

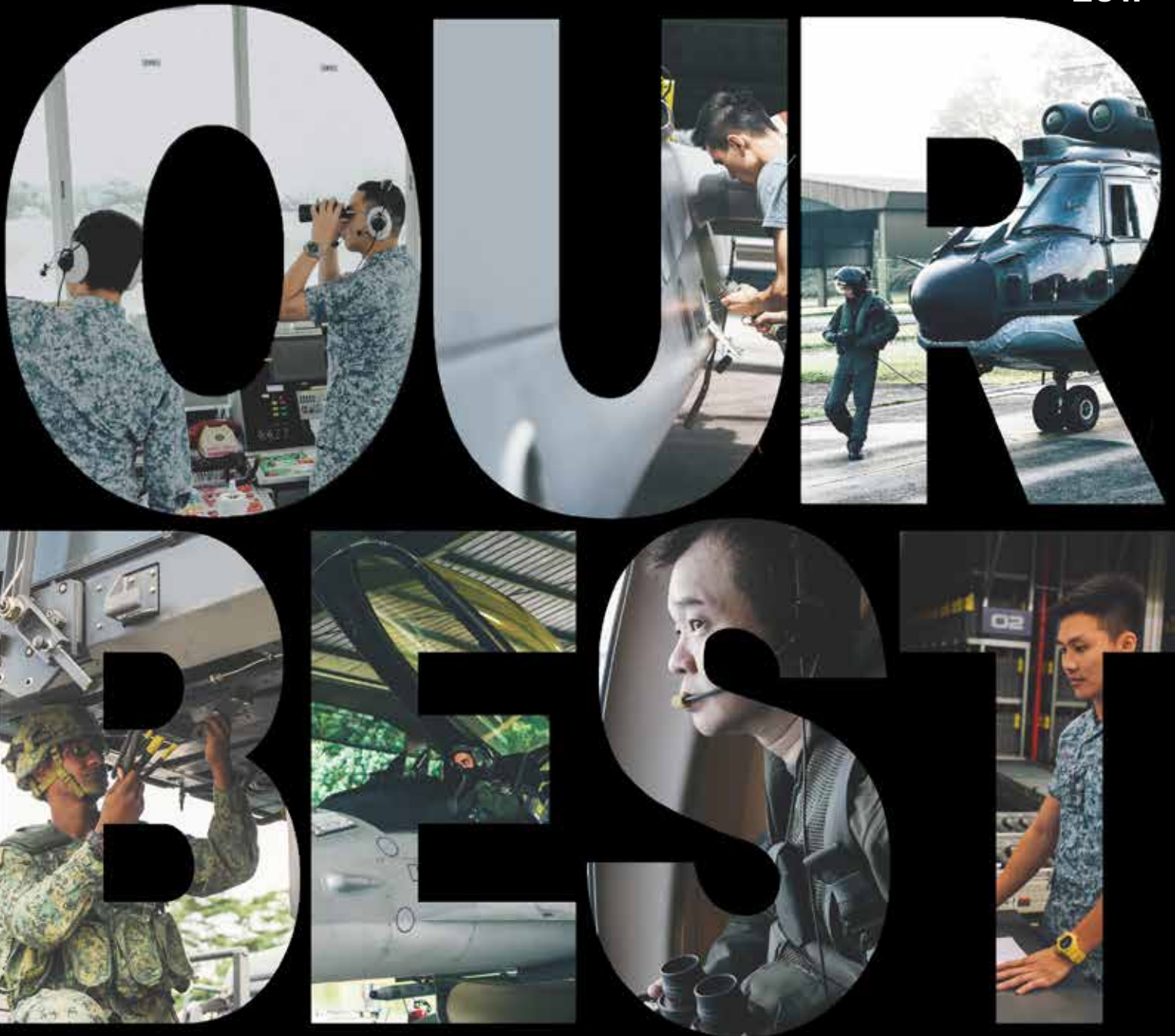
Republic of Singapore

Air Force

FULL SPECTRUM . INTEGRATED . READY

Issue No. 146
2017

146



RSAF BEST UNITS

OTHER FEATURES : SAF DAY 2017 | EX MAPLE FLAG

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ISSUE NO. 146 / 2017

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Air Force News bids a fond farewell to SLTC Kenneth Chiong and Lynette Lee, who were our Editor and Assistant Editor respectively. We would like to express our appreciation for their invaluable contributions and wish them well for their future endeavours.

Air Force News also warmly welcomes LTC Melvyn Tan and Ng Yun Wen on board the AFN Management Committee.

FEATURED WRITERS



– CPL Samuel Chua –

As an aviation enthusiast, being able to document the RSAF in action has been a dream come true to me. During my past 2 years with Air Force News, events such as Exercise Torrent and the Command Challenges, have shown me the dedication of our servicemen and women. I will always be proud to be part of this first-class Air Force and to be able to feature the people who defend our skies 24/7.



– REC Bradley Gerard –

Having just joined Air Force News for four months, I have been fortunate to witness the impeccable dedication by a diverse group of people in forming a first-class Air Force. The sacrifices made by our airmen and women in maintaining a tiptop standard of operational readiness is undeniable, and it has inspired me to adopt that sense of duty in my work. Interacting with our personnel has also provided me with greater insight into the RSAF's operations and confidence that the RSAF will always be ready to defend our skies.

BEST UNIT COMPETITION 2017

Story by Ivan Chua
Design by Qiyang Sng



**BEST
FIGHTER
SQN**

143 SQN

**BEST
HELICOP-
TER
SQN**

125 SQN



**BEST
AIR
COMBAT
SUPPORT
SQN**

121 SQN



**BEST
GROUND-
BASED AIR
DEFENCE
UNIT**

165 SQN



**BEST
CONTROL
SQN**

205 SQN



**BEST
AIR
LOGISTICS
UNIT**

AFSC



**BEST AIR
ENGI-
NEERING
UNIT**

811 SQN



*The RSAF prides itself as a First Class Air Force with World Class People who are always ready to go the extra mile in order to protect the sovereignty of Singapore's skies. These stalwart airmen and women remain on stand-by round the clock to safeguard the skies of the country we call **home**.*

This year, seven SQNs and units were specially selected for their remarkable performances that uphold the RSAF's operational edge, hence distinguishing themselves as the cream of the crop.

As a form of recognition for their achievements, the Commanding Officers (COs) of the respective SQNs received awards from Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, during the SAF Day Parade on 1 Jul 17.

From scrambling for an emergency activation to showing unwavering dedication when answering the call of duty, we'll be looking at the seven winners' operational readiness and proficiency, and will see what made them deserving of the prestigious RSAF Best Unit Award. Let us now take a look at each of the units at work through different times of the day!



▲ Then COMD Air Defence & Operations Command, BG Tan Chee Wee, with COs from the seven winning units



BEST CONTROL SQN

205
SQN

Before the slightest hint of day break, 205 SQN personnel were already out on the misty runway to scrutinise the vast area for potential hazards and faulty airfield lights. This was all part of their daily predawn airfield inspection before the start of flying operations.

Once the runway had been secured, it was over to the controllers in the Air Traffic Control Tower to monitor the readiness state of the runways and taxiways and ensure the aerodrome was ready.

205 SQN's role is to ensure the successful launch and recovery of aircraft, including emergency and time-sensitive flights, on top of the daily air traffic movement in Tengah. This involves the planning and execution of aircraft taxiing, taking off and landing within the Aerodrome Traffic Zone, and managing ground movement within the Aircraft Manoeuvring Area.



▲ 205 SQN personnel performing runway checks before dawn

“

Winning the Best Control Squadron for WY2016 is a testament to the commitment and professionalism of 205 SQN personnel, qualities which enabled us to manage the wide-ranging operational activities safely and efficiently, in contribution to the overall RSAF mission.”

— LTC Yeong Kah Wai
CO, 205 SQN



▲ LTA Ang and 2LT Lum looking out for hazards on the runway

3SG Preshaan, an Air Operations Specialist (AOS), said, “As an AOS, my job is mainly to ensure the timely coordination, consolidation and dissemination of information to and with external agencies. I am also tasked with updating the aircrew on the air field status so that they will know information crucial to ensuring safe launch and recovery.”



BEST FIGHTER SQN

143 SQN

While the majority of working adults in Singapore were only on their way to work, a wailing siren broke the silence in Tengah Air Base as the air crew from 143 SQN scrambled to their F-16C/D fighter aircraft. At the jet apron, the Flight Line Crew, having already loaded the aircraft with missiles, quickly conducted pre-flight checks with the air crew. In mere minutes, the F-16C/D fighter aircraft successively took off to the skies for their mission.

This is the first time the SQN has clinched the honour ever since it transitioned from the A-4SU Super Skyhawk to the F-16C/D fighter aircraft. 143 SQN won the Best Fighter SQN twice in 1989 and 1990. All these years, the SQN has continued to uphold their high standards of operational readiness and capability through teamwork, discipline, safety and professionalism.



