



NEWS RELEASE - PARADE AND CEREMONY

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National Day Parade at Marina Bay 2008 **PARADE AND CEREMONY SEGMENT**

A “Multi-Sensory” Parade for NDP 2008

1. A key anchor of the National Day Parade (NDP), the Parade & Ceremony (P&C) segment is one where Singaporeans from all walks of life come together and march to celebrate Singapore’s independence.
2. This year’s parade format continues to highlight the importance of Total Defence in securing our nation’s independence and success. In line with this year's NDP theme “Celebrating the Singapore Spirit”, the five pillars of Total Defence, represented by the contingents on parade will signify the unity, resilience, and dynamism of Singapore; qualities of the Singapore Spirit that have brought Singapore to where she is today.
3. Chairman of NDP 2008 Parade & Ceremony Committee, Colonel Loh Kean Wah, said: “The P&C Segment will be a visually stunning and Multi-Sensory parade. The new 3-Dimensional parade layout over the widened promenade and multi-tiered stage on the Floating Platform will bring the parade much closer to the spectators than ever before, allowing an unique up close experience in the National Day Parade!”
4. He also said:” It is really about the people on parade, united in one spirit, marching together, putting forth a display of discipline, precision and passion, for the people of Singapore! That’s the Spirit of NDP! The Singapore Spirit!”



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Highlights of the parade

5. This year's P&C segment is scheduled to begin at 1815hrs and will last approximately 57 minutes. It will feature the following:
 - a. On the Parade RSM's command, the SAF Band will lead the Marching Contingents' entry onto the parade. Traditionally the SAF Band has always been one of the key features in past parades. This year, the Band will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. To mark this remarkable milestone, the Band will once again be leading the march-in of the Marching Contingents (MCs), a feature which has not been showcased since the 1980s. The band will march centrally down the Floating Platform (FP) while the MCs will subsequently merge into a three-prong approach onto the FP using the 3 link ways.
 - b. For the first time, the Social, Economic and Psychological Contingents will be marching onto the 2nd tier of the stage set on the floating platform, creating a stunning 3-dimensional multi-tiered parade layout. Once the MCs are in position, the Military and Home Team contingents will execute a transformation to form the words "NDP 08" while the Social and Economic contingents execute a forward march
 - c. Traditional highlights such as the State Flag Flypast, F16 bomb burst, Presidential Inspection of the Guard-of Honour (GOH), 21-Gun Salute, Presidential Drive-Past onto the floating platform, Feu-de-Joie (Fire-of-Joy) and GOH march-off will continue to be featured in the parade. The 380-strong combined school choir, which was not featured in NDP 07 will be brought back this year and they will be seated on the 3rd tier stage set on the floating platform. With the multi-tiered stage set and the widened promenade, the parade will be brought up much closer than ever before to the spectators, with the GOH contingents forming up on the promenade right in front of the seating gallery. This will give the spectators an up-close and unique personal experience of the parade, especially during the Feu-de-Joie, and GOH March-off. Lastly, the RSAF Black Knights will round up the P&C segment with an exhilarating 6-min aerial display as part of the RSAF's 40th Anniversary celebrations. The formal Parade and Ceremony Segment will transit to the Show Segment immediately after the display.

Parade Contingents

6. The 28 marching contingents this year are formed by organisations representing the five pillars of Total Defence, including the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), the Singapore Police Force (SPF), the Singapore



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Civil Defence Force (SCDF), Uniformed Youth Organisations (UYOs) from schools and the private sector.

7. The five pillars of Total Defence – Military, Civil, Economic, Social and Psychological - are represented by different contingents in the parade, to signify Singaporeans working together in different sectors to defend our homeland and secure our future. The Military Defence is represented by the three services of the Singapore Armed Forces. The Civil Defence is represented by Singapore Police Force and Singapore Civil Defence Force of the Home Team. The Social and Economic Defence will be represented by the People's Action Party and National Trades Union Congress, and NDP first-timer companies: SembCorp Industries Ltd, Toll Logistics (Asia) Ltd, and Hersing Group ERA Realty Network Pte Ltd. Lastly the Psychological Defence is represented by the nine Uniformed Youth Organisations, comprising The Boys' Brigade, The Girls' Brigade, Girl Guides, Scouts, Red Cross, National Cadet Corps, National Police Cadet Corps, National Civil Defence Cadet Corps and St John Ambulance Brigade.
8. About 2,612 participants are involved in this year's parade.

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