

army news

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pulse of our army



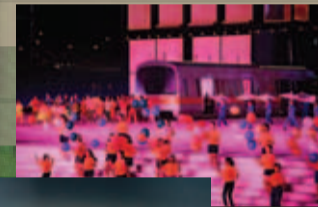
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Towards A Cohesive Pacific

Story by Jonathan Chan and Jared Yeo / Photography by Mathew Tan / Photo contributed by 6 DIV



Plenary sessions provided delegates with a platform to discuss 21st century security issues

"It is significant that our distinguished delegates have come from diverse countries afar and around the Asia Pacific region, to meet here in Singapore. Historically, this has been a place where the East meets the West - the crossroads of commerce, ideas and cultures. Our multicultural and multiracial heritage bears testament to this. I am heartened to see that centuries on, even with the advent of technology, we are still able to contribute to the international society as a nexus of East-West interest," shared Chief of Army, MG Ravinder Singh at the Pacific Army's Chiefs Conference (PACC) Pacific Army Management Seminar (PAMS) welcome dinner on 28 July.

Multilateral Sessions

Identifying Security Challenges and Solutions

During the first multilateral session, PACC delegates focused on identifying non-traditional or transnational security challenges in the 21st century. Singapore's Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr Chiang Chie Foo, with other distinguished speakers from the People's Liberation Army and New Zealand Defence Force, spearheaded the discussion.

The second session addressed the capabilities required by the Asia-Pacific land forces. This was kick-started by Mr David Adelman, US Ambassador to Singapore, who was later joined by fellow speakers from the Vietnam People's Army and SAF. Lieutenant General Arturo Ortiz, Commanding General, Philippine Army shared, "The session has been very encouraging. It has promoted cooperation and friendships among all the countries. We have forged a common understanding and closer relationship."

Bilateral meetings were also held during which the delegates engaged in further discussions to strengthen their ties.

Plenary Sessions

Forging Common Understanding

In their first plenary session, PAMS delegates identified the 21st century security challenges that will require multilateral security cooperation. Brigadier General (BG) Damian Cantwell from the Australian Army and Major General (MG) A.K Mudholkar from the Indian Army, presented their armies' perspectives on the topic. MG Mudholkar highlighted, "Security threats that are of common concern to all of us today are generally non-military in nature, transnational in scope, neither totally domestic or purely interstate, and are advancing rapidly due to globalisation and communication."

The ensuing three plenary sessions dealt with other pertinent topics, including the capabilities most needed to

address the challenges, multilateral security cooperation for dealing with pandemics and natural disasters, and how Asian-Pacific land forces can better prepare to conduct multilateral security cooperation. The speakers for these sessions hailed from Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand, China and the Philippines. They brought to the table valuable sharing gained from their experiences. For example, Colonel (COL) Tatsuo Hoshikawa from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) shared on their disaster relief efforts following the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami.



At PACC/PAMS 2011, a static display gave delegates the opportunity to find out more about the SAF's 3rd Generation equipment

The participants found the plenary sessions very fruitful. Lieutenant Colonel Mark Goina from the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, shared, "The presentations were excellent. The speakers brought up some key issues that affect most countries in Asia-Pacific. They also brought up a very important point that no one country can deal with these threats by themselves."

Following a final presentation to sum up the salient points of the four plenary sessions, various initiatives were proposed. COL Yong Wui Chiang, Head Doctrine Development Group at SAF Training and Doctrine Command, remarked, "The initiatives provided by the member countries are insightful. These are progressive steps for our Asia-Pacific armies to work on to further multilateral cooperation. Moving forward, we will collaborate on these to promote better understanding among the Asia-Pacific armies."

Inaugural TTX

Advancing HADR Cooperation

A fictitious nation in Asia-Pacific encounters a virus outbreak which rapidly spreads across national borders through mass displacement of population. Regional countries, together with the World Health Organisation, request for humanitarian assistance from the United Nations to mandate a task force to coordinate a regional pandemic crisis management. This was

one of two scenarios that PAMS participants were faced with at the inaugural Table Top Exercise (TTX). They had to map out a Command and Control (C2) structure for a responding task force and determine the capacity and capabilities to be contributed by the land forces.

Joining the participants for the discussions were staff from Mercy Relief who offered a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) perspective. The scenario-based TTX offered the delegates an invaluable opportunity to contextualise the intent and concepts set out in earlier plenary sessions. Colonel Prak Sidaravuth, Chief of Secretariat of Peace Operation, Cambodian Ministry of Defence, said, "The TTX was useful and it allowed us to learn from the other armies. We also dealt with the challenges of balancing the involvement of both civilian and military authorities in a crisis."

A Resounding Success

Delegates and chiefs alike shared many positive reflections on PACC/PAMS 2011. Lieutenant General Francis J. Wiercinski, US Army Commanding, summed it up, "This has been the largest participation of Pacific Army chiefs in the history of PACC and I'm very pleased to say that this year we had China and Laos attending for the first time. It has increased and become better year after year. We are seeing more and more involvement and that has only made us better in our engagement and understanding of our nations. This year has been a home-run for all of us. I think that there are the technical objectives and the interpersonal objectives. Both have been achieved with one hundred percent success." Major General Timothy Keating, Chief of Army, New Zealand Defence Force, agreed, "I'm glad that this conference has opened up channels for smoother dialogue and sharing."

Lieutenant General David Morrison, Chief of Army, Australian Army said, "There has been a wonderful exchange of views and personal interaction. My first abiding memory is the coming together of delegates and chiefs with shared values and the interaction that happens as a result. My second abiding memory is the hospitality of Singapore. This is a wonderful country noted worldwide for its hospitality and I've been a lucky recipient of that."

The NDP Experience

The delegates were also invited to the NDP preview, during which they experienced and shared the joys of our nation's birthday celebration. General Yoshifumi Hibako from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, said, "This is a good parade to remember the history of Singapore. This is a very meaningful event, so I am happy to attend this parade tonight. I can sense the energy of the people to develop and grow more for the future. I am really amazed by this." His wife, Mrs Chieko Hibako, chimed in, "I really loved watching the parade. It showed the esprit-de-corps of Singapore, that regardless of the differences of ethnicity or race, Singaporeans come together to celebrate."



Delegates soaking in the NDP atmosphere

Striking Together as One

Story by Jared Yeo / Photography by Matthew Tan, Wee Lian Hong and Tay Jiun Teng

Wave after wave of soldiers and Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC) stormed the beaches of Pulau Sudong on the morning of 4 August. In this battalion coastal hook exercise to “recapture an offshore island held by a hostile force”, the participating Guardsmen from 1st Battalion Singapore Guards (1 GDS) were supported by elements from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF).



Guardsmen storming the beach, supported by Apache Attack Helicopters above

The exercise, which showcased the operational readiness of the SAF, was an impressive display of coordination and integration among the three Services. The Guardsmen and the M113 Ultra APCs quickly disembarked from the RSN fast crafts and secured the beach area, their success due in no small part to the aerial support provided by the RSAF Apache AH-64 helicopters and F16 fighter aircraft. After the troops had advanced inland and recaptured the airstrip, a Super Puma helicopter delivered additional logistics supplies and evacuated simulated casualties, bringing the exercise to a successful conclusion.

The exercise was witnessed by Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, who was making his first ever visit to an SAF exercise since assuming the defence portfolio in May. Speaking after the exercise, Dr Ng commended the soldiers on their performance, “I would say that at a professional level, it is not easy to do. It is tri-service, which means that it involves elements of the Navy, the Air Force and the Army. Your command and control systems need to be up to scratch.



Aided by strong aerial support, the troops quickly advanced inland to capture their objectives



The exercise also included a heli evacuation

Your coordination and your ability to execute in real time. It is complex.”

Dr Ng added, “More importantly, the soldiers themselves must have the confidence after doing it. They must have confidence in the machines that we buy, the equipment that they have, their ability to execute these operations. That is the final measure of our ability to defend Singapore.”