▲ AFEs from 143 SQN loading the missile onto the F-16C/D Fighter Aircraft

“

I think this is something that we imbue in our Phoenix SQN personnel, that no matter how difficult the tasks are, we'll always have the courage, tenacity and resilience to overcome them.”

— LTC Ong Teck Koon
(Then) CO, 143 SQN



▲ CPT Ravinpal Singh, a Fighter Weapons Instructor from 143 SQN doing his pre-flight checks

3SG Fang Wei Jie, an Air Force Engineer (AFE) from 143 SQN explained that both the culture and people are the essence to clinching the Best Unit Award. “143 SQN personnel maintain the utmost standards in doing our jobs due to strong team spirit that we’ve forged, to help us achieve mission success,” he said.

ME1-2 Saravannan echoed similar views. “The people that we have in the SQN are very dedicated and we are bonded with our team effort. And the culture that we have built - we don’t leave any man behind, and together with our motto - “We Dare”, we push each other together and strive for the best.”



BEST GROUND-BASED AIR DEFENCE UNIT

**165
SQN**

“

The success is a testament of the discipline and hard work of every single Regular, NSF, and NSman of the unit, who devoted themselves to the focus areas. But we also recognise that we must continue to work hard at these areas so that we can do our job properly and proudly in defending Singapore's skies.”

— LTC Lim Yu Sing
CO, 165 SQN

3SG Sakthivel, an Air Defence Weapons Specialist (ADWS) from 165 SQN, attributed their success to the personnel's dedication toward defending our skies. He shared, “Our people actually go above and beyond what is expected of them in their line of duty. We also have this sharing system where the commanders and men share what we've learnt so that we do not repeat the same mistakes.”



▲ 3SG Kathivel performing checks on the SPYDER System

Under the blazing heat of the afternoon sun, a team of air defenders from 165 SQN kept their heads on a swivel for aerial intruders with their Surface-to-Air PYthon 5 and DERby (SPYDER) Ground-Based Air Defence (GBAD) system. Rain or shine, they stood ready to take down any hostiles that came within sight.

Living up to their motto of “Pride in Protection”, 165 SQN was recognised for their excellence in maintaining peacetime air defence operations. The SQN upholds its operational capability and readiness by honing its skills through tough training and emphasising the importance of teamwork.



▲ 165 SQN personnel performing the loading drill of the SPYDER missiles



BEST HELICOPTER SQN

125 SQN

Having just finished their lunch break, the aircrew from 125 SQN had no time to waste as they were activated for another mission. The Special Operations Task Force (SOTF) had requested for support in their counter-terrorism efforts, and not a moment was wasted as the aircrew geared up and immediately flew to their destination to pick up the SOTF.

As soon as the SOTF boarded the Super Puma helicopter, the pilots immediately lifted the helicopter off the ground, performing sharp manoeuvres as they evaded attacks from the enemy forces. Upon arriving at the insertion point, the pilots expertly controlled the Super Puma helicopter to hover above the building as the SOTF were assisted by the Air Crew Specialist to rappel down the building below them and take out the enemy forces.

For constantly upholding high standards in its operational capability and readiness, 125 SQN was recognised for its efforts and declared the Best Helicopter SQN this year. Apart from supporting Counter Terrorism operations, 125 SQN is also tasked for Search and Rescue (SAR) missions.

“

I think the people are the core. We have a very cohesive team, very committed, and they display excellent team work. Their drive to continuously want to achieve high standards is the main key in putting us in where we are today.”

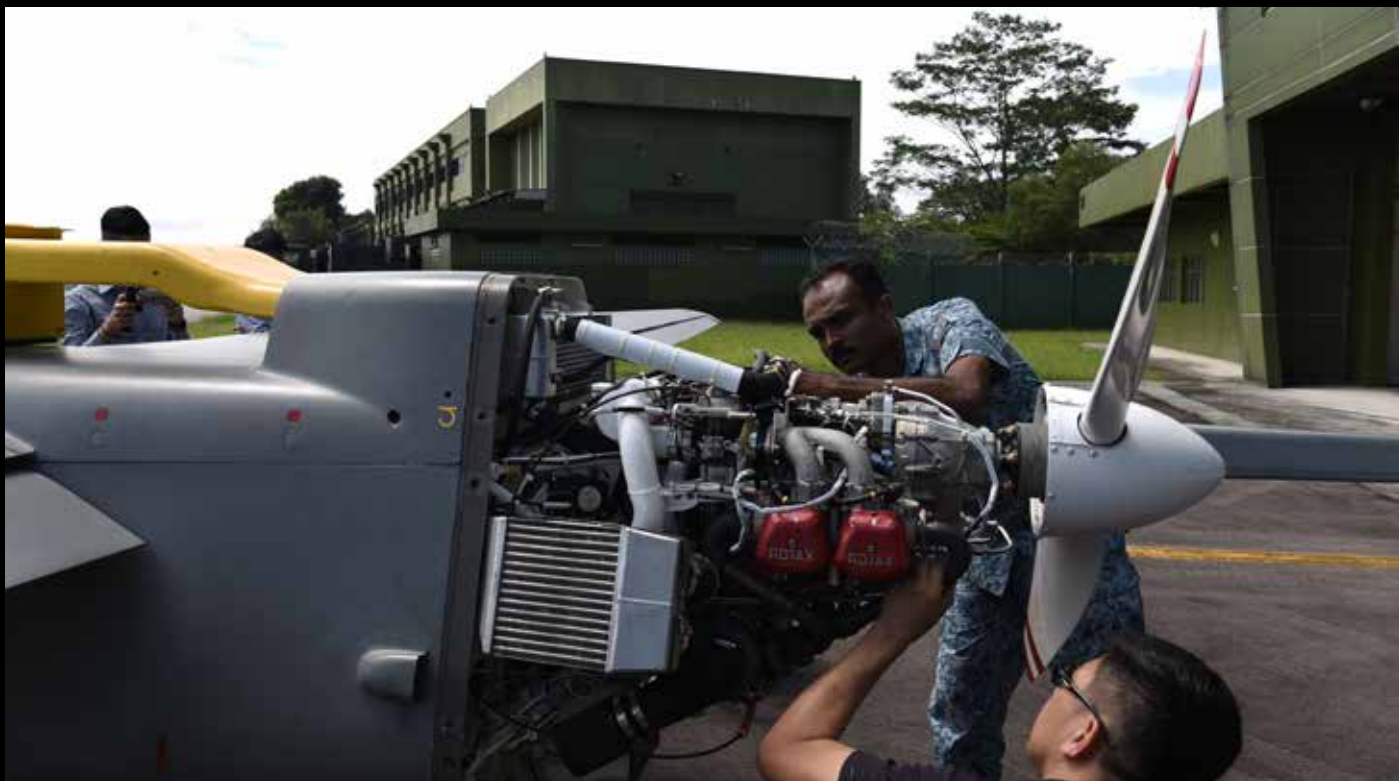
— LTC Christine Sim
CO, 125 SQN



▲ 2WO Goh making sure the SOTF are properly strapped in



▲ CPT Azlan getting ready for take-off



BEST AIR ENGINEERING UNIT

**811
SQN**

While most people were wrapping up their job tasks for the day, personnel from 811 SQN were meticulously scanning the exterior of the Heron 1 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for damages while refuelling it simultaneously. This was done to ensure that everything was in order and that the Heron 1 UAV could take off swiftly. Even though the Heron 1 UAV is an autonomous platform, the Air Force Engineers (AFEs) work tirelessly behind the scenes to sustain the Heron 1 UAV so that operations may carry on smoothly.



▲ AFEs from 811 SQN analysing the data obtained after carrying out a test on the UAV engine

The team of dedicated engineers from 811 SQN is also responsible for conducting pre-flight checks on the Heron 1 UAV before every take-off. The SQN ensures that their personnel perform their best at all times by constantly reinforcing their sense of purpose, and encouraging them to always strive for excellence.

811 SQN maintains the Heron 1 UAV's engines, resolves defects and ensures the continued airworthiness of the platform to

“

We have been working hard to build up engineering and maintenance capabilities. Therefore, it is the commitment and hard work put in by my people that made it possible for the SQN to clinch the best air engineering unit award.”

— ME6 Oo Khong Ming
CO, 811 SQN



▲ ME3 Ramanathan checking the engine stats to ensure operational readiness

keep them flying safely. Furthermore, 811 SQN pursues system improvements to enhance the capability of our assets to better enable UAV operations.

ME2 Terry Wong, an assistant engineer from 811 SQN, shared his thoughts about his SQN clinching the award, “I believe that it's not through individual efforts, but rather through the combined efforts and the hard work that was put in by our people, that made it possible for us to clinch this best air engineering unit award. Everyone has put in hard work in our own fields such that we were able to win this award.”



BEST AIR COMBAT SUPPORT SQN

121 SQN

Night had fallen, visibility was low, but this did not hinder 121 SQN personnel from continuing their mission as they flew high over the ocean during a Search-and-Locate (SAL) mission. A Tactical Aircraft Coordination Officer (TACCO) and his team of Sensor Operators kept their eyes glued to their radar screens for survivors. Upon determining their location, an Air Crew Specialist (ACS) dropped smoke markers through the aircraft's universal chute to aid the other rescue assets in rescuing the survivors.

