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Missile Gunboats Retire After 33 Years of Distinguished Service

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The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) decommissioned its fleet of six Missile Gunboats (MGBs) in a ceremony at Changi Naval Base this evening. Officiated by Chief of Navy Rear-Admiral (RADM) Chew Men Leong, the sunset ceremony marks the closure of a significant chapter in the RSN's journey and the start of a new one, as 185 squadron completes its transformation into a frigate squadron.

The RSN's first MGBs, RSS Sea Wolf and RSS Sea Lion, arrived in Singapore in 1972 and were commissioned in 1975. The remaining three MGBs, RSS Sea Tiger, RSS Sea Hawk and RSS Sea Scorpion, were commissioned the following year. Shortly after their arrival, RSS Sea Wolf heralded the RSN's entry into the missile age by becoming the first ship in the region to successfully fire an anti-ship missile. The MGBs also led developments in naval strike warfare and remained at the leading edge of naval warfare with upgrades in her weapon systems, shipboard sensors and other combat systems in the 1980s and 1990s.

For more than three decades, these pioneers of the RSN conducted numerous operations at sea, as well as maritime surveillance, patrol and escort operations. They served as dependable guardians protecting the nation against seaward threats. The Missile Gunboats have also served as ambassadors of Singapore in numerous interactions with other navies and countless port-calls abroad. "The MGBs' achievements are testimony to the fighting spirit, camaraderie and professionalism of the men and women who have served on these ships. This spirit will continue to live in the RSN as it transforms into the 3rd Generation navy," said RADM Chew. Over 5600 men and women have served onboard the MGBs, including Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean, and Senior Minister of State for Education & Information, Communications and the Arts, RADM (NS) Lui Tuck Yew.

Fact sheets:

- Fact Sheet: Milestones of the Republic of Singapore Navy's Missile Gunboats (MINDEF_20080513002.pdf)