
sailing out into unknown territory..."*

### In Conversation:

MWO Roger Seow

#### Roger That Sir!

*"I almost ended up being a fisherman..."*





Republic of Singapore Navy



■ **RADM Ronnie Tay**  
Chief of Navy

## A Word from CNV

**NAVY NEWS** has been around for over two decades now. From this year, it will move from being a monthly newsletter to a bi-monthly issue, which should give our editorial team a broader canvass from which to bring you more naval news and colourful stories that you can connect with and enjoy reading. The intent is to provide increased focus on the day-to-day life in the Navy, as well as to provide a place for members of our Navy Family to reflect and share their achievements and values.

Our recent deployment of a LST Task Group to the northern Arabian Gulf in support of the reconstruction effort in Iraq marked a new milestone in the development of our Navy. These operations were conducted in a new environment, comprised a range of activities at sea and saw the task group inter-operating with a number of foreign navies. The two-month long operation tested the readiness of our ship and crew, as well as provided opportunities to sharpen our operational capabilities in an extended mission away from our region. I am sure all of us in the Navy are extremely proud of the members of the RSN Task Group who performed admirably in the uncertain conditions and made the operation a resounding success. I also want to add my appreciation to the many back home who provided the various forms of support to the Task Group.

As we celebrate our accomplishments and look forward to more successes ahead, it is important that we systematically retain and build upon the lessons that we have learnt. This is where the embedded culture of Knowledge Management that we have started in the Navy can help to make us a truly deep learning organization that leverages on the intellectual capital of our people to give us the winning edge in all that we undertake. This is all the more important as we take on even more exciting projects in the coming years.

The RSN continues to play a key role in the defence of Singapore. I urge all in the Navy family to contribute with pride and passion to their part of ship in making our journey to new places a truly memorable and exciting one for all onboard. Navy News continues to be one such place to share in that journey.



◀ **Cover Photo:**  
*Artist Impression of  
RSS Formidable firing an  
Aster Anti-Missile Missile.*  
By: Mandel Ong  
(Graphic Designer, NRC)



◀ **Back Page:**  
*Text by MAJ Irvin Lim,  
Picture by Kimitsu Yogachi*

## Our New Navy News... Make it Yours!

Besides our usual coverage, *Navy News* is always on the lookout for off-track stories and nauti-snapshots around your workplace and beyond your navy life.

If you see, hear or know of something interesting to share with our Navy Family, we are just a mouse-click away!

Simply capture your shots in digital format with a resolution of at least 1280 x 1024 at fine pixel settings (2 megapixels or above), and include a brief description and/or a short write-up to accompany your pix...

Send them to us via email at [nrc1@starnet.gov.sg](mailto:nrc1@starnet.gov.sg).

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# Centurion, onboard! Challenger, onboard!

Story and pictures by Kimitsu Yogachi



■ RSS Centurion being towed out of the transport ship outside Changi Naval Base.

**JOINING** the 171 Squadron's fleet of submarines are RSS Centurion and RSS Challenger, which arrived in Singapore from Sweden on 4 Feb.

A welcoming ceremony was held at Changi Naval Base for the return of the last two of four RSN submarines. On hand to grace the ceremony was Head Naval Operations, RADM Sim Gim Guan, other senior naval officers, as well as partners from external agencies.

In his welcome address, RADM Sim congratulated the crews on their successful completion of their three-year submariner course in Sweden. He reminded them of their leading roles as the pioneering submariners in the RSN and charged them to familiarise themselves with operating submarines in the local environment. "In time, you will also be called upon to train and nurture the future RSN submariners, and that will be a heavy responsibility that will be laid on your shoulders," he added.

The arrival of RSS Centurion and RSS Challenger marks a significant milestone for 171 Squadron as it is the first time it has all the submarines together in Singapore. The submarines will enhance the RSN's all-round capability to safeguard Singapore's waters and protect our vital Sea Lines of Communications.



■ RSS Challenger touches down at CNB.

## Back Paddle



### The RSN's first Missile-armed crafts

The 45m Missile Gun Boats, which the frigates will soon be replacing, were built in 1970s by Lurssen. The ship was constructed with the aim of having a rugged, highly manoeuvrable platform capable of undertaking seaward defence missions.

In the mid-1980s, the MGBs underwent a major upgrade to better meet the operational requirements of the Navy beyond 2000. Part of the upgrading included the fitting of the Harpoon Missiles which now complements the original Gabriel Missile system.

The ship is propelled by four high-speed diesel engines enabling her to attain speed in excess of 30 knots, and is operated by a crew of 7 officers and 33 men.

## RSS Centurion Crew Receive Their Dolphins

The crew of RSS Centurion received their RSN Submarine Insignia (also known as the Dolphins) at a simple yet solemn ceremony at 171 Squadron HQ on 11 Feb. Officiating the ceremony was Fleet Commander, COL James Soon.

Commanding Officer 171 SQN, COL Cyril Lee also presented the Honorary Submarine Insignia to COL Soon who is also the Submarine Operations Authority. As former Head Naval Plans Department, COL Soon had contributed significantly towards the build-up of the RSN submarine capabilities.





# A Formidable Force on The Blue

**JUST MERELY** 46 months after the inception of the frigate project, the first of the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) six stealth frigates was launched by Mrs Teo Poh Yim, wife of the Minister for Defence at Direction Des Constructions Navales (DCN) shipyard in Lorient, France on 7 Jan.

The launch of the first frigate, RSS Formidable, marks a significant milestone for the RSN and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). Officiating at the ceremony was Minister for Defence RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean.

In his address, RADM (NS) Teo highlighted that the frigate programme is one of the largest and most important the SAF has embarked on in recent years.

