A Tribute To Our Visionary Leader
Chairman. Welcome to COL Chee Wai Mun as our Chairman. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to COL Tan Swee Bock (former Chairman) and would like to express appreciation for his invaluable contributions. We wish him well in his endeavours.

Air Force News bids a fond farewell to MAJ Andy Ang, Editor. He will be sorely missed. Air Force News is not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the written consent of the RSAF.

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We Value Your Feedback! If you have any feedback/comments about Air Force News, please email afn@starnet.gov.sg

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On 31 Jul 09, a SAF task group comprising men and women from the Army, Navy and Air Force returned from a three-month deployment to the Gulf of Aden. They were welcomed home by families, friends and senior SAF officers at a homecoming ceremony at Changi Naval Base. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, then presented the SAF Overseas Service Medal to 296 servicemen, including 72 from the RSAF, who had participated in the deployment.

Comprising RSS Persistence, a Landing Ship Tank, and two Super Pumas on board, the task group conducted sector patrols to deter pirate attacks. The SAF task group responded to 57 calls for assistance and launched 80 helicopter sorties during the deployment. They also helped to coordinate operations within the multinational Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 by facilitating information sharing between CTF 151 and other navies operating in the region.

For many in the RSAF, operating on board a ship came with new challenges, which translated into a unique learning experience. Shared 1SG(NS) Selvarajan, a Senior Technician, “Working on board RSS Persistence has truly been an eye-opening experience for me. While at sea, my role was to ensure that the two helicopters were airworthy for missions. To do this, I once had to assist in changing the main rotor head for the Super Puma under Sea State 3. It was not an easy job, but I learnt a lot from it!”

1SG(NS) Selvarajan was among several National Servicemen (NSmen) who stepped forward to participate in this mission. Fellow NSman, 2SG(NS) Alan Aw, an Aircrew Specialist also shared his experiences, “While the initial transition from civilian life to military life on board the ship did have its challenges, I’m glad to be part of the team. During the course of the deployment, I interacted with a variety of individuals from different backgrounds, including military personnel from other navies and local guards – people I would not have met if I had not been on this trip.”

Though the length of the deployment may seem daunting to some, many found the time spent worthwhile. Said 2WO Linda Cheng, “Our ‘small’ contribution is part of a bigger effort to ensure safety for the many ships which sail through the Gulf of Aden, including some Singapore-flagged ships. Though I did miss my family, my husband (a fellow Senior Technician in the Air Force) was supportive and understood my desire to help others by participating in the deployment.”

added Super Puma Pilot, CPT Shaun Mathew, “As a member of the international community, Singapore is a country that relies quite a bit on trade for our progress. When the United Nations and the United States requested for assistance, Singapore was happy to contribute. For myself, the deployment also exposed me to a wide variety of roles, theatres of operations and missions that I never expected to experience.”

Concluded Helicopter Detachment Commander, LTC Ong Jack Sen, “We all came from three different Services, with different roles and slightly different cultures, yet all of us had the same goal in mind. For the RSAF personnel, our role on the ship was to act as the ‘forward eyes’ of the Landing Ship Tank. We conducted surveillance flights regularly to search for vessels with piracy intent. Our ability to work closely together with the Navy and the Army in conducting integrated operations is significant in that it really validates the whole ONE SAF concept.”
Flight Engineer for the deployment, MSG Goh Yong Hwa, highlighted the importance of the RSAF’s contribution, “Though we are a small country, we must be willing to extend our hand to help others who are in need. We cannot and must not forget that there will always be disasters, and our contribution, small as it may be, will go a long way in helping the victims.”

Almost 2 months after Typhoon Morakot struck Taiwan and the region, a West Sumatran Earthquake occurred on 30 Sep 09, leaving over 1,000 people dead and almost 3,000 injured. In the aftermath of the earthquake, buildings, including clinics, were levelled, leaving many without healthcare facilities, especially in the more remote regions. Singapore and the SAF reacted quickly, dispatching the RSAF’s C-130 aircraft to transport various teams to areas in need. First off was a 42-member Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) team to help in rescue operations in Padang. A day after that, a 54-member medical team from the SAF was dispatched to Pariaman, 50km north of Padang, to provide primary healthcare services as well as perform surgery. Then, a 30-member engineering team was deployed to Padang where they constructed 2 buildings to replace medical clinics that had collapsed. A RSAF C-130 also delivered $50,000 worth of tentages, blankets and medical supplies for the earthquake victims.

Natural disasters can strike suddenly and with devastating effects, leaving a wake of destruction in their paths. On 7 Aug 09, Taiwan was struck by Typhoon Morakot which poured an extreme amount of rain that caused serious flooding and multiple mudslides. On 30 Sep 09, an earthquake that recorded 7.6 on the Richter scale occurred off the southern coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, damaging tens of thousands of houses and affecting over a million people. Even as the world watched in horror as news of the disasters spread, several countries, including Singapore, were taking prompt action to provide Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR).

With 640 people confirmed dead, a further 92 reported missing and an estimated US$3.3 billion worth of damages, Typhoon Morakot was the most lethal typhoon to hit Taiwan in recorded history. In response to the disaster, Singapore extended a helping hand in the form of monetary contributions to support relief efforts of the local authorities. In addition, the RSAF also deployed a C-130 aircraft to deliver much needed aid in the form of medical supplies and food. Mission commander for the deployment and Deputy Commanding Officer (CO), 122 SQN, LTC Goh Chong Bee, said of the mission, “The plight of the typhoon victims and their families gave additional meaning to our mission. I am glad that the RSAF was able to lend a helping hand.”
Bringing Humanitarian Relief in the Wake of Disaster

Senior Supervisor at Air Movement Centre (AMC), SSG Alex Chua, accompanied the C-130 in ferrying the medical team to Padang. He said of the task of unloading the team and equipment in a disaster-stricken area, “We had to do a lot of on-site improvisation. Even without forklifts and ground support, in a time critical environment, we managed to get the job done professionally and safely.”

In these missions of hope the personnel at AMC who prepared, planned for, loaded and unloaded the personnel, cargo and vehicles for the missions are the unsung heroes who made it all possible. Head AMC, MAJ Tan Kok Hin, shared his feelings on the mission, “I think it is great that we were able to complete the tasks despite the minimum time and warning. It has certainly been challenging but so far we have not failed. Everything that was required of us, we have delivered, and I am glad we have contributed to the mission’s success.”

Speaking on behalf of his squadron, CO 122 SQN, LTC Lau Tee Chun, said of their participation in the missions, “We are always poised to undertake such time-critical and essential missions as we are well trained and robust in our planning. We are serious and take pride in our role for such missions which are important to Singapore, the SAF and the people that we are helping. Safety is never compromised as it is an essential factor during planning and execution of these missions.”

Pacific Airlift Rally 2009

In the RSAF’s first participation in the flying phase of the Pacific Airlift Rally, 122 SQN deployed one C-130 and 33 personnel to the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) Subang Air Base, Malaysia from 14 – 24 Aug 09. The theme of the Pacific Airlift Rally 09 was ‘Military Airlift Support for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)’ and involved transport aircraft from USA, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Bangladesh.

During the exercise, aircraft were coordinated to air-drop simulated HADR supplies over specific locations. In addition to these technical aspects of the Pacific Airlift Rally, there was also a command post exercise that involved 17 countries from the Asia Pacific region. This allowed the RSAF to train in the execution of HADR efforts in a different environment. It also gave the RSAF the opportunity to enhance interoperability and coordination with regional air forces in the facilitation of HADR operations in the event of natural disasters.

The week-long Pacific Airlift Rally 09 gave participants the opportunity to forge closer bonds with their foreign counterparts as they worked together in the different phases of the exercise.
The RSAF participated in the Brunei Darussalam International Defence Exhibition and Conference (BRIDEX) 2009 at Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam, from 12 – 15 Aug 09. This year marks the inaugural participation of RSAF aircraft in the exhibition.

BRIDEX 09 was attended by the Second Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, Permanent Secretary for Defence, Mr Chiang Chie Foo, and former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern. At the exhibition, they viewed a RSAF F-16C aerobatics display, a Chinook aerial display and visited the exhibition booth put up by the RSAF. Dr Ng, Mr Chiang and MG Ng also visited the RSAF detachment. There, they were briefed on detachment operations, visited detachment premises and interacted with the detachment staff. To allow visitors to view the F-16C and Chinook up close, the RSAF also put up a static display of both aircraft.

The RSAF’s participation in BRIDEX 09 was unique in that it was the first time that the RSAF’s Chinooks put up an aerial display in an overseas exhibition. LTA Terrence Tan, a Chinook pilot from 127 SQN, shared, “It has been exciting putting up a Chinook aerial display overseas, but it has not been without its challenges. To ensure that we put up a good display, we’ve had to do a lot of research to learn from the experiences of other squadrons who have participated in similar detachments.”

2SG Yeah Jie Yee, a F-16C Senior Technician with Aircraft Operations Maintenance Squadron, Air Logistics Group – Fixed Wing 2, agreed. She added, “Though there were initial challenges, the fact that both the Chinooks and the F-16Cs have put up a safe and entertaining aerial display (amidst various constraints) speaks volumes of our operational capabilities.”

The time spent with members of the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF) also proved to be valuable to many of the RSAF personnel. Said MSG Brandon Joseph, a Chinook Flight Engineer from 127 SQN, “In our time spent here we have interacted with members of the RBAirF and managed to exchange working experiences. Having done so, both air forces will be better able to maintain professionalism and high standards.”

“Singapore and Brunei have always had strong bilateral relations and each one of us is more than glad to put up a good show for the Bruneians,” shared Detachment Commander and F-16C aerobatics pilot, MAJ Sim Poh Joo. “The aircrew have trained hard and the logisticians have worked tirelessly. Together with our own commentators, we have come up with a choreographed aerobatics display designed to maximise the thrill effect for the crowd.”

The RSAF’s participation in BRIDEX 09 underscores the close and long-standing relationship between the RSAF and the RBAirF. Both air forces interact regularly through professional exchanges and exercises such as EX Airguard.

“The reaction of BRIDEX Show Emcee, Ms Anisah Alkaff, was evidence that the RSAF did indeed capture the imagination of many. She shared, “Though I watched the RSAF’s aerial displays numerous times, during the rehearsals and the actual shows, I never did seem to get bored of it! I especially enjoyed the F-16C aerobatics display – I love how the aircraft soared through the sky. I’m impressed that Singapore has such advanced aircraft and pilots to fly these incredible aircraft.”

Commander Fighter Group, COL Ho Foo Sing, briefing Dr Ng and Mr Chiang on detachment operations during their visit. Commander RBAirF, Colonel (U) Jofri Hj Abdullah, is seated to the left of Dr Ng.
Aeromedical Evacuation (AME) is a key capability of the 3rd Gen RSAF. The ability to repatriate injured SAF personnel and occasionally civilians from overseas deployments back to Singapore not only reflects the RSAF’s readiness and full-spectrum operational capabilities, but is also testament of the SAF’s integrated tri-Service medical support.

The 3rd Gen RSAF Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) and 112 SQN took part in the inaugural AME Exercise 09 held at Changi Air Base (West) on 20 Aug 09 to strengthen the RSAF’s core knowledge and competencies in AME. This exercise between HQ AFMS and Transport Group, Air Combat Command (TG, ACC) aimed to demonstrate and develop the RSAF’s AME capabilities.

"This exercise was a great opportunity for both 112 SQN and HQ AFMS to work together and align our operations to meet the challenging demands required for mission success," said Chief Exercise Planner for 112 SQN, CPT Ashley Jude Peterson, who felt that the synergy developed between both units would enhance future AME missions.

After various presentations by the participants on the capabilities and planning norms of the KC-135 aircraft and medical configurations, 2 teams of aircrew and aviation medical officers planned and coordinated the AME of 2 casualties from separate theatres of operations. A team of boom operators, doctors and medics also configured a KC-135 to receive and support the repatriation of a casualty requiring intensive care back to Singapore.

"They were organised and swift in their movements during the exercise. Being the shortest person in the team, loading the casualty into the aircraft and vice versa was quite a challenge to me but together as a team, the procedures went smoothly."

Senior Medic of CAB, SSG Karrie Yap, shared that her first working experience with 112 SQN was an enjoyable one. "Being the shortest person in the team, loading the casualty into the aircraft and vice versa was quite a challenge to me but together as a team, the procedures went smoothly."

After a brief on the mission, Commander ACC, BG Richard Pereira, Chief Air Force Medical Officer, COL(DR) Robin Low, then Commander TG, LTC Joachim Lee, and senior officers of ACC and AFMS were orientated to a ground static display of the KC-135 aircraft AME configuration.

They also witnessed a demonstration on how a casualty could be transferred into a KC-135 aircraft from an ambulance and vice versa.

Mission Commander for Exercise Injects, CPT Lim Jo Jo, felt that the exercise tightened linkages between both units and instilled confidence within the participants for future AMEs. Sharing his experience of the exercise, he said, “From our interaction with the AFMS team on how to best accommodate the comfort and safety of the patients during the loading, I also gained an insight of the medical equipment used which I found interesting as a pilot.”

The exercise not only allowed participants to better understand the operational and medical considerations in an AME mission, but also forged closer ties between the pilots, boom operators, doctors and medics. This synergy and teamwork between HQ AFMS and TG is essential to drive platform developments and aeromedical capabilities for future AMEs in support of the SAF mission.

Ultimately, the objective of AME in the SAF is to give commanders and servicemen the confidence and assurance that expedient and quality medical care would be available in the event of medical emergencies. Exercise Planner, CPT(DR) Cheong Siew Meng, said, “It is heart warming to know that in the event of an overseas medical emergency, the SAF will be there to repatriate and bring back her people. It definitely adds meaning and drive to our jobs.”

Participants and senior officers posing for a memento photo at the end of the exercise.
Singaporeans from all walks of life celebrated our Nation’s 44th birthday on 9 Aug 09. Over 27,000 gathered at the Float@Marina to witness National Day Parade (NDP) 09 while many others thronged the nearby areas to soak in the atmosphere, turning Marina Bay into a sea of red and white.

While the crowds were as enthusiastic as ever, this year’s NDP was nothing ordinary. Instead of having separate segments, NDP 09 was founded on a ‘One Show’ concept, consisting of a seamless ten-chapter performance that enacted ideals from our pledge. Chairman Parade and Ceremony, COL Chee Wai Mun, shared on how the theme, ‘Come Together – Reaching Out • Reaching Up’, was reflected in the various segments of the parade, “NDP 09 is centred around the concept of unity. Besides introducing the One Show concept, we are also having a city march past, which will engage those outside the gallery. We hope to provide an up-close and exciting parade for all Singaporeans.”

To commemorate 25 years of Total Defence, NDP 09 featured a Total Defence Display which showcased the capabilities of a range of agencies, including the RSAF. Playing a part in the display was a Chinook helicopter from 127 SQN. The helicopter hovered just 10 feet above the water while Naval Divers on board dived into the waters of Marina Bay. Two Apaches from 120 SQN also wowed the crowds as they provided close air support for the finale of the display. Chairman Total Defence Display, LTC Simon Lee, took the opportunity to highlight the significance of the Total Defence Display, “The Total Defence Display not only demonstrated the cohesiveness of ONE SAF in tackling threats, it also showed how all Singaporeans must be ready to defend our homeland in whatever ways they can.”

