



AIR FORCE

NEWS

ISSUE 151

RSAF50@HEARTLANDS

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AIR FORCE NEWS

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Being a photojournalist in the Air Force has allowed me to better understand the hard work required to keep Singapore's skies free from threats. Through each and every event I cover, I get a glimpse into the lives of our airmen and women - 'ordinary' Singaporeans who have decided to serve an extraordinary purpose. It is heartening to be able to document these people who safeguard our skies. As recent events have shown us, the RSAF is always ready to be called upon, and it has indeed proven its competence to Singaporeans and the international community. I am proud to chronicle the stories of our World Class People as part of our First Class Air Force.

I am immensely appreciative of being able to document the achievements of our Air Force over the past six months. The opportunity to cover events such as RSAF50@Heartlands has shown me the commitment and excellence of our fellow airmen and women in safeguarding our nation's skies. It has been an eye-opener being a part of the RSAF's Golden Jubilee celebrations thus far, and I look forward to the other celebratory events this year.

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TAN JING HENG /
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PHOTO BY: LCP QIYANG SNG

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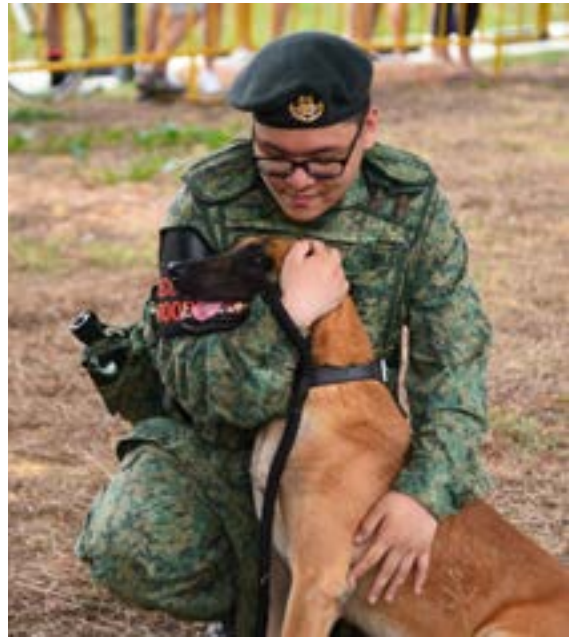
R S A F 5 0 @ H E A R T L A N D S

STORY Edward Sim
DESIGN Qiyang Sng

Although the RSAF's tour around the Heartlands may have ended, fond memories of RSAF50@Heartlands remain with us. From the exciting static displays to the aesthetically pleasing RSAF50 Mural, many of such experiences will resonate with visitors and RSAF personnel alike. Indeed, as the RSAF commemorates its Golden Jubilee, RSAF50@Heartlands not only allowed RSAF personnel to meet with fellow Singaporeans who provided their support over the past 50 years, it also reminded RSAF personnel of their duty in defending Singapore. In this issue, we take a look at the highlights of RSAF50@Heartlands at Punggol, Bedok and Jurong East. With the combined efforts of over 460 RSAF airmen and women, RSAF50@Heartlands welcomed a total visitorship of 224,000 people! Above all, RSAF50@Heartlands could not have been a roaring success if it were not for the support of Singaporeans.

Man's best friend

Military working dogs made an appearance at RSAF50@Heartlands Punggol from 14 to 15 Apr 18 as part of the unique Military Working Dogs Demonstration. The proficient dog handlers of 607 SQN demonstrated how our canine friends could be relied upon to safeguard the security of our air bases. Disciplined and well-trained, the military working dogs worked in tandem with their handlers to put up a good demonstration detecting the scent of explosives and apprehending intruders. In the first phase, a military working dog was tasked to sniff out 'explosives' planted by the public in one of five luggage bags. Upon detecting the luggage with 'explosives', the military working dog would signal the presence of 'explosives' to its handler by sitting down next to the bag. In the second phase, another military working dog and its handler demonstrated how it would handle an uncooperative intruder. These professional dogs not only triumphed against intruders and hidden 'explosives' over the weekend, they also won the hearts of the spectators! Crowds of all ages eagerly sought to take photos with these canine heroes and their professional dog handlers!





Shoot them down

RSAF50@Heartlands Punggol may have brought dogs, but at Bedok, it brought dogfights, figuratively speaking! While the flight simulator made an appearance at all heartlands venues this year, RSAF50@Heartlands Bedok, held from 12 to 13 May 18, truly showed the public how it should be done! Through the flight simulators, a fighter pilot and his wingman engaged the bogeys. During the Air Combat Demonstration, two unidentified aircraft encroached into Singapore airspace, and two fighter aircraft were scrambled to confront the threat. Rushing to the flight simulators, the fighter pilots proceeded to intercept the bogeys. When the two bogeys failed to comply with instructions, the fighter pilots fell back onto their training and swiftly took down the hostile aircraft.





