RSS Victory, the Republic of Singapore Navy's first new Missile Corvette (MCV), built at the Fredrich Lurssen Werft Shipyard, Germany, was launched on the 8th of June 1988 by Mrs. Lim Siong Guan, wife of Permanent Secretary of Defence. Among the guests were senior officers from the German Ministry of Defence and the German Navy, Senior management staff from Lurssen and SSE (Singapore Shipbuilding and Engineering.)

Amidst the fanfare, the first Missile Corvette of the RSN entered the Weser River after the traditional breaking of a champagne bottle over the ship’s bow by Mrs. Lim.

In the 60s and 70s, the RSN was tasked with coastguard duties. The early 80s saw the RSN reach a turning point in its development. Singapore’s growing regional trade led to a top-level review of the RSN’s mission. In order to keep Singapore’s vital sea lanes safe, it needed a Navy that was much more than a coastguard - a Navy that had the manpower, the ships and the organisational capability to keep these sea-lanes open. The RSN needed to project enough power to act as a deterrent to potential regional threats.

This very turning point was reached as early as 1983, when the Navy ordered a squadron of MCVs, specially designed by the Singapore Navy to meet her needs and requirements. Finally, the first corvette was ready to launch on the 8th of June 1988. After long periods of playing catching up with other Services, followed by years of coast guard duties, the Navy had at last arrived. It could now focus on transforming itself into a vital force, a key player in the defence of Singapore. The RSS Victory, which is the first ship of the MCV squadron, was also the first class of ships in the RSN to have an anti-submarine capability. Together with the RSS Valour, RSS Vigilance, RSS Vengeance, RSS Vigour and RSS Valiant, she forms the core of the Navy’s strikeforce.

No doubt the RSN’s vision and its expertise in designing the most appropriate ships for its mission will continue to see collaborations with outstanding military shipbuilders. The latest announcements indicate that more exciting developments are being explored in the areas of stealth technology, weapons systems, electronic sensors and communication to give the RSN the edge it needs to be the foremost naval force in the region.

1 Mr. Lim Siong Guan was the Permanent Secretary for Defence from 1981 to 1984
2 Onwards and Upwards, 30th Anniversary Navy News Special.
3 Straits Times, pp2, Monday March 20, 2000, ‘Stealth Ships for Singapore’