



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Factsheet: Coastal Command (COSCOM)**

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The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)'s Coastal Command (COSCOM) was established in Jan 1988 as the second operational command of the RSN. The mission of COSCOM is to ensure the safety and security of the Singapore Strait and its approaches. This also entails the immediate seaward defence of Singapore. To do this effectively, COSCOM needs to work very closely with Singapore's other national maritime agencies such as the Maritime Port Authority (MPA), the Police Coast Guard (PCG) and the Immigrations and Customs Authority (ICA). COSCOM would also need to engage regional and extra-regional navies in co-operative efforts to enhance safety and security. A good example is the cooperation between COSCOM and the Indonesian Navy in anti-sea robbery patrols in the Singapore Strait.

COSCOM's tasks are wide and varied. Daily operations include maritime security patrols, surveillance operations and constantly being on stand-by to provide assistance to the various national maritime agencies. The formation would also participate, and at times organise, various bilateral and multilateral exercises and operations within the region as such activities are important for naval co-operation. The scope of COSCOM's responsibilities has expanded over the years and even more since Sep 11, 2001. After the Sep 11 attacks, COSCOM has been heavily involved in anti-terrorist operations in the maritime dimension. These include the protection of Changi Naval Base and other critical maritime installations and activities. These operations have been conducted in close co-operation with the PCG. In addition, more anti-terrorist contingency plans have been developed and exercised over the last few months.

### **Mission**

COSCOM's key mission is the seaward defence and security of the Singapore Straits and its approaches in peacetime, tension & war. This requires COSCOM to work closely with the other national maritime agencies such as the Police Coastguard (PCG), Maritime Port Authority (MPA), Customs and Immigration Authority (ICA) and CAAS.

## **Role and Function**

The primary role of COSCOM is to safeguard the security of Singapore coastal waters in peace time and providing seaward defence for Singapore in period of tension and war. Her tasks include:

- Conduct maritime surveillance of the Singapore Straits
- Conduct Anti-Sea Robbery Co-ordinating Patrols with the Indonesian Navy
- Exercising Co-ordinating Authority(CORDA)
- Conduct route survey and channel conditioning tasks
- Develop doctrine and tactical procedures for coastal defence operations
- Provide assistance to Civil Authorities in contingency like Ferry Mishap, Air Disaster and Anti-Hijack operations
- Assist Police Coast Guard in their operations

## **Organization**

COSCOM is organized as follows:

a. HQ COSCOM. At the headquarters level, Commander COSCOM and his deputy are assisted by four principal staff, a formation safety officer, finance manager, medical officer and a Chief Warrant Officer. At the ground level, COSCOM is in charge of four Squadrons.

b. 181 Squadron. 181 Squadron maintains a round-the-clock maritime situation picture of the Singapore Strait with inputs from COSCOM's own ships on patrol, PCG and Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS).

c. 182/189 Squadron. 182/189 Squadron is made up of 11 patrol vessels that were built locally by ST Marine. These patrol ships are deployed for maritime security surveillance patrols in the Singapore Straits.

d. 194 Squadron. 194 Squadron comprises 4 Mine Counter-Measure Vessel and 2 Self-propelled Acoustic and Magnetic Mine Sweepers (SAMMS). These vessels are responsible for all Mine Counter-Measure operations. Also, 194 Squadron works closely with naval divers from the Naval Diving Unit.

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