He also remarked that Singapore's dependence on seaborne trade makes maritime security a priority and that the RSN's role is to safeguard Singapore's maritime interests and

contribute towards enhancing regional maritime security; "The new frigates will enable RSN to better fulfil its mission of protecting Singapore's sea lines of communications and safeguard our territorial integrity. The frigates, with their longer endurance, advanced combat systems and the ability to operate helicopters, will significantly enhance the RSN's operational capabilities," said RADM (NS) Teo.

For the first time in the RSN, the frigates employ stealth technology, as it is a key enabler in the future of naval warfare. "A low signature ship will delay enemy detection and identification, thus giving us operational space and time," said COL Wellman Wan, Operations Manager of the project.

To complement their stealth capabilities, the frigates are equipped with advanced sensory and weapon systems. They are also capable of dealing with multi-dimensional naval warfare

threats including air, surface and subsurface. In common with other existing RSN platforms, the frigates will come equipped with the well-tested anti-ship Harpoon missiles and the trusty OTO Melara 76mm naval gun. New to the fleet are the Aster Anti-Missile Missile system and the anti-submarine Eurotorp A244S torpedo. The frigates also have the ability to serve as platforms for naval helicopters, which significantly expand the frigates' operational envelopes with enhanced naval warfare capabilities.

"The ships are designed with a high level of automation and embedded intelligence in their sensors, weapons, and command and control systems, which will allow their combat teams to perform their tasks more rapidly and effectively against the various threats in different situations," said Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay.

RADM Tay added: "The frigates will also serve as a key node in the overall network of fighting units under the SAF's



■ RADM (NS) Teo receives a memento from DCN President Jean-Marie Poinbœuf.





- (Far Left) COL Wan briefs RADM (NS) Teo on the progress of the frigate programme.
- (Middle) Mrs Teo launches RSS Formidable.
- Confetti was released to celebrate the launch of the frigate

# e Horizon

Story by Kimitsu Yogachi  
Pictures Courtesy of PIONEER

Integrated Knowledge-based Command & Control (IKC2) concept."

The frigate project is a commendable collaboration amongst the RSN, Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), DCN and Singapore Technologies (ST) Marine. As COL Wan put it: "There were different philosophies initially, but we learnt to understand and adapt to work as an Integrated Programme Management Team (IPMT)." During the project, DSTA provided management and technical support while RSN provided the critical domain expertise, operational inputs and steering management of the overall programme.

The frigate project office worked closely with the other agencies and the various combat system suppliers to ensure that the right combat systems were selected and that they could interface and integrate with the other platform and combat systems. As in all successful multi-agency collaborative enterprises, the Singaporeans and their French partners

## PLATFORM DESIGN AND SYSTEMS CONFIGURATION

Dimension		Speed	
Length	114.8 metres	Maximum	>25 knots
Beam	16.3 metres	Cruising	18 knots
Draught	6.0 metres	Range/Endurance	>3,500 nautical miles
Displacement	3,200 tonnes		
Platform Systems			
Propulsion System	4 x MTU 20V 8000 M90, 8200 kW (CODAD Configuration)		
Electrical System	4 x IFM V1708 with AvK alternator, 800kW		
Helicopter/ Ship-Heli Interface	Support 1 Medium-class helicopter Heli-Visual Approach System		
Complement	70 crew + Air detachment		

## FRIGATE'S COMBAT SYSTEMS CONFIGURATION

Search Radar	Thales Herakles Multi-function Radar (MFR)
Navigation Radar	Terma Electronic Navigation Radar
Surface Missile	Harpoon Surface Missile System
Anti-Missile Missile	MDBA Aster Anti-Missile Missile System
Naval Gun	OTO Melara 76mm Gun
Sonar	EDO ALOFTS Sonar
Torpedo	Whitehead A244S System
Communications	ST (Elect) CET Integrated Communications System
Gun Fire Control System	EADS4 Gunfire Control System
Command and Control	DSTA in-house developed Combat Management System (CMS)
Standard Operating Common Consoles	ST (Elect) SES

quickly confronted and overcame the initial challenges associated with communicating in a foreign language, better understanding each other's cultures and aligning different working styles.

In the coming months, the Shore-based Integration Centre (SBIC) will be set up to conduct interface testing of combat systems. At the same time, the pioneering crew will commence their 5-month training in France. MSG Ramesh Gopalan who will be onboard the second frigate, RSS Intrepid, said: "I'm proud to be chosen to join the frigates,

as this marks a tremendous change for the RSN. I've been looking after the aging Missile Gun Boats, and now I will be in charge of the most advanced ship in the RSN!"

The frigate programme is well underway with all six frigates in various stages of construction. RSS Formidable is due to sail back to Singapore in early 2005. Local construction of the remaining five frigates, RSS Intrepid, RSS Steadfast, RSS Tenacious, RSS Stalwart and RSS Supreme, at Singapore Technologies Marine is also progressing on course.

### Frigates Named!

The RSN recently announced the names of its new frigates. RSS Formidable will be the lead ship in the new class of stealthy and sophisticated frigates.

The names for the other five frigates are RSS Intrepid, RSS Steadfast, RSS Tenacious, RSS Stalwart and RSS Supreme. The names were selected from a total of 10,200 entries received during a contest held last year. They reflect the operational qualities of the RSN's frigates and the unwavering commitment of the Navy's men and women to ensure Singapore's seaward defence and the protection of its vital sea lines of communications.





# 1st Flotilla Total Defence Seminar

Article contributed by LTA Ng Boon Kiat



**"In war, there is no second chance! No matter how junior you are, you can make a big difference,"** said Commander 1st Flotilla COL Ng Chee Peng during the 1st Flotilla Total Defence Seminar on 13 Feb.

