

Republic of Singapore

# Air Force NEWS

FULL SPECTRUM . INTEGRATED . READY

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Other Features:

**RSAF Open House   RSAF Best Units**

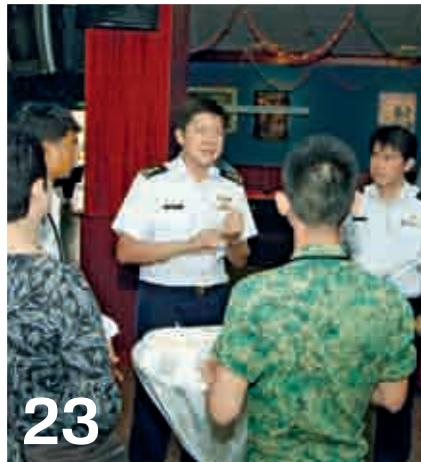
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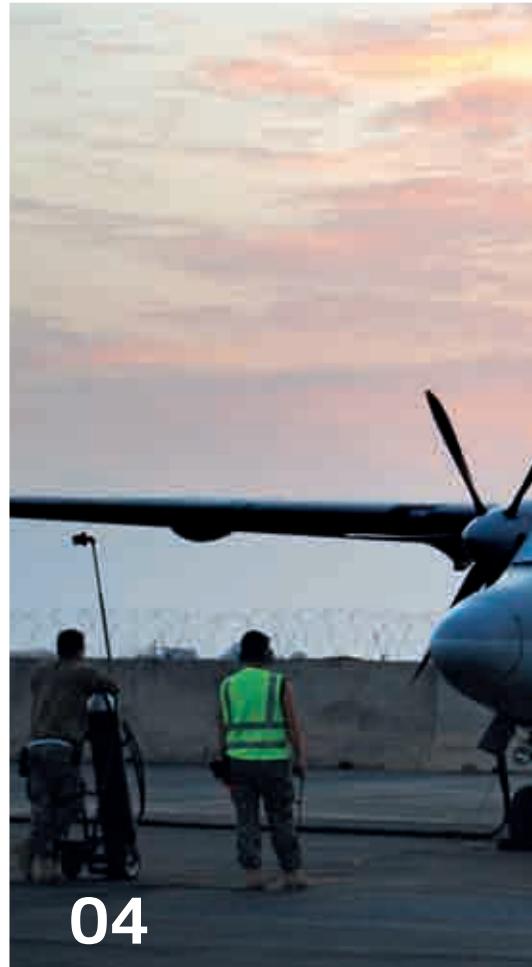


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## contents



Pg 4 - 5

**Our Fokker-50 Comes Home**

Pg 6 - 11

**RSAF Open House**

Pg 12 - 13

**RSAF Receives Five New Regimental Colours**

Pg 14 - 17

**RSAF Best Units**

Pg 18

Operation Pacific Angel

Pg 19

EX Bersama Shield 2011

Pg 20

Our Valued Partners

Pg 21 - 27

Happenings In The RSAF

Pg 28 - 34

Awards and Ceremonies

Pg 35 - 37

Developing Our People

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# Our Fokker-50 Comes Home

## Fokker-50 MPA detachment returns from the Gulf of Aden

Story by S. Gajendran



**D**eployed to the Gulf of Aden since Apr 2011, the SAF's Fokker-50 Maritime Patrol Aircraft (F-50 MPA) detachment returned to Singapore on 15 Jul 11. The detachment personnel were welcomed home by CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng, senior SAF officers, as well as their next-of-kin at a ceremony held at Changi Air Base.

Tasked with conducting maritime air surveillance and performing coordinated search operations to locate and investigate suspicious vessels in the Gulf of Aden, the F-50 MPA detachment was based in Djibouti and operated under the ambit of the multinational Combined Task Force (CTF) 151. During its deployment, the detachment completed 58 sorties which provided CTF 151 with an enhanced sea situation picture of the Gulf of Aden. The detachment's efforts in the Gulf of

Aden contributed to the continued economic stability of maritime states, which is critical as the Gulf forms part of an important global shipping route.

To engage detachment personnel and be updated on their operations, CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng, visited the detachment in Djibouti from 26 to 28 Apr 11. During his visit, MG Ng also called on Djibouti's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, and the Chief of Defence Force, Djiboutian Armed Forces, MG Fathi Ahmed Houssein.

At the aircraft Homecoming Ceremony, CO 121 SQN, LTC Song Chun Keet, said, "I am proud to have led a team of professionals as part of the multinational efforts to counter piracy in the Gulf of Aden. The detachment





# RSAF'11

## Open House

### Defending Our Skies

Story by Douglas Fong

From 26 to 29 May 11, a crowd of almost 158,000 enthusiasts thronged through the gates of PLAB to visit the RSAF Open House. With a wide array of technologically advanced aircraft, state-of-the-art weapon systems and informative exhibits on display, the Open House allowed the general public to better understand the capabilities of the 3rd Generation RSAF and the professionalism of its airmen.

Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, officiated at the Opening Ceremony on 28 May 11. After viewing the displays and exhibits, Dr Ng said, "If you look at the platforms on display today, you'll see that our technology is very advanced and very integrated. While that is important, our people's ability to be able to work as a team, to hone and integrate the systems remains vital. I think the RSAF has developed very quickly over the past 43 years. Even internationally, we are regarded as a very professional and capable force."

Elaborating on the objective of the Open House, Chairman of the Open House Organising Committee, SLTC Foo Yang Ge, said, "What we want is for Singaporeans to learn more about the RSAF, our capabilities, and how we do our job in defending our skies." To this end, an impressive display of the RSAF's capabilities was showcased and many sophisticated assets, including the newly acquired F-15SG, Surface-to-air PYthon-5 and DERby - Short Range (SPYDER-SR) Ground-Based Air Defence (GBAD) system and Sikorsky S-70B Seahawk Naval Helicopter, were put on display.

A perennial crowd favourite was the aerial display. Showcasing the RSAF's multi-layered air defence and a slice of the SAF's air-land integrated capabilities, the aerial display featured RSAF assets such as the F-15SG and F-16 fighter aircraft, Apache attack helicopters, Super Puma and Chinook helicopters, as well as GBAD systems such as I-Hawk and Mechanised Igla. The sights





and sound of the action-packed display captivated the audience and showcased the full spectrum, integrated and operationally ready RSAF.

Enthusiasts who could not get enough of the aircraft and weapon systems that participated in the aerial display had the opportunity to view them up close and personal at the static display. They had the chance to enter the cockpits of the various aircraft, interact with the airmen and take photographs with the platforms to commemorate their visit to the Open House. Visitors also had the opportunity to view arming demonstrations of the F-15SG, F-16D Blk 52+ and Apache attack helicopter. These demonstrations showcased the team members' ability to work together seamlessly, thereby highlighting the 3rd Generation RSAF's air power generation capabilities.

The aircraft rides onboard the Chinook helicopters as well as Fokker-50 and C-130 transport aircraft were also among the crowd favourites. For the less adventurous, they would find a wealth of information at the air-conditioned Exhibition Halls on the roles and functions of the six RSAF Commands and how the transformation to a 3rd Generation RSAF has enhanced its mission effectiveness.

At the Performance Hall, guest performers from MediaCorp, the SAF Music and Drama Company, and the SAF Military Police Command provided a variety of performances to entertain the public. Exciting game stations were also set up at the Carnival Hall and Young Aviator Zone to entertain the younger visitors, thus ensuring that the RSAF Open House was an interesting and fun-filled event for enthusiasts of all ages.



# Perspectives

①

## Bernard Lee (with his family)

I think the Open House is very impressive, the aircraft and exhibitions on display have been very interesting. The simulator is very realistic. It can easily provide our pilots with varying weather scenarios on demand, which enhances the versatility of the training. The simulator thus serves as good preparation for our servicemen. Through this Open House I have learnt much more about the RSAF and I'm confident of its ability to defend Singapore well.

②

## Germaine Leong

This was my first time on a Chinook helicopter. I didn't know what to expect at first but I enjoyed it thoroughly and would love to go for another ride! On the whole, I found the RSAF Open House an eye-opener and it was an insightful experience to see so many of the platforms up close. I think that the RSAF is doing an excellent job in protecting our skies!

③

## Martyn Aw

I've been to the RSAF Open House before but this is the first time I was able to see the new platforms like the F-15SG and the G550-AEW. I was really impressed by the power of the F-15SGs when I saw them during the aerial display. It reinforces the idea that the RSAF is a well equipped and integrated force to be reckoned with.

④

## Nyang Bing Ru

It is my dream to be a RSAF pilot. Participating in the RSAF Open House has definitely fueled my interest and motivated me to achieve this dream. Through my involvement, I've gained a better understanding of the RSAF's operations and hope events like this happen more often.

①



②



③



④





5

### **ME3 Edward Lim Flight Engineer, 127 SQN**

As a commentator for the aerial display, I am in charge of telling a story. It is my duty to ensure that the audience is able to follow the action closely and know more about the capabilities of the different platforms and how they come together as an integrated 3rd Generation RSAF.

6

### **LTA Shaun Chua Pilot, 145 SQN**

It's my honour and an interesting experience to be the show coordinator for the aerial display. My primary role is multimedia - to ensure that whatever shown on the screens during the aerial display complements the action.