Besides participating in the Total Defence Display, the RSAF also supported NDP 09 with the State Flag Fly-Past and the Presidential Salute Fly-Past by three F-16D+ which lit up the evening sky with their afterburners. “It gives me a lot of pride to see the professionalism and the discipline of the RSAF shown at the National Day Parade. I hope the audience have enjoyed it as much as I have,” shared Chairman Air Participation, LTC Joachim Lee.

With so many exciting performances to behold, it was no surprise that many among the audience enjoyed the NDP 09 tremendously. Nurshafiqah, Nurashikin and Nurhidahyati, Primary 5 Students at Griffiths Primary School, gushed excitedly after seeing the RSAF’s performances, “This is our first time seeing military aircraft and they were all very impressive. We enjoyed seeing the Naval Divers jump out of the Chinook – it was so cool! We really enjoyed the show and hope to see more of the RSAF’s assets in future.”

Mrs Debbie Chang, an Australian Citizen and Singapore Permanent Resident who attended the show with her family, agreed. “From what I have seen in today’s show, I must say that the Singapore’s Air Force is very impressive! The manoeuvres were all well executed and I can see that the RSAF does integrate very well with other agencies. I thoroughly enjoyed the show!”

NDP 09 ended on a high note at 8.22 pm, as our nation came together to recite the pledge fervently, celebrating 44 years as one united people.
Air Force News caught up with several other SAF personnel before the parade to hear their views:

**Parade Commander, LTC Yeong Chee Meng**

“Having the privilege to be the Parade Commander for this year’s NDP is certainly one of the highlights of my career in the RSAF thus far. Not only have I trained hard to improve my physical stamina, I often visualise the parade sequence in my mind to make sure I know exactly what to do.”

**LTC Vincent Chin, Flypast Marshall**

“A lot of planning is done to ensure that safety is not compromised, both to the public watching the show, and the display aircraft manoeuvring in the bay. With the limited airspace available, the constant challenge is to ensure that display aircraft are able to perform safely, and at the right time. There is certainly a great sense of pride and satisfaction at having achieved this at NDP 09.”

**CPT Spencer Ler, an Apache Pilot who participated in the Total Defence Display**

“This is my first time participating in NDP and I’m quite excited! I will be piloting one of the two Apaches which will simulate the provision of close air support for the Total Defence Display segment. I hope that through a competent display on my part, Singaporeans will be able to see that the SAF and the Home Team are always ready to neutralise any threats that may compromise Singapore’s security.”

**Overall in Charge for Naval Divers, CPT Brandon Choo**

“In the 3rd Generation SAF, the RSN works together with the RSAF often in its operations. The meticulous planning we have done for NDP 09 has definitely helped to build up understanding between the two Services, hence allowing us to conduct integrated operations more effectively.”

**LTC Tommy Tan Ah Han, Presidential Salute Lead**

“I feel a great sense of pride participating in NDP 09, a feeling that is no doubt shared by all my family members. I hope that all Singaporeans will also feel proud as they see us doing the Presidential Salute Fly-Past, and know that though we are a small nation, we are capable of operating one of the most advanced fighter aircraft in the world.”

**LTC Kevin Wee, Flight Lead for State Flag Fly-Past**

“As a Nation, we have overcome seemingly insurmountable odds to turn a tiny island nation into what it is today. I hope that when Singaporeans see the State Flag Fly-Past, they are reminded of how we turned diversity into solidarity, turned weakness into strength and that we are responsible for our own destiny. I hope they realise that it is Our Flag, and sing the National Anthem as loudly and as proudly as they can.”

**MAJ Wan Yoke Sing, Flight Lead for State Flag Escort**

“There is an overwhelming feeling of pride, both in myself and in my family. My two young boys repeatedly reminded their classmates to watch the NDP because their father was flying the Apache in the State Flag Flypast. I’m sure my two boys, as well as all who witnessed the State Flag being escorted by three formidable Apaches would have felt a great sense of pride at being a Singaporean, and appreciate the security provided by the SAF.”
The RSAF 41st Anniversary Ceremony and Cohesion Day was held at Air Force Training Command (AFTC) on 1 Sep 09. The event, organised by 18th Divisional Air Defence Artillery Battalion (18 DA Bn) and 121 SQN, was graced by former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern.

“The RSAF has transformed in the last few years into an air force capable of achieving mission success in the numerous operations other than war that have been tasked to us,” MG Ng said in the RSAF Day Speech during the ceremony, citing relief missions to China and Myanmar, 24/7 missions and Search and Rescue missions. “Our force structure is also being modernised. The delivery of the F-15SG, the G550 Airborne Early Warning aircraft, the Hermes 450 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and the Sea Hawk will allow us to see further and operate more effectively.”

After the ceremony, MG Ng flagged-off the 3km Walk-a-Jog which led participants around the AFTC compound and into the AFTC stadium. MG Ng then presented the CAF CARDINAL Awards to 9 RSAF servicemen who have demonstrated exemplary qualities and efforts in promoting People Development. He also presented the Donation Awards to the Top 3 Individual Contributors and the Top Contributing Command, Participation Command, as part of the RSAF Charity Drive 2009. This year, the RSAF collected a total of $195,700 for the President’s Challenge, Singapore Red Cross Society and SAF Benevolent Fund.

Commander Air Logistics Group – Rotary Wing (ALG – RW), COL Low Eng Siang, who was both the Top Individual Contributor and a recipient of the CAF CARDINAL Award, said, “Personally, reaching out and sharing the joy of charity with my contacts gives me great satisfaction. I think that, apart from achieving our operational missions, it’s important as part of CARDINAL not only to care for our people but also cultivate a loving heart for the society in them.”

As part of the Cohesion Day, representatives from the RSAF Commands took part in games such as tug-of-war, soccer, basketball and a swimming relay. Commanding Officer (CO), 121 SQN, LTC Song Chun Keet, said, “The event was a tremendous success, apart from the good weather, the participation from the Commands was good, especially in the games segment which helped to build healthy-rivalry among the Commands.”

2WO Jimmy Koo, a signal specialist from 111 SQN who took part in the tug-of-war competition, shared, “It was really a great experience. Winning requires coordination and a lot of teamwork.”

At the end of the event, Air Power Generation Command emerged as the overall champion of the games and was presented the with CAF Challenge Shield by MG Ng. Explaining how the event promoted a sense of belonging within the RSAF, CO, 18 DA Bn, LTC Teo Ping Siong, said, “The event encapsulated 41 years of RSAF achievements. It also served to engage the hearts and minds of our servicemen through the interaction and celebration of this RSAF milestone.”
The RSAF Best Airmen Awards recognise the finest airmen in 8 vocational categories. These airmen have displayed exceptional performance, outstanding knowledge and exemplary conduct in their areas of service. Former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, presented these awards at the RSAF 41st Anniversary Ceremony.

Prior to the ceremony, CAF also hosted an interaction session with the award winners to further recognise their contributions to the RSAF.

**Best Technical Support Specialist**
1SG Henmond Chang Hon Min of 110 SQN, Air Operations Department
This award is an inspiration to me and will be a memorable milestone. Although my job as a Senior Technician might have been trying at times, I have always found it meaningful that I have played a part in the nation’s defence.

**Best Service Support Specialist**
CPL Jeremy Keck of 140 SQN, HQ Air Combat Command
I am delighted to receive this award and I hope that it will motivate others too. I have always believed in doing my best and going the extra mile to help others. In my SQN, I find it rewarding to be able to ease the workload of people who are in need by offering a helping hand.

**Best Air Operations Systems Specialist**
1SG Alex Peh Hun Leong of Flying Support Squadron, Changi Air Base, Air Power Generation Command
In my job, I give my best in everything that I do as I derive job satisfaction from it. I enjoy working with people, apart from knowing my colleagues better, it also improves my ability to work in a team. I see this award as an encouragement to put in more effort in my work.

**Best Air Defence Systems Specialist**
2SG Toh Jin Liang of 18 DA Bn, Participation Command
I feel privileged and proud to receive this award. It is a recognition by the organisation of my contributions. I would like to thank my officers who have given me many opportunities to develop myself and to showcase my potential.

**Best Field Defence Specialist**
2SG Vikneswaran S/O Ahoram of FDS Changi Air Base, Air Power Generation Command
I like being a Military Policeman as my vocation allows me to tackle many interesting situations everyday. This award means a lot to me and will be a source of motivation for me moving forward.

**Best Aircrew Specialist**
1SG Samuel Lin Jing Qian of 127 SQN, Participation Command
This award is indeed a pat-on-the-back for me. It is an encouragement for me to excel in my work. As a flight engineer, I derive a sense of ownership from operating and maintaining the Chinook helicopters because I feel that my efforts count for something in my SQN’s operations.

**Best Combat Support Specialist**
3SG Tan Wen Nan of 160 SQN, Air Defence and Operations Command
I feel that it is vital to know one’s limit and to strive to push it higher. It is important to believe in one’s abilities and to enjoy one’s work. In the past year, I have been fortunate to be given many opportunities by the RSAF to do work which I enjoy.
A Community of Unity – Celebrating 40 Years of Helicopter Operations

Celebrating its 40th anniversary with a Mess Gala at Sembawang Air Base Officers’ Mess on 2 Oct 09, the community has grown rapidly along with the rest of the Air Force. Commander Participation Command, BG Wong Huat Sern, noted that the RSAF’s helicopter fleet is now distributed across 19 time zones, from Oakey in the east to San Diego in the west. Besides these training detachments, RSAF helicopters have also been deployed for operations in places as diverse as East Timor and New Orleans, helping Singapore reach out to her friends in need.

The RSAF’s participation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief was heralded by its very first overseas deployment – the Kuantan Flood Relief Operation in 1971. One of the pioneer pilots of the RSAF, LTC(Ret) Leo Tin Boon, recounted his role in the operation. Describing the sudden nature of the mobilisation, he said, “I captained one of the four aircraft deployed for the mission after we were given orders the previous afternoon. We did not really know what to expect in that operation, only that we were supposed to provide aid by distributing supplies and evacuating people who were stranded... Now when I look back, I am proud to know that the SADC was ready and able, in spite of our fledgling status.”

Regardless of how its roles and platforms have changed over the years, the helicopter community in the RSAF has remained a close-knit family. In his speech at the Mess Gala, Commander Helicopter Group, COL Sunny Yun, said to the gathered audience, “I have not used the term “ex-Heli Crew” to refer to those who have left the Service. You will never be an “Ex” – you will always remain a part of us in this community.”

Also speaking at the Mess Gala was former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, who commended the helicopter community for their contributions to the RSAF and to Singapore. Speaking of the road ahead for the community, MG Ng said, “The helicopter community will need to broaden its horizons to embrace new missions, including air defence and anti-submarine warfare. You will need to link up with the right experts in the different Groups and Services, and learn what you can from them. At the same time, you must continue to excel in the fundamental mission of air mobility that has always been bread and butter for you.”

Rotary Wing Platforms

- Aerospatiale Alouette III
  1968 – 1978
- Bell 212
  1977 – 1985
- UH-1H Huey
  1980 – 1988
- AS350 Ecureuil
  1981 – 1992
- AS 550 Fennecs
  1992 – 2006
- AS332M Super Puma
  1985 – Present
- CH-47SD Chinook
  1995 – Present
- AH-64D Apache
  2002 – Present
- Sikorsky S-70B
  2009 – Present

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This year, the RSAF celebrates 30 years of successful F-5 operations. To commemorate this significant milestone, an anniversary dinner was held on 14 Aug 09 at Air Force Museum. The occasion was graced by former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, and then Deputy CAF, BG Ng Chee Meng, at the F-5’s 30th Anniversary celebration.

In 1979, the arrival of the first 5 F-5E/F fighters at Tengah Air Base marked the dawn of the supersonic era in the RSAF’s aviation history. “Since its inception, in air combat training, the F-5 earned a reputation of a jet that was hard to discern in the air, and when one finally saw it, it’s often after a missile or guns kill had already been called,” said MG Ng, a F-5 pilot himself, in his opening speech at the dinner.

Present at the dinner was the F-5 community which consisted of both past and present aircrew and logisticians. LTA Keegan On, a pilot from 144 SQN, commented, “It’s really heartening to see how this anniversary unites even some of the former F-5 community members who are based overseas.”

One who specially returned from overseas for the celebration was LTC(Ret) Jimmy Lee, who has flown 3,975 hours on the F-5 – the highest in the F-5 community. Previously Commanding Officer of 144 SQN and 149 SQN, he is now a Qualified Flying Instructor in 130 SQN in Pearce, Australia. “I enjoyed every moment I’ve flown in this aircraft,” said LTC(Ret) Lee. Reflecting on his previous experiences with the F-5 in EX Cope Thunder in the late 1980s, he recalled, “Our F-5 pilots were the first to be chosen by the Americans to play the aggressor’s role because of the professionalism of the F-5 pilots.”

Over the years, the RSAF’s F-5s have been part of exercises such as EX Elang Indopura, EX Air Thai-Sing, EX Cope Tiger, EX Cope Thunder and EX Pitch Black which helped to build rapport with neighbouring air forces. “These exercises not only built camaraderie and inter-operability with other air forces, but also demonstrated that we are among the best in the world,” said MG Ng.

In 1996, the F-5E and F-5F underwent an upgrade programme and were re-designated as F-5S and F-5T respectively. Relating to the upgrades which included enhanced avionics and navigation systems, Commanding Officer, 144 SQN, LTC Chia Shih Koon said, “The F-5’s capability today is very different from what it was 30 years ago. You can also tell from the look of the aircraft that, despite being 30-years-old, it has been very well maintained.”

The F-5 logistics community has also maintained a strong sense of esprit de corps within its closely-knitted family. Command Chief Warrant Officer, Air Power Generation Command, MWO Sasidharan, a F-5 Senior Technician, has been a member of the F-5 family ever since 1983. Describing the close bonds shared between the aircrew and ground crew, MWO Sasidharan said, “I remember how the aircrew looked forward to the yearly ‘piss-up sessions’ organised by the ground crew and the memorable moments spent together. Also, I will never forget the chance I had, flying on board the F-5. It was such a fantastic and thrilling experience!”

Sharing his thoughts on the F-5’s 30th Anniversary, then Deputy CAF, BG Ng Chee Meng, said, “I celebrate the camaraderie among the committed air and ground crew who have served with pride over these 30 years; I celebrate the F-5’s successful discharge of our mission to safeguard our skies; and I celebrate that I was blessed and fortunate to be a part of it.”

Having flown more than 170,000 hours, won 9 prestigious Best Fighter Squadron awards, with the latest won being in 2009, and 5 Best Hotshot Squadron honours, the F-5, together with its improved capabilities, is still relevant and comparable to many modern fighter aircraft in the world. In the hands of 141 SQN, 144 SQN and 149 SQN, the F-5 platform has played an integral role in the RSAF’s training and operations. Ready to respond at a moment’s notice, the F-5 community continues to be a vital pillar in Singapore’s air defence.

