



# SPEECH

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**Speech by Chief of Air Force, Brigadier-General Lim Kim Choon at the Rollout Ceremony of the Apache Longbow Helicopter held on Friday, 17 May 2002 at 0930 hrs (US Time) at Mesa, Arizona**

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18 May 2002

It gives me great pleasure to be here today for the rollout ceremony of the Republic of Singapore Air Force's AH-64D Apache Longbow. This ceremony is significant on several counts. Firstly, it marks another important milestone in the development of the RSAF, in particular, in attack helicopter operations. With this rollout, the RSAF takes a major step forward in our capability development.

Secondly, this ceremony symbolises the good relationship that Singapore enjoys with the United States of America in the key area of defence co-operation. Built on common interest and close interactions, this relationship has grown and matured over the years.

Today we live in a world that is rife with uncertainty. The threats to security may take many different forms. The roles of the armed forces of the world have expanded, and versatility and adaptability have become key attributes needed to deal with the full range of security threats. We demand these attributes in our men and our equipment. The Apache is a platform that demonstrates and provides the RSAF with these attributes of versatility and adaptability. Besides its reputation as a tank buster, it is also capable of employment against a wide spectrum of threats, especially with the Longbow radar.

The rollout today also marks another successful note in the good and long partnership between Boeing and the RSAF. Boeing's top management has been very helpful and we have had positive dealings with them in this programme and I wish to express our sincere appreciation to Boeing.

I hope that the close working ties between us will continue beyond the delivery of the initial eight aircraft and onto supporting our Peace Vanguard detachment and further downstream, the delivery of our 12 additional aircraft. Our Peace Vanguard detachment marks another significant milestone in RSAF's determination to improve all aspects of its operational capability with the delivery and subsequent operationalisation of the Apache Longbow Attack Helicopters.

Since first acquiring the Chinooks in 1996, the RSAF has gained valuable lessons from its operations both at home in Singapore and on overseas detachments. The Peace Prairie detachment in Texas Grand Prairie has, through many opportunities, participated in exercises such as Red Flag and JRTCs (Joint Readiness Training Centres) where our aircrew and technicians are put through stringent ops tempo to test their readiness to the limits. Our Peace Vanguard detachment would similarly tap into the experience of the National Guard and through its interactions with other US Army units. Such exposure is important for us to accelerate the learning curve and to benchmark ourselves against a world-class fighting force.

This roll out also re-affirms the warm relationship and close co-operation between the US National Guard and the RSAF. The Peace Vanguard programme is a major co-operative venture between the US National Guard and the RSAF. The rollout today, as a symbolic manifestation of the Peace Vanguard programme, has been made possible, in no small measure, with the strong efforts of both the US Army and the US National Guard.

As I look at the various RSAF detachments here, namely, Peace Prairie (Chinooks), Peace Vanguard (Apaches), Peace Carvin II and III (F-16s), Peace Guardian (KC-135), I see a wide cross section of the RSAF flying community training here. This is significant because many of those who pass through these detachments will not only benefit from the immense training resources but also from the vast opportunities to establish a firm network of friendship for future interactions between our two Armed Forces.

Finally, before I close, I would like to extend my appreciation and congratulations to the Programme Management Team for a job well done. I trust that based on the excellent results demonstrated so far, the delivery of our remaining aircraft would be on schedule and of the highest quality.

Thank you.

News Release:

- Singapore Receives First AH-64D Apache Longbow Attack Helicopter  
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