### **Lin Siping Girlfriend**

The RSAF Open House is really well organised. I found it an engaging experience as I'm able to better understand what my boyfriend does and how he contributes to our nation's security.

### **Sylvia Chua Mother**

I've always wanted to sit in the cockpit of a F-15SG. Visiting the Open House has given me this chance and I am happy that I came.

### **Steven Chua Father**

I thoroughly enjoyed the aerial display - especially as my son was a part of it.

7

### **ME2 Karam Singh Flight Line Crew, 149 SQN (with his fianceé)**

I convinced my fiancée to come down to the Open House to understand the work I do. I led her to stand on one of the wings of a F-15SG where I proposed to her in full view of everyone. I'm grateful to my superiors for allowing me to do this. It is testament to how the organisation cares for its servicemen and makes the effort to connect with our families.



# Behind the Scenes

Medics practising medical response procedures before opening hours



Open House Ambassadors highlighting some of the attractions to visitors



Air Traffic Controllers ensuring the skies are clear for a safe execution of the aerial display



Doing their part for charity - the Officers' Wives' Club selling RSAF related merchandise



The New Media team uploading photos onto the Open House Facebook page



Ensuring a secure environment - security personnel conducting bag checks



An Open House Ambassador guiding a group of visitors to the static display



Commentators for the aerial display in the Mobile Air Traffic Control tower



Keeping a watchful eye - a security trooper patrolling the grounds



Personnel packing up equipment at day's end



# Bouquets

“ The RSAF Open House today was an eye-opener for me! Kudos to the staff who explained how the different planes and systems worked. They made my visit very enjoyable!

**Doreen Neo**  
Student

“ *Eliminating threats with superior technology.* I love this quote! To all the men and women who were directly or indirectly involved in this year's Open House, Great job!

**Gary Ho**  
Facebook User

“ The roar of the F-15s definitely gives every Singaporean a sense of security and the assurance that our air power is sufficient to keep our country safe so that we can live comfortably and in peace.

**Wei De Chang**  
Facebook User

“ To the men who stood steadfastly under the sun ensuring the security of the event, the traffic marshals and ambassadors who facilitated the smooth movement of all the visitors, I salute you!

**Ang Ping Ping**  
Facebook User

“ On behalf of all of us at Ang Mo Kio Family Service Centres (AMKFSC), I want to express our gratitude to the RSAF for hosting over 100 children from disadvantaged families. We were truly impressed by the spectacular plane rides and excellent aerial display.

**Nicholas Lim**

“ A big thanks to the organisers who helped make this day extra special for my son who is undergoing chemotherapy. They went out of their way to make this visit memorable. He's not had such a sensational time in a long while and we are truly appreciative of the people who made it happen.

**Tammie Wong**  
Facebook User

# RSAF Receives Five New Regimental Colours

Story by Andrew Ng & Koh Weijun

This year's SAF Day Parade was particularly significant to the RSAF as it received five new Regimental Colours.

Regimental Colours play an important role to signify and recognise the Formations and Units for their achievements in combat, training, and administrative efficiency. They help to promote cohesion and esprit de corps among servicemen, instilling in them a sense of pride and loyalty.

For the RSAF, the retirement of the old Colours and the conferment of the new Colours marked a significant

milestone in the structural changes in the RSAF, as part of its 3rd Generation transformation journey.

Prior to the presentation, CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng, officiated at a ceremony to consecrate the five new Regimental Colours for Air Defence and Operations Command (ADOC), Air Combat Command (ACC), Participation Command (PC), Air Power Generation Command (APGC) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command (UC).

The Consecration Ceremony began with the piling





of drums and the laying of Colours by the ensigns. Consisting of seven drums in a circle, the piled drums served as an altar for the consecration. The Colours were then draped over the drums, with the pikes resting on the drums' hoops to support the Colours in position. Religious leaders were then invited to bless the Colours.

The new Colours were subsequently presented by President S R Nathan to the RSAF Command Commanders at the SAF Day Parade.

This year's SAF Day Parade was held on 1 Jul 11 at SAFTI Military Institute. Officiated by President S R Nathan, it was attended by more than 1,500 SAF regulars, Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) and Full-time National Servicemen. Also present at the parade were Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister of State for Defence and Education, Mr Lawrence Wong, and Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Defence and National Development, Dr Maliki Osman.

During the parade, Chief of Defence Force, LG Neo Kian Hong, led SAF personnel in reciting the SAF Pledge to affirm their loyalty to Singapore and their commitment to the defence of Singapore. A minute of silence was also observed in remembrance of SAF personnel who had lost their lives in the line of duty.

Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, also presented the Best Unit and Best NS Unit awards to 23 SAF units at the parade. From the RSAF, 149 SQN is the Best Fighter SQN, 120 SQN is the Best Helicopter SQN, 128 SQN is the Best Air Combat Support SQN, and 165 SQN is the Best Ground-Based Air Defence Unit.

At the post-parade reception, Dr Ng presented the SAF NSmen of the Year awards to 15 deserving NSmen. From the RSAF, the SAF NSmen of the Year were MAJ(NS) Ronald Cheong, a Battery Commander from 9 DA Bn; and CPL(NS) Lim Chuen Lik, a Missile Gunner from 18 DA Bn. They were presented with the awards in recognition of their hard work and outstanding contributions.

# RSAF Be



**149**  
SQN  
Best Fighter Squadron



Established in 1985, 149 SQN had previously won the Best Fighter SQN award five times. This year's triumph was, however, sweeter as this is its first win since it was inaugurated as an F-15SG SQN in Apr 10.

Following the aircraft homecoming from Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, USA, on 29 Mar 10, the inauguration of the F-15SGs into 149 SQN on 5 Apr 10 marked a new chapter for the SQN. The SQN operates the F-15SG all-weather multi-role fighters, equipped with advanced avionics and sensors, which has enhanced the RSAF's combat effectiveness and increased our ability to fend off potential threats.



COL (then SLTC) Kelvin Khong, formerly CO 149 SQN, highlighted the key qualities that his SQN possesses that helped them win this award, "While we started operating the aircraft in Singapore only in Apr 2010, it's not about the experience or aircraft type. It's about the quality of our people, the teamwork and sense of pride."

MAJ Nick Wong shared, "It is an extraordinary feeling, both humbling and proud. I believe that everyone in the SQN will agree that the SHIKRA's culture of Pride, Passion and Professionalism are the secrets to winning this competition. As operators of the RSAF's leading edge fighter, all our personnel are fully committed to this great responsibility and hence, takes great pride in the conduct of all areas, from our work to our bearing! The manner at which we have built up 149 SQN's operations and training, and achieved the RSAF's demanding tasks speaks volumes of our personnel's exemplary professionalism."

ME3 Inderjit Singh, Flight Line Crew, added, "We always find time to celebrate every milestone and achievement, no matter how big or small. With the Best Fighter SQN award, there is yet another reason for all in the SQN to come together and celebrate once more."

COL Khong handed over the command of the SQN to LTC (then MAJ) David Lim on 29 Jun 11. In parting, he expressed his wishes for the SQN, "I hope that the men will not lose sight of the bigger picture of why we are here - specifically, to build up the F-15SG capability and, more generally, for the defence of our country."

# Best Units

# 120

SqN

Best Helicopter Squadron



Clinching the honour of being the Best Helicopter SQN is a milestone which 120 SQN is particularly proud of, considering that this is its first while operating the Apache attack helicopter. Shared LTC Chris Chew, CO 120 SQN, "I always impress on my people to be meticulous in all that they do. Only then can they deliver the highest standards with the tasks and training that they undertake."

On 120 SQN's achievement, ME2 Joreen Ng, Aviation Material Specialist, shared, "Everyone in the SQN is always on their feet and ready for operations when called upon. They are proactive and ever ready to chip in to help one another. I've had an exciting time in 120 SQN and I am glad that the efforts put in by each and everyone in the SQN has been recognised."

As part of the core group which set up the Peace Vanguard Detachment in 2001, and having assisted with the induction of the Apache attack helicopters into 120 SQN in 2006, LTC Chew was happy to see how far

the SQN has come. "It has been a long time wanting and this is recognition of the hard work put in by everyone in the SQN who made this win possible."

Besides participating in major exercises such as EX Wallaby, 120 SQN had also recently deployed to Koke Kathiem (KKT), Thailand. LTC Chew shared, "Early this year, I led the first KKT Detachment. It was a good opportunity for us to conduct our training and a memorable experience."

CPT Joyce Xie related her experiences as a pilot in the SQN, "I vividly recall my first time trying to hover a helicopter during my training. I was hovering everywhere but the point where my instructor wanted me to. As a junior pilot, I'm glad to have participated in EX Wallaby 10, my first overseas exercise. It gave me the opportunity to train with the different platforms in the SAF and had provided me with great learning experiences. Looking back, I've come a long way from my days as a helicopter pilot trainee and I truly appreciate all the guidance and support that the SQN officers and crew has provided me. We operate as one big happy family!"



For the SQN which returned after a successful three-month deployment to Uruzgan, as part of Singapore's contribution to the multinational stabilisation and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, winning the Best Air Combat Support SQN award was indeed the crowning glory for 128 SQN which operates the Searcher UAV.