Dr Ng (centre) commending the exercise troops for their fine performance

Inaugural ASEAN HADR Exercise

Story by Jonathan Chan / Photography by Matthew Tan / Photos contributed by SAF Film Unit & 2CSH



Medics from the SAF and TNI practising the evacuation procedure

When a natural disaster strikes, untold sufferings are often inflicted. In a show of friendship and empathy, many unaffected nations would rally to deliver Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) assistance to the afflicted region. Recognising the importance of such efforts, the inaugural ASEAN Militaries' HADR Exercise (AHX) co-hosted by Singapore and Indonesia, was held from 12 to 14 July. During the exercise, the ASEAN nations learnt to better integrate and streamline the HADR processes so that the region's armed forces can respond swiftly and effectively should the need arise.

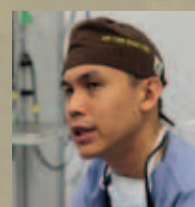
The exercise aimed to foster greater cooperation among the ASEAN militaries. The first two days held in Singapore included a workshop and academic discussions. This enabled participants to learn and better understand HADR operations, including the military-to-military and military-to-civil coordination required in the use of military capabilities. A draft standard operating procedure (SOP) was also developed by the participants, and this was practised and further refined during a subsequent Table Top Exercise. The third day of the

exercise was held in Indonesia, involving the deployment of military capabilities in a simulated HADR mission.

In conjunction with the exercise, a joint SAF-TNI (Tentara Nasional Indonesia) Medical Task Force carried out a medical socio-civic assistance programme in Cilodong District, Jakarta, from 12 to 14 July. This was the first time that the SAF had deployed selected NS Combat Service Hospital (CSH) elements in a multilateral exercise of this level, demonstrating the commitment and professionalism of our NSMen.



Commanding Officer, 2 CSH, LTC (NS)(DR) Aymeric Lim (left), who is also the Chairman Medical Board at National University Hospital (NUH), shared, “We have a developing 3rd Generation CSH with the latest equipment. It serves as an excellent platform for us to perform our tasks. But any new system must be tested and integrated, and work processes need to be smoothened.” He added, “Through this exercise, my confidence in our Army medical services has been strengthened. I'm very impressed by our ground staff and medics who were professional and well-equipped. We also learnt much from our counterparts who shared their experience with us, especially in the area of crowd control.”



Participating in an overseas mission or exercise is a huge sacrifice for NSMen doctors who must cope with their busy schedule and medical practices. For CPT (NS) (DR) Tan Wah Tze (left), an anaesthetist from NUH, this was not his first time

as he had previously participated in an SAF overseas mission to Afghanistan. He espoused, “As an NSman, I am part of the SAF's operationally-ready force. I have a duty to contribute my expertise when called upon.” CPT (NS)(DR) Tan felt his time spent was worthwhile, “I had the opportunity to test out our new anaesthetic machine which is in sync with the anaesthetic machines currently used in our hospitals. It performed well. Operating alongside our counterparts in TNI, we forged good working relationships and friendships. This will make for smoother cooperation in the future.”

Another participant, CPT (NS)(DR) Tan Ying Chien, who is in private practice, was the only plastic surgeon involved and he brought his niche area of expertise to the table. He shared, “I was happy to contribute to the team through my area of speciality. I am now more familiar with my functions and how I integrate with others. This makes me more comfortable and confident in my role.”



CPT (NS)(DR) Tan Ying Chien (left) performing a cleft lip surgery

Parades and Ceremonies

Warrant Officers Take Charge

Story by Jared Yeo / Photos by Mark Ng and Derrick Heng



The pomp and pageantry of the parades and ceremonies serve to showcase the professionalism of the SAF

"Baris Sedi...a!" The command rings across the parade square as the Parade Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) calls the marching contingents to attention. While the crowds cheer in excitement, the contingents await the next command. Seconds later, the command *"Baris, Dari Kiri Dan Kanan Cepat Ja-lan!"* booms loud and clear, signalling the start of the parade proper.

In the SAF, parades and ceremonies are an integral part of its customs and traditions, held to mark important occasions such as change of command and graduation of Officer and Specialist Cadets. Of the many parades and ceremonies held annually, two stand out for their magnitude and complexity in organisation. The SAF Day Parade (SAFDP) and National Day Parade (NDP) require months of preparation, showcasing the best drills and marching contingents across the SAF.

The Parade Commander, usually a senior officer, prepares the parade for the arrival of VIPs, accompanies the Reviewing Officer in inspecting the parade and leads the march-off.

He is assisted by the Parade RSM, popularly known as the 'King of the Parade Square'. Epitomising the best of the Warrant Officer Corps, the Parade RSM plays a pivotal role in preparing the participants and ensures the flawless execution of the parade.

Why Parades and Ceremonies?

When one thinks of parades and ceremonies, the colours and excitement of the events often come to mind. But pomp and pageantry aside, parades and ceremonies hold a deeper significance. They exemplify the SAF Core Values of Professionalism and Discipline.

At the SAF Promotion Ceremony in November 1973, the late Dr Goh Keng Swee, then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, said, "All armies resort to military rituals and ceremonials of one kind or another to sustain discipline and raise morale. These rituals range from simple affairs like the inspection of a camp quarter guard, to elaborate ceremonials such as beating the retreat, trooping of colours and commissioning parades. A high standard of drill is expected on these occasions and the spectacle and colour of ceremonials foster pride among soldiers in their profession and create a favourable impression on spectators and observers."

Raising the Warrant Officers' Profile

Previously, parades and ceremonies were organised and led by the officers, with warrant officers playing a supporting role. In a ground-breaking move in 2006, the Army leadership appointed SWO (RET) Jeffrey Chung, then Sergeant Major of the Specialists and Warrant Officer Institute (SWI), to chair the planning of the

parade segment of the SAF Day Parade. This set in motion the deepening involvement of the Warrant Officers Corps in the planning and execution of parades and ceremonies. Today, the Parade RSM works in close partnership with the Parade Commander. Mentoring System



As the Parade RSM for NDP 2010, MWO Chen took great pains to ensure that even the smallest details are fully taken care of

With this new and important responsibility, the Warrant Officer Corps needs a system to maintain the high standard of parades and ceremonies, and to groom the next generation to perform this role. Under the mentoring system introduced, Parade RSMs are selected one year in advance so that they can understudy the current incumbent while serving as the reserve Parade RSM at the same time. After his successful stint, the Parade RSM ploughs back his expertise and experiences by chairing the Parade Support Group (PSG), a group of warrant officers that supports the next Parade RSM in planning and execution.

SWO Joseph Koa, SAF Sergeant Major (SAF SM), explained, "We put in place this system to ensure that the high standards of our parades and ceremonies are maintained. The understudy system and the Parade Support Group are means to ensure that the valuable knowledge and expertise gained and properly and fully passed down to the younger warrant officers."

MWO Albert Chen, the

Institute Sergeant Major at SAFTI Military Institute (SAFTI MI), was the Parade RSM for NDP 2010. Having chaired the PSG for NDP 2011, he shared, "This mentoring system is very effective as I am able to share my two years of experience, including that in 2009 when I was the reserve Parade RSM, with this year's Parade RSM." MWO Jennifer Tan, Brigade Sergeant Major at 4th Singapore Armour Brigade and Parade RSM for NDP 2011, said, "I have benefited tremendously from the support and guidance given by the previous year's Parade RSM. The PSG has also helped me to be thoroughly prepared because in such a complex parade, there are minor but important matters that I might have missed."

A Different Approach to Training

As the guardian of soldiering fundamentals, the Warrant Officer Corps brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the preparation and management of parades and ceremonies. SWO Tang Peck Oon, Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA), explained, "Parades and ceremonies are a niche area for the Warrant Officer Corps. From his training as a sergeant major, a warrant officer would already have acquired the knowledge and skills to plan and execute a parade. With their ground experience, the warrant officers are able to work out a training programme for the contingents that is focused and effective."

