

THE CUTTING EDGE

Transforming Medical Support for Our Army

Grassroot Leaders Visit Our Army



A/P Koo (right) and Ms Lee (left) being briefed on the capabilities of the artillery

Grassroot leaders play an important role in helping our public to understand the SAF and defence issues. This relationship was enhanced by their visit to HQ Singapore Artillery at Khatib Camp on 16 December 2006. Minister of State for Defence, Associate Professor (A/P) Koo Tsai Kee hosted the visit by 120 guests, including Ms Ellen Lee, a Member of Parliament for Sembawang GRC.

In his opening address, A/P Koo highlighted the importance of our Artillery. He said, "The Singapore Artillery, like its other sister formations, contributes vastly to the success of Our Army. As an indispensable element of the Army, it provides the necessary firepower to inflict damage on aggressor forces with devastating effect."

He also emphasised the roles of grassroot leaders in protecting our nation when he said, "The defence of our nation does not fall on the SAF's shoulders alone. As grassroot leaders, you play a pivotal role in conveying the importance of national security to the people in your community."

The visitors viewed a display of various weapons used by our Gunners, including the highly mobile Primus Singapore Self-Propelled Howitzer and the heliborne Pegasus Lightweight Howitzer. Besides these big guns, the grassroot leaders also learnt about sophisticated support equipment, such as the Forward Observer Personal Digital Assistants. Through various presentations, they gained a better understanding of Our Army's IKC2 concept and other key ideas central to the 3rd Generation transformation. The visitors were given an opportunity to test the Artillery Detachment Trainers (ADTs) which allow up to six gunnery teams to hone their accuracy simultaneously.

What got the guests most excited was the rare chance to drive the FH 2000 Howitzer. For most of the visitors, this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. MP Ms Ellen Lee excitedly recounted, "It was overwhelming, actually! It looked like a simple vehicle, but a lot of attention had to be paid to details as well. You're made conscious of the fact that you're manoeuvring a vehicle that has a lot of capabilities, either to destroy or to protect."



One of the grassroot leaders at the helm of the formidable FH 2000

After the visit, Ms Lee said: "All that the grassroot leaders have been hearing before are anecdotal experiences from their own children, relatives or people who have friends who have gone through National Service and usually, not much is learnt. After witnessing today's exercise, I think the grassroot leaders have a higher sense of confidence that we can depend on the SAF to defend us in times of need."

Exercise Maju Bersama: Two Armies, One Common Goal



Our Army and the RBLF fighting together as one force

11 January was an overcast and rainy day. This did not deter the men from the 42nd Battalion Singapore Armoured Regiment (42 SAR) and the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF) from making an impressive attack to capture their objectives. Under the cover of smoke grenades and suppressive fire, the troops from both armies attacked a series of "enemy" trenches. This final assault marked the end of Exercise Maju Bersama 2006, the 10th such bilateral exercise between the two armed forces.

The assault showed the speed and efficiency of the combined forces and the synergy they had developed through intense training in the preparation stage. Section Commander Kaffir Company 42 SAR, 3SG Nicholas Tiong (right) commented, "We had a shared goal and this enabled us to achieve it together. The bonds we forged with the Bruneian troops have allowed us to function as one cohesive unit."



Commander RBLF and COA exchanging mementoes

At the closing ceremony, Chief of Army (COA) MG Desmond Kuek commented on the excellent ties between Brunei and Singapore. He said, "I am glad to note that the exercise has contributed to a greater spirit of sharing and deepened the professional exchange between the two armies. I am certain that the collective experience gained is invaluable, and the new friendships made it even more so."

Minister Visits CIG

Our Army Intelligence plays an integral role in the development of our 3rd Generation fighting force. It harnesses cutting-edge technology and new operating concepts to operationalise new intelligence capabilities for Our Army. Following the inauguration of the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (1 MI Bn) in September 2005, Army Intelligence is now capable of supporting a full spectrum of operations.

To better understand these capabilities, Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, visited the Home of the Army Intelligence, the Combat Intelligence Group (CIG) on 12 January. Mr Teo was received by Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek, Director of Military Intelligence, BG Bernard Tan and Assistant Chief of the General Staff (Intelligence), COL Lim Hock Yu. Mr Teo was briefed on the operational capabilities of CIG and its various components. Despite the rain, Mr Teo also toured a static display showcasing a suite of sensors that enables the 1 MI Bn to obtain critical battlefield information timely and accurately.



Colonel Rosli (right) being briefed on the Battlefield Management System

His Bruneian counterpart, Commander RBLF Colonel Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Rosli bin Pengiran Haji Chuchu thanked 42 SAR for their warm hospitality. He said, "The exercise has been conducted purposefully and smoothly as planned. It has provided an opportunity for the RBLF personnel to learn more about the capabilities of an armoured battle group."