MAJ Alex Tey, CO 128 SQN, shared his thoughts on the SQN's win, "I feel very proud of my SQN. It is an honour to serve side by side with professionals who have the passion and attitude to excel and push the SQN to greater heights. We believed, we worked hard for it, and we achieved it."

On top of being the Best Air Combat Support SQN, 128 SQN also did well in the Audit on Flying Operations and Standards Audit, and in the area of continuous improvement and innovation, the SQN was awarded the Minister for Defence Award, Commendation (Combat) award, for the third time.

# 128

SQN  
Best Air Combat Support Squadron



LTA Cheong Hao Ming, ROS COMD, shared, "While some of us were not part of the deployment to Afghanistan, the SQN's participation in local joint exercises with the Army also allowed us to streamline some of our processes with other agencies in the SAF. To be crowned the Best Air Combat Support SQN was not an easy task and it requires tremendous effort and dedication from every single person in 128 SQN."

Reflecting on his time spent in 128 SQN, CPT Peh Jia Hong, Internal Pilot and Unit Safety Officer said, "Personally, my most memorable deployment was EX Forging Sabre 2009. During a complex air-land integrated strike mission, our Searcher UAV was tasked to assist the F-16 fighters to drop a laser-guided bomb. I vividly remember the mission crew cheering when the bomb hit the target spot-on."

CFC(NS) Joshua Tan, Signal Operator, shared, "The cohesion within the SQN enabled us to work together to achieve common goals. We are always more than ready to meet the requirements of our training sorties and contribute positively towards the air defence of Singapore."

# 165

SqN  
Best GBAD Unit



This is the seventh Best GBAD Unit award that 165 SqN has won since it was set up in 1983 to operate the Rapier system. It also operates the RBS-70. Having recently taken delivery of the new Surface-to-air PYthon and DERby - Short Range (SPYDER-SR) Ground-Based Air Defence (GBAD) system, a new chapter awaits.

The SPYDER-SR is a quick reaction surface-to-air missile system capable of engaging a wide spectrum of aerial threats, ranging from fighter aircraft to precision-guided munitions. Compared with the Rapier, the SPYDER-SR possesses a longer range for interception and higher altitude. These enhanced capabilities will provide Singapore with an extended air defence envelope against aerial threats.



Sharing more on the SqN's way ahead, LTC Don Loke, CO 165 SqN, said, "The SqN's transition to the state-of-the-art SPYDER-SR air defence system is a timely modernisation of the RSAF's air defence arsenal. While the Rapier will remain very much active for the foreseeable future to meet our operational requirements, we will develop a core group of people to operate the new system. During this transition,



I am confident that the SqN will continue to perform well, due to the strong sense of commitment and professionalism in our people, and also due to the strong bonds that we share."

MAJ Wesley Ho, S3, echoed his CO's sentiments and elaborated, "I've had an enjoyable time in 165 SqN. Ever since I was first posted here as an Officer Cadet years ago, I've felt that this SqN is akin to a close-knit family and everyone understands each other very well. Because of this strong cohesion, we are able to do well in all areas, from operations and training to logistics and safety."

3SG Soo Guo Kai, ADWS(GBAD), elaborated on why he believes the SqN deserved the award, "Everyone knows that Singapore's skies are safe. However, not everyone sees and fully appreciates the amount of hard work that goes into keeping it safe. Apart from routine surveillance, we also conduct extra training and exercises to ensure that we are always operationally ready."





Participating in Operation Pacific Angel for the first time, the RSAF deployed a C-130 transport aircraft and a total of 21 personnel from 122 SQN and the RSAF Medical Service to Jakarta and Pekan Baru, Indonesia. The operation, designed to bring Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) expertise to the region, was led by the United States Air Force's Pacific Air Forces and held jointly with the TNI AU (Indonesian Air Force) from 7 to 19 Jun 11.

The RSAF participated alongside medical personnel from Bangladesh Air Force, and Timor Leste Defence Force.

During the first phase of Operation Pacific Angel, RSAF personnel helped to execute a medical supply airlift from Jakarta to Pekan Baru before participating in an Aeromedical Evacuation (AME) Subject Matter Expert Exchange with the TNI AU.

The second phase of Operation Pacific Angel

# OPERATION PACIFIC ANGEL 2011

saw medical personnel from the RSAF, together with healthcare providers from the participating forces take part in a six-day Medical Civic Action Programme

(MEDCAP) held at the Kampar Kiri Hilir Fairgrounds in Pekan Baru. The RSAF medical team was able to integrate seamlessly into the daily workflow of the local clinic, helping to bring much needed medical aid and healthcare supplies to local villagers.

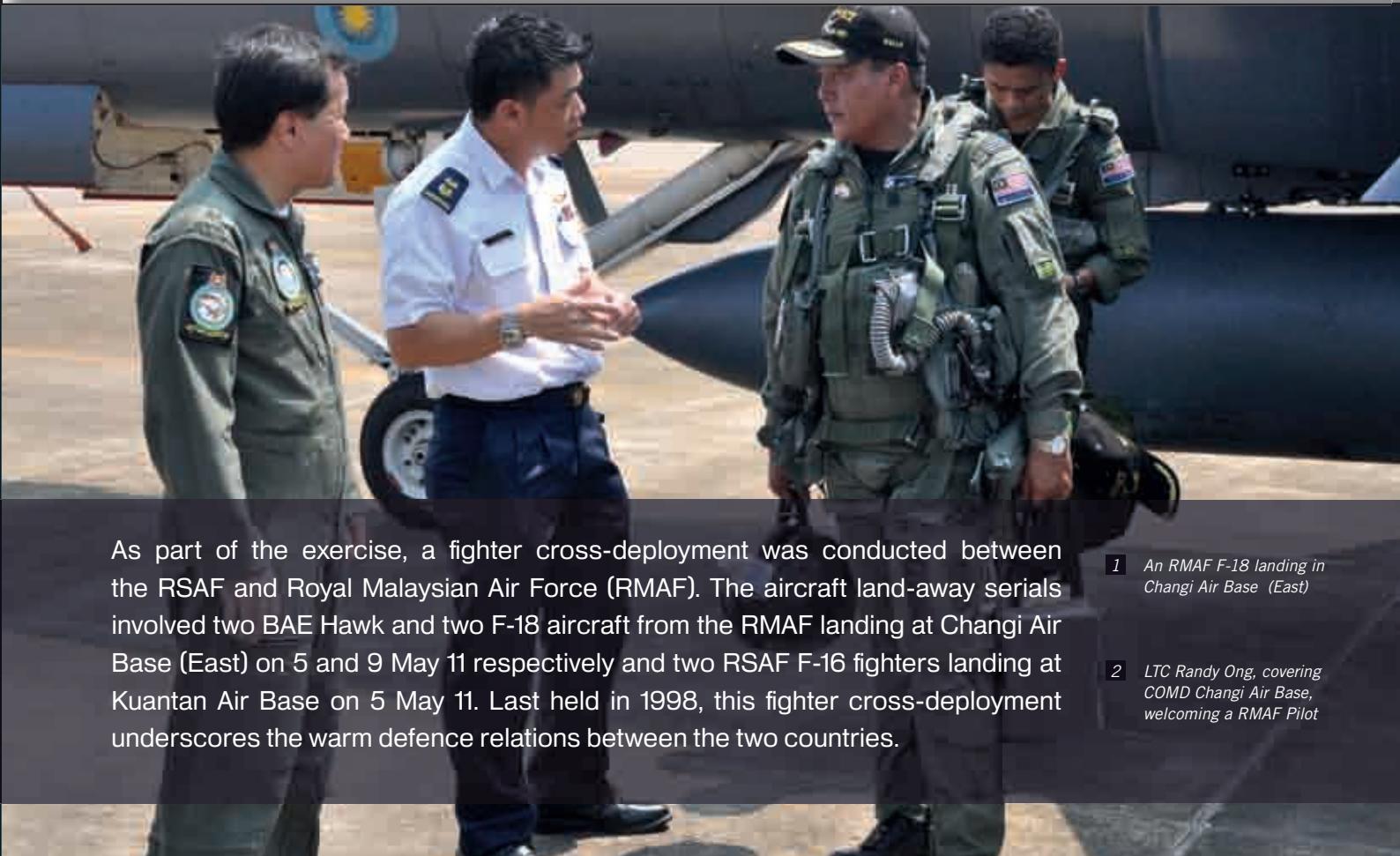
In all, with many friendships forged over the 12 days, Operation Pacific Angel served to provide participating nations with a common and meaningful humanitarian platform for the cross-sharing of expertise in the various domains of HADR, AME and MEDCAP provision.





EX Bersama Shield is a major Five Power Defence Arrangements military exercise designed to enhance security in the region through interoperability of the combined air, ground and naval forces of member countries. This year, the exercise took place along the Malaysian Peninsula and South China Sea from 2 to 13 May 11. It saw the participation of nine advanced guided-missile frigates, one submarine, and close to 50 modern combat aircraft from the armed forces of Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

# EX BERSAMA SHIELD 2011



As part of the exercise, a fighter cross-deployment was conducted between the RSAF and Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF). The aircraft land-away serials involved two BAE Hawk and two F-18 aircraft from the RMAF landing at Changi Air Base (East) on 5 and 9 May 11 respectively and two RSAF F-16 fighters landing at Kuantan Air Base on 5 May 11. Last held in 1998, this fighter cross-deployment underscores the warm defence relations between the two countries.