In a 3rd Generation Army, our warrant officers are not technology-shy. SWO Koa revealed, "We use technology to help us better train our soldiers for the parade. We first use animation to show them how the parade will progress so that they can see the overall parade concept. We will also video the training sessions and review the recording later to identify areas for improvement at the next training session."

Learning from Others

Our Army is a learning organisation. For warrant officers with a deep-seated passion to learn more about parades and ceremonies, courses are available, including overseas ones. 1WO Oliveira Edward from SWI attended the United Kingdom All Arms Drill Advance Instructor Course in 2002. He shared, "The SAF follows a lot of the customs and regimental practices of the British Army. I learnt more about the British Army weapon drills and was able to pick it up quickly because the SA 80 rifle used for their parade and ceremonies is quite similar to our SAR 21 rifle. After my return, I shared my experiences with the sergeant majors at Army symposiums. I also served in the committee for the revision of the SAF Drill Manual and the SAF Parade and Ceremony Manual."

Always Improving

The Warrant Officer Corps is not resting on its laurels. In May this year, a Community of Practice (COP) was set up by the Military Police Command (MP Comd) to standardise the conduct of parades and ceremonies across the SAF. SWO Ger Ah Kee, Sergeant Major of MP Comd, who heads the COP, said, "The community is set up to bring together warrant officers from across the Army, Navy and Air Force. As the subject matter experts on parades and ceremonies, we aim to ensure that all our parades and ceremonies are not only executed flawlessly but also in a manner that truly reflects the proud heritage and tradition of the SAF."



1WO (then 2WO) Oliveira (far right) attended the UK All Arms Drill Advance Instructor Course to learn more about the British Army's parade and ceremony practices (Photo contributed by 1WO Oliveira)

NDP 2011



Majulah! The Singapore Spirit

An NDP of many firsts

Story by Jared Yeo / Photography by Derrick Heng, Mark Ng, Matthew Tan and Wee Hong Shin

A sea of red and white flooded the floating platform at Marina Bay on 9 August as we celebrated our 46th year of independence. Through its theme, 'Majulah! The Singapore Spirit', the National Day Parade (NDP) 2011 Executive Committee (EXCO) sought to rally Singaporeans to move forward together, overcome challenges and build a better Singapore. COL Alvin Kek, Chief Engineer Officer and Chairman NDP 2011 EXCO said, "As we celebrate 46 years of nation-building, we should also reflect on how the Singapore Spirit, which is characterised by unity and trust as well as our 'can-do' mentality, has enabled us to achieve so much in such a short span of time."

Spearheaded by the Singapore Combat Engineers, Singapore's 46th birthday bash was an NDP of many firsts. In a departure from previous years, NDP 2011 was presented as an integrated and exciting 5-Act musical, with its central characters telling the Singapore story. Besides featuring new elements and equipment, it also claimed the distinction of having the first female Parade Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM).

Red Lions

On cue at precisely 1828 hrs, the Red Lions began their free fall from a Super Puma helicopter from 10,000 feet above. A NDP crowd favourite since 1996, this year's team of six warrant officers from the Commandos and Naval Diving Unit wowed the spectators with their impeccable skills and accuracy, landing on the floating platform amidst rousing cheers.

Although 2WO Maheswaran F Miranda is a Red Lion who has more than 600 jumps under his belt, 2011 marked his first foray into the NDP scene. He shared, "I am very excited to have this opportunity to perform in front of thousands of Singaporeans. Being able to thrill the crowd is the greatest moment of this experience for me." Reflecting on the theme, he said, "The Singapore Spirit is about the determination and resilience to overcome challenges faced. During the jump, there were various obstacles such as strong winds, high buildings, and a small drop zone. We overcame them through practice and resilience. In executing a successful jump, the Red Lions embody the Singapore Spirit."



Dancers bringing a celebratory mood to the pre-parade segment



Red Lion 2WO Maheswaran waving to the spectators after a successful landing



Spectators cheering on the Red Lions



Personnel from the CBRE Defence Group showing how robots are used to deal with a 'bomb threat'

Defending our Home

As the Red Lions exited, NDP 2011 kicked into full gear with the Dynamic Defence Display (D3), the first segment of Act One. The central character, a young Singaporean boy dreamt he was a task-force commander who led the SAF and Home Team through three operations to achieve a victorious defence of our country.

The segment literally started off with a bang. A series of explosions and the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)'s Public Warning Siren set the stage for the simulated attack around the Marina Bay. Personnel and hardware from the SAF, Singapore Police Force (SPF) and SCDF demonstrated a timely and well-coordinated multi-agency response in dealing with the crisis. The 'stars' included the robots used by Army's Chemical Biological Radiological and Explosives (CBRE) Defence Group to



The imposing Leopard Main Battle Tank never fails to impress at NDP



Our soldiers bringing the action to the crowds



Naval Divers jumping off



Firemen from the SCDF showing off their fire-fighting skills during the D3 segment



Security troopers working together with the SPF to 'secure' the area



The Majulah Moment culminated with a fly-p

handle a bomb threat and Guardsmen showing off their rappelling and manoeuvre skills. For hardware aficionados, the Apache Attack Helicopter, the Terrex Infantry Carrier Vehicle (ICV), plus four other new platforms making their NDP debut, including the Army's High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), brought grins of satisfaction to their faces.

SSG Tan Boon Guan, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Specialist from 36th Battalion, Singapore Combat Engineers (36 SCE), shared, "It is good for the nation to know that the SAF has these EOD capabilities to deal with explosive threats. Showcasing our capabilities helps to raise public confidence in the SAF." For LCP Muhd Osmanee Bin Ismail, a Guardsman from 1st Battalion, Singapore Guards (1 GDS), being part of NDP 2011 was an experience not to be missed. He said, "I never imagined that I would one day be performing in NDP. I am proud and honoured to represent the Guards formation in showcasing our capabilities to the nation."

3SG Alson Tan, a HIMARS Specialist from 23rd Battalion, Singapore Artillery (23 SA), felt the crowd's excitement, "When the HIMARS appeared, I can feel the sense of awe and excitement from the crowd. NDP allows us to showcase our cutting edge technology and signals our continual improvement to better protect the nation. To me, the Singapore Spirit is all about everyone playing their role to defend our home."

A Salute to the Nation

The second segment of Act One, the Parade, involved 29 marching contingents from the SAF, Home Team, and other uniformed and civilian groups. They represent the five pillars of Total Defence – Military, Civil, Social, Economic, and Psychological.

Taking centre stage was the Parade Commander, LTC Fahmi Aliman, the Brigade 2IC of 7th Singapore Infantry Battalion. He was aided by the first female Parade RSM in NDP history, MWO Jennifer Tan, Brigade Sergeant Major of 4th Singapore Armoured Brigade (4 SAB).

As the Parade RSM, it was MWO Tan's responsibility to train the contingents for the Parade. She shared, "One challenge faced was overcoming the differences among the 29 marching contingents so that they can synchronise as one. Through the training, we identified the areas of improvement and worked on them. It took a lot of hard work and dedication by the participants. Because they trained with passion and commitment, they performed very well during the Parade." (Read more about the role played by warrant officers in parades and ceremonies on page 4)

Leading the Guard of Honour (GOH) contingents was MAJ Eugene Lim from the Special Operations Tactical Support Centre. He said, "While I had participated in previous NDPs, this NDP is different. Being the commander of the GOH contingents was an immense responsibility but with the help of the Sergeant Majors and the contingents' dedication, we were able to put in a good performance."