The men from both sides took away significant lessons from the exercise. Tank Commander Jaguar Company 42 SAR, LTA Jason Tan (right) said, "There are times when we need to cooperate and work with people who might be strangers to us. Thus, It's important to be able to adapt to each other and learn from each other."



Captain PG Mohammed Sufri (left), from Bravo Company of 2nd Battalion, RBLF was impressed by the state-of-the-art computerised systems mounted within the Bionix II. He said, "It is very challenging to train with the SAF as the level of their technology is very high."

COA also spoke to the SAF participants after the exercise, emphasizing the importance of maintaining close ties with our ASEAN neighbours. He said, "In today's security climate, when we undertake operations, we are likely to be operating side by side with other friendly armies. The more that we understand the other friendly armies that we will be working with, the more likely it is that we will be effective and have a smooth ride."

For his outstanding contributions to fostering excellent ties between the RBLF and the Singapore Army, Colonel Rosli was conferred the Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera) or Meritorious Service Medal (Military) on 11 January by Minister for Defence Mr Teo Chee Hean.



Mr Teo being briefed on one of the CIG's intelligence capabilities, the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)

It was certainly an educational experience for everyone present. Mr Teo said, "I found it very interesting how the different components of Intelligence come together. These are the kind of capabilities that are going to feed the 3rd Generation SAF."

9 Div NSmen Impress in War Game Exercise



BG Winston Toh (left) and PS (DD) Dr Tan Kim Siew (centre) receiving a briefing on the exercise

Almost a thousand NSmen from the 9th Singapore Division/Infantry (9 Div/Inf) took part in a division level war game exercise that ran from 22 November to 6 December 2006. The exercise featured some of the technology which has been an integral part of Our Army's transformation into a 3rd Generation force. One key addition to the Army's technology arsenal

that featured in this exercise was the recently launched Division Hub. The Hub functions as a nerve centre which monitors the battle situation and facilitates changes of plans. The Hub was put to good use in the exercise, resulting in better coordination of ground forces

At the in-processing parade, Commander 9 Div/Chief Infantry Officer, BG Winston Toh emphasised "the need to promote learning and sharing as well as provide a positive and enriching experience for all participants." He also highlighted the need to foster greater bonding and interaction within the Division between regulars and NSmen.

The morale of the men was boosted by the visits of Permanent Secretary (Defence Development) Dr Tan Kim Siew and Chief of Army (COA) MG Desmond Kuek. They were on hand to observe the NSmen in action and see the exercise in person. The troops were cheered on by the visit, which reflected the importance of their hard work over the course of the exercise.

PRs Get National Service Insights at BMTC

Early in the morning, the Penguin ferry left for Pulau Tekong under a clear sky. On board were not recruits reporting to camp but instead invited Permanent Residents (PRs) and their families. They were there for a visit to expose them to the Basic Military Training (BMT) experience which their sons will have to undergo when they reach 18 years of age. While first-generation male PRs are exempted from National Service (NS) on the grounds that they can make immediate economic contributions to Singapore, their sons are required to serve.



A/P Koo explaining to parents how NS teaches enlistees to be self-reliant and good team players

In his opening address, Minister of State for Defence Associate Professor (A/P) Koo Tsai Kee explained why NS is compulsory for all male citizens and PRs. He said, "We need to have a credible force to protect our investments, our lives, and our families. A strong SAF ensures peace and stability for Singapore to grow." Assistant Director for NS Policy, Mr Wong Kang Jet also spoke to the visitors. He described NS as "a universal duty for everyone, regardless of their racial and religious background."

In addition, A/P Koo mentioned that NS is a learning opportunity. He said, "Your sons will be put in a very challenging environment, that will build up their confidence and leadership qualities. A boy leaves NS with life skills which he will not pick up anywhere else."

Addressing the concerns of many parents, Commander Basic Military Training Course (Comd BMTC) COL Ishak Ismail assured them that training is realistic but safe. Today's BMT follows a progressive approach of 'building up' the recruit's physical and mental strength, and this has helped to minimise injuries. COL Ishak said, "I'll give you good accommodation you are comfortable with, and I demand high standards of training. It's a balance between what we provide in comfort, and what we deliver in training."

The visitors had a chance to tour the recruits' bunks, medical centre and the Individual Marksmanship Trainer facility.



Comd BMTC describes strict safety guidelines for training



The visitors get a taste of a recruit's life

They also sampled the food at the cookhouse. Thyag Ravi, a student at the Global Indian International School, said, "I'm excited to serve NS. Before, I didn't know much about it but after coming here, I have a good impression and would like to do it." His parents added, "Safety is a concern, obviously. After seeing BMTC for ourselves, we think that our son will benefit from serving his NS."



