



NEWS RELEASE

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Bilateral Naval Exercise between Thailand and Singapore

25 Jul 1996

This morning, 25 Jul 96, the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) commenced a 10-day bilateral naval exercise, code-named EX SINGSIAM, in the Gulf of Thailand. Initiated in 1981, this is the tenth in the SINGSIAM series of exercises between the two navies. EX SINGSIAM aims to develop and consolidate a close working relationship between the RTN and RSN through the practise of common naval operating procedures and techniques. This year's exercise is the first since EX SINGSIAM increased in frequency from a triennial to a biennial exercise, demonstrating the value of the series to both navies.

This year's exercise, hosted by the RTN, consists of a harbour training and sea deployment phase. RSN ships participating in this exercise are two Missile Corvettes, RSS VICTORY and RSS VALOUR, and two Missile Gun Boats, RSS SEA TIGER and RSS SEA HAWK. The RTN has five ships in the exercise, HTMS SUKHOTHAI (Missile Corvette), HTMS RACHARIT, HTMS WITTAYAKOM and HTMS PRABPARAPAK (Fast Attack Craft Missile), and HTMS PHUKET (Fast Attack Craft Gun).

EX SINGSIAM was opened by the RSN's Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Richard Lim Cherng Yih, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Fleet, Admiral Thanrong Wibulstian.

The exercise will end on 4 Aug. The next EX SINGSIAM will be held in Singapore in 1998.

The EX SINGSIAM series is one of the many interactions between the RSN and RTN. There are frequent exchanges of visits by ships and personnel of the two navies. The two navies also conduct regular Passage Exercises. These interactions enhance the already close ties between the RSN and RTN, as well as provide opportunities for their officers and men to develop mutual understanding and friendship.