

AIRFORCE

NEWS

ISSUE 153 

**OUR HOME
ABOVE ALL**

**HONOURING THE PAST
CELEBRATING THE PRESENT
INSPIRING THE FUTURE**

AIR FORCE NEWS

AFN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman

COL Koh Ee Wen

Members

LTC Lily Foo
LTC Koh Boon Tih
LTC Cecilia Ong
LTC Tan Giam
LTC Michael Wong
LTC Tan Chuan Yeong
Ms Heng Ai Buay
Ms Loh Seok Chen

Editors

SLTC Melvyn Tan
MAJ Ang Khim Seng

Assistant Editor

Ms Ng Yun Wen

Staff Writers & Photographers

CPL Qiyang Sng
CPL Remus Joel Wong
LCP Bradley Gerard
LCP Lionel Ko
LCP Bryan Wong
PTE Teo Shun Quan



Like us on Facebook!

Facebook.com/TheRSAF

Follow us on Twitter & Instagram!

@TheRSAF | #TheRSAF

We Value Your Feedback!

If you have any feedback or comments about Air Force News, please email afn@defence.gov.sg

The opinions and views herein are those expressed by the writers and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) or the Ministry of Defence. The materials in Air Force News are not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the written consent of the RSAF.

FEATURED WRITERS



As I round up the final chapter of my days in the RSAF, I fondly recall the airmen and women who have served our nation with passion and heart. With the added incentive of contributing to the eventful RSAF50 celebrations, participating in Exercise Wallaby 17 and Pitch Black 18, and a plethora of countless other events, I sincerely hope that through my photos and articles, I have left my own indelible mark on our RSAF's 50 year story.



I am immensely appreciative for the opportunity given to be a photojournalist in the Air Force. Through the past five months, I was able to hone my personal interest in photography through coverage of RSAF events. With each event, I witnessed the passion and dedication of our airmen and women and look forward to being able to showcase more interesting aspects of the RSAF through different platforms.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RSAF50 Parade	4
ASEAN Air Chief Conference	8
Lookback at RSAF50	10
Exercise Wallaby	16
Insight: A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport	21
Our Valued Partners	22
Happenings in the RSAF	24
Awards & Ceremonies	33
My Air Force Story	38
Change of Command	39

04



10



16



34



38

STORY Bradley Gerard
DESIGN Qiyang Sng

1ST SEPTEMBER 2018 HONOURING THE PAST CELEBRATING THE PRESENT INSPIRING THE FUTURE





Exactly 50 years after the Singapore Air Defence Command was inaugurated in 1968, the RSAF50 parade was held in Tengah Air Base to close off the year-long RSAF50 celebrations.



Tengah Air Base - Splintering sunrays danced on the tarmac, polishing the RSAF's assets, which were parked on display in full force before the anticipating guests. The parade marching contingent was lined up and ready, amidst a backdrop of the RSAF's assets. 50 years had finally come down to this historic day.



“Ultimately, the RSAF’s success is not measured by the number of battles it has won, but by peace that you have guarded and maintained - day in, day out, year after year. Because every day of peace that Singapore enjoys is a testament to the effectiveness of our deterrence, diplomacy, and our defence.” These were Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong’s stirring words of reflection as he addressed the RSAF50 Parade as the Guest-of-Honour.

The RSAF50 Parade was attended by about 1,400 invited guests, including Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen; Senior Minister of State for Defence, Mr Heng Chee How; CDF, LG Melvyn Ong; CAF, MG Mervyn Tan; ASEAN Air Force Chiefs; Defence Attachés; senior SAF Officers, as well as servicemen and women from the RSAF.

In celebration of the RSAF’s cornerstone - its pioneers - a mobile column was led by nine RSAF pioneers as a reminder of their contributions and sacrifice for our Air Force. The pioneers received a standing ovation and salute from the guests present, reaffirming the current generation’s gratitude to those who built the RSAF to what it is today. The parade concluded with an aerial flypast of 20 aircraft to signify the might and competency of the RSAF.



Following the parade, PM Lee visited the legacy systems display, where he interacted with the pioneers at their respective aircraft. One of them was LTC (RET) Leo Tin Boon, who shared with PM Lee his personal experience in piloting the UH-1H helicopter. There was also a TA-4SU Super Skyhawk, an F-5S Tiger II fighter aircraft and a Scout 700 Remotely-Piloted Vehicle on display.

PM Lee then unveiled the RSAF50 Commemorative Mural, which was formed by 50,000 photographs contributed by members of the public since the start of the RSAF50 celebrations in Feb 18, signifying their support for the RSAF.

The RSAF's newly acquired A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport (A330-MRTT) aircraft also made its first appearance on static display. PM Lee toured the A330-MRTT and was briefed on its capabilities. The RSAF's transition from the KC-135R Stratotanker to the A330-MRTT marks its advancement to the future, looking ahead towards the next 50 years.

The parade also marked the end of the year-long celebrations for the RSAF's Golden Jubilee, aptly capping off what started exactly 50 years ago, as a group of individuals came together to create a reputable air force and put the nation's defence first. When asked about how she felt to be participating in the parade marching contingent, ME1 Jane Ng from 808 SQN said,

"It feels really amazing because this is my first time participating in a parade of such a scale, and I feel very honoured and grateful to be given this opportunity. When I was younger, I remembered seeing an Air Force woman in her uniform, and the way she carried herself with such poise and confidence stuck with me throughout the years and was one of the main reasons why I decided to join the Air Force."

"As we celebrate the RSAF's 50th anniversary, we begin to write the new chapter of our next 50 years and beyond. Let the achievements be represented by our capabilities on display and the pride of our airmen and women on parade today, only a prelude to even greater heights that we will soar to in the defence of Singapore." - CAF, MG Mervyn Tan



‘ASEAN Air Forces: Strengthening Friendships and Enhancing Regional Security’. That was the theme for this year’s ASEAN Air Chiefs Conference (AACC). First established in 2004, the AACC helps to provide a key platform for the various ASEAN Air Chiefs to discuss military aviation issues. The 15th AACC was hosted by the RSAF on 1 Sep 18, coinciding with the parade held to commemorate the RSAF’s 50th anniversary. The conference was attended by ASEAN Member States - Air Chiefs from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Deputy Chief of the Air Force Department, Lao People’s Army.



This year's AACC provided a platform for the ASEAN Air Chiefs to finalise the implementation of a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations, and new guidelines for preventing terrorism in the region.

ASEAN Air Chiefs Conference

STORY Lionel Ko
DESIGN Qiyang Sng

“The AACC serves as an important avenue for us to collaborate so that we can jointly prepare and be ready to address these security challenges when the need arises. As the RSAF moves into the next 50 years and beyond, we remain committed to strengthening our friendship and fostering greater cooperation amongst the ASEAN Air Forces,” said CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, during his opening address at the AACC.