After the visit, Thyag Ravi's parents are comfortable with their son serving NS

In choosing Singapore as their new home, PRs have a stake in our nation's future and must contribute to its defence. Serving NS will also provide an opportunity for interacting and integration as part of a nation building experience.

Developing Committed Soldiers from BMT

A tour to tourist attractions during the first week of Basic Military Training (BMT)? This really happened to the men of the 3rd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (3 SIR) and 41st Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (41 SAR) on 17 and 19 January respectively. The troops took a tour to various sites of historical importance, which traced the three years and eight months of pain and suffering of our forefathers during the Japanese Occupation in World War II.

Commanding Officer 3 SIR, MAJ Marcus Tan Wee Kian explained the significance behind the visits. He said, "If we choose to forget how Singapore suffered in World War II, we will be condemned to experience it again if we choose not to defend our country." The exhibits are thus a stark reminder of the importance of having a well-trained Army to defend Singapore. This sentiment was echoed by REC Leong Wai Keong from 41 SAR, who said, "The tour taught me a lot about what our country went through during the Second World War. I am now motivated to train harder so that I will be ready and able to defend Singapore when necessary."



REC Wong (holding the flag) and his platoon mates from 3 SIR doing the weapons presentation swearing in after receiving their arms

The men of 3 SIR and 41 SAR also made their way to Kranji War Memorial for their weapon presentation ceremony. The weapon presentation ceremony is a long standing tradition in the Army, symbolising the recruit's "coming of age" to bear arms to defend his homeland. REC Wong Ji Zhong from 3 SIR said, "I am really proud to be presented the SAR 21 rifle, which means that I am now equipped to defend Singapore as a soldier." Increasingly, units like 3 SIR and 41 SAR are holding their weapon presentation ceremony in historic and meaningful locations, to lend greater significance to this valued custom.



LTC Chua (right) presenting a recruit from 41 SAR with his rifle

Speaking to Army News after his unit's weapon presentation ceremony, Commanding Officer 41 SAR, LTC Chua Boon Keat stressed the need for soldiers to understand their purpose in National Service and national security. He explained, "I believe that for our people to do well and train well, we must make them understand the need to defend Singapore. If we can make them understand this fundamental reason behind National Service, half the battle is won, and all else will follow."

THE CUTTING EDGE

Transforming Medical Support for Our Army

The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the SAF's recent experiences in disaster relief, have demonstrated the importance of providing capable forward surgery to support the highly mobile forces of modern warfare and the equally demanding needs of Operations Other Than War. Our Army Medical Services (AMS) provides the best possible care for any wounded soldier, through continuous medical support from the frontline to the hospital.

Next Generation Medical Platforms

To support the new requirements arising from Our Army's transformation to the 3rd Generation fighting force, the AMS is building up a range of new medical platforms. Our next generation medical force will be made up of lighter and more mobile teams capable of bringing life-saving surgery closer to the front lines where it is most needed. They will be able to deploy in any situation, even in poor terrain and weather conditions.

For a wounded soldier, the most critical period is from the time of injury till the time he receives hospital care. If immediate evacuation is not possible, field surgery may be the only life-saving option. This is why we need forward resuscitative or 'damage control' surgery. Head Army Surgical Team, LTC (DR) Tan Peng Hui (left) emphasized the importance of such surgery. He said, "From Fallujah in Iraq to the Falklands, forward resuscitative surgery has saved the lives of many soldiers. Our Army can count on similar support from the new surgical capability of the AMS."



Recently, AMS took delivery of its latest Medical Shelter System. Locally built, it consists of four expandable containers. They can be linked to form a field hospital with an operating theatre, high dependency ward, normal ward and laboratory with X-

ray facility. This creates a sterile environment to perform major surgeries and blood analysis. This system can be transported by trucks, trailers, C-130 aircraft and Landing Ship Tanks. Supporting the quick deployment of the new shelters is the Swing-Thru container handling system. It is designed to load, transport and unload the 20-foot container module which can weigh ten tons.

Where the Medical Shelter System cannot be used due to ground constraints, the Rapid Deployable Medical Shelter is the answer. The beauty of this shelter is that it has no rigid structure and is instead supported by inflatable columns. When deflated and packed, it is compact enough to be rapidly transported to where it is needed most.

To meet the challenges of evacuating large numbers of casu-



The Rapid Deployable Medical Shelter offers an air-conditioned environment for sterile surgery



Speedy air evacuation of casualties saves lives

alties from the battlefield, AMS is conducting trials involving a prototype vehicle called the Medebox, which has been designed to transport up to 18 casualties in a clean environment. This is an improvement over the present Land Rover Ambulance, which can only carry four casualties.

Training Makes the Difference

Beyond acquiring new hardware, AMS is also focusing on developing realistic and professional training for its surgical units. There is increasing emphasis on clinical skills for our doctors and medics. As most of our doctors are NSmen who do not get exposure to battlefield trauma in their civilian practice, AMS has introduced the Trauma Management Skills Training Course to hone individual and team skills in dealing with war injuries.