Khair Diuni, a Secondary Three National Cadet Corps (NCC) Sergeant from Yishun Town Secondary School, shared his experience, "The training sessions were tiring and tough. However, our trainers encour-



Guardsmen demonstrated their rappelling skills



The HIMARS made its debut at this year's NDP



Soldiers exiting the Terrex ICV during the D3 display



The Colours Party leading the marching contingents in the traditional march past



The Parade was led by LTC Fahmi Aliman



MWO Tan (front) has the distinction of being first female Parade RSM



A Chinook helicopter



President S R Nathan inspecting the parade contingents



Soldiers marching through the seating gallery during the Onward March



A formation of five RSAF F15-SG Multi-Role Aircraft



Firing the Presidential Gun Salute on the waters of Marina Bay



The marching contingents executed a 2-km City March around Marina Bay

aged and motivated us to keep going. In the end, being able to march together with the SAF soldiers and being part of the celebrations made it all worthwhile." 1WO Christopher Bryan, RSM at HQ NCC and Chief Trainer of the NCC marching contingent, revealed, "One challenge we faced was the time constraint as the students had to juggle between training and their schooling. Our cadets showed exemplary commitment which enabled us to overcome this."

Another noteworthy performance was the Presidential 21-Gun Salute on the waters of Marina Bay. Firing the 25 -pounder guns were soldiers from 23 SA, with some 34 NSFs voluntarily extending their service to participate in NDP 2011. One of them, LTA (NS) Koh Hong Wei explained, "Participating in NDP as the Presidential 21-Gun Salute contingent is a great honour. This was an opportunity not to be missed and we all wanted to be part of this year's NDP celebrations. That is why we decided to extend our service."

A new element this year that proved especially meaningful was the Majulah Moment. Veterans from past NDPs handed the Singapore flag over to participants from school uniformed groups, who then raised it, symbolising the passing of the Singapore Spirit through the generations. One participant, Mr Leo Sequeira, shared, "The Majulah Moment is about the older generation empowering the young to continue our Singapore story. The future belongs to our young, and we must continue to groom them to become leaders of tomorrow." CPL (NCC) Muhd Syabri Syafiq, a Secondary Two cadet from Ngee Ann Secondary School, concurred, "When I see the flag being raised and hear the National Anthem, I feel a deep sense of national pride and an appreciation of what the past generations of Singaporeans had done to build our country."

During the Onward March, another new feature, five contingents from the SAF and Home Team marched abreast from the stage towards the seating galleries, into the midst of spectators. It represented the commitment, energy and dynamism of Singaporeans striving onwards together to build a better home and Singapore. CPT Louis Leow, from 42nd Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (42 SAR) who commanded the Army's marching contingent, shared, "As the first one to march into the seating gallery, I saw the spectators' enthusiasm and the excitement of the spectators. The Onward March truly captures the Singapore Spirit, which is everyone coming together to strive forward to the future."

A Musical of the Ages

After the Parade segment, a 50-minute show (Acts Two to Five) took Singaporeans down memory lane. It traced the development of Singapore from independence to present-day through the story of a Singaporean family, played by local celebrities Sharon Au and Timothy Nga, and young talents Reuben Goh and Zachary Pang.

Act 4 titled Progress, presented opportunities for some of our soldiers to show off their non-military skills. CFC Guru Prasad, a trooper at HQ Army Combat Engineers Group, shared, "Being able to participate in NDP as a dancer was a really exciting experience. The costumes and the dance moves were quite interesting for us. I was not a dancer before, but through the training and the rehearsals, I learnt the moves and picked up a new skill!"



1WO Bryan and 3SG Leonard Yap (centre) helped prepare the NCC marching contingent for the parade



The musical captured the rich cultural diversity of Singapore



The Majulah Moment symbolised the passing of the Singapore Spirit through the generations



The sights and sounds gave Singaporeans a multi-sensory treat



Together with the rest of Singapore, our soldiers reaffirmed their dedication to the nation during the Pledge Moment



Students participating in the Pledge Moment during the National Education Show



The musical ended with a pyromusical, featuring a spectacular display of fireworks specially choreographed in beat and movement to popular National Day songs such as Count On Me Singapore and Stand Up For Singapore.

This visual treat took place on a specially constructed stage set against the Marina Bay skyline. LTC Ng Boon Teck, Chairman Infrastructure and Decoration Committee, explained, "This is the first time that NDP was held with the completed Marina Bay skyline as its backdrop and therefore, an asymmetrically designed stage set was built to complement the skyline."

Adding to the spectacle was the Cube. A unique design of the NDP 2011 stage, the seven story structure was constructed on the extreme left of the stage. Together with multimedia, lighting and other special effects, the Cube transformed in shape and form during the show; which included the emergence of an MRT train.



The Cube added to the spectacle of the musical

NDP 2011 was a resounding success – as evident in the smiles on the faces of the spectators. Madam Lau Joon Nie, who was at the floating platform with her family, was highly impressed by the various performances. She said, "NDP 2011 was spectacular. I loved the format of a musical, where the characters really come to life. What really impressed me was the D3 segment, where Singaporeans were able to feel the excitement and energy of the action unfolding before them."

Majulah Singapura!



Mdm Lau and her family at NDP 2011

NDP 2011 – Making it Happen

Story by Jared Yeo / Photos by Matthew Tan

The success of NDP 2011 was due in no small measure to some 3,500 personnel working behind the scenes.

Heading these efforts was COL Lee Hock Chye, Commander of the CBRE Defence Group, who chaired the Security, Operations and Contingency (SO&C) Committee.

The SO&C Committee worked tirelessly to ensure that all non-performance related operations, such as traffic control, VIP and spectator management, ran smoothly. 3SG Phua Jia Han, from 30th Battalion, Singapore Combat Engineers (30 SCE), was involved in spectator management. He shared, "For every show, there were about 27,000 spectators. Our team has to ensure a smooth traffic flow and direct the spectators to the correct places."

The committee also manned the nerve centre, called the Command & Control Group 2 (CCG2), located on the highest level of the seating gallery. Use of technologically-advanced equipment provided the committee with a comprehensive situational awareness of the parade area.

In addition, two new capabilities were introduced this year – the Mobile Battalion Casualty Station (BCS) and the Manpack Camera System (MCS). The Mobile BCS is a container mounted on 5-ton truck and can be transformed into a medical clinic within 15 minutes. Able to treat up to 200 casualties, its presence allows the medical teams to speedily and effectively deal with any emergency. ME1 Muhd Zuhilmi, a Senior Medic at the NDP Quick Response Force, shared, "While we hope for zero incidents, we are always ready to respond, aided by a well-equipped Mobile BCS."

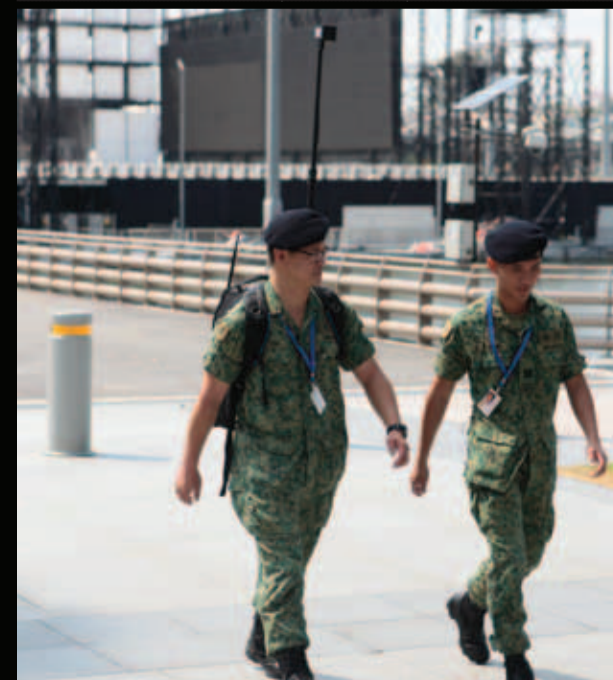
The MCS is a compact and portable system that can be carried easily in a backpack. It sent live footages from ground patrols back to the control room, and further assisted the operations team in their visual monitoring.



