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MINDEF Constructs First Underground Ammunition Facility

12 Aug 1999

The Minister of State for Defence and Minister of State for Information and the Arts, Mr David Lim, set off a detonation at a groundbreaking ceremony to start construction of Singapore's first underground ammunition facility in Mandai on 12 Aug 99.

It is the first time that underground rock caverns is used in Singapore for ammunition storage to save land. The initiative will release more than 300 hectares of land area, which is large enough to build half of Pasir Ris New Town.

Currently, the SAF uses about 20 percent of land in Singapore. MINDEF therefore places very high emphasis on optimising the density and usage of facilities by pursuing new technological and innovative ideas. Together with extensive SAF overseas training, MINDEF has been able to achieve significant land savings over the years.

While conventional storage of ammunition above ground requires large areas of surrounding land to meet safety standards, cavern technology will reduce this area and release more land for other uses. Such technology was achieved through a technology acquisition and development project undertaken by MINDEF since the early 1990s. Safety within the underground ammunition facility is enhanced by advanced safety features in its design, such as sophisticated fire and smoke detection and control systems, automatic fire fighting systems, specially-designed blast doors, and blast attenuation through advanced tunnel network design and debris traps.

Targeted for completion in 2003, this facility will cater for the storage of a significant proportion of the SAF's ammunition. The project will pave the way for more use of underground space in Singapore, and help to develop local construction capabilities in cavern construction.

Grassroot leaders from the Bukit Panjang Constituency, and senior officials and professionals from the various government ministries, statutory boards, academia and professional bodies attended this afternoon's ceremony.

Factsheet:

- Factsheet - Underground Ammunition Storage (Document No: MINDEF_19990812003.pdf)

Speech:

- Speech by Mr David Lim, Minister of State for Defence and Information & the Arts, at the Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the Underground Ammunition Facility (Document No: MINDEF_19990812002.pdf)

National Archives of Singapore