Indeed, the role in defending Singapore today is more than a job. COL Ng reiterated, "What you can't defend doesn't belong to you. Our purpose is to defend what is rightfully ours." He also provided an insight into the capabilities of the Singapore Armed Force and how every individual in 1st Flotilla plays a vital role in the defence of Singapore.

The seminar continued with video presentations, dialogue sessions and a presentation titled 'Our Existence' by CO RSS Vigour. LTC Timothy Lo. The seminar ended off with the Total Defence Day Speech to commemorate the fall of Singapore to the Japanese on 15 Feb 1942.

3SG Luke Chua was heard commenting after the seminar: "Now I can better appreciate our existence and how I can better contribute to make a difference."

■ COL Ng Chee Peng addresses members of 1st Flotilla during the Total Defence Day Seminar.

## RSN Safety Review - New Initiatives

Article contributed by MAJ Tan Pin

THE RSN Safety Review Committee, chaired by Head Naval Operations, RADM Sim Gim Guan, was established in Jun 03, to look into the safety of all operations and training conducted in the RSN.

The committee adopted a holistic approach for the review, which included the RSN Safety Organisation, RSN Training System, and Safety Policies and Procedures, so as to address the entire spectrum of safety-related issues and concerns at the systems and operations levels.

With the conclusion of the safety review, a number of significant safety initiatives have been implemented:

### RSN Safety Board

The chairmanship of the RSN Safety Board was elevated from Head Naval Inspectorate to Chief Of Staff – Naval Staff, to place greater emphasis on safety and to present greater synergy in safety enforcement and promotion efforts at the RSN level.

### Formation Safety Officers

The introduction of Formation Safety Officers (FSOs) to manage safety

in their respective formations. They will conduct more safety inspections, scans and spot checks to highlight appropriate corrective measures.

### Hotline 91-SAFETY

The RSN Safety Hotline, 91-SAFETY, was implemented by Naval Inspectorate (NIS) to enhance the safety culture, which encompasses the elements of openness and transparency in the RSN safety system.

The committee has also formulated the following initiatives that will be implemented in the near future:

### Behaviour-Based Safety System

The introduction of Behaviour-Based Safety (BBS) System to mould the perception of servicemen to identify "at-risk" behaviours, unsafe acts and unsafe conditions, so that they are capable of practising timely intervention.

### Safety Time Out

The implementation of Safety Time Out (STO) procedure will provide an

avenue for servicemen to intervene and call for a temporary halt to an ongoing activity when there is a genuine safety concern, safety breach or violation that is potentially life-threatening.

### Restriction on Operations

The implementation of Restriction on Operations (ROO) procedure will allow Commanders to impose timely restriction on operations and training activities after a hazard, near accident or actual accident has taken place. This will provide immediate responses to rectify the problem and to prevent any potentially detrimental consequence from spreading.

### Safety Information System

The automated Safety Information System (SIS) will enhance the management and dissemination of safety information and statistics in the RSN. In addition, the RSN SIS will incorporate an open reporting system to encourage the servicemen to be more vigilant in spotting and reporting hazards.

## Class Action With Heart

Article contributed by SSG Omri Wong

THE class of CPOC 4/03 visited the Sree Narayana Mission Home for the Aged Sick during their Cohesion Day on 3 Dec 03. The day was meant to inculcate esprit de corps amongst the trainees and they wanted to do something meaningful. The class also donated cash and basic necessities to the Home.

They spent the day sprucing up the compound and also assisted in clearing a storeroom to be converted into a new ward. During lunch, trainees assisted with feeding the residents, which was probably the most challenging part, being the first time for many. The elderly residents greatly appreciated and

expressed their gratitude for the trainees' visit.

The four-hour visit to the Home was definitely well-spent in a meaningful way, making the outreach one of the indelible memories for the class.



- Welcome home honey!  
You look so tanned.  
So do you!
- (Right) Anyone ordered a cake?



# Strong Endurance: To the Gulf & Back

Story by Kimitsu Yogachi, Pictures by Kimitsu Yogachi & 191 Squadron

IN a fine testimony to her operational readiness and crew stamina, RSS Endurance sailed to the Gulf at short-notice at the end of last year. She only returned to Singapore recently on 31 January after a long and operationally demanding two-month deployment in support of UN efforts for the reconstruction of Iraq. She was deployed with a total of 160 personnel comprising of Task Group staff, NDU security personnel, FCU crew from 195 Squadron and medical personnel. RSN personnel were also stationed ashore at the US Naval Central Command HQ as liaison officers.

Modifications were made to the ship before the mission. They included installation of extra catches to secure weapons, metal plates to protect gunners, and the introduction of the deadly accurate 20mm Typhoon gun. The lightning speed at which the modifications were made prior to the deployment was indeed laudable in contributing to mission success.

To better put into perspective the high operational tempo of the mission, here are some key statistics: RSS Endurance conducted a total of 258 vessel queries, with 73 ship boardings, 67 Health and Comfort Checks, 26 helicopter deck landings, 12 helicopter hot refuelling, 2 replenishment at sea (RAS), and a 10-day guardship duty of seas around the Al-Basrah Oil Terminal.

## RSS Endurance Comes Home from the Gulf

Republic of Singapore Navy's Landing Ship Tank (LST) RSS Endurance returned to Changi Naval Base (CNB) from its deployment to the Middle East on 31 Jan. The mission was part of Singapore's contribution to the multinational reconstruction effort in Iraq.

Eager family members and friends arrived early in throngs at CNB, anticipating the return of their loved ones. Squinting out to sea under the scorching sun, excited parents and spouses locked their eyes on the smart ship silhouette in the distance, steadily making its way into the CNB basin.