1 An RMAF F-18 landing in Changi Air Base (East)

2 LTC Randy Ong, covering COMD Changi Air Base, welcoming a RMAF Pilot

## Visit by US Deputy Undersecretary of the Air Force, International Affairs

Ms Heidi Grant, US Deputy Undersecretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, conducted her introductory visit to Singapore from 12 to 14 Apr 11. Ms Grant called on CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng on 12 Apr 11.

During her visit, Ms Grant was briefed on the 3rd Generation RSAF's capabilities and on the airspace constraints faced by the RSAF when she visited Paya Lebar Air Base and Changi Air Base (East). She also flew on board the Super Puma helicopter for a familiarisation flight.



*MG Ng presenting Ms Grant with a memento of her visit*



*COS(AS), BG Wong Huat Sern presenting AM Sukirno with a memento of his visit*

## 5th RSAF-TNI AU Annual Staff Meeting

The 5th RSAF-TNI AU Annual Staff Meeting was held in MINDEF on 20 Apr 11. Air Marshal (AM) Sukirno, Deputy Chief of Staff, TNI AU, led the delegation of TNI AU officers.

During their stay, the TNI AU officers visited the Air Logistics Group (Rotary Wing) where they learnt more about the RSAF and its operations.

The TNI AU officers also visited the Aeromedical Centre, where they were briefed on some of the training programmes that the RSAF pilots undergo.

## TNI COMD National Air Defence Visit

COMD National Air Defence, TNI Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Eddy Suyanto led a delegation of TNI AU officers on a visit to Singapore from 13 to 15 Jun 11.

On 14 Jun 11, AVM Eddy called on COS(AS), BG Wong Huat Sern and visited the Air Defence Operations Command (ADOC) where he learnt more about air defence operations in Singapore.



*BG Wong and AVM Eddy with the senior officers from the RSAF and TNI AU*

## MG(NS) Ng Chee Khern awarded the Legion of Honour

On 5 Apr 11, MG(NS) Ng Chee Khern, former CAF and currently Director Security and Intelligence Division, was awarded the National Order of the Legion of Honour by the French Government. The award was presented to MG(NS) Ng in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the development of the defence relations between Singapore and France.

During his tenure as CAF, MG(NS) Ng was instrumental in ensuring excellent bilateral relations between the RSAF and the French Air Force. The RSAF also operates an Advanced Jet Trainer detachment at Cazaux Air Base, France.



## MINDEF PRIDE Day

With the aim of promoting a culture of continuous productivity improvement in MINDEF and the SAF, the Productivity and Innovation in Daily Efforts (PRIDE) movement was introduced in 1981. This year marks its 30th anniversary.

The MINDEF PRIDE Day 2011 was held on 28 Jun 11 at the National Library. The Guest-of-Honour for the event, Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, presented a total of 125 awards to individuals, groups and units from MINDEF and the SAF in recognition of their outstanding and innovative contributions.

During his address, Dr Ng highlighted the continued relevance of the PRIDE movement, "This is the way forward for Singapore to maintain its comparative advantage. We must leverage on our human resource to make up for our higher costs incurred by other factors of production."

During his tour of the exhibits, Dr Ng interacted with the RSAF's Radio Frequency Radiation Detector team from Air Logistics Department to gain a deeper understanding of their project and how it contributes to safer air-sea integration during operations such as Operation Blue Sapphire (Maritime).

ME4 Edwin Leong, a member of the Radio Frequency Radiation Detector team, shared his thoughts on winning the award, "It feels great to know that our ideas are recognised by the organisation and that we can make a difference to our work environment."



*Head Air Logistics, ME8 (then ME7) Lee Ling Wee, and members of the RSAF team which designed the Radio Frequency Radiation Detector*

## RSAF Annual Safety Conference

The RSAF Annual Safety Conference, organised by the Air Force Inspectorate (AFI), was held on 5 Apr 11 at the Air Force Training Command Auditorium. Besides promoting awareness and educating servicemen on safety matters, the conference also highlighted recent developments in aviation safety and safety issues within the RSAF.



*COL Ng making his presentation during the conference*

The programme included a keynote address by CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng, and presentations on safety issues by then Head AFI, COL Ng Chee Keong, then Head Air Operations, BG (then COL) Lim Yeong Kiat and Head Air Logistics, ME8 (then ME7) Lee Ling Wee. In his keynote address, MG Ng emphasised that safety will continue to play a key role in our development towards a 3rd Generation RSAF.

During the conference, MG Ng also presented awards to the units and individuals who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to operational safety.

## RSAF PRIDE Convention 2011

The annual RSAF Productivity and Innovation in Daily Effort (PRIDE) Convention was held on 20 Apr 11 at the Air Force Training Command (AFTC) Auditorium. The convention was officiated by CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng, who also presented over 80 awards to honour outstanding projects and recognise the efforts of coordinators, facilitators and leaders who have been actively promoting productivity and innovation.

The convention also showcased several outstanding Unit Suggestions Management System (USMS) and Work Improvement Teams (WITS) projects through presentations and static displays.

Said ME2 Brian Pestana about winning the Best USMS Suggestion (Safety) award, "I was surprised that a simple idea taken from home could have such a huge impact on our daily work routine. I am very proud of this award and it will motivate me to continue to come up with innovative ideas to improve our work processes. It also shows that the organisation appreciates our ideas."



*MG Ng interacting with the team from the Airfield Maintenance SQN, Changi Air Base, which won the Best USMS Suggestion (Safety) for their project titled "System for Waste Disposal and FOD Inspection"*

## 21st NSmen Seminar

The 21st NSmen Seminar was held on 26 May 11 at the Air Force Training Command (AFTC) Auditorium. This annual seminar, which serves to update the RSAF's Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) on developments concerning them, was officiated by CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng.

To emphasise the role of our NSmen, the theme 'NSmen Employment in the 3rd Generation RSAF' was chosen for this year's seminar. Said MG Ng, "As the RSAF embarks on the next spiral of our transformation, we will continue building new capabilities and developing new concepts of operation for an increasingly complex environment. Our NSmen plays an integral role in enhancing the effectiveness of our fighting force. Therefore, it is paramount that our NSmen recognise and understand how they fit into the bigger defence equation."



*MG Ng delivering his keynote address during the NSmen Seminar*

First time participant, SSG(VOL) Toh Hong Seng, Air Defence Weapon Specialist, 160 SQN, shared, "I'm happy to know that the management is making a good effort to engage NSmen. They have updated us on future plans to further integrate NSmen into the force and their presentations have reinforced the significance of our contributions towards national defence."

This year's NSmen Seminar was scheduled to coincide with the RSAF Open House so as to give NSmen and their families the opportunity to visit the Open House.

## CAF's Engagement with NSFs of the Year



*MG Ng interacting with several NSFs of the Year and senior commanders at the engagement session*

The Full-time National Servicemen (NSF) of the Year Award was an initiative put forward by the Fifth Committee to Recognise the Contribution of Operationally Ready National Servicemen to Total Defence (RECORD V) last year. It recognises NSFs who have made significant contribution beyond their call of duty and serves as both an incentive and a tangible encouragement for NSFs to put their very best foot forward in serving their country.

In that spirit, CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng, held an engagement session with eight NSFs who received the NSF of the Year Award for 2010/2011. Held in conjunction with the RSAF Open House, these outstanding NSFs were also treated to a ride on board the Chinook helicopter at Paya Lebar Air Base.

## RSAF-UniSIM-ERAU MoU Signing

The RSAF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SIM University (UniSIM) and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) at a ceremony held at Air Force Training Command (AFTC) on 25 May 11. This MoU signifies a milestone in the agencies' cooperation to support continuing education for our personnel in developing them academically and professionally. RSAF personnel with the relevant RSAF training or certifications (such as the Basic Wings Course and the Military Domain Experts Course) will enjoy credit exemptions of up to 20 credits (or 10% of the required credits for graduation) from UniSIM and ERAU when pursuing the undergraduate programmes under the MoU, which helps to shorten their course duration.

RSAF personnel have a choice of three programmes - UniSIM-ERAU's Bachelor of Science in Aviation Maintenance (BSAM), UniSIM-ERAU's Bachelor of Science in Aviation Business Administration (BSABA), and UniSIM's Bachelor of Engineering in Aerospace Systems (BEHAS). The BSAM programme emphasises on both technical competency training in aviation maintenance as well as skills that offer broad-based knowledge which focuses on aviation administration and management. The BSABA programme focuses on equipping graduates with industry-relevant administrative and managerial skills, while the BEHAS programme enhances the graduates' technological knowledge, skills and understanding of aerospace and aviation industries.

In his opening address at the MoU signing ceremony, CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng, said, "The continuing education partnership with UniSIM and Embry-Riddle will serve as a platform for our people to continuously upgrade themselves and match the RSAF's organisational goals with their personal ambitions. Such programmes will also provide opportunities for our people to enrich their professional knowledge through the exchange of ideas with the relevant industries during the courses."