The conference concluded with the establishment of a common ASEAN Air Force Counter-Terrorism Hotline, and a new SOP for HADR. The hotline serves to provide more efficient detection of threats and terrorist activities through information sharing and cooperation. The new and improved SOP - which includes having a uniformed prefix in the aircraft callsigns for the conduct of HADR operations - will equip ASEAN Air Forces with the ability to respond more swiftly to provide much needed support for HADR operations.



A look at

STORY Remus Joel Wong
DESIGN Qiyang Sng

Look back RSAF50



As 2018 drew to a close, one cannot help but look back on defining moments in the momentous year of #RSAF50 celebrations. From RSAF50@Singapore Airshow 2018, to the RSAF50 Parade, it was truly an action-packed year. So come fly with us as we take you down memory lane to relive the best of #RSAF50.

RSAF50@Singapore Airshow 2018

The RSAF's participation in the biennial Singapore Airshow kick-started the year-long celebrations with a bang! Coinciding with the RSAF's Golden Jubilee, it was indeed the perfect opportunity for the RSAF to showcase its many milestones over the past 50 years, overcoming trials and tribulations to become one of the leading air forces in the region.

Heating up the skies over the Changi Exhibition Centre were our very own integrated aerial display team. Comprising one F-15SG and two F-16C fighter aircraft, the team flaunted 15 exhilarating manoeuvres, dazzling the crowd with high degrees of precision and coordination.

But spectacular aerial displays were not the only highlight of RSAF50@SA18; visitors also had a chance to dive into the history of the RSAF through the immersive exhibits in the RSAF Pavilion, as well as view the RSAF's aircraft and weapon systems on static display up close.

The momentous event also saw the unveiling of the RSAF50-themed F-15SG fighter aircraft by President Halimah Yacob.



RSAF50@Heartlands

The RSAF50 festivities continued in full swing as we ushered the celebrations into the Heartlands from March to May 18. Spanning five locations - Toa Payoh, Sembawang, Punggol, Bedok and Jurong East - over the three months, visitors who popped by were treated to an array of static and interactive displays, learning about their capabilities by interacting with the RSAF personnel who operate them. Visitors were also given the opportunity to contribute to the RSAF50 Mural that gathered over 50,000 photos contributed by the public featuring different animated backgrounds.

Furthermore, each of the RSAF50@Heartlands exhibitions brought unique capability demonstrations to members of public, such as the Military Working Dogs demonstration at the Punggol site and the Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems demonstration at Jurong East.



RSAF50@Marina Barrage

The momentous RSAF50 celebrations reached a climax at the RSAF50@Marina Barrage event. With a turnout of more than 44,000 over the weekend of 11 and 12 Aug, our airmen and women brought more than 30 minutes of non-stop action per show for our visitors.

The RSAF50@Marina Barrage was split into three major segments - the Sequential Flypast; the Aerial Display segment comprising a pair of Apache attack helicopters and the three-ship F-15SG and F-16C fighter aircraft team, and the Finale Bomb Burst by five F-15SG fighter aircraft. The extravaganza saw the participation of 23 aircraft over five different waves!



RSAF50 Parade

Drawing the entire year's extravaganza to a close, a parade was held at Tengah Air Base on 1 Sep 18 to mark the RSAF's 50th anniversary. Themed "*Honouring the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Inspiring the Future*", the parade included 10 Marching Contingents, a Mobile Column led by RSAF pioneers, 20 aircraft and weapon systems on static display, and a flypast of 20 aircraft. The parade also saw the debut appearance of the A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport (A330-MRTT) aircraft.

To sum it up, all of this wouldn't have been made possible without the support of our fellow Singaporeans. Thank you once again for your unwavering support for the RSAF over the years. Buckle up and sit tight as we continue to bring you more jet-setting action for the next 50 years and beyond. Above all!



Exercise Wallaby

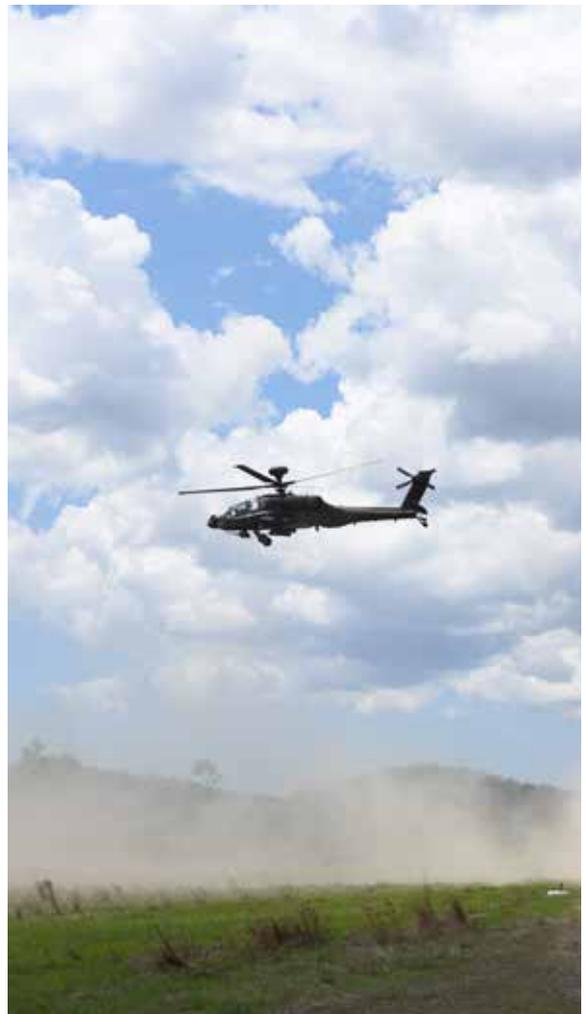
STORY Bryan Wong
DESIGN Qiyang Sng

The afternoon sun hung high above Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA), beating down on the weathered and scarce vegetation that continued on for miles.



The temperature was at an all-time high of 37°C, but that did not deter CFC Lim Sheng Yuan and his crew from performing their duties meticulously. CFC Lim, an RBS-70 operator from 3 DA Bn, was surveilling the skies for any low-flying enemy threats using the V200-mounted RBS-70 system. Sharing the benefits of training here at Exercise Wallaby (XWB), CFC Lim said, *“This exercise has given us new insights to the potential of our vehicles. It has also raised the proficiency of the gunners and signallers as we are no longer fazed by new environments. Our drivers also received a big confidence boost as they can now navigate through harsh terrains with ease.”*

Other Ground-Based Air Defence (GBAD) assets that were deployed in this year’s exercise included the Mounted-Portable Search and Target Acquisition Radar (MPSTAR), the System for Hybrid Interceptor Knowledge of Recognised Air (SHIKRA) radar and the Air-Land Tactical Control Centre (ALTaCC) system. Both the MPSTAR and SHIKRA radars provide low-level air surveillance, while the ALTaCC system helps provide Air-Land units with a common operating picture, allowing commanders to make faster and more effective decisions, synergising operations to achieve mission success.