Once alongside, a homecoming ceremony was held onboard RSS Endurance for the 160 RSN personnel deployed for the mission, witnessed by family members and friends

of the crew. Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay officiated the ceremony, handing out Letters of Appreciation, while Head Naval Operations, RADM Sim Gim Guan handed out personalised posters as tokens of appreciation to the crew.

Commanding Officer 191 Squadron, LTC Chopra Singh also presented RADM Tay with a photo album of pictures taken during the mission, before crew and their loved ones were finally able to interact after a long two-month absence.

Hugs were exchanged, kisses pecked, tears of joy flowed, and hearty laughter filled the air on a successful mission and safe return of loved ones.



■ CNV dropped by for a Christmas visit.



## Ship Boarding Operations

The purpose of the boarding operations was to enforce the UN Security Council Resolutions, which prohibit unauthorised shipments of arms or arms-related material, Iraqi cultural and religious artefacts, and most importantly illegally exported petroleum products. The operations were conducted by Coalition boarding teams, with NDU personnel leading the joint RSN and USN teams. The boarding operations were a daily affair with as many as 7 boardings carried out in a single day. RSS Endurance also represented Singapore in the country's first exercise under the multilateral Proliferation Security Initiative in the Arabian Sea.

## RSS Endurance Takes Part in PSI

The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) participated for the first time in a US-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) maritime interdiction exercise in the Arabian Sea from 11 – 17 Jan. RSS Endurance participated in the exercise after its mission in Iraq. The exercise was part of the series of interdiction training exercises planned by PSI members, involving Australia, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Singapore and the US. The aim of the exercise was to practise interception, boarding and searching vessels which have been assessed to be illegally trafficking Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and related materials.

Through the participation, RSN has enhanced its professional capabilities to conduct maritime interdiction operations in partnership with other PSI members.

## Health and Comfort Checks

If a vessel was found to be contravening the Security Council Resolutions, it was detained in the Smugglers' Box to await legal judgement. The judgement process can take as long as 6 months. It was the Coalition Force's responsibility to ensure the well-being of the detainees. Health and Comfort checks were conducted on each vessel once every two days which was tasked to the RSN medical team. The speed and loading capacity of the RSN's Fast Craft Utility (FCU) proved to be a real asset as they were able to complete 5 vessel checks in less than 4 hours, compared to 12 hours normally taken by the other Coalition forces for the same routine.



## Commander Task

Deployed into an unknown territory, the crew had to adapt quickly to the environment. But the crew was able to do so. The Commanding Officer, LTC Chopra, led the mission, LTC Chopra felt that the crew and there was little trust and were able to adapt to the environment. "We put it when it was clear that the mission was clear. During the mission, the crew followed the Procedures (SOPs). It was promulgated to facilitate the mission. "It was necessary to



■ RSN – RN camaraderie.



## Logistics Support

RSS Endurance also provided logistics support for Coalition helicopters and vessels in the area of operations. Boasting the largest flight deck in the Northern Arabian Gulf other than an aircraft carrier, the ship provided a ready deck for helicopters from other Coalition ships when their mother ship had to go off-station for replenishment or other duties. It was also a hot refuelling pit-stop for the Coalition helicopters. RSS Endurance also provided logistics support to USN Patrol Crafts and US Coast Guard Patrol Boats, by replenishing of fuel and fresh water at sea.

## Al-Basrah Oil Terminal Guardship Duties

US\$60m of crude oil is exported daily via this oil terminal. This is crucial income that goes towards the reconstruction of Iraq. Hence, security of the Oil Terminal is paramount. A two nautical mile exclusion zone was established around the terminal, enforced by Coalition warships. On one occasion, RSS Endurance was called into action when two cargo dhows (small wooden boats) initially refused to heed repeated warnings to stay away from the Oil Terminal. The boats eventually turned away when RSS ENDURANCE took appropriate measures to show her resolve.



## Group Shares His Thoughts

to an unknown territory with many uncertainties, the quickly. "We were a diverse group of people sailing out try, and naturally, there were differing thoughts amongst w was ready and raring to do what was required," said er 191 Squadron and Commander Task Group of the Singh.

elt that although the crew came from various RSN units time to build a strong team spirit, they learnt to build e to anticipate each other quickly in an uncertain pushed them hard, and then slowly eased up the pace at our objectives had been achieved," he added.

ssion, some of the crew asked about Standard Operating LTC Chopra explained that numerous new SOPs were itate the conduct of operations professionally. He said: nform the crew that it was ok to exercise their initiative

to do something that is not in the SOP, as long as they have a good reason. This was said to free the minds of the crew, especially those out on the (boarding) boats so that they would not be mentally shackled to complying to SOPs at the expense of adapting to a developing situation."

Despite being deployed far away from home for the extended mission and missing the festive season, LTC Chopra observed that crew morale was boosted when Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay visited the ship in the Gulf during Christmas.

LTC Chopra expressed his confidence in the younger RSN personnel: "I was very heartened by the way our young officers and crew, measured up to the challenge that this deployment presented. They rose to the occasion, and it was very encouraging for me to see these young people carry such responsibility on their shoulders."

## Inaugural MOOTW Seminar 2004

Professional seminar began with a recollection of RSN involvement in non-warfare operations over the years, and provided a timely opportunity for sharing the many lessons learnt and critical reflection.

Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay opened the seminar with an address highlighting the increased significance of MOOTW in contemporary naval operations. The subsequent presentations by the various ground units who had participated in MOOTW highlighted one of RSN's involvement in international operations, particularly in the last few years, such as the LST deployments to Timor Leste and Iraq.

