

A PUBLICATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE NAVY

# NAVY news

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Issue 04 2004

## Best of Comrade-in-Arms

**RSN Best Ships 2004:**  
Excelling with the Verve of Vengeance

**Tanjong Berlayer Base:**  
Bids a Final Sunset



Republic of Singapore Navy



■ RADM Ronnie Tay  
Chief of Navy

## A Word from CNV

It has been said that the names people give their ships say something about the sort of culture they belong to. The names of our RSN ships are specially chosen to reflect the high qualities that we in the Navy desire to see in our people who serve onboard them, as well as the strong capabilities and prowess of the ships themselves. In the past few months, we witnessed the launching of our first locally built frigate, RSS Intrepid, and the commissioning of another of our submarines, RSS Centurion. The names of these ships highlight some of the values which we hold dear - courage, determination and dedication to duty.

Such values and culture are important for a Navy like ours which maintains a high level of readiness, conducts operations round the clock, and works hard to develop its people and capabilities throughout the year.

Indeed, it is the strong bonds forged among our people when carrying out our various duties that bind us into the larger fabric of the Navy Family.

It is with this in mind that I extend my heartiest congratulations to those that were recently promoted, as well as the winners of the various unit awards for the past workyear. These fine achievements and successes are a reflection of the teamwork and efforts of the many dedicated and diligent individuals coming together to work purposefully towards a common goal. I am also mindful that standing behind them are their respective families, whose quiet support and kind encouragement enable them to focus their hearts and minds on their duties. For this, I say a big "Thank You" to all family members of our Navy personnel. Ultimately, it is the close and enduring family ties, both in the Navy Family and our families at home, that will continue to anchor the fine work and accomplishments of our Navy.

Chief of Navy's Message



▲ Cover Photo: Picture by  
3SG Gerald Neo



▲ Back Page: Text by MAJ Irvin Lim,  
Photo by Kimitsu Yogachi

## Courtesy Calls on CNV



◀ ADM Chumpol Pachusanon,  
Commander-in-Chief, Royal  
Thai Navy. He was conferred  
Singapore's prestigious  
Meritorious Service Medal  
(Military) on Aug 5.



◀ VADM Xavier Rolin, Commander  
of the Indian Ocean Maritime  
Zone, French Navy

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# First Locally-built Frigate Launched

**THE** first locally-built and second stealth frigate of the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), RSS Intrepid, was launched at a ceremony at the Singapore Technologies (ST) Marine yard on 3 Jul. Officiating the ceremony was then-Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Lee Hsien Loong along with his wife Mrs Lee. Witnessing the event was Minister for Defence, RADM(NS) Teo Chee Hean, and senior MINDEF and SAF officials.

RSS Intrepid's arrival marks another significant milestone for the RSN's frigate programme. ST Marine, under a technology transfer agreement with French shipbuilder Direction des Constructions Navales (DCN), has successfully constructed and launched the ship on schedule.

In his speech, DPM Lee highlighted that defence and security is the basis for Singapore to grow and prosper and that the government is fully committed to ensure a strong defence for Singapore and to provide the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) with the resources it needs to secure Singapore's future.

He said that the progress of the RSN illustrates the evolution of the SAF. The RSN started off with missile gunboats, which were our first generation strike craft. He continued: "Today, we

have further progressed onto the frigates. The Formidable-class frigates address not only current challenges, but also future ones. They incorporate the latest in sensor, weapon, protective and stealth technologies. The Combat Management System is state-of-the-art. The frigates pack in more capabilities than other ships of the same size, and with a much smaller crew of only 70 personnel. They can carry out a broad spectrum of operations, and have room to add on future systems to enhance their capabilities."

The Shore Based Integration Centre (SBIC) has been set up in Changi Naval Base to allow the combat system suppliers, using the actual equipment and software, to test and demonstrate that they could exchange messages correctly over the local area network, similar to the one onboard the ship. The laboratory environment of the SBIC would allow the integration team to run all the necessary sequence of tests in order to do trouble shooting and rectification before testing onboard the ship. Through the use of simulators, the

systems are put through the various operational scenarios for extensive testing.

Currently, the RSN's first frigate, RSS Formidable, is at the DCN shipyard in L'orient, France, completing her outfitting phase and would be undergoing harbour and sea trials soon. She is expected to sail back to Singapore in early 2005.

When RSN's frigates come into service from 2007 onwards, the Navy will be better placed to undertake the wide spectrum of missions to defend Singapore and its vital Sea Lines of Communications (SLOC).



## Minister for Defence visits COSCOM

Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean, visited the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Coastal Command (COSCOM), at Tuas Naval Base (TNB) on 24 Jun. The highlights of the event included visits to RSS Justice and RSS Kallang, during which the 182 and 194 squadrons showcased their combat capabilities. The crew of RSS Justice briefed and demonstrated the Patrol Vessels (PV) roles and capabilities for maritime security operations. Onboard RSS Kallang, RADM (NS) Teo witnessed live demonstrations on the Surface-to-Air-Missile Simulator and the Mine-

Countermeasure Vessels' (MCMV) new Action Information System (AIS) as part of the squadron's present and future enhancements. Rounding up the visit was the minister's Meet-the-Men session with members of the two Squadrons. During the session, RADM (NS) Teo spoke on several topics ranging from RSN's steadiness in her capabilities to her roles in maritime security. Touching on something closer to the people's hearts, he also answered their concerns on the implementation of the PREMIUM and SAVERS schemes.