Besides doctors, nurses are also important in providing surgical care, especially perioperative nurses who work in the operating theatre. They play a vital role in assisting the surgeon



MSG Mazlan, CSM Army Surgical Team:
"Using the Swing-Thru system, the new medical shelter can be deployed quickly and requires fewer men to do so."





The Medebox can be easily configured to carry casualties seated or lying down



and caring for the patients during surgery. In November 2006, AMS conducted its first Perioperative Nursing Workshop, which will be incorporated as part of a structured training programme for all Army nurses.

Army Nursing Officer LTA Tan Tai Shen (right) described the role of perioperative nurses in providing holistic treatment before and after operations are conducted. She said, "Perioperative nursing is a highly specialised skill requiring constant practice. We care for patients before, during and after surgery. We are building up such expertise, through which care for our soldiers can be enhanced."



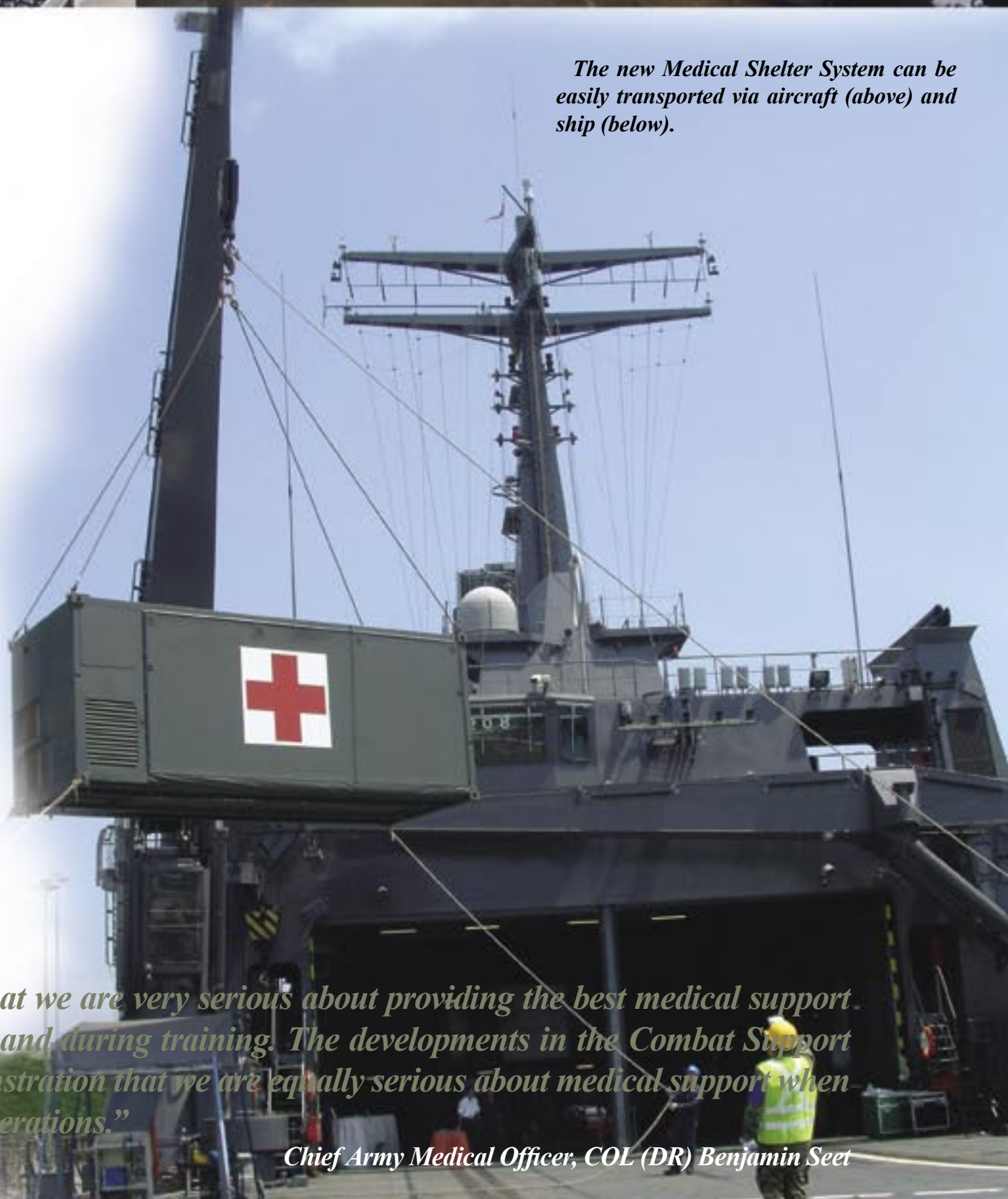
The skills in perioperative nursing are essential to Army surgical units

Experiences gained from Operations Other Than War are also invaluable to improving the skills of our medical staff. During such overseas operations and socio-civic missions, the professional expertise of our staff in military medicine and field surgery will be raised. AMS will continue to build up the knowledge and skills for field surgery and trauma management, through which surgical support for the Army can be enhanced.