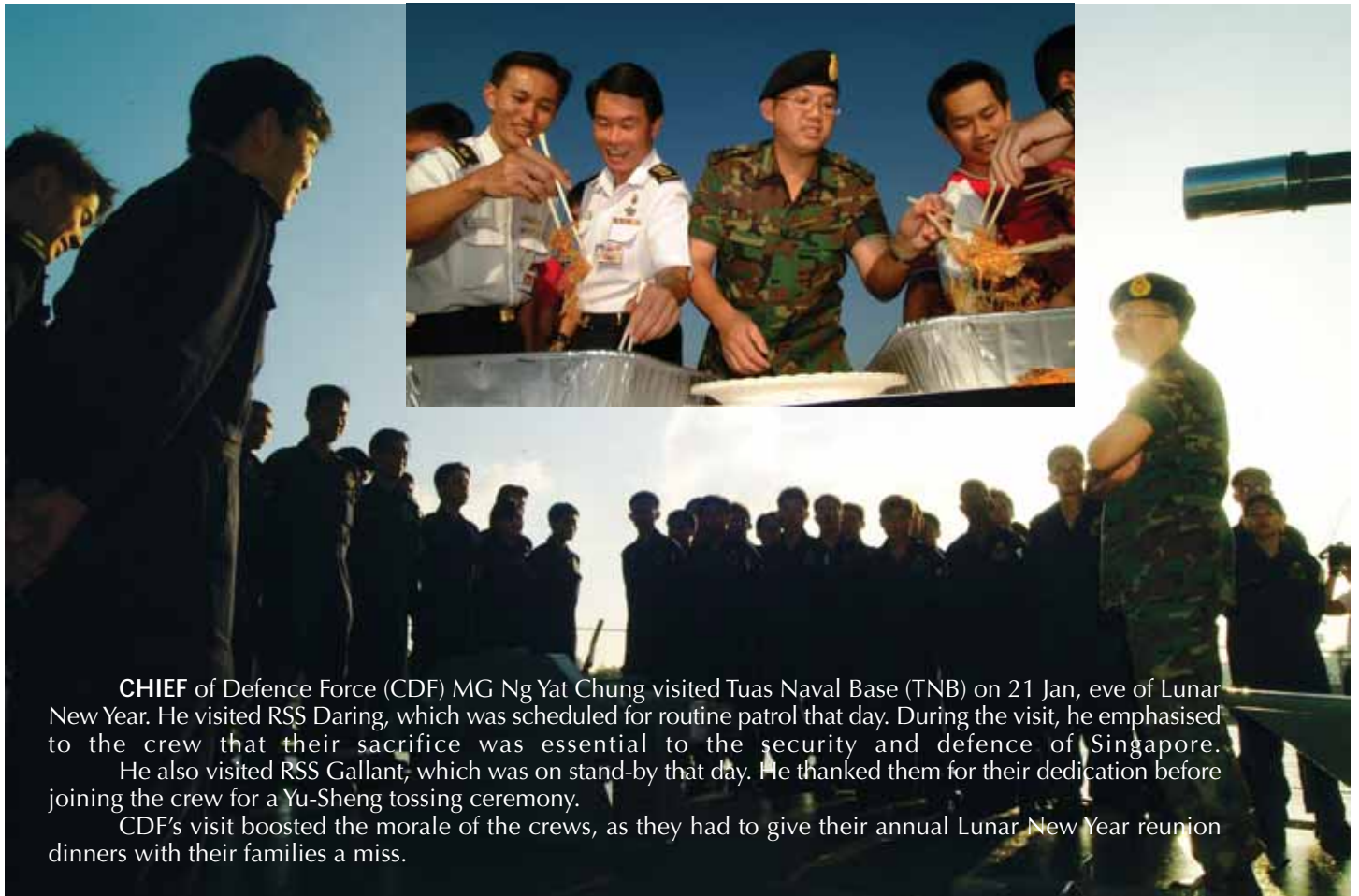
MOOTW include peace support operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The RSN's continued involvement in MOOTW helps to ensure regional stability and contributes to Singapore's wider commitment and efforts as a responsible member of international community.







# CDF Goodwill Visit to RSS Daring and RSS Gallant



**CHIEF** of Defence Force (CDF) MG Ng Yat Chung visited Tuas Naval Base (TNB) on 21 Jan, eve of Lunar New Year. He visited RSS Daring, which was scheduled for routine patrol that day. During the visit, he emphasised to the crew that their sacrifice was essential to the security and defence of Singapore. He also visited RSS Gallant, which was on stand-by that day. He thanked them for their dedication before joining the crew for a Yu-Sheng tossing ceremony. CDF's visit boosted the morale of the crews, as they had to give their annual Lunar New Year reunion dinners with their families a miss.

■ CDF speaks to the crew of RSS Daring before their routine patrol on Chinese New Year Eve.

## COSCOM Commander Festive Sail



■ Crew of RSS Justice with COL Chng and MWO Seow.

**WHILE** most Singaporeans spent their Chinese New Year weekend visiting friends and kin, the dedicated patrol vessels of the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) routinely 'sacrifice' their weekends to ensure the maritime security of Singapore.

One such vessel, RSS Justice, was scheduled for naval patrol on 25 Jan, on the fourth day of CNY 2004. Despite being a Sunday patrol during the festive season, the morale of the crew was boosted by two distinguished guests who came along for the sail - Commander COSCOM, COL Chng Teow Hiang and CWO COSCOM, MWO Roger Seow, brought with

them a sumptuous breakfast of curry puffs and a variety of festive confectionaries for the crew.

"The crew especially appreciate the warm gesture of support by our Senior Commander and the ready assistance of our shore HQ staff", said Justice's Coxswain MSG Yeo Keng Seng.

And as Executive Officer, CPT Alex Ang put it: "Whatever the season, RSN ships vigilantly patrol our waters 24/7. My crew understands only too well the important role each and everyone onboard plays in safeguarding our waters and homeland."