*Article contributed by CPT Francis Goh*



# Trilateral Coordinated Patrols Launched

THE Chiefs of Armed Forces from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore launched the Malacca Straits Coordinated Patrols, codenamed MALSINDO, onboard KRI Tanjung Dalpele off the Batam coast on 20 Jul.

A total of five RSN vessels comprising of one Missile Corvette (MCV), RSS Valour; two Missile Gun Boats (MGB), RSS Sea Dragon and RSS Sea Hawk; one Patrol Vessel (PV), RSS Independence; and one Anti-Submarine Patrol Vessel (APV), RSS Gallant, participated in the event.

The Coordinated Patrols aim to speed up the reporting process by ships in distress with the establishment of an Emergency Telephone Hotline network among the three countries. The network is designed to speed up the response actions of their respective patrolling units at sea.

The Coordinated Patrols involve the three navies patrolling in their respective territorial waters. It will be a year-round operation and is in addition to the current bilateral patrols between Malaysia-Indonesia (MALINDO), and Indonesia-Singapore (INDOSIN).



From left to right – Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy, ADM Bernard Kent Sondakh; Singapore Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay; Chief of Defence Force, Singapore Armed Forces, LG Ng Yat Chung; Commander-in-Chief of the Indonesian National Defence Forces, GEN Endriartono Sutarto; Chief of Defence Force, Malaysian Armed Forces, GEN Zahidi Zainuddin, Malaysian Chief of Navy, ADM Mohd Anwar Mohd Nor)

Photo courtesy of PIONEER



## COSCOM ATTAINS SQC

Coastal Command (COSCOM) recently made waves when it was awarded the prestigious Singapore Quality Class (SQC) award by SPRING Singapore on 13 May – a first ever achievement by an Operational Formation of the SAF.

COSCOM's pursuit of Organizational Excellence (OE) has been a long-haul effort and the latest attainment of the SQC award marks another significant milestone in the journey. The journey started in the early 80's with Works Improvement Teams (WITS) and Productivity in Daily Effort (PRIDE). The late 90's saw the first ISO9000 certification for 181 Squadron. By year 2002, all COSCOM units were ISO-certified and awarded the People's Developer Standard.

COSCOM then embarked on efforts to attain SQC accreditation in year 2003.

COSCOM's preparations for SQC accreditation provided the opportunity to review and refine many of its core business processes and organisational procedures towards achieving greater operational readiness and effectiveness in undertaking its range of maritime security and coastal defence missions.

On the benefits and initiatives gained from the SQC experience, LTC Philip Alvar, Chairman SQC Committee said: "The biggest gain was the standardisation of our processes and consolidation of results across the Sqns to the Formation HQ amalgamating into a SQC manual."



Beaming with Pride - COSCOM SQC Committee

With the accreditation, COSCOM is now recognised as an organisation that has integrated effective and systematic approaches to achieve the overall RSN strategic goals of diplomacy and deterrence.

- Article contributed by CPT Lee Kok Seng

## Commissioning of RSN submarine

ANOTHER RSN submarine, RSS Centurion, was commissioned at Changi Naval Base on 26 Jun. Minister for Defence, RADM(NS) Teo Chee Hean, officiated the ceremony which was attended by Chief of

Defence, LG Ng Yat Chun, Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay and guests. Eight religious leaders also performed a blessing ritual for the submarine and its crew.

RSS Centurion will join 171 Squadron

under the Fleet Command in CNB. RSS Centurion will enhance the RSN's all-round operational capabilities to safeguard Singapore's waters and protect our vital Sea Lines Of Communications (SLOC).



# SAF DAY PARADE 2004



**THE** Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) celebrated its 39th Anniversary with a parade officiated by President S R Nathan, at the SAFTI Military Institute (SAFTI-MI) on 1 Jul. About 1,100 SAF active servicemen and Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) participated in the parade. The highlight of the parade were the smart Trooping of Colours and a well synchronised March-Past.

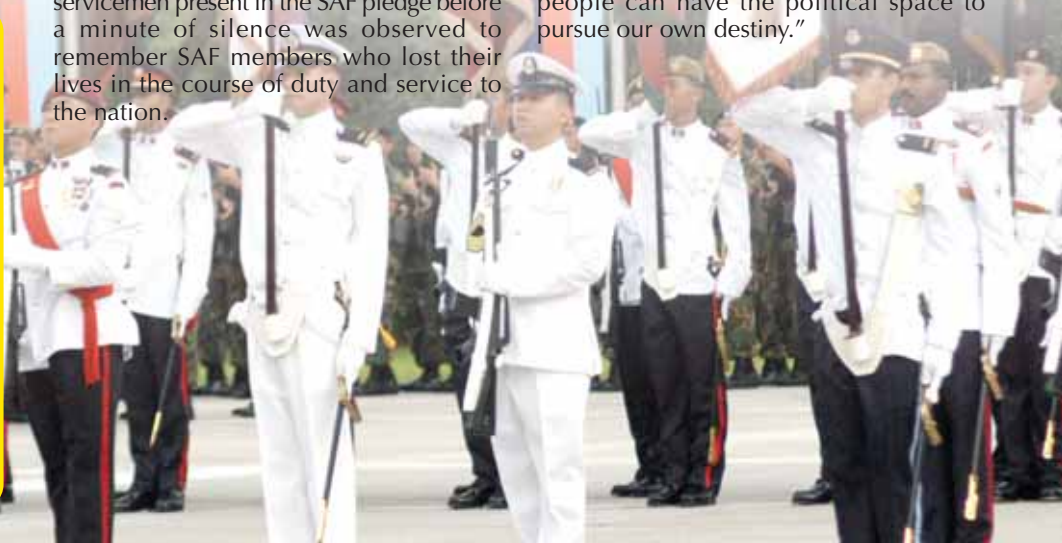
During the parade Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean, presented 23 awards to the SAF units who emerged winners in the Best Unit and Best NS Unit Competition. This year's Best Ship Award went to RSS Vengeance, a missile corvette of the RSN.