For their proficiency in conducting operations like this, 121 SQN was named the Best Air Combat Support SQN for the seventh time. Apart from SAL missions, 121 SQN is also responsible for maritime air surveillance and airlift operations.



▲ 121 SQN personnel operating the mission systems of the Fokker-50 MPA

“

Every former CO and leadership team has built and strengthened a strong foundation of excellence. It would not have been possible without the contributions of each and every member of the SQN. It was through everyone's efforts that 121 SQN managed to win the best air combat support SQN again.”

— LTC Jerome Tay
CO, 121 SQN

MSG Elias, an ACS from 121 SQN, attributed the SQN's success to the team effort of its personnel. He said, *“This is not an individual effort. It's a team effort. It's the men and women of 121 SQN who have put in the late hours, their best, and their 100% into making every mission safe and successful. That's what got us to achieve this award.”*



▲ A flare released by the aircraft to illuminate the night environment



BEST AIR LOGISTICS UNIT

AIR FORCE SUPPLY CENTRE

Late in the night, most people would have been asleep to recharge themselves for the next day's activities. However, the airmen and women from Air Force Supply Centre (AFSC) were still working tirelessly to provide logistical support for the RSAF's operations the following day.

Dedicated to their mission of generating and sustaining air power, AFSC has gone above and beyond their line of duty, allowing them to win this year's Best Air Logistics Unit Award. Providing global support 24/7 to local bases, operational sites as well as permanent overseas detachments and short-term overseas detachments, AFSC's land estate spans across nearly 11 soccer fields.



▲ ME2 Ang checking the system for the placement of the logistical items

“

Three key things which I thought contributed to our success: firstly, the trust, secondly the confidence, and lastly, team excellence and valuing every individual in knowing that all of them has an important and unique role to play in contributing to our overall mission and success.”

— ME6 Tong Kee Leong
COMD AFSC



▲ 3SG Chua performing inventory checks with ST Aerospace Supplies warehouse personnel

ME3 Subash S/O Neelakantan, a Supply Centre Air Force Engineer, shared, “We have implemented an initiative to pre-pack some common spares for urgent deployment. Being able to deploy this kit quickly allows us to achieve mission success. For example, during the MH-370 search-and-locate mission, being able to do this proved that we could deliver spares on time.”

SAF Day 2017

Story by **Samuel Chua**
Design by **Qiyang Sng**



A parade was held at SAFTI Military Institute on 1 Jul 17 to celebrate SAF Day, an annual tradition of the SAF since 1969. The parade was officiated by President Tony Tan Keng Yam, and was also attended by Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen; Minister in Prime Minister's Office, Mr Chan Chun Sing; Second Minister for Defence, Mr Ong Ye Kung; Senior Minister of State for Defence, Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman; Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr Chan Yeng Kit; CDF, LG Perry Lim, and the Service Chiefs. Also present at the parade were more than 3000 SAF Regulars, Operationally Ready National Servicemen and Full-Time National Servicemen.



▲ CDF leading the SAF pledge

“ During the parade, I have witnessed the high standards and discipline displayed by the personnel from the various Services and truly respected them for their professionalism.”

— **MAJ Tan Jian Wen**
AWO(C3)
SAF Day 17 Parade 2IC

Three key messages from SAF Day 2017

50 years of National Service.

This year's SAF Day had an increased significance as we commemorate 50 years of National Service (NS). With the first batch of 9000 National Servicemen conscripted in 1967, more than a million sons of Singapore have since fulfilled their NS duties faithfully and diligently. The commitment and dedicated support of these national servicemen have contributed to the strong, professional and capable SAF we see today.

Defending against terrorism.

Terror attacks have occurred all over the world. Closer to home, the ongoing situation in Philippines has shown us that terrorism is an increasing global threat not to be underestimated. To guard against extremist terrorists who would do us harm, here and abroad, the SAF must continue to stay alert and vigilant so that our citizens have the confidence to continue life as normal.

Preparing for the future.

While the SAF's manpower pool is predicted to shrink by almost a third by 2030, we are in the midst of preparing for this significant change by harnessing technology to maintain our capabilities. A strong SAF is the most effective deterrence against potential aggressors. However, each national servicemen and regular must remain committed in giving their all to the defence of our nation as the SAF can only be as strong as its individual soldiers.



▲ President Tony Tan inspecting the RSAF Guard-of-Honour

Combined Rededication Ceremony

The SAF Day Combined Rededication Ceremony (CRC) 2017 for the West Zone was held on 30 Jun 17 at the Jurong Town Corporation Summit. Minister for Trade & Industry (Trade), Mr Lim Hng Kiang, officiated the event as the Guest-of-Honour. CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, was also present at the rededication ceremony.

This year, the West Zone CRC was organised by the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry and supported by Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command. The CRC saw more than 460 Operationally Ready National Servicemen and their employers from 372 companies reaffirming their pledge to the defence of the nation.



▲ Minister for Trade & Industry (Trade), Mr Lim Hng Kiang giving his opening address



▲ Participants of the SAF Day Combined Rededication Ceremony taking the SAF Pledge

Leading the recitation of the SAF Pledge for the ceremony was LTC (NS) Derek Tan. He said, *"The SAF is an organization that cannot fail. We must always be ahead of the curve, be better and be ready."*

“
The SAF can only be as strong as its individual soldiers and each national serviceman and regular must give his and her best to protect our beloved Singapore.”

— Dr Ng Eng Hen
 Minister for Defence

EX MAPLE FLAG

Story by **Christopher Tan**
Design by **Qiyang Sng**

Almost like a scene at a busy traffic intersection, formations of four fighter aircraft from the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), United States Air Force and the RSAF took turns to taxi onto the runway for takeoff into the vast blue. With the defence of the country's sovereignty in their hands, these Pilots from the various air forces must find a way to integrate their tactics to defeat the aggressors.

Heating up the cold Canadian skies.

“

Exercise Maple Flag gives the RSAF an opportunity to strengthen our operational capabilities by training in a realistic and challenging environment. The complexity of the exercise allows our team of air and ground crew to hone our combat skills, and benchmark ourselves with other advanced air forces. We also work together with many other air forces in this exercise, and this enhances the defence relations and interoperability between our respective countries.”



— **LTC Stanley Meng
Huat Selva**
**Peace Carvin II
Detachment Commander**



▲ The RSAF's F-16C/D fighter aircraft from the Peace Carvin II detachment (PC II) on the flightline



▲ RSAF aircrew returning from flight after a wave of missions



▲ An RSAF's F-16D fighter aircraft taking off for a Large Force Employment mission with other participating air forces

Exercise Maple Flag (XMF50) is in its fiftieth iteration this year, and it is an excellent opportunity for Pilots to garner more experience in air combat, where the step-up in mission complexity allows the aircrew to hone their operational competencies. XMF50 gives Pilots the experience of flying in a virtually unrestricted airspace, where they defend objectives from enemy fire and also work with other fighter assets to strike targets and fight their way back out.

Selected senior Pilots also have the chance to be appointed as Package Commanders where they command a formation of up to 30 fighter assets. Their role is to plan tactics most effective for the specific missions to ensure mission success. 4 Wing Air Force Tactical Training Centre Officer-in-Charge, MAJ Christopher Horch, spoke about the effectiveness of RSAF's Pilots as Package Commanders during XMF50. He said, "In this exercise, hosting the RSAF up to this point has been fantastic. They bring actualism to the fight and their Pilots are very skilled. The RSAF Package Commanders have been doing an outstanding job coming up with sound tactical solutions to putting bombs on targets while defending all the assets out there."

**XMF50 IS A
MULTILATERAL EXERCISE
THAT AIMS TO PREPARE
ITS PARTICIPANTS FOR THE
RIGOURS OF OPERATIONS IN
THE MODERN AERIAL
BATTLESPACE.**

The RSAF sent 8 F-16C/D fighter aircraft and approximately 100 personnel from the Peace Carvin II Detachment in Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, United States, to participate in XMF50 from 12 to 23 Jun 2017. They included air and ground crew, who worked together to ensure the daily launch and recovery of aircraft for Large Force Employment missions to achieve mission success.

The exercise provided the opportunity for air and ground crew alike to hone their skills within a realistic, evolving and challenging operating environment, so that the participants will become an integrated and ever-ready force to defeat aggressors who violate our sovereignty. XMF50 also included an International Observer Programme which involved participants from over 19 countries.



▲ Air Force Engineers (AFE) performing the Foreign Object Debris walk in the early hours as they get ready to launch the RSAF's F-16C/D fighter aircraft for missions

“

We are always happy to welcome the Republic of Singapore Air Force in Maple Flag and in Canada, and they are doing extremely well. We work with them every day and some of the operators have actually undergone training in 4 Wing Cold Lake before."