Conducted from 19 Sep to 17 Nov 18 at SWBTA, Rockhampton, Australia, XWB is a large-force integrated SAF exercise, involving more than 950 participants and 38 assets from the RSAF. XWB 18 marked the RSAF's 25th anniversary of training together with the Army and Navy to achieve mission success, which goes to show the importance of this exercise in enhancing and honing the operational readiness of personnel from across the three Services.

“This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Air-Land integrated training at XWB. The vast training airspace and extensive terrain in SWBTA has enabled us to grow XWB into the premium Air-Land exercise of today. Every year, units from both the RSAF and our Army look forward to the opportunity to train together in the realistic setting with complex scenarios that XWB offers,” said Air Director of XWB, COMD Participation Command, BG Jonathan Tan.



Since its inaugural participation in 2013, the Heron 1 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) has been playing an integral role in XWB by providing timely and actionable intelligence for the Army to assist them in their land battle. Beyond aerial surveillance, the Heron 1 UAV also participates in cooperative lasing operations with the Apache attack helicopters. This not only increases the accuracy of their strike operations, but also allows them to better engage time-critical targets.

For the first time in XWB, the Heron 1 UAV leveraged its full Automatic Take-Off and Landing capability. With the Heron 1's Auto Taxi capability successfully validated, the Air Force Engineers would no longer need to tow the aircraft to its take-off position, reducing man-hours and minimising risk exposure for them.

CPT Ooi Liwen, a Heron 1 UAV Pilot from 128 SQN, elaborated on the challenges that they faced in XWB, *“The terrain and types of targets that we are detecting, classifying and recognising contrast to those back home. Singapore is very urbanised whereas SWBTA is an open terrain with vast stretches of land and mountain rangers. There are fewer features to reference when navigating one sector to another.”*



Since 2000, our reliable Chinook helicopters have been a staple of the exercise, and they obtain value from XWB by taking part in a variety of mission types that promote Air-Land-Sea integration. From carrying out troop lifts and insertions to performing heavy-duty underslung missions, the Chinook helicopter does it all.

ME1 Clemens Harry Tanujaya is a Flight Engineer from 127 SQN, currently deployed at Oakey Detachment. During his deployment in XWB, he was the 2IC for the flight line crew and worked closely with the Pilots and Aircrew Specialists to ensure that operational objectives could be achieved. His primary role was to ensure the airworthiness of the aircraft, monitor aircraft systems throughout all phases of the mission as well as perform duties as an integral member in a multi-crew environment. He shared about the value of training in XWB, *“For me, this is an opportunity to strengthen the considerations that go into ensuring operations are sustainable, with the limited resources and manpower. For my unit, we are part of a complex environment with many moving parts and these mission scenarios in XWB help us to train with realism and identify opportunities for improvement in carrying out our missions.”*



Similarly, our Super Puma helicopters were on 24/7 standby throughout the exercise, performing troop lifts and Heli-Vac missions at moments' notice. Our Apache attack helicopters also participated actively in this year's exercise. The versatile helicopter is the first helicopter developed specifically for day, night and adverse-weather combat missions, and they act as a form of force multiplier for Air-Land missions. With their huge arsenal of weapons, they help to escort their more vulnerable counterparts - Chinook helicopters carrying heavy loads, and also ground troops that are making their way into new territory. During the course of the exercise, the C-130 transport aircraft were also tasked to conduct round the clock tactical airdrops, a way to deliver supplies and equipment to a designated location for troops when there are various geographical obstacles to be bypassed. They also trained in tactical arrival and departures as well as manoeuvres against simulated GBAD threats.



In conjunction with XWB, Exercise Trident (XTD), the signature bilateral joint military exercise between the SAF and Australian Defence Force, was conducted from 31 Oct to 14 Nov 18. The exercise saw more than 1,300 participants from both armed forces.

The highlight of XTD 18 was a ship-to-shore operation, which was jointly executed by troops from the SAF and ADF. This iteration of the exercise saw the participation of the RSAF's Super Puma and Chinook helicopters, alongside the RSN's Endurance-class Landing Ship Tank (LST) RSS Resolution, and Fast Craft.

Upon the commencement of the mission, the troops were transported by RSS Resolution towards the beach, where the mission's objectives were to be carried out. Leading the two-pronged assault were the advance party troops, comprising personnel from both ADF and SAF, on the Super Puma and Chinook helicopters, flying towards the seashore at SWBTA to secure the beach. The SAF and ADF troops were then transported from the RSS Resolution to the beach via Fast Craft. After the troops successfully secured the beach, they regrouped with the advance party to secure their next objective.



Sharing about the value of XTD, Air Director for Exercise Trident, SLTC Maxmillion Goh said, *"By having our airmen, sailors and soldiers all together within one arena, we go through a very deliberate planning and coordination process to make sure we develop a close understanding of each other's platforms, capabilities and operational requirements... this is where we see the real value of Exercise Trident."*

Senior Minister of State for Defence, Mr Heng Chee How, and Australia Assistant Minister for Defence, Mr David Fawcett, visited the troops participating in the exercise on 10 Nov 18. As part of their visit, they flew on board the Super Puma helicopter and also went on board RSS Resolution, learning more about their operations from the participants. *"Exercise Trident is a demonstration of the closeness of our defence relations and is something that has gone back decades. It will grow even stronger in the future, so I am very thankful that the Australian government has been such a close partner to us,"* shared Mr Heng, reaffirming the close and long-standing defence ties Singapore has with Australia.



Insight: A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport

STORY Teo Shun Quan
DESIGN Qiyang Sng

The Airbus A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport (A330-MRTT) is an advanced tanker aircraft that can conduct Air-to-Air Refuelling and airlift missions simultaneously. The A330-MRTT can also be used for aeromedical evacuation missions and Peace Support Operations.

Operated by 112 SQN, the A330-MRTT replaces the ageing KC-135R Stratotanker that has been in operation in the RSAF since 2000. With better cargo, passenger and fuel capacity, the A330-MRTT will extend the endurance of our fighter aircraft and also enable the RSAF to be more efficient in meeting our operational demands.

Cruise Speed: Mach 0.86	Range: 8,000 nautical miles
Service Ceiling: 41,500 ft	Max Fuel Weight: 245,000 lbs
Max Personnel Capacity: 266 personnel	Max Cargo Capacity: 82,000 lbs
Engines: 2 Rolls-Royce Trent 772B	Wing Span: 198 ft 10 in
Overall Length: 193 ft 8 in	Overall Height: 57 ft



Did you know?

Enhanced Air-to-Air Refuelling Capabilities:

The A330-MRTT can carry 245,000 lbs of fuel for both its own use and to offload to the receiver aircraft.

