



# SPEECH

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## **Opening Address By MG Lim Kim Choon, Chief of Air Force, at the Opening Ceremony of Exercise Cope Tiger 2004**

15 Dec 2003

Air Chief Marshal Kongsak Vantana, Major General Dennis Larson, distinguished guests from the Royal Thai Air Force, United States Air Force and the United States Marine Corps, a very good afternoon. It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the Opening Ceremony of Exercise Cope Tiger 2004. The Republic of Singapore Air Force is indeed privileged to host this opening ceremony as well as the Command Post Exercise, and we are honored to have you here as guests to our country.

This Exercise Cope Tiger 2004 marks a significant milestone, as it is the tenth in the series of the Cope Tiger exercises. In just 10 years, Exercise Cope Tiger has grown both in stature and importance. Since its inception back in 1994, the exercise has, progressed steadily in size, scope as well as sophistication. The fact that we are here today bears testimony to the exercise's continued relevance and usefulness to all forces.

The Cope Tiger series of exercises has provided the RSAF with excellent opportunities for our personnel to interact and conduct professional exchanges with our Thai and American counterparts. This tri-lateral exercise has also helped to foster interoperability between the participating forces over the years and this remains the key objective for Cope Tiger 04.

The initial planning conference for Cope Tiger 04 was held in Korat while the middle planning conference was held in Hawaii earlier this year. After much planning and co-ordination during the conferences, all participants are ready for the Command Post Exercise, here in Singapore followed by the FTX in Korat. This reflects the close cooperation, understanding and excellent working relationship amongst all the participants. At this juncture, let me express my appreciation to all members of the respective air working groups for your dedication and efforts in putting this exercise together thus far.

This CPX will see the Combined Exercise Command Group exercise Live Fly Cell daily operations and procedures; and contingency handling in preparation for the FTX phase. In addition, Mission Commander considerations, Targeting and Attack planning will also be carried out in the form of academics. The CPX is aimed to enhance the working relationship and decision-making processes at the various working levels.

Exercise Cope Tiger 2004 will see the participation of 89 aircraft and more than 1500 personnel, exercising together in a broad spectrum of missions during the FTX phase in Korat during February next year. The ground threat environment during the exercise will also remain intense with the deployment of a full range of Air Defence weapons ranging from HIMAD to SHORAD fire units both from the RTAF and the RSAF. This level of participation demonstrates the enthusiasm and commitment by all three forces in the Cope Tiger series of exercise. The CPX and FTX promise excellent learning opportunities and exposure for the mission planners, controllers and air defenders, and will go a long way in enhancing and enriching their operational employment. I urge all players to take full advantage of this opportunity. Most of all, I hope the exercise will generate a great measure of lasting goodwill and friendship at all ranks and levels.

In conclusion, Exercise Cope Tiger 2004 promises to be an exciting, challenging and rewarding exercise. With the consolidation of the operational initiatives introduced during successive exercises to increase training benefits, together with the continued commitments and dedication of all involved, I am sure Exercise Cope Tiger 2004 will be a successful one. It is now my pleasure to declare Exercise Cope Tiger 2004 open!

Thank you.

**News Release:**

Trilateral Air Exercise Marks its 10th Anniversary (Document No: MINDEF\_20031215001\_2.pdf)

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