Jamming at the Heartlands

As commercial drone technology advanced, security concerns for the RSAF have also evolved. Keeping abreast with such developments, the RSAF demonstrated its Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems capabilities at RSAF50@Jurong East from 26 to 27 May 18. For the first time, the public could see how the RSAF deployed the drone-catcher and the jammer gun in its two-pronged approach. In the first phase, the drone-catcher deployed to bring down the errant drone, its net entrapping it in the process. During the second phase, the jammer gun operator took steady and concerted aim at the errant drone to disrupt its signal, forcing it to land. The jammer gun operator then worked in tandem with his fellow security troopers to seize and recover the errant drone. Mission Success! *[Unlike an actual firearm, the jammer gun is not a 'fire-and-forget' equipment. Locking on to a target drone while carrying the 20kg pack and the 5kg jammer gun requires finesse and fitness!]*





The show will go on

While the RSAF's Golden Jubilee celebration in the Heartlands may have concluded, our airmen and women continue to work tirelessly to ensure the roaring success of our Golden Jubilee.

"I want to thank all RSAF personnel for being courageous and putting themselves in front of the entire nation to protect all of us and the dedication that they have put into the work that they are doing."

expressed Nicolette Lee, one of the visitors at RSAF50@Heartlands.

Look forward to the RSAF's participation in RSAF50@Marina Barrage on 11 and 12 Aug 18, as we commemorate RSAF50 with an aerial flypast comprising more than 20 RSAF aircraft from more than 10 RSAF platforms, and aerial displays by the F-15SG and F-16C fighter aircraft, as well as Apache attack helicopters!

Air Defence Intercept

STORY Bradley Gerard
DESIGN Qiyang Sng

SCOOTING TO THE DEFENSE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE

5 Apr 18 – Amidst the unassuming midday sky, Singapore Airlines' Scoot Flight TR634 glided through the clouds layering the troposphere as it headed for Thailand. During the flight, a passenger was reported to claim that he had a bomb in his carry-on baggage to a member of the flight crew. In the presence of a purported threat, two F-15SG fighter aircraft were scrambled to escort the plane safely back to Changi International Airport. While this seemed like a routine feat for the RSAF, detailed coordination and a high level of focus was required for mission success.

Gathering intelligence

Intelligence was swiftly gathered in the presence of the threat and the controllers were notified of the situation at hand. With regard to the air traffic and runway considerations during the F-15SG scramble, there was an urgent need to sanitise the airspace for the scrambled aircraft to proceed to intercept the civil aircraft.

F-15SG fighter aircraft are scrambled

In 142 SQN, after being notified of the alleged bomb threat, the scrambled personnel – two F-15SG fighter pilots, CPT Loy Shi Bin and CPT James Chai; and two Weapon Systems Officers (Fighter), MAJ Peter Liow and CPT Chong Qiu Wei, sprang into action to be up in the air as fast as possible. Personnel go through regular and rigorous training to ensure that they are always ready for the task.



PHOTO Lester Lee



Engaging the second line of defence

Simultaneously, the Ground-Based Air Defence (GBAD) was also activated for the scramble. The I-HAWK missile systems and the RBS-70 GBAD systems were deployed swiftly, with the possibility of engaging it in the event that the aircraft deviated from its supposed flight path.

CPT Wilson Ong, an Air Warfare Officer (GBAD), was the On-Site Commander during the scramble, and was responsible for the operational standards and readiness of his men at the deployment site. Sharing his experience about the mission, CPT Ong said, *"We conduct operational training regularly to keep our men vigilant. I am very pleased and heartened that my men showed the urgency and displayed strong operational instincts in meeting the mission. I also believed that these instincts allowed me to remain calm under pressure and guide my team towards mission success."*



Diffusing the situation in the air

The two F-15SG fighter aircraft were up in the air within minutes of being scrambled. Once in flight, the fighter pilots were given instructions to make contact with the airline pilots through the assigned radio frequency and escort the plane back to Changi Airport.

With the multi-layered coordination and operational readiness displayed by our RSAF personnel, the Scoot aircraft was safely and successfully escorted back to Changi Airport. Mission Success!

Adopting a ground-up approach to all missions

Working hand in hand with the pilots, the Flight Line Crew (FLC) prepared the F-15SG fighter aircraft for launch. The Air Force Engineers respectively ensured that the aircraft were operational and ready for take-off, adding efficacy to the pilots' mission.

Clearing the air for action

As the controllers needed to direct the civil aircraft through congested civil airspace into Changi Airport, they coordinated closely with civil controllers, including the Radar and Changi Tower controllers, and ensure that they were aware of the situational game plan.



"When we were activated, my training instinctively kicked in. I performed my FLC tasks as per normal and the synergy of the team allowed us to launch the aircraft like clockwork! Everyone knew what they needed to do. What we accomplished on that day filled me with pride, as I knew that I made a significant contribution to the defence of our nation as an NSF."