The Universal Aerial Refuelling Receptacle Slipway Installation allows the A330-MRTT to receive fuel from another tanker aircraft.

Increased Airlift Capabilities:

The A330-MRTT can carry up to 82,000 lbs of cargo or 266 personnel. This allows the aircraft to be more flexible in providing assistance in a wide range of airlift missions.



BRUNEI DM II INTRO VISIT TO UC

15 August 2018

As part of his introductory visit to Singapore, Brunei Defence Minister II, Pehin Datu Lailaraja MG (RET) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohammad Yussof, visited Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command (UC) at Murai Camp, where he was hosted by CAF, MG Mervyn Tan.

UC is responsible for developing and executing Air Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (AISR) tasks through integrating UAV operations and UAV imagery interpretation and analysis to support the SAF's missions.



In addition to learning about UC's mission and organisational structure, Pehin MG (RET) Halbi visited both the Heron 1 UAV Mission Trainer and the Hermes 450 UAV External Pilot training simulator, where various members of the delegation had a hands-on session on the simulator.

He then viewed a static display of the Heron 1 UAV. Pehin MG (RET) Halbi capped off his visit by exchanging a plaque with MG Tan and commending the RSAF for its continued excellence.

Pehin MG (RET) Halbi's visit underscores the close and long-standing defence relationship between Singapore and Brunei.



RSAF - TNI AU JUNIOR OFFICERS' EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

28 August 2018

On 28 Aug 18, a delegation from the Indonesian Air Force (TNI AU), led by LTC Tarmuji, visited Singapore as part of the RSAF and TNI AU Junior Officers' Exchange Programme.

As part of the programme, the delegation visited the Air Force Training Command (AFTC), where they were hosted by COMD Air Engineering School, Air Engineering Training Institute, ME6 Koh Yong Meng.



During the visit, participants received a brief on the organisational structure of the RSAF. They also visited the Command, Control and Communications School Simulator and the Virtual Hangar Trainer, where they learned about the technology the RSAF employs to improve efficiency in training and safety standards.

Following the visit to AFTC, the delegation then called on Head Air Intelligence, COL Mark Lim, at MINDEF.

3RD RSAF-TNI AU JOINT FIGHTER WEAPONS COURSE OPENING CEREMONY

06 - 07 September 2018

On 6 Sep 18, the 3rd RSAF-Indonesian Air Force (TNI AU) Joint Fighter Weapons Course (JFWC) Opening Ceremony was held at Paya Lebar Air Base. COS-AS, BG Tommy Tan, co-officiated the ceremony with Wakasau Air Marshal (AM) Wieko Syofyan, Deputy Chief of Air Force, TNI AU.

Head Air Operations, BG Kelvin Fan; COMD Air Combat Command, COL Ho Kum Luen; COMD Air Force Training Command, COL Kevin Goh; COMD Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command (UC), COL Lau Boon Ping; and COMD Fighter Group, COL Sim Peng Shin were also in attendance to receive the arrival of the delegation.

The delegation visited UC at Murai Camp on 7 Sep 18, and was hosted by COL Lau. In addition to learning about UC's heritage and UAV training and operations, Wakasau AM Wieko Syofyan visited both the Heron 1 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Mission Trainer and the Hermes 450 UAV External Pilot training simulator, where they had a hands-on session. The visit ended with a viewing of a static display of the Heron 1 UAV and a plaque exchange.



RAF CHIEF OF STAFF INTRO VISIT

07 - 09 October 2018

Chief of the Air Staff of the Royal Air Force (RAF), Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Sir Stephen Hillier, conducted his introductory visit to Singapore from 7 to 9 Oct 18.

On 8 Oct 18, ACM Hillier visited HQ Air Power Generation Command (APGC) at Paya Lebar Air Base (PLAB), where he was hosted by COMD APGC, BG Gan Siow Huang. During the visit, ACM Hillier was given a brief on the RSAF, Air Combat Command, and the RSAF's Smart Airbase Concept. The visit concluded with a viewing of a static display of the F-15SG fighter aircraft where CO 142 SQN, LTC Shewan Goh, briefed ACM Hillier on the capabilities of the F-15SG fighter aircraft.



On 9 Oct 18, prior to calling on Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, ACM Hillier reviewed a Guard of Honour at the Ministry of Defence, and also called on CDF, LG Melvyn Ong, and CAF, MG Mervyn Tan.

ACM Hillier's visit underscores the close and long-standing defence relationship between Singapore and the United Kingdom.

EXERCISE VALIANT MARK

25 Aug - 15 Sep 2018

The 27th edition of the annual bilateral Exercise Valiant Mark was conducted from 25 Aug to 15 Sep 18. Held in the vast desert plains of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Training Center (MCAGCTC) situated in Twentynine Palms, California, this year's installation saw over 1,000 participants, comprising the RSAF's Peace Carvin II and Peace Vanguard Detachments, United States Marine Corp Aviation, 7th Singapore Infantry Brigade, and the 7th Marine Regiment.

With its vast training area, the MCAGCTC provided an excellent template for large-scale vehicular, mechanised and combined arms manoeuvre training, as well as air-land integrated live-firing exercises in both conventional and urban scenarios. This iteration of the exercise also saw the inaugural participation of the RSAF's Apache attack helicopters, on top of

the F-16C/D fighter aircraft, which provided close air support for exercise troopers in the Air-Land integrated live-firing exercise.

Launched in 1992, this exercise continually underscores the excellent and long-standing bilateral defence relations between Singapore and the USA. Apart from such bilateral exercises, both militaries also engage in a wider range of activities, including professional exchanges and cross-attendance of courses. Such regular interactions have enhanced interoperability and mutual understanding between the two militaries, as well as helped deepen personal and professional ties between their personnel.



RSAF50 APPRECIATION DINNER

14 September 2018

Held at SAFRA Jurong on 14 Sep 18, the RSAF50 Appreciation Dinner was organised to honour the efforts of RSAF personnel for their contributions to the year's RSAF50 celebrations. CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, graced the event as the Guest-of-Honour.

MG Tan delivered the opening address at the dinner, acknowledging RSAF personnel, both past and present, for their dedication towards making this year's RSAF50 celebrations a success. One highlight of the event was when the members of the Formation Commander's Conference gave a toast to all the airmen and women involved in the year.



MG Tan also gave mention to the key events of the year, such as RSAF Family Day organised by Participation Command, RSAF50@Heartlands and Singapore Airshow 18 organised by Air Power Generation Command, RSAF50@Marina Barrage organised by Air Force Training Command, RSAF50 Parade by the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command and the RSAF50 Appreciation Dinner itself, organised by Air Defence and Operations Command.

MG Tan then presented a number of donations by RSAF personnel to numerous charities such as the Asian Welfare Women Association Special School, Singapore Cheshire Home and MINDS - Towner Gardens School, amongst others. Following this was a series of music and dance performances by the talented airmen and women from all over the RSAF.

