

PRESS RELEASE

91-JS-9

Release No: 05/JUN11-1/91/06/06**SPEECH BY PROF S JAYAKUMAR, MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
AT THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE CIVIL DEFENCE
ACADEMY ON THURSDAY, 6 JUNE 1991 AT 11.00 AM****The Growth of SJCDF**

The Civil Defence Force had its beginnings almost 10 years ago. Since then, the Singapore Joint Civil Defence Force (SJCDF) has grown with over 103,000 personnel, including regular uniformed staff, civilian staff, full-time national servicemen, reservists and volunteers.

The Importance of Training

With such a large ORBAT (Order of Battle), training in peacetime is vital to SJCDF. Training gives CD officers the necessary knowledge, the skills and the practices for handling emergencies when they arise.

The emergencies that can challenge SJCDF can be very varied. Therefore, civil defence personnel need to learn a wide range of survival procedures, self protection measures and rescue methods. The skills being taught include command skills, first aid, rescue, shelter management, evacuation, fire-fighting, communications, logistics and community relations.

A Job Well Done

SJCDF has done well in training its many reservists and volunteers. Just to cite a few figures - over 40,000 reservists from SAF and Police have been given conversion training for their

civil defence roles. Selected reservists also undergo specialist courses. 170 reservists have been trained in community relations and 50 in logistics. 60 reservists will be trained in signals.

SJCDF also has a scheme under which well qualified and outstanding reservists with high potential are selected for upgrading courses. 120 such reservists have been trained and appointed to become officers. 1200 have undergone platoon commanders training and are now holding platoon commander appointments. 1700 have been trained as section commanders.

SJCDF has also been able to train over 30,000 housewives, senior citizens, students and other civilians who sign up as CD volunteers.

Existing Training Facilities

All these training efforts have been achieved in the most difficult conditions, using makeshift premises previously built for other uses. Such facilities do not allow the men to be trained to the fullest.

The Civil Defence Academy and its Facilities

The Civil Defence Academy, to be built at a cost of some \$63 million on a 9-hectare site at Jalan Bahar, is the first purpose-built training facility for the SJCDF.

When completed in 1995, this Academy can train about 1000 men at any one time. Besides lecture rooms and classrooms, the Academy will have facilities for specialised training. There will be a multi-storey tower for high-rise fire-fighting, a ruins area, a heavy plant training area, and training facilities for fighting oil and chemical fires.

Commanders will benefit greatly from the Academy's facilities for tactical training using computer simulations.

The Civil Defence Force must now build up its team of instructors who will man this Academy so that our reservists, regulars and volunteer commanders and specialists will receive the best possible training. Only then can we do justice to the investment that Government is making to Civil Defence training by building this Academy.

Conclusion

Now that SJCDF is firmly established, we shall place greater emphasis on more highly trained, better led and better equipped units. The Academy will play an important pivotal role in this. It will shape the attitudes and sharpen the skills of CD officers. It will be instrumental in giving SJCDF an enhanced capability to serve the public. And it will be an institution that reflects SJCDF's continuing strive for excellence.

- - - - -