**- CPL Wong Jun Ping
Flight Line Crew
142 SQN**

INSIGHT: AIR WARFARE CENTRE

DESIGN Qiyang Sng

ON 5 JUL 18, THE RSAF INAUGURATED THE AIR WARFARE CENTRE (AWC). AS THE NATURE OF AIR WARFARE EVOLVES, THE RSAF MUST CONTINUE TO BE NIMBLE AND EXPLOIT TECHNOLOGIES TO STAY AHEAD OF THE CHANGING DEMANDS OF AIR WARFARE. THE AWC'S MISSION IS TO DELIVER INTEGRATED AND INNOVATIVE WARFIGHTING SOLUTIONS

FOR THE AIR FORCE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE FUTURE. THE AWC CENTRALISES THE ENTITIES THAT THE RSAF NEEDS TO EXPERIMENT, TEST, VALIDATE AND OPERATIONALISE GAME-CHANGING AIR WARFARE CONCEPTS AND CAPABILITIES. IN THIS ISSUE'S INSIGHT, WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE VARIOUS ENTITIES THAT MAKE UP THE AWC.

[DID YOU KNOW?]

- A.** THE TEST & EVALUATION CENTRE EXPERIMENTS AND TESTS NEW WARFIGHTING CONCEPTS AND CAPABILITIES.



- B.** THE ADVANCED TRAINING CENTRE DESIGNS AND CONDUCTS TRAINING EXERCISES TO VALIDATE THE WARFIGHTING CONCEPTS AND NEW CAPABILITIES IN REALISTIC AND CHALLENGING SCENARIOS.



- C.** THE ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW) CENTRE STRENGTHENS EW TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONALISATION FOR THE RSAF AS WELL AS DEEPENS OUR EW CAPABILITIES TO BETTER EXPLOIT EW AS A FORCE-MULTIPLIER.



- D.** THE CAPABILITIES INTEGRATION OFFICE COORDINATES ACROSS MULTIPLE AGENCIES TO OPERATIONALISE AND DELIVER INTEGRATED WARFIGHTING SOLUTIONS FOR THE RSAF.

ILLUSTRATION PIONEER

COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL BRUNEI ARMED FORCES MAKES INTRODUCTORY VISIT TO SINGAPORE

03 April 2018

The Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Major General (MG) Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, conducted his introductory visit to Singapore from 2 to 4 Apr 18.

On 3 Apr 18, MG Pengiran Dato Aminan called on Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen and CDF, MG Melvyn Ong, after inspecting a Guard-of-Honour contingent at MINDEF. As part of his programme, MG Pengiran Dato Aminan visited Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command (UC) at Murai Camp, where he was hosted by COMD UC, COL Lau Boon Ping. MG Ong was also present at the visit.

During the visit, MG Pengiran Dato Aminan was briefed on UC's organisational structure and operations. He then had the opportunity for a hands-on session at the Hermes 450 (H450) Unmanned



Aerial Vehicle (UAV) External Pilot training simulator. This was followed by viewing a static display of the Heron 1 and H450 UAVs before concluding the visit with a plaque exchange.

MG Pengiran Dato Aminan's visit underscores the close and long-standing defence relations between Singapore and Brunei.

FRENCH DELEGATE VISIT TO AFTC

12 April 2018

The French delegation from the Institute for Higher National Defence Studies [Institut des Hautes Etudes de Défense Nationale (IHEDN)], led by LG Bernard de Courrèges d'Ustou, visited the Air Force Training Command (AFTC) on 12 Apr 18, where he was hosted by DY COMD AFTC, SLTC Koi Eng Chew.

The delegation was briefed on the RSAF's operations and capabilities. They also viewed demonstrations of the C3 School RADAR and Tower Simulator and the use of Smart Glasses for Air Force Engineer (Maintenance) training.

The visit was concluded with a token exchange between SLTC Koi and LG de Courrèges d'Ustou, and a photo taking session.



RSAF - TNI AU SENIOR OFFICERS' EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

15-17 April 2018

A delegation from the Indonesian Air Force (TNI AU), led by Deputy Commander, Air Force Education and Training Command, Air First Marshal (AFM) I Nyoman Trisantosa, visited Singapore from 15 to 17 Apr 18 as part of the Senior Officers' Exchange Programme between the RSAF and TNI AU.

On 16 Apr 18, the delegation visited Air Force Training Command (AFTC), where they were briefed on the general structure of the RSAF and how it has evolved throughout the years. They also visited the C3 School Simulator Centre in AFTC and learnt about the technology which the RSAF employs to improve safety standards and efficiency in training.

Following the visit to AFTC, the delegation called on then COS-JS/COS-AS, BG Kelvin Khong, at MINDEF.