The evening came to a close with interaction sessions between MG Tan and RSAF personnel where he thanked them personally for their efforts in making the year a tremendous success.

EMPLOYERS' VISIT TO 607 SQN

19 September 2018

“For us to do our businesses - whatever business we are doing, we must have peace and stability within our country. Supporting NSmen is not only that we would like to do, it is something that we should do. That means basically to give a fuller support to our NSmen so that they can focus on their training and reach that higher level of operational readiness,” shared Mr Edwin Pang, the Executive Director at Waste Management & Recycling Association of Singapore, one of the 69 NSmen employers who visited 607 SQN, the Force Protection SQN at Paya Lebar Air Base.

Through the tour and from viewing several demonstrations, attendees gained a deeper understanding of the operations of 607 SQN as well as the training NSmen undergo during their In-Camp Training.

To all our NSmen and active personnel, we salute you for your service!

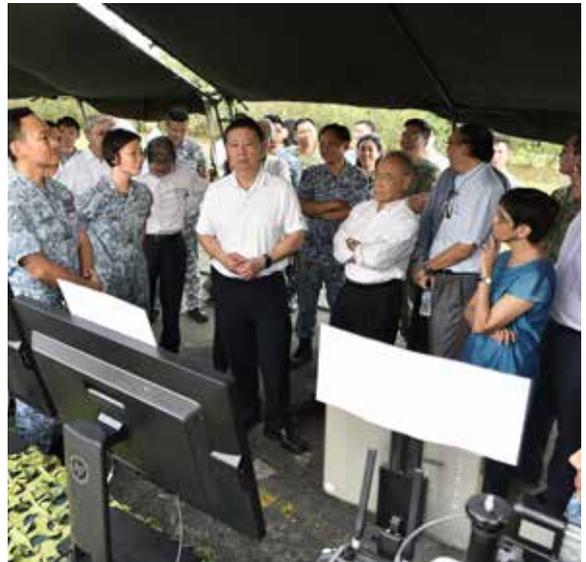


PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION VISIT TO TAB

01 October 2018

As part of the annual update on the SAF's initiatives and challenges, the Public Service Commission (PSC) was hosted to a visit at Tengah Air Base on 1 Oct 18. Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr Chan Yeng Kit; CDF, LG Melvyn Ong; CAF, MG Mervyn Tan; CNV, RADM Lew Chuen Hong, and COS-JS, BG Kelvin Khong, were present at the visit.

Hosted by COMD Air Power Generation Command, BG Gan Siow Huang, the visit gave the PSC the opportunity to understand how the RSAF makes training and operations more effective for airmen and women with advanced technology. The PSC was also briefed on how smart airbase capabilities such as the usage of self-organised drones as well as Runway Repair and Recovery can aid in faster runway damage assessments. Instead of having personnel on the runway to conduct damage assessment, self-organised drones will be utilised to reduce the manpower and time taken for the assessments.



The PSC also viewed a demo of a scramble and take-off of F-16 fighter aircraft and SWiFT projects. One of the projects under the SWiFT initiative was the Aircraft Anti Collision Warning System (AACWS) for the F-16 aircraft, a WIFI-transmitted sensor developed in collaboration with Nanyang Polytechnic to ease the challenges of labour intensive towing of the F-16 aircraft, thereby enhancing operational readiness and better deploying manpower.

CDF VISITS 121 SQN

02 October 2018

CDF, LG Melvyn Ong, visited 121 SQN at Changi Air Base (West) on 2 Oct 18, where he was received by CO 121 SQN, LTC Jerome Tay. Then COMD Transport Group, COL Zakir Hamid was also present during the visit.

121 SQN is home to the Fokker-50 Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) and comprises personnel from both the RSAF and the RSN. During the visit, LG Ong received a brief on the SQN's operational capabilities and its role in defending our skies, after which, he viewed a static display of the Fokker-50 MPA and was briefed on how it facilitates Maritime Air Surveillance operations.

The visit concluded with an engagement session between LG Ong and 121 SQN personnel, where LG Ong thanked the SQN personnel for their dedication towards keeping Singapore safe.



RSAF SENIOR OFFICERS' FAREWELL DINNER

03 October 2018

A farewell dinner for senior RSAF Officers was held at Temasek Club on 3 Oct 18 to honour their contributions during their many years of service. The event was hosted by CAF, MG Mervyn Tan.

During the dinner, MG Tan highlighted the retirees' contribution to the RSAF, and thanked them for their dedication and efforts in shaping the RSAF to how it is today. He then presented mementos to the retirees as a form of appreciation for their hard work over the years.

MG Tan also interacted with the retirees during the event and wished them all the best for their future endeavours.



MINDEF PRIDE SYMPOSIUM

04 October 2018

“*Leading Transformation and Innovation*” was the theme for this year’s MINDEF PRoductivity and Innovation in Daily Efforts (PRIDE) Symposium. The Awards Ceremony was held on 4 Oct 18 at Nanyang Polytechnic and was graced by Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen. Also present at the event were Senior Minister of State for Defence, Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman; Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr Chan Yeng Kit; CDF, LG Melvyn Ong; Chief Executive of Government Technology Agency of Singapore, Mr Kok Ping Soon, who was the Guest Speaker, as well as senior officials from MINDEF and the SAF.

As part of his opening address, Dr Ng emphasised the need to continue bringing in ideas to the SAF. “*We must ride this new wave of technological breakthroughs and push the SAF far ahead to secure Singapore’s future for another generation,*” he said.

The PRIDE Movement works to promote a culture of organisational excellence, innovation and productivity in MINDEF and SAF. This year’s Awards Ceremony saw a total of 67 awards being given to units from the three Services, in recognition of their efforts in achieving savings of more than \$158 million in the last financial year.

Two of the winners from the RSAF were Air Power Generation Command (APGC) and Air Combat Command (ACC), who were awarded the prestigious Minister for Defence Award (MDA).

APGC is the testbed where concepts and prototypes for the RSAF’s Smart Airbases are validated. COMD APGC, BG Gan Siow Huang shared her thoughts on receiving the MDA and MDA (Innovation). She said, “*I think these two awards are a testament to the strong innovation culture and organisational excellence in APGC. It could not have been possible without the hard work and creativity of our people.*”



ME4 Sebastian Zheng, an Air Force Engineer (AFE) from Air Engineering and Logistics Department, whose team won the MINDEF Innovation Project Award for developing an alternative compass swing procedure to calibrate the F-15SG fighter aircraft’s standby compass without the need for a certified compass pad. Sharing his thoughts on how the RSAF built the innovation culture to where it is today, he said, “*The RSAF provides the necessary training for AFEs in order for them to have this idea of innovating, which will allow us to come forward with innovative ideas or prototypes that will eventually help the RSAF in a more productive manner.*”

Congratulations to all award winners and thank you for coming up with new ideas for the RSAF to better safeguard our skies!

