

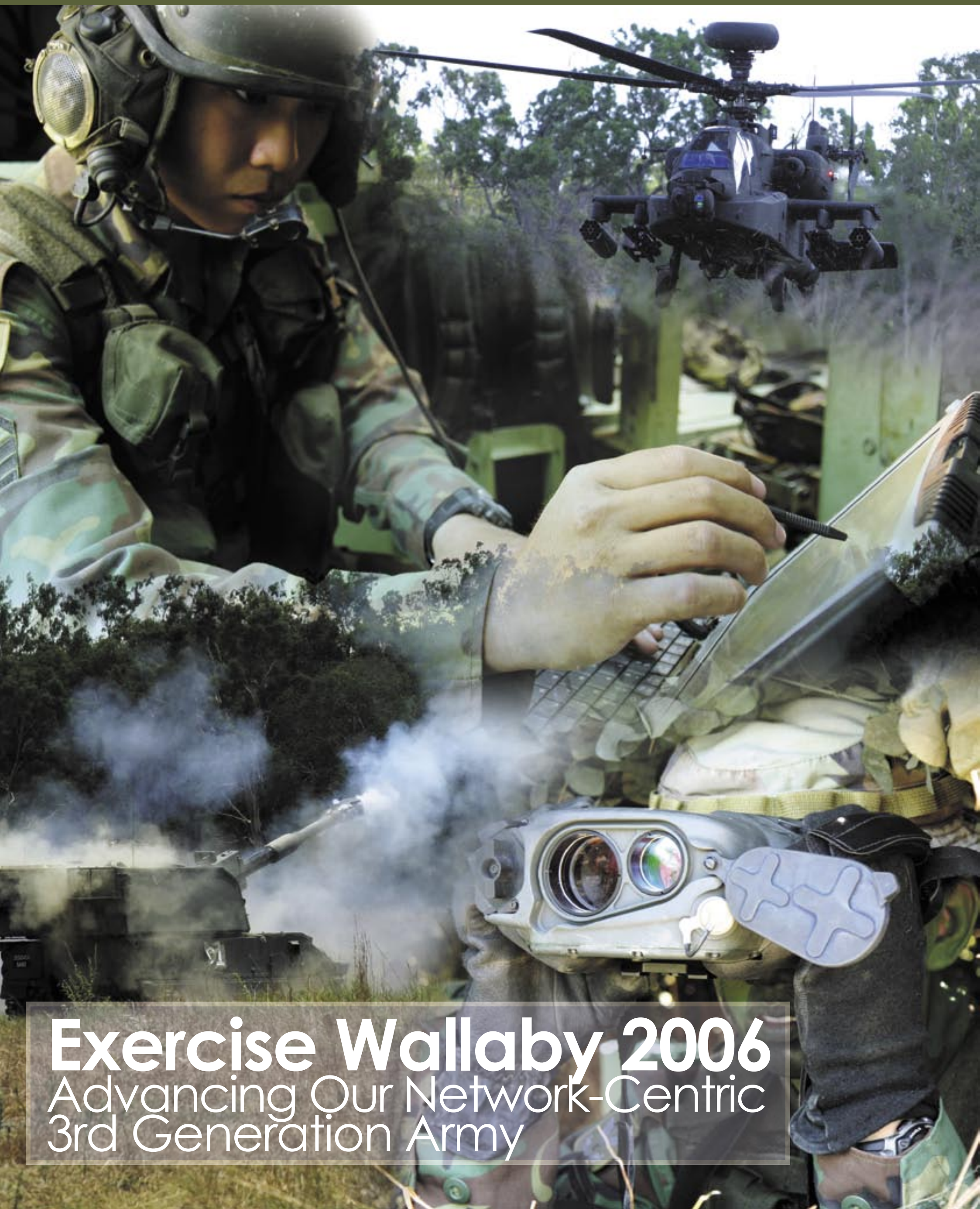
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pulse of the army



Exercise Wallaby 2006
Advancing Our Network-Centric
3rd Generation Army

Winning Medals and Friends at AARM 2006



Our shooters kept the Singapore flag flying high with their performance

The 16th Annual ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM) was held from 1 to 7 Dec 2006 at the Mieu Mon Military Training Centre in Ha Tay, Vietnam. Singapore was represented by the SAF Shooting Contingent (SSC) with teams participating in the rifle, carbine, General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) and pistol events. Over the seven days of competition, our soldiers did Singapore proud by emerging victorious from the very competitive field of 10 ASEAN armies in the pistol and GPMG events. The team of 2SG Sean Wales and CPL Trotsky Junior won the GPMG single team championship, while SSG On Shaw Ming and MSG Poh Lip Meng took first and second place respectively in the Pistol (Men) Individual Championship. The pistol team also achieved 2nd in the Pistol (Men) team championship.

Victory was particularly sweet for SSG On (below) as he walked away with the Pistol (Men) championship trophy for the third consecutive year. His successful title defense capped off a brilliant year after also winning a gold medal at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Commenting on his achievement, SSG On remarked, "I am glad that I was able to defend my title. This third championship is special for me because I get to keep this trophy permanently, a nice reward for a lot of hard work and training over the years."