SAREX MALISING

25-27 April 2018

The RSAF and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) conducted a new bilateral exercise, the Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) Malsing, from 25 to 27 Apr 18. The first edition of this exercise series is a Command Post Exercise, held at the Multinational Operations and Exercises Centre in the Changi Command and Control Centre.

The three-day exercise, involving Search and Rescue (SAR) planners from the RSAF and the RMAF, provided participants the opportunity to exchange professional knowledge on SAR operations and discuss tactical procedures for combined SAR missions. The exercise also included a planning component for a simulated combined SAR mission. Through these discussions and sharing, the exercise aimed to enhance the cooperation and interoperability between both air forces.



CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, and Chief of the RMAF, General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Hj Affendi bin Buang co-officiated at the opening ceremony of SAREX Malsing on 25 Apr 18. Speaking at the opening ceremony, MG Tan said, *"I believe that the conduct of SAREX Malsing represents another big step forward in the building of strong defence ties between our air forces. This exercise serves as an excellent platform to enhance the interoperability between our air forces, through professional exchanges of our respective SAR practices. More importantly, it promotes cooperation, trust and mutual understanding among our people, which will further strengthen our friendship moving forward."*

ITALIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF MAKES INTRODUCTORY VISIT TO SINGAPORE

16 - 17 May 2018

The RSAF warmly welcomed the Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force (ItAF), LG Enzo Vecciarelli, for his introductory visit to Singapore. LG Vecciarelli reviewed a Guard-of-Honour contingent and called on Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen; CDF, MG Melvyn Ong, and CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, at MINDEF.

During their meeting, MG Tan and LG Vecciarelli signed a revised Technical Arrangement that facilitates the RSAF's continued participation in the ItAF's Advanced Fighter Pilot Training Course. As part of his visit programme, LG Vecciarelli visited Air Force Training Command and Air Force Museum. He also visited Participation Command at Sembawang Air Base.



LG Vecciarelli's visit underscores the warm and growing bilateral defence relations between Singapore and Italy. The RSAF concluded its inaugural flying training deployment to Lecce Air Base in Italy last year. Both air forces also interact regularly through exercises and professional exchanges, which have bolstered the friendship and mutual understanding between the personnel of the two air forces.



NATIONAL CADET CORPS (AIR) AFFIRMATION CEREMONY

03 April 2018

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) (Air) Affirmation Ceremony was held at the Air Force Training Command auditorium on 3 Apr 18. The Affirmation Ceremony is conducted annually to officially induct first-year NCC (Air) Junior Cadets into the NCC family. There were a total of 420 Junior Cadets that attended the ceremony this year. Gracing the ceremony as Guest-of-Honour was Head Air Training, COL Tan Yik.

COL Tan reached out to the Cadets by inspiring them with successful stories of RSAF personnel, encouraging them to stretch their boundaries and enjoy the new NCC (Air) curriculum that has been injected with more military aviation related lessons and flying sessions.



Bevan Yap, an NCC (Air) Cadet from Ang Mo Kio Secondary School, shared his experience in the Singapore Youth Flying Club (SYFC) Work-Up and Introduction to Flight Training (SWIFT) programme with the newly inducted Junior Cadets. The course is open to the top 50 Cadets of the cohort who manage to meet the selection criteria for the SWIFT programme. He said, "Unlike in the simulator, we were able to feel the aircraft move in the direction we wanted it to go. The adrenaline rush as we took and attempted some advanced manoeuvres was something I would never forget. It was definitely a unique experience that has spurred me to attend the Basic Flying Course with SYFC."

CDF VISITS PC

02 May 2018

CDF, MG Melvyn Ong, visited Participation Command (PC) at Chong Pang Camp and Sembawang Air Base on 2 May 18.

PC definitely is Ready, Sustainable and Innovative, as Regulars, NSFs and NSMen maintain 24/7 vigilance over our skies as the frontline of our air defence. Leveraging on technologies such as Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) and simulators, our servicemen hone their ground-based air defence skills in peacetime to ensure operational readiness.

One of the highlights of MG Ong's visit included the AH-64D simulator. This new high fidelity simulator offers game-changing opportunities for the RSAF as it exploits technology to enhance training for AH-64D pilots as well as cross-service training with Ground Forward Air Controllers, revolutionising the way the RSAF fights. This is a key component of the Next Gen RSAF that aims to enable our airmen to fight smarter and leaner.



MG Ong commended PC for maintaining high operational readiness and for their strong emphasis on safety and exhorted them to continuously find ways to improve safety culture and systems in order to ensure safe, realistic and purposeful training outcomes for our airmen.

EXERCISE BERSAMA SHIELD LAND-AWAY

08 May 2018

On 8 May 18, two Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) BAE Hawk fighter aircraft arrived at Changi Air Base (West). Two of the RSAF F-16D+ fighter aircraft from 143 SQN also landed at Kuantan Air Base in Malaysia. These fighter land-aways between the RSAF and RMAF were conducted as part of Exercise Bersama Shield (XBS).

