



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Navy's First Three Patrol Vessels Enter Operational Service**

05 Oct 1996

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan, commissioned the first three of the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN's) Patrol Vessels (PVs) this morning, 5 Oct 96, signalling their entry into operational service. The three PVs, RSS FEARLESS, RSS BRAVE and RSS COURAGEOUS were commissioned at a ceremony at Tuas Naval Base.

The three PVs commissioned today are among six anti-submarine PVs from the RSN's 189 Squadron. RSS FEARLESS, RSS BRAVE and RSS COURAGEOUS are now fully operational after successfully completing all their harbour and sea trials. Their capability to detect surface, underwater and air threats enables them to perform their patrolling and other operational roles effectively, thereby enhancing the seaward defence capability of the RSN. To date, five of the 12 PVs to be acquired have been launched.

During the ceremony, Dr Tan presented Commissioning Warrants to the Commanding Officers of the three PVs on behalf of the President. The Commanding Officer of RSS FEARLESS is Major (MAJ) Cheng Sim Chong, 32; while the Commanding Officers of RSS BRAVE and RSS COURAGEOUS are MAJ Dexter Chia, 33; and MAJ Leong Keng Weng, 32, respectively. The Commissioning Warrants signify the PVs' operational readiness.

### **The RSN Patrol Vessels**

The Patrol Vessels are the first major warships to be wholly designed and built in Singapore. This major accomplishment was the result of a collaborative effort between the RSN, the Defence Materiel Organisation, which is a member of MINDEF's Defence Technology Group, and Singapore Technologies Shipbuilding and Engineering.

The PVs are better equipped to carry out their operational roles, with capabilities such as a surveillance radar; advanced command and control systems, computerised fire control system, surface-to-air missile system, a 76 mm super rapid gun, hull-mounted sonars and torpedoes. The PVs are also installed with the water-jet propulsion system. Unlike propeller-driven vessels, the water-jet system enhances the manoeuvrability of the PVs, produces less noise and is more economical and easy to maintain.

The PV measures 55 metres in length and 8.6 metres in breadth. It has a displacement of about 500 tonnes and is able to achieve speeds in excess of 20 knots. Each PV is served by a crew of 30 officers and men.

The ceremony this morning was attended by some 300 RSN personnel and invited guests. Present at the ceremony were the Minister for the Environment and Second Minister for Defence, Rear Admiral (NS) Teo Chee Hean; the Permanent Secretary (Defence Development), Mr Peter Ho; the Chief of Navy, RADM Richard Lim; and senior officers from the Ministry of Defence.

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