Chief of Defence Force, LG Ng Yat Chung, led the Service Chiefs and all the servicemen present in the SAF pledge before a minute of silence was observed to remember SAF members who lost their lives in the course of duty and service to the nation.

Also present at the parade were Minister of State for Defence, Mr Cedric Foo, and the Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Defence and National Development, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee.

At a separate rededication ceremony held at Suntec City, RADM (NS) Teo, in his SAF Day speech said: "The SAF has helped to ensure another year of peace and security, so that Singaporeans can go about their daily lives confidently and secure in the knowledge that the SAF is ready and able to defend Singapore's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"The ultimate measure of the SAF's strength lies in the spirit and commitment of our people. It is only with a strong defence capability that Singapore can continue to grow and prosper, and our people can have the political space to pursue our own destiny."



## NAVY PARADE COMMANDER

**THIS** year's parade commander, if you did not know, was RSN's very own LTC Sean Lee Huang Han, from the Naval Diving Unit (NDU). In an interview with *Navy News*, LTC Sean said: "The SAF day is an important event and it is already an honour to be involved, let alone the privilege to be the parade commander. I knew I had to juggle my NDU duties with the many parade rehearsals. But in the end, things turned out well and I am grateful to my superior, colleagues and family whose support helped tremendously."

"Lots of effort was put in by respective formations and tribute must go to the RSMs for their dedication and hard work. The organising committee, led by COL Chan Choy Kee, CO Sembawang Air Base, facilitated the training well. The SAFPU unit,

who mounted the Number One Guards, had very high drill standards. This inspired and set the standard for the rest to follow."

When asked about the challenge of commanding the 1100-strong contingents, LTC Sean said that it was well managed as Parade RSM, MWO Chandran, and the various service RSMs did a remarkable job in training and motivating the men and women on parade. "It was truly a testimony of the professionalism of our WOSPEC Corps."

He added: "The dedication and positive attitude of the men and women who formed the parade impressed me most. I was told that when the Navy contingent RSM had to replace some of the servicemen, they were visibly disappointed and requested earnestly not to be replaced."



*LTC Sean Lee cuts a smart figure.*

On a lighter note, in response to playful jibes that the Navy brings rain on its parades, LTC Sean was quick to quip: "The Cantonese believe that it is a good omen to rain on important occasions. I think it was a good shower of blessing indeed!"

- GN



# Officers and Warrant Officers Promotions 2004



TWO annual promotion ceremonies were held at the Ministry Of Defence (MINDEF) Auditorium for SAF officers and Warrant Officers (WO) recently.

On 18 Jun, Minister of State, Mr Cedric Foo, presented 169 WOs with their Certificates of Promotion. Four Master Warrant Officers (MWOs) were promoted to the rank of Senior Warrant Officer (SWO), the highest rank within the Corps of Warrant Officers, Specialists and Enlistees (WOSE). Also this year, three Operationally Ready NSmen were promoted to the rank of First Warrant Officer (1WO).

At another ceremony, 579 officers were promoted to the next higher rank, with the Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean presenting Certificates of Promotion to officers of the rank Lieutenant-Colonel (LTC) and higher on 29 Jun. Heading the list of officers promoted was Chief of Defence Force, Major-General (MG) Ng Yat Chung, who was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General (LG). Chief of Navy, Rear-Admiral (RA1) Ronnie Tay, was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral (Two-Star) (RA2). Chief of Army, Major-General Desmond Kuek Bak Chye, and six other officers holding the rank of Brigadier-General (BG) were promoted in grade.

NAVY NEWS congratulates all RSN personnel who were promoted this year.



RSS Victory's Executive Officer, MAJ Victor Huang Kuan Kai, was recently promoted to the rank this year. Having served through various appointments onboard the Missile Corvettes (MCVs) since April 01, MAJ Huang feels that, "As you get promoted higher in rank, the responsibility increases. You make use of what you have learnt over the years. The crews I have worked with have always been great to sail with. I have learned much from them and I feel a sense of responsibility to contribute back."



Chief Warrant Officer, Coastal Command (COSCOM) SWO Roger Seow Eng Huat was one of the four WOs promoted to the rank of Senior Warrant Officer (SWO).

Having served over 32 years with the navy, he says he sees WOs as "walking transmitters" who bring directions from the commanders to the men on the ground. At the same time WOs also bring concerns from the ground up to the commanders making them "a bridge" across all levels. "I see myself as a mentor, coach and guide to the juniors. I am happy with the promotion, because I see that my contribution is being recognised," said SWO Seow.



