



SPEECH

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Factsheet - Army Holds Open House to Celebrate 30 Years of National Service

06 Sep 1997

To commemorate 30 years of National Service, the Army has organised an Open House on a large scale for the first time from 6 to 7 Sep 97 at SAFTI Military Institute (MI). The two-day Open House is an occasion to help the public better understand the weapons, equipment and men of the Army. Gracing the occasion this afternoon was the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Dr Tony Tan.

During his visit, Dr Tan accompanied by Chief of Army, Major-General Han Eng Juan, joined other visitors on the Parade Square of SAFTI MI to view the various military equipment on display, for example, the SM1 tanks, the M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC), the FH2000 Artillery Field Gun, the Combat Engineer Tractor and the Bionix Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV). The Bionix made headlines in Mar 97 when Dr Tan announced that the Army will acquire Singapore's first locally-developed APC. This is the first time that it is being shown to the public after its roll-out yesterday, 5 Sep. Dr Tan later launched the Vehicle Launched Bridge, an engineer vehicle used for bridging. Together with the public, Dr Tan watched as 14 Commandos make their free-fall out of the Super Puma, landing triumphantly on the Parade Square. Dr Tan also saw the military dogs display their capability by nabbing a drug trafficker during a routine narcotics search demonstration, clearing obstacles and doing simple arithmetic. He also took a trip back to the past by walking through the time tunnel which traces the evolution of National Service in the last 30 years.

SAFTI MI is a National Institute and a symbol of the SAF. It is an institute established to train officers in the SAF. The institute consists of the Officer Cadet School, the SAF Advanced School and the Singapore Command and Staff College. SAFTI MI provides tri-service training, where officers from the Army, Air Force and Navy train together. Such training has enabled the SAF to achieve a more integrated defence force through the inculcation of common values and sense of purpose. It has also enabled SAFTI MI to produce a professional corps of military leaders to lead in the SAF.

Admission to the Open House is FREE. SAFTI MI is located along Upper Jurong Road

between the old SAFTI and 30 Singapore Combat Engineer, (30 SCE) at Jurong Camp, just south of the Nanyang Technological University. Arrangements have been made for free shuttle services from Boon Lay MRT/Bus Interchange and the designated parking areas at 30 SCE nearby. This service is available from 9.30 a.m. to 7.00 p.m., at the frequency of 15 minutes.

The public can also expect many other interesting and lively interactive activities. An interactive battlefield has been set up to allow the public to participate in two-sided mock battles. The Multiple-Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES), a system adopted by the SAF to enhance realism in training, will be used. Laser detectors will be attached to the participant which will sound when hit by laser beams fired from the M16 rifles, signifying that the participant has been hit. The General Purpose Machine Guns will also be made available for the public to fire blanks. For the first time, the public can ride in the BV-206 Tracked Carrier. The BV-206 Tracked Carrier is a combat service vehicle which can be used to carry ammunition, fuel, and personnel.

Popular TCS stars Fann Wong and Ann Kok will make special guest appearances at the Open House. They will perform together with the SAF Music and Drama Company. Visitors can enjoy multi-cultural as well as modern song and dance items. The public can also have the chance to personally meet members of the SAF Warriors, including Fandi Ahmad, who will be present to sign autographs and give away free Warriors souvenirs.

News Release:

- Army Open House (MINDEF_19970903001.pdf)

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