The F-5’s Milestones
- 1978 - A pioneer team of 32 technicians were sent for training at Williams Air Force Base, United States
- 1979 - Arrival of 2 F-5Es and 3 F-5Fs in Singapore; Assigned to 144 SQN
- 1979 - F-5s participated in their first exercise
- 1985 - 149 SQN inaugurated as 2nd F-5 SQN
- 1987 - F-5s won their first Best Fighter Squadron Award
- 1990 - 141 SQN became the 3rd F-5 SQN
- 1996 - The RSAF proceeded with an upgrade programme by Singapore Technologies Aerospace to convert the F-5E/F to F-5S/T
- 1999 - F-5S/T achieved Full Operating Capability status
- 2007 - F-5s won its 5th Best Hotshot Squadron Award
- 2009 - F-5s won its 9th Best Fighter Squadron Award

The F-5 community and senior RSAF personnel together with former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, and then Deputy CAF, BG Ng Chee Meng, at the F-5’s 30th Anniversary celebration.
120 SQN Attains Full Operational Capability

In Oct 09, 120 SQN officially attained its Full Operational Capability status during a declaration ceremony held at SBAB. Former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, officiated the ceremony.

Inaugurated in 1969 as the RSAF’s first operational unit, 120 SQN has come a long way since its formative years when it operated the French Aerospatiale Alouette. The squadron had subsequently upgraded its fleet to the Bell 212s, UH-1Hs and now operates the AH-64D Apaches.

One of the most technologically advanced attack helicopters in the world, the Apache is equipped with the state-of-the-art Longbow Fire Control Radar that enhances radar target detection range and tracking ability under all weather conditions. The helicopter is capable of carrying a range of weapons such as the Hellfire air-to-surface missile and Hydra Rockets. It is also equipped with a 30mm automatic chain gun, located under its fuselage.

“The role of the AH-64D is to enhance the RSAF’s capabilities in a wide spectrum of operations, notably in Air-Land integrated operations,” said LTA Tay, an Air Maintenance Officer from 120 SQN, citing 120 SQN’s participation in EX Wallaby and EX Lighting Warrior. “It provides a strong capability in the air and land domain in the SAF war-fighting network.”

CPT Eric Chng, a pilot from 120 SQN, shared, “We are now an additional layer in our nation’s air defence and are able to contribute to a full spectrum of operations in the SAF. This is an achievement which makes me proud to be an attack helicopter pilot and to be part of the family in 120 SQN.”

The 19th NSmen Seminar

The 19th National Servicemen (NSmen) Seminar was held at Air Force School Auditorium on 10 Sep 09. The seminar, which was officiated by former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, is held annually to keep the RSAF’s Operationally Ready NSmen updated on the latest developments within the RSAF.

Among the speakers was Head Air Operations, COL Lim Yeong Kiat, who shared on ‘Operationalising the 3rd Generation RSAF Capabilities’, Said COL Lim, “Collectively, NSmen like yourselves hold a wealth of knowledge and experience in your respective areas which will enrich the RSAF if we are able to tap on it. I encourage you to share with us your knowledge, experiences and expertise... As we forge ahead with the 3rd Generation transformation, we want you, our NSmen, with us in the journey.”

Aircrew Specialist, 2SG(NS) The Jiafu, was one NSman who stepped forward to contribute to the RSAF. Earlier this year, he volunteered to participate in the detachment to the Gulf of Aden. 2SG(NS) The shared his experience in his presentation ‘My Experience in Anti-Piracy Mission with Participation Command’, “I had the chance to experience something that I would not encounter in my daily routine and the opportunity to do my part for the country.

2SG(NS) The Jiafu giving his speech on why he volunteered to participate in the detachment to the Gulf of Aden.

NSmen from various units listening to the keynote address by MG Ng.

I’m glad to be able to serve my country in this manner and I hope that my sharing today, as a NSman, will encourage all of us to make a difference in the RSAF.”

In his keynote address, titled ‘Forging Together’, MG Ng shared on the importance of NSmen in the RSAF and the way forward for the RSAF. Using the analogy of glass to describe the RSAF, he said, “Glass is a wonderful and mysterious medium. The base elements which make up glass are merely individual components. They are what they are, and do what they do, based on their distinct properties. So too are the elements of our Air Force. Our systems, the way we are organised, our operating concepts, and our people.”

“When forging glass, the heat changes the base elements. Their properties are broken down, altered, fused and crafted together again into a refined form. Much like the glass-forging process, our Air Force must now move towards operationalising our elemental systems, structures and people into integrated capabilities, such that the finished shape of our 3rd Generation Air Force is refined and greater than the sum of its parts. There will be times when the journey is arduous and trying, but if we band together, with persistence and an eye for second order details, we will succeed.”
CAF Safety Forum cum CARDINAL Accreditation Awards

The CAF Quarterly Safety Forum, organised by Air Force Inspectorate (AFI), was held at Changi Air Base (West) Auditorium on 2 Sep 09. The forum aims to promote awareness and educate servicemen on safety matters in the RSAF. Head AFI, COL Ng Chee Keong, began the forum with updates on the ongoing developments in aviation safety in the RSAF, including the RSAF’s safety statistics for the past quarter.

Thereafter, café-style discussions on the topic ‘Understanding Your SOP Improves Decision-Making And Safety’ were held, which allowed participants to engage in cross-sharing of the problems encountered in two case studies. Consisting of participants from different vocations, the groups were able to analyse the issues holistically, promoting a pro-active and holistic approach to safety in the RSAF.

During the event, former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khem, also presented 9 units with the Tier 1 CARDINAL Award in recognition of the units’ commendable efforts in People Development activities that support the 3 Thrusts of the CARDINAL Framework.

The units that were awarded the Tier 1 CARDINAL Award include:

- 145 SQN
- Field Defence Squadron, PLAB
- Air Logistics Squadron, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command
- Field Defence Squadron, SBAB
- Air Operations Control Group
- Air Logistics Squadron, Air Defence and Operations Command
- Flying Support Squadron, SBAB
- Airfield Maintenance Squadron, SBAB
- 116 SQN
- Oakey Training Centre

RSAF’s Participation in Army Open House

The Army Open House 2009 was held from 3 – 7 Sep 09 at Pasir Laba Camp. The RSAF supported the event with aerial displays by the Super Puma and Apache helicopters, as well as static displays of its assets, including the Apache, Chinook, Searcher Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and various Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) systems. Officiated by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, the event showcased not only the capability of the Army, but also the synergy present in the 3rd Generation SAF.

The RSAF’s Searcher UAV was one asset that drew the curious attention of many. Shared LTA Lester Cher, a UAV Pilot from 128 SQN who manned the Searcher UAV static display, “While quite a few visitors knew that UAVs play a part in the SAF, not many of them knew that they were so big! After seeing our Searcher UAV up close, many of them knew that they were so big! It was no surprise that many visitors thoroughly enjoyed the Army Open House 2009. Ms Samantha Koh, a student, was one satisfied visitor. She said, “The Open House was great and the presence of RSAF assets was definitely a plus point. It is really great to be able to sit inside the Apache, to learn more about its weapons and what it can do. It’s really sophisticated! I’ll definitely keep a lookout for the Air Force assets next time!”
Launch of Battlefield Command Exhibition

On 18 Sep 09, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, launched Singapore’s first immersive 3rd Generation SAF exhibit designed for the public at the Singapore Discovery Centre.

When launching the new interactive exhibit, Mr Teo said, “This exhibit introduced complex 3rd Generation SAF concepts to SAF servicemen and students as well as the general public so that we bring that common man, the man in the street, into what we are trying to do within the SAF.”

At the exhibit, visitors get to participate in a virtual battle, commanding platforms such as the AH-64D Apache attack helicopter and the Formidable Class Frigate. The game allowed players to enjoy a realistic battle experience while learning more about the 3rd Generation SAF.

CDF’s Engagement with Senior Commanders, Senior WOSpecs and HR Practitioners

The Chief of Defence Force’s (CDF) engagement with Senior Commanders, Senior WOSpecs and Human Resource (HR) Practitioners was held on 2 Oct 09 at the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) School of Infantry Specialists (SISPEC) Leaders Hall in Pasir Laba Camp. The session provided a platform for senior commanders, WOSpecs and HR practitioners to learn more about the Military Domain Experts Scheme (MDES).

The engagement session began with CDF, LG Desmond Kuek’s address. HJMPD, COL Lim Jit Chek, then provided an overall update on the MDES policies, followed by a roll-out brief by COL Koh Keng Swee Gerard. These presentations gave the audience an in-depth clarification of the MDES and how it will affect servicemen and women in the three Services.

Following the presentation, participants broke up to different locations for their Services’ discussion sessions. Participants discussed the best approach to handle the implementation of the MDES, allowing officers and WOSpecs alike to share their views and clarify issues.

The engagement session concluded with closing remarks by CDF, LG Desmond Kuek.

Presidential Garden Reception

The Presidential Garden Reception 2009 was held on 12 Jul 09 at the Istana where President S R Nathan hosted more than 800 personnel from MINDEF, SAF and DSTA. The annual reception was held in recognition of their significant contributions to the defence of Singapore.

During the reception, President Nathan and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, interacted with senior MINDEF, SAF and DSTA officials, active servicemen and NSmen. Also among the guests were the winners of the NSmen of the Year award.
The SAFRA Singapore Bay Run and Army Half Marathon was held on 16 Aug 09 at Marina Bay. The annual event, jointly organised by the Army and the SAFRA National Service Association, was officiated by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean.

2LT Jeremy Ang from 3 Divisional Air Defence Artillery Battalion (3 DA Bn) commented, “It has been a real eye-opener for me. Watching everyone put their very best in running and encouraging one another throughout the run really reflects well of the RSAF’s Core Values.”

Said CPL Clive Lim, a Gunner from 18 DA Bn, on completing the run, “By being physically active, it improved my well-being and also gave me confidence to push my limits to a higher level.” Sharing his sentiments was MSG Douglas Ho, a Detachment Trainer from 6 DA Bn, “Participation Command has always encouraged us to cultivate a healthy lifestyle. Command runs are organised regularly and it is through the progressive training that I’m able to complete today’s run.”

On 24 Sep 09, volunteers from Air Power Generation Command (APGC) organised activities for the Children’s Day celebration at Towner Gardens School (TGS). TGS also invited Commander APGC, COL Sarbjit Singh, to grace the occasion. Apart from interacting with the students, COL Sarbjit Singh also watched musical presentations by the students and handed out goodies bags to them.

During the celebration, APGC volunteers manned two activity stations which taught students how to make paper aeroplanes and parachutes. They also demonstrated and guided students in flying their completed models within the school compound. Volunteers also assisted students in other activities such as bookmark-making and bowling.

Commander Air Logistics Group – Fixed Wing 1, LTC Ang Hang Guan, shared, “We have never been short of volunteers for such charity events as our people are passionate about it. Touching the children’s lives by putting a smile on the children’s faces as they played at the various stations made the experience very meaningful altogether.”

As part of the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS), TGS runs pre-school, junior, senior and special programmes for pupils who have challenging behaviours or concerns that may impact their learning ability.

Since 1994, Paya Lebar Air Base had adopted a school from MINDS as their official charity organisation and have been contributing actively to the organisation. This year, APGC (PLAB) had been involved in more than 10 TGS activities ranging from the Special Olympics to School Holiday Maintenance work for TGS.

On 19 Jul 09, the RSAF participated in a Racial and Religious Harmony event held at Punggol North. The aim was to engage the residents living around Paya Lebar Air Base, to allow them to better understand the role the RSAF plays in defending Singapore.

A booth with information panels was set up and brochures in the four main languages were given out to residents to allow them to learn more about the RSAF’s operations, the need for flying training, Singapore’s airspace constraints and the noise abatement measures that the RSAF has implemented. A Match-and-Win game and a photo booth were also set up to provide an opportunity for participants to learn more about the RSAF in a fun way. Personnel from Air Manpower Department, Air Power Generation Command and Air Combat Command were present to answer queries that residents had about the RSAF.

Alicia Chan, a student and Punggol resident, was among the many children who enjoyed learning about the RSAF at the booth. Shared Alicia, “After playing the Match-and-Win game a few times, I think I know how to recognise all the aircraft featured. I also noticed that some of the aircraft in the game had previously participated in the National Day Parade or the Singapore Airshow. It was fun learning more about the Air Force and I definitely think it is cool!”

CPT Elvis Heng, a Pilot from 122 SQN who helped to answer queries from residents, shared his sentiments, “Spending time interacting with the public today has been meaningful as we helped them understand the important role that the RSAF plays, the need for flying training and the noise abatement measures that the RSAF has implemented.”
A Commitment to Serve the Nation

OCT Nicholas Tay (left) and OCT Jamie Lee (right), with their swords and awards.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, presented the Singapore Armed Forces Overseas Scholarship (SAFOS) to six award recipients at an award ceremony held at the Istana. Two of the six SAFOS recipients, OCT Jamie Lee and OCT Nicholas Tay, are pilot trainees in the RSAF.

In his keynote address, DPM Teo congratulated all SAFOS recipients and encouraged them to pursue excellence during their career in the SAF. Said DPM Teo, “Today, we recognise six outstanding young Singaporeans who have made the commitment to join the distinguished ranks of SAF Overseas Scholars to serve the SAF and the country. Earlier batches of SAF scholars helped to build the SAF of today. New challenges await a new generation of leaders in the SAF... Success is not assured. Hard work, dedication and commitment are required. But the satisfactions are many.”

It was fitting then that both scholars expressed their heartfelt commitment to serve their nation. Shared OCT Jamie Lee, “I know that with the SAFOS, I will be serving in a meaningful and purposeful organisation. The desire to be in the thick of the action of defending my country tugs deeply at my heartstrings. Truly, there is no higher calling than defending your nation.”

Added OCT Nicholas Tay, “In future, I hope to be an effective pilot – one who is able to command the respect of his squadron mates and one who is able to maintain flying frequency. At the same time, I wish to contribute to the RSAF by effecting policy and organisational changes. All in all, I want to play an active role in making Singapore a safer place for the benefit for all citizens.”

Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, also presented the SAF Merit Scholarship (SMS) to thirteen recipients and the Defence Merit Scholarship to seven recipients at a ceremony held at Temasek Club on 18 Aug 09.

LTA Kok Kew Fai, who will serve as an Air Engineering Officer (AEO) in the RSAF after graduation, was one of the seven RSAF recipients of the SMS. 2LT Kok was the first Full-time National Serviceman to be awarded the SAF Medal for Distinguished Act after his brave act of protecting a recruit from a wrongly thrown grenade. He shared, “I’ve had a great National Service experience and I believe that the SAF is an organisation where I will be able to serve to the best of my capabilities. The SMS, which will allow me to pursue a degree in Aeronautical Engineering, will definitely equip me to serve effectively as an AEO.”

For OCT Lou Yang, her dream of being a pilot led to her decision to take up the scholarship and to join the RSAF as a pilot trainee. “Flying has always been a dream for me and it was easy for me to choose to join the RSAF, rather than take up a civilian career. I am determined and enjoy new challenges, and the variety of roles that I can undertake in the RSAF appeals to me,” said OCT Lou.