COL Lee (backrow, middle) leading the behind-the-scenes management of NDP 2011



The MBS allowed the medical teams to deal with emergencies speedily and effectively



A MCS-equipped team roving the floating platform to assist the NDP organisers in keeping tabs on the ground situation

Celebrating National Day with Schools

Story by Ling Weichao / Photography by Ling Weichao and Wee Lian Hong

To mark our nation's 46th birthday, 13 Army units and 13 schools jointly celebrated the Singapore Spirit in various events held between 19 July and 8 August. These interactive activities, held either in camps or schools, have helped to foster strong partnership between the units and schools, and reminded all involved on the importance of military defence in upholding Singapore's sovereignty. The diverse activities included the introduction of the 25-pounder NDP ceremonial guns to Temasek Polytechnic students and the best hat design competition organised by ITE College Central.

Introducing the Presidential Gun Salute

On 19 July, 23rd Battalion, Singapore Artillery (23 SA) brought its 25-pounder guns down to Temasek Polytechnic so that its students can better understand the Presidential Gun Salute. They were treated to a demonstration of the ceremonial process.



A Detachment Commander issuing the firing order



23 SA Gunners demonstrating how a Presidential Gun Salute is executed

40 SAR Opens its Doors to Singapore Polytechnic

On 5 August, 120 Singapore Polytechnic students were hosted by 40th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (40 SAR) for a joint National Day celebration at Keat Hong Camp. They gained an insight into the operation of an Armour unit and its platforms, including the M113 Ultra Armoured Personnel Carriers.



These helmets are cool! (photo contributed by 40 SAR)



A student checking out the SAR 21 rifle (photo contributed by 40 SAR)



Students getting a feel of the M113 Ultra Armoured Personnel Carriers (photo contributed by 40 SAR)

"Chemical Attack" in NYP

On 5 August, 39th Battalion, Singapore Combat Engineers (39 SCE) visited Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP). There was drama in the auditorium when a lecturer was "injured" in a simulated chemical attack, providing the perfect opportunity for 39 SCE to demonstrate its capabilities in dealing with Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosives (CBRE) threats.



Soldiers from 39 SCE showcasing their CBRE gears to NYP students.



NYP students expressing their positive impression of the engagement event

Servicemen from 6th Army Maintenance Base (6 AMB) were also warmly welcomed at ITE College Central on 8 August as they jointly celebrated National Day with its students. The many interesting activities organised included go-karting and colourful bazaars set up by the ITE College Central students.

The success of the latest round of engagement events has reaffirmed the shared commitment and strong ties existing between our Army and the schools. The responses from the schools have been highly enthusiastic, as best summed up by Mrs Mary Thomas, a senior lecturer and chairman of the National Education Committee in Temasek Polytechnic on 23 SA. She said, "I am thankful to 23 SA for their wonderful support in educating our students to see a broader picture of the Army. It is indeed a privilege for our students to experience today's event and we look forward to more collaboration with them."

Visit the **cyberpioneer Facebook** to view more pictures on the above events. For up and coming partnership programmes, check out **www.army.sg**

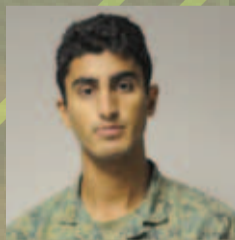
Presidential Garden Reception 2011

Story by Vishnu Prem / Photos contributed by Pioneer and Navy News

On the evening of 17 July, President S R Nathan hosted the Presidential Garden Reception (PGR) at the Istana, during which more than 700 personnel from MINDEF and SAF, Defence Science & Technology Agency (DSTA) and DSO National Laboratories were recognised for their valuable contributions to Singapore's peace and security.

Also present were Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, Chief of Defence Force, LG Neo Kian Hong, Minister of State for Defence and Education, Mr Lawrence Wong; and Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Defence and National Development, Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman. Many of the 44 NSF of the Year award winners from the Army invited were also present.

One of the NSF of the Year award winners, 3SG Wong Zhen Kang, an Operations Specialist from Army Information Centre, General Staff (Operations), said, "I am extremely honoured to receive this award. These two years of my National Service have been a very interesting and enriching experience. It taught me many skills that I can apply in life."



The key qualities of an NSF of the Year are exemplified by 2SG Vivek Aswani (left), a Platoon Sergeant from 24th Battalion, Singapore Artillery. He said, "There is no substitute for hard work. Good team players are also important because no one man can ever complete a mission on his own.

Lastly, a positive attitude is crucial as it not only motivates you, but also the people around you."



Another award recipient, 2SG Goh Bing Kun (left) from the 1st Commando Battalion, shared two of his defining moments in service, "They are completing the joint special forces selection which consisted of one week of tests and evolution and attaining the coveted red Commando beret after completing a 72-km route march."

completing a 72-km route march."



President Nathan (centre) and CDF interacting with guests, including award recipients of NSMan of the Year and NSF of the Year



President Nathan and CDF posing for a group photograph with personnel from General Staff

Recognising Contributions to Total Defence

Story by Jared Yeo / Photography by Matthew Tan



Dr Ng (right) presenting the Minister of Defence Award to Mr Lim from Indeco Engineers Pte Ltd (Photo contributed by NSAD)

Defence to Singapore, "We must expect the unexpected and whenever a crisis hits, we need to be prepared. This is the essence of our message of Total Defence, that we need to be prepared in the event of a crisis. The message was introduced in 1984 and I think it is ever more relevant today."

Thanking the employers and civil resource owners for their support for Total Defence, Dr Ng said, "National Servicemen form the backbone of the Singapore Armed Forces, and your making provisions for your NSmen employees to participate in their annual In-Camp Trainings is critical to ensuring that they remain operationally ready. We are very grateful for enlightened employers who support NS, to allow them to fulfil their

duties and obligations."

Another recipient, Cargill International Trading Pte Ltd, was awarded the Distinguished Defence Partner Award. Its HR manager, Ms Deana Chang shared how the company has helped its 72 NSmen employees, "We incorporate their ICT schedules into our annual business planning and deliverables commitment, grant them time off to keep fit and provide company-sponsored gym membership."

COL (VOL) Cheam Hing Lee from 29th Infantry Brigade, its Director, Head of Asia Commodity Finance, attested to the support provided, "Cargill is a great employer that supports its employees in their NS duties. Besides my annual ICT, I am also given time off for half-day meetings in my brigade and division. The senior management also congratulates me whenever I received any formation, MINDEF or national awards. They also recognised that National Service has honed my organising abilities and often called on me to lead and manage the company's social and welfare activities."

At the Total Defence Awards (TDA) presentation held at Shangri-la Hotel on 27 July, some 10 employers and civil resource owners were recognised for their contributions to the security of Singapore. Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, presented the awards to employers for demonstrating exemplary support for National Service and civil resource owners for their provision of vehicles and equipment to the SAF during resource requisition exercises.

Another 115 companies were presented the Distinguished Defence Partner Award by Minister of State for Defence and Education, Mr Lawrence Wong. In a separate presentation ceremony held on 20 July, Mr Wong also presented the Meritorious Defence Partner Award to 334 companies.

In his address, Dr Ng reiterated the importance of Total

duties and obligations."

One of the Minister for Defence Award winners recognised for its civil resource contributions is Indeco Engineers Pte Ltd, a company responsible for maintaining a significant portion of the SAF's fleet of vehicles. Its General Manager, Mr Lim Fang Chek, explained, "We maintain vehicles such as the 3-toners and land rovers, and also some of the Air Force's equipment. It is very important that we do our job well to contribute to the SAF's operational readiness. A strong national defence protects our way of life and sustains Singapore as a whole. At Indeco, we ensure that our staff are fully-trained to give the best support in maintaining the SAF's equipment and facilities. Our systems have a high serviceability rate as the SAF needs our 24/7 support during an emergency. The regular mobilisation exercises



Dr Ng interacting with the award recipients

A Unique and Priceless Experience

Story by Jonathan Chan / Photography by Wee Hong Shin

"Reflecting on my NS experience after 21 months of service, I realised that it is a deeply enriching one. It is unique and cannot be bought or sought outside of the Army," shared 3SG Hong Shao Ming, a Commando. This unique and priceless experience was why he and 3SG Jordan Ang had signed a 6-month contract following the completion of their full time service, to serve as trainers in the Commando Training Institute. Both servicemen identified three aspects that made their extension worthwhile.