*MG Ng, President of UniSIM, Professor Cheong Hee Kiat, and Vice President and Chief Academic Officer of ERAU, Dr John Watret, with the signed MoUs*

## 1st AIO Anniversary

The Air Intelligence Organisation (AIO) celebrated its first anniversary on 5 May 11. The anniversary celebration, held at Tengah Air Base, was meant to show recognition to AIO personnel for their contributions to the RSAF.

Guest-of-Honour, CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng and senior officers were invited on stage for a cake-cutting ceremony. After which, the event concluded with a buffet-style lunch for the AIO personnel, where they interacted and discussed among themselves on the direction forward for the year ahead.



*MG Ng and senior officers cutting the anniversary cake*

## MINDEF Internship Programme

A total of 84 students from various Junior Colleges took part in the MINDEF Internship Programme on 8 Jun 11. The programme served as a platform for the students to understand what life in the RSAF would be like, should they decide to pursue a career with the RSAF.



*MG Ng addressing the students*

Through the programme, the students learnt about the various vocations available in the RSAF and the many opportunities for them to realise their potential. The students were given a brief on the role of helicopters in search and rescue operations and their importance to the RSAF. This was followed by a Chinook familiarisation flight which took them from Sembawang Air Base to Paya Lebar Air Base. COS(AS), BG Wong Huat Sern, COMD Participation Command, COL Yeo Yee Peng and Head Air Manpower, COL Chee Wai Mun, then chaired a dialogue session which facilitated interaction with the students and allowed them to clarify any questions they might have.

The students were also brought on a tour to view a static display of the F-15SG as well as the Radar and Tower and Ground-Based Air Defence simulators. The programme ended with an informal dinner with CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng, and other senior RSAF commanders.

Poh Zhong Yang Dhillion, 18, a student from Catholic Junior College, shared his thoughts on the programme, "Today's experience was very enriching and it gave me new insights into the different opportunities available if I were to pursue a career in the RSAF. It's really a noble job and this programme has served to inspire me a lot."

## GBAD Learning Day

Close to 200 personnel from the RSAF's Ground-Based Air Defence (GBAD) community gathered for the GBAD Learning Day held at Chong Pang Camp Auditorium on 10 Jun 11. In line with the theme "Developing Professional Air Defence

System Warfighters, Trainers and Leaders", the Learning Day featured a presentation by Air Training Department on People Development strategies in a 3rd Generation RSAF, along with updates from the Air Defence Group and Divisional Air Defence Group.

Then COMD Divisional Air Defence Group, COL Loh Kean Wah, COMD Air Defence Group, SLTC Chia Chien Wei, together with ME4 Pereira Joseph Gerald, Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) ADOC, MWO Lee Yong Kwang, CWO PC, wrapped up the Learning Day with a dialogue session that addressed topics ranging from training transformation to GBAD developments in the RSAF in the near future.



*MAJ Loh Woon Liang from 165 SQN sharing his thoughts*

## AMPO HR Learning Day

The Air Manpower Organisation (AMPO) Human Resource Learning Day was held at Sembawang Air Base Officer's Mess on 13 Apr 11. It served as a platform to engage AMPO personnel, share with them the AMPO and Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) management plans, and chart the way forward in the coming year.

Head Air Force National Service (NS) Branch, MAJ Koh Tong Choon, highlighted that an NS management framework and a slew of initiatives were developed to improve the commitment, operational readiness, recognition, and engagement of NSmen. Continuing to take reference from the NS management framework, the focus for this year will be on three key areas, namely NS resource optimisation, NS training, and NS engagement.

Separately, Head Plans and Policy Branch, MAJ Ng Boon Ching, highlighted the notable achievements in the AMPO Workplan which are aligned with the AMPO Key Thrusts. He also elaborated on the focus for AMPO in the coming year, which is to sustain people development and create a positive work experience to retain as well as attract new talent.

In his closing speech, Head Air Manpower, COL Chee Wai Mun, expressed his appreciation to AMPO personnel for their contributions over the past year.



MAJ Ng Boon Ching sharing the AMPO workplan with the AMPO personnel

## SYFC Familiarisation Flight

With the ability to fly at twice the speed of sound and perform manoeuvres at 9Gs, the F-16 is a formidable fighter aircraft. On 21 Jun 11, two young pilot trainees from the Singapore Youth Flying Club (SYFC) had the opportunity to take to the skies in an RSAF F-16D and experience the speed and exhilaration first-hand.

The two SYFC pilots, Chan Jun Hao, 18, and Leon Lee, 19, were selected due to their outstanding performance and dedication during flight training. Said Leon about the flight, "It was really awesome! When the pilot was pulling G's, it was pretty intense. I definitely want to do it again!" Through his interaction with the pilots, he learnt a lot about being a pilot in the RSAF and the flying operations which the RSAF conducts. "Through this experience, I understand the limitations of Singapore's airspace and the need to conduct overseas training. I hope to have the opportunity to go overseas with the RSAF."



The SYFC trainees and their pilots after the flight

The trainees also had a chance to visit the Tengah Air Base Air Traffic Control Tower. From there, they were able to view the take-off of several F-16s and were impressed by the amount of coordination and communication between the pilot and the tower personnel.

Through such collaborations with SYFC, the RSAF gives SYFC trainees an opportunities to learn more about the organisation and allow them to better understand the career opportunities available in the RSAF.

## Minister of State for Defence Visits 150 SQN



*Mr Wong visiting flying instructor CPT Kee Hwa Hon and his family as part of his visit to the detachment*

As part of his visit to the Paris Air Show, Minister of State for Defence and Education, Mr Lawrence Wong, visited the RSAF's Advanced Jet Training detachment at Cazaux Air Base on 21 Jun 11. Mr Wong was able to interact with personnel from the detachment and understand some of the training that they undergo.

Mr Wong had earlier met the French Minister of Defence, Mr Gerard Longuet.

## Saint Dizier Air Show

On 17 Jun 11, 150 SQN, RSAF's fighter pilot training detachment based in Cazaux, France, participated in the 2011 Saint Dizier Air Show which was held at Robinson Air Base, Saint Dizier, France. The SQN deployed two A-4SU Super Skyhawks, to the air show.

The air show attracted 50,000 people from all over Europe to join in the aeronautical festival which also coincided with the 60th anniversary of the air base. The public was treated to exhilarating aerial displays, as well as the static display of many military and civilian aircraft.



## Gombak Uphill Run

The annual Gombak Uphill Run was held on 24 Jun 11, as part of the SAF's commitment towards promoting a healthy lifestyle. CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng, flagged off both the competitive and non-competitive runs. In total, over 200 servicemen from all three Services participated in the run.



*MG Ng flagging off the competitive run*

## CAF's Visit to 201 SQN

On 12 Apr 11, CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng visited 201 SQN at Choa Chu Kang Camp. After an update on the SQN's operations and its role in air defence, he was given a guided tour of the ALTaCC Cabin. Following which, MG Ng chaired a dialogue session with 201 SQN personnel.

Visits like this allow MG Ng to be updated on happenings in the various SQNs and give him an opportunity to interact with RSAF personnel.



*MG Ng engaging 201 SQN personnel during the dialogue session*



*MG Ng being briefed on the different runway repair techniques by ME4 Poon Yew Keong*

## CAF's Visit to AMS-SBAB

CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng, visited the Airfield Maintenance SQN (AMS) at Sembawang Air Base (SBAB) on 25 Apr 11. During his visit, MG Ng was updated on the operations of AMS-SBAB and viewed several static displays which detailed the daily working procedures of AMS-SBAB.

The visit concluded with a dialogue session, which facilitated interaction between MG Ng and AMS-SBAB personnel.

## CAF's Visit to 145 SQN

CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng visited 145 SQN at Changi Air Base (East) on 22 Jun 11. During his visit, MG Ng was updated on the operations of 145 SQN and toured the 3rd Generation Air Combat operations room and the briefing suite to learn more about the daily processes involved in the SQN's training and operations.

The visit concluded with a dialogue session, which facilitated interaction between MG Ng and 145 SQN personnel.



*MG Ng interacting with 145 SQN personnel*

## CAF's Visit to 112 SQN

On 1 Jul 11, CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng visited 112 SQN where he was hosted by CO 112 SQN, LTC Zakir Hamid, and given a tour of the SQN. He was also given a brief on the SQN's operations and activities, as well as the innovations they had come up with to increase the efficiency of their daily routines. MG Ng concluded his visit with a meet-the-people session to better understand and address the concerns of SQN personnel.



*MG Ng, incoming COMD Air Combat Command, BG Lim Yeong Kiat, COMD Transport Group, SLTC Mike Bogaars and 112 SQN personnel posing for a group photo*

## Inaugural SAF Senior Military Experts Appointment Ceremony



ME4 Arivazhagan receiving the Sword of Merit from Dr Ng Eng Hen



ME4 Yuan's mother affixes the epaulette on her daughter's shoulders

The inaugural Senior Military Experts (ME) Appointment Ceremony was held on 15 Jul 11 at the SAFTI Military Institute. Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, officiated at the ceremony where a total of 41 service personnel received their ME4 rank. Dr Ng presented the swords to the top 4 graduands and CDF, LG Neo Kian Hong presented the swords to the rest of the graduands. Of this pioneer batch of graduands, 19 were from the RSAF.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Ng emphasised that the Military Domain Experts Scheme (MDES) is not just a career path but a strategic capability for the SAF. Highlighting the importance of the pioneer batch of graduands, Dr Ng added, "As pioneers and pathfinders of the MDES, it falls squarely on you to forge an identity that is distinct from the Officers and Warrant Officers and yet in synergy with the overall mission of the SAF."