While the team did well, there were still valuable lessons to be learned from the competition. Singapore's Contingent Commander LTC Lim Meng Kiaw, CO School of Infantry Weapons (SIW), said, "Every year we set our targets based on shooting averages and the winning score from the previous competition. But this year there was a leap in the average scores. So if we want to win next year, our preparation must give our shooters a leap in their results."

In his team address before the closing ceremony, Chief of Army (COA) MG Desmond Kuek encouraged the team to learn from their AARM 2006 experience so they can aim for even better results in future competitions. As part of the closing ceremony, MG Kuek joined fellow ASEAN Army Chiefs for a friendly novelty shooting match which fostered a spirit of camaraderie among the participants.

Despite the stiff competition, the atmosphere at AARM remained one of friendly camaraderie. The shooters from all the ASEAN nations clearly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know their fellow ASEAN soldiers better. Rifle Team Captain Sergeant Roweno Baquiroza from the Philippines Army said, "The Singapore shooters are strong competitors, but more importantly they are friendly and have a sense of good sportsmanship. I look forward to meeting up with my new Singaporean friends at next year's AARM in Thailand!"

Vigilant On New Year's Eve



Our men are always ready to defend Singapore

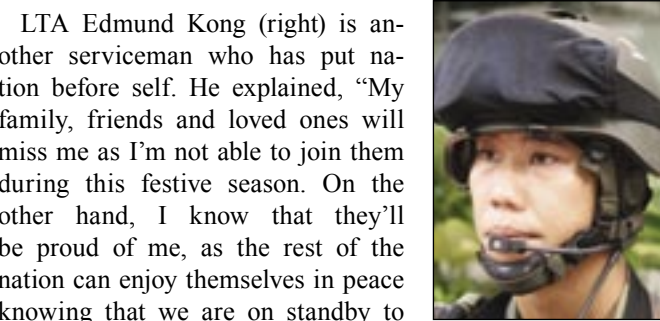
On New Year's eve, many excited Singaporeans converged at gala events, popular nightspots and the homes of relatives and friends to toast the arrival of 2007. Amidst these joyous celebrations, Our Army maintained its vigilance to safeguard our nation. Such a task was recently undertaken by the Commandos who were on standby duty during this period. However, these men had good reason to cheer on New Year's Eve as they received a visit by Chief of Army (COA) MG Desmond Kuek at Hendon Camp.



COA commending the men for their efforts in safeguarding the nation during this festive period



Our servicemen have given up their time with their families and friends during this holiday period to play a critical role in safeguarding our nation from threats such as terrorism. ISG Sim Chee Jin (left) expressed this sense of duty when he said, "I feel that it is my responsibility as a soldier to be in a high state of operational readiness. If being ready to protect Singapore involves staying in camp during the New Year, it is a sacrifice that I will willingly make."



LTA Edmund Kong (right) is another serviceman who has put nation before self. He explained, "My family, friends and loved ones will miss me as I'm not able to join them during this festive season. On the other hand, I know that they'll be proud of me, as the rest of the nation can enjoy themselves in peace knowing that we are on standby to protect them."

National Day Awards Investiture

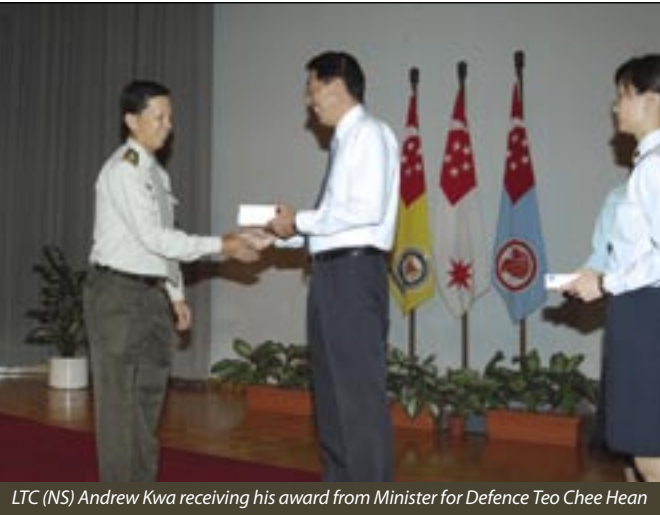
MINDEF held its annual National Day Awards Investiture on 22 November 2006. Minister for Defence Mr Teo Chee Hean and Second Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen were on hand to present over 700 medals to deserving recipients from MINDEF, SAF and the Defence Science and Technology Agency. The awards included 47 Commendation Medals, 117 Efficiency Medals and 540 Long Service Medals.

After serving the SAF for more than 36 years, SWO Richard Ee (right) could not have been happier to cap his career off with the Commendation Medal. He remarked that after a long and distinguished career, the medal was "a nice and befitting farewell gift" as he is retiring this year. This is also the first time the Commendation Medal is being awarded to a Warrant Officer. SWO Ee, who previously served as the SAF RSM, noted, "Being in a military environment, medals are important as the decorations reflect the respect and credibility of the individual. I'm glad that the SAF has opened this door to the Warrant Officers, for their contributions to be recognized with the Commendation Medal."