Another Warrant promoted was Coxswain 185, MWO Wong Fook Lam. Since entering the service back in February 1977 after his O-levels, MWO Wong joined the navy to see the world: "This is my first career and I have not looked back. Now I have more responsibility as my role is not just only about discipline and regiment, but also planning, intelligence and operations. I look forward to contributing even more, and I thank my commander and colleagues for their trust and confidence in me."

- GN

## OHSAS 18001 in RSN Units

OCCUPATIONAL Health and Safety management (OHSAS) 18001:1999 is the system that enables the organisation to improve its performance by controlling its OH&S risks in an efficient manner. OHSAS 18001, is a certifiable system through internationally recognised assessment specification, based on the original British Standard - BS 8800. The aim of implementing OHSAS 18001 in RSN is to reduce the risk of accidents to our personnel especially during periods of prolonged or high tempo naval operations.

RSN Medical Services, 188 Squadron, Headquarter 3rd Flotilla and Naval Inspectorate have carried



out the implementation of OHSAS 18001 system in their units since August 2003.

It is expected that with time, more units will take up the OHSAS 18001 system. RSN will also be looking into the possibility of implementing a behavioural-based system to complement the OHSAS system.

- Article contributed by  
LTC(Dr) Michael Ong and  
Mr. Lee Chee Wai

## Smart Sailors With CLASS

LEARNING is a life-long journey. Appreciating this philosophy, the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) implemented the Continuous Learning Academic Study Scheme (CLASS) in 2001.

At a simple ceremony held at the Chevrons theatre, SAF Chevrons Club, six Navy Specialists received their awards from Chief of Defence Force, LG Ng Yat Chung, on 30 Jun. With the awards, the recipients will be able to pursue higher courses in ITEs and Diploma courses in Polytechnics.

One of the recipient was SSG Rajan s/o Nagapan, Chief Action Information System Specialist (CAIS) of RSS Justice.

"With new technical knowledge, I can do servicing of equipment and on-location



troubleshooting at sea instead of waiting for base tech support, which can be a critical edge on the modern digital battlefield," he said.

This is the fourth CLASS Award since its implementation and has enabled SAF Warrants and Specialist to further pursue their studies to ensure that the SAF will always have people with cutting-edge knowledge and skills.



# Warrant Promotion



*Proposing a toast to the new Warrant Officers!*

**NINE** RSN specialist and nine NSmen were recently promoted to 2nd Warrant Officers after successfully completing the 29th Joint Warrant Officer Course (JWOC) and National Servicemen Warrant Officer Course (NSWOC) respectively, at a ceremony held at the Orchid Country Club on 23 Jun. The 29th JWOC and NSWOC candidates attended the course at SAFWOS from 10 May to 30 Jun. Chief of Defence Force, LG Ng Yat Chung, presented book prizes to selected winners.

JWOC Navy Book prize winner and promotee, 2WO Gan Lai Cheng from TNB Planning Control Branch, gave an account of her course experience:

"This was my first time in a tri-service course. A wide range of topics like organisation structure, logistic, military law and management were covered during the course. The course has prepared me well with the professional knowledge and leadership skills to be a competent WO. The most interesting experience for me was the networking. I now have many new friends from the other SAF units. I thank superiors and peers for the recognition and the opportunity to further contribute at more senior levels in the future."

NSWOC candidate, 36 year old 2WO (NS) Robin Teo Ban Chong, Higher Technical Officer, from the Land



*2WO Gan receives a book prize from CDF*

Transport Authority said: "The experience was enriching as it provided a golden opportunity for many of us from the various services to build new friendships, strengthen old ones and recognise the roles we all play in the defence of Singapore. One key topic covered during the course was focusing our awareness on the rapidly evolving global security climate and complex regional security challenges confronting our nation. It has impressed upon me that in times of uncertainty, we cannot afford anything less than a highly-capable SAF always ready to safeguard and defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interests of our country."

- GN

# Total Defence Awards



*CPT (NS) Ng, with his wife, receives the NSmen of the Year Award (NAVY) from RADM (NS) Teo*

A total of 102 employers, 65 civil resource owners and 12 National Servicemen (NS) were presented awards and commendation certificates by Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean at the Total Defence Awards Presentation Ceremony, held at Orchard Hotel Singapore on 23 Jul.

In his speech, RADM (NS) Teo said: "Singaporeans have to understand that the military effort alone is not enough. A strong defence against threats to our security and our well-being require other components as well, namely, psychological defence, social defence, economic defence, and civil defence. Ultimately, it is the collective will and commitment of every Singaporean to defend what is ours that will ensure Singapore's security, survival and success. This is the essence of Total Defence."

This year's recipient from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) is CPT (NS) Ng Kok Keong, senior architect from the Land Transport Authority (LTA).

Having served 10 In-Camp-Trainings (ICT) he was the 2IC of the RSN 195 Squadron's coastal group before leaving in 1991.

When asked about the contributing factor for winning the award, he replied, "It is the sense of duty and knowledge that protecting the nation is important for a small country like ours. I try to communicate more to those not accustomed to NS, especially the ladies, and help them understand the importance of our role."

On Total Defence, CPT (NS) Ng said that it is definitely the way to go because we have limited resources. "Total defence is a holistic approach, and a good way to spread out fast and build a strong foundation with this tradition," added CPT (NS) Ng. He is deeply honoured and grateful to have the support from his unit, spouse, relatives and in-laws as they have all gone a long way to make his contribution possible.