Added LTA Koh Tze Kia, a fellow pilot trainee, “I’ve only spent a short time with the RSAF so far, yet I have already had the opportunity to train with the NATO forces in Canada, gaining invaluable experience in the process. I look forward to the opportunities the scholarship will offer me and the chance to continue an exciting career with the RSAF.”

Air Force News congratulates all RSAF recipients and wishes them the best in their future endeavours.

The seven RSAF recipients of the SMS – (from left:) LTA Koh Tze Kia, LTA Ronald Loh, 2LT Gerald Goh, OCT Lou Yang, OCT Tung Wanrong, LTA Kok Kew Fai and LTA James Yong.

Officer Cadet Commissioning Parade

A total of 293 officer cadets were commissioned at the SAFITI Military Institute on 12 Sep 09. Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Raymond Lim, reviewed the commissioning parade which included 64 Air Force officer cadets. The parade marked the completion of 38 weeks of rigorous training, through which the officer cadets could develop their combat, planning and leadership abilities.

From the RSAF, the Sword-of-Honour recipients were OCT Tan Shan Teck Kelvin of the 26th Weapon Systems Officer Course (Air Defence Artillery) and OCT Tan Yong Chuan Andrew of the 31th Weapon Systems Officer Course (Command, Control and Communication).

A firm believer that teamwork is the key to excellence, OCT Kelvin elaborated, “Without my course mates and the guidance of my instructors, all this would not be possible. Being humble and staying focus are the qualities of an officer, as epitomised by Commander Air Warfare Training Institute, LTC Koh Cheng Boon, whom I look up to.”

Addressing the newly commissioned officers at the parade, Mr Raymond Lim said, “As you stand proudly on this parade square, always remember what you have been trained to do – to lead, to excel, to overcome. You embody the character, qualities and attributes that the SAF demands from its officers to provide the forward-looking and vigorous leadership it needs as it embarks on its transformation to the 3rd Generation SAF. I am confident that you will be able to uphold the proud tradition of excellence and professionalism established by those who have served before you.”

A proud moment for OCT Kelvin Tan as he receives his Sword-of-Honour from Mr Raymond Lim.
On 20 Aug 09, 83 graduands received their certificates, vocational wings, brevets and ceremonial swords from Guest-of-Honour, former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, at the RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony (RCGC). The ceremony, held at Air Force Museum, was followed by the RSAF Graduation Dining-In (RGDI), which was held at the Paya Lebar Officers’ Mess. The ceremony also recognised the Best Trainees of the respective courses when MG Ng presented the awards to them.

For many, the RCGC marked the fulfilment of an aspiration to join the RSAF. Best Trainee for the 31st Weapon Systems Officer (Air Defence Artillery) [WSO(ADA)] Course, OCT Kelvin Tan, was one who felt this way. He said, “Since young, it has been my ambition to become an officer in the RSAF. I’ve always wanted a vocation that requires both mental and physical strength, and I believe a career in the RSAF as a WSO(ADA) will challenge me both physically and mentally.”

Best Trainee of the 137th Transport Wings Course, LTA Chandra Teeneshwaran, shared similar sentiments, “It has always been my dream to be a pilot in the RSAF. I find the various humanitarian missions that the RSAF participates in particularly meaningful and I look forward to the opportunity of helping others in future.”

Best Trainee for the 26th WSO(C3) Course, OCT Andrew Tan, shared on the main takeaways from his course, “I learnt how to control aircraft and how to handle air traffic. More importantly, I learnt how to multi-task effectively and have improved my organisational skills.”

His sister, Ms Tan Choo Yan, said, “I’m very proud that my brother has been able to clinch this award. He’s a mature person and I am confident that he will do well in his career with the Air Force.”

With ‘Team Excellence’ being one of the Core Values of the RSAF, it was not surprising to find that many trainees forged strong bonds with one another during the course. Said Best Trainee of the 17th Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Wings Course, OCT Darren Ong, “While I’m delighted to be Best Trainee, I must thank my coursemates for their encouragement and motivation. Our course motto is ‘Strength is Unity’. It’s a play on the axiom ‘Unity is Strength’ and is testament to the strong bonds we have forged during the course.”

His father, 2WO(Ret) Ong Kwi Lam, a former regular in the SAF, shared his joy, “Having served in the SAF for many years I know how hard it is to emerge as Best Trainee. I’m very proud of him.”

Best Trainee for the 134th Fighter Wings Course, LTA Benjamin Quek, had some words for future trainees. He said, “You should never be afraid to try no matter how difficult it seems. Remain dedicated and passionate, and strive to overcome all challenges.”

The RGDI ceremony was preceded by a symbolic mixing of the Air Force Spirits. After the mixing, the graduands proceeded to the Paya Lebar Officers’ Mess for the RGDI. During the dining-in, the Distinguished Speaker, BG(NS) Tsoi Mun Heng, gave an inspiring speech to motivate and prepare graduands for officership in the RSAF.

Air Force News congratulates all graduands and wishes them the best in their future endeavours.

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**Name (from left to right) | Category**

| LTA Fong Wei Shen | 136th Transport Wings Course |
| LTA C. Teeneshwaran | 137th Transport Wings Course |
| OCT Lee Jun Hai, Raymond | 12th ROS Commander Course |
| LTA Quek Hong Chien Benjamin | 134th Fighter Wings Course |
| OCT Tan Yong Chuan Andrew | 26th Weapon Systems Officer (C3) Course |
| OCT Tan Shan Teck Kelvin | 31st Weapon Systems Officer (ADA) Course |
| Mr Semaraj S/O Selvaraj | 16th Air Logistics Officer (Supply) Course |
| OCT Ong Kian Chow Darren | 17th UAV Wings Course |
**RTAF Commander-in-Chief conferred Meritorious Service Medal (Military)**

Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Ithaporn Subhawong, was conferred Singapore’s prestigious military award, the Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera), or the Meritorious Service Medal (Military), by Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, at an investiture held at the Ministry of Defence on 17 Jul 09.

ACM Ithaporn has actively promoted greater professional and personnel interactions between the RTAF and the RSAF. The two air forces interact and cooperate extensively through a broad spectrum of activities, including the Air Working Group, bilateral and multilateral exercises, as well as exchange programmes. These activities have enhanced the interoperability and camaraderie between the two air forces. Under ACM Ithaporn’s support and guidance, the RSAF has received valuable support and assistance from the RTAF during its training in Thailand.

ACM Ithaporn also called on DPM, Mr Teo Chee Hean, CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, and former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, before the investiture. These events underscores the close and long-standing defence relations between the RSAF and the RTAF.

**TNI AU Chief of Staff conferred Meritorious Service Medal (Military)**

The Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Air Force (TNI AU), Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Subandrio, was conferred Singapore’s prestigious military award, the Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera) [or Meritorious Service Medal (Military)], by Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, at an investiture held at the Ministry of Defence on 28 Sep 09.

The medal was awarded to ACM Subandrio for his significant contributions in enhancing the excellent ties between the TNI-AU and the RSAF. Under ACM Subandrio’s leadership, the two air forces have continued their close cooperation in a broad range of activities, which include bilateral exercises such as EX Elang Indopura and EX Camar Indopura. He was also instrumental in initiating new professional exchanges and interaction programmes between the TNI AU and the RSAF. ACM Subandrio established the Cadets and Instructors Exchange Programme as a platform for personnel from both air forces to share their ideas and experiences. These interactions have strengthened mutual understanding and interoperability between the two air forces. ACM Subandrio, called on Dr Ng, CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, and former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, before the investiture.
Chief of Air Force – Change of Command

BG Ng Chee Meng Takes the Helm

The baton of command of the RSAF has been passed to BG Ng Chee Meng who now stands at the helm of our organisation as our new Chief of Air Force.

BG Ng joined the RSAF in 1986. Shortly after which, he was awarded the SAF Overseas Training Award (Graduating) to pursue Electrical Engineering at the US Air Force Academy, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in 1991. Awarded with the SAF Postgraduate Award in 2002, BG Ng pursued a Master of Arts (International Relations) at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA.

BG Ng graduated from the US Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1992, following which he underwent F-5E fighter conversion training in 144 SQN. His military training also includes attendance of the Singapore Command and Staff Course in 1999 where he graduated as the top student.

Throughout his 23 years of service, BG Ng has held various command and staff appointments in the Republic of Singapore Air Force and Joint Staff. These include Commanding Officer 144 SQN, Head Air Plans, Commander Changi Air Base, Head Joint Operations and Director Joint Operations prior to assuming the post of Deputy Chief of Air Force on 1 Aug 09.

For his outstanding contributions to the SAF, BG Ng was awarded the prestigious Public Administration Medal – Bronze (Military) in 2005.

Air Force News welcomes BG Ng into his appointment as the Chief of Air Force.
After 25 years of service to the RSAF, MG Ng Chee Khern moves on to higher callings in his service to the nation. Following his journey over the years, Air Force News takes a closer look at the various achievements and contributions of this visionary leader.

The Advent of a New Age

Born in Singapore on 18 October 1965, MG Ng Chee Khern was enlisted into the SAF in 1984. As a mark of his capabilities, he was awarded the Sword of Honour as the best Infantry Officer Cadet for his course. MG Ng was also awarded the President's Scholarship and the SAF Overseas Scholarship for his military and academic achievements. He soon joined the RSAF as a pilot and eventually graduated as Best Pilot Trainee on the F-5E Tiger fighter aircraft, before later converting to the F-16C/D fighter aircraft.

Looking back, MG Ng had said in a speech that one of his greatest achievements was being the Sword of Honour for the Infantry Officer Course. While it may seem pale in significance as compared to the achievements he made later in his career, it was an early sign of his versatility and commitment to excellence. Former Chief of Defence Force, LG(Ret) Bey Soo Khiang, spoke of how MG Ng stood out to him, even on their first encounter, “He was very different from all the other younger officers in the RSAF. With tremendous intellectual capacity, self confidence and a great desire to succeed, it was then only a question of how he would develop as a pilot and a leader in his own style.”


While in these appointments, he made significant changes to the workings of each department and the SAF as a whole, but what stood out most in each and every appointment were the relationships that he built with those around him, Director Military Security, BG David Koh, who was HJCISD when MG Ng was DJOPD, said of his experience working with MG Ng, “I had never served under a fighter pilot before and I must say that his instincts are quite different compared to that of mere mortals like myself. Initially I was quite taken aback by how forthright and direct he was, but I soon realised that his comments were not personal. I found MG Ng to be intensely professional in his dealings.” Staff Assistant in Air Logistics Department, 1WO Eng Kwong Choon, spoke of CAF from the perspective of the Warrant Officer Corps, “I have always felt CAF had a special bond with us Warrant Officers, for no matter what the occasion was, he always made time to speak to us.”

The Personal Touch

Many have commented on the stern countenance of MG Ng Chee Khern and the intimidating nature of the high level of intellectual discussions generated by this leader. Yet for one described as such, MG Ng has over the years proven himself to be a caring and thoughtful leader to those around him. The most obvious and tangible embodiment of this aspect of him would be Project CARDINAL, a massive undertaking that brought welfare, personnel development and camaraderie to the very front of the RSAF’s priorities and considerations. His unassuming nature and his closeness to the people on the ground are one of the first traits brought up by those who have known him the longest. This includes CWAF, SWO Koh Yong Meng, as he spoke of MG Ng, “At the various events that he has attended, he would often be found talking passionately with his men, of the past and the present, gathering feedback or recounting past stories... His thinking and encouragement will always spur us to do our utmost best.”

The interest he took in his personnel extended beyond merely work. CWO 144 Squadron, 1WO Elangovan, spoke of the MG Ng that he knew, “CAF was very interested in what we were doing, not only in work but our families as well. Thus, he spent a lot of time engaging us, always giving analogies on why we have to be strong, why we have to do all the taskings and why we had to put in so many hours of work. Those days we understood that it was for the pride of the squadron, but if you ask me today, it was all about engaging the heart.”

This ability to connect with personnel of all ranks was described by his former Staff Assistant, MAJ Stanley Chua, who said, “He is probably the most intelligent and disciplined person I have ever worked with. But at the same time, he retains all the layman instincts that allow him to empathise with the rank and file. I think these are the traits that make him the remarkable leader that he is.”
CDF LG Desmond Kuek, held MG Ng in high praise for his work ethics and personal qualities. At MG Ng’s farewell dinner on 9 Dec 09, LG Kuek said in his speech, “I have learnt much about the RSAF from Chee Khern, and gained even greater respect about our men and women in blue through him. He has a fierce professional pride, an unwavering commitment to the mission, and an openness and humility despite his high stature to listen and learn from anyone regardless of their rank or colour of uniform. I have always valued his objectivity, clarity and freshness of perspective. He is incisive in his assessments, astute in his judgement, and has been a great source of support and encouragement to me these past 7 years since he first joined me when he was HJO.”

Charting the RSAF’s Future
A visionary leader, MG Ng has proven time and again that he is able to make a difference. His most significant contribution was leading the restructuring of the RSAF into the various Commands. For a change described as “the most fundamental restructuring of the RSAF’s organisation” since its inception by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, MG Ng’s leadership and direction enabled it to be implemented in a remarkably smooth fashion.

Former Commander Air Power Generation Command, COL(NS)Tan Kah Han, described the great leadership capability that MG Ng possessed and utilised in the restructuring. “He spent enormous amounts of time to get the buy-in not just from the senior leadership but across the ranks as well. You would see him walking the ground, explaining to people why the transformation was undertaken and the benefits that it brings to the Air Force, the SAF and Singapore as a whole. In addition, he trusted his commanders immensely and empowered them to carry out their jobs with the knowledge that they are probably the subject matter experts.”

MG Ng’s ability as a leader was demonstrated further by his inherent desire to deeply understand every aspect of the Air Force. Commander Participation Command, BG Wong Huat Sern, gave an example of this quality, “He invested a lot of time getting to know people outside the fighter community and understanding how we looked at things. It is because of this holistic and inclusive approach that concepts like Air Power Generation and Air Participation have flourished.”

Besides the organisational change that he led, MG Ng has also made significant contributions to the RSAF in putting it on the world map. Director Military Intelligence, BG Tan Meng Dui, spoke of MG Ng’s personal qualities in friendship and diplomacy, “MG Ng has turned out to be a far better diplomat for the RSAF than, I believe, many have expected. I have seen him on numerous occasions making the personal effort and doing the small things that matter. It will not be an exaggeration to say that the RSAF has made many good friends during his time as CAF, and won much acclaim and goodwill, both regionally and internationally.”

As testament to MG Ng’s significant contributions towards enhancing the warm defence relations between Singapore and various countries, MG Ng was awarded many accolades and special awards. In particular, MG Ng was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Gold) (Military) in 2005 and was conferred the Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) by the United States in 2008.
A TRIBUTE TO OUR VISIONARY LEADER
MAJOR-GENERAL NG CHEE KHERN

1. MG Ng receiving the President’s Scholarship at the Istana in 1984.

2. MG Ng was awarded the Infantry Sword-of-Honour in 1985.

3. MG Ng (top left) and other trainees during his pilot trainee days in 1989.

4. MG Ng, then the CO of 149 SQN, participating in EX Elang Indopura in 1996.

5. MG Ng taking the oath as the new CAF on 24 Mar 06.

6. Ever the diplomat, MG Ng has forged close working relations between the RSAF and air forces around the world.

7. MG Ng has also enhanced the RSAF’s standing in the international arena by spearheading the RSAF’s contributions to international security.
8. As the Chief of Air Force, MG Ng led the most fundamental restructuring of the RSAF since its inception.