Another proud recipient of the Commendation Medal was LTC (NS) Andrew Kwa, Second-in-Command 22nd Singapore Infantry Brigade. He explained, "I didn't think of awards when I started my National Service back in 1978. I had just

become a Singapore citizen and was glad to have the opportunity to serve my new country. It is a great honor for my service



LTC (NS) Andrew Kwa receiving his award from Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean

to be recognized by my nation." LTC (NS) Kwa also received the Long Service Medal (Military) for his many years of service. While National Service entailed sacrifices in his personal time, he believes that it was all worth it. He said, "While balancing my career, family life and NS has sometimes been challenging, my military experience has also been valuable in civilian life. It is such a powerful learning experience for a nineteen year old 2LT to be responsible for an entire platoon of men. The Army has really developed my leadership capabilities over the years."

Standard Chartered Marathon: Sustaining Our Fitness Culture

The Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon held in December 2006 saw a record number of 31,000 runners, including a few hundred from Our Army. The Army participant with the fastest timing was PTE Eugene Huang, an Admin Support Assistant from the National Service Operations and Training Section of 2nd People's Defence Force Command. A former cross-country runner in Victoria Junior College, PTE Huang completed the 42.2-km run in just over three hours, about ten minutes behind the winner in the Men's Open (Local) category. He said, "This was a personal challenge for myself. Having ran three Army Half Marathons, I wanted to make a breakthrough and run the full marathon."



PTE Huang (left) and 2WO Chia (right) at the Standard Chartered Singapore marathon

Many of the Army runners were there as part of a team effort. 2WO Chia Mui Sowe from General Staff (Operations) has been training for his marathons with friends from the 9th Singapore Division for several years. Having participated in marathons for six years, 2WO Chia felt that the Army should 'encourage more people to run the marathon' as part of our fitness culture. LTA Koh Tian Teck was a member of a team of Officer Cadet School instructors that participated in the marathon. He said, "I knew that training was going to be tough but

it is less painful when you have many others who share the same goal."



Indeed, our Army's fitness culture is not limited to those in combat vocations. PTE Huang said, "Fitness is a personal responsibility, and all personnel should strive to keep fit. I feel that fitness is beneficial as I find that my productivity and efficiency are much higher after exercising."



Running in formation: Our Army's Commandos

The Link to Fitness

Many motorists along the 2nd Link Bridge near Tuas must have been surprised to see a few thousand runners puffing furiously as they tackled the challenge of a 10-km run. Held on 12 November 2006, the 2nd Link Bridge Run is an annual friendship run with the objective of fostering ties between Singaporeans and Malaysians. Our Army had a small contingent of 80 runners who participated in the race, many of whom performed well.



MAJ Tan with her prize

MAJ Tan Lee Kiaw, who came in sixth in the Women's Veteran Category, grabs every opportunity to participate in such runs. The Head of Manpower at Combat Service Support Command, MAJ Tan said, "I think it's good that the Army is trying to promote lifelong investment in fitness and exercise, and this is one of the events that contribute to that effort." Another Army participant who did well in the race was IWO Lem Yew Teck (right), Officer in-Command, Maju Fitness and Conditioning Centre, who came in 28th in the Men's Veteran Category. He said, "As a fitness specialist, I would encourage all Army personnel to take part in such events, as this is part and parcel of Our Army's fitness culture."



The sky's the limit for Our Army's enthusiastic runners



2LT Tan - a beaming personification of Our Army's running culture

Cobras Exercise with RTA



Soldiers from SAF and RTA engaging in intense preparation for the exercise

Thailand is known as the Land of Smiles, as its visitors have always been impressed by the warm hospitality of the Thai people. In November 2006, the 3rd Infantry Division of the Royal Thai Army (RTA) found themselves on the receiving end when they were warmly received by the Cobras from 6th Singapore Division (6 Div) upon their arrival in Singapore to participate in a bilateral military exercise codenamed Exercise Kocha Singa 2006. This exercise was hosted by 2nd Singapore Infantry Brigade (2 SIB), with 1st Battalion Singapore Infantry Regiment (1 SIR) as the executive battalion. The RTA was represented by a full troop Company of 121 officers and men.

Conducted over two weeks from 6 to 18 November, the exercise offered numerous opportunities for interaction and learning between the two forces. Through group discussions, static displays, visits to units and cross training, Our Army and the RTA shared knowledge on their organisation structures, standard operating procedures, weapon systems and Fighting In Built Up Area (FIBUA) drills.

The exercise culminated in a four-day Full Troop Exercise (FTX) that included a dawn attack on a Built Up Area, and this was followed by a quick attack on conventional objectives. Both armies collaborated closely in the planning and execution of the exercise, building trust and understanding along the way. The exercise ended on a high note with Major General Veevalit Jornsomrit, Commanding General of the RTA's 3rd Infantry Division and BG Ravinder Singh, Commander 6 Div officiating the closing ceremony.