- GN

# Sunset Ceremony at T



*Tanjong Berlayer Base ...*



*... fondly remembered by many over the decades.*



*MWO Chong (left) and LTC Goh (right) enjoying the scenery at TBC for one last time.*



*The new Fast Craft Marina Complex at Tuas Naval Base*





# Tanjong Berlayer Camp

Article contributed by LTA Daniel Lee



THE SUN SET down on Tanjong Berlayer Camp (TBC) for the last time on 8 Jul, as it officially closed in a ceremony officiated by Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay. About 100 members of the Navy family including veterans and NSmen were present to witness the significant event, which closed another chapter of our naval history.

TBC certainly has a story to tell. In the 1960s Tanjong Berlayer started out as a ferry point for boats going to Pulau Bukom and Pulau Blakang Mati (Sentosa), later becoming the embarkation point for Navy personnel heading to Brani Naval Base between 1974 and 1991. The Tanjong Berlayer Complex opened in 1988, providing a home for the Naval Transport Base (NTB). When NTB dissolved in 1991, HQ Third Flotilla and Naval Security Office (NSO) relocated there, renaming the grounds Tanjong Berlayer Camp. 1991 also saw the birth of 195 Squadron in the camp, which remained there until this year. With such a rich history, TBC will undoubtedly be missed by many. Commanding Officer 195 Squadron, LTC Gregory Goh, pointed out that TBC was the main place many NSF's went after Basic

Military Training. Therefore, it was not surprising that memories of National Service would include the camp for many of them. Officer Commanding Ramp Powered Lighter (RPL), MWO Chong Chun Lee, agreed. "To me this is the best camp in the SAF. Its location is centralised and next to Sentosa. Where else can you get a camp with so much greenery and such beautiful scenery?" MWO Chong had spent a large portion of his 33-year career in the Navy at TBC.

Mementos were presented to NSO, 195 Squadron and the Navy Museum during the Closing Ceremony. Following that, Guests were given a special treat. After sunset, they were invited to take a joyride on the RPL, where they observed a sail-pass by several Fast Craft Utility and Fast Craft Equipment and Personnel. A reception dinner followed,

during which a video on TBC was screened. A board display had also been set up recounting the past of Tanjong Berlayer. Many of the guests had a good time reminiscing the past with one another.

The closure of this "icon of the first generation RSN", as RADM Tay described it, brings with it a new chapter for 195 Squadron as RADM Tay had officially opened the new Fast Craft Marina at Tuas Naval Base earlier on 4 Jun. The new home for 195 Squadron provides berthing facilities with fuel, electrical supply and water, and allows for easier craft maintenance at the same base, two features that TBC lacked. The move will increase the squadron's work efficiency and better equip them to carry out their mission of supporting SAF units in sea transportation.

## Back Paddle



All aboard the last ferry!



## Ramp Powered Lighters

The Republic of Singapore Navy used to operate up to six Ramp Powered Lighters (RPLs). They were launched in pairs on 1 Jan 67, 22 May 69 and 22 Nov 85. The 1985 RPLs were then new generation craft designed to carry 500 troops or three 5-tonners, capable of speeds up to 10.5 knots. Before the Brani Causeway and SAF Ferry Terminal were opened, the RPLs were the main form of transport for military



The famous 1990 Tekong elephants which swam to the island from Malaysia, being "shipped" home on RPL 60.

personnel heading to Pulau Brani and Pulau Tekong respectively. Many still remember the rush to board the RPL when the whistle sounded. Today, four of the RPLs are still operational, and are involved in numerous support tasks such as ferrying SAF personnel and equipment for training in our offshore islands.





# 51ST MIDS Commissioned!

- Article and pictures by Gerald Neo

**TWENTY-EIGHT** cadets from the 51st Midshipman cohort of the MIDS Wing were commissioned as Officers in a parade at the SAFTI Military Institute (SAFTI-MI) officiated by Deputy Prime Minister & Co-ordinating Minister for Security and Defence, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam on 25 Jul.

In his speech, Dr Tan said: "As junior commanders, you have a vital role in leading your men, training them to be operationally ready, and motivating them to do their utmost for the defence of the nation. The officer epaulettes on your shoulders are affirmations of the trust emplaced in each one of you to carry out your duties to the best of your abilities in safeguarding the security of the nation. Do your utmost in keeping the tradition of excellence in all that you do."

After undergoing 42 weeks of rigorous training in areas such as physical fitness, leadership and military knowledge, eight cadets from the various services and arms were awarded the Sword of Honour for topping their a

cohort. This year's top midshipman was 2LT Yuan Shao Wei, a 26 year old graduate from the University of Technology, Germany.

When asked about his experience, 2LT Yuan said that it was unforgettable as it was his first time out

Honour and I thank my peers and instructors for their guidance and support," said 2LT Yuan.

When asked how he felt about being more senior in age than those in his cohort, he replied, "There are some additional burdens. For example, the instructors and peers often look up to me as they felt that I should be quite matured since I am 26 years old. I was expected to be a role model for the cohort. The training was tough but we managed to pull through together well as a team. I was the Cadet Wing Commander during my MSTD and found the experience enriching. I hope to contribute and add value to the Navy during my National Service."