9. MG Ng, enjoying a Tandem Jump.

10. After his First Flight (F-16 and F-5), MG Ng was hosed down as part of the RSAF’s tradition.

11. A farewell dinner was held in appreciation of MG Ng’s contributions to the SAF.

12. CDF presenting MG Ng with the Successful Command Plaque on 10 Dec 09.
The words of Chief of Staff (Air Staff), BG Hoo Cher Mou, encapsulated MG Ng’s professional achievements in the RSAF, “As he departs for new horizons, he leaves behind an air force that is fundamentally transformed: stronger, more capable and better networked, to fulfill the current and future needs of the nation.”

The Man

MG Ng’s position in life as a Scholar, General and Chief of Air Force makes it easy for some to forget that he is at the same time a friend, father and loving husband. His wife of 22 years, Mrs Elaine Ng, testifies to his personal belief in friendship, “Chee Khern takes friendship very seriously. Those friends he has made through the years are very important to him and even if he doesn’t have time to see them as often as he would like to, I think their good wishes and advice are always important to him. He has always found that having close friends and being able to relax with them has helped him through many difficult periods in his career.”

MG Ng with the Crown Prince of Brunei Darussalem, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, at Paya Lebar Air Base on 22 Jan 09.

MG Ng with his family at a rehearsal for the National Day Parade on 18 Jul 09.

MG Ng at the RSAF Cohesion Day 2008, held on 18 Nov 08.

MG Ng with his family at a rehearsal for the National Day Parade on 18 Jul 09.

MG Ng at the RSAF Cohesion Day 2008, held on 18 Nov 08.

Secretary to CAF, Ms Zelda Lee, gave a short insightful statement on the CAF she knows, “CAF is a very hard-working person who completes his work every day. He is also a kind-hearted and charitable person who loves his family and cares for his servicemen. It has been a pleasure working with him.”

A passionate fan of football and a supporter of the Liverpool Football Club, MG Ng often uses analogies from football to better flesh out his views. It was with consideration of this “other” love of MG Ng that Commander Air Defence and Operations Command (ADOC), BG Kwek Kok Kwong, together with some Manchester United Football Club fans from ADOC, drafted a poem for his farewell:

As a Leader, you have been an Inspiration to all of us. In you, we saw how a Vision can energise and excite; we saw how exemplary Ethics and Resolve can command respect; we saw how Passion and Objectivity can go a long way and stand the test of time; and we saw how Originality and Lucidity of thought can illuminate the way ahead for all of us and make us ever above all.

It is his outstanding personal traits and wholesome attitude that made MG Ng the exceptional and respected leader that he is. MG Ng’s flying instructor from 150 SQN, MAJ(Ret) Anna Gan, recounted an experience she had with him many years after he graduated, “We met at a survival training course many years later and he shocked me by calling me “Ma’am” despite the fact that he out-ranked me! I asked him to call me by name and he replied that I was his instructor and he would accord me the respect. I was humbled by his reply and I think that episode speaks volumes of his personality.”

With the long-term force structure plans and new people development efforts that MG Ng envisioned and saw through, the RSAF finds itself in fair winds for the next lap ahead. His quality as a person and the impact that he has made as an individual will certainly leave a mark in the history of the organisation. On 10 Dec 09, the RSAF bids a fond farewell to its visionary leader, MG Ng Chee Khern, and wishes him the very best in all his endeavours.

— Article by CPL Daniel Soh
The CDF Essay Competition is an annual competition organised by POINTER journal to encourage SAF officers to actively research and reflect on professional issues, and to share their knowledge, ideas and views through writing. This year, RSAF personnel clinched 10 of the 21 prizes, which were presented to the winners by CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, on 27 Aug 09.

Of the 10 RSAF Prize Winners, 3 were awarded the Merit Award while 6 were awarded the Commendation Award and CPT Victor Ong did the RSAF proud by clinching the First Prize with his essay titled ‘On Fourth Generation Warfare: Implications to the SAF’. Shared CPT Ong on his motivation to write the essay, “I am convinced that the concept of Fourth Generation Warfare is one that we need to give due thought to. With a changing security environment, the characteristics of warfare that we’re familiar with may change. If they do, we need to know how we can deal with them.”

MAJ Tham Yeow Min who won the Merit Award for his essay titled ‘Unmanned, Unlimited? The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle in the Transformation of Air Power for the RSAF’ also shared his sentiments, “I’m glad that my essay was able to make a positive contribution to the RSAF. Writing this essay made me realise that individual effort can go a long way towards advancing a team. How we shape our future depends on how much we can learn from the past and present. Essays are one way we can pass on knowledge to others within the RSAF and the SAF.”

Air Force News congratulates all prize winners on their outstanding contributions and achievements.

The Team Excellence Symposium, held on 23 – 25 Sep 09 at PSB Academy (Henderson Campus), is an annual national competition cum convention organised by the Singapore Productivity Association for Work Improvement Teams / Innovation and Quality Circles (IQCs) from the public and private sector counterparts to compete for Star, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards.

Teams were competing based on their project process and methodology in coming out with innovative projects. Teams were given 10 minutes for presentation, followed by a 10 minutes question and answer session. External assessors were the judges for this competition.

Team Wiser from Air Power Generation Command (APGC), Air Logistics Group (ALG), Fixed Wing 1 (FW1) did the RSAF proud by clinching the prestigious Star award for their innovative project, the Hydraulic Test Stand Multi-Adapter.

Team Wiser’s project entails the fabrication of a hydraulic test stand adaptor, allowing the F-16 hydraulic test stand to be compatibly used on the F-5 aircraft. The adaptor steps down the F-16 hydraulic test stand coupling to match the smaller F-5 aircraft receptacle. This eliminates the requirement to transport the bulky F-5 hydraulic test stands from base to base, resulting in an annual cost avoidance of over $32000. More importantly, it enhances the overall operational readiness of the fleet by enabling expeditious aircraft recovery during cross base deployments or unforeseen diversions. The innovative solution could be extended to other aircraft platforms which similarly utilise hydraulic test stands for aircraft rectification.

The presenters for Team Wiser, led by MAJ Ng Chee Boon (forth from left) and Mr Chai Kong Wah (5th from left).
**RSAF Wins SAFSA Badminton Inter-Formation Championship**

The RSAF badminton team held on and emerged as the champions after beating Combat Service Support Command (CSSCOM) 3 – 2 in the Inter-Formation Team Championship 2009 (IFC - Badminton) finals at Kranji Camp III’s Multi-purpose Hall on the 7 Aug 09.

“Our team played extremely well despite the fact that we had earlier lost 1 – 4 to the same opponent (CSSCOM) in the qualifying rounds and triumphed over them 3 – 1 in the grand final. Finally a deserving win for RSAF after a 11-year spell. Simply exhilarating!” exclaimed 2WO Michael Gan, Convenor of the RSAF Badminton Team.

The SAFSA Badminton Open / IFC Team Championship (8 Jul 09 – 7 Aug 09) has always been a prestigious event in the sporting calendar, with badminton being one of the 9 core sports under SAFSA. The games, held annually, encourages camaraderie, and a healthy and active lifestyle across the various formations and Services.

The only female participant from the RSAF, 1SG Claudia Tan, said, “I have a very supportive boss who not only approves my participation in this annual competition, he has also given me time-off to attend all the training sessions which started 2 months before the competition.

Outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen of the SAF were honoured at the annual SAF Sports Association (SAFSA) Awards Ceremony held on 3 Aug 09 at The Chevrons.

Guest-of-Honour, CDF, LG Desmond Kuek, and Chairman SAFSA Management Committee, former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, presented the various awards to the recipients.

Among the RSAF recipients was Staff Officer, Air Operations Department, CPT Lim Sing Hui. CPT Lim is one of the two Captains of the women’s SAFSA Shooting Team, which was named the Best Women’s Team for the year. Shared a delighted CPT Lim, “Our team has a common vision to excel in every competition we participate in. Our determination bonds us together, and is one of the key factors that led to us clinching this award. I’m very proud to be the Captain of the SAFSA Shooting Team!”

As for my work commitment, I always ensure that I complete the operational tasks before going off for trainings and competitions. Badminton is my passion, hence I will play the game as often as I can, to maintain my standard as well as for maintaining my fitness.”

**SAFSA Awards 2009**

**CARDINAL Heartbeat**

**ADG Family@Work Day at NDP Rehearsal**

Display (TDD) segments of the NDP and the novel idea of holding the ADG Family@Work Day on a NDP Rehearsal was mooted with the aim of providing families with an insight into the ‘weekend office’ of ADG servicemen.

Family members and loved ones were able to see the final product of the servicemen's contributions and appreciate the time and effort they had committed for the past five months since NDP rehearsals started. While the servicemen were on duty to ensure that the P&C and TDD segments went smoothly, their families were treated to the spectacular parade and show performances. The children were especially thrilled by the various military hardware showcased in the TDD, especially the firing of the Bionix's 30mm guns at a simulated target. Mrs Avril Ong, a serviceman’s wife, commented, “It has been great to experience the joy and excitement of NDP and to know that the parade has been made possible through the efforts of our servicemen. Now my kids and I are able to appreciate what their father does when he goes to work every Saturday.”

Added S1 for ADG, Ms Koh Chiaw Hwee, “We were completely wowed by the energy, commitment, pride and sense of enjoyment we saw in all NDP participants. I can’t adequately express my gratitude to all the men who had put in so much for the parade, for it brought us much joy and pride to partake in and to witness such an event. I hope I don’t sound too mushy but I would say that I have never felt prouder singing the National Anthem and reciting the National Pledge.”
CARDINAL Heartbeat

Learning With the RSAF

The various Commands and bases of the RSAF held their Learning Days this quarter, providing opportunities for servicemen to learn something new, while also creating the avenue for some of the Commands, Groups and bases to hold their Workplan cascade briefs.

Air Defence and Operations Command Learning Day

The Air Defence and Operations Command (ADOC) Learning Day was conducted on 13 Aug 09 at the Chong Pang Camp Auditorium where they attended a workshop presentation entitled “Rise above the WINs of Change”, before attending 3 focus briefs presented by the Health Promotion Board, Air Force Training Command and CARDINAL Office.

Participation Command Learning Day

Participation Command (PC) held its CARDINAL Learning Day on 20 Aug 09 at Chong Pang Camp. The broad objective for the event was to help energise PC personnel to feel “FRESH” at work and become fully engaged. This was done through learning seminar that helped refresh, re-ignite and re-engage all PC personnel to achieve mission success for the RSAF and SAF. As the RSAF and PC Workplan imperatives had previously been cascaded in June 09, the Learning Day focused mainly on “Developing Professional” as part of PC’s overall CARDINAL efforts.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command Learning Day

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command (UC) Learning Day was held on 31 Aug 09 at the TAB Briefing Room. As the RSAF and UC Workplan messages had been cascaded in July 09, the main objective of the Learning Day was to create a platform for UC personnel to come together to learn, enhance their professionalism and strive for mastery in their respective fields. For that purpose, a seminar that leveraged on the Realising Your Potential arm of Project CARDINAL was held for the audience.

Divisional Air Defence Group Learning Day

Participants discussed the topic, ‘What Does It Mean To Be A Ground-Based Air Defence Professional?” during the Divisional Air Defence Group (DAG) Workplan Brief cum Learning Day on 31 Jul 09 at Chong Pang Camp. The Learning Day had begun with the workplan presentation for DAG, followed by that of the various units. After which, CO 6/9 DA Bn, LTC Francis Tan, gave a presentation sharing on what becoming a learning organisation entailed, highlighting that the impetus should be one’s desire to improve, survive, succeed and be great.

APGC – Tengah Air Base Learning Day

Tengah Air Base (TAB) held its second Cardinal Learning Day on 12 Aug 09 at the Tengah Officers’ Mess. 217 personnel from TAB attended the event, which featured a conference-style workshop as well as updates of the RSAF, APGC and base workplans by Commander TAB, COL David Wong, updates on Project CARDINAL and a sharing of CARDINAL perspectives by the Base Chief Warrant Officer (CWO), MWO John Chia.

APGC – Paya Lebar Air Base Learning Day

PLAB conducted its CARDINAL Learning Day on 13 Aug 09 with the core objective of cascading the RSAF, APGC and base workplans to the ground, as well as to equip personnel with tools-of-the-trade so that they can be an effective catalyst for change. A total of 201 servicemen participated in the event which was made up of two sessions, a facilitated workshop and a video presentation to update servicemen on the RSAF Workplan and progress of the ongoing CARDINAL effort.

APGC – Sembawang Air Base Learning Day

Sembawang Air Base conducted its CARDINAL Learning Day on 20 Aug 09 at the Chong Pang Camp Auditorium with the core objective of cascading the RSAF, APGC and base workplans to the ground. There was also a conference-style workshop for the participants and a video to update participants on the latest progress of the CARDINAL effort.
My NDP 09 Reflections

The annual National Day Parade (NDP) has always been a very special event to me. It is where Singaporeans from all walks of life come together and put in their best efforts to train, rehearse, perform and celebrate the independence of our nation. More importantly, it strengthens our sense of belonging to Singapore and demonstrates our ability to defend our country and our home.

My first participation in NDP was in NDP 2000, where I participated as part of the National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) contingent. It was there and then that I was captivated by the smartness of the Guard of Honour (GOH) contingents in their ceremonial uniforms. I was impressed by their impeccable and flawless drills. Since then, I had always aspired to be part of the GOH contingent someday. My dreams were realised when I was selected to be the escort for the RSAF State Colour during NDP 09.

Unfortunately, my squadron, 165 SQN, was already heavily involved in organising NDP 09 as part of the Parade and Marshalling Committee at that time, and that was on top of an operation that the squadron was mounting. Thus, manpower resources were very tight and all hands were tied up pretty much all the time. In spite of that, when I consulted my Officer Commanding (OC), MAJ Kelvin Lee Kim Leong and the Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) of 165 SQN, MWO Loh Chin Boon regarding my participation in the RSAF State Colour escort, they not only did not dissuade me, but instead recommended me to go for it. I was over the moon knowing that I was bestowed with the great honour of representing all RSAF personnel in protecting our Service’s State Colour.

Though the training and rehearsals were tough, I felt that it was all well worth the while when I saw photographs of my contingent splashed all over the newspapers and the Internet. I felt a profound sense of pride and satisfaction. I vividly remembered the sight of my CWO cheering us on while we were marching along the 3.2km city march. His gesture greatly lifted our morale and spirits. I am also deeply thankful to our trainers who spent considerable time and effort to train and guide us from behind the scenes. They had volunteered their Services wholeheartedly and selflessly, playing a crucial role in making the parade a resounding success.

Overall, I felt that the entire experience of NDP 09 was a fantastic one. I will definitely rank it as one of the greatest achievements in my life. The assistance and guidance from my squadron and trainers gave me the confidence to work towards my goal and fulfill my dream of being in the GOH contingent. I hope to follow in their footsteps one day, volunteering myself in assisting and guiding the next generation of participants for future parades. Last but not least, I believe that we can all fulfill our aspirations, if only we are willing to work hard at it.

