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The Singapore Armed Forces' Best Units

20 Jun 2001



The Army's First Commando Battalion (1 Cdo Bn)

The Army's First Commando Battalion (1 Cdo Bn), the Republic of Singapore Navy's RSS Vigour and the Republic of Singapore Air Force's 142 Squadron (142 Sqn), excelled and clinched the Best Combat Unit, the Best Ship and the Best Fighter Squadron Award respectively.

President S R Nathan will present the SAF Colours to 1 Cdo Bn at the SAF Day Parade, to be held on 1 Jul 01, at the SAFTI Military Institute. The other Best Unit winners will receive their awards from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan.

Introduced in 1969, the annual Singapore Armed Forces' (SAF) Best Unit Competition aims to enhance the combat and administrative effectiveness of the participating Army, Air Force and Navy units through friendly competition. The competitions bring out the spirit of excellence in the SAF.

The Army

The coveted Best Combat Unit award goes to 1 Cdo Bn this year. Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Tan, 1 Cdo Bn's mission is to mount special operations. This is the 17th time 1 Cdo Bn has clinched the award since 1974.

The RSN

This is the first time that the RSS Vigour has won the Best Ship Award. It also won the Top Gun of the Fleet Award given to the ship with the best gunnery result of the year.

Commissioned on 25 May 1991, RSS Vigour is one of the Missile Corvettes (MCVs) acquired by the RSN to protect Singapore's sea lines of communications and participate in the seaward defence of Singapore. She belongs to the 188 Squadron and is commanded by MAJ Joe Cheong Joo Leng. The 62 metre long ship has a crew of eight officers and 42 men. It is highly manoeuvrable and is capable of speeds in excess of 30 knots (55.5 km/h). All MCVs are capable of undertaking tasks in surface, air and sub-surface warfare. They are armed with Harpoon anti-ship missiles, an anti-air OTO MELARA Super Rapid 76mm gun, anti-submarine torpedoes and the Barak anti-missile missile system.

With the award, the RSS Vigour will display the letter 'E' on her hull representing excellence that the crew has achieved throughout the year. All operational ships within the RSN are assessed during regular inspections on the ships' proficiency in terms of administrative competence, operational readiness and their ability to fulfil given tasks and missions.

The RSAF National Archives of Singapore

Another first time winner is RSAF's 142 Squadron, which operates the A-4SU Super Skyhawk. It has emerged as the Best Fighter Squadron this year. To capture this award, the squadron, led by Major Sim Kim Yong, had to compete with other fighter squadrons in areas like mission readiness, safety management, logistics support and administrative efficiency.

The squadron, tasked with air-to-surface missions which uses aircraft to engage targets on land or sea, participated in various exercises in the last two years. It was the first RSAF Fighter Squadron to participate in ODAX 2000, a NATO exercise. It also participated in Exercise Cope Tiger 2001, a tri-lateral exercise involving the United States Air Force, Royal Thai Air Force and the Republic of Singapore Air Force.

Photos



The Republic of Singapore Air Force's 142 Squadron (142 Sqn)



The Republic of Singapore Air Force's 142 Squadron (142 Sqn)



The Republic of Singapore Navy's RSS Vigour



The Army's First Commando Battalion (1 Cdo Bn)



The Republic of Singapore Air Force's 142 Squadron (142 Sqn)

Speech and factsheet:

- Factsheet - Best Unit Competition Results for 2000/2001 (Document No: MINDEF_20010620003)

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