XBS 18 is a major Five Power Defence Arrangements exercise. This exercise is designed to enhance regional security and foster cooperation among its member countries – Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom.





A-4 AIRCREW NIGHT

04 May 2018

A group of A-4 aircrew had a rare opportunity to gather at Tengah Air Base Officers' Mess for a A-4 Aircrew Night on 4 May 18, to catch up with one another and reminisce about the good old days. The aircrew took turns to share stories from their days flying the A-4 and paid respects to their fallen A-4 comrades.

COS-AS, BG Tommy Tan, graced the event and unveiled a commemorative A-4 Slat at the Tengah Officers' Mess, which the A-4 aircrew signed. The aircrew were also given a chance to view an A-4 static display, along with two F-16 aircraft.

Speaking about his fond memories and the close camaraderie forged, LTC (RET) Lester Tan, an ex A-4 Pilot, said, *"The happiest time I had with the A-4 was spending time with my SQN mates. We took care of each other from the top to the bottom, down to the last man of the SQN."*

RSAF CAREER AMBASSADORS' APPRECIATION LUNCH

08 May 2018

An Appreciation Lunch for RSAF Career Ambassadors was held at the Joint Services Officers Mess on 8 May 18. CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, and members of the Formation Commanders Conference were present to extend their appreciation and gratitude to the Career Ambassadors for their contribution to recruitment in Work Year 2017/2018.

The RSAF Career Ambassadors programme allowed personnel from different vocations to represent the RSAF, by engaging and sharing their experiences in the RSAF during recruitment events, so that members of the public would have a deeper insight on the operations of the RSAF.



When asked about her role as a RSAF Career Ambassador, CPT Chong Sengie shared, *"Through my experience at recruitment events, many females find it more beneficial to speak to me as they are able to understand the challenges I faced physically and mentally while going through my military training."*



AIDE-DE-CAMP APPOINTMENT CEREMONY

10 May 2018

The Aide-de-Camp (ADC) Appointment Ceremony 2018 saw 103 Honorary ADCs appointed from across the SAF, Singapore Civil Defence Force and Singapore Police Force, of whom 20 ADCs were from the RSAF.

During the ceremony, the ADCs received their appointment certificates from President Halimah Yacob in the presence of Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen; CDF, MG Melvyn Ong; CNV, RADM Lew Chuen Hong; senior Officers, and family members.

As Honorary ADCs, these Officers will assist Full-Time ADCs in the planning and execution of Presidential and State functions, and serve as liaison officers to VIPs as well as Masters of Ceremonies at official events.



Of the 20 RSAF Officers, 18 had already served as Honorary ADCs for at least a year, while two were newly appointed. One of the re-appointed Honorary ADCs is Head Personnel Management Branch, Human Resource Management Centre, Participation Command, MAJ Rachel Lim. MAJ Lim, who is the longest serving female Honorary ADC, shared, *"It has been very rewarding and an honour for me to serve the Head of State as an ADC, and because I'm a female Officer, I am very proud to serve as a female Honorary ADC, despite challenges along the way, such as juggling work and caring for my family."*

28TH RSAF NSMEN SEMINAR

11 May 2018

“The achievements made in our Air Force would not have been possible without committed, world-class people: NS professionals like all of you here giving your best, day in day out, to our Air Force.” These were the words of appreciation that CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, had for our NSmen at the 28th RSAF NSmen Seminar.

Held at Air Force Training Command, this annual seminar aims to recognise the contributions of our NSmen and update them on the key developments in the RSAF. Among the 355 attendees was CFC (NS) Jap Chuan Leong, who serves in 6 DA Bn. He shared how touch points such as NSmen Seminar and his unit, help provide a good NS experience for him and his fellow NSmen. He said, *“The trainers and regulars of the unit were always on top of their game and never failed to train us well for the specific In-Camp Training (ICT) objective we were serving, doing the ‘behind the scene’ work, making the ICT experience a smooth one.”*



During the seminar, MG Tan also presented awards to deserving NSmen for their exemplary commitment towards Singapore's defence. LTC (NS) Sebastian Benhur, who is on the Reservist on Voluntary Extended Reserve Service scheme, received a Certificate of Appreciation. *“I am standing up for my country. It is a small country, and we always have our challenges. But I always believe that if you cannot defend what's yours, then it's not yours. That's why I look forward to ICTs.”*

RSAF PRIDE CONVENTION

17 May 2018

The annual RSAF PRoductivity and Innovation in Daily Efforts (PRIDE) Convention was graced by Guest-of-Honour, CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, who delivered an opening address about the initiation of Project SWiFT and the importance of innovation in the RSAF. In his speech, MG Tan mentioned that the PRIDE achievements saved about \$29 million of cost savings and avoidance for the RSAF.