— MAJ Sebastien Gorelov
Exercise Director



▲ AFE Weapons Load Crew (WLC) from PC II arming the F-16C/D fighter aircraft with a laser-guided bomb



▲ AFEs conducting a rapid turnaround and refuelling of the F-16C/D fighter aircraft in preparation for the next wave of missions

“

Participating in Exercise Maple Flag has definitely expanded my horizon in terms of combat skills and tactical decision making, by having the opportunity to work with other air forces across the globe who were participating in this exercise.”



— **LTA Yeo Boon How**
Weapon Systems Officer (Fighter), PC II

Maple Flag Open Day.



As part of the exercise, the RCAF held an Open Day on 17 Jun 17, where public visitors were invited to attend an exhibition of the platforms that participated in XMF50. The RSAF displayed an F-16D fighter aircraft, and our airmen and women had the opportunity to interact and engage with international and local visitors, and airmen and women from the other participating nations. Visitors both young and old, came forward to find out more about the RSAF through questions which were answered by our Pilots and AFEs at the static display.



▲ Both the RSAF's air and ground crew were kept busy engaging the throng of visitors at the RSAF's F-16D fighter aircraft static display



▲ CPT Mark Lim, a Pilot from PC II, engaging the visitors and answering the questions they had about the RSAF

Statistics for XMF 2017

- Sorties flown: 1108
- Air-to-air fuel transferred: 458,600 pounds
- Total hours flown: 1897.1
- Live munitions dropped: 76
- Inert/simulated munitions dropped: 300
- Number of simulated air-to-air kills: For the coalition, 760; for the opposition, 109

“

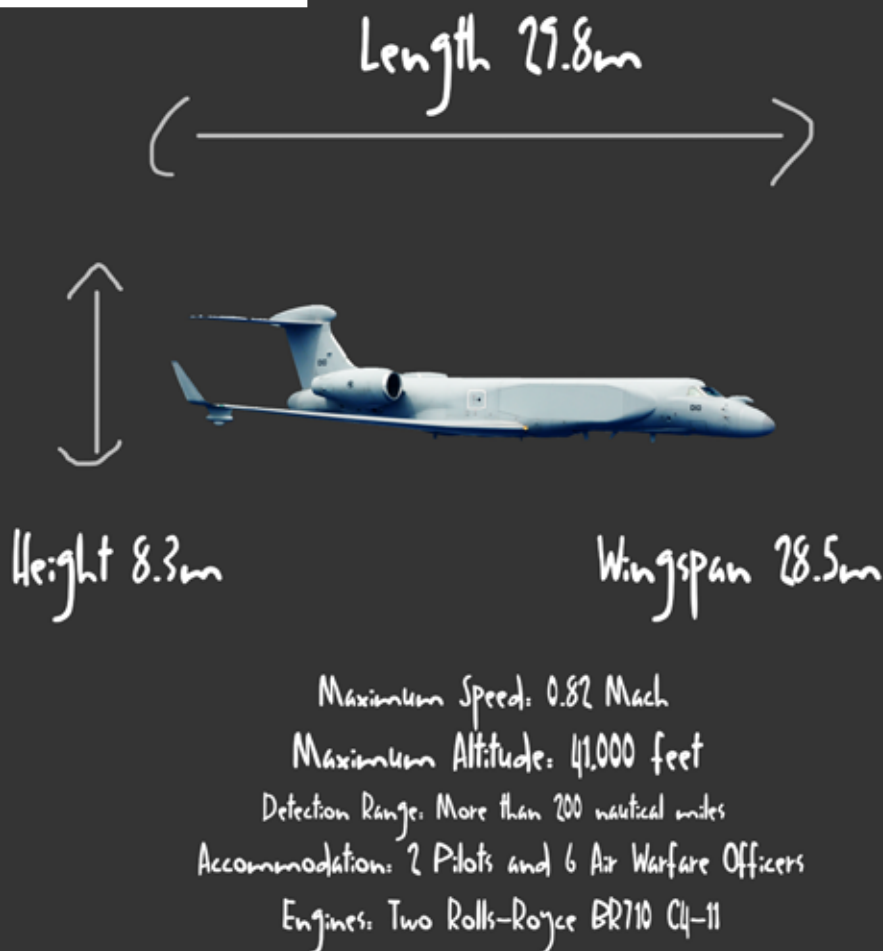
When an event like Maple Flag happens, it gives you the chance to see other people from around the world come together and collaborate. When air forces like the RSAF and RCAF come together, it will give us an opportunity to broaden our experience as an air force.”

— **Clay Piquette**
Visitor



INSIGHT: G550 AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING

Design by Qiyang Song



The RSAF acquired the Gulfstream 550 - Airborne Early Warning (AEW) aircraft in 2007, to replace the RSAF's E-2C Hawkeye AEW aircraft that had served the Air Force for over 20 years. With advanced sensors and systems accommodated in a long-range business jet platform, the G550-AEW aircraft is a quantum leap in the RSAF's ability to detect incoming threats and execute crucial decisions more swiftly, keeping our skies ever safe.

Armed with a sophisticated mission suite that includes an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar which allows it to detect, identify and track aerial targets, the G550-AEW aircraft provides improved surveillance which enhances Singapore's air defence capability. 111 SQN received its first of four G550-AEW aircraft in February 2009. The air and ground crew of 111 SQN then underwent training to operate and maintain the G550-AEW, as well as integrate the aircraft to support the SAF's round-the-clock operations, and inaugurated the G550-AEW aircraft into 111 SQN within 6 months of its arrival. The G550-AEW aircraft successfully achieved Full Operational Capability (FOC) in April 2012.

Did you know?

- 1) The G550-AEW aircraft participated in EX Cope Tiger and EX Pitch Black for the first time in 2011 and 2012 respectively.
- 2) The G550-AEW aircraft is equipped with a chaff and flare dispensing system that improves its survivability against ground and aerial threats.
- 3) The G550-AEW aircraft has much higher fuel efficiency, making it capable of 9 hours of flight-time at a maximum operating altitude of 41,000 feet, compared to its predecessor (E-2C Hawkeye), which had a maximum endurance of 6 hours and maximum altitude of 35,000 feet.
- 4) The G550-AEW is also known as a "pocket AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System)", when specifically compared to the larger airliner-sized platforms, such as the E-7A Wedgetail and Boeing E-3 Sentry. dispensing system that improves its survivability against ground and aerial threats.

Sultan of Brunei Visits Pasir Ris Camp

On 6 Jul 17, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, visited Pasir Ris Camp as part of his State Visit to Singapore, and was hosted by Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen. He was accompanied by His Royal Highness, Prince 'Abdul Malik; Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance II, Pehin Abdul Rahman Ibrahim; Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Pehin Lim Jock Seng; Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Yasmin Umar; Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Halbi Yussof; Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Hamdan Abu Bakar, and other senior Bruneian officials. Minister-in-Attendance, Mr Ng Chee Meng; Chief of Army (COA), MG Melvyn Ong; COMD Participation Command, BG Jonathan Tan; and Head Air Intelligence, COL Lim Kok Hong, were also present at the event.

6
JUL



His Majesty; His Royal Highness; Dr Ng; Mr Ng; COA; BG Tan; and COL Lim with 120 SQN personnel



His Majesty interacting with 120 SQN personnel



Counter terrorism troops rappelling from the Super Puma helicopter

His Majesty inspected a Guard-of-Honour, which was followed by a freefall demonstration by the Red Lions from the Chinook helicopter. Counter Terrorism (CT) forces also rappelled down into the Rappelling Training Facility from a Super Puma helicopter as part of the demonstration. His Majesty later viewed a static display of the Apache attack helicopter and was briefed on its capabilities by CO 120 SQN, LTC Eric Ng.



Red Lions performing a jump from the Chinook helicopter



His Majesty being briefed by CO 120 SQN, LTC Eric Ng on the capabilities of the Apache attack helicopter

RNZAF Chief's Introductory Visit to Singapore

Chief of Air Force of the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF), Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Tony Davies, conducted his introductory visit to Singapore from 14 to 18 Jun 17.

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JUN**

During his visit, AVM Davies called on Senior Minister of State, Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman; CDF, LG Perry Lim; and CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, after inspecting a Guard-of-Honour at MINDEF.

On 15 Jun 17, AVM Davies visited 149 SQN in Paya Lebar Air Base and was given a brief on the roles of Air Combat Command, and subsequently viewed a static display of the F-15SG fighter aircraft.



AVM Davies being briefed by CO 149 SQN, SLTC Goh Sim Aik on the capabilities of the F-15SG fighter aircraft



AVM Davies presenting a plaque to CAF

He later visited Sembawang Air Base, where he was briefed on the organisational structure of Participation Command (PC) and the roles of 126 SQN. He then took a familiarisation flight on board the Super Puma Helicopter with COMD PC, BG Jonathan Tan and COMD Helicopter Group, SLTC Sherman Ong.