Running together for physical fitness and friendship

Indeed, Exercise Kocha Singa 06 has raised the level of cooperation and understanding between the two armies as they were able to better appreciate each other's organisation and capabilities. Equally satisfying was the sense of camaraderie between visitors and hosts. The Thai soldiers spoke warmly of the hospitality shown to them by the commanders and men of 2 SIB and 1 SIR. LTC Jimmy Toh, Commanding Officer 1 SIR said, "We certainly look forward to the next exercise in Thailand. The continued conduct of this exercise will only enhance the good rapport and interaction the SAF has developed with the RTA throughout the years."

Story contributed by 2 SIB

Exercise Wallaby 2006

Advancing Our Network-Centric 3rd Generation Army



Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean (second from left) and the Australian Minister for Defence Dr Brendan Nelson (left), being briefed on the live-firing demonstration when they visited the exercise



Our armoured forces are able to engage in realistic manoeuvres in the wide expanse of Shoalwater Bay Training Area



The live-firing exercises included SPIKE anti-tank missiles

Exercise Wallaby 06 was held during November and December at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SBTA) in Queensland, Australia. It featured an unprecedented number of sensors and shooters, including air and land platforms. Deployed for the first time in an overseas exercise, the new Distributed Division Command Post (CP) and the Battlefield Management System (BMS) connected the various elements

to network and fight as one integrated force. Our soldiers from the 3rd Singapore Division (3 Div) were in the field for three weeks to conduct three major live-firings that infused the concept of networking between different air and land platforms, as well as with our soldiers on the ground. Such intense and realistic training, as Commander 3 Div BG Tan Yih San puts it, “brings the fighting capabilities of the SAF to

the next level.” As part of Exercise Wallaby 06, a heliborne exercise was also conducted by the Guards. This exercise has enhanced the operational readiness of the Guards as they were able to train in a realistic environment and experiment with key concepts in heliborne operations. (see story on back page)

The Brain of Our Force

The new Distributed Division CP is the cornerstone of the networked fighting force. The CP is divided into specialised clusters organised by their core functions. These are the Division HQ, Sensor-Shooter, and Force Projection and Sustainment. These well-equipped and mobile containerised clusters are widely dispersed to make it harder for enemy forces to detect them.

Wireless links connect these clusters with their units as if they are one physical entity. No longer are commands and reports relayed through the traditional signal sets as these take a longer time and may also result in inaccurate reporting. Instead, commanders now speak directly to every unit and platform via the ICONAS (Intelligent Connect Anywhere System), a wireless phone and text messaging network system.

As LTC Mervyn Cheah, Head of SAF Centre for Military Experimentation, explained, “A major improvement is in silent communication. With the messaging chat system, communication can be mainly via keyboards, efficient and very silent. The old way was to gather everyone and have regular updates, which was time-consuming. Now, we can draw in the chat, send files over the network and be a lot less noisy.”



The Distributed Command Post is well-equipped and designed for efficient processing of large volumes of critical information