CAF VISITS 605 AND 203 SQN

28 Aug & 04 Oct 2018

On 28 Aug 18, CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, visited 605 SQN, the Force Protection SQN of Tengah Air Base (TAB). COMD TAB, COL David Lim, and Air Force Command Chief, ME6 M.A. Pathi were also present during the visit.

MG Tan was hosted by CO 605 SQN, LTC Wesley Ho, and was briefed on the SQN's operational capabilities, challenges faced and recent developments.

The visit concluded with a dialogue session between MG Tan and 605 SQN personnel, where he thanked the SQN for their efforts in ensuring smooth operations in TAB.



On 4 Oct 18, CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, visited 203 SQN at Changi Air Base (West), where he was received by CO 203 SQN, LTC Nicholas Dominic Koh. COMD Air Surveillance & Control Group, COL Lau Mun Leng, and Air Force Command Chief, ME6 M.A. Pathi were also present during the visit.

203 SQN works closely with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore to manage and ensure that Singapore's airspace is well secured. The SQN is also responsible for the safe transit of local and foreign military aircraft in and out of training areas.

During the visit, MG Tan was briefed on the SQN's operational capabilities, challenges faced and recent developments, after which, he was given a tour of the SQN's operations room.

The visit concluded with a dialogue session between MG Tan and 203 SQN personnel, where he stressed the importance of effective air traffic control of Singapore's airspace and thanked them for their contributions in securing Singapore's airspace.

AWO (ADW) TOWNHALL ENGAGEMENT SESSION

5 October 2018

The Air Warfare Officer (Air Defence Weapons) [AWO (ADW)] Townhall Engagement Session was held at Chong Pang Camp on 5 Oct 18. It served to update the AWO (ADW) community on developments in the AWO vocational transformation and provide a platform for them to engage senior RSAF commanders on the ongoing changes in the AWO community. COMD Air Defence and Operations Command, BG Gaurav Keerthi, opened the session with an address, where he brought the participants up to speed with the achievement since the last townhall engagement, and outlined several developments to look out for in the months ahead. This was followed by an engagement session between senior RSAF commanders, comprising Head Air Manpower, COL Koh Ee Wen; COMD Air Surveillance and Control Group, COL Lau Mun Leng; COMD Divisional Air Defence Group, COL Kenneth Chiong; and COMD Air Defence Group, SLTC Loh Woon Liang, and the AWOs who were present.



During the engagement session, BG Gaurav explained that the ongoing restructuring and revocation is an essential step towards optimising the RSAF's networked Island Air Defence capabilities. While this is still a work-in-progress, he expressed confidence that the transformation can broaden and strengthen the professional competency of the AWO vocation.



SAF SENDS HUMANITARIAN AID TO INDONESIA

02 Oct - 28 Nov 2018

On 28 Sep 18, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck Sulawesi, Indonesia, which triggered a 7m-high tsunami that caused widespread devastation across the province - flattening villages, housing estates and other built-up areas. Three C-130 transport aircraft were deployed to support the Indonesian Government's relief efforts following the earthquake and tsunami, delivering a relief package worth \$240,000 and providing airlift support to transport humanitarian supplies into disaster-hit areas.



The relief package donated by the SAF comprised of tents, meal rations, bottled water and medical supplies. Upon arrival, the RSAF worked closely with their Indonesian counterparts to transport food and medical supplies to inaccessible areas in Palu. SAF Mission Commander, LTC Oh Chun Keong, shared about the challenges he faced, "*Time was of the essence because it was a congested area and the flight schedule was packed. However, we worked closely with the Indonesians and we managed to complete our tasks quickly.*"



The first and second C-130 left on 2 Oct and returned on 17 Oct and 26 Oct respectively, while the third left on 21 Nov and returned on 28 Nov. In total, the RSAF flew over 116 sorties, transported close to 800 displaced victims out of the affected areas and delivered more than 360 tons of supplies.



EXERCISE BERSAMA LIMA

07 October 2018

On 7 Oct 18, one Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) EC725 helicopter landed at Paya Lebar Air Base. The land-away was co-hosted by 126 SQN, 207 SQN and 1 Medical SQN (1MS). A Super Puma helicopter from the RSAF also landed in Pulau Tioman, Malaysia on 5 Oct 18 for the Search and Rescue Forward Operating Base. A total of 17 personnel, comprising 11 RSAF personnel and six ST Aerospace Engineering crew were deployed. These land-aways between the RSAF and RMAF were conducted as part of Exercise Bersama Lima (XBL).

XBL is a major Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) joint exercise involving air, maritime and land forces from Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

Formed in 1971, the FPDA plays an important role in the regional security architecture, and continually adapts to remain relevant in the face of an evolving regional security environment. The SAF's regular participation in FPDA exercises is a testament to Singapore's strong commitment to the FPDA. XBL enhances the defence relations and interoperability between its member countries.



EXERCISE AIRGUARD

01 - 12 October 2018

"During Exercise AIRGUARD, our people were deployed in a challenging environment with realistic training scenarios. We have certainly benefited significantly from this professional exchange with the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF)," shared 2LT Daryl Ho, an RBS-70 Fire Unit Commander.

2LT Daryl was among a team of Ground-Based Air Defenders from 18 DA Bn who participated in the annual Exercise AIRGUARD held with the RBAirF. This year's exercise was held from 1 to 12 Oct 18 in Brunei.

Already in its 24th edition, this exercise serves as a key platform for airmen from both Air Forces to learn from one another and foster closer bonds.



NCC (AIR) FLIGHT EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

30 - 31 October 2018

"When flying on the Fokker-50, it initially felt like a normal flight, but then they did some steep turns, which I found rather interesting. It was a truly memorable experience to witness it in real life," shared Joseph Tay, a National Cadet Corps (NCC) (Air) cadet from Saint Joseph's Institution.

He was among 103 (NCC) (Air) cadets who attended the Flight Experience Programme (FEP) with 121 SQN from 30 to 31 Oct 18.



The cadets were briefed by CPT Benjamin Koh, a Fokker-50 pilot from 121 SQN, on the roles and capabilities of 121 SQN, followed by a safety brief before their flight.

The FEP gives Secondary 3 NCC (Air) cadets an opportunity to experience what a day in the RSAF is like, to pique their interest in aviation to pursue a career in the RSAF or join the Singapore Youth Flying Club as a CCA.