# COSCOM's Fun(D)-Raising For a Good Cause

Article contributed by LTA Adeline Kuah



■ COL Chng Teow Hiang presenting a pair of Mandarin oranges during the customary Lion Dance.

COSCOM organized its first Cohesion Day for 2004 with a difference at Tuas Naval Base on 16 Jan. The team-bonding occasion also incorporated a Lunar New Year celebration and a fundraiser for COSCOM's adopted charities, making it an extraordinarily joyous event.

The theme for the event was

"Fun for Fund". COSCOM HQ was transformed into a Chinatown funfair with red decors, complete with booths selling food, souvenirs and game stalls. The celebration was launched with a "Yu Sheng" tossing ceremony led by Commander COSCOM COL Chng Teow Hiang with the Commanding Officers of the various squadrons and COSCOM CWO. Highlights of the event included the Hamper-Wrapping, Cooking competitions, a Lion dance performance by RSS Katong and RSS Resilience, and even a boisterous fundraising auction. Among the items put up for the auction were hampers from the hamper-wrapping competition, and art pieces created by the students of Katong Special School.

More than \$5000 was raised for Katong Special School and Home for the Aged Sick during the event. The Cohesion Day with a strong Charity Spirit proved to be an enjoyable yet meaningful event for all COSCOM personnel.



■ (Top) Crash course on Chinese calligraphy.  
■ (Below) Going, going, gone!  
Auction for charity.

## 185 SQN Chinese New Year Celebrations Cum Family Day

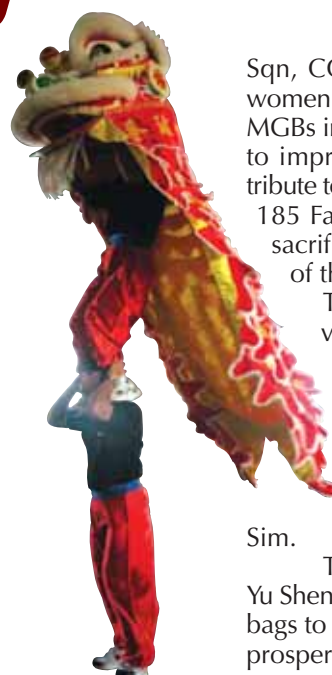
MANY people were seen rushing towards Changi Naval Base on the sunny Saturday afternoon of 17 Jan. Not another mobilisation exercise? No, Sir. It was 185 Sqn's Chinese New Year cum Family Day Celebrations.

Men and women of 185 Sqn came with their loved ones, and not forgetting friends from the squadron's adopted charity - Tampines Home, who were also invited to celebrate the joyous occasion.

For the 600-strong crowd, the event kicked off with a visit to the Missile Gun Boats (MGB).

The visit gave a rare opportunity for family members of 185 Sqn to have a glimpse of the working environment of their loved ones, while visitors from the Tampines Home were treated to a light-hearted movie at the Fleet Auditorium.

After the ship visits, the celebration commenced at the Fleet Auditorium. In his welcome address, Commanding Officer 185



Sqn, COL Sim Tiong Kian commended the men and women of 185 Sqn for their tireless effort in keeping the MGBs in a high state of readiness, and constantly striving to improve, reinvent and stay relevant. He also paid tribute to all family members who make up the "extended 185 Family", for their unrelenting support and many sacrifices, which has been instrumental to the success of the squadron.

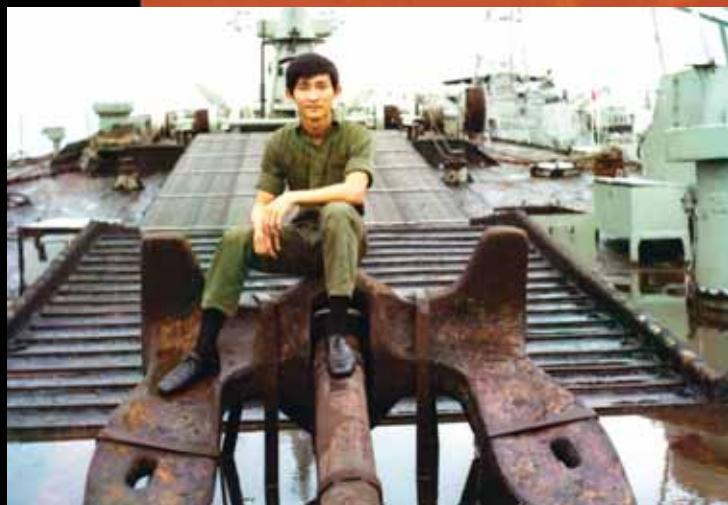
The guests were then treated to an in-house video production focusing on life in the squadron.

The video screening was followed by other activities, which included a round of hilarious Chinese New Year games, a spectacular Lion Dance put up by the crew of RSS Sea Hawk and the presentation of New Year goodies to the friends from Tampines Home by COL

Sim.

The event ended with the traditional tossing of Yu Sheng, and Commanding Officers handing out goody-bags to their crew and staff, to usher in a successful and prosperous year of the Golden Monkey.





# ROGER THAT SIR!

*A good leader is one who exhibits exemplary conduct in his everyday talk and walk. He or she is someone one of the more prominent and colourful Warrant Officers in the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), in the RSN. He is widely known for his tact, firmness, discipline and care for servicemen, reflecting the of his colleagues to know more about the man.*



"I ALMOST ended up being a fisherman..." MWO Roger Seow began his story. Growing up as a son of a fisherman, he loved life out at sea so much that when he was called up for National Service in 1972, he requested to be in the Navy. However, he could only "choose" his posting by signing a contract as a regular serviceman.

The rest was history.