Celebrating Success – NDP 09

ADOC celebrated the culmination of National Day Parade (NDP) 09 with an appreciation dinner themed ‘Celebrating Success – NDP 09’ on 28 Sep 09 at the Bukit Gombak Camp Officers’ Mess.

The celebration started with Commander ADOC, BG Kwek Kok Kwong giving his appreciation speech to his men and women for a job well-done on NDP 09. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the people involved to acknowledge their hard work and commitment.

The organisers then initiated a reflection session where members from the Parade and Ceremony committee were invited to share the thoughts and experiences they had during their long, and sometimes, arduous journey. Quoting MAJ Ace Tey, it was a “tough journey with sweet returns.” The evening ended with one of ADOC’s in-house talents performing a fantastic beat-box piece which gave a nice finale to their celebration.
RTAF Study Visit

A delegation from the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), led by Director of Training, Directorate of Operations, Group Captain (GpCpt) Suteera Yensuang, visited the RSAF on 9 Jul 09.

During their visit, the delegation visited Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command (UC) where they were briefed on the roles and responsibilities of UC. They also viewed a static display of the Searcher UAV.

The visit reflects the close and long-standing relations between the RTAF and the RSAF. Both air forces interact regularly through professional exchanges and exercises like EX Cope Tiger.

Canadian Defence Attaché

The Canadian Defence Attaché, COL Jacques Leblanc called on Chief of Staff (Air Staff), BG Hoo Cher Mou, on 14 Jul 09 at MINDEF. The call reflects the cordial and growing defence relations between the two countries.

Philippines Defence Attaché

The Philippines Defence Attaché, CAPT Alexander Lopez called on Chief of Staff (Air Staff), BG Hoo Cher Mou, on 24 Jul 09 at MINDEF. The call reflects the warm and growing defence relations between the two countries.

Peace Carvin, United States

A delegation from the United States Air Force, made up of officers involved in the RSAF’s Peace Carvin II (PC II) and Peace Carvin V (PC V) programmes, visited Singapore from 4 – 10 Aug 09. Led by Commander 56th Fighter Wing, Brigadier General Kurt F. Neubauer, the delegates included Operations Group Commander, 366th Fighter Wing, COL James J. McGovern, Maintenance Group Commander, 366th Fighter Wing, COL Timothy J. Fowler, and Commander 428th Fighter Squadron, LTC Keith P. Gibson.

During their visit to HQ Air Combat Command (ACC) and HQ Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command, the delegation was briefed on the operational roles and capabilities of the RSAF, ACC, UC and Air Power Generation Command. They also experienced the Air Mission Trainer at Flight Simulator Centre and visited Air Logistics Group – Fixed Wing 2, 6th Forward Supply Depot and 145 SQN where they were given an overview of the roles of the respective units.

The delegation also called on Chief of Staff (Air Staff), BG Hoo Cher Mou, on 6 Aug 09. They were then invited to observe the National Day Parade at Marina Bay on 9 Aug 09.

The annual visit allowed the US delegation to better understand the operations of the RSAF and served to enhance the warm defence relations between the RSAF and the United States Air Force.
OUR VALUED PARTNERS

Base Commander, Cazaux Air Base (Designate), FAF

Base Commander, Cazaux Air Base (Designate), French Air Force (FAF), COL Jean-Pascal Breton, visited Singapore from 6 – 10 Aug 09. During his visit, COL Breton made his introductory call on COS(AS), BG Hoo Cher Mou.

COL Breton visited the Flight Simulator Centre where he viewed the Operational Flight Trainer. He also visited Air Force Museum where he learnt more about the history of the RSAF. COL Breton also visited the Air Force Training Command (AFTC) where he called on Commander AFTC, COL Yeo Yee Peng and was briefed on the roles and responsibilities of the Command. As part of his programme, COL Breton was invited to view the National Day Parade at Marina Bay.

COL Breton’s visit underscores the warm and long-standing relations between the RSAF and the FAF.

Peace Prairie, Peace Triton and Peace Vanguard, United States

A delegation consisting of personnel from the Peace Prairie, Peace Vanguard and Peace Triton detachments was in Singapore for a working visit from 5 – 10 Aug 09. The Peace Prairie detachment was led by Assistant Chief of Staff, G3, 49th Armoured Division, Austin Texas Army National Guard, BG James Brown, the Peace Vanguard detachment was led by Senior State Aviation Officer, Arizona Army National Guard, COL Jerry Madison, and the Peace Triton detachment was led by Commander, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet, United States Navy, Captain Donald Williamson. The delegation called on COS(AS), BG Hoo Cher Mou on 6 Aug 09.

During their visit, the delegation was briefed on the RSAF’s training requirements and its Safety Management Systems. They visited Sembawang Air Base where they were briefed on the roles and responsibilities of Participation Command. The delegation also visited the Helicopter Simulator Centre. While in Singapore, the delegation was also invited to observe the National Day Parade at Marina Bay on 9 Aug 09.

The visit further deepens the warm and long-standing defence relations shared between the two armed forces.

Mayor Toowoomba Regional Council, Australia

Mayor Toowoomba Regional Council, Councillor Peter Taylor, visited Singapore from 6 – 10 Aug 09. During his visit, Councillor Taylor called on then Deputy CAF, BG Ng Chee Meng at MINDEF, and Second Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, at the Ministry of Education.

Councillor Taylor visited Sembawang Air Base where he was briefed on the roles and responsibilities of Participation Command. He also viewed the National Day Parade on 9 Aug 09, sharing in our nation’s celebrations.

The visit underscores the strong and long-standing defence relations between Singapore and Australia.

Commander, French Joint Forces in the Indian Ocean

The Commander of French Joint Forces in the Indian Ocean, RADM Bruno Nielly, called on then Deputy CAF, BG Ng Chee Meng, on 7 Aug 09.

The call reflects the warm and long-standing defence relations between France and Singapore.
Senator of Gujan Mestras, France

Senator Marie-Hélène Des Esgaulx, the Senator of Gujan Mestras, France, visited Singapore from 9 – 12 Aug 09.

During her visit, Senator Esgaulx visited Air Force Training Command (AFTC) and was given a brief on the organisational structure of the RSAF and the latest developments at AFTC. She also viewed the Enhanced Learning Space Classroom.

On 11 Aug 09, Senator Esgaulx called on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, and then Deputy CAF, BG Ng Chee Meng.

The visit reflects the warm and long-standing defence relations between France and Singapore.

Assistant Secretary, International Policy Division, Australia

On 12 Aug 09, Assistant Secretary (South-east Asia), International Policy Division, Australian Department of Defence, Mr Lachlan Colquhoun, visited Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Command (UC) at Tengah Air Base. During his visit, Mr Colquhoun was given an overview of UC’s organisation structure and its roles and capabilities.

The visit highlights the warm and long-standing defence relations between Singapore and Australia. Both the Royal Australian Air Force and the RSAF interact regularly through exercises such as EX Pitch Black and professional exchanges.

TNI AU – RSAF Instructor and Cadet Exchange Visit Programme

A team of three Indonesian Air Force (TNI AU) Academy instructors and six cadets visited the RSAF from 18 – 21 Aug 09. The visit is part of TNI AU’s curriculum to expose their cadets to air forces in the region and to experience the training schedules and lifestyles of cadets in their host countries.

During their visit to Air Force Training Command (AFTC), they were briefed on AFTC’s organisational structure. They were also given a tour of AFTC where they viewed the Radar and Tower Simulator, Flight Control System Trainer and Propulsion Training Bay. They also experienced the Virtual Reality Aircraft Recognition System and the Enhanced Learning Space Classroom. On 20 Aug 09, the instructors and cadets also witnessed the RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony held at Air Force Museum.

The exchange visit programme underscores the close and warm relations between the TNI AU and the RSAF. The two air forces collaborate regularly through exercises like EX Camar Indopura and EX Elang Indopura, as well as professional exchanges.

Commander Royal Brunei Air Force

Commander Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF), BG Dato Paduka Mahmud Saidin visited Singapore on 20 Aug 09.

BG Mahmud called on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, Chief of Defence Force (CDF), LG Desmond Kuek and former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern.

BG Mahmud’s visit reflects the warm and friendly ties between Singapore and Brunei. The RSAF and RBAirF interact regularly through visits, professional exchanges and mutual attendance of courses.
Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Operations, IAF

Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Operations, Indian Air Force (IAF), Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Devinder Singh, visited Singapore from 24 – 28 Aug 09.

On 24 Aug 09, AVM Devinder Singh called on Chief of Staff (Air Staff), BG Hoo Cher Mou.

During his visit to 145 SQN, AVM Devinder Singh viewed a static display of the F-16D Block 52+ fighter aircraft and was briefed on the exercises and operations conducted by the RSAF, as well as the roles and capabilities of Air Combat Command and 145 SQN. He also experienced the Air Mission Trainer at the Flight Simulator Centre, CH-47 Chinook Flight Simulator at the Helicopter Simulator Centre, and enjoyed a guided tour at Air Force Museum.

The visit highlights the warm and growing relations between the IAF and the RSAF. The two air forces interact regularly through professional exchanges and exercises like EX SINDEX.

Commander US Transport Command

Commander, United States Transportation Command, GEN Duncan McNabb, called on former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, on 2 Sep 09.

The call underscores the warm and long-standing relations between the RSAF and the USAF. Both air forces interact regularly through professional exchanges and exercises such as EX Pitch Black and EX Cope Tiger.

IAF – RSAF Transport Exchange Visit

Inaugurated in 2007, the Indian Air Force (IAF) – RSAF Transport Exchange Visit aims to pursue interactions between the two air forces on issues related to transport platform operations. This year, 3 officers from the IAF, consisting of Wing Commander (WG CDR) S Bhatta, WG CDR M Gourimath and Squadron Leader S Ghoush, visited the RSAF from 15 – 16 Sep 09.

As part of their exchange programme, they visited HQ Transport Group, 112 SQN and 122 SQN where they were briefed on the RSAF’s organisational structure, aeromedical evacuation capabilities and Air Delivery Systems. They also viewed static displays of the KC-135R and C-130 aircraft, before concluding their programme with a visit to Air Force Museum.

The RSAF – IAF Transport Exchange Visit is one of several ongoing exchanges between the RSAF and IAF to enhance the interoperability and mutual understanding between the two air forces. The visit enhances the warm and growing defence relations between the two air forces.
Director-General for International Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Japan

Director-General for International Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Japan, Mr Hiroshi Oe, visited Paya Lebar Air Base on 16 Sep 09. During his visit, Mr Oe was hosted by Commander Air Power Generation Command, COL Sarbjit Singh. And was briefed on the RSAF’s and Air Power Generation Command’s operational capabilities.

Mr Hiroshi Oe’s visit underscores the warm and growing defence relations between Singapore and Japan.

IAF – RSAF Helicopter Exchange Visit

The Indian Air Force (IAF) – RSAF Helicopter Exchange Visit was held on 22 Sep 09 to enhance interactions between the two air forces.

Wing Commander (WG CDR) Ramalingam Rajeevan and Squadron Leader (SQN LDR) Anshul Saxena visited 120 SQN. At 120 SQN, they were briefed on the squadron’s operations and capabilities, followed by a visit to the Helicopter Simulator Centre. Thereafter, they viewed the static display of the RSAF’s AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopter.

The exchange between RSAF and IAF reflects the warm and growing defence relations between the two air forces.

Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, German Federal Ministry of Defence

Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, German Federal Ministry of Defence, BG Hans-Werner Wiermann visited Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command (UC) on 22 Sep 09.

After a brief at HQ UC on the organisational structure of the RSAF and UC, BG Wiermann viewed the UAV Simulator as well as a static display of the Searcher and H-450 UAV systems at Murai Camp.

The visit underscores the growing defence relations between Singapore and Germany.

United Kingdom Defence Advisor

The Defence Advisor, British High Commission, Group Captain Clive Coombers, called on then Deputy CAF, BG Ng Chee Meng, on 23 Sep 09 at MINDEF. The call reflects the warm defence relations between Singapore and the United Kingdom.
RAAF – RSAF Senior Officers Exchange Programme

A delegation of officers from the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) visited Singapore from 6 – 9 Oct 09 as part of the Republic of Singapore Air Force – Royal Australian Air Force Senior Officers Exchange Programme (RSAF – RAAF SOEP).

During their stay, the RAAF delegation, led by Officer Commanding 42 Wing, GpCapt Stephen Meredith, visited Air Force Training Command and Flight Simulator Centre. The visitors were given tours of the various facilities and briefed on the progress of our 3rd Generation SAF Transformation, as well as on how the RSAF utilises technology to augment our training processes. The RAAF delegation also made a courtesy call on Chief of Staff (Air Staff), BG Hoo Cher Mou, on 7 Oct 09.

The RSAF – RAAF SOEP serves to promote greater interaction between the officers of the two air forces, and reinforce their knowledge of the military, political and social environment of the host country. The RAAF and RSAF enjoy excellent relations and the SOEP is one of the many avenues for maintaining these warm relations.

Health Supplements – Should I Consume Them?

Health supplements have become an inseparable part of our daily lives and come in all shapes, sizes and forms. Distributors and manufacturers also advertise various properties of their products. Some are advertised to boost daily nutritional intake, others are touted to improve bodily functions while others claim to have medicinal values. They may be varied but all of them have one commonality – Health supplements are advertised as entirely natural and void of any adverse effects. However, are all of these health supplements as what their advocates claim?

This article will focus on 2 main supplements – Red Yeast Rice and Creatine.

Red Yeast Rice and Lowered Cholesterol

One of the leading lifestyle diseases of the modern world today is high cholesterol levels. Elevated levels of Low-Density Lipoproteins (LDL), commonly known as “bad cholesterol”, increase the risk of stroke, heart attacks and blood vessel diseases. Prescription cholesterol-lowering drugs like statins aid in reducing the production of cholesterol, thus reducing the cardiovascular risks. However, many people are uncomfortable with the prospect of being on long-term medications and have turned to health supplements such as red yeast rice.

Red yeast rice is rice that has been fermented by the red yeast, Monascus purpureus. In 1977, Professor Endo from Japan discovered a natural cholesterol-lowering substance that is produced by a strain of Monascus yeast, and named it Monacolin K. Scientists subsequently discovered many other closely-related substances with cholesterol-lowering properties (Monacolins) in red yeast rice.

There are three main preparations of red yeast rice – Zhitaï, Hypocol/
Cholestin and Xuezhikang. Cholestin or HypoCol is produced by the fermentation of selected strains of Monascus purpureus, using a proprietary process developed by Chinese and American scientists.

Monacolin K is chemically identical in structure to lovastatin, which is the active ingredient in the popular cholesterol-lowering prescription drug Lovastatin (Mevacor). It is also found in health supplements like Hypocol in certain concentrations. However, the lovastatin in Mevacor is highly purified and concentrated while that in health supplements are not.

Multiple international and Chinese studies have been carried out since the discovery of Monacolins and a number of them have shown that Monacolin K and the presence of other Monacolins in health supplements derived from red yeast rice have significant cholesterol-lowering properties and causes minimal adverse effects. However, it is noted that majority of these studies involved small sample sizes and only the short term effects (ranging only from weeks to months) of the health supplements were assessed.