"The AMS has shown that we are very serious about providing the best medical support for the SAF in peacetime and during training. The developments in the Combat Support Hospital are a solid demonstration that we are equally serious about medical support when the SAF has to conduct operations."

Chief Army Medical Officer, COL (DR) Benjamin Seet



The new Medical Shelter System can be easily transported via aircraft (above) and ship (below).

Army Gets a New Chief in March

As part of the continuing process of leadership renewal in the SAF, MG Desmond Kuek Bak Chye, currently Chief of Army (COA), will take over from LG Ng Yat Chung as Chief of Defence Force on 23 March. BG Neo Kian Hong, currently Chief of Staff-Joint Staff (COS-JS), will be appointed as the new COA on 20 March.

The outgoing COA, MG Desmond Kuek joined the SAF in December 1981. As COA, MG Kuek steered the Army towards organisational excellence, transforming its force structure to enhance operational efficiency and eliciting peak performance from servicemen through the L.I.V.E (Leadership and Learning, Image and Identity, Values and positive Experience) movement. He significantly improved the Army's combat capability, especially in the areas of command and control, firepower and urban operations.

The incoming COA, BG Neo joined the SAF in March 1983. In the course of his military career, he has held amongst oth-

ers, the appointments of Commander, Army Training and Doctrine Command; Commander, 9th Singapore Division; Assistant Chief of the General Staff (Operations); Assistant Chief of the General Staff (Personnel); Commander, 7th Singapore Infantry Brigade; and Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, Singapore Guards.

BG Neo also served as the SAF's contingent commander for INTERFET (International Force for East Timor) in 1999, and played a pivotal role in establishing the national contact and tracing system during the SARS crisis in 2003. BG Neo attended the Indonesian Army Command and Staff Course (SESKOAD) in 1994.



Incoming COA BG Neo Kian Hong



Outgoing COA MG Desmond Kuek Bak Chye

Army Officer Shines at Sandhurst

On 15 December 2006, LTA Abu Bakar Bin Abdillah Alkatib (right) completed a 12-month Commissioning Course for British and international students, the equivalent of the Officer Cadet Course in Singapore. He has done our nation proud by winning the Overseas Sword-of-Honour, given to the foreign student with the best overall performance. This is the first time the award has been won consecutively by a Singaporean student, the previous winner being then-2LT Iskandar Bin Abdullah. In addition, LTA Abu Bakar was named Best Overseas Cadet in Defence and Internal Affairs, while fellow Singaporean LTA Emerson Ang came out Best in War Studies.



In the course of training, participants had to complete gruelling tasks like the Army Combat Fitness Test, an uphill run while carrying a heavy load. They were also exposed to complex scenarios from war experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan. LTA Abu Bakar proved that he was up to the challenge. He said, "Wanting to do Singapore proud was a driving motivation during the course. The fact that I was representing my country inspired me to go the extra mile."

A military man since his National Cadet Corps days, LTA Abu Bakar expressed his comfort with a regimental lifestyle and his hope for an instructional tour in Officer Cadet School. He said, "As an officer, I am able to help determine the path which my men will take for the rest of their lives. I like the idea of leading people to become leaders, and Officer Cadet School would be the best place for that."



LTA Abubakar (standing) supervising his men in combat training

Equipping Our 3rd Generation Soldiers

After two years of study and trials in seven battalions, the new and enhanced personal equipment is here. All new recruits undergoing Basic Military Training will receive four basic personal equipment, a Load Bearing Vest (LBV) which replaces the existing webbing, an improved field pack, a more reliable waterproof utility torchlight with colour filters and a more practical multi-purpose knife. While the utility torchlight and multi-purpose knife are Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) products, the LBV and improved field pack were specially designed by the Infantry Personal Equipment Expert (INPEX) Team, comprising experienced WOSPECs.



Other than the basic enhanced personal equipment, the major revamp also includes the introduction of various role-specific and mission-specific equipment. Head Plans, HQ 9th Singapore Division/ Infantry, LTC Kong Kam Yean (right), explained that Our Army was moving away from a one-size-fits-all personal equipment to one with the flexibility to suit the soldier's role and mission. He explained, "The change of our personal equipment is in response to the varied operational profile of our 3rd Generation soldier. The enhanced personal equipment allows for mass customisation, making sure that the soldier is equipped for a wide spectrum of operations."