The appointment ceremony marked the completion of the Military Domain Experts Course which allowed the MEs to deepen their military domain knowledge and specialisation skills as well as develop their leadership competency and critical thinking.

Shared ME4 S. Arivazhagan s/o R. Subramaniam, recipient of the Sword-of-Merit for his outstanding performance in the course, "As an ME4, I see greater opportunities in understanding the various capabilities of the RSAF and in honing my leadership skills to help me serve my duties with a broader understanding of the larger SAF mission. Through my journey in the SAF, I have developed deep specialisation in key military domains and I will strive to do my best to better contribute to the RSAF."

Said ME4 Kirsten Yuan, one of only two female trainees who graduated from the course, on why she decided to join the RSAF as an ME, "I was previously working in ST Engineering as a Systems Engineer. When I heard about this ME scheme, I decided to take up this opportunity to pursue a career in the RSAF. I've had a burning interest in engineering since I was very young and I have always wanted to join the RSAF as an engineer. On top of these, I'm honoured to be part of our nation's defence. Now, I can proudly say that I play a part in keeping our skies safe."



Dr Ng, LG Neo, with Service Chiefs and senior commanders posing for a group photo with the new ME4s

## When the going gets tough, the tough gets going - OCC 80/10

A total of 308 officer cadets were commissioned at the SAFTI Military Institute on 9 Apr 11. Of the 308 cadets, 48 were from the RSAF. Then Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, and Second Minister for Finance and Transport, Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, reviewed the commissioning parade which marked the completion of 38 weeks of rigorous training during which the officer cadets developed their combat, planning, and leadership skills.

The Sword-of-Honour (SOH) is presented to the top graduates of each cohort. Said SOH recipient, OCT Jake Seah from the 4th Air Warfare Officer (Command, Control and Communications) [AWO(C3)] Radar Course, "The most challenging part of our training enabled us to push our limits, giving us ground to carry ourselves well in trying conditions." OCT Seah has since signed on to pursue a career in the RSAF. On his decision, OCT Seah replied, "I chose to be an AWO(C3) officer as it allows me to see things from a broader perspective, especially in the command, control, and communications aspects of RSAF operations."

Shared OCT Paul Sim from the 4th AWO (Ground-Based Air Defence) Course, another SOH recipient, "Receiving the SOH is a great honour as it is ultimately the highest award an Officer Cadet can receive. I must thank my course-mates and commanders who have helped me throughout the course, aiding me in my growth as a leader and as a person."



Newly commissioned officers throwing their peak caps into the air in jubilation

## 1st Joint Intermediate Leadership Course Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony for the 1st Joint Intermediate Leadership Course (JILC) was held on 16 Jun 11 at The Chevrons. At the ceremony, Chief of Navy, RADM Ng Chee Peng, presented the certificates and awards to 121 graduates of the JILC, 47 of whom were from the RSAF, including five Distinguished Award recipients.

Conducted over nine weeks, the JILC is designed to hone the leadership qualities of Military Experts and Warrant Officers. It also enhances their general military knowledge and promote interaction between personnel from the three Services.



The five distinguished RSAF graduates from the 1st JILC

The five Distinguished Award recipients from the RSAF are 2WO (then 3WO) Yuen Pui Leng from 163 SQN, 3WO Teo Chin Tat from 3 DA Bn, 2WO (then 3WO) Pandikumaran from 112 SQN and ME3 (then ME2) Ng Ee Lin from Air Logistics SQN, Air Defence and Operations Command.

Shared 2WO Pandikumaran from 112 SQN, "As the course-in-charge, I have the opportunities to put to practical use the knowledge and skills acquired from the course. The course has also equipped me with a better understanding of what Service integration is about and how I can play an active role in the SAF's 3rd Generation transformation."

## SAF, RSAF and DXO Promotion Ceremonies

On 27 Jun 11, a total of 199 Officers, 17 Military Experts (ME), and 29 Warrant Officers (WO) were promoted at the annual SAF Promotion Ceremony. Of these personnel, 48 Officers from the RSAF were promoted to LTC and above with nine MEs and five WOs being promoted to their next higher ranks respectively.

During the ceremony, Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen presented the certificates of promotion to servicemen promoted to the rank of COL and above, ME7 and above, and SWO. CDF, LG Neo Kian Hong, presented the certificates to the personnel promoted to ranks SLTC, LTC, ME6, and MWO.



ME8 Lee receiving his Certificate of Promotion from Dr Ng

Earlier, on 24 Jun 11, the RSAF Promotion Ceremony which was held at the Air Force Training Command Auditorium saw 204 Officers, 56 Military Experts, 16 Warrant Officers, and 8 Master Sergeants (both Regulars and Operationally-Ready National Servicemen) being promoted to their next higher rank. CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng, presented the Certificates of Promotion to the servicemen.

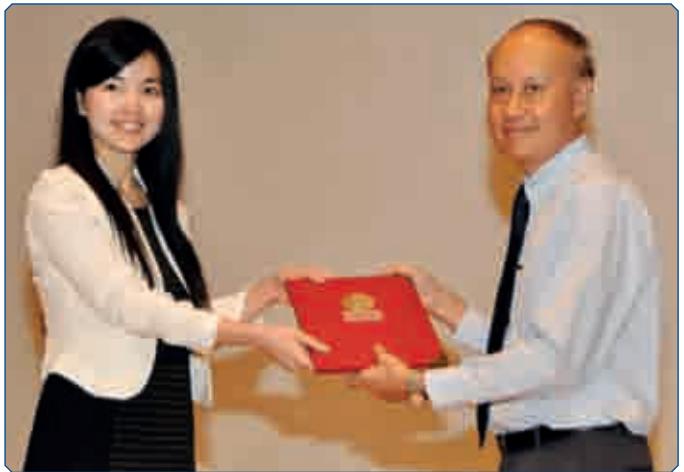
The Defence Executive Officers (DXO) Promotion Ceremony was also held on 24 Jun 11 at the MINDEF Auditorium. A total of 166 DXOs received their promotion certificates from Permanent Secretary for Defence Development, PS(DD), Dr Tan Kim Siew. Of these 166 personnel, 26 were from the RSAF.



MG Ng and senior commanders with the newly promoted officers

Speaking on the significance of his promotion, Head Air Logistics, ME8 (then ME7) Lee Ling Wee said, "It is indeed an honour to be the first to be promoted to the highest military expert rank. My promotion is significant as it has raised awareness regarding the Military Domain Expert Scheme to the public. It shows that this is a very interesting and attractive scheme. However, this honour is not just my own and I would like to share it with the community of Air Force Engineers which has always done its very best to support the RSAF."

DX11 (then DX10) Pang Shi Yun from Air Manpower Department shared her thoughts on how she felt about her new promotion, "I feel honoured to be promoted



*DX11 Pang receiving the Certificate of Promotion from Dr Tan*

because it serves as a recognition of my efforts and contribution to the RSAF. This promotion will certainly motivate me to work harder and do my utmost for the RSAF."

Speaking on his new responsibilities as a Warrant Officer, 3WO (then MSG) Manivannam S/O Perumal, an Air Crew Specialist from 127 SQN, said, "As a 3WO, I aspire to be a good role model for the men under my charge. I want to be a good leader and, also, instil in them a sense of commitment to the RSAF. I have made it my personal mission to nurture new servicemen so that they may better contribute to the organisation."



*3WO Manivannam receiving his Certificate of Promotion from MG Ng*



*PS(DD), Dr Tan Kim Siew, with the newly promoted RSAF DXOs and senior RSAF officers*

## In pursuit of excellence - SAF CWF Bursary, Merit and Excellence Awards Presentation Ceremony 2011

An awards presentation ceremony was held on 18 Jun 11 at The Chevrons to honour recipients of the SAF Central Welfare Fund (CWF) Bursary, Merit and Excellence Awards. This initiative was set up to recognise academic excellence and aid the children of less fortunate MINDEF/SAF personnel by providing them with financial support to help them pursue their educational goals.

A total of 261 Bursary Awards, 107 Merit Awards, and 13 Excellence Awards were presented by the Chief of Defence Force, LG Neo Kian Hong, at the ceremony. Of these, 52 Bursary Awards, 27 Merit Awards and 7 Excellence Awards were given to the children of RSAF personnel.

Said ME2 K. Selvarani, Air Force Engineer, Air Power Generation Command, on having her children receive the Bursary Award, "As a parent, I am very proud to see all three of my children receive the SAF Bursary Award. It is comforting to know that the organisation looks after its personnel and their families."

Her daughter, Surekha d/o A.S Murali who is currently studying at Yuan Ching Secondary School shared, "Receiving the Bursary Award motivates me to study even harder, as I know that the SAF recognises the hard work that I have put in. I'm glad that my mother has joined such a caring organisation."