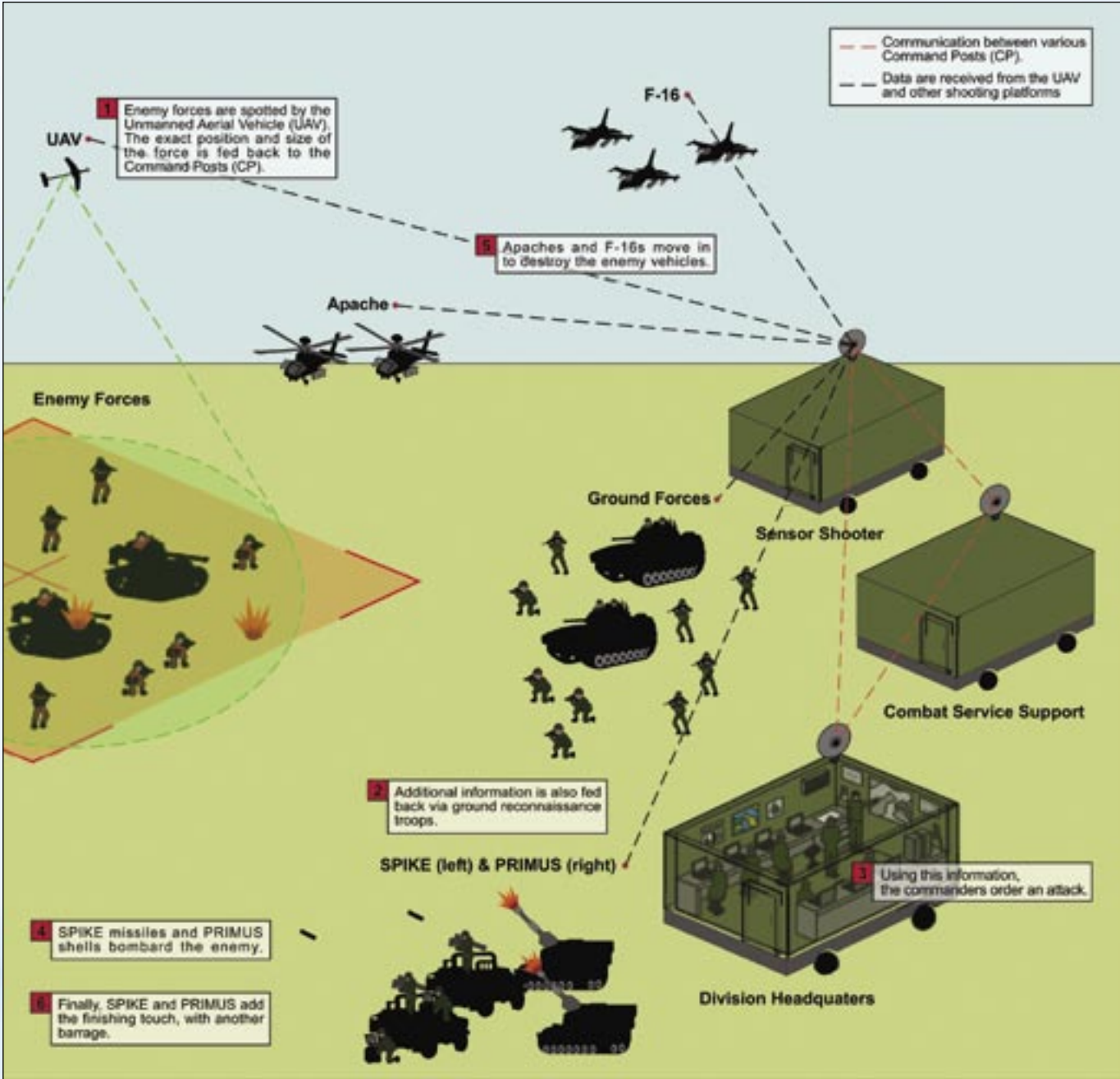
The new distributed CP is more difficult for the enemy to detect due to its increased mobility and smaller presence. LTC Cheah said, “The traditional command post involved many three-tonner trucks, and it could take a quite a bit of time and a large open area to set up. With our modular containers, it takes only one hour and does not require a big space to deploy.”

The new CP also boasts software that aids in the sharing of ideas and information. Systems such as Blue-force Tracking and the BMS enhance positional reports from every unit. Another, the Smart and Composeable Operational Picture Environment (SCOPE) helps users process the vast amount of incoming information. It does so by allowing users to choose how they want the data to be displayed and how they want to be alerted on events and anomalies. LTC Cheah illustrated, “For example, to prevent friendly fire casualties, you can draw a box on the map and if any friendly force enters it, the system will sound an alert for everyone to take note of the danger.”

The Sensor-Shooter Hub

The part of the Division CP that coordinates the firing is the Sensor-Shooter Hub, where live feeds from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and the various shooting platforms are received. Using the UAVs, the hub is able to accurately locate the targets and observe the target areas during the firing.

Here, Army and Air Force personnel work closely together to coordinate and direct the fire-power of air and land platforms. CPT (NS) Eric Yip, a Target Planning Officer from the Air Force said, “The improved work environment here at the



Command Post has allowed us to work very closely with the various units. It lets us all see the targets better and make fast-



The Apache Attack Helicopter firing its missiles at enemy positions

er and better decisions. The Army’s close integration with the Air Force during firings is a great step towards a fast-paced Third Generation force. My defining moment of the exercise was seeing how when fire support was requested, the targets were hit very fast, on time and on target. These were the most satisfying moments.”

More Effective Combat Service Support

In the Distributed CP, the Force Projection and Sustainment Cluster manages transport, supply, maintenance, medical, human resource, mobility and counter-mobility requirements for operations. Within the cluster, these elements work closely

to move the main fighting force and also provide them with responsive Combat Service Support (CSS). This reflects the new understanding that CSS must not only be planned as part of the overall mission, but also be executed as an integral part of the operation. Exercise Wallaby 06 is the first exercise that has fully integrated CSS into its operations, and the results speak for its effectiveness.

LTC Low Koon Huat, Head Force Projection and Sustainment Cluster, was delighted with the new set-up. He said, “We went into this clustering concept because we wanted people with common objectives to be able to interact and collaborate efficiently and quickly. During the exercise, one Main Supply Route was blocked. The CSS people just walked over to the Engineers and discussed a solution. Previously we had to travel pretty far. With this new cluster concept, it’s now a matter of minutes.”

NSmen Delighted with BMS

During the exercise, 427th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (427 SAR), an NS unit, trained with the BMS and found the system highly effective. CPL (NS) Jeffrey Ong commented, “We find it very user-friendly. Anyone who can use a computer will be able to use it. In the past, positional and situational updates were not so efficient. When we were doing our night movements with hardcopy maps, we sometimes misjudged our position. But the BMS, with its Global Positioning System, has eliminated such mistakes. This is particularly important for night missions as you don’t want to get lost and not be able to achieve your objective.”

