

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL CORPS



3 November 1967:
Birth of the SAF Medical Services

The Senior Medical Officers (SMO) Department in the Ministry of the Interior and Defence was established. Dr Jimmy Choo, a surgeon seconded from the Ministry of Health, headed it.

April 1968:
School of Military Medicine Established
The school was built under the command of CPT (Dr) Roy Paul. At the same time, CPT (Dr) Benny Chan headed the first Dental Service in the SAF.



SAF doctors were commissioned as Captains (CPTs) for the first time. Course commanders CPT (Dr) Cheong Yuen Hing and CSM Hong Seng Mak led the course held at Beach Road Camp. Dr Richard Young was presented with the Sword of Honour.

7 November 1970:
PDF Volunteers Medical Officer's Cadet Course Launched



September 1975-1976:
Changi SAF Military Hospital Opened
The hospital was led by commanding officer LTC (Dr) Seet Lip Chai and ward master SSG Edwidge Bosker.



1979: 1st & 2nd Field Hospitals Reorganised
Both Field Hospitals were reorganised into the 3rd, 4th and 9th Field Hospitals to support corresponding Infantry Divisions led respectively by commanding officers Dr Kwa Sook Bee, Dr La Hing Ling and Dr Moses Yu.

1976: Central Medical Store Relocated to Sembawang Wharves

1974: Central Medical Store Moved to Portsdown Road Camp



60's

1968

70's

1971

1972

1973

1975

1977

1979

1967

1970

1974

1976

1967: First Naval Medical Centre Established

The first Naval Medical Centre was established in Pulau Tekong Muz, known today as Sentosa.



1968: Air Force Medical Centre & Central Medical Store Founded
Foundation of the first Air Force Medical Centre in Seletar West Camp and the Central Medical Store in Beach Road Camp, headed by officer (commanding) CPT Chee Swee Ghee.



1971: Dr Jimmy How & Dr Tan Kang Ping Appointed Senior Medical Officers

Dr Jimmy How and Dr Tan Kang Ping were appointed as Senior Medical Officers of the Navy and Air Force, respectively.



Creation of the Preventive Medicine Branch



1 June 1972:
Formation of HQ Medical Services

MAJ (Dr) Roy Paul became the first Chief Medical Officer of the newly established service.



19 December 1972:
Birth of the 1st Field Hospital
MAJ (Dr) Kwa Sook Bee headed the 1st Field Hospital as commanding officer.



July 1973:
Creation of Psychiatric Section
Sited at Tanjong Medical Centre, it was led by pioneering SAF psychiatrist, Dr Fong Yeng Hin.



July 1977:
Birth of the 2nd Field Hospital

Five years after the establishment of the 1st Field Hospital, a second one was set up, led by MAJ (Dr) Richard Young.



Mid-1975:
Establishment of Medical Classification Centre

MAJ (Dr) Seah Kim Bin was commanding officer of the centre established in Tanjong Camp.

80's



22 October 1982:
Formation of
Aeromedical Centre

LTC (Dr) Fong Yeng Hoi
officially opened the
newly formed centre.



November 1984:
Field Hospital Concept Refined

Renamed to Combat Support Hospital
(CSH), the 1st, 2nd and 3rd CSH were
headed by commanding officers Dr Lo
Hong Ling, Dr Moses Yu and Dr Wong
Kum Lang, respectively.



1986: SAF Ward Established

Establishment of SAF Medical
Ward at Alexandra Hospital &
Changi Hospital



1986: Medlink
Launched



2 May 1987:
Dr Daniel Leong
appointed Senior Medical
Officer (Healthcare)

1988: Creation of a New Committee,
Offices and Branches

Senior Medical Office and Senior Medical Staff Office
formed, helmed by Senior Medical Officer (Army),
LTC (Dr) Lionel Lee, and Senior Medical Staff Officer,
LTC Ng Seng Chan, respectively.

Joint Medical Committee created, comprising the
Chief Medical Officer as chairman, and SMO (Army),
SMO (Navy), SMO (Air Force), SMO (Healthcare) and
Senior Medical Staff Officer as members.

Establishment of Fleet Medical Branch & NALCOM
Medical Branch.



1984: HQMS Gained Professional
Control of Over 27 Medical Centres

1984: The Psychiatric Branch was
established in Nee Soon Camp.



