



# SPEECH

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## **Keynote Address by Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence at the Foundation Laying of the Fleet Command Building**

11 Jan 2015

It gives me great pleasure to officiate at today's ceremony for the Foundation Laying of the Fleet Command Building and the Embedding of the Time Capsule at the RSN's new Changi Naval Base.

The Republic of Singapore Navy has come a long way in the last three decades. Tasked with the mission of ensuring the maritime security of the Singapore Straits and our sea lines of communications, the RSN has through the years progressively developed the capabilities required to fulfill this mission effectively. From the onset, the RSN has never been daunted by its relatively small size or the challenges it has to face in safeguarding Singapore's territorial integrity. The RSN has turned every challenge into an opportunity.

Today, the RSN has matured from its modest beginnings to become a modern and highly professional navy capable of conducting complex anti-surface, anti-air and undersea missions. The RSN's fleet comprises modern ships, some of which are indigenously designed and built with weapons and sensors customised to meet the unique demands of our operating environment. To bring out the full potential of the fighting capabilities of its state-of-the-art equipment, the RSN has highly motivated and highly trained men and women to operate them.

The development of Changi Naval Base is another milestone in the RSN's history. Changi will be the homeport for the Navy's new Landing Ship-Tanks, submarines and missile gunboats. Changi Naval Base will provide the full range of operational, training, maintenance and support facilities required to support the RSN well into the 21st century.

Today, we are laying the foundation of the Fleet Command Building. This eight-storey building will be the landmark of Changi Naval Base. It will house the command elements of the RSN's Fleet, the headquarters of First and Third Flotillas as well as some of the support

elements that will help ensure that the entire base functions effectively and efficiently. The Fleet Command Building will be the focal point of activities in Changi Naval Base, and future leaders of the RSN will pass through its portals. It will also serve as a welcoming beacon for our ships and sailors returning home from exercises and missions.

The design of the Fleet Command Building symbolises our unwavering commitment to Total Defence. The five pillars forming the façade of this building represents the five components of Total Defence - Psychological, Social, Economic, Civil and Military Defence. This underscores our belief that every Singaporean has a part to play in ensuring the security of our country. In addition, the time capsule being embedded today encapsulates our collective efforts and aspirations. It will serve as a symbol to future generations of our sacrifices and achievements.

In conclusion, I would like to commend all those involved in the Changi Naval Base development project. I wish you all a successful project completion and look forward to seeing Changi Naval Base becoming operational.

Thank you.

**News Release:**

- DPM Dr Tony Tan Lays the Foundation for the Command & Control Centre for Changi Naval Base (Document No: MINDEF\_20000111006)

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