An Exhilarating Experience



3SG Ang (right) giving undivided attention to his trainee

Life as a Commando is high tempo, and mentally and physically demanding. Their training stretches them to their limits, developing their character and resilience. As part of their airborne training, they execute adrenalin-pumping day and night combat equipment jumps.

3SG Ang exclaimed, "No other organisation or job will pay you to routinely jump out of a plane. I feel lucky to have had such opportunities which have built up my confidence and mettle."

Impacting Others

A trainer, a brother and a confidant. Training recruits from their own generation, 3SG Ang and 3SG Hong easily established a rapport and helped ease them into Army life. 3SG Ang explained, "Before I enlisted, I was relatively negative towards the Army. Such sentiment was not productive and I realised I had harboured a lot of misconceptions about NS. My experience proved to be fruitful and memorable. As a trainer, I want to help the recruits quickly adapt to soldiering by offering them a listening ear."

3SG Hong added, "Sharing my own experience and watching the recruits grow and develop gave me a great sense of pride and fulfilment. Extending my service gave me the opportunity to further impact the recruits while learning valuable coaching and communicating skills. The responsibility and accountability for my men had made me a more caring and effective leader."

Forging Friendships

Both 3SG Ang and 3SG Hong also identified the many friendships forged as a priceless takeaway from their NS experience, especially those born of hardship experiences with fellow Commandos. 3SG Ang recalled, "When your parched lips are wet by the last drop of water from your fellow soldier's bottle, there is a great bond formed. On outfield training we often



3SG Hong (centre) enjoyed his stint as a trainer at the Commando Training Institute, an experience that has allowed him to hone his coaching and communication skills

depend on each other to make it through the toughest times and eventually come out stronger as a team."

As a trainer, 3SG Hong imbued team spirit in his recruits. He said, "The recruits were like my younger brothers. I learnt to care for them and they also began to take a personal interest in their training. Initially, I kept pushing them as I was eager to quickly develop them to fit into the formation, not realising that everyone has a different learning curve and no one method of teaching can suit everyone. As I forged closer friendships with them, I began to better understand them and was able to coach them more effectively."

3SG Ang and 3SG Hong have recently completed their contract. Army News wishes them the best in their future endeavors.

Combat Team Training Centre

A New Milestone in Armour Training

Story by Jared Yeo / Photography by Mark Ng



3WO Tan (left) supervising an NSman during training

While our 3rd Generation Army leverages heavily on cutting edge technologies and advanced weapon platforms, it recognises that the competency of tactical units are still core to achieving victory in battle. To equip our Armour soldiers with these critical skills, Armour Training Institute (ATI) therefore inaugurated a new centre, the Combat Team Training Centre (CTTC) on 1 June.

Commander ATI, COL Ong Kah Kuang articulated his vision for CTTC, "We will have a centre that is the subject matter expert for the training and evaluation of combat team and below. The CTTC trainers with their valuable experiences and exposure gained in numer-

ous units constitute a repository of good armour practices. They are well qualified for sharing these across all the armour units.

Spearheading this effort is MAJ Tan Kok Lin, Commanding Officer of CTTC, who identified three key focuses. They include enhancing soldiering fundamentals, improving company and platoon commanders' capabilities in planning and command, and initiating an action learning process.

MAJ Tan explained, "In CTTC, we train both active and NS units. Our trainers work closely with them to ensure that good soldiering fundamentals are taught and practised.

We also work with the units to develop a training roadmap so that they can continue these practices after their training with us." 3WO Tan Kian Tiong, one of the CTTC trainers, shared, "At CTTC, we focus on fundamentals. This allows us to be more focused in our training, and we are then able to identify some of the wrong practices and correct them."



MAJ Tan believes that CTTC will strengthen Armour training by focusing on soldiering fundamentals

MAJ Tan added, "CTTC also partners the units to train and advise the company and platoon commanders on improving their planning and command capabilities. In addition, CTTC seeks to promulgate a learning culture within the units by sharing the good practices and lesson learned by other units. Through this action learning process, Armour units will be able to learn from each other and value add to their unit's training capacities."



Training conducted by the new CTTC will focus strongly on fundamentals to raise the competency of tactical units

Passing On The Baton

APPOINTMENT	INCOMING	OUTGOING
Comd ARMCEG	COL TAN PEK TONG	COL ONG TZE-CH'IN
Comd ETI	COL LAM CHEE YUONG	COL TEO CHENG LEONG
CO 790 SIR	LTC SOH PHOOI WENG	-
CO 746 SIR	LTC FOO SIANG YEAN	-
CO 35 SCE	MAJ LEE LING KWANG	LTC CHAN WEI KIAT ANDREW
CO SALS, Sig Institute	MAJ ONG HON HSIANG WILLIAM	-
CO SVTS, Sig Institute	SWO QUEK SER HIANG	-
RSM 39 SCE	2WO CHUA HONG HUP	1WO DAVID JEDIDIAH GOH BOON KOK
CO 8 CSH	MAJ(NS)(DR) CHONG YEW LAM	-
CO 91 CSSB	MAJ(NS)(DR) DARREN TAY KENG JIN	LTC(NS)(DR) TAN POH KIANG
RSM 287 SA	2WO(NS) GOH SWEE KEONG	-
RSM 61 CSSB	MSG(NS) LIM KWEE BOON	-
RSM 434 SAR	MSG(NS) SURINDRANATH S/O KASEENATHAN	2WO(VOL) RS.CHANDRAA JOTHI

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If you have any articles to contribute or suggestions about our newsletter, contact us at: armynews@starnet.gov.sg

ARMY NEWS (Suggestions and Feedback)

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The Commandos Special Supplement originally scheduled for release with the July 2011 newsletter was delayed due to a technical hitch. Arising from this, the Special Supplement Quiz published in the July issue has been extended to close end-September

Special Supplement Quiz

5 iPod Shuffles to be won!

Participate in this month's special quiz which is based on the Army News Special Supplement No.8 - No.10 (Signal, Combat Engineers, Commandos). Just provide the correct answers and you stand a chance to win one of the 5 iPod Shuffles that we are giving away. You can mail or email your answers to us.

Questions

1. The Signal formation's origin can be traced to which department? _____
2. Name the system that connects the command posts and facilitate rapid exchanges of information over distances _____
3. What does the Bayonet in the Singapore Combat Engineers' insignia signify? _____
4. The Mine Clearing Vehicle (MCV) is operated by which group of Engineers? _____
5. In which year did the Commandos relocate to Changi? _____
6. Name the course leading to the award of the coveted Special Forces tab. _____

Closing Date : 30 September 2011

Rank / Name:

Unit:

E-mail:

NRIC:

Contact No.:

1. This contest is open to all Army personnel except the executive staff of Army News Section.
2. Each person is allowed one entry.
3. Prizes are not exchangeable for cash. Winners are required to collect their prizes from Army News in person.
4. The judges' decision is final. Please send us your entries via mail or email us at armynews@starnet.gov.sg.
5. Prizes not collected within a month of notification will be forfeited.

MAY / Issue 188 Quiz Answers

- Answers:
1. ARMOUR
2. SUPPRESSING
3. INTEGRATED
4. PRESIDENT
5. HYDROGEN
6. INTERACTIVE

MAY / Issue 188 Winners

- 1) 3SG (NS) TONG WOEI HORNG NRIC: SXXXX136Z
- 2) MSG HO CHEE SENG NRIC: SXXXX196I
- 3) LCP SAMUEL LEE YONG YUAN NRIC: SXXXX544I
- 4) 3SG TAN TU GUANG NRIC: SXXXX101A
- 5) CPT (NS) KENNETH CHIN KAI YONG NRIC: SXXXX488H

Winners are to contact Army News at 6427 0642 for collection of prizes.