1984: New Skills Introduced to
the Combat Medic Course
School of Military Medicine introduced new skills to the
Combat Medic Course in Problem-Oriented Casualty
Management (POCM) and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

1986: SMM Introduced Trauma
Management Course (TMC)

Mid-1986: New Medical Service
Mission Statement Unveiled
"To provide excellent peacetime
healthcare and ensure operational
medical readiness."



1987: HQ Medical Services Re-designated to
Joint Headquarters; Tri-Service Emphasised



1988

1989: Establishment
of Naval Medicine
Research Branch



90's

1990: SMO (Army) Office Restructured

SMO (Army) Office was restructured to incorporate the three Combat Support Hospitals, led by MAJ (Dr) Alfred Loh (1 CSH), LTC (Dr) See Hung Foo (2 CSH) and MAJ (Dr) Richard Fan (3 CSH).

1990



August 1990: SMM Moved to Ulu Pandan Camp

January 1991: Psychological Medicine Inpatient Centre Introduced

Nee Soon Medical Centre was upgraded to comprise a psychiatric ward, named Psychological Medicine Inpatient Centre (PMIC).

1991

1 July 1993: Regimental Colours Given to SAF Medical Corps



1993

8 May 1993: Awards for Best Medical and Dental Centres

Quality Medical Service Award Challenge Shields were presented to the best medical and dental centres: Paya Lebar Medical Centre and MINDEF Dental Centre, respectively.

29 November 1995: Patient Care Enhancement System Launched

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan, launched the Patient Care Enhancement System (PACES).

1995



30 March 1996: Closing of Medical Supply Depot



3 July 1995: Nursing Diploma Course Offered to Regular SAF Medics

Regular SAF medics were given the option of pursuing a nursing diploma course at Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP).

3 April 1996: HQ Army Medical Services Inaugurated As Senior Specialist Staff Officer (SSSO) HQ

HQ Army Medical Services was inaugurated as an SSSO HQ by Chief of Army BG Han Eng Juan.

1996



1 July 1996: State Colours Awarded to SAF Medical Corps

11 April 1996: Regular Medics Attended Course in Canada

A group of regular medics attended the Paramedic Instructor Course at the Paramedic Academy in the Justice Institute of British Columbia.

1996



7 March 1997: SMM Recognised for Paramedic Training

SMM was recognised as Institution of International Standing for Paramedic Training.



1997

20 January 1997: Regular Medics Underwent 1st Paramedic Level III Course

SMM conducted the 1st Paramedic Level III (Matriculation) Course for Regular Medics.