Combating CBRE Threats



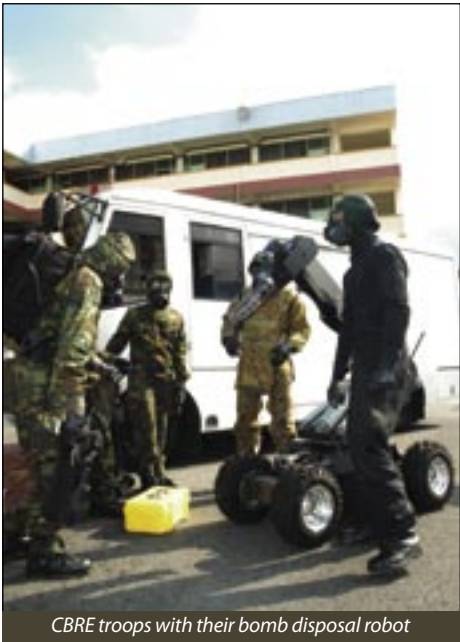
Concerns over Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Explosives (CBRE) threats were brought to the fore at the first ever International CBRE Operations Conference (ICOC), held in conjunction with the 5th Singapore International Symposium on Protection Against Toxic Substances (SISPAT) at the Raffles City Convention Centre from 27 November to 1 December 2006. This was the first time that military and civilian CBRE professionals were brought together with the aim of combining their operational and technical expertise to combat CBRE threats.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Joint SISPAT-ICOC on 27 November 2006, Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, praised this operational-technical (ops-tech) integration. He said, “I was pleased to learn that for the first time, the conference organisers have brought together both scientists as well as civil and military personnel from operational agencies. Both communities play key roles in responding to and overcoming CBRE threats. This ops-tech integration is well expressed by the joint organisation of the 5th SISPAT and 1st ICOC, and underscores the need for advances in science and technology to remain relevant in addressing emerging threats.”



are increasingly sophisticated and destructive.” Other speakers at the ICOC outlined the emerging CBRE threats posed by terrorist groups employing unconventional weapons.

To combat the CBRE threats, Singapore actively engages in a range of multi-lateral and bi-lateral cooperative arrangements. This includes the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) interdiction exercise, Pacific Protector 2006, and the recently concluded Exercise Lion Bridge between the Australian Defence Force Incident Response Regiment (ADF IRR) and 39th Battalion, Singapore Combat Engineers (39 SCE), a component of our CBRE Defence Group. Held at Seletar Camp on 23 November 2006, Exercise Lion Bridge is the third in a series of joint CBRE exercises between Australia and Singapore since 2004. In this exercise, there was significant progress in the way that the two forces operated together. In the past, the two forces operated unilaterally. However, the latest Exercise Lion Bridge saw joint reconnaissance and planning by the respective commanders, and the co-sharing of resources such as the personal decontamination points used to ensure that the troops are free of chemical traces.



The close interoperability between the ADF IRR and CBRE Defence Group troops was evident in a joint capability demonstration held at Seletar Camp on the 29 November 2006. Held for about 450 ICOC-SISPAT delegates, the demonstration showcased ADF and SAF forces being activated to combat CBRE threats in a fictitious country, GOLDLAND. The demonstration challenged the ADF IRR and SAF CBRE troopers to identify and neutralise various chemical and biological agents. They also used bomb disposal robots to successfully defuse a mock Improvised Explosive Device (IED), military parlance for a bomb.



Commanding Officer 39 SCE, LTC Jason Tan (right), hailed their close ties with the Australians. He said, “This demonstration reflects our close cooperation with the IRR, in terms of coming together to handle CBRE incidents. In the effort to combat such threats, it’s important for us to continually engage each other and have an exchange of ideas.”

2nd TNI-AD/ SAF Personnel Exchange Program



(the School of Engineering) and Yonzikon 13 (13th Construction Engineer Battalion). Such was the generous hospitality that the Indonesian soldiers even invited them to visit their homes and meet their family members.

There were numerous professional discussions on the tactics, techniques and capabilities of the engineers in both armies. Their new-found friends from the TNI-AD also shared some of their operational experiences. Before the SAF team left Indonesia, they paid a courtesy call to the Director of Engineers, Brigadier General Kadaryanto, with an exchange of plaques and interacted with the senior commanders.



It was a wonderful and enriching experience for the four SAF personnel as they experienced a different army culture and life with the TNI-AD soldiers. They have certainly

forged closer relations with TNI-AD during their 26 days in Indonesia. As LTA Look put it, “The TNI-AD soldiers have displayed a sense of loyalty, commitment, fighting spirit and discipline in whatever they do. We’ve also learnt that basic soldiering skills and regimentation in the army are still pertinent to the defence of a country. Being around their warm hospitality has brought our bonds to a greater heights.”

Quick Reaction Saves NSman’s Life



In September 2006, SSG Kelvin Lee, the Company Sergeant Major of Bedok Fitness and Conditioning Centre, was in his office when he saw a NSman faint. The NSman, who had just completed his remedial training (RT), collapsed and started foaming at the mouth.