Therefore, it is advised that although there are evidence supporting the cholesterol-lowering properties of health supplements derived from red yeast rice, it is prudent to consult doctors prior to commencing such products. This is especially so in patients taking any medications or have history of liver disease. Thus, such supplements are not compatible with flying or control duties without prior consultation with Aviation Medical Officers (AvMOs). Regular monitoring by AvMOs are also required while being on these supplements.

Creatine is a nitrogenous organic acid produced naturally in the body. It is found in muscles and supplies energy to the muscle. Since the 1910s, researchers have discovered that by ingesting creatine, the creatine content of muscle can be boosted. Creatine as a form of athletic aid is given a further “endorsement” when medal-winning athletes in the 1992 Olympics were reported to be on Creatine prior to the sporting event. From then on, Creatine supplements have been developed by various companies and in many different formulations.

Creatine supplements are often taken by athletes who wish to gain muscle mass or perform better in sports. Numerous studies have been done to assess the effectiveness of Creatine supplements and results have shown that activities requiring sudden bursts of intense energy over a short period of time benefit most from Creatine supplements while endurance sports are unimproved.

On the other hand, studies have also been carried out to assess the side effects of Creatine supplements with regard to increasing concern over product safety. Some of the common reported side effects include weight gain, muscle cramps, abdominal discomfort, flatulence, diarrhoea, nausea, irritability, aggression and nervousness. Some concerns have also been raised regarding the effects of Creatine supplements on kidney function. However, studies have revealed that there is no detectable side effects on the kidneys but consumers are advised to have adequate water intake to offset the increased levels of creatine which is mainly excreted in the urine.

Many of these studies are short term ones which do not assess for long term safety of such supplements can be determined. Individuals using creatine, including athletes, should be monitored by a healthcare professional. Users with preexisting medical conditions like diabetes, kidney or liver diseases are advised to consult their physicians prior to initiating Creatine supplements.

Often, such Creatine supplements are not under as stringent regulations as prescription drugs and there is a risk of them being marketed with little scientific research to back up their presumed safety and effectiveness. Furthermore, the purity and concentration of the health supplements vary among different manufacturers or brands.

The following are general guidelines:

1) Always purchase health supplements from reputable importers and retailers.
2) Always read the product labels.
3) Always consult your doctor prior to starting any new products. This is especially so if you have pre-existing medical conditions.

-it is advised to read the product labels and to consult a physician before starting on a new therapy.

Creatine supplements has recently been approved for use in the ASSET-Plus Programme in the RSAF and is targeted at aircrew who are starting with or converting to new platforms with higher G capabilities. The Programme will also be considered on a case-by-case basis in operational aircrew who has displayed a decrement in G-tolerance due to poor physical conditioning. Creatine supplements are used under the recommendations and supervision of AvMOs to complement weights training in achieving an optimal level of physical conditioning to enhance aircrew’s G-performance.

Under the Guidelines for the Sale and Supply of Health Supplements by Health Sciences Authority (HSA), the onus of responsibility for the safety and quality of health supplements rests with the importer and seller. Health supplements must also not contain substances listed in the Schedule of the Poisons Act or any prohibited substances. In addition, they must not be advertised or promoted for any specific medicinal purpose and can only make general health claims.

Health supplements are essentially not as strictly regulated as prescription drugs and there is a risk of them being marketed with little scientific research to back up their presumed safety and effectiveness. Furthermore, the purity and concentration of the health supplements vary among different manufacturers or brands.

The following are general guidelines:

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3) Always consult your doctor prior to starting any new products. This is especially so if you have pre-existing medical conditions.

- Article contributed by RSAF Medical Service
Annually, the Air Force Medical Services sends its medical officers for the Diploma in Aviation Medicine, a course held conjointly by King’s College London and the Royal Air Force (RAF) Centre for Aviation Medicine. In 2009, CPT(DR) Cheong Siew Meng was awarded the Stewart Memorial Prize for his achievement as the student with the best overall course performance. The Head Medical Operations (General Staff) Branch at HQ Air Force Medical Services had attended the 6-month course in the United Kingdom with fellow RSAF doctor, CPT(DR) Jason Low Weizheng, as well as military and civilian participants from various other countries such as India, Pakistan, Australia and Malaysia.

Apart from academics, the course includes visits to air bases and airports alike, and equips students with the knowledge, expertise and exposure required for a specialist in Aviation Medicine. CPT(DR) Cheong said of the benefits of the in-depth course, “It was a good academic primer or add-on to what I had been doing in the RSAF. The course also equipped me with key knowledge in Aviation Medicine that conventional medical school does not teach.” Prior to attending the course, CPT(DR) Cheong was stationed in the Crew Safety and Flight Environment Branch in Aeromedical Centre, where he helped plan and facilitate training programmes for aircrew, experienced the equipment and oversaw projects for the acquisition or implementation of safety equipment and standards.

CPT(DR) Cheong brought the training and mindset that he had received and developed in the RSAF to the course, qualities that would help him to excel in the foreign environment. He said of how he was well prepared for the challenges of the course, “I think what I brought with my to the course from, and which is very centric to the RSAF, was the drive, motivation and hunger to excel and to deepen my knowledge... the RSAF has helped me develop resilience, a strong outward-looking attitude and a dynamic finesse for excellence which has enriched my experience of learning.”

After returning from the course, CPT(DR) Cheong now takes on greater responsibilities as a qualified aviation medicine practitioner. Besides providing specialist medical care to aircrew and flying related vocationalists, he also assesses applicants and operational aircrew for their fitness to fly as well as deliberates the impact of their health on flying and flying on health. Having gleaned deeper specialist knowledge and broader operational perspectives from the Diploma in Aviation Medicine course, CPT(DR) Cheong is better able to draw greater relevance and impetus in his current appointment to drive aeromedical operational support while developing concepts, plans and doctrines which are in close support of the RSAF’s mission and vision.

In a class of students with such multifarious backgrounds, CPT(DR) Cheong has made many friends from other nations, giving him a better understanding of other nations and armed forces. Despite having found new friends, he was still away from his family and loved ones for 6 months, a challenge that had to be overcome. CPT(DR) Cheong said of what he gained from the experience, “Apart from studying, simply being on this course in the United Kingdom has helped me develop a certain degree of resilience and maturity. These qualities are certainly something that I believe the SAF and RSAF helps to equip you with to the best that they can and is something that I have personally benefitted from.”

As an Aviation Medical Officer, CPT(DR) Cheong is part of the extensive support and resources required to produce air power. Encapsulating the particular role and significance of aviation medicine to the RSAF, CPT(DR) Cheong explained, “Military Aviation, due to its aim and nature of operations, demands the most of aviation medicine as we to seek to extend the operational envelope and performance of the aircrew in a highly challenging and extreme environment, while ensuring that the force is kept fighting fit.”
“The ability to make objective decisions is always important, as a leader, because the outcome of a situation is likely to depend on what you decide to do.”

-- MSG Vijaikumar

Early this year, a promising Master Sergeant from the RSAF was selected to participate in the United States Air Force (USAF) Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Course at Hickam Professional Military Education Center. Six weeks of challenging training later, the Aircrew Specialist, MSG Vijaikumar, joined the ranks of personnel who have done the RSAF proud in overseas courses. MSG Vijaikumar was the recipient of the coveted John L. Levitow Award, which is awarded to the top graduand from each class. In clinching the award, he became the first international student to receive the award from Hickam Professional Military Education Center.

MSG Vijaikumar’s path to success was not always smooth sailing as one might have thought. As an international student, he faced the challenge of adapting to the USAF culture. Sharing on how he learnt the workings of the USAF in a short amount of time, MSG Vijaikumar said, “I had to pick up all kinds of knowledge, in areas as diverse as USAF concepts and terms, to make sure that I knew what was going on.”

This was especially crucial with MSG Vijaikumar holding the appointment of Class Commander, with the responsibility of ensuring that class affairs were handled smoothly. Added MSG Vijaikumar, “As Class Commander, besides ensuring that everything was running smoothly and that everyone was being treated fairly, I also had other responsibilities, one of which was giving commands during parades. This was not an easy task given that the American commands are given in English and the parades follow a different set of protocol. While it was tough, I did my best to adjust to their military culture and I was fortunate to have USAF classmates who were more than willing to help me along.”

The USAF NCO course, being a prerequisite for USAF Technical Sergeants to be promoted to the next rank of Master Sergeant, emphasises much on leadership skills, as USAF personnel who hold the rank of Master Sergeant are expected to take on a greater degree of leadership responsibilities. Shared MSG Vijaikumar, “One of the more important lessons I learnt from the course was how to use the head, and not the heart, to make decisions and apply them in real situations. The ability to make objective decisions is always important, as a leader, because the outcome of a situation is likely to depend on what you decide to do. I believe that this lesson will come in handy for me in my role in the RSAF.”

Besides the lessons, MSG Vijaikumar also treasured the strong bonds that he had forged with his USAF counterparts. He shared, “There was no differentiation made between personnel from the RSAF and personnel from the USAF. Instead, all of us helped each other along. The USAF personnel assisted me, not only academically, but also by befriending me and showing me around their country. On my part, I shared with them more about Singapore and the RSAF. I also made an effort to help them academically whenever I could. For instance, when we were tasked to do a presentation, I shared with my peers some tips that I thought would help them do well.”

Senior Technician, MSG Charles Ng, who also attended the course with MSG Vijaikumar said, “MSG Vijaikumar has indeed been a great help, both to myself and to his fellow coursemates. I think he thoroughly deserves the award!”

Air Force News congratulates MSG Vijaikumar on his exceptional performance and achievements and wishes him the best in their future endeavours.
In Conversation with a Senior Technician

“With MDES in place, I’m passionate about being part of the RSAF till I’m 60.”

-- 1SG Tan Baojie

It all started with an interest in fighter-jet modelling back in her polytechnic days. Today, 1SG Tan Baojie still works on fighter-jets – armed fighter-jets that fly.

“Ever since I found out about the Senior Technician vocation through the RSAF’s website, joining the RSAF was a natural choice for me as I also had a Diploma in Engineering,” said 1SG Tan as she shared how her military career began in 2004. “It appealed to me as I felt the need for someone to be on the ground to support the aircraft before and after each flight.”

As a Weapons Load Crew (WLC) in 145 SQN since 2005, 1SG Tan leads a team of technicians in the arming of the F-16D Block 52+ Fighting Falcon with bombs, missiles or rounds according to the pilot’s mission requirements. “It’s very satisfying as a WLC to witness a hand-loaded missile blast-off from the aircraft and to see the effects of its detonation,” said 1SG Tan, as she recalled her excitement watching the missiles that she loaded fire-off during her participation in exercises such as EX SINDEX and EX Pitch Black.

1SG Tan is the only female F-16D Block 52+ WLC and coincidentally also the only female in her SQN. “Although my job might have been challenging at times initially when I need to match my male counterparts physically, my body has adjusted to the physical work after some training. Besides, we always work as a team and use machines to assist us in the arming process,” said 1SG Tan, emphasising the importance of teamwork in her job.

Being a rose among the thorns has its advantages too. “As ladies tend to be more meticulous while men are better at seeing the ‘big picture’ of a situation, I think it’s good to have a lady in the WLC team to provide an eye for detail,” quipped 1SG Tan.

In April 2010, 1SG Tan will become a Military Expert (ME) after converting to the Military Domain Experts Scheme (MDES) together with others in the SAF. “I have always believed that the RSAF offers a stable and fulfilling career and the introduction of MDES affirms it,” said 1SG Tan, expressing interest in the Domain Specialisation courses and scholarships that MDES would offer. “Keeping in mind that MDES provides a full career path till age 60, I look forward to taking up the upgrading opportunities offered by MDES so that I can contribute more to the RSAF in the future.”

Over her past 5 years in the RSAF, 1SG Tan felt that the two RSAF Core Values, Safety and Teamwork, has made a difference to her personal life. “By applying the principles on safety that I’ve learnt from the RSAF to my everyday life, it increased my situational awareness which helped me to look out for the people around me more often,” shared 1SG Tan. “Through working with my SQN, I’ve also learnt how to accept another’s view during conflicts as there are some things in life that you can’t do alone.”

When asked for her views on switching to a non-fighter aircraft platform, 1SG Tan said, “I would prefer the challenge of working with ammunition. All these years, the RSAF has fuelled my interest for fighter aircraft. Also with MDES in place, I’m passionate about being part of the RSAF till I’m 60.”
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean announced the introduction of a new scheme, called the Military Domain Experts Scheme (MDES) in May this year. MDES are uniformed personnel with highly sought after, deep expertise in key military domains. The new scheme, together with enhancements to the existing officers' and warrant officers' schemes, would allow the SAF to recruit, develop and retain able and committed people to build a strong, capable and dynamic 3rd Generation SAF.

Military Experts (MEs):

The MDES is a uniformed scheme for SAF regulars, designed to allow Military Experts (MEs) to develop deep, expertise and specialisation in key military domains like engineering and intelligence. These MEs can enjoy a full career up to age 60. As military personnel MEs will continue to bear arms and be deployed in operational roles when required.

Rank Structure:

The MDES has an 8-rank structure, from ME1 to ME8, to cater to different job levels and skill requirements and up to 3 grades per rank, for progression and performance recognition. There will be two main entry points at ME1 and ME4. ME1 is primarily for those holding diploma qualifications and below, while university graduates may come in at ME4. Salaries for the MDES will be competitive and benchmarked against similar jobs in the private sector.

MDES Vocations and Route of Advancement:

The MDES vocations cover a wide spectrum of specialisation for each services. Current vocations in the Air Force such as Air Engineering Officer and Air Operations Systems Specialists are now able to specialise in fields such as Aircraft & Weapons Systems and Airfield Operations upon switching to MDES.

The progression of an ME is based on performance development through courses and assessment, work performance and demonstrated potential.

Professional Development and Continuing Education:

Personnel joining the MDES can look forward to professional development through internal courses, external accredited courses and attachment to industry partners. These will achieve a holistic development in leadership and management, military domain knowledge and domain specialisation. A wide range of continuing education opportunities at various levels from diploma to degree and post-graduate will also be made available to them.

Competitive Remuneration and Benefits:

MEs will enjoy full CPF contributions and enjoy competitive salaries to reward expertise development, good performance and the unique duties and responsibilities of a military profession. This is called Market Adjustable Specialisation Component (MASC). The MASC will recognise the expertise of the individual ME, and will be tied to the ME rank and grade, specialisation and level of expertise of the ME.

Designed with their life cycle in mind, MEs will be rewarded for their commitment through attractive EXCEL Bonus of up to 28 months of monthly gross pay. MEs will be able to draw an advance of up to half the next EXCEL Bonus pay-out to provide flexibility in meeting their needs.
At first glance, the work done by personnel from the RSAF’s Flying Support Squadrons (FSS) may seem fairly routine. However, a quick chat with any FSS personnel, such as Weapon Systems Officer (Command, Control and Communications), LTA(NS) Tan Shao Lee, will lead to the realisation that the task of providing safe and efficient control of air traffic is anything but mundane.