With pouches easily attachable to the LBV through the Modular Lightweight Load-carrying Equipment (MOLLE) system, soldiers in different roles are able to carry their ammunition and military gear in pouches that can be strapped onto the LBV. Also, soldiers conducting missions such as urban operations and Protection Of Installations (POI) operations are now equipped with specialised equipment. For example, the men of 6th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment, which conducts POI operations, are equipped with polarized glasses that offer both ballistic and UV protection.

REC Marcus Cheng and REC Mohammad Redzahudin bin Jaffar, both from Basic Military Training Centre School 2, were full of praise for the new personal equipment, particularly the MOLLE system and the LBV's integrated water bag. REC Cheng said, "The LBV is extremely comfortable, and I like in particular the water bag, which allows me to take sips of water during route marches instead of struggling to remove the water bottles at the back." REC Redzahudin, who spent four years in National Cadet Corps (Land) in secondary school, said, "The LBV is not only way more comfortable than the webbing due to the wider shoulder pads, but also sits closer to the body, and does not swing around when I run. Furthermore, the MOLLE sys-



POI personnel such as 3SG Aw Yew Tong are now equipped with polarised glasses and a baton torchlight. 3SG Aw feels more confident patrolling with the baton torchlight as it gives him a less lethal option

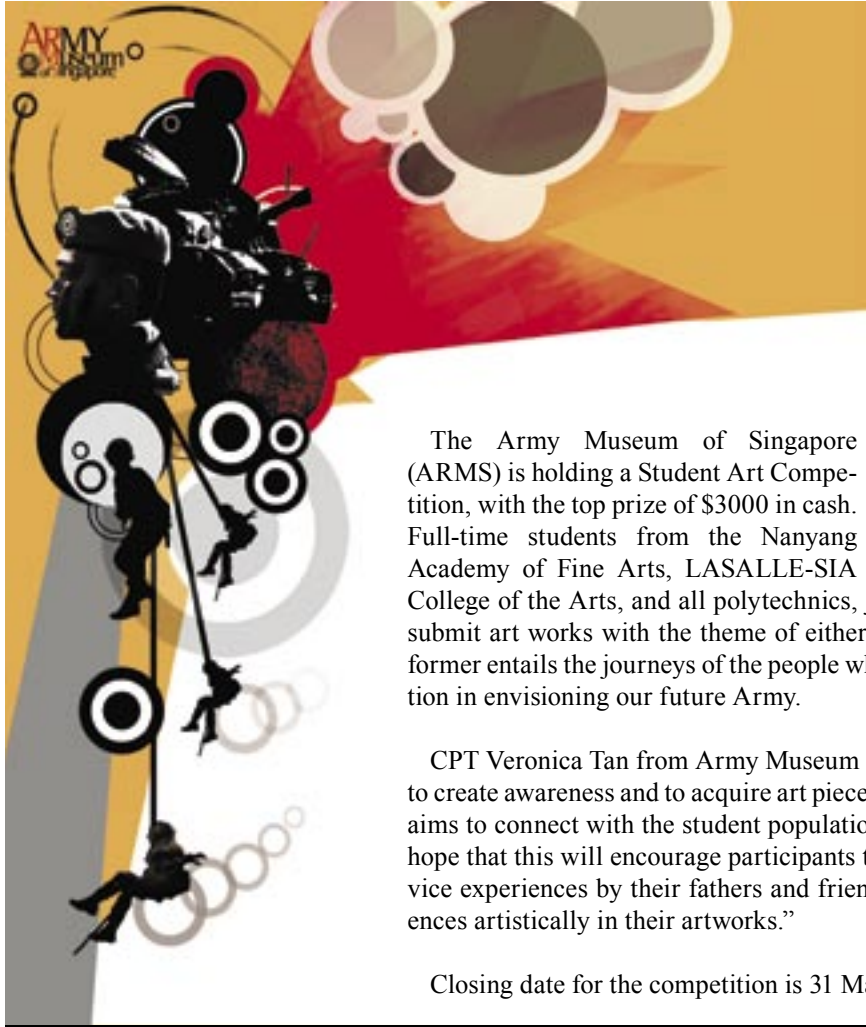
tem allows me to put pouches where I want, allowing me to balance the load."

The benefits of the LBV were best summed up by 2SG Romanjeet Singh from 3rd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment, which was one of the trial battalions. He said, "Everything is readily accessible on the LBV, allowing us to fight better. It also makes us look better, reflecting our Army's transformation into a 3rd Generation fighting force!"



REC Redzahudin (left), 2SG Singh (centre) and REC Cheng are very pleased with the functionality and comfort provided by the new personal equipment

Army Museum of Singapore Organising Student Art Competition



The Army Museum of Singapore (ARMS) is holding a Student Art Competition, with the top prize of \$3000 in cash. Full-time students from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, and all polytechnics, junior colleges, ITEs and secondary schools are encouraged to submit art works with the theme of either “Our Army – Our People” or “Our Future Army”. While the former entails the journeys of the people who make up Our Army, the latter seeks to unleash your imagination in envisioning our future Army.