Info Nuggets

Terrex at BRIDEX 11

Story by Jonathan Chan, Photos contributed by 9 DIV/INF

Our Army's Terrex Infantry Carrier Vehicle (ICV) was showcased at the 3rd Brunei Darussalam International Defence Exhibition and Conference (BRIDEX 11), held from 5 to 9 July at the BRIDEX International Conference Centre in Jerudong. Participation in BRIDEX 11 underscored the SAF's warm defence ties with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Distinguished visitors who viewed the Terrex included the Sultan of Brunei Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and members of the royal family. Other guests such as Deputy Minister for Defence of Brunei, Dato Paduka Haji Mustappa, Chief of Defence Force of Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan Bin Pehin and the Commander of Joint Force HQ, First Admiral Abdul Aziz Bin Tarmit also visited the exhibition. The visitors were briefed on the vehicle's various capabilities such as the Battlefield Management System, Remote Control Weapon System and All Round Surveillance System.

Mission Leader, LTC Oh Beng Soon from 9 DIV/HQ Infantry, shared, "Though we were given a relatively short notice to prepare for this deployment, we managed to pull together and delivered a successful exhibition. The guests and international visitors were impressed with the design, integration and networked capabilities of the Terrex ICV."



The Terrex demonstrating its manoeuvring capabilities during the mobility display



Dato Paduka Haji Mustappa (second from left) accompanied by LTC Oh Beng Soon (second from right) inside the Terrex

Reconnecting with our Army

Story and photographs contributed by LTA Ong Yan Han, LTA Benjamin Tan



The retreat included an exciting rappelling session conducted by the Guardsmen

For many university students, their term breaks offer them not only a respite from their hectic study routine but also opportunities for work attachments or part-time jobs to obtain some practical experiences in their chosen fields. For regular Army officers on full-time local or overseas studies, it is also a time to re-connect and be updated on major developments within the Army. The Army Student Network (ASN) formed in 2006 provides just such an avenue.

This year, the ASN organised a 2-day retreat which included a visit to Combat Service Support Command (CSSCOM) and 7th Singapore Infantry Brigade (7 SIB). At CSSCOM, the participants were updated on the major developments and projects and had the opportunity to engage its senior leadership, including Commander CSSCOM, COL Tan Peng Kuan, in a wide-ranging sharing session.

LTA Tan Poh Long, a 4th year Psychology major at Nanyang Technological University, found the visit enlightening. He shared "The SAF is a potent fighting force with its latest weapons and technology but without a strong CSS backbone, neither victory nor war efforts can be sustained."

During the visit to 7 SIB, the ASN members were able to experience rappelling, guided by instructors from 3rd Battalion, Singapore Guards. The retreat concluded with a sharing by the new Commanding Officer (CO) of Army Officers Management Centre, LTC Nick Goh Chong Hua, on his experience as CO 2nd Battalion, Singapore Infantry

Regiment, our Army's first motorised infantry battalion. Besides providing updates on the major Army's development, the ASN also offers another benefit as LTA Shirlyn Neo, who majors in Sociology at the University of Warwick, shared, "It is great to meet friends from other vocations as we are able to share updates and knowledge on the recent developments in our respective formations."



The visit to CSSCOM allowed the ASN members to learn about the latest developments in Army logistical support

New Asics Shoes Available in eMarts Now!

Story and photographs contributed by HQ Supply

The new Asics running shoes have finally hit the eMarts shelves. Those shopping for a good pair of reasonably-priced running shoes should consider the Gel Kanbarra 4 SP (for the neutral to high arch foot type) or the Gel 105 SP (for the neutral to mild flat foot type). Embedded with the latest shoe technology, they are available in wide (2E) and extra wide (4E) to suit different foot width.



Both models were chosen by the SAF for its servicemen after elaborate and extensive evaluations, with a main focus on reducing training-related foot injuries. The evaluation included a technical laboratory assessment, inspection of bio-mechanical features by sport sciences experts and running trial by servicemen.



Even before these new shoes hit eMarts, recruits who were enlisted in June this year were already issued with them. After using them for a few weeks, REC Mohammad Alfaiz from Bravo Company, Basic Military Training Centre, shared, "On the whole, I found the shoes very light and comfortable. As this is also a well-known brand of running shoes, I am happy to get them as my training shoes."

The running shoes are also available on the SAF eMart Online. Grab a pair now!



Our soldiers training with the new running shoes

Our Apologies

In the Issue No.190 cover story, the Best NS Infantry/Guards Unit should be 688th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (688 SIR), which was incorrectly reflected as 668 SIR. The Best Signals Unit, the 1st Signal Battalion, was also accidentally omitted from the list of other BUC winners



Commandos

armynews special supplement #10

august 2011

Our Insignia

The Winged Bayonet was introduced as part of the inauguration of the HQ School of Commando Training (SOCT) in 1981. It represents the airborne capability of the Commandos. The green background underscores its affiliation with the Infantry while the gold ribbon and border reflect the Commandos' elite status. The motto, "For Honour and Glory", exhorts all Commandos to succeed in every mission they undertake for the formation and nation.

The Red Beret and Stiletto



The Stiletto and Red Beret are recognised worldwide as symbols of elite airborne troopers. They set the Commandos apart as indefatigable warriors who are a cut above the rest.

The Red Beret is awarded to trainees who have successfully completed their arduous qualification journey, earning the right to be recognised as members of an elite force. The Stiletto, with its razor sharp edges, can quickly silence the enemy and symbolises the deadly combat efficiency of the Commandos.



Our Honour

Our Glory

1969



A special project spearheaded by the late Dr Goh Keng Swee, then Minister for Defence, was launched to establish a unit for unconventional warfare. Housed in SAFTI, the Regular Battalion consisted of 30 hand-picked regular servicemen, commanded by MAJ Clarence Tan

1970



Stringent recruitment processes were implemented to professionalise the new unit. To strengthen its foundation, some pioneer Commandos were sent for

Airborne and Ranger courses in the USA

SAF Parachuting Team formed. This was later renamed and became known as "The Red Lions"

1971

Regular Battalion renamed SAF Commando Unit which was relocated to Changi

The distinctive Red Beret was adopted as a symbol of the Commandos' elite status

1972

SAF Commando Unit renamed First Commando Battalion

1973

First batch of NSF Commandos enlisted



1974-1978

SAF Basic Airborne Course (1974) and SAF Ranger Course (1978) launched

1st Commando Battalion awarded the State and Regimental Colours by the late Dr Goh Keng Swee (1977)

1981

School of Commando Training (SOCT) established
Commandos adopted the winged bayonet emblem and motto, "For Honour and Glory"

1989

HQ Commando established



1991

HQ Commando Regimental Colours presented by the late President Ong Teng Cheong, epitomising their skills, strength and efficiency



1993

Hendon Camp, the Commandos' spiritual and physical home, inaugurated

1997

SAF Special Operations Force (SOF) unveiled



2006

Commando Training Institute inaugurated to centralise Commando and Special Forces-related training under one HQ

2009

Special Operations Task Force (SOTF) formed, comprising personnel from the three Services to provide an integrated, modular and robust response to evolving security threats



VISION

To be the SAF's most highly trained operational elite.
A leading Special Force in the world

MISSION

To be at the highest state of operational readiness, to succeed in all assigned special operations in war and to provide the SAF with a swift, precise and effective response to peacetime contingencies

I find no better way to introduce our formation to you than through the riveting lines of our Commando song.

There is a place in Changi Point - Home of the Commandos.

Conceived in 1969 by MINDEF's senior leadership as an elite unit, we form the sharpest tip of the SAF's spear. More than four decades later, the formation has continued to live up to the daring vision behind its genesis while staying at the forefront of the SAF's transformations - firmly rooted to our warrior ethos and strong sense of community. Affectionately known as the "Changi Boys" in our early days, the formation has grown from strength to strength over the years.