MWO Seow worked his way up the ranks, serving onboard various platforms, including the now-decommissioned Coastal Patrol Crafts (CPC), Patrol Crafts (PC), Missile Gun Boats (MGB) and Missile Corvettes (MCV), having also been the coxswain on these vessels. As coxswain of these ships, he has fostered a deep bond of friendship and earned the professional respect of his men, officers and even others onboard other ships over the years.

Said Coxswain RSS Independence, MSG Oliver Lo: "I was onboard another ship, but MWO Seow was then the coxswain of RSS Sea Wolf. I heard a lot of stories about him and I naturally looked up to him as a mentor even though he didn't know me then." As RSS Independence is part of COSCOM, MSG Lo now works closely with MWO Seow. "Until today, he is still my mentor. When I have

difficulties as a Coxswain, I can always turn to him for advice. He is also a people-person, always able to communicate up and down the ranks with ease, whether the person is a Private or an Admiral - all the same," he added.

As COSCOM's CWO, MWO Seow personally takes the effort to visit the various ships during Colours ceremony for two reasons: to check on their turn-out and bearing and more importantly to find out the concerns of the crew. "I make sure that they know my door is always open and they can talk to me whenever they have any problems at all," said MWO Seow.

But he was quick to highlight that welfare and discipline have to be clearly differentiated. "In the military setting, discipline has to always come first. Not only basic discipline like turn-out and bearing, but also operational discipline. Out at sea, it is essential that all soldiers are professional and quick to respond to commands," he said firmly.

Commanding Officer 182 Squadron, LTC Lee Khai Leong, who was MWO Seow's Executive Officer onboard RSS Vigour some years ago, remembers him to be a strict but fair father figure to the crew. "Although he may mete out harsh punishment when needed, he often spoke out for his crew to me behind closed doors," added LTC Lee.

"He does not use his rank to get others to obey him. He is very persuasive and eloquent in his own special way that makes him approachable and very effective," said SSG Robin Teo, Buffer RSS Freedom.





■ What a whopper!

When asked whether the challenges of man-management has changed much over the years, MWO Seow noted matter-of-factly that the soldiers of today are different from those of yesteryears. "In today's knowledge-based society, soldiers are getting more educated, creative and smarter. They will sometimes query orders, and I have to be tactful when dealing with them." Though he was quick to add: "But that doesn't mean that our soldiers are a disobedient lot. Sometimes I use a tactful way, instead of a regimental method, to discipline my men and women, and I find it works more effectively today."

LTC Lee cited an example when his ship was on an overseas exercise and during their recreation day, some of the junior crew had one drink too many and a squabble erupted. From a heated head-on incident, MWO Seow

His secret to achieve his fighting fit success is simple discipline – he runs and works out three times a week without fail.

So what motivates him to keep fit?

"I need to be a role model to my subordinates. I want to show them that if even a senior citizen like myself can do it, there's no excuse for them. And of course, with the 'promotion carrot' dangling in front of me, how can I not chase after it? [laugh]" he explained.

On top of his keen interest in running, he also loves to cook. A fan of spicy food, he has lent his culinary skills to the galley onboard his previous ships, something which he calls KM (Knowledge Management). The chefs onboard sometimes even ask him to plan menus for the crew. LTC Lee vividly

*whom superiors trust to get a job done well, and someone subordinates look up to as a role model. Arguably MWO Roger Seow has gained much respect from both his men and officers alike over his 32 years of service SAF and RSN core values. Navy News catches up with the Chief Warrant Officer – COSCOM (CWO) and some*



■ Golden Life-Runner!

managed to deftly turn the situation around. "After cooling the boys down, Roger then explained to them that as a crew, everyone was family and should not resort to petty quarrels and fights. As a firm and fair disciplinarian, he then proceeded to punish them to the full extent of the disciplinary code to make sure they learnt their lesson well," he said.

Although one may find being vocal while being tactful oxymoronic, MWO Seow's approach proves otherwise. He is known to be a vocal person, as he is one who feels strongly that sunshine is the best disinfectant, and "there is nothing to hide". An example is when he wrote to all the ships' Commanding and Executive Officers, requesting their cooperation in empowering the ship coxswains on the regimentation and discipline of their crew. He believes that if the officers had to micromanage the coxswain's job, then the latter is doing a poor job. Furthermore, the crew will lose respect and trust for the coxswain, making it harder for him to execute his job properly.

Apart from his hectic schedule making sure the discipline of his formation is well taken care of, MWO Seow finds time to indulge in other interests. Among which is his love for running. For a man of 50 years old, he is probably twice as fit as a man half his age! He still proudly dons an IPPT Gold medal badge. "No matter how hard I try, I can never achieve Silver," he said in jest. Certainly a hard feat when you can complete your 2.4km runs slightly in excess of 10 minutes.

recalls: "He always ensured that there was sufficient hot drinks and food for the midnight watches. I remember that he used to stay up just to fix a night snack for them." He also recounts how MWO Seow rode a scooter in his early days and slung bags of food to his small two-wheeler to work before long overseas trips. "He always went the extra mile for us," he remembers fondly. Until today, MWO Seow still shares his gastronomic skills with his office staff up at HQ COSCOM. Amongst his favourite dishes are laksa and seafood (he loves to rear fishes too).

"I learnt an important lesson from my daughter, Audrey, who studied hospitality in Switzerland and is now working at the Ritz Carlton. There is this concept of reverse customer-focus, whereby the 'employer serves the employee' which I have come to practice with deep conviction. That's why every month, I will don my chef's hat and whip up a hearty meal to celebrate birthdays in the office. After all, good leadership begins and ends with one being a good servant," said MWO Seow with passion. Now, who can argue with that? Roger that, Sir!



■ Master Chef in action!







# Know Thy Navy – Thru Rugby

Article contributed by MAJ Ang Yong Lee



■ Gotcha! No you don't.