CPT Veronica Tan from Army Museum explained, “The Student Art Competition provides the platform to create awareness and to acquire art pieces which will be showcased in ARMS. More importantly, ARMS aims to connect with the student population, especially through the theme “Our Army - Our People”. We hope that this will encourage participants to learn more about the Army from the sharing of National Service experiences by their fathers and friends, and thereafter be inspired to translate these unique experiences artistically in their artworks.”

Closing date for the competition is 31 March 2007. Visit www.armymuseum.gov.sg for more details.



ARMS is making good progress, and construction on the second floor of the building has already started. Located on the shores of the SAFI Military Institute lake, ARMS is scheduled to be opened at the end of this year.

Fitness Made Easy through Commanders' Handbook on Fitness

Want to know how to plan your nutrition? Unsure of how to prevent heat injuries? Now you can refer to the Army Fitness Handbook, the commanders' handbook to being fighting fit. The handbook was launched on

23 January at Pasir Laba Camp, when Commander 9th Singapore Division/Chief Infantry Officer BG Winston Toh presented Chief of Army, MG Desmond Kuek with the first copy of the handbook.



In his foreword for the handbook, BG Toh expounded the importance of physical training. He wrote, “The basis of the Army's physical training program lies in the robust and scientifically derived physical fitness

regime which aims to ensure that soldiers are equipped and physically conditioned to overtake assigned missions. Both physical and combat fitness needs to be emphasised in order

to develop a mission-ready, fighting-fit Army.”

To provide this comprehensive guide for all issues relating to physical training, the team from Army Fitness Centre (AFC) spent more than half a year to research and produce the handbook. Mr Favil Singh from AFC said, “This handbook is meant to serve as a reference for the layman with little fitness background.” MAJ Salleh from AFC further elaborated, “In the past, we used to give commanders information that was presented in an uninteresting format. This handbook's clear presentation, coupled with its magazine-like layout, makes it understandable to everyone.”

So far, feedback from ground users have been extremely positive. 3SG Ng Seow Hong, a Physical Training Management Fitness Specialist, said, “The handbook is very in-depth and comprehensive in its coverage of fitness-related issues. If the knowledge inside is well utilised, it can help my fellow commanders and me to bring out the best in our men.”

Check out the online version of the handbook on the Intranet at <http://hq9div.army.mindef/9divinf/afc/commanders%20handbook.pdf>



Mr Singh (left) and MAJ Salleh (right) are delighted with the successful completion of the handbook

PAST OR PRESENT? WHO IS THE BEST OF TIMES?

Some 9,000 18 year-old men registered for National Service at CMPB in March 1967, marking the beginning of our citizen army and the start of National Service as a way of life for male Singaporeans. 40 years have passed and as we commemorate 40 years of National Service, Power98 rallies up the troops, both past and present, for this first ever clash of the times! Listen in as servicemen now and then reminisce their NS days and learn how the SAF has evolved! Catch “Best of Times”, broadcasting every day on Power98FM as we attempt to put to rest the age-old question, “Who's had it tougher?”

Catch the grand finals of “Best of Times” at the exhibition commemorating 40 years of NS (12th to 15th April) on 15th April 2007, Sunday, at Ngee Ann City!



Quiz Of The Month - JAN / FEB

Send us the correct answer and win a \$20 Takashimaya Gift Voucher. There will be 2 winners!

Q: Where the Medical Shelter System cannot be used due to ground constraints, what is the alternative system?

Closing Date : 12 March 2007

Answer:

Unit:

NRIC:

Rank / Name:

E-mail:

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. Winners will be notified by Email. Prizes are not exchangeable for cash.
4. The judges' decision is final. Please send us your entries via mail or Email (see bottom-right corner of page).
5. Prizes not collected within a month of notification will be forfeited.

DEC / JAN Quiz

Q: Name the clusters that make up the Distributed Command Post.
A: Division HQ, Sensor Shooter, Force Projection and Sustainment

DEC / JAN Winners

1) 3SG ALLAN CHUA NRIC : SXXXX922C
2) 3SG HO CHEE SENG NRIC : SXXXX196I

Passing On The Baton

APPOINTMENT	INCOMING	OUTGOING
CO 1 GUARDS	MAJ CLIFFORD KEONG BOON KEE	MAJ LEE WEE LEE
CO 3 GUARDS	MAJ MARK TAN KEN-LI	LTC LEE KUAN CHUNG
CO 1 MI BN	MAJ SEET UEI LIM	LTC PAUL CHEW
CO OETI	LTC CHAN CHEE WEI	LTC TAN HOCK POH
RSM 720 SIR	2WO CHAN YEW KONG	1WO CHEW SEOW HONG