CDF Visits 1 AELG

On 26 May 17, CDF, LG Perry Lim, visited 1 Air Engineering and Logistics Group (AELG) at Murai Camp, where he was hosted by then COMD Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Command (UC), COL Sim Peng Shin, and COMD 1 AELG, ME6 John Low. During the visit, LG Lim was given a brief on the operational capabilities of 1 AELG, as well as the achievements of the engineering and logistics community in enabling UAV operations.

**26
MAY**

LG Lim then viewed the workshop capabilities such as the engine test cell and mission system diagnostic capabilities. He also viewed a demonstration of the Heron 1 pre-flight checks.



CDF, COL Sim and ME6 Low with personnel from 1 AELG

Happenings in the RSAF



CDF being briefed on the Aerosystems and Structures Repair Capabilities

LG Lim concluded the visit by interacting with 1 AELG servicemen and women, commending them for their high operational readiness and contribution to the defence of Singapore.

27th RSAF NSmen Seminar

The 27th RSAF Operationally-Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) Seminar was held at Air Force Training Command Auditorium on 30 May 17. Held annually, the seminar aims to recognise contributions of NSmen and to update them on key developments in the RSAF.

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Guest-of-Honour, CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, officiated at the seminar and gave an opening address, where he thanked the NSmen for their unwavering support and contributions to the RSAF. During the seminar, a dialogue session was held, where MG Tan gathered feedback and answered questions from the attendees.



CAF presenting the Certificate of Appreciation to MAJ (RET) Paul Ng



CAF interacting with NSmen from the pioneer generation

The highlight of this year's seminar was the sharing session by eight pioneers and NSmen from across vocations and generations.

One of them, MAJ (NS) Jervais Choo, Dy CO 165 SQN, had this to say: "Culture building for me is one of the critical reasons why NSmen would want to come back and the extent they would want to invest in their SQN." Despite being an NSman, he continues to play an active leadership role in the SQN due to this strong commitment to NS.

MG Tan also presented awards to individuals who have showcased exemplary dedication towards Singapore's defence.

RSAF PRIDE Convention

The RSAF Productivity and Innovation in Daily Efforts (PRIDE) Convention was held on 1 Jun 17 at the Air Force Training Command auditorium, and showcased various innovative projects by the RSAF's servicemen and women. The PRIDE achievements over the past year have led to more than \$55 million worth of cost savings and avoidance.

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The theme for this year's PRIDE Convention was "Smart Innovations, Sharpened Capabilities". Guest-of-Honour, CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, officiated at the convention. He also presented a total of 170 awards to honour the RSAF personnel behind these outstanding projects and recognise the efforts of servicemen and women who have done well in the PRIDE categories -

Unit Work Improvement Teams Scheme (WITs) Management System, Unit and NS Suggestion Scheme, and the Economy Drive Committee.

One of the best WITs Projects (Safety) was the Reinforced Search and Rescue (SAR) & Heliborne Medical Evacuation (HEME) Ampoule Box by 1 MS. Drug ampoules made out of glass used to be stored in a plastic box and wrapped only in bubble wrap to prevent them from breaking. During SAR and HEME operations, the glass ampoules could potentially break, posing a huge safety hazard to the aircrew. Having to unwrap the ampoules prior to administering the drugs can also result in producing Foreign Object Debris (FOD). With the new Ampoule Box, these concerns were successfully mitigated.



ME1 Poh briefing CAF on the Reinforced Ampoule Box

"Our previous method of carrying drug ampoules in boxes and bubble wrap caused a lot of potential safety hazards. To prevent those hazards, we have created a water-and-shock proof Reinforced Ampoule Box which is colour coded and is customised to fit each ampoule. This eliminates the use of bubble wrap which would save valuable time and eradicate the risk of FOD."



– ME1 Poh Yi Juan
Combat Medic
1 MS

MINDEF Experience Programme

On 8 Jun 17, 96 students from various junior colleges and polytechnics participated in the MINDEF Experience Programme (MEP) held at Paya Lebar Air Base. The programme gave the students a better understanding of the RSAF's operations and career opportunities in the organisation.

As part of the MEP, the students took a familiarisation flight on board the RSAF's C-130 aircraft. They also viewed the F-15SG fighter aircraft scramble. The students visited multiple stations, such as the RBS-70 Simulator and the C3 Control Tower, to learn more about the various vocations. They also completed a group challenge at each station to learn more about the RSAF's operations.



CAF, senior RSAF Officers and RSAF personnel with the MEP participants

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During the programme, CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, and other senior RSAF officers interacted and shared their experiences with the students, giving them a deeper understanding of the RSAF.



CAF interacting with the students over lunch

2M Visits 150 SQN

On 21 Jun 17, Second Minister for Defence, Mr Ong Ye Kung visited 150 SQN at Cazaux Air Base, France. During the visit hosted by CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, Mr Ong received a brief on the detachment's training programme and boarded the M-346 Advanced Jet Trainer for a familiarisation ride. He also met the families of the RSAF personnel deployed there and thanked them for their strong support.

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Speaking about the RSAF's training in France, Mr Ong said, "We appreciate France's support and hospitality for our detachment, which will be celebrating its 20th anniversary here next year. The opportunity to train in France has strengthened the professionalism and capabilities of the RSAF, and reinforces the personal ties between the RSAF and their French counterparts here."

The Cazaux Air Base in France is home to RSAF's 150 SQN and its personnel, including Pilots, Air Force Engineers, trainees and support staff. Since 1998, the RSAF has conducted flying training in Cazaux; such overseas training and detachments allow the RSAF to overcome the land and airspace constraints in Singapore.



Mr Ong interacting with the personnel of 150 SQN and their families



Mr Ong with CO 150 SQN, LTC Chong Chien Fung, on board the M-346 Advanced Jet Trainer

CDF Visits TAB for OPS Day

On 27 Jun 17, CDF, LG Perry Lim, visited Tengah Air Base (TAB) in conjunction with TAB Operational-minded Professional Sense of Mission (OPS) Day, where he was hosted by COMD TAB, COL Ho Foo Sing. OPS Day is a simulation exercise in which the entire base responds to a wartime scenario and the various SQNs work together to perform their roles as part of maintaining base operations and generating air power.

During his visit, LG Lim participated in several areas of operations, namely the Mobile Air Traffic Control (MATC) Tower, Airbase Medical Station, Fuel Distribution network site and the Counter Intrusion Operation.

At the MATC Tower segment, LG Lim had the chance to experience and perform the launch and recovery of aircraft. He was also briefed by 205 SQN personnel on the layout of the MATC console and computer systems, including the mode of operations when the control tower was under threat.

LG Lim then viewed a wartime casualty rescue and treatment in the Airbase Medical Station, carried out by personnel from 705 SQN. The demonstration consisted of multiple injured soldiers who required immediate medical attention. This demonstration aimed to provide a realistic scenario of mass casualty treatment. He was also informed on how the medical team would modify their work structure in such events to accommodate large numbers of casualties.

LG Lim was then briefed on the process of repairing an underground airbase fuel distribution network by 505 SQN following a bomb blast. During an interaction session, 505 SQN personnel shared with LG Lim the rigorous training they underwent to perform such demanding tasks.

LG Lim also participated in a counter intrusion mission of the base. He was briefed on the objectives of the mission by 605 SQN, whereupon he engaged first hand in a shootout with multiple hostile intruders along with a team of ground troopers from 605 SQN.

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CDF interacting with 505 SQN after a demonstration of a pipe repair after a simulated bomb blast



CDF with TAB personnel during OPS Day



CDF being briefed on the treatment of casualties by 705 SQN and 5 AELG personnel



CDF participating in a counter intrusion mission by 605 SQN personnel

Lastly, LG Lim was brought on a heritage tour of bomb shelters and hideouts that were used during the Japanese Occupation, where he learnt about the history of TAB in World War II and the relevance of OPS Day to the airmen and women of TAB.

The visit concluded with an interaction with TAB personnel, where LG Lim thanked them for their efforts in supporting RSAF operations over the years.

CAF Visits 111 SQN

On 13 Jul 17, CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, visited 111 SQN at Tengah Air Base, where he was hosted by CO 111 SQN, LTC Chia Zhiming. MG Tan was accompanied by senior RSAF Officers.

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During the visit, MG Tan was briefed on the mission and vision of the SQN, as well as the different roles and responsibilities that 111 SQN undertakes. He visited the G550-Airborne Early Warning (AEW) Operator Training Simulator where the Air Warfare Officers conduct their simulator training, and took a familiarisation flight on board the G550-AEW.



CAF interacting with 111 SQN personnel

MG Tan concluded the visit with an interaction session with personnel from 111 SQN and thanked them for their contributions to the nation's defence.



CAF signing 111 SQN's Commander's Visit Book



CAF; COMD Transport Group, COL Zakir Hamid; and CO 111 SQN, with personnel from 111 SQN

Punggol North Racial and Religious Harmony Street Parade

On 16 Jul 17, personnel from Paya Lebar Air Base (PLAB) engaged members of the public at Punggol North in a Racial and Religious Harmony Street Parade and Family Carnival as part of the RSAF's Community Outreach Programme. Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean was the Guest-of-Honour at the event.