Up with their Red Beret, training with pride. As a symbol, the Red Beret provides us with a deep sense of pride. Our pride and Commando core values of Honour, Discipline, Courage, Esprit de Corp and Daring Initiative are manifested in everything we do - from basic field-craft to sophisticated military free-fall manoeuvres, our comrades-in-arms never find us lacking.

Silver Wings upon my chest, show them we are the best. Our Special Forces capabilities have expanded deep into the various domains of land, sea and air. Our capabilities have also been expanded to cover operations across the entire operational continuum. As an element of the high readiness core, Commando special operators have served with distinction in joint operations across the globe. This year, men of the 1st Commando Battalion have made formation history once again, winning the Best Combat Unit for the 25th time and obtaining REDCON 1 for the ATEC evaluation.

Trained to fight in day and night, sharp ears and eagle eyes. We train for mission success. We are always alert and uncompromising in our operational readiness. We are mission oriented and are prepared to move out at a moment's notice.

We will jump from any height, without a fright. Special Forces are a unique breed of people. Each trooper has his unique strengths and special qualities. We dare to venture into the unknown and our sheer will prevail against all odds. Commandos are tasked for the most difficult operations because they will achieve mission success.

Commandos are ever strong, fight for right and not for wrong. As the SAF elite, Commandos must and will always be ready and strong. Our strength comes from our unity, cohesion, and our deep sense of commitment to the security of Singapore and its people. We fight for our fellow Commandos, we fight for our fellow comrades in the Army, Airforce and Navy. We fight for Singaporeans and we fight for the defence of our country.

*We are the loyal ones, Singapore's best!
We are the elite but not elitist. Come and be part of us.
For Honour and Glory.*

COL Chiang Hock Woon
Chief Commando Officer
Commander Special Operations Task Force

I am a Soldier - A Sp



The Commando formation has been involved in numerous operations since 1974 with the notable rescue of the Thunderbolt in 1991. Commando 117 and all the armed terror hostages were rescued unharmed in 38 seconds.

The Commandos have come to prominence in conventional warfare. To enhance their capabilities, shortlisted servicemen and women in the formation also participated as contingents in peace-support operations.

From Boys to Men



The journey begins here. The discipline required of a Commando fighter is instilled from day one in order to meet the physical and operational standards. As 'raw diamonds', all will be polished to perfection in the months ahead.

Jack of All Trades



All Commandos are cross-trained with special operational skillsets, such as Signals, Medics, Weapons, Demolitions, Snipers, Boatmen and Leaders. After these intensive training, top graduates from the Leaders' Course are selected for Officer Cadet School (OCS) while the rest continue to master specific skills vital to the functioning of a Commando detachment.

The World is Our Dropzone



Airborne operations are the bread and butter of every Commando. In order to proudly don the Silver Wings, all must execute day and night combat equipment jumps.

Forging Stiletto

In 1st Commando Battalion (1 CDO), integration of specialised skill-sets and Commando detachment-level operational training commences. Besides traversing unforgiving jungles and swamps, all prove their mettle in completing grueling missions and a 72-km route march. The pains of the final challenge give way to unbridled pride as they march into the parade square in full combat gear, carrying their assault boats. For these men, receiving the coveted Red Beret is one of the proudest moments in their lives.



Operational and Indomitable



In this phase, operational duties beckon. These include the Battalion Proficiency Test - a decisive factor in determining the Best Combat Unit. The evaluation assesses Commandos in various areas, including tactical missions and operational proficiency.



Building Bridges of Friendship



1 CDO also engages in bilateral exercises with its regional Special Forces counterparts, promoting continual training and fostering cultural understanding.

Given My All



Immersed in the camaraderie of 1 CDO, two years have flown by unnoticed! The ORD parade, with their friends and family members present, is a truly special occasion that wraps up a rewarding and satisfying NSF experience.

While everyone is glad to return to civilian life, all are aware that there is a place in Changi where young and capable men are ready to defend the country at a moment's notice.



For Honour and Glory!

OPERATIONS



Special Forces Soldier

has undertaken many operable success of Operation andos stormed Flight SQ ists were killed and hos- ed. The Operation lasted

e a long war from conven- their professional develop- en from the Commando s part of the SAF overseas t missions.



ATIONS



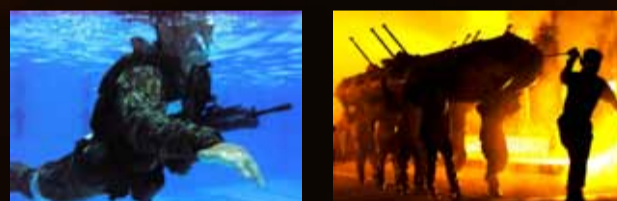
To maintain the Special Forces' posture as the sharpest tip of the SAF's spear, the Commandos regularly participate in military exercises with home agencies and renowned global Special Forces partners

We Dare to Blaze a Trail!



Inspired by the formation's esprit de corps and its leadership, some of our national servicemen have taken a second leap of faith by stepping forward to serve as regular members in the Commando formation. Always vigilant and operationally ready, they train unceasingly at home and overseas, honing their warfighting skills and harnessing cutting-edge equipment as force multipliers in operations. Here, we share some interesting but little known snippets about them.

Earning the Right to Be Called Special Forces



Qualifying as a member of the Special Forces requires one to complete an arduous journey in acquiring self-mastery, unmatched professionalism and seamless teamwork.

For aspiring trainees, the Joint Special Forces Selection Test (JSFST) is a daunting challenge. Besides possessing the physical prowess to run and swim with combat load, mental dexterity is vital for making the cut to the Special Forces Qualification Course (SFQC) conducted by highly seasoned Commando and Naval Diving Unit (NDU) operators. The coveted Special Forces tab is awarded only after one has attained an exacting standard of professionalism and demonstrates an unflinching commitment to his brethren in the Special Forces community.



Deep Specialisation



Specialised training are conducted to hone the special operators on mission-specific skills. Commandos are trained in fields as diverse as military free-fall, advanced demolitions and combat diving, to equip them with the necessary skills to deal with a full spectrum of operations.



A World Class Special Forces



To achieve their vision of being among the best in the global Special Forces community, these extraordinary men are often sent for internationally renowned courses on special warfare and tactics. The calibre of our elite operators and robustness of training are evident in many of them who have topped the most demanding overseas courses.

1.75 million parachutes packed, Zero malfunction



Everytime the Commandos go airborne, they jump with full confidence, knowing that their parachutes are meticulously packed. The formation is fortunate to have a supportive and dedicated group of Riggers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that every jump is a safe and successful one.

Our lives are special because we have decided that it must be so

Commandos never walk alone. The formation prides itself on the strong camaraderie that has been forged with blood, sweat and tears. People are our edge - at work or play, we embody the Commando values of Esprit de Corps, Honour, Courage, Discipline and Daring Initiative. This unites us and moves us forward as one big family.



40 Years of Honour and Glory

From humble beginnings in 1969, the SAF Commandos has steadily grown in strength, building on the success of each preceding generation. In 2009, the formation commemorated 40 years of unflinching courage, loyalty and devotion.

Former Chief of Defence Force, LG Desmond Kuek, said in his keynote address, "Being top, respected and elite is not a given. To reach there and stay there requires diligence, perseverance and vision." The past 40 years of excellence will not guarantee the next 40 years, unless we continue to be nimble and dynamic enough to continually change and improve to stay relevant.



The SAF Red Lions

The SAF's Red Lion Parachuting Team is the pride of the Commandos. A crowd favourite at NDP since 1996, their fame has travelled far and wide through their successes in regional and international competitions. "It is heartening that our servicemen have such a passion for parachute jumps beyond the expectations of their career - this reflects our culture of excellence, which exhorts all Commandos to excel at whatever they do," said former Chief Commando Officer, BG Lam Shiu Tong.



Join the Winning Team
A lifetime of adventures awaits!

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More Information on the SAF Commandos can be accessed from the following website -
http://www.mindef.gov.sg/imindef/mindef_websites/atozlistings/army/ourforces/Commandos.html