The Primus demonstrating its mobility as a column of these highly lethal howitzers charge to another deployment site

In a faraway land famous for its stunning natural beauty and prowess in rugby, the Singapore Artillery scored a milestone in their transformation towards the 3rd Generation fighting force. Held from 21 January to 10 February in the Waiouru Training Area in New Zealand, this year's Exercise Thunder Warrior featured live-firing by the Primus - Singapore Self-Propelled Howitzer (SSPH) and for the first time, an overseas live-firing of the Mortar Tracked Carrier (MTC). Other participating Army elements included 42nd Battalion Singapore Armoured Regiment and the 1st Mili-



The AFIST Battalion HQ can be easily configured to provide support for different missions

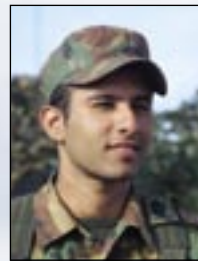
tary Intelligence Battalion. The strong focus on network-centric warfare capabilities was also demonstrated by the deployment of the Artillery Fire and Strike (AFIST) Battalion HQ.

Commanding Officer 21st Battalion Singapore Artillery (21 SA), LTC Nicholas Seow (left), explained the AFIST concept, "We are looking at how we can create a plug and play structure so



that we can be mission-tailored and task-configured to support various mission requirements. For example in this exercise, we have the MTC and SSPH. At the same time, we also have assets like the radars and meteorological station so that we can be a self-contained unit with the ability to support a mission with a myriad of assets." The fast response that AFIST can provide during operations thus represents a quantum leap in our integration and delivers a multiplier effect in a "system of systems".

3SG Arun Ramachandani (left), a Fire Direction Specialist from 21 SA shared, "My job in assisting to co-ordinate the firing is a tough but satisfying one. It is tough because we are responsible for the distance calculations which determine the accuracy of the firing. It is a wonderful experience here in New Zealand where the full power of our guns can be fully tested. As a NSF, I really want to do my best and make the most of this opportunity."



The vast Waiouru Training Area is the perfect place to test the mobility and firepower of the Primus. The gunners had did very well in their unit's live-firing evaluation exercise. 3SG Billy Ng (right), the 2IC of a Primus SSPH also shared his experience in this exercise. He said, "This exercise is tougher and more tiring than my previous experience in Australia. The night temperature can drop to below 10 degrees Celsius. Every Primus



Primus and MTC getting ready for the live-firing

crew member trained very hard in their individual roles because we know that this exercise is a test of our ability to operate as one. It was a fantastic feeling being able to fire a burst rate of three rounds in 20 seconds, and we performed very well in our evaluation exercise."

While thorough preparation had results in strong confidence among the men, safety is never taken for granted. LTC Nicholas Seow commented, "My main concern is my men. The weather is cold and harsh. The terrain here is also challenging and this is a terrain that my guys are not used to in Singapore. Therefore safety is always up most in my mind."

On 4 February, the exercise troops were visited by Second Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen and the New Zealand Minister of Defence, the Honourable Phil Goff. Both ministers got a first-hand feel of the MTC when each fired two rounds during their visit to the deployment site. Speaking at the end of his visit, the Honourable Phil Goff said, "It's been very impressive seeing the self-propelled howitzers and the mortars, to see them in action as well, and to have a chance to fire the mortars. Many of the armed forces personnel from Singapore are on terrain that they are obviously not used to but making the most of that opportunity, and from New Zealand's point of view we are really proud to host you here and for me to host my ministerial colleague here, and for us to mark the 10th anniversary (of this exercise). I think that demonstrates the partnership between our countries. We regard Singapore as our closest Asian defence partner."

Dr Ng agrees with his counterpart that Singapore shares a very special relationship with New Zealand and said, "I think they go beyond just defence ties, the people-to-people interaction, the understanding, and of course the government is very appreciative that Minister Goff allowed us to train here. We respect the land, we respect the people. Our ties are very



As in previous exercises, soldiers from the New Zealand Defence Force were involved, a testimony of the warm and long-standing defence relationship between Singapore and New Zealand



Dr Ng and the Honourable Phil Goff performing the tradition Maori greeting



The Honourable Phil Goff (far right) and Dr Ng (second from right) sharing a lighter moment with the exercise troops

special and we want them to be strengthened." On the future, Dr Ng continued, "I heard from our commanders and our soldiers, they are finding great benefit in training with each other, in looking at systems, in sharing. This terrain, of course, offers us training opportunities that we can't get elsewhere, in terms of range and different systems. And we hope that in the future, we can continue to have further exchanges, continue to build up the defence ties and relationship. So all round, I think it is been a very positive experience and exercise."

Artillery Hits New Milestone in Thunder Warrior