LTA(NS) Tan Shao Lee is a Operationally Ready National Serviceman (NSman) from FSS – Paya Lebar Air Base. A former regular, LTA(NS) Tan returns to his squadron every quarter for In-Camp Training (ICT), where he reprises the role of Tower Controller. It was during one such ICT that he was tasked to solve an incident. Recounted LTA(NS) Tan, “Being a Tower Controller is always exciting! I have encountered so many unique situations that I cannot recount them all. However, I remember the incident involving the F-5 clearly because it was the first time I had to control an aircraft that had declared a crisis. Though it was a new experience, my training served me well and I knew immediately what to do. I communicated with the pilot and civilian air traffic control agencies to make sure the pilot was able to conduct the necessary checks. After he had done so, I helped to ensure that he was able to land safely.”

Elaborated LTA(NS) Tan, “The situation was especially challenging because things do not pause during an emergency situation. There were still other aircraft around and, though we gave the F-5 priority, we still had to make sure that the rest of the operations in the aerodrome were carrying on as per normal.” He continued, “It is during such times that the close working relationship between all of us in the tower is demonstrated. Though we all had different roles, and comprised a mix of NSmen and Regulars, we worked together seamlessly to handle the situation.”

Now working in the operations department of a private company in the financial industry, LTA(NS) Tan shared that he has definitely benefited from the time he spent in the RSAF. “Though the RSAF and the financial industry are very different, I have found that I have been able to apply many of the soft skills that I learnt in the RSAF in my civilian job. These include presentation skills, systematic tasking, the ability to handle tight deadlines and to complete tasks under pressure. I don’t think I could have honed these skills as well had I not worked in the RSAF.”

Concluded LTA(NS) Tan, “Much has been said about how NSmen are great assets to the RSAF and I do believe that this is true. For one, I believe that NSmen often have a different mindset, bringing with them different perspectives on various issues. The diversity of views they bring along are often able to lead to improvements within the organisation. However, I do not believe that it is just the RSAF that benefits – NSmen also benefit from ICTs! For instance, they can pick up new skills during ICTs which they can bring apply back in their civilian lives.”

Quipped LTA(NS) Tan, “In any case, I’m always glad to be back!”

It is no surprise then that LTA(NS) Tan enjoys coming back for ICTs. When asked to share his sentiments, he replied simply, “To me, my squadron has become like a second home already. I’ve been posted here ever since I completed my training and it holds many memories for me. Not only do I enjoy meeting up with old friends during my ICTs, I also enjoy facing challenges as a Tower Controller again.”
On 28 Aug 09, Air Defence and Operations Command (ADOC) celebrated its 3rd Anniversary at Headquarters ADOC. As part of the event, former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, and Commander ADOC, BG Kwek Kok Kwong, unveiled the new Air Warfare Officer (AWO) brevet. This was followed by the traditional cake cutting ceremony and the inauguration of the Journey Room (a time-capsule of the Command’s heritage) by MG Ng.

BG Kwek began with an opening address to the ADOC community, “Three years have passed since ADOC was stood up on this very day in 2006. Standing here today, I am proud to say that ADOC, in these three years, has served the RSAF and the SAF well... I would like to say a big ‘thank you’ to every single men and women of ADOC for your hard work, your unwavering commitment and your distinguished professionalism. You have all done the Command, the RSAF, and the SAF proud.”

His speech was aptly followed by the unveiling of the AWO brevet, marking the birth of the AWO vocation. The AWO endeavour is a necessary step to shift mindsets to create more task-competent officers who have a better understanding of air warfare at the operational level. Officers who are currently under the WSO(C3) or WSO(ADA) vocations will henceforth be known as AWOs.

The AWO Badge

The Coat-of-Arms at the top signifies the Republic of Singapore, the nation that we protect with honour and with our lives. The Wings are symbolic of the RSAF and the application of air power in air warfare. The key feature of the badge is the design of the shield, which reflects the collective strength and team excellence in defending the integrity of our airspace and sovereignty.

It is also a representation of AWO’s type competencies in Command, Control and Communication and Ground Based Air Defence. These are symbolically represented by the radar scope, which epitomises the ever vigilant and ready posture, and the arrow head that symbolises a missile with great potency, sharpness and decisiveness to defend our airspace. The shield signifies the air shield that we provide to safeguard our sovereignty.

Said CPT Janice Quek from 203 SQN, ASCG, “ADOC has progressed much over the past three years in areas ranging from operations development to war-fighting concepts to systems development. The creation of the AWO vocation is a definite step forward as it will forge a deeper understanding of air warfare among all in the Command. This in turn will result in more synergy, facilitating shared development and leading to more networked processes.”

Added Commanding Officer 18 Divisional Air Defence Artillery Battalion (DA Bn), LTC Teo Ping Song, “The unveiling of the AWO brevet and our transition to the AWO vocation is a significant step in the RSAF transformation journey. However, our transformation to AWOs does not end here. We must continue to develop ourselves through training and courses so that we can fulfill the expectations of AWOs as well as realise our goal of being key contributors to achieve the missions of the RSAF.”

Officer Commanding in 163 SQN, MAJ Vengadeshwaran, also shared his sentiments, “I quite like the design of the AWO brevet and the significance behind it. The new brevet (complete with wings) will definitely foster a greater sense of identity within the AWO corps and bring us closer to the larger Air Force. It reinforces the fact that we are all Air Force professionals, who have a sound understanding of our 3rd Generation Air Force and how it applies airpower. I’m looking forward to wearing it!”

ADOC’s JOURNEY Room

The JOURNEY Room was inaugurated by MG Ng at ADOC’s 3rd Anniversary Celebrations. In his speech at the event, BG Kwek shared with ADOC personnel his vision for the room, “Our journey in these three short years has been most exciting and the sneak preview into the future clearly presents many golden opportunities for us. To capture these precious moments as all of us in the Command navigate through this shared journey, we have decided to set-up a JOURNEY room right here in Headquarters ADOC. It is our time-capsule to archive our heritage and to chart out our future. It is our reflection room to draw inspiration and strength from our past, face the challenges squarely in the present and realise these opportunities one by one into the future.”

Former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern with the JOURNEY Room Project Team.
Change of Command for Commander Sembawang Air Base

The command of Sembawang Air Base (SBAB) was handed over from LTC Richard Tan to COL Chin Pak Chuen in a Change-of-Command parade held at SBAB on 18 Aug 09. Commander Air Power Generation Command (APGC), COL Sarbjit Singh, was the Witnessing Officer at the parade.

Outgoing Commander SBAB, LTC Tan, joined the RSAF in 1981 as a helicopter pilot. Over the course of his term, his achievements include helping to pioneer the restructuring of SBAB – APGC and the renovation of the Command to realise new concepts and capabilities.

Incoming Commander SBAB, COL Chin, joined the RSAF in 1987 as a helicopter pilot. In his military career, he has held command and staff appointments, including Branch Head in Joint Operations and Planning Directorate, Commanding Officer 127 SQN and Deputy Head Air Intelligence.

Air Force News wishes LTC Tan and COL Chin the best in their future endeavours.

Change of Command for Commander Transport Group

On 25 Sep 09, the command of Transport Group (TG) was handed over from LTC Joachim Lee to LTC Bogaars George Michael at a Change-of-Command parade held at Changi Air Base (West). Commander Air Combat Command (ACC), BG Richard Pereira, was the Witnessing Officer at the parade.

Outgoing Commander TG, LTC Joachim Lee, joined the RSAF in 1988. As the first Commander TG, he was instrumental to the set-up of TG. During his term, he has brought together and integrated the 4 transport squadrons, as well as led the assimilation and Initial Operational Capability of the G550 Airborne Early Warning aircraft, amongst other achievements.

Incoming Commander TG, LTC Bogaars George Michael, joined the RSAF in 1985. In his military career, his previous command and staff appointments include Deputy Commanding Officer 122 SQN, Commanding Officer 122 SQN and S3 TG – ACC.

Air Force News wishes LTC Joachim Lee and LTC Bogaars George Michael the best in their future endeavours.

DPM’s Visit to 116 SQN

DPM and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, visited 116 SQN on 14 Jul 09, where he was hosted by the unit’s Commanding Officer, LTC Benedict Ang. Formed in Jan 08 under the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Command, 116 SQN operates the H-450 UAV.

The visit served as a platform to update DPM Teo on the system capabilities of the H-450 UAV, as well as to apprise him on the operationalisation progress of 116 SQN. DPM Teo also viewed a static display of the H-450 UAV and witnessed a mission demonstration at the H-450 Ground Control Station Simulator.

At 116 SQN, DPM Teo was briefed on the H450 Ground Control Station Simulator by LTC Ang.
Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr Chiang Chie Foo, visited the Air Defence and Operations Command (ADOC) on 16 Jul 09 to better understand the operations of both ADOC and the RSAF.

During the visit, he was hosted by Commander ADOC, BG Kwek Kok Kwong, and was briefed on ADOC’s operations. Mr Chiang also visited 203 SQN to have an in-depth view of the squadron’s functions and operations.

Former CAF’s and then Deputy CAF’s Visit to 111 SQN

Former CAF, MG Ng Chee Khern, and then Deputy CAF, BG Ng Chee Meng, visited 111 SQN on 26 Aug 09. During the visit, MG Ng and BG Ng were briefed on the squadron’s operations. BG Ng also viewed the Gulfstream 550 Airborne Early Warning Mission Simulator and held an informal interaction session with squadron personnel.

The visit allowed MG Ng and BG Ng to be updated on the latest developments within the squadron.

CDF’s Visit to 111 SQN

On 2 Oct 09, CDF, LG Desmond Kuek visited 111 SQN. The visit provided CDF with an update of the G550-AEW operational capabilities.

During the visit, CDF went for a familiarisation flight aboard the G550-AEW where he was briefed on the operations and capabilities of the aircraft. The visit concluded with an interactive session with the squadron personnel.
**DPM’s Visit to 111 SQN**

On 9 Oct 09, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean visited 111 SQN. During the visit, DPM Teo was briefed on the G550-AEW’s operational capabilities.

Thereafter, DPM Teo went for a familiarisation flight aboard the G550-AEW where he witnessed the various capabilities of the aircraft. The visit concluded with an interactive session with the squadron personnel.

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**PC 2nd Anniversary Celebrations**

Chong Pang Camp was bustling with activities on 11 Sep 09 when Participation Command (PC) celebrated its 2nd Anniversary. As PC’s close partner in helicopter operations, SBAB-APGC was also invited to join in the celebrations. After a mass warm-up, Commander PC, BG Wong Huat Sern kicked off the event by flagging off a cohesion run within Chong Pang Camp. This was followed by a series of exciting and challenging water games held at Chong Pang Swimming Pool which involved the participation of about 200 water sports enthusiasts.

3SG Ong Bo Yuan from 127 SQN found the event very meaningful and engaging. Sharing his views on the day’s activities, he said, “I enjoyed myself immensely as the fun-filled events were very engaging especially the pool games. I could feel the sense of belonging and esprit de corps among the team members.”

As part of the celebration, BG Wong also presented the 2009 Formation Best Airman Awards and Cardinal Individual Awards to the award winners. Command Chief Warrant Officer (CCWO) PC, SWO Kwek Hiok Chew expressed his appreciation to all the organising committee members and he commented, “The programme was simple and not too taxing on the participants. However, we understand that it was not easy for the committee as there were coordination and logistics set up to be done, from planning to execution. I am proud to say that it was carried out timely and professionally by MWO John Wong and his team of dedicated and resourceful members.”

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**AMD Healthy Lifestyle Day**

On 18 Sep 09, Air Manpower Department (AMD) organised a Healthy Lifestyle Day. The event, which brought together staff of AMD, included a 5km walk along the Changi Point Boardwalk Trail. During the event, participants were well-hydrated with NEWater. They were also given the opportunity to consume a variety of fruits midway through the walk.

After the walk, participants proceeded to Changi Air Base (East), where they were given an appreciation of the various elements in the base. They were briefed about CAB’s capabilities and achievements, followed by a static display and explanation of the F-16 and its role in the RSAF. They also had an opportunity to visit the Air Traffic Control Tower and the Aircraft Operational Maintenance Squadron’s hangar and shops. The Healthy Lifestyle Day was a success, helping to build cohesion and promote a healthy lifestyle among the staff of AMD.
**Changes in Senior Staff Appointments**

**Chief of Air Force**
10 Dec 09
Incoming: BG Ng Chee Meng
Outgoing: MG Ng Chee Khern

**Deputy Director (Policy) Office, MINDEF**
6 Jul 09
Incoming: LTC Ng Kian Huat, Roland

**Changes in Command Appointments**

Commander, Sembawang Air Base – Air Power Generation Command (APGC)
18 Aug 09
Incoming: COL Chin Pak Chuen
Outgoing: LTC Tan Seng Tak

Commander, Transport Group, Air Combat Command (ACC)
25 Sep 09
Incoming: LTC Bogaars George Michael
Outgoing: LTC Joachim Lee Boon Poh

Commanding Officer, 120 SQN, HeliG, Participation Command
8 Sep 09
Incoming: MAJ Wan Yoke Sing
Outgoing: LTC Ng Wei-Jin

Commanding Officer, Field Defence Squadron, Paya Lebar Air Base, APGC
2 Oct 09
Incoming: MAJ Joey Christopher Watson
Outgoing: LTC Dorai Asokumar

**Changes in Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Appointments**

CWO, HQ Transport Group, ACC
1 Sep 09
Incoming: MWO Chew Yong Hock Felix

CWO, Air Logistics Department
1 Sep 09
Incoming: MWO Ang Boon Huat

SQN CWO, 145 SQN, Fighter Group, ACC
1 Sep 09
Incoming: 1WO Wee Soh Chin Augustine

SQN CWO, Airfield Operations and Maintenance Squadron – Fixed Wing 2, Tengah Air Base, APGC
25 Sep 09
Incoming: 1WO Boo Kim Nam
Outgoing: MWO Ong Ah Hock

**Change in Nomenclature for Air Force Training Command Appointments**

With the stand up of the Air Force Training Command (AFTC), the appointments of the following personnel experienced a change in nomenclature from 17 Jul 09 onwards.

Commander, Air Force Training Command (AFTC)
COL Yeo Yee Peng

Commander, Flying Training Institute (FTI), AFTC
COL Tan Soon Hock Tommy

Commander, Air Warfare Training Institute (AWTI), AFTC
LTC Koh Cheng Boon

Commander, Air Engineering Training Institute, AWTI, AFTC
LTC Derek Tan Chee Hiang

Commander, Command, Control and Communications School, AWTI, AFTC
LTC Muralidharan S/O Narayanan

Command CWO, AFTC
MWO Chan Kurn Wah

CWO, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Training School, FTI, AFTC
1WO Seah Quan Meng

CWO, GBAD School, AWTI, AFTC
2WO Lim Song Guan

CWO, C3 School, AWTI, AFTC
1WO Tam Wai Seng

SQN CWO, 124 SQN, FTI, AFTC
2WO Lee Yang Juay

SQN CWO, 130 SQN, FTI, AFTC
1WO Thankarajan S/O Muthiah

SQN CWO, 150 SQN, FTI, AFTC
1WO Lim Choon Poh Perry