COMD Air Defence and Operations Command, COL Gaurav Keerthi, who was also appointed as the first Chief Innovation Officer in the RSAF, explained how innovation should play a critical role not just in our personal lives, but in our work lives as well. A primary step towards this was to initiate a 'paper-less' RSAF.

The event took place at the Air Force Training Command Auditorium. This year's event also saw the first RSAF Pitch Challenge – where ground units were invited to present ideas to compete for funding support and time.



There were a total of 15 pitches presented by various SQNs, and the winner of the RSAF Pitch Challenge was Team 11, represented by ME3 Ang Lay Yim. The product pitched was a prototype that featured voice recognition functions, and allows personnel to access digital files with voice command. It also featured an 854 by 480 pixel display screen and a 16 megapixel camera, which enables personnel to conduct quick and efficient pass scans for security clearances. ME3 Ang and her team walked away with \$50,000 to further develop this prototype over the next few months.

Another highlight of the event was the Innovation Learning Seminar, which had guest speakers share about various ways technological innovation can improve efficiency in the RSAF.



CAF VISITS 6 AELG

18 May 2018

On 18 May 18, CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, visited 6 Air Engineering and Logistics Group (AELG), where he was hosted by COMD 6 AELG, ME7 Hoo Soo Pin. During the visit, MG Tan was updated on 6 AELG's daily operations, which was followed by a tour of the group's facilities to view its recent developments. He was also briefed on some ongoing repair processes of the Apache, Chinook and Seahawk helicopters.



The visit concluded with a dialogue session, where MG Tan addressed the queries of 6 AELG personnel and gathered feedback about their experiences in the RSAF. In addition, MG Tan emphasised the crucial role that 6 AELG has in the RSAF and thanked the personnel for their contributions.



SAF NSMEN APPRECIATION DINNER

18 May 2018

"NsMEN contribute in many different ways. What I can see is that as people who work in the corporate sector, we bring different thought processes and ideas into the SAF, and perhaps even thinking beyond the standard operating procedures," said SLTC (NS) Tan Khee Nguang, a volunteer Key Appointment Holder.

SLTC (NS) Tan was among the 101 NSmen who received awards for their service in the SAF at Temasek Club on 18 May 18. COA, BG Goh Si Hou, graced the event as the Guest-of-Honour. COS-AS, BG Tommy Tan, was also present.



Another award recipient from the RSAF was SSG (NS) Toh Hong Seng, a volunteer who served as a Flight Warrant Officer in 160 SQN. When asked about his motivation for extending his service, he said, *"Due to my past experiences during In-Camp Training and since I'm still in my 40s, I felt that I was still able to contribute more, which resulted in my decision to extend my service."*

01/18 JOINT LEADERSHIP COURSE GRADUATION CEREMONY

19 April 2018

Congratulations to our 47 graduates of the 01/18 Joint Leadership Course (JLC)! They were among the 151 graduates who received their certificates from COA, BG Goh Si Hou, at a graduation ceremony held at The Chevrons.

ME2 Wee Guan Xian, an Air Force Engineer from 808 SQN, was one of the five RSAF graduates who received the Distinguished Graduate award. *"The only constant is change. I have challenged my limits in this course, both physically and mentally. What is important is for one to keep an open mind, to be adaptive to situations, and be that leader to make the change on the ground,"* he shared.



The JLC is a 15-week course conducted by the SAFWOS Leadership School, for both Military Experts and Warrant Officers. The course is structured to hone leadership qualities, impart general military knowledge, and promote interaction among personnel from the three Services.

SYFC PRIVATE PILOT LICENSE WINGS AND AVIATION AWARDS CEREMONY

26 May 2018

"Getting the Private Pilot License is a very big accomplishment for me. However, I am looking forward to the next phase of training as Singapore Youth Flying Club is just a small part of my life and I am definitely looking forward to something greater in the future," said REC Crystal Khor Huan Ni, one of the 33 graduands from the Private Pilot License (PPL) Course from the Singapore Youth Flying Club (SYFC).

Apart from the PPL course graduands, Aviation Awards and Teacher's Recognition Awards were also given out at the presentation ceremony on Saturday. Senior Minister of State for Defence, Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, officiated at the ceremony and presented the Wings and Awards to the deserving recipients. CAF, MG Mervyn Tan and COS-AS, BG Tommy Tan were also in attendance.



Set up in 1971, the SYFC provides an opportunity for young Singaporeans to pursue their passion for flying at a young age and offers a good foundation for them to realise their dreams as pilots in the RSAF.