CPT(DR) Goh Chin Hong, the duty Medical Officer (MO) that evening, quickly attended to the NSman. He found the serviceman unconscious, with a weak pulse and shallow breath. CPT(DR) Goh administered oxygen and evacuated him to the medical centre.

Upon arrival at the medical centre, the patient stopped breathing and registered no pulse. Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was carried out immediately. Using a manual defibrillator, the MO restored the patient’s heart to its normal rhythm. The NSman was then sent to Changi General Hospital, where he was found to have blocked arteries in his heart. After a period of hospitalisation, the patient made a full recovery. The quick reaction by SSG Lee and CPT (DR) Goh, and the use of a defibrillator, made all the difference to the NSman’s life.

Many studies have shown the effectiveness of early defibrillation in heart attacks. As such, our Army has acquired a new generation of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED), which analyse the heart’s rhythm and deliver

electric shocks to the heart. Being reliable devices that are simple to operate, the AEDs enable our MOs and medics to administer lifesaving intervention to victims of cardiac arrest. Medics providing medical cover for selected training activities are now equipped with AEDs as part of our Army’s efforts to be better prepared for medical emergencies during training.

SSG Lee (right) said, “We were able to save his life because of our quick reaction. We had practised this so many times, that there was no hiccup from resuscitation to evacuation. We later learnt from the doctors at the hospital that if there had been any delay, he would have lost his life. Kudos to the doctor and medic, who displayed calm and professionalism and executed their tasks perfectly.”



Top in US Adjutant-General Course



(the equivalent of our Battle Procedure) culminating in a combined arms planning exercise. Other subjects included dealing with Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosive (CBRE) threats and land navigation. MAJ Low underwent a gruelling 10-day full-troop exercise with temperatures reaching as low as five degrees Celsius on some nights.

For many of us, a chance to study overseas would be a dream come true. One of our servicemen has not only fulfilled this dream but also gone on to top his cohort of students from all over the world. What MAJ Low Yeng Ho Terence, formerly from the 4th Singapore Armoured Brigade (4 SAB), has achieved exemplifies the professionalism of our soldiers and has done Singapore proud. He participated in the 2006 US Army Adjutant-General Career Course at the Soldier Support Institute at Fort Jackson in South Carolina, emerging as the Distinguished Honour Graduate, a first for international students. In addition to receiving the Major General Winfield Scott Medal as the Honour Graduate, he was also awarded the Diplomatic Medal and made the Commandant’s List.

The second part of the course focused on manpower operations specific to the US Army, both in garrison and deployed status. These included Casualty Operations, Personnel Accounting and Strength Reporting. Written assignments and examinations were conducted for each, with planning and wargame exercises executed to reinforce understanding and application.

The course included a visit to CNN’s global headquarters in Atlanta, during which MAJ Low was able to gain a greater understanding of the influential role of today’s media. He said, “Technology has made news travel faster and more easily and this has great impact on military operations. As such, it is important that we have a system to moderate and manage the powerful role of the media.”

As part of professional development in the course, MAJ Low studied the American Civil War, visiting Fort Sumter where its first shots

Passing On The Baton		
APPOINTMENT	INCOMING	OUTGOING
COMD 3 SIB	LTC LAWRENCE TEH YEW KIAT	COL MARK TAN MING YIAK
CO 3 SIR	MAJ TAN WEE KIAN	LTC CHANG SAN HUA
CO 441 SAR	LTC TAN MING CHONG JAMES	LTC(NS) LAM TOA-YEE EUGENE
BN RSM 3 GDS	TWO HENG CHAI BOON EDDIE	TWO LEONG TENG KEE

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Quiz Of The Month - DEC / JAN

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

Q: Name the clusters that make up the Distributed Command Post.

Closing Date : 12 Feb 2007

Answer: Rank / Name:
Unit: E-mail:
NRIC: Contact No.:

- 1. This contest is open to all Army personnel except the executive staff of Army News Section.
- 2. Each person is allowed one entry.
- 3. 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.

NOV / DEC Quiz

Q: Name the equipment that will replace the SBO webbing. A: Load Bearing Vest (LBV).

NOV / DEC Winners

- 1) LTA POONG MING BEN
- 2) 3SG LEE WEI LIANG
- NRIC: SXXXX650F
- NRIC: SXXXX729C

Guards Take Training To Greater Heights

A Guards heliborne exercise was conducted in Exercise Wallaby 06 in the sprawling Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA) in Queensland Australia. The exercise aimed to enhance the operational readiness of the Guards, by enabling them to train in a highly realistic environment and experiment with key concepts in heliborne operations.

This year's exercise was significant because of the incorporation of live firing into the heliborne missions for added training realism. There were also a substantial number of air assets involved, including the Apache Attack Helicopters, Chinook Helicopters, F-16 Fighter Aircraft and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The exercise manoeuvres included heli-insertion of troops, air-lifting of the Pegasus Light Howitzer Gun and air-dropping of supplies.