Nigel Wang, a student from Swiss Cottage Secondary School, felt inspired to join the RSAF in the future. *"I plan on signing on in the Air Force as either a Pilot or an Aircrew Specialist in the future, because I have a passion for aviation."*



OAKEY 20TH ANNIVERSARY

10 November 2018

“Oakey’s training airspace is 17 times the size of Singapore. The vast training area and natural terrain provide us with excellent opportunities to hone the flying skills and core competencies of our aircrew. I thank the Australian Defence Force for their long standing friendship,” shared Oakey Detachment Commander, LTC Roy Chew, at the commemoration of 20 years of helicopter training in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Oakey, situated in Oakey, Australia. The celebrations were held in Warriors Camp, Rockhampton, Australia, and was hosted by COMD Participation Command, BG Jonathan Tan, and was co-officiated by Senior Minister of State for Defence, Mr Heng Chee How and Australia’s Assistant Minister for Defence, Mr David Fawcett.

During the celebration, Mr Heng unveiled the Mural and the Commemorative Road Sign - comprising two roads in Oakey Army Aviation Centre - to mark the special occasion and long standing friendship between the RSAF and the Oakey Army Aviation. Lastly, he took a photo with Mr Fawcett along with personnel from RSAF and RAAF, forming the commemorative ‘20’ to mark 20 years of RSAF’s training in Oakey, Australia.

Today, the RSAF detachment in Oakey has expanded to include the Chinook helicopters on top of the Super Puma helicopters that first began training there. The vast training airspace and terrain in Oakey provides the RSAF with a challenging and realistic training environment to hone their skills and their core competencies, as well as integrates training with the SAF to sharpen the SAF’s edge in air projection and interservice operability.



PEARCE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

12 November 2018

This year, the RSAF commemorated 25 years of flying training at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Pearce. The Pearce Detachment, situated at Base Pearce, conducts a nine-month Basic Wings Course - a prerequisite for every RSAF Pilot and Weapons Systems Officer trainee, in order to go forward with their training. Senior Minister of State for Defence, Mr Heng Chee How, visited the Detachment for their Silver Jubilee celebrations on 12 Nov 18, where he was hosted by COMD Air Force Training Command, COL Kevin Goh.

Speaking at the event, Mr Heng thanked the RAAF for its support for the RSAF’s training in Pearce. He said, *“The Singapore Armed Forces and the Australian Defence Force share a long history of military cooperation, having extensive interactions that include bilateral and multilateral exercises, mutual visits, and*



professional exchanges. I am especially delighted that the RSAF’s presence here in Pearce has allowed people from both Air Forces to build strong friendships through professional exchanges.”

During the event, Mr Heng witnessed a combined flypast by the RSAF’s and RAAF’s PC-21 trainer aircraft, unveiled the commemorative tail flash and also participated in a symbolic tree-planting ceremony. Subsequently, Mr Heng was then given a tour of the Pearce Detachment, interacted with the RSAF personnel and also flew on the PC-21 trainer aircraft with CO 130 SQN, LTC Kevin Lim.



03/18 RSAF COMBINED GRADUATION CEREMONY

21 August 2018

After months of tough training, 44 Air Force graduates received their vocational badges, certificates, and ceremonial swords from CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, at the 03/18 RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony on 21 Aug 18.



"My greatest takeaway from the course was gaining a clearer sense of purpose in serving and being a better leader. During the training, I learnt the vital role that Ground-Based Air Defence (GBAD) Officers play in safeguarding our skies, both in peacetime and war," said OCT John Yap, the Best Trainee of the 34th Air Warfare Officer (GBAD) course.

Congratulations to all our graduates, we wish you all the very best in your Air Force journey ahead!

02/18 JOINT LEADERSHIP COURSE GRADUATION CEREMONY

05 October 2018

3WO Quain Yap, an Air Defence System Specialist from 160 SQN, who was one of the Distinguished Graduates at the 02/18 Joint Leadership Course (JLC) Graduation Ceremony, said, *"My biggest takeaway from the course is learning more about team excellence. Each service has its own unique culture, and therefore the leaders from the different services have their own qualities and specialisations. Just like how a family needs to work closely together to maintain their relationship and pull through hardship, we must also do the same and be committed in order to achieve team excellence."*



The Graduation Ceremony was held at The Chevrons on 5 Oct 18. CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, officiated at the ceremony and presented certificates and awards to 148 graduates, 35 of whom were from the RSAF. Four of the RSAF graduates were awarded the Distinguished Graduate Award.

Conducted by the SAFWOS Leadership School, the JLC was held over 15 weeks, and is structured to hone leadership qualities, impart general military knowledge, and promote interaction among personnel from the three Services.



36TH SPECIALIST CADET GRADUATION PARADE

23 August 2018

"My father would say it was a lot of blackboard learning whereas now it's more e-learning. Everything was also 100% mechanical back then. Now with technological advancements, we can use the help of computers to assist in our weaponry," shared 3SG Dhukhilan is an Air Defence Systems Specialist (ADSS) from the 87th Basic ADSS Course, a Silver Bayonet recipient of the 36th Specialist Cadet Graduation Parade.

3SG Dhukhilan was among 1,021 Specialist Cadets, of which 43 are from the RSAF, who graduated as Specialists of the SAF, after completing a 22-week Specialist Cadet Course. Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for Education, Ms Indraneel Rajah, reviewed the Specialist Cadet Graduation Parade held at Pasir Laba Camp. In her speech, Ms Rajah stressed the importance of the role that Specialists play as leaders in the SAF. *"All of you have a stake in our country and in protecting our way of life. The baton has now been passed to you to serve our country with pride and honour,"* she said.

Congratulations to all graduates and best of luck for the journey ahead!



110/17 OFFICERS CADET COMMISSIONING PARADE

15 September 2018

“All the tough training that I experienced during my course did groom me into a competent and confident Officer, ready to defend Singapore’s airspace. Today, I am confident and ready to undertake the responsibilities and duties as a Ground-Based Air Defender,” said 2LT Naveen s/o Gunasakaram, our Sword of Merit award recipient, who was amongst 32 Air Force cadets commissioned as Officers in the 110/17 OCCP.

Senior Minister of State for Defence, Dr Maliki Osman reviewed the commissioning parade at the SAFTI Military Institute. In his speech, he reminded graduands of their responsibility as leaders and the need to lead with care, conviction, courage and compassion. He said, *“Regardless of whether you are in or out of uniform, you never cease being an officer. Demonstrate your fortitude and resilience, trust the training that you have been given and use the SAF core values as your guiding light.”*

Congratulations to all the newly-commissioned Officers! Here’s wishing you the very best in your journey ahead.





227 GRADUATES FROM COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE

26 October 2018

MAJ Lim Seng Wee, a Helicopter Pilot, was the Top Graduate from the RSAF for the 49th Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff College (GKS CSC). *“I am happy that my hard work has paid off and that my efforts over the past nine months were recognised. The award is an affirmation of my capabilities and a motivation for me to excel in the future. I wouldn’t have been able to achieve this award without the help from others along the way,”* he said.

The CSC, CSC (National Service), and the CSC (Executive) prepare officers for senior command and staff appointments in the SAF, and are the highest level of formal military education offered in Singapore for Regular, NS and International Officers.