ME2 Selvarani and her three children posing with the Bursary Awards



IWO Seah Yong Seng with his family. His daughter Seah Wen Xin won the Excellence Award

## Air Combat Command Change-of-Command Parade

BG Lim Yeong Kiat assumed command of the Air Combat Command (ACC) from BG Richard Christopher Pereira on 4 Jul 11. The Change-of-Command ceremony was held at Changi Air Base (West), and was witnessed by CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng.

BG Richard Pereira joined the RSAF in 1982 and has close to 30 years of service with the RSAF. During his service, he took on various key appointments including being a Branch Head in Air Plans Department (APD), CO 145 SQN, COMD Tactical Air Support Command, COMD Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command and BG Pereira has been COMD ACC since Nov 2007.

Incoming COMD ACC, BG Lim has held various command and staff appointments since joining the RSAF in 1984. These include CO 140 SQN, Branch Head in APD, Dy COMD and COMD of Changi Air Base, and most recently, Head Air Operations.



BG Pereira handing the Command flag to BG Lim



MG Ng presenting the Letter-of-Appointment to BG Lim

## Participation Command Change-of-Command Parade

The command of Participation Command (PC) was handed over from BG Wong Huat Sern to COL Yeo Yee Peng at a Change-of-Command Parade held at Chong Pang Camp on 5 May 11. The ceremony was witnessed by CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng.

Outgoing COMD PC, BG Wong, started his career with the RSAF in Dec 81. He held various key appointments include being the Commanding Officer (CO) of 120 SQN, COMD Sembawang Air Base and Head Air Operations. BG Wong became the first COMD PC when it was inaugurated.

Incoming COMD PC, COL Yeo, joined the RSAF in Mar 83. He has served as CO 143 SQN, a Branch Head in the Air Operations Department, Dy COMD Paya Lebar Air Base, COMD Tactical Air Support Group and COMD AFTC.



BG Wong handing over the Command flag to COL Yeo

## Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command Change-of-Command Parade

The command of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command (UC) was handed over from COL Neo Hong Keat to COL (then SLTC) Tommy Tan Ah Han at a Change-of-Command Parade held at Murai Camp on 20 May 11. The ceremony was witnessed by CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng.



Outgoing COMD UC, COL Neo, handing over the symbol of command to Incoming COMD UC, COL (then SLTC) Tan

Outgoing COMD UC, COL Neo, joined the RSAF in 1985. Since his graduation from the USAF Test Pilot School in 1997 where he became a qualified Experimental Test Pilot, COL Neo has held various command and staff appointments, including Commanding Officer of 140 SQN and Deputy Head Air Operations before taking over as COMD UC on 16 Jun 10.

Incoming COMD UC, COL Tan, joined the RSAF in 1989. In 2008, he assumed command of 145 SQN and led the SQN in numerous bilateral and multilateral exercises including EX Pitch Black and EX Wallaby. COL Tan also held a concurrent appointment as a Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the President from 2004 to 2006.

## Air Force Training Command Change-of-Command Parade

The command of Air Force Training Command (AFTC) was handed over from COL Yeo Yee Peng to COL Lim Kok Siong at a Change-of-Command Parade held at AFTC on 20 Apr 11. The parade was witnessed by CAF, MG Ng Chee Meng.

Outgoing COMD AFTC, COL Yeo, joined the RSAF in March 1983. Prior to his appointment as COMD AFTC, COL Yeo held various command and staff appointments, including CO 143 SQN and COMD Tactical Air Support Group.

Incoming COMD AFTC, COL Lim Kok Siong joined the RSAF in 1988. Previously, as Director NEXUS, COL Lim spearheaded various projects and programmes aimed at engaging the hearts and minds of Singaporeans in developing a shared sense of nationhood.



*Incoming COMD, COL Lim, taking the oath as COMD AFTC*

## RCGC/RGDI 02/11

On 16 Jun 11, 151 graduates received their Certificates, Vocational Badges and Ceremonial Swords from the Guest-of-Honour, COS(AS), BG Wong Huat Sern at the RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony (RCGC). BG Wong also presented awards to the best trainees of the respective courses.

Best Trainee for the 5th AWO(GBAD) 35mm Gun Course, OCT Vernon See, shared, "After putting so much effort into the course, winning the Best Trainee award made it all worthwhile and I'm very happy to have won it." He also took time to thank the people who helped him achieve the award, "Without the support and encouragement of my family and loved ones, and the help from my instructors and peers, I would not have been able to come so far."

LTA Jeremy Ee, Best Trainee for the 143rd Transport Wings Course commented on his plans for the future, "I am looking forward to participating in humanitarian assistance missions overseas. I want to make an impact in other peoples' lives and show them that Singapore is always ready to help in any crisis that may arise."

Best Trainee for the 1st Executive Military Domain Experts Course (MDEC), ME3 S Arivazhagan shared his thoughts on his course, "The Executive MDEC helped prepare us for our new appointments and posts by honing our leadership skills and core-competencies."

The RSAF Graduation Dining-In (RGDI) was preceded by the symbolic mixing of the Air Force spirits. The graduates then proceeded to the Paya Lebar Officers' Mess for the RGDI.



*A group photo of all the graduates*



*A group photo of the Best Trainees with BG Wong*

## Mission Success, Safety Always

Safety is a core value unique to the RSAF, and the organisation has always accorded high importance to safety in operations. Through platforms such as the CAF Annual and Quarterly Safety Forums, safety seminars, talks and informative newsletters, the RSAF has sought to emphasise and heighten safety awareness amongst its personnel. These efforts paid off when two potentially serious injuries were prevented from deteriorating further.



*MSG Yip and LTA Kuah, whose vigilance saved the two trainees from further injury*

LTA Jimmy Kuah and MSG Yip Wei Xuan, an Air Warfare Officer (Ground-Based Air Defence) and Air Defence Systems Specialist respectively, were the Course Commander and Course Sergeant for an Air Defence Weapons Operator (ADWO) course conducted by 18 DA Bn. During a training exercise on 6 Apr 11, LTA Kuah observed that one of the trainees, LCP Bernard See, was experiencing muscle spasms in his right arm and asked if he was feeling unwell. Despite LCP See's declaration that he was fine and able to carry on, LTA Kuah suspected that something was amiss and promptly called for a medic to attend to him. The medic suspected that LCP See was suffering from heat exhaustion and recommended for him to be sent to the medical centre.

Following this, LTA Kuah halted training. Together with MSG Yip, he gathered all the trainees to check if any of them was feeling unwell. It was at this juncture that MSG Yip noticed that another trainee's leg was shaking uncontrollably. Although LCP Lau Yi Xiu said that he was feeling fine, MSG Yip insisted that the medic attend to him. The medic also suspected that LCP Lau was suffering from heat exhaustion and LCP Lau was sent to the medical centre.

At the medical centre, LCP Lau was diagnosed by the medical officer as having suffered heat exhaustion and was put under observation. LCP See was referred to Khoo Teck Puat Hospital for medical review and was diagnosed with physical exhaustion rather than heat exhaustion.

Both LTA Jimmy Kuah and MSG Yip Wei Xuan have displayed high standards of professionalism and situational awareness during the training exercise. Despite the trainees' positive responses, they proactively took precautionary measures before their conditions could deteriorate. For their professionalism and vigilance, LTA Kuah and MSG Yip were awarded the Outstanding Safety Award.

