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Singapore and Indonesian Navies Co-Host Multilateral Exercises

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Singapore Chief of Navy, Rear-Admiral Ronnie Tay (left) with Indonesian Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Bernard Kent Sondakh (right).

The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) are co-hosting the second Western Pacific Mine Countermeasure Exercise (MCMEX) and Western Pacific Diving Exercise (DIVEX) from 21 April to 7 May 2004. Minister for Defence, Rear-Admiral (NS) Teo Chee Hean, officiated at the opening ceremony this afternoon at Changi Naval Base.

The multilateral MCMEX and DIVEX are conducted under the ambit of the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS). About 1,600 personnel and 20 ships from 18 countries are involved in the two exercises which will be conducted in the Singapore Strait and the waters off the Indonesian island of Pulau Bintan. This set of activities is the largest and most complex that members of the WPNS have ever embarked upon.

In comparison to the first MCMEX and DIVEX held in 2001, there are several new elements in this year's exercises. These include the conduct of combined maritime explosive ordnance disposal training and live mine disposal charge firings at sea, as well as the execution of

formation minesweeping tactics at the RSN's Tactical Training Centre in Changi Naval Base. A medical seminar and diving accident rescue exercise will also be held.

The MCMEX and DIVEX reflect the firm commitment of WPNS countries to the enhancement of maritime security, and their recognition of the importance of multilateral cooperation in the maintenance of the freedom of navigation in the sea lines of communication. Apart from fostering rapport and understanding among participants, the exercises also help promote inter-operability among the various navies. The RSN and TNI-AL's co-hosting of the exercises underlines their close and longstanding cooperation in the promotion of regional peace and security.



The MCMEX & DIVEX participants with Singapore's Minister for Defence, Rear-Admiral (RADM)(NS) Teo Chee Hean.

Factsheet:

- Factsheet - List of Participating Countries and Ships (Document No: MINDEF_20040426003.pdf)

National Archives of Singapore

Speech:

- Keynote Address by Minister for Defence, Rear-Admiral (RADM)(NS) Teo Chee Hean, at the Opening of the 2nd Western Pacific MCMEX And DIVEX (Document No: MINDEF_20040426002.pdf)