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These events are crucial as they enable the RSAF to communicate to the public the need to conduct local flying operations in the vicinity of the airbase and to allow them to better understand the important role that the RSAF has in the 24/7 defence of Singapore.



Personnel from PLAB interacting with the public



A member of the public at the RSAF booth

Presidential Garden Reception 2017

On 16 Jul 17, President Tony Tan Keng Yam hosted about 550 personnel from the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) to a reception at the Istana. Held since 1992, the annual reception serves to recognise the commitment of MINDEF and SAF personnel, and their valuable contributions towards the defence of Singapore.

During the reception, President Tan interacted with Full-time National Servicemen, Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen), Regulars and Defence Executive Officers. They shared their perspectives on National Service (NS) and the need for a strong defence, based on their various experiences and roles in MINDEF/SAF.

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President Tan, CDF and COMD APGC, BG Gan Siow Huang interacting with RSAF personnel

In conjunction with NS50 and its theme "From My Generation to Yours", this year's reception saw the participation of father-son pairs from the RSAF. One of these pairs were CFC Chong Yu Rong from 606 SQN, Air Power Generation Command (APGC), who was there with his father, PTE (NS) Chong Meng Chee, who previously served as an Avionics Technician at 145 SQN during his NS days in the RSAF. *"Having previously known that my father was from the Air Force, it was heartening when I received my posting, as I was able to continue my father's efforts in serving the nation through the RSAF. This could also be seen as a continuation of his legacy, which is especially meaningful as well,"* quipped CFC Chong.

Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen; Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr Chan Yeng Kit; CDF, LG Perry Lim; Permanent Secretary (Defence Development), Mr Neo Kian Hong; and Service Chiefs were also present at the reception.



President Tan and CDF interacting with MINDEF and SAF personnel



President Tan, CDF and COMD APGC with RSAF personnel



Then COMD Air Defence & Operations Command, BG Tan Chee Wee, interacting with RSAF personnel during the reception



Dr Ng, Mr Vikram Nair, CAF and COMD Air Combat Command, BG Tommy Tan sharing a light hearted moment

CSC Senior Management Programme Visit to 149 SQN

On 20 July 17, 38 Public Service Officers (PSOs) from the Civil Service College (CSC) visited 149 SQN as part of the Senior Management Programme (SMP). The SMP aimed to strengthen and reaffirm the shared ethos and values of the Singapore Public Service and strengthen a networked government perspective in policy formulation, communications, engagement and implementation.

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Hosted by CO 149 SQN, SLTC Goh Sim Aik, the PSOs were briefed by Head Operations Development Group, SLTC Aldrin Tan, on the organisational structure of the RSAF and the roles of Air Combat Command (ACC). They were also briefed by SLTC Goh on the roles and capabilities of 149 SQN. COMD ACC, BG Tommy Tan and COMDT SAFTI Military Institute, BG Chua Boon Keat, were present during the visit.

As part of the visit, the PSOs witnessed how aircrew from 149 SQN scrambled the F-15SG fighter aircraft for take-off at short notice. This gave them a better understanding of how the RSAF plays a part in the round-the-clock defence of Singapore's skies.

To conclude the visit, the PSOs had a dialogue session with CAF, MG Mervyn Tan; BG Tan and BG Chua, who answered their queries on the value of the SAF and RSAF, during peacetime and wartime operations.



SLTC Goh briefing the PSOs about the operational capabilities of the F-15SG



CAF, with senior Officers and the PSOs

02/17 CAF Quarterly Safety Forum

The 02/17 CAF Quarterly Safety Forum (CQSF) was held at Changi Airbase (West) on 21 Jul 17 to raise awareness of safety issues within the RSAF.

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Head Air Force Inspectorate, COL Philip Chionh, started the forum with a safety review, where he provided an in-depth analysis of safety issues over the past quarter.

Two case studies on recent incidents that occurred within the RSAF were used to facilitate the sharing of safety issues, which sparked a series of discussions about the organisation's safety culture. Participants of the CQSF were also invited to share their views on the case studies and safety experiences with one another.

During the forum, CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, and other Formation Commanders Conference members also shared their insights on how safety can be ensured through professionalism, discipline and vigilance.



CAF sharing his insights on safety within the RSAF



COL Chionh presenting his safety review



RSAF personnel in a case study group discussion

02/17 RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony

The 02/17 RSAF Combined Graduation Ceremony was held at the Air Force Training Command (AFTC) Auditorium on 24 May 17. During the ceremony, then COS-AS, BG Neo Hong Keat, presented certificates, vocational badges, and ceremonial swords to 101 graduates.

In his address to the graduates, BG Neo said, *"In these difficult times, when threats to our nation are constantly evolving, we must not assume that our current capabilities will be relevant in the future. You must therefore possess the innovative spirit to constantly develop new ideas that will put us in a stronger position to overcome future challenges."*

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The ceremony concluded with the symbolic mixing of the Air Force Spirits led by Dy COMD AFTC, SLTC Koi Eng Chew.



Then COS-AS presenting the Best Trainee Award to OCT Bill Lim

"Don't be afraid to fall. And if you ever do, get back up again. These were the words from my course commander and I think they speak volumes."



– 2LT (then OCT) Bill Lim
Best Trainee from the 29th Air Warfare
Officer (Ground-Based Air Defence) Course



Then COS-AS with the top graduates

31st Specialist Cadet Graduation Parade

1,200 Specialist Cadets, of which 69 were from the RSAF, graduated on 25 May 17 after 22 weeks of rigorous training. Held at Pasir Laba Camp, Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Sam Tan Chin Siong, graced the parade as the Reviewing Officer.

In his speech, Mr Tan highlighted the continued role that the Specialists play in securing Singapore's peace and security, and the need to remain vigilant. *"Let us not take the peace we enjoy today for granted. We live without fear of war or subjugation because the men and women of the SAF guard our air, land and sea 24/7. You, who will become Specialists in the SAF, will now join them in defending our home and families,"* he said.

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3SG Aravinn's parents affixing his 3SG rank on his uniform

"I feel honoured and privileged to receive the Golden Bayonet. I had faced many challenges during my course, but thanks to my peers and course commander who believed and supported me, I was able to overcome those obstacles. Through the course, I have learnt to become a more mature and responsible leader."



– 3SG Aravinn S/O Rengayah
Golden Bayonet Recipient
82nd Basic Air Defence Systems Specialist Course



3SG Aravinn receiving the Golden Bayonet from Mr Tan

9th JLC Graduation Ceremony

The 9th Joint Leadership Course (JLC) Graduation Ceremony was held at The Chevrans on 1 Jun 17.

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Chief of Army, MG Melvyn Ong, officiated at the ceremony and presented certificates and awards to 119 graduates, 36 of whom were from the RSAF. Four of the RSAF graduates were awarded the Distinguished Graduate Award.



COA interacting with the award recipients in the VIP lounge



COA presenting the Distinguished Graduate Award to ME2 Lin

“ The rigorous and demanding syllabus has developed me personally and professionally, while giving me a clearer understanding of what the organisation expects of me. ”



– ME2 Samuel Lin
Distinguished Graduate
Air Force Engineer, 127 SQN

45th Tri-Service Warfighter Course

The 45th Tri-Service Warfighter Course was conducted from 11 May 17 to 7 Jun 17 at the Air Force Officers' Advanced School, in SAFTI Military Institute. A total of 68 officers from across the Army, RSAF, RSN and DSTA graduated from the course, of which 23 were from the RSAF.

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BG Siew Kum Wong, COS-GS/COMD TRADOC, was the Guest-of-Honour at the Graduation Ceremony held on 7 Jun 17.



ME4 Ng receiving his Distinguished Graduate award from BG Siew



BG Siew with the Distinguished Graduates of the 45th TSWC

CPT Huang Davin, Pilot 145 SQN; CPT Poh Yang Ann, Staff Officer HQ ADG; ME4 Ng See Lye, Command Chief PLAB; and CPT Lee Zi Yang, AWO (C3) 202 SQN, emerged as the Distinguished Graduates from the RSAF.

“ Attending this course has widened my awareness of the SAF's capabilities and its challenges at various levels. The active sharing and discussions generated in the class with other participants from the various services have further enriched this learning journey for me. ”



– ME4 Ng See Lye
Distinguished Graduate of 45th TSWC
Command Chief PLAB

AFTC Wins Blood Mobile Organiser Merit Award

Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong, presented Air Force Training Command (AFTC) with the Blood Mobile Organiser (BMO) Merit Award during an award presentation ceremony held on 10 Jun 17 at the Singapore Sports Hub. The event coincided with World Blood Donor Day, and this was the first time an RSAF unit has received the award.

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This award bears testament to AFTC's commitment toward Corporate Social Responsibility over the last 16 years, in doing their part to sustain Singapore's blood supply for some 30,000 patients a year. AFTC attained the BMO Merit Award for successfully collecting more than 200 units of blood during the two blood donation drives in 2016, organised in camp together with the Red Cross Society.