02/18 RSAF COMBINED GRADUATION CEREMONY

23 May 2018

After months of intensive and rigorous training, 179 Air Force graduates received their certificates, vocational badges, and ceremonial swords from COS-AS, BG Tommy Tan, at the 02/18 RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony. In his address to the graduates, BG Tan said, *“As you go about your daily work, always remember that our mission is to ensure that our family, friends, and fellow Singaporeans can go about their daily lives in peace and security.”*

ME4T Ang Zhan Phung, the best trainee from the 6th Military Domain Expert Course (Air Operations and Systems Expert), highlighted what spurred him on to overcome his tough training. He said, *“There were certainly many ups and downs throughout the course, but it was the camaraderie that got me through tough times.”*



The ceremony concluded with the symbolic mixing of the Air Force Spirits led by COMD Air Force Training Command, COL Kevin Goh. Congratulations to all our graduands, and we wish you all the very best in your Air Force journey ahead!

RSAF BURSARY & MERIT BURSARY AWARDS CEREMONY

31 May 2018

“I am grateful to be in an organisation that builds its core around its people. Awarding bursaries to our children is a form of motivation for them to excel in their studies. It goes to show how much emphasis the RSAF puts on its people and their families,” shares ME3 Lee Wai Mun from 805 SQN.

His children, Misha and Galen, received the Bursary Award from CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, at the RSAF Bursary & Merit Bursary Awards Ceremony.

This year, a total of 110 Bursary Awards and 22 Merit Bursary Awards were awarded to the children of our airmen and women in recognition of their academic and non-academic achievements.





35TH SPECIALIST CADET GRADUATION PARADE

24 May 2018

Congratulations to the 1,038 Specialist Cadets who have graduated as Specialists of the SAF after completing the 22-week Specialist Cadet Course! Of these cadets, 66 were from the RSAF. Held at Pasir Laba Camp on 24 May 18, Senior Minister of State for Defence, Mr Heng Chee How, reviewed the parade.

In his speech, Mr Heng stressed the importance of the role that Specialists play as leaders in the SAF, *“As leaders and Specialists of the SAF, the task to defend Singapore from challenges and threats rests squarely upon your shoulders. You must lead by example through your character and competence, empathise with the needs of your soldiers and inspire commitment through engagement.”*

3SG Murugananthan, an Air Defence Systems Specialist from the 86th Basic Air Defence Systems Specialist Course, was the recipient of the Silver Bayonet. When asked about his biggest takeaway from the course, he shared, *“My biggest takeaway from this course is the building of my courage, confidence and to stand firm in my decisions and instructions that I give.”*



Soaring High

Passion and determination secured CPT (Dr) Cheok Liang Jie the Stewart Memorial Prize from King's College London's Diploma in Aviation Medicine



The Diploma in Aviation Medicine is a highly prestigious post graduate course held conjointly by King's College London and the Royal Air Force Centre for Aviation Medicine. The 50th iteration of the internationally recognised course was attended by militaries and civilian participants from around the world.

In September 2017, Air Force Medical Services sent two medical officers, CPT (Dr) Cheok Liang Jie and CPT (Dr) Randy Cheong for the six-month course. Throughout the course, the officers gained more insights on aviation physiology, operational aviation medicine and clinical aviation medicine. On top of the content-heavy curriculum, the course conducted workplace visits to civilian airports, military airbases, accident investigation branches and control towers, as well as practical demonstrations of aircrew training physiology and survival equipment to arm course participants with the required expertise and exposure to be a specialist in Aviation Medicine.



CPT (Dr) Cheok also emerged as the top performing student of the course, and was awarded the prestigious Stewart Memorial Prize for his achievement. He noted that a key factor in allowing him to attain the achievement was the experience provided by the RSAF before the course. After commissioning from the Medical Officer Cadet Course in 2016, CPT (Dr) Cheok joined the RSAF and held the appointment of Officer in Command of Paya Lebar Medical Centre, before moving on to become a Project Officer in the Crew Safety and Flight Environment Branch in Aeromedical Centre in 2017. Being in the air base's Medical Centre, CPT (Dr) Cheok was able to broaden his clinical exposure to aircrew and flying-related vocations, as well as learn how to respond to various airbase emergencies. In his appointment at Aeromedical Centre, he was given the opportunity to help plan and facilitate physiology training programmes for aircrew, experience aircrew training equipment and oversee projects for the acquisition and implementation of safety equipment and standards. These allowed him to grasp concepts much faster due to the prior knowledge from work. He said, *"My time in the RSAF has been extremely nurturing, as I was fortunate to receive guidance and mentorship from capable and supportive superiors. This allowed me to mature professionally, both as an officer and a doctor, and provided me with the confidence to carry out my assigned duties proficiently. The opportunities presented to me have also trained me on how to think critically as well as carefully analyse situations before coming up with appropriate actions and plans."*

After returning from the course, CPT (Dr) Cheok has taken on greater responsibilities as a qualified aviation medicine practitioner, providing specialist medical care to aircrew and flying related vocations, as well as assessing applicants and operational aircrew for their fitness to fly. He also uses his specialist knowledge to develop training paradigms for the RSAF, such as the Dynamic Flight Simulator (DFS) programme that would propel Singapore into the forefront of aviation physiology training worldwide. The DFS is an upgrade to the current method of High G tolerance training for fighter pilots in the human centrifuge, allowing them to control the centrifuge arm to enhance training realism and increase operation relevance. He also represented the RSAF on the world stage, being able to present the RSAF's research findings at the 89th Aerospace Medical Association Annual Scientific Meeting in Dallas, Texas.