**WHAT** better way to learn about the navy than having a ball of a time while at it?

CNB (Changi Naval Base) Sports Complex sprang to life when 250 students from eight local Junior Colleges (ACJC, CJC, JJC, PJC, RJC, SAJC, TJC and YJC) descended upon the quiet stadium in the early morning of 7 Feb. Donning their dashing sports attires, the high-spirited boys and girls arrived to 'do battle' in the RSN Rugby Invitation Tournament 2004 - a first in RSN sports history.

The tournament - "Know the Navy Through Sports" - was an initiative mooted by NRC (Naval Recruitment Centre). It aims to enable the students to learn more about the Navy through

the game of rugby. The objective of the tournament was to reach out to students through competitive sports. The game of Rugby has many similarities with a military career. Not least of which are the importance of superior teamwork and gritty fighting spirit.

The one-day tournament was jointly organized by 182 Sqn, NRC and the RSN Rugby Team. A total of 20 teams from the 8 JCs, Overseas Family School, Army's Guards Junior team, Singapore Cricket Club, Singapore Japanese Rugby Football Club and RSN Rugby Team participated in the three competitions. The three categories of competition were the College Boys 10-A-Side Contact Rugby, the College Girls 6-A-Side Touch Rugby

and the Club 10-A-Side Contact Rugby. At the end of the many intense matches, Raffles Junior College, the Army's Guards Junior Team and Singapore Cricket Club emerged as Champions for the College Girls Touch Rugby, College Boys Contact Rugby and Club Contact Rugby competitions respectively. RSN Rugby Convenor LTC LEE KHAI LEONG (CO 182 SQN) presented prizes to the winning teams, as well as Letters of Appreciation to the tournament officials.

Besides the robust interaction with the RSN Rugby players on the pitch, the JC students were also given opportunity to know more about the Navy through NRC's recruitment information booth and a ship visit onboard RSS

PERSISTENCE in CNB. The ship visit was the first naval experience for a majority of the JC students who went onboard. The JC students went away with a better understanding of the RSN's roles and capabilities, as well as career opportunities.

"The inaugural RSN Rugby Invitation Tournament is a new initiative in the school rugby calendar. It offers many students an additional opportunity to play the game and at the same time associate themselves more with the Navy. All my students visited the LST and they really enjoyed the tour. I think the Navy should continue to organise the tournament on an annual basis," said Mr Mark Ng, Rugby Master, ACJC.



■ We are the fly-half and fullback at sea too!



■ The ball is mine.

**The Asian Aerospace 2004 held from 24 to 29 Feb saw various senior foreign military officers visiting Singapore. Some photos of guests that CNV hosted...**



■ VADM Wolfgang Nolting, Commander of the German Fleet.



■ Mr Gordon England, Secretary of the Navy, United States.



# RECORD SMASHING SPLASH! 31st RSN Swimming Meet 2004

Article contributed by 2WO Sabapathy R.

FLEET veteran swimmer COL Cyril Lee, CO of 171 SQN, has broken 3 RSN Swimming records in the individual events, and won the Best Performance Man Swimmer award. Not far in his wake was 2LT Ng Sok Mui from COSCOM who won the Best Performance Woman Swimmer award by setting one new record and coming in first in two other events.

Besides the super record-breaking feats, this year's RSN Swimming Meet was significant for everyone involved as it was held for the first time at Changi Sport Complex Competition Swimming Pool on 29 Jan. The occasion was graced by Head Naval Operations RADM Sim Gim Guan.

A total of 363 swimmers took part in the Meet organized by the Institute of Naval Operations and Technology (INTO).

The men and women of the four formations - TRACOM, Fleet, COSCOM (which included NDU and HQ RSN) and NALCOM, fought the battle vigorously for the Challenge Trophy. In the end, NALCOM emerged as the champions with 551 points. With the good swimmers identified, RSN is now ready to compete for the Challenge Trophy in the coming SAFSA Swimming Meet in Mar 04.

Human Torpedoes away!



■ Now, let's see who is Commander of the Road! CNV (left) starts the Commanders Invitational race during the SAF/RSN 50km Road Relay at the Marina City park on 14 Feb.

# RSN Weight Management Seminar 2004

More than 300 RSN personnel gathered at the Tuas Auditorium on 13 Jan, with one thing in mind: "How can I reach a healthy weight to achieve a healthier life?"

The theme of this year's RSN Weight Management Seminar was "Healthy Weight, Healthy Life". There were static displays, booths, games, and presentations on weight management.

Before the presentation, participants were treated to a video show "Obesity: Who's in Control?", which introduced weight management in an informative yet entertaining manner.

CPT (Dr) Daniel Tan, head of Diving Medicine Branch, then presented on "Obesity: A Complex Problem with a Common Sense Cure". His presentation outlined the problems of obesity, new BMI standards, and weight management skills. A video was also screened to show participants a success story. The video clip featured a RSN personnel who successfully reduced his weight and maintained it at a healthy level.

An invited speaker, Dr Benedict Tan, who is a consultant Sports Physician at the Changi Sports Medicine Centre, Changi General Hospital, presented the topic "Principles of Weight Management", where he shared the weight loss programme at Changi Sports Medicine Centre.

The seminar was an informative and fun-filled way for RSN personnel to learn more about maintaining a healthy weight, allowing them to understand and cope with the weight issue at hand.



■ VADM Dato' Ilyas Bin Hj Din, Deputy Chief of Navy, Royal Malaysian Navy.



■ RADM Tran Quang Khue, Deputy Commander of Navy Forces, Vietnam Navy.





"Calmly now, sharp sister  
Before we run silent  
Into the rolling deep,  
Our sovereignty, we keep."