19 March 1997: Inauguration of RSAF Medical Officer Brevet

6 Jan 1998: New SAF Ward Officially Opened

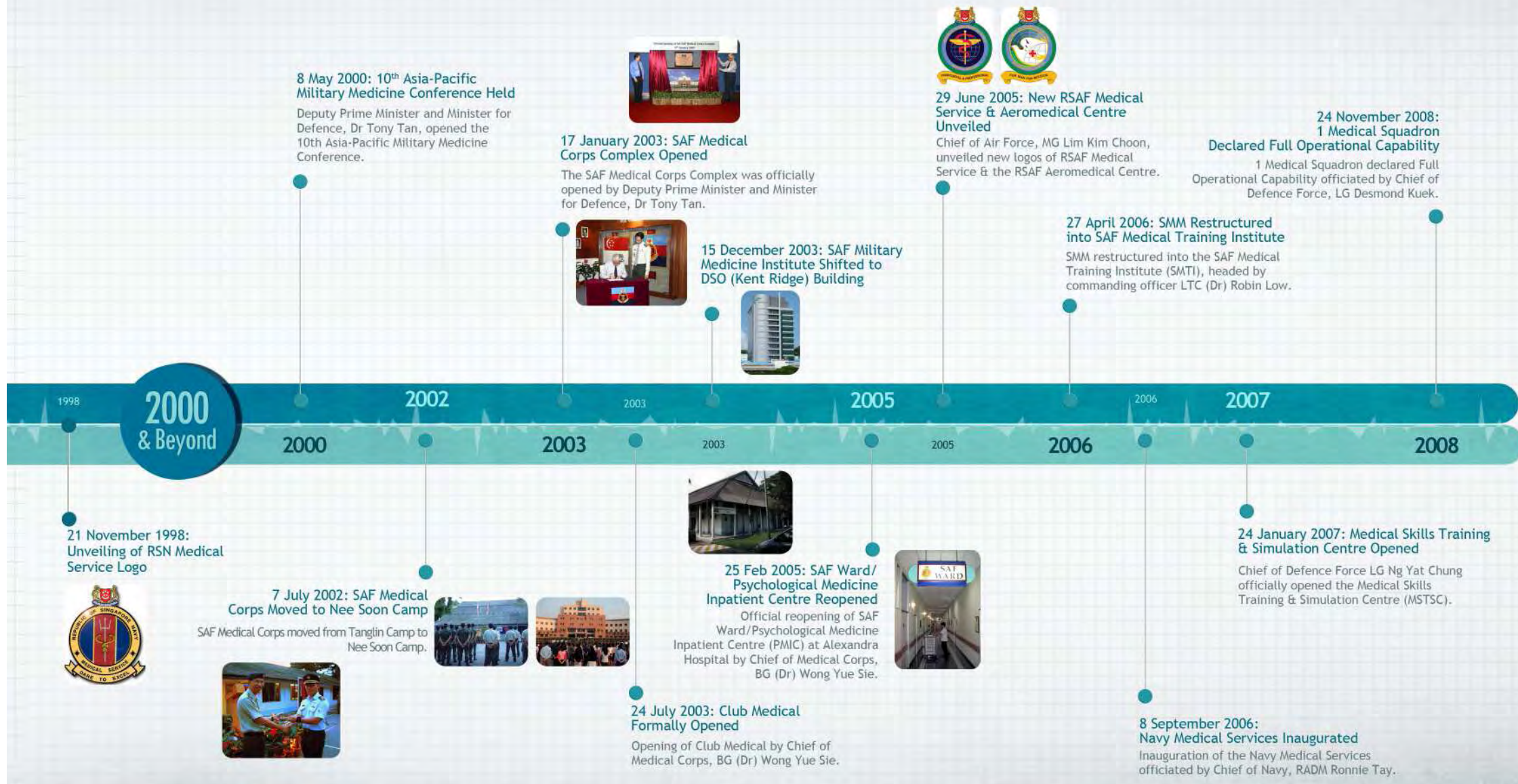
Mr Peter Ho Hak Ean, Permanent Secretary (Defence Development), officially opened the new SAF Ward at Alexandra Hospital

1998



1998: Paramedic Skills Badge Unveiled

13 January 1998: First Military Medicine Conference



21 November 1998:
Unveiling of RSN Medical Service Logo



7 July 2002: SAF Medical Corps Moved to Nee Soon Camp
SAF Medical Corps moved from Tanglin Camp to Nee Soon Camp.



8 May 2000: 10th Asia-Pacific Military Medicine Conference Held
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan, opened the 10th Asia-Pacific Military Medicine Conference.



17 January 2003: SAF Medical Corps Complex Opened
The SAF Medical Corps Complex was officially opened by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan.



15 December 2003: SAF Military Medicine Institute Shifted to DSO (Kent Ridge) Building



25 Feb 2005: SAF Ward/Psychological Medicine Inpatient Centre Reopened
Official reopening of SAF Ward/Psychological Medicine Inpatient Centre (PMIC) at Alexandra Hospital by Chief of Medical Corps, BG (Dr) Wong Yue Sie.



24 July 2003: Club Medical Formally Opened
Opening of Club Medical by Chief of Medical Corps, BG (Dr) Wong Yue Sie.



29 June 2005: New RSAF Medical Service & Aeromedical Centre Unveiled
Chief of Air Force, MG Lim Kim Choon, unveiled new logos of RSAF Medical Service & the RSAF Aeromedical Centre.

27 April 2006: SMM Restructured into SAF Medical Training Institute
SMM restructured into the SAF Medical Training Institute (SMTI), headed by commanding officer LTC (Dr) Robin Low.

2006

8 September 2006: Navy Medical Services Inaugurated
Inauguration of the Navy Medical Services officiated by Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay.

24 November 2008: 1 Medical Squadron Declared Full Operational Capability
1 Medical Squadron declared Full Operational Capability officiated by Chief of Defence Force, LG Desmond Kuek.

2007

24 January 2007: Medical Skills Training & Simulation Centre Opened
Chief of Defence Force LG Ng Yat Chung officially opened the Medical Skills Training & Simulation Centre (MSTSC).

2008

2000 & Beyond

1998

2000

2002

2003

2003

2003

2005

2005

2006

2006