



NEWS RELEASE

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Singapore Conducts Major Inter-Agency Maritime Security Exercise

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Minister Teo interacting with the Accompanying Sea Security Team (ASSET) members after the demonstration.

Singapore is conducting an inter-agency maritime security exercise, code-named Exercise APEX 06. Led by the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Coastal Command (COSCOM), the exercise involves the [Republic of Singapore Air Force](#) (RSAF) and the [Army](#), as well as the Police Coast Guard (PCG), Maritime Port Authority (MPA), and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA). About 1,600 personnel from these agencies, including 300 Operationally Ready National Servicemen, are participating in the exercise. Some of the assets deployed include the RSN's mine countermeasures vessels and Fokker 50 maritime patrol aircraft, as well as boats from PCG, ICA and MPA. This annual exercise is part of a continuing effort to enhance inter-agency collaboration and inter-operability to ensure the security of shipping in Singapore's territorial waters, as well as to protect our ports, key maritime infrastructure and vital offshore installations from terrorist threats.

Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean visited the combined Task Force Headquarters Operations Room at Tuas Naval Base this afternoon, where the participating agencies are conducting integrated planning for the exercise operations. He later observed a boarding

operation by a joint RSN/PCG Accompanying Sea Security Team (ASSeT). The ASSeT teams are deployed on board selected merchant vessels in Singapore waters as a deterrent against terrorist threats. A combined team from the PCG and ICA also demonstrated the boarding of another merchant ship to conduct routine inspections.

Ex APEX 06, the fifth and largest in the series, started on 21 Aug 06 and will end on 1 Sep 06. Various scenarios were played out during the exercise. These included the disposal of a sea mine detected in the Singapore Straits by the RSN's mine-hunting assets, as well as a ferry mishap which required co-ordinated responses by different agencies to handle various consequence management issues, such as evacuation and medical aid for casualties.



The Accompanying Sea Security Team (ASSeT) teams boarding selected merchant vessels in Singapore waters as a deterrent against terrorist threats.



Minister Teo Chee Hean on board a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) while observing Ex Apex.



One of the scenarios for Ex Apex included the disposal of a sea mine detected by RSN's mine-hunting assets.

Factsheets:

Factsheet: Exercise APEX 06 (MINDEF_20060829003.pdf)

Factsheet: Maritime Port Authority (MPA) (MINDEF_20060829003_1.pdf)

Factsheet: Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) (MINDEF_20060829003_2.pdf)

Factsheet: Coastal Command (COSCOM) (MINDEF_20060829003_3.pdf)