Deputy Chief Guards Officer, COL Wong Kan Foo, commented, "Holding this exercise in Shoalwater Bay Training Area, which is more than three times the size of Singapore, has really stretched our abilities in various ways. It allowed us to practice command and control over a large area and integrate the various weapons into the mission and live-firing exercises. Furthermore, our troops were exposed to highly rugged terrain and harsh weather conditions, giving them invaluable experience."



ISG Yeo Chee Kiong (left), a Light Strike Vehicle commander, shared his experience. He said, "Although it was very taxing, everyone had an enjoyable time here. The highlight of this training was definitely the live-firing phase where we had to coordinate everything closely so that the Attack Helicopters, artillery and SPIKE missiles came together as one integrated strike force."



The performance by our NSmen was also highly commendable. LTC (NS) Francisco John Celio (left), feels strongly that our NSmen have progressed a lot over the years and they have performed very well in this exercise. He said, "In the first few days they may not have been used to each other, but as the exercise progressed, the bonding grew stronger. Although age has taken its toll

on their bodies over the years, they still pressed on and got their mission done. It was very impressive."

Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek, visited the exercise. After being briefed on the exercise progress, he visited the troops at the various deployment sites in SWBTA. In his interaction with the men, COA spoke to them about their training and equipment to better understand their concerns or problems that they may have faced. He expressed satisfaction with the exercise progress and encouraged the men to keep up their good performance.



Lieutenant General Leahy getting ready to experience our Light Strike Vehicle

The Australian Defence Force Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy also visited our troops. Accompanied by COA, Lieutenant General Leahy was shown the capabilities of our various systems and equipment. The highlight was a live-firing demonstration of an integrated strike involving Attack Helicopters, F-16 Aircraft, Pegasus Light Howitzers and SPIKE missiles. Later, Lieutenant General Leahy commented, "I am impressed by the coordination between the Air Force and the Army. The networking that I saw was first-rate, with the sensors and soldiers on the ground able to report back to the chain of command and to call in that very impressive firepower. What was impressive was not just the speed of reaction but also the way in which the soldiers reacted. Very impressive and world-class."



The Longest Night

A Defining Moment for Guardsmen in Wallaby

On a dark and very cold November night, soldiers from 661th Battalion Guards trekked and bashed through the unfamiliar Australian terrain in the wilderness of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area. While trekking long distances in full battle order is not a routine occurrence for these NSmen, they gingerly pressed on. Water was however running low and for many, their water bottles were empty even before they reached the half way mark. Their thirst was so strong that some had even passed its mark. Yet through sheer determination, these soldiers covered more than 16 kilometers of the journey, and were finally on the reverse side of their mission objective. Ahead lay the final two kilometers and everyone was eager to finish off the enemy and complete the mission. Yet what these men did not foresee was a gruelling four-hour climb up and down three demanding knolls that would intimidate even the fittest soldiers.

As they climbed, they slipped and fell. Some injured their ankles while others suffered cuts and abrasions. They pressed on relentlessly but the night only seemed to get darker and longer. The climb appeared endless. The men from 'A' Coy were on the verge of giving up when it finally occurred - a break contact. Frustrated with the situation, many of these fine soldiers started to throw in the towel. The extreme fatigue and dire situation made them feel it was pointless and hopeless to take even another step forward.

In this hour of despair and darkness, Acting OC 'A' Coy LTA (NS) Jerome Yeo (right) knew he had to do something fast or he would lose the whole company. He quickly gathered and addressed them. While empathising with their frustrations and feelings, he was not about to let this momentary setback hinder the REDCON 1 company from completing their mission. He asked them if they had gone so far just to give up. He issued a challenge, offering every men in 'A' company a choice to opt out or to complete the mission. He said "If I have to take this objective alone, I will do it!" Some murmuring and discussions ensued among groups of soldiers. Then came the turning point - every single soldier stood up and braced themselves behind LTA (NS) Yeo. Mentally energised, these men went on to capture the enemy position with an impressive assault that would make even the strongest enemy quake.



Sharing his experience in the After Action Review, LTA (NS) Yeo explained, "I have known these men of 'A' Coy since their NSF days and I have never once doubted their ability and drive to fight and finish the mission." He knew that what they needed then were leaders who understood, empathised and were there for them. LTA (NS) Yeo believes these men would automatically rise up to accomplish the mission successfully.



LTA Chalvin Seah (left) from HQ Singapore Artillery, who witnessed the whole episode, described it as "a hair-raising experience." He drew a parallel with the effect that the morale-raising speeches of Sir Winston Churchill had on the British people during the darkest hours of the Second World War. As a Full-

time National Serviceman, LTA Seah was greatly inspired. Having witnessed the outstanding performance of LTA (NS) Yeo and his men, he firmly believes that every servicemen, whether regular or NSman, can lead and defend our country. LTA Seah summed it up when he said, "I was inspired to be a better leader."

A longest night it certainly was for the men of 'A' Coy 661 Guards. But it was definitely a great lesson in grit and perseverance, resulting in a magical defining moment for them.

Story contributed by HQ Guards