*"We had our first taste of naval diplomacy as Midshipmen... Sailing with us for the forty-seven day Midshipmen Sea Training Deployment were six International Officers from Brunei, Germany, India, Indonesia and Thailand... We have learnt a lot from our friends from afar, the crew of RSS Endeavour, and having interacted with so many different people from the three ports we visited ... We may not meet again, but they certainly would be remembered as friends always."*

- Excerpts from the journal of former MID Vincent Chan

at sea, and they went to interesting places like Kochi, India; Sattahip, Thailand and Sarawak, Malaysia for their seven week long Midshipman Sea Training Deployment (MSTD) onboard RSS Endeavour.

"We learnt many professional skills like bridge-watch keeping, navigation and Fire Fighting Damage Control onboard the ship. I am quite surprised to receive the Sword-Of-

Also present at the parade was Minister of State for Defence, Mr Cedric Foo, Permanent Secretary for Defence, Mr Chiang Chie Foo, Chief of Defence Force, LG Ng Yat Chung, Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay and some of the Members of Parliament. A total of 373 cadets from the Officer Cadet School (OCS) were commissioned at the parade.



► We made it!



► 2LT Yuan posing proudly with his parents



► All together now... left, right, left...



# NATIONAL DAY PARADE 2004: "A PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY" MARCHES ON...

**EXCITEMENT** and shouts of joy filled the entire National Stadium as Singapore celebrated its 39th National Day Parade (NDP) on 9 Aug. With the theme "A Progressive Society", NDP 2004 hopes to inspire commitment and confidence in Singaporeans for a better future.

The 56,000 strong crowd enjoyed an array of performances from school bands, youth organisations, civil group associations, "Flying Fox" by the Civil Defense Force, rappelling by the Commandos, parachuting of the Red Lions, and the Fly Pass by RSAF. The crowd also participated in some of the performances by using special props that came with their goodie bags. The customary Parade proper and Ceremony segment showcased to our nation the SAF's energetic precision in drills.

This year, three special features were presented. One was the International



*Thank you Mr Prime Minister*

- Keeping a sharp lookout for our people

- Fierce fighting spirit of our youth

Fireworks Festival, held for the first time in Singapore, with teams from Hong Kong, Singapore and the USA. This year also marked the 20th anniversary of the Total Defence Day, where a parade of vehicles was mounted by SAF and SCDF units.

Last but not least, a video tribute,

a first in any NDP, was dedicated to Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong to honour him for his contributions to the nation since taking on the post of Prime Ministership in 1990. The night ended off with the captivating and dazzling fireworks which lit-up the beautiful skyline of Singapore.

Navy News caught up with some of our sailors during their rehearsals for the NDP 2004. The Chief Trainer for the Support Contingent – Navy, was 1WO Nirmal Singh Dhillon. They started In-house training since April and then Joint Component Training from May onwards. Our sailors also formed the number "2" in the TD2000 formation.

Coming from 188 Squadron as Coxswain, 1WO Nirmal said, "It was challenging to put 1100 men in synchronisation and making sure that their turnout, precision and

drills were right on the dot. All units have operational needs, but still, we are able to meet targets and found ways to balance both parade and operational needs. This parade goes to prove that sailors are good at sea, as well as on land like our counterparts and we will overcome the challenges for the big day."



*1WO Nirmal dishing out sound advice on drills*

Other participants were SSG Ho Suet Chye and SSG Aw Eng Soon from 171 SQN and 3SG Kathleen Toh from COSCOM. "Participating in NDP was interesting and we



*Our smart and steady sailors, SSG Aw Eng Soon, 3SG Kathleen Toh and SSG Ho Suet Chye*

are proud to be part of the action. Our ships were very understanding and they catered to our busy schedule. Although we just went sailing a few days ago, we are used to tough training and long hours," laughed the joyful trio.

- GN



*Do The Kallang Wave*





# Unveiling the Hidden DRAGON

Article contributed by 2LT Jonathan Liu

THE crew of RSS Sea Dragon was tasked to put up a lion dance performance during the 2003 Chinese New Year celebrations. But Chief Communications Specialist, SSG Pang Chung Liang suggested to the coxswain, that instead of a lion dance, they should perform a dragon dance, as “we are from Dragon”.

He reasoned that since a dragon dance performance requires more crew, and therefore more cooperation among the men, it would help to build up team spirit amongst the ship crew.

Indeed, the numerous rehearsals that 20-men team embarked on “encouraged and fostered teamwork and discipline”, as the ship’s Commanding Officer, LTC Wong Kim Wah put it. Without any past experiences in dragon dance, the team sought help from external dragon dance associations through their network of friends. With some help from the experts, the team spent time during weekday evenings and weekends rehearsing for the performance.

It was tough at the beginning for the men. Besides sacrificing their personal time, they had to borrow equipment, and even space from anywhere available, for their rehearsals. “We even trained at INTO!” laughed the burly specialist, who is the leader of the ship’s dragon dance team.

Their efforts paid off, with the many warm and complimentary remarks from all

who were at the Chinese New Year celebration. The team was so good that they were invited to perform again, at the end of last year, at the International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEX 2003) opening ceremony for foreign military commanders. This time, the team decided to do the luminous dragon, and rehearsals went underway immediately.

“The luminous dragon requires a more precise execution of movement from the team members. The team practised hard, and even had to go to Changi Naval Base on a Sunday morning before the sun was up, to do a final rehearsal in the dark,” said SSG Pang.

