



NEWS RELEASE

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Speech by LT-GEN Bey Soo Kiang, Chief of Defence Force, at RSAF F-16C/D Roll-Out Ceremony at Fort Worth, Texas

09 Apr 1998

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be here today for the roll-out of the Republic of Singapore Air Force's first F-16C/D fighter aircraft. This marks an important milestone in the development of the RSAF. The addition of the multi-role F-16C/D to the RSAF's fighter orbit represents a quantum jump in the capability of the RSAF to achieve our superiority over the skies of Singapore and contribute to the ability of the SAF to fulfill its mission. The aircraft, with its superior performance characteristics, technologies and capabilities, will not only greatly extend the operational envelope of the RSAF, but also usher the RSAF into the new dimensions of air warfare. It will bring RSAF into a new frontier.

But it is more than the aircraft that gives the RSAF the added edge. The RSAF has since January 1996 conducted training on all aspects of the F-16C/D at Luke Air Force Base under the Peace Carvin II programme. Today, the RSAF has trained many F-16C/D pilots, engineers and technicians, as well developed the essential operational and logistics capabilities to take full advantage of the F-16C/Ds being delivered to the air force. This training that the RSAF conducts in the United States will continue for the long term, with us replacing the F-16C/Ds we are leasing from the USAF with our very own F-16C/Ds as they come out of the line.

There is certainly much value that the RSAF gets from its training in the United States. Besides providing RSAF pilots with the expanse of training airspace they cannot find back home, the opportunity to fly the F-16C/D in a quality environment, of good training areas and facilities, and realistic training programmes and exercises, allows RSAF pilots to attain high professional standards

in F-16C/D flying and operations. And training alongside one of the world's renowned air force allows the RSAF to get the essential operational and logistics know-how and experience more effectively and expeditiously. The Peace Carvin II programme has indeed proven its worth and we are pleased that it will continue for some time to come. There is much more that the RSAF can learn from the USAF in F-16C/D operations, and much more in operational capability and readiness that the RSAF can achieve through this training programme. As I speak, plans are being finalised for a Peace Carvin III detachment under the USAF Air Combat Command. For all these, I would like to say a big thank you to the USAF.

Allow me also to take this opportunity to thank Lockheed Martin for the marvelous service the company has provided to the RSAF. The delivery of the first RSAF F-16C/D according to schedule, in spite a number of complex changes made to the aircraft configuration to meet the RSAF's specific requirements, testifies to Lockheed Martins's professional management and manufacture.

I look forward to the RSAF getting continued excellent support and assistance from the USAF and Lockheed Martin as the RSAF takes delivery of its F-16C/Ds.

Thank you.

News Release:

- RSAF Receives First F-16 C/D Aircraft from Lockheed Martin (Document No: MINDEF_19980409001.pdf)

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