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RSAF Sends Full Advanced Jet Training Unit to France

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The Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) is deploying the full Advanced Jet Training (AJT) unit to Cazaux Air Base, France. The unit, comprising 18 A4-SU Super Skyhawk aircraft and about 200 RSAF personnel accompanied by some 140 of their dependents, will be in place by April 1999. The deployment of the unit follows the signing of the Defence Cooperation and Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) by the two Defence Ministers in October 1998.

The RSAF deployed a sub-unit detachment of 10 A4-SU Super Skyhawks to Cazaux Air Base in June 1998. The additional eight aircraft will be shipped to France's Bordeaux Port tonight. They are expected to arrive at Cazaux Air Base in a month's time.

The deployment of personnel to Cazaux is being carried out in phases beginning in January 1999. Currently, there are about 100 personnel with some 70 dependents in Cazaux.

The deployment of our full AJT unit to France marks another milestone in the excellent defence relations and military cooperation between Singapore and France. Singapore appreciates the opportunity provided by France for the RSAF to conduct its AJT training at Cazaux Air Base, especially given the lack of training space in Singapore. The good weather conditions, vast airspace, and excellent training facilities in Cazaux allow the RSAF to conduct quality flying training.

Singapore is grateful for the support that has been given by the French Ministry of Defence, the French Armed Forces and the French Air Force to the RSAF in the setting up and running of its AJT unit in Cazaux.

National Archives of Singapore