Morale would have been low, if not for the ship’s Commanding Officer. LTC Wong went for almost all rehearsals with his men, armed with snacks and drinks. He was there even on the Sunday morning rehearsal. “We know that our CO will always be behind us,” said SSG Pang.

At IMDEX 2003 opening ceremony, the team gave such an impressive performance that Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay, invited them to join in the cocktail reception after the ceremony, together with the foreign commanders. Subsequently, the team was invited to perform at Changi Naval Base opening ceremony in May 2004, this time to Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Chief of Navy was all praise when

it came to the dragon dance team, which “shows the creativity and fine spirit of the crew”. He commended the team for their well-coordinated performance, and urged them to “keep it up!”

The fine team spirit was displayed not only by the performers, but by the whole ship. Constantly busy during the weekends and weekday evenings rehearsing, the performers had to depend on the rest of the ship crew to help cover their duties. And they helped out without any complaint. Coxswain 2WO Yeo Kee Hoo said, “The crew has come to a common understanding, that this is a whole ship’s effort.”

1SG Vicky, the ship’s Senior Missile Combat Specialist learnt another invaluable lesson from the dragon dance experience – on Chinese culture. Being the only Indian, 1SG Vicky has a sharp ear for Mandarin, and after learning the traditional art of dragon dancing, he has now a greater understanding of Chinese culture. “It is always good to learn a different culture,” quipped the cheery petty officer.

Dragon’s dragon dance team comprises not only the performers or the percussion band. They also include the understanding officers, the willing buddies onboard ship, and the ship’s chef who always whip up a good meal when rehearsals get tough. LTC Wong hopes that the ship will continue their dragon dance efforts so that they can pass the values on to future crew onboard the ship.



# Best of the Best

## RSN Best Ships

Article contributed by CPT Wong Siew Thong Bernard



The honour of receiving the RSN Best Ship Award on SAF Day went to MAJ Lee Weng Foo, CO Vengeance



**E** (for Excellence) on the bridge wing of any RSN ship symbolises more than just the word "Excellence". In the words of Commanding Officer of RSS Vengeance, MAJ Lee Weng Foo, who recently took over command from LTC Alex Yit, "it represents achievements in operation excellence, operations readiness and personnel drilling."

This year's RSN Best Ship Award went to RSS Vengeance. She also walked away with the Fleet Operational Excellence Award. The accolades are a testimony to the hard work, commitment, sacrifice and contributions of each member of the Vengeance family.

On the ship's formula for success, ex-CO, LTC Alex Yit said: "From the onset, we set high standards for ourselves, worked hard to fine-tune our internal processes and made sure we had our fundamentals and basics correct. We communicated these important aspects to the crew and made them realise the value of the things, big or small, that they do everyday."

CO MAJ Lee added, "The most

important factor was that every individual contributed. There was strong camaraderie among the crew. How do we maintain operation readiness? - By always training safely and vigilantly at shore and sea."

Executive Officer, CPT Kwan Boon Wah said that everyone, regardless of their rank whether a chef preparing a meal, or a lookout on watch in the bridge, gave of and did their best all the time - "This is an expectation we set for ourselves."

The road to achieving the Best Ship Award was not an easy one. "There were times when our ship routine and operational tasks were really taxing, but we pulled through together as a ship and grew stronger as a team. No one was left behind," remarked ex-Coxswain, 2WO Johnny Chan.

Leading Navigation Specialist (LNAV), 1SG Leow Siek Chang, commented that there was close working relations amongst the Officers, Warrants and the Specialists, so it was not difficult to get along onboard at all. And having gone through lots of operations together,

they worked hard and bonded as a family.

The ship received the good news of having won the RSN Best Ship Award whilst out on an overseas exercise in late April and she returned a day before RSN Day. The ship was also tasked for numerous operations and foreign exercises during the past year.

When asked about how they felt being away from home so often, the comrade-in-arms of RSS Vengeance unanimously expressed heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to their families and loved ones, and agreed that all would not have been possible without the support and understanding of their families and friends.

Some of the other Best Ships around the RSN were RSS Justice from 182 SQN, RSS Sea Tiger from 185 SQN, RSS Daring from 189 SQN, RSS Endurance from 191 SQN, and RSS Katong from 194 SQN.

Navy News congratulates all the ships and their crew for a job well done this year.







# RSN — The New SAFSA Table Tennis Champion!

IN the history of the SAFSA Table-Tennis Inter-Formation Championship, the team from 3rd Singapore Division (3 Div) had never lost the tournament except once since 1992, to the team from MINDEF. Such was the superb track record that bears testimony on the iron grip by 3 DIV on the game over the years.

Well, 3 Div's unbeatable run had been crushed by our Navy Team on 1 Jun at the Sun Sports Club at Clementi. Yes, we are now the new Champion !!!

The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) Team has through the years, garnered enough respect and recognition such that team members from the other formations joined our supporters, to cheer our team to victory. Team Captain, 1WO Stealth Kho, with his usual cool composure, said, "This is certainly a breakthrough for us, something worth celebrating. All these years, the team members are able to bond well, and the spirit is always high, showing their total commitment."

Ms Winnie Yeo, from Quality Assurance Branch HQ NALCOM,



concurrent, "Since joining the Navy all these years, I do not have the chance to represent the RSN in the team event and the team's best result is second. This year with the rules changed, it has been a long awaited opportunity for me to be in the team, and the victory is sweet. The team is very cohesive. For example, I have SSG Sim Su Woon to train me all along and not just before the tournament, at his own time. It is this kind of spirit that attracted me to want to join the team."