Congratulations to CPT (Dr) Cheok for his achievements!



Generation to Generation

ME3 Thangarajoo shares his rich journey as an Air Force Engineer of 43 years, as well as his hopes for the next generation

I am ME3 Thangarajoo, an Air Force Engineer (AFE), and I am retiring from the RSAF in June 2018 after serving for 43 years. My Air Force journey started in Jul 1975 when I was posted to Air Engineering Training Institute for training after my BMT.



My years in the Hunter SQN

I was posted to 140 SQN in Tengah Air Base in Jun 1979. I joined the SQN at an exciting period when the Hunter fleet was upgraded by Lockheed Aircraft Services Singapore (LASS) and preparing for National Day. We gave our best to have the maximum number of aircraft in the air. It was an awesome feeling to see our hard work pay off and witness the spectacular sight of 35 to 40 Hunters flying over the airbase in a single formation to celebrate the success of our nation. While it was exciting to work on the fighter platforms, we had our fair share of challenges. Having lived through the incidents of yesteryears, I am truly appreciative of the safety culture that is part of the DNA of today's RSAF.

Years later, the Hunters were de-commissioned, and it was during this crossroads of my career that I joined the UAV world.

My years in the UAV World

Moving into the UAVs in 1993, the then Tactical Air Support Command (TASC) was inducting the new Searcher platform. Through the training for the Searcher, I learnt a lot about what it takes to induct a new platform. In the early years of Searcher UAV, we encountered many cases of momentary engine Rotation per Minute (RPM) drops during launch. This affected the mission success as the UAV needed to be towed back for further investigation. Then, I was the Flight Warrant Officer of the Composite

Work Force in Air Logistics Sqn and responsible to investigate. We found out that the momentary RPM drops were due to the vaporization of the fuel due to the high ambient temperature. Following this discovery, we implemented a five-minute engine refreshment cycle when operating at idle power for prolonged periods on ground as a measure to reduce the chances of the fuel vaporising and this reduced the occurrences of momentary RPM drops significantly. These challenges allowed me to stretch myself and hone my competencies as an AFE. The lessons learnt were invaluable and I would always make it a point to impart them to the junior AFEs under my charge.

The UAVs will always have a place in my heart as it was in the UAV community that I had the privilege to contribute to the transformation of the RSAF over 25 years. It has been a remarkable journey and I am proud to have played a part having served many appointments in both the flying and maintenance squadrons.

My Son in the Air Force

My eldest son Sathiyam was called up to do his National Service after his A Levels and was enlisted into the Naval Diving Unit (NDU). He was inspired by the values and ethos of the military and initially signed on as a Naval Officer. Upon graduation as a Naval Officer in the NDU, I urged him to try out for the pilot selection. He was selected and was posted to 121 SQN to fly the Fokker 50 after his training concluded.



I am proud to have a family member serving in the Force and contributing to the defense of Singapore. He received the SAF Overseas Service Medal in Aug 11 for his service in Ops Blue Sapphire (Air) to support the international counter-piracy efforts undertaken by Combined Task Force 151 in the Gulf of Aden.

I am thankful for being able to serve in Singapore's defense for the last 43 years and experienced the RSAF's transformation into the formidable force that we are today. Likewise, the RSAF has seen me mature from a young man to being married with three kids and now a grandfather to three grandchildren. It has been an incredible journey and I am truly grateful for the priceless experiences and being part of the Air Force Story.



COMD AIR COMBAT COMMAND CHANGE-OF- COMMAND

16 April 2018

On 16 Apr 18, the command of Air Combat Command (ACC) was handed over from BG Tommy Tan to COL Ho Kum Luen at a Change-of-Command Parade held at Changi Air Base (West). The parade was witnessed by CAF, MG Mervyn Tan.

Outgoing COMD ACC, BG Tan, joined the RSAF in 1989 and is a fighter pilot by training. Since then, he has held several command and staff appointments, such as CO 145 SQN and Group Head in Joint Operations Department.

Incoming COMD ACC, COL Ho, joined the RSAF in 1998 and is a fighter pilot by training. Since then, he has held several command and staff appointments, such as CO 143 SQN and DY Head Air Operations.





SNEAK PEEK: RSAF50@MARINA BARRAGE

Are you a fan of aerial displays and flypasts? Ever wanted to see a grand display of RSAF aircraft coming together? For the next chapter of the RSAF's Golden Jubilee celebrations, we have put together a special show; an array of aerial prowess to showcase the operational readiness of our Air Force, coming to you this August at the Marina Barrage!