At the combined graduation ceremony for the 49th CSC, 19th CSC (NS), 10th & 11th CSC (Executive), Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, presented certificates to 227 graduates, of whom 51 were from the RSAF. Also present at the ceremony were Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr Chan Yeng Kit; CDF, LG Melvyn Ong; COA, MG Goh Si Hou; COS-NS, RADM Timothy Lo, and COS-AS, BG Tommy Tan.



Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Ng emphasised the importance of having good leaders for the SAF. He said, *“As graduands of the GKS CSC, you shoulder a tradition of excellence that has been carefully established by your alumni. And this college and the courses have prepared you to be senior commanders. As Singapore enters its next 50 years, we would do well to remember our immutable vulnerabilities and recognise the foundations that provide the stability and endurance of our small city state. Without doubt, capable and committed leaders, especially military leaders, that the College produces is one strong foundation stone.”*



NATIONAL DAY INVESTITURE

09 November 2018

“I am humbled and grateful to receive this award. It is a recognition of my hard work, commitment and contribution to our Air Force. With positive support from my supervisors and work teams, I am empowered to do my best for the projects at hand, and I will continue to strive for more success for the Air Force,” shared Ms Amanda Wong, an RSAF DXO and a recipient of the Commendation Medal.

Ms Wong was one of the 673 MINDEF and SAF personnel recognised for their exemplary performance and service at the National Day Awards Ceremony Investiture held on 9 Nov 18 at the MINDEF Auditorium. 110 Commendation Medals, 144 Efficiency Medals and 439 Long Service Medals were awarded to both military and non-military personnel from all three services.

Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen; Senior Minister of State for Defence, Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr Chan Yeng Kit, presented the medals to the awardees. National Day Awards are presented to deserving MINDEF and SAF personnel in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the SAF.

The investiture concluded with an interaction session between the recipients and Dr Ng; Dr Maliki; Mr Chan; CDF, LG Melvyn Ong, and Senior Officers of the SAF.



Ready and Able

2SG Kenny Ng shares his story of turning passion into profession.

I am 2SG Kenny Ng, an Aircrew Specialist (ACS) with 126 SQN in Helicopter Group, Participation Command. I took the unusual path of signing on only when I was nearing my Operationally Ready Date (ORD), after having served almost my entire Full-time National Service obligation. Although such a path might seem inconceivable to many, I chose to believe otherwise. Here is my Air Force Story.

I was posted to the RSAF as an ACS after my Specialist Cadet School phase. At that time, I was secretly relieved, thinking that I have left behind my Army days of having to stay outfield. I thought to myself then, *"Surely it cannot be that tough to fly around in an aircraft!"* Little did I know that I was about to be proven very wrong in all aspects of my thinking. It came to me as a shock when I discovered that I had to undergo a jungle survival package as part of my training. It was not the usual SAFTI or Tekong outfield; I had to experience the wilderness and challenge myself to survive in an unknown terrain. I remember waking up to my first morning in the jungle, when the heat and humidity hit me hard. We had been warned about it, but nothing quite prepares you for that experience. There were tropical birds singing in the trees, but there were also a host of insects that saw us as sources of food. Survival in such an environment requires one to be physically agile, mentally strong, alert and easily adaptable to changes. My parents noticed the change in me, as they remarked that I have become more confident since returning from Brunei. I believed others who have participated in the training can attest to this experience.

While I knew that I have grown tremendously in my time with the RSAF, I was pleasantly surprised when my supervisors noticed the change in me too. The efforts that I had put into my training were recognised on many occasions, when I was awarded a Safety Letter of Commendation and numerous Outstanding Serviceman of the Month Awards. However, my proudest moment was when the 126 SQN management nominated me as the Best ACS of the Year, even though I was only an NSF working amongst other Regular ACS.

On reflection, 126 SQN has played a vital part in my development. It created a learning culture where even the most junior among us are not afraid to ask questions and seek clarifications. Every day you will definitely learn something new from the instructors or officers. They will never turn down a question and will always take time despite their busy schedules to impart their knowledge. Perhaps most importantly, the SQN believes in our people as the core of mission success, and that made me feel that I was never too junior or too inexperienced to contribute. This high level of mutual trust amongst my colleagues inspired me to always give my best.

When I was nearing ORD, I began to think about what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. It was then that I realised how much I enjoyed the things I did in the RSAF. I never dreaded coming to work every day and it had been a fulfilling experience. Every day is filled with its challenges and excitements. And above all, there is a sense that we are working towards a noble purpose. I quickly decided that this was the career I wanted.

I have to admit that it was a leap of faith for me to turn my passion into my profession. But knowing how my relatively short time in the RSAF has changed me for the better and provided me with a unique opportunity to serve my country, I can see nothing else that I'd rather be doing. Although I have just begun my journey as a Regular serviceman, I look forward to gaining more experiences from this career. It has definitely instilled values in me that will not be forgotten. I hope to inspire others in the course of my journey, just as others have done for me.



COMD 1 AIR ENGINEERING AND LOGISTICS GROUP COC

08 November 2018

The command of 1 Air Engineering and Logistics Group (AELG) was handed over from ME6 John Low to ME6 Spencer Goh during a Change-of-Command Parade held at Murai Camp on 8 Nov 18. The parade was witnessed by COMD Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command, COL Lau Boon Ping.

Outgoing COMD 1 AELG, ME6 Low, joined the RSAF after graduating from the Nanyang Technological University with a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering (Honours). After his initial years working on the A-4 Skyhawk aircraft, ME6 Low was posted to the then Tactical Air Support Command in 2004. Since then, he has served in various capacities in the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle community.

Incoming COMD 1 AELG, ME6 Goh, joined the RSAF after attaining his Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) from the National University of Singapore under the SAF Local Study Award (Engineering). ME6 Goh had previously assumed the appointment of CO 808 SQN in 5 AELG, and subsequently, Head Logistics Planning Branch at Air Engineering & Logistics Department.



COMD TRANSPORT GROUP COC

23 November 2018

On 23 Nov 18, the command of Transport Group (TG) was handed over from COL Zakir Hamid to LTC Peter Chiam at a Change-of-Command Parade held at Paya Lebar Air Base. The parade was witnessed by COMD Air Combat Command, COL Ho Kum Luen.

Outgoing COMD TG, COL Hamid, has accomplished over 5,500 flying hours serving as an operational pilot in 121 and 112 SQN, a Qualified Flying Instructor in 130 SQN, CO 112 SQN, Deputy Commander of Flying Training Institute, and the RSAF Liaison to the United States Pacific Air Forces.

Incoming COMD TG, LTC Peter Chiam, joined the RSAF in 1996. Since then, he has held several command and staff appointments, such as CO 121 SQN and Head Transport Operations Branch, Air Operations Department.