ME6 Ho Yong Cheh representing AFTC to receive the award from the Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong



A blood donation drive at AFTC



RSAF donors participating in a blood donation drive

69 Newly Commissioned Officers Join the RSAF

On 17 Jun 17, 475 cadets across the SAF, of whom 69 were from the RSAF, were commissioned as Officers at SAFTI Military Institute. Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, was the Reviewing Officer for the parade.

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Speaking at the parade, DPM Tharman said, "As officers, you must help your men appreciate and internalise the importance of their role as national servicemen, who form the backbone of the SAF. As their role models, you must lead by example and uphold the highest standards of discipline and professionalism so that you can win their trust and respect. As their comrade-in-arms, you must care for them without bias."

The Sword-of-Honour recipient from the RSAF was 2LT Bill Lim from the 29th Air Warfare Officer [Ground-Based Air Defence (GBAD)] Course.



The newly minted Officers tossing their peak caps



2LT Lim receiving the Sword-of-Honour from DPM Tharman

" I spent a lot of time with my peers and they became like my brothers and sisters whom I shared every moment with. In the Air Force, we have something called Forging Our Tribe, and it motivates me, knowing that I have people who will support me like my second family. "



**– 2LT Bill Lim
Sword-of-Honour Recipient
29th Air Warfare Officer (GBAD) Course**

SAFSA Awards Ceremony 2017

On 4 Jul 17, the annual SAF Sports Association (SAFSA) Awards Ceremony was held at Temasek Club. The ceremony recognised the accomplishments of outstanding SAF sportsmen and women along with the contributions of coaches, technical officials and sports administrators.

During the ceremony, Guest-of-Honour, CDF and Chairman of the SAFSA Council, LG Perry Lim, as well as CAF and Chairman of the SAFSA Management Committee, MG Mervyn Tan, presented the various awards to the recipients.

Among the 11 formations that participated in the Inter-Formation Championships, Team RSAF emerged as second runner-up overall.

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ME6 Daniel Khoo receiving the 2nd runner-up Award from CDF



CAF, then COMD Divisional Air Defence Group, COL Alvin Yeo and CO 819 SQN, ME6 Daniel Khoo with the RSAF participants

“ What contributed to Team RSAF's success is the support from the commanders to the strong commitment of the sportsmen and women who took their own personal time to train. Their drive and determination to do their best for Team RSAF helped us achieve this award. **”**



– ME6 Daniel Khoo
RSAF Formation Sports Officer

13th Senior Military Experts Appointment Ceremony

The 13th Senior Military Experts (MEs) Appointment Ceremony was held on 19 Jul 17 at Temasek Club. Second Minister for Defence, Mr Ong Ye Kung, officiated the ceremony where 117 servicemen and servicewomen were appointed as Senior Military Experts, of which 62 were from the RSAF. Deputy Secretary (Technology) / Deputy Secretary (Special Projects) / Defence Cyber Chief, Mr David Koh; CAF, MG Mervyn Tan and senior SAF officers were also present at the ceremony.

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ME4 Jimmy Yu receiving the Sword-of-Honour from Mr Ong

“ I regard this prestigious sword as a hallmark of leadership and I intend to share my accomplishments to inspire future cohorts to strive for their best and realise their maximum potential. **”**



– ME4 Jimmy Yu
Air Force Engineer
Command Chief, 140 SQN

Second Minister for Defence, Mr Ong Ye Kung and CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, presented the swords and appointment certificates to the graduands.

In his speech, Mr Ong highlighted the importance of MEs in ensuring that the SAF is always operationally ready, through the deeper domain expertise that they bring to the SAF. He said, “All of you are here today because you have worked hard and demonstrated dedication and professionalism. Going forward, the SAF will entrust you with heavier responsibilities, and I am confident, all of you will rise up to the challenge and demands. With all your efforts, we will build an SAF of tomorrow that is stronger and better.”

MINDEF/SAF, RSAF and DXOs/Civilian Promotion Ceremony

MINDEF/SAF Promotion Ceremony

The SAF held its annual promotion ceremonies from 27 to 29 Jun 17 to honour and recognise the dedication and abilities of its personnel.

The MINDEF/SAF Promotion Ceremony was held at the MINDEF Auditorium on 29 Jun 17. 400 Officers, 76 Military Experts, and 44 Warrant Officers from the Army, Navy and Air Force were promoted this year. In total, 520 servicemen were promoted, of which 53 were from the RSAF.

Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen and CDF, LG Perry Lim, presented the Promotion Certificates to the promotees. Senior RSAF Officers and family members of the promotees were on hand to witness the event and to share their joy.

RSAF Promotion Ceremony

The RSAF Promotion Ceremony was held at the Air Force Training Command (AFTC) Auditorium on 27 Jun 17. 251 Officers, 75 Military Experts, 16 Warrant Officers and 23 Master Sergeants were promoted at this year's RSAF Promotion Ceremony. In total, 365 servicemen were promoted.

Guest-of-Honour, CAF, MG Mervyn Tan, officiated at the event and presented the Promotion Certificates to the promotees. Senior RSAF Officers and family members of the promotees were on hand to witness the event and to share their joy.



Dr Ng presenting the promotion certificate to MWO Kulwant Singh

“ I feel honoured that the organisation has recognised my efforts. I am deeply appreciative of any opportunities presented to me because I can use that to challenge myself and learn something new. ”



– SWO (then MWO) Kulwant Singh
Command Chief
Air Defence and Operations Command



CAF, senior RSAF Officers and the newly promoted personnel with their families

DXOs and Civilians Promotion Ceremony

On 27 Jun 17, 345 Defence Executive Officers (DXOs) and civilians across the SAF, of which 38 were from the RSAF, were promoted at the MINDEF Auditorium.

Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr Chan Yeng Kit, presented the Certificates of Promotion to personnel promoted to the ranks of DX 12 and above while Permanent Secretary (Defence Development), Mr Neo Kian Hong, presented the promotion certificates to those promoted to the ranks of DX6 to DX11.



Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr Chan Yeng Kit; CDF, LG Perry Lim; Permanent Secretary (Defence Development), Mr Neo Kian Hong; CAF, MG Mervyn Tan; COA, MG Melvyn Ong with senior SAF Officers and DXOs



CAF and COMD PC, BG Jonathan Tan interacting with promotees

“ I am delighted that my efforts are recognised and this promotion will spur me on to excel even further. I feel a sense of satisfaction and achievement, knowing that the work I do plays a part in safeguarding our country. In addition, I appreciate that the RSAF invests a lot on its people through trainings and courses for continual improvement. It inspires me to challenge myself to push the boundaries even further. ”



– DX10 (then DX9) Yeap Shi Hong
Air Engineering and Logistics Department
Staff Officer



“
The tough trainings that
I went through in the
RSAF made me a more
resilient person.”

**CPT TAN KIAN GUAN
CLIFF**

CPT Tan Kian Guan Cliff was first introduced to the field of aviation during his time in Temasek Junior College, when he joined the Singapore Youth Flying Club. What began as a Co-Curricular Activity, evolved into a career when he signed on with the RSAF in 2006. Today, he is a Chinook pilot with 127 SQN.

During his NS days, CPT Tan was posted to the SAF's Combat Engineer formation. He graduated with a Silver Bayonet award for his outstanding performance, before he eventually joined the RSAF as a pilot trainee. CPT Tan recalled that his former superiors were all very supportive of him pursuing a career with the RSAF, *"One of the enciks shared that even though the unit lost a NSF, at least the SAF gained a regular."*



After about two years of flying training in 130 SQN and 124 SQN, CPT Tan graduated as the top student in his Rotary Wing Course and was posted to 127 SQN in 2009 to operate on the Chinook helicopters.

Between 2010 and 2013, CPT Tan participated in various bilateral and multilateral exercises in the region. Recounting his experience participating in Ex Wallaby 2010, he said: *"We covered 3,300 nautical miles over six days. While it might not be a huge distance for larger fixed wing aircraft, it was quite a feat for a helicopter. I was particularly inspired by the dedication of our Pilots, Flight Engineers, Aircrew Specialists, and Air Force Engineers who came together to overcome various operational and logistical challenges to achieve mission success."*

CPT Tan took up the Local Study Award (Pilot) in Aug 2013 to pursue his undergraduate studies in the Singapore Management University. In three and a half years, he graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science (Summa Cum Laude), with a double major in Political Science, as well as Organisational Behaviour and Human Resources. Of note, CPT Tan was also the top Political Science student of his cohort. He attributed his academic excellence to the strong support from his family and his training in the RSAF. *"The tough training that I went through in the RSAF has made me a more resilient person. I have also learnt how to better manage my time as well as people in a team setting,"* he shared.

