



# NEWS RELEASE

Visit <http://www.mindef.gov.sg> for more news and information about MINDEF and the SAF

---

## Factsheet - The Strategic Framework Agreement

12 Jul 2005

The Strategic Framework Agreement for a Closer Cooperation Partnership in Defence and Security (SFA) was signed between Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and President George W Bush. The SFA articulates the principles of the US-Singapore defence partnership and the key areas of defence cooperation. It also serves as a formal framework to bring together the many existing and future areas of bilateral defence and security cooperation.

The intention to conclude the SFA was first announced by then-Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and President Bush in October 2003. It was born out of a shared desire to address common threats such as terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which called for even closer cooperation between the United States and Singapore.

National Archives of Singapore

The SFA is a natural step in the expansion of bilateral ties between the United States and Singapore. It opens a new chapter in the bilateral defence and security relationship, expanding the scope of current cooperation in areas such as counter-terrorism, counter-proliferation, joint military exercises and training, policy dialogues and defence technology. The SFA enshrines a partnership that strengthens the two countries' security and enhances regional stability. It builds upon the 1990 Memorandum of Understanding Regarding United States Use of Facilities in Singapore (1990 MOU) by supporting the continued security presence of the United States in Southeast Asia, which has promoted the peace and stability crucial for regional cooperation and economic development. The SFA recognises Singapore as a Major Security Cooperation Partner of the United States.

The Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) and the Protocol of Amendment to the 1990 Memorandum of Understanding (AMOU) signed between Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean and Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld are two agreements that come under the umbrella of the Strategic Framework Agreement.

The DCA brings together all current defense cooperation activities and provides for new areas of mutually beneficial cooperation. The US and Singapore will set up an annual Strategic Security Policy Dialogue to bring together senior defense officials from both countries to exchange views on security and defense issues, as well as bilateral cooperation. The DCA builds on the extensive interactions between the US Armed Forces and the Singapore Armed Forces to further expand military cooperation, including developing military expertise and defence capabilities to deal with the wider range of non-conventional threats facing armed forces today. The DCA further reaffirms the importance of technology collaboration in research and development (R&D), joint technology projects, concept development and experimentation, and provides for the enhanced sharing of defence technology between Singapore and the United States. The AMOU updates the 1990 MOU which had a duration of 15 years and was due for review.

#### Key Milestones in the US-Singapore Defence Relationship

Jan 1988 Inauguration of the first Republic of Singapore Air Force training detachment in the US

Nov 1990 Signed Memorandum of Understanding for the United States Use of Facilities in Singapore, which provide the US access to Singapore's military facilities.

Nov 1998 Signed an Addendum to the 1990 MOU, extending the use of Changi Naval Base to the US

Apr 2000 Inauguration of the annual Permanent Secretary/ Undersecretary-level Defence Cooperation Committee (DCC) overseeing defence technology collaboration

Jul 2005 Strategic Framework Agreement for a Closer Cooperation Partnership in Defense and Security, Singapore and the US become Major Security Cooperation Partners.