She went on to say that,

although 3 Div has fast and good players, the navy has taught them about adaptability, and ability to assess the situation well. It is this experience that made them beat the better team.

MAJ Tan Hong Teck, the RSN Sports Officer who was present to witness the historic moment, commended the team for their fine performance even under tremendous stress. Then Fleet Commander, COL James Soon, who is the RSN Table Tennis Convenor, congratulated the players for making the RSN proud.

Other than the team achievement, the RSN also clinched most of the open events including being the champions of the Master Singles and Doubles, Veteran Singles and Doubles (with a MINDEF player), and Lady Singles and Doubles (with a lady officer from MINDEF). One of the players, SSG Sim even made it to top three of the Men Singles.

With the Navy fighting spirit high, they hope this feat could spur the rest of the Navy sports participants to go all out to win the SAFSA Sports Championship for the RSN.

Article contributed by MAJ Ng Cheng Sun

## Inter-RSN Air Weapon Competition 2004



**THE** Inter RSN Air Weapon Shooting Competition 2004 was held at SAFRA Yishun – Air Weapons Range on 30 Jul. The Competition was open to all participants who were grouped under NALCOM, FLEET, TRACOM and COSCOM. This also served as a qualifying round for the 2004 SAFSA Inter Formation Air Weapons Competition.

For the Individual event, Ms Sally Kwek did NALCOM proud when she emerged as champion in the Air Pistol (Open



Steady, aim, fire!

Category). Another shooter, SSG David Chan from NALCOM, came in first in the Individual Air Rifle (Open Category) event.

This year, victory was tasted by the shooters from NALCOM and FLEET despite strong challenges from the other formations. The Overall Champion was NALCOM with a total score of 2573. Bravo Zulu! to all shooters who had participated in the Competition.

Article contributed by MSG Kelvin Thio



# RSN WOSPEC Seminar 2004



CWN Choo Thiam Fook receives his letter of appointment from CNV

**THE** RSN Warrant and Specialist seminar this year was held at Tuas Naval Base (TNB) by Naval Warrant Officers Council, for the first time, on 27 Jul.

After a video presentation screening on the development of the RSN WOSPEC Corp, Chief of Navy (CNV), RADM Ronnie Tay, gave his opening address. He touched on topics such as the Frigate Programme, Changi Open House, and gave updates on the changes that the RSN will undergo in the near future. They include the



Full steam ahead team!

formation of a Central Mess in the RSN.

He presented certificates to some of the senior Warrant Officers, including a Letter of Appointment as the Committee member of RSN Central Mess to Chief Warrant Navy Choo Thiam Fook. Various Warrant Officers presented topics covering from the WOSPEC Mentoring Scheme. One interesting presentation was on the recent visit to the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) led by CWN Choo.

CWN Choo Thiam Fook led a three-man delegation to Australia from 18 to 25 Apr to participate in an inaugural Exchange Visit Programme with Warrant Officers of the RAN, which was hosted by Warrant Officer of the RAN, WO David Turner. The delegation consisted of CWO COSCOM, SWO Roger Seow and Coxswain RSS Victory, 2WO Ng Soon Chye.

Part of the visit was to foster close ties with the RAN Warrant Officer corps. During the visit, CWN had professional discussions and exchanges with his counterpart on various training and career management issues. At

Canberra, they made a courtesy call to Chief of Navy RAN, VADM C. Ritchie, and visited the Recruitment Agency and Sailor Career Management Centre of the HQ Departments. The team also visited HMAS Cerberus, the premier training establishment of the RAN.

"The programme has provided my delegation and me with an enriching experience on the professionalism, dedication and values of the WOs and sailors of the RAN. Efforts will be made to share and inculcate the best practices learnt to our WOSPEC corps", said CWN Choo.

The WOSPEC seminar ended with an exciting game of soccer between the WOs and the Specialist, with RADM Tay playing in the WO team, which saw the WO team triumph with a good margin 2-0.



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## Coscom-Hockey Champs

**BEDOK** Camp II Hockey Pitch saw the play-offs of the RSN Inter-Group 6-A-Side Hockey Tournament 2004/2005 with TRACOM, NALCOM, FLEET and COSCOM displaying their sportsmanship and deft hockey skills on 12 and 17 Jul. The tournament also saw the marking of another milestone in RSN and COSCOM's sporting history with COSCOM emerging victors for the first time. This could not have come at better time as COSCOM has just

achieved a first by earning for themselves the Singapore Quality Class award - the first ever for a SAF operational unit.



Through the play-offs, FLEET and COSCOM worked their way up the score table to meet each other in the finals. In the end, COSCOM's good mix of experience, skill and fitness, proved the winner with a final score of 2-0. COSCOM team's ace-player diver PTE Derek Glass Jr also bagged the Top Scorer Award, scoring 5 out of the 10 goals throughout the tournament.

**BRAVO ZULU** to the COSCOM Hockey Team and **KUDOS** to our RSN Hockey Convener, LTC Philip Alvar, and his Organizing Committee for a fun-filled and well-ran tournament.

Article contributed by LTA Adeline Kuah



No sweat underwater?  
Training to defuse a sea mine  
Sure takes more than a flip of the clamshell.

