



SPEECH

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Change of Command Ceremony Address by Incoming CNV, RADM Chew Men Leong

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Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General Desmond Kuek, Chief Defence Scientist, Chief of Navy Rear Admiral Ronnie Tay, Chief of Army, past Navy Chiefs, colleagues, distinguished guests, officers, men and women of the Navy family, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Let me first thank all of you for taking the time to be part of this Change of Command Parade. Your presence here today is truly appreciated. Allow me to extend my appreciation to CDF for taking time to be the witnessing officer for this change of command. I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Fleet and all the supporting formations for organising and putting together this parade.

The transformation of the RSN has been proceeding apace over the past few years. We have continued to make sense of the evolving strategic landscape. We have conceptualised and are implementing new capabilities. The Frigates, Naval Helicopters, submarines, unmanned systems and IKC2 capabilities are being operationalised. We have devised new and more imaginative operational concepts. We have introduced and assimilated cutting-edge technologies in an innovative fashion. We have responded steadfastly and more flexibly to a widening spectrum of operations, playing a vital role. We have increased our capacity to undertake a wide array of maritime security operations together with our partners to help build a safer maritime environment. We have made valued contributions within our limited means to major disaster relief efforts and peace support operations. The RSN today is formidable, balanced and flexible.

Rear Admiral Ronnie Tay's able stewardship over the last 4 years has enabled the RSN to grow from strength to strength. Rear Admiral Tay has kept our Navy at a high level of

mission readiness; perform ably when called to the task; steadfastly transform itself to be ready and in time for the future; and achieve strong cohesiveness as a fighting force. The close ties he has built with Navies from around the world has given us invaluable bridges in reaching out to like-minded partners to for better mutual understanding and stronger collaboration on areas of common concern. His very own example in physical endurance and strength has inspired the rest of the Navy to become more fighting fit. In his tenure, Admiral Tay's strong leadership, close guidance and personal outreach to all corners of the Navy has kept the RSN committed, strong and ready.

He has laid a strong foundation for the development of the Third Generation RSN. In his own words, the RSN is a Navy that we value, and a Navy that Singapore can be proud of. Rear Admiral Tay, the RSN is indeed indebted to you for your leadership. The imprint you have left leaves the RSN in good stead. On behalf of the officers, men and women of the RSN, I would like to express our sincere appreciations for your sterling leadership, your unwavering commitment to the betterment of the RSN, and most of all, your deepest care of the Navy family.

Having laid a strong foundation, the RSN, like the rest of the SAF, will move into a new phase of implementation in its transformation journey. In three to five years time, you will see that the RSN will be transformed significantly. The incorporation of key capabilities such as the Frigate, naval helicopters, submarines, unmanned systems and vital IKC2 capabilities will change the shape and texture of the Navy. It will become a stronger deterrent force packing a sharper punch.

Yet, it will remain flexible. It will stand ready and capable of undertaking a wide spectrum of operations. In three to five years time, you will see new hardware, competitive software and robust heartware.

At the end of this phase, if we work hard, stand united, remain committed and make the right moves, we should see the first tangible phase of the third generation RSN coming into fruition. This Third Generation RSN will be characterised by seven key aspects. Let me share with you these aspects.- One, it will be a strong and capable and disciplined maritime force that is an integral component of the ONE SAF. We will be well networked with the rest of the SAF. Our capabilities can be integrated with the rest of the SAF as a coherent whole. These integrated capabilities can and will be brought to bear to ensure Singapore's seaward defence, protect our sea lines of communications and safeguard our sovereignty. The RSN will be the vital maritime component of the ONE SAF. It will give the ONE SAF unique and valuable options that can multiply the SAF's capability. The mindset within the Navy family will be one that sees the Navy's capabilities contributing to the SAF and wider defence goals as a whole.- Two, it will be a maritime force that remains operationally sharp and ready, and more flexible to meet a wide spectrum of operational demands. That spectrum will span from conventional operations to maritime security to disaster relief and peace support operations. Flexibility will come not only in terms of hard capability, but also in terms of organisational structure, competencies and most of all mindsets. - Three, it will be a maritime force able to

optimise its close partnerships with home agencies and partners from around the world to keep the regional maritime environment more secured, especially against terrorism at sea.

It will have the capability and networks to reach out and collaborate with like-minded partners to sharpen our collective response to common concerns. Within our means, this Navy hopes to be able to contribute to a more inclusive and co-operative security architecture in the region. - Four, it will remain an organisation that will develop its people to the fullest and imbued with a strong capacity to learn, adapt and innovate. It will continue to integrate technology, operational knowledge, innovative concepts and deep training competencies into a sustainable and sharp capability edge. - Five, it will be a Navy whose training and support standards will be upheld at the highest levels. This will give depth, robustness and sustenance to our fighting capabilities.- Six, it will continue to be a maritime force imbued with a strong safety culture, be it at work, during training or in operations. - And last but not least, this Navy will remain as a cohesive family, showing commitment to purpose, standing united and inspired by our shared values. We have come a long way since our humble beginnings. The RSN is a formidable, balanced and flexible force today. It continues to contribute effectively to the security of Singapore. Its transformation largely mirrors the transformation of this country. And the transformation continues apace. It will be an exciting future ahead. Each and every one of you of the Navy family has a part to play in realising this Third Generation RSN that I have described.

Your contributions, regardless of relative size, will be invaluable. You can and must continue to make a difference. At the same time, we will work closely with our comrades in arms from the other Services and like-minded partners who share our common goals. Your support remains invaluable to the RSN.

In time to come, we will share our thoughts on the priorities we need to set, and the initiatives we have to carry out in our transformation journey while keeping the RSN sharp, disciplined and ready for the present day.

In the meantime, let us all stand and work together to keep the RSN committed, strong and ready.

I certainly look forward to working with all of you to build the Third Generation RSN in the years ahead. And most of all, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Rear Admiral Ronnie Tay for his leadership and commitment to the RSN. Thank you.

News Release:

- Change of Command Parade for Chief of Navy (MINDEF_20070831001.pdf)