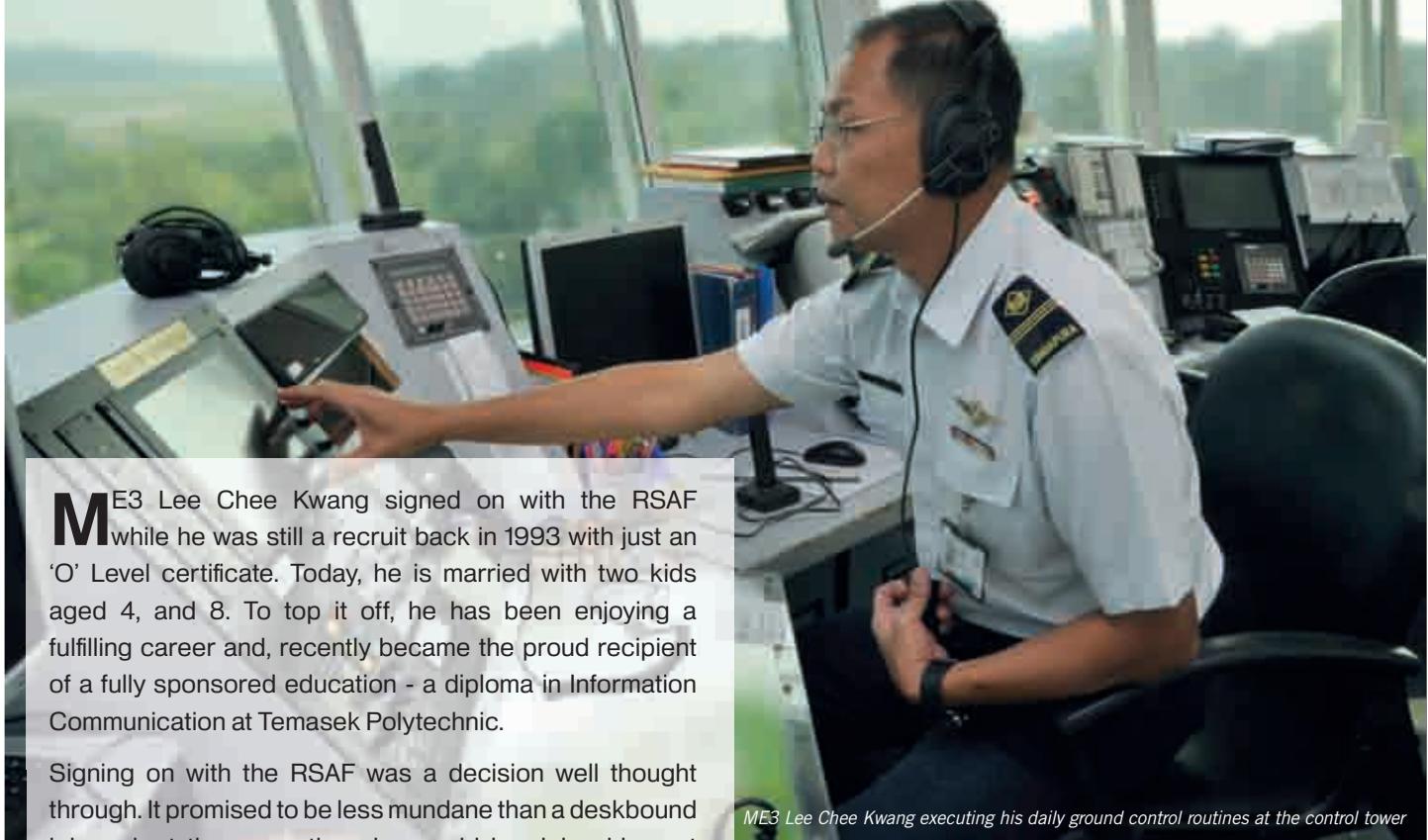
Sharing on the importance of safety awareness during training, LTA Kuah said, "Safety is a shared responsibility. Training incidents can be avoided with established safety measures in place and due vigilance observed by all."

MSG Yip added, "Everyone must always work together as a team and look out for one another. Only then, can we strive towards obtaining high safety standards and achieve team excellence in the RSAF."



*From left to right: 3SG Kwok, LCP See, LCP Lau, LTA Kuah and MSG Yip*

## World Class People: **ME3 LEE CHEE KWANG**



**M**E3 Lee Chee Kwang signed on with the RSAF while he was still a recruit back in 1993 with just an 'O' Level certificate. Today, he is married with two kids aged 4, and 8. To top it off, he has been enjoying a fulfilling career and, recently became the proud recipient of a fully sponsored education - a diploma in Information Communication at Temasek Polytechnic.

Signing on with the RSAF was a decision well thought through. It promised to be less mundane than a deskbound job and, at the same time, he would be doing his part for the country. As an AOSX and the Chief Warrant Officer of Flying Support SQN (Tengah Air Base), ME3 Lee is responsible for the Integrated Knowledge Command and Control operations, and logistics. At the same time, he is in charge of ground control in daily flying, handling emergencies, and the maintenance of the air base. "If ever there is a communications systems failure, we will be the first in line to conduct the rectifications and bring the system back online as soon as possible," shared ME3 Lee.

ME3 Lee did not have the chance to pursue tertiary education in his youth due to family issues. When the chance presented itself, he took it up without any second thoughts. Said ME3 Lee, "I found out about this scholarship through the MINDEF intranet and applied for it immediately. My parents and in-laws encouraged me, and gave me their fullest support." ME3 Lee was shortlisted upon his application before being called up for an interview. ME3 Lee continued, "In my younger days, I did not cherish my time and did not bother to study. Now that I have been given a second chance, I will treasure it. This was a golden opportunity for me to further my studies and I was determined to make the best out of it."

*ME3 Lee Chee Kwang executing his daily ground control routines at the control tower*

In March this year, ME3 Lee graduated with a GPA score of 3.94. He topped his cohort of 150 and won the Gold Award for his course, which is given only to the top student. He also won two more awards - Best Student for Network Security and Best Student for Application Service Provider net web programming. Said ME3 Lee, "I am very grateful to my wife who has supported me through these times and helped me look after the children while I concentrate on my studies and projects. Also, I am very grateful to the RSAF for giving me this chance to pursue my education."

Leaving a few words of advice to future aspiring AOSX who wish to follow in his footsteps, ME3 Lee said, "Just go for it. Discipline and perseverance are key attributes one should possess and, eventually, it will turn out to be an extremely rewarding experience."

**"Discipline and perseverance are key attributes one should possess" – ME3 Lee**

## World Class People: SAF NSman of the Year Awards - MAJ(NS) Ronald Cheong and CPL(NS) Lim Chuen Lik

Introduced in 1994, the SAF Operationally Ready National Serviceman (NSman) of the Year award serves to recognise NSmen from the three Services who have displayed a positive attitude towards National Service (NS), and dedication to their training and units.

This year, two NSmen from the RSAF were presented with the SAF NSmen of the Year award - MAJ(NS) Ronald Cheong and CPL(NS) Lim Chuen Lik.

As a Battery Commander in 9 DA Bn, MAJ(NS) Ronald Cheong's role in his unit is to ensure that his men contribute and participate actively in the training syllabus and are fully committed to the training.

Through his exemplary performance and his volunteering to return for all the preparation training for EX Wallaby 2010, he inspired his men to do the same. This, combined with his dedication to his role as Parade 2IC for SAF Day Parade 2010 led him to be nominated and, subsequently, win the NSman of the Year award.

Speaking about his feelings on winning the award, he remarked, "I never expected to win this accolade as I never did what I did to gain recognition. I was simply serving the battery and giving my best. Although it came as a surprise, it is a good feeling to know that my efforts are recognised." He also took a moment to give credit to his men, "I doubt you'd find another unit which is as enthusiastic about their In-Camp-Training (ICT). I feel that this award belongs to them and I'm just receiving it on their behalf."



MAJ(NS) Cheong also shared what he believes to be the necessary qualities to be a leader and a commander, "Communication is an essential skill that helps hold the unit together. Giving people recognition where it is due and showing appreciation for their work makes more people willing to go the extra step and give their all."

Also inspiring his fellow peers by performing to the best of his abilities and maintaining a high standard of discipline was CPL(NS) Lim Chuen Lik, a Missile Gunner from 18 DA Bn.

CPL(NS) Lim always executed his tasks professionally in the areas of field routine and in all Ground-Based Air Defence engagement drills and operations. His commanders and peers have always looked up to him as a trustworthy and respected personnel in 18 DA Bn.

CPL(NS) Lim's dedication and excellent performance in his ICTs and exercises led to him winning the NSman of the Year award. He also volunteered his services when needed and consistently puts in his best effort.

"I think that it's crucial for Singapore to have a National Service (NS) system since we do not have the luxury of having a professional army. Therefore I don't view NS as a liability but as a commitment to our own country and as a means of preserving our peace. The overseas exercises have left me with the most memorable experiences as they gave me an insight on how the terrain would be like in times of war. The live-firing exercise which I have participated in also gave me confidence in the weapons and platforms that we are using, as we get to see its full capabilities and precision." CPL(NS) Lim Chuen Lik shared.



CPL(NS) Lim with a MISTRAL MANPADS System

## Changes in Appointments (May - Jul 11)

### **COMD ACC**

Date: 4 Jul 11

*Incoming:* BG Lim Yeong Kiat

*Outgoing:* BG Richard Pereira

### **COMD UC**

Date: 20 May 11

*Incoming:* COL (then SLTC) Tommy Tan Ah Han

*Outgoing:* COL Neo Hong Keat

### **Head Air Operations**

Date: 27 May 11

*Incoming:* COL Neo Hong Keat

*Outgoing:* BG (then COL) Lim Yeong Kiat

### **COMD DAG**

Date: 28 Jul 11

*Incoming:* COL Roland Ng

*Outgoing:* COL Loh Kean Wah

### **Head Air Training**

Date: 29 Jul 11

*Incoming:* COL Anil Sankar

*Outgoing:* COL Leong Kum Wah

### **Head ODG, ACC**

Date: 11 Jul 11

*Incoming:* COL Kelvin Khong

*Outgoing:* LTC Ho Yung Peng

### **Head Air Plans**

Date: 4 May 11

*Incoming:* COL Lim Tuang Liang

*Outgoing:* COL Tan Chee Wee

### **Dy Head Air Operations (SS)**

Date: 18 May 11

*Incoming:* COL Chew Chee Mun

*Outgoing:* SLTC Chua Hock Leong

### **Dy COMD ADOC**

Date: 22 Jul 11

*Incoming:* COL Mervyn Tan

*Outgoing:* COL Anil Sankar

### **CO 126 SQN**

Date: 10 Jun 11

*Incoming:* LTC Teoh Chun Ping

*Outgoing:* LTC Lim Kok Kheng

### **COMD TASG**

Date: 18 May 11

*Incoming:* COL (then SLTC) Jonathan Tan

*Outgoing:* COL Chew Chee Mun

### **CO 149 SQN**

Date: 29 Jun 11

*Incoming:* LTC (then MAJ) Lim Chin Yew

*Outgoing:* COL (then SLTC) Kelvin Khong

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