When asked about his future plans, CPT Tan shared: *"I am thankful to the RSAF for sponsoring and supporting my undergraduate studies. I look forward to contributing back to the RSAF in whatever position the organization assigns me to."*



▲ CPT Tan with his father after receiving the Silver Bayonet award



▲ CPT Tan with his wife during the RSAF Open House in 2011

MY AIR FORCE STORY

**ME3
NG MENG
THIAM**
**SENSOR OPERATOR
121 SQN**

My Air Force story started in 8 May 1995, when I was posted to 121 SQN as a Sensor Operator. Merely three years into my service, I was but a youthful sergeant stepping into new territory, flying on board the Fokker-50 Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA). As 121 SQN is the forward eye of the Navy, I realized that I had to quickly adapt to the faster pace of operations on board the MPA. However, the close-knit family spirit and strong safety culture of 121 SQN made my transition to an Enforcer (121 SQN Member) a smooth and assuring one. Along the way, I picked up many interesting Air Force terminologies and significantly widened my network within the SAF, more than I would have had in a tour within the Navy. Although my tour in 121 SQN was short, when I was posted back to the Navy in 19 Jan 97, I left as a full-fledged operator and was able to proudly wear the Mission Crew Wing on my uniform.

The second chapter of my Air Force Story began when I was given another opportunity to be posted back in 8 Jan 2003. Since then, I have progressed from being a Sensor Operator to my present appointment as Chief Instructor. As a Chief Instructor, together with my two Senior Instructors, we are tasked to train our next generation of Sensor Operators. On top of maintaining the currency and competency as Sensor Operators, we also train Tactical Aircraft Coordination Officers (TACCO) and Pilots in basic system knowledge and operational fundamentals during their conversion courses.

It was during my second tour in 121 SQN, that the SQN's strategic importance became clearer to me. We play a key role in safeguarding the sea lines of communication and provide the warships with a recognized sea situation picture. The other key role that the SQN plays is in Search-and-Locate (SAL) operations. Having been activated for numerous SAL operations, there are three memorable experiences that stand out in my Air Force Story.

My first experience was the SAL operation on 3 Jan 2007, following the crash of Adam Air Flight 574. I remember that we were on standby for the SAL mission in the morning. The next thing I knew, I was flying the SAL mission on 4 Jan 2007 over Sulawesi, Indonesia. Despite the short notice for a deployment overseas, 121 Enforcers safely flew 20 sorties in support of the Indonesian Armed Forces with their SAL effort for 14 days. This episode showed the toughness and resilience of 121 SQN crew.

My second experience was my deployment for counter-piracy operations overseas. On the midnight of 11 Jun 2011, I received a call from then Commanding Officer 121 SQN, LTC (NS) Song Chun Keet, informing me that I was activated to take over one of my colleagues who needed to return to Singapore for a family emergency. Within 48 hours, I found myself on a plane to Djibouti, the Gulf of Aden, for Operation Blue Sapphire (OBS) (Air). Joining the detachment halfway through the deployment was tough, but the training in 121 SQN made the transition easier. Being part of the team that planted our Singapore Flag in the international arena was definitely a proud moment for me.



▲ ME3 Ng (second row, third from left) with 121 SQN personnel in Djibouti during OBS (Air)

My third memorable experience was my participation in a live Harpoon missile firing exercise on 23 Jul 13, which showcased the capability of the SQN. Being part of the team that fired the Harpoon missile was something that brought my Air Force Story to the next level. I am proud to say that we are the only transport aircraft SQN in the RSAF that can shoot and destroy! Numerous training sorties were flown before the Harpoon was launched. When the Harpoon missile had successfully hit the target, I knew that all the hours of training put in had been well worth the effort. By continuing to serve as an Enforcer, and together as a SQN, we will continue to contribute to the peace and security of Singapore.



TRIBUTE TO FORMER COS-AS

**BG NEO HONG KEAT
“SMILEY”**

“

Smiley is a man of character, and has always been steadfast when called upon to make tough decisions. He is comfortable going into details, analyses situations from many angles and can always be counted upon to provide in-depth advice on complex topics. It has been my privilege to have had him as my COS-AS, and to have worked with him on many occasions throughout our careers in the RSAF.

— **MG Mervyn Tan**
Chief of Air Force



BG Neo Hong Keat was the Chief of Staff - Air Staff (COS-AS) from 31 Oct 16 to 11 Jun 17. He joined the RSAF in 1986 as a Fighter Pilot and rose through the ranks to hold various command and staff appointments, including COMD Air Power Generation Command, Head Air Operations Department (HAO), COMD Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command and CO 140 SQN.

Over the course of his career, he was conferred numerous honours and awards, including the Public Administration Medal - Silver (Military) in 2015, SAF Long Service and Good Conduct (20 Years) Medal - 30 Years Clasp in 2015, and the Long Service Award - 30 Years in 2016.

After a distinguished career in the RSAF spanning 31 years, BG Neo retired on 26 Jun 17. Air Force News bids him a fond farewell and wishes BG Neo all the best in his future endeavours.

Changes in Appointments

COMD UC COC

On 28 June 17, the command of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command (UC) was handed over from COL Sim Peng Shin to COL Lau Boon Ping at a Change-of-Command Parade held at Murai Camp. The parade was witnessed by CAF, MG Mervyn Tan.

28
JUN

Outgoing COMD UC, COL Sim, joined the RSAF in 1993, and graduated as a Pilot in 1995. During his term in the RSAF, he has held several command and staff appointments, which included DY Head Air Operations and COMD Tengah Air Base.

Incoming COMD UC, COL Lau Boon Ping, enlisted in January 1999, and attained his wings in 2006. Prior to assuming the post of COMD UC, he held various command and staff appointments, which included Deputy Director (Personnel Policy) of the Manpower Policy Department in MINDEF and also CO 126 SQN.



CAF presenting COL Sim with the Successful Command Plaque



COL Lau taking his oath as the new COMD UC



COL Sim handing over the UC Command Symbol to COL Lau

COMD FG COC

On 5 Jul 17, the command of Fighter Group (FG) was handed over from COL Linus Tan to COL Sim Peng Shin at a Change-of-Command Parade held at Tengah Air Base (TAB). The parade was witnessed by COMD Air Combat Command, BG Tommy Tan.

5
JUL

Outgoing COMD FG, COL Tan, joined the RSAF in 1993. During his term in the RSAF, he has held a range of command and staff appointments, which included Detachment COMD Peace Carvin V and Staff Officer in Air Operations Department.

Incoming COMD FG, COL Sim, joined the RSAF in 1993. Prior to assuming the post of COMD FG, he has held several command

and staff appointments, which included COMD UC and DY Head Air Operations.



COL Tan handing over the FG Command Symbol to COL Sim

COMD 5 AELG COC

On 7 Jul 17, the command of 5 Air Engineering and Logistics Group (AELG) was handed over from ME7 Ang Hang Guan to ME6 Michael Tan Kwang Liang at a Change-of-Command Parade held at Tengah Air Base. The parade was witnessed by COMD Air Power Generation Command, BG Gan Siow Huang.

7
JUL

Outgoing COMD 5 AELG, ME7 Ang, joined the RSAF in 1995 and is an Air Force Engineer by training. He had previously served as DY Head Air Engineering and Logistics, and COMD Air Logistics Group.

Incoming COMD 5 AELG, ME6 Michael Tan, joined the RSAF in 1997 and is an Air Force Engineer by training. Before assuming

his current appointment, ME6 Michael Tan has held various command and staff positions in the SAF. These include Centre Head, Air Engineering and Logistics Department, CO 815 SQN and Branch Head in Joint Plans and Training Department.



BG Gan presenting the letter of appointment to ME6 Tan

CAMO COC

On 21 Jul 17, the command of Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) was handed over from COL (Dr) Gan Wee Hoe to SLTC (Dr) Benjamin Tan at a Change-of-Command Ceremony held at the Air Force Museum. The ceremony was witnessed by CAF, MG Mervyn Tan.

**21
JUL**

Outgoing Chief Air Force Medical Officer (CAMO), COL (Dr) Gan, was commissioned in 2000 as a SAF Medical Officer. During his term in RSAF, he has held a range of command and staff appointments, which included COMD SAF Military Medicine Institute, OC Medical Flight in Paya Lebar Air Base, as well as Branch Head tours at both AFMS and HQ Medical Corps.



SLTC (Dr) Tan taking his oath as the new CAMO



CAF presenting COL (Dr) Gan with the successful Command Plaque



COL (Dr) Gan handing over the AFMS Command Symbol to SLTC (Dr) Tan

Incoming CAMO, SLTC (Dr) Tan, was commissioned in 2003 as a SAF Medical Officer and started his military career as a Staff Officer at the RSAF Aeromedical Centre (ARMC). Prior to assuming the post as CAMO, he has held several key appointments, which included Head of Crew Safety and Flight Environment Branch in ARMC and Head of General Staff of HQ AFMS.

SNEAK PEEKS

As Singapore and Indonesia marks 50 years of diplomatic ties in September, discussions have been ongoing between both Air Forces to celebrate this occasion. Can you guess what the RSAF and TNI AU has in store for us? Stay tuned to the next issue of Air Force News for more in-depth coverage!



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