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Change of Chief of Navy

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National Archives of Singapore



Incoming Chief of Navy RADM Chew Men Leong.

The President has accepted the advice of the Prime Minister that Rear Admiral (RADM) Chew Men Leong, currently Chief of Staff (Naval Staff), take over from RADM Ronnie Tay as Chief of

Navy on 31 August 2007. This change of command is part of the continuing process of leadership renewal in the SAF.

RADM Tay has been Chief of Navy since 1 April 2003. Since his enlistment in 1981, RADM Ronnie Tay has served the SAF with distinction, holding various key command and staff appointments. As Chief of Navy, RADM Tay led the transformation of the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) into a naval force characterised by cutting-edge technologies and new fighting doctrines, one capable of a broader spectrum of operations. As part of this transformation process, RADM Tay oversaw the operationalisation of new capabilities including the new Formidable-class Frigates and Challenger-class submarines, as well as the acquisition of naval helicopters and the adoption of unmanned system technologies. During his tenure as Chief of Navy, the RSN successfully completed three separate deployments of a Landing Ship Tank (LST) Task Group to the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of the multinational efforts for the re-construction of Iraq. RADM Tay has also made significant contributions to Singapore's defence diplomacy by strengthening collaboration with foreign navies through bilateral and multilateral initiatives to enhance maritime security and co-operation. RADM Tay will be attending the Advanced Management Programme at INSEAD, France before returning to the Administrative Service.

The incoming Chief of Navy, RADM Chew Men Leong, aged 39, joined the SAF in December 1985. In the course of his military career, RADM Chew has held amongst others, the appointments of Head Naval Operations Department; Fleet Commander; Head Joint Plans & Transformation Department; Commander, 1st Flotilla; Commanding Officer, 188 Squadron and Commanding Officer, RSS Vigour. A graduate of the Singapore Command and Staff Course in 1996, RADM Chew was the top Navy student of his class. During his tenure as Fleet Commander, RADM Chew played a pivotal role in restructuring the Fleet to enhance its operational readiness and its capacity to respond to peacetime contingencies. He also successfully led the Fleet in many bilateral and multi-lateral exercises with foreign navies.

RADM Chew holds a Bachelor of Engineering from the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, United Kingdom; as well as a Master of Science (Management) from the Leland Stanford Junior University, United States.

The Ministry of Defence expresses its deep appreciation to RADM Ronnie Tay for his sterling service to the SAF and his excellent contributions to the Navy.



Outgoing Chief of Navy RADM Ronnie Tay.