



NEWS RELEASE

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Fact Sheet: Milestones of the Republic of Singapore Navy's Missile Gunboats

13 May 2008

Operationalisation Timelines

1972 - Arrival of first two ships, RSS SEA WOLF and RSS SEA LION in Singapore.

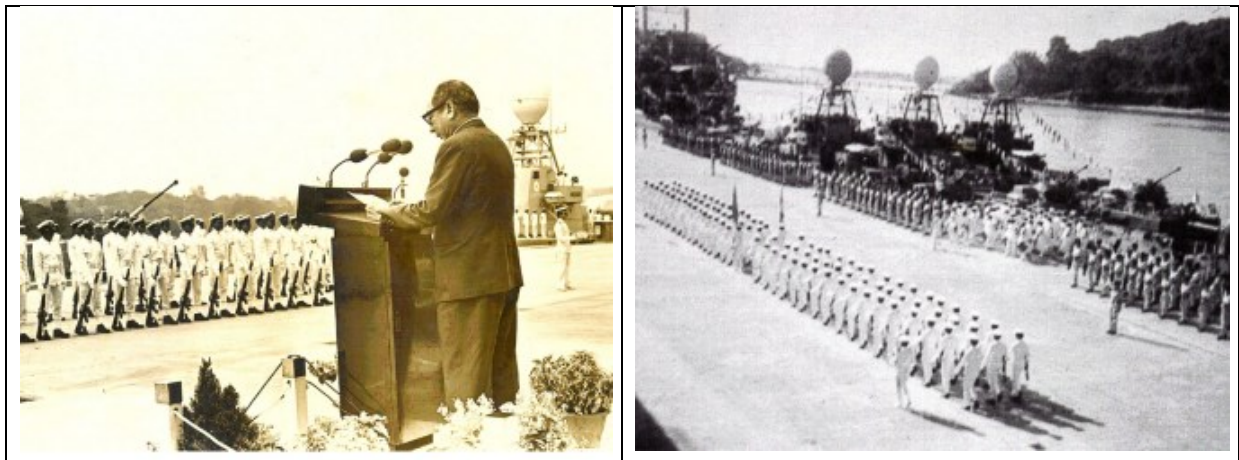


1974 - The remaining four ships of the squadron, RSS SEA DRAGON, RSS SEA TIGER, RSS SEA HAWK and RSS SEA SCORPION were built on the same design and delivered.

22 January 1975 - RSS SEA WOLF, RSS SEA LION and RSS SEA DRAGON were commissioned.

29 February 1976 - RSS SEA TIGER, RSS SEA HAWK and RSS SEA SCORPION were

commissioned. All the six ships were commissioned by the then Minister for Defence, Dr Goh Keng Swee.



Key Milestones

31 January 1974 - RSS SEA HAWK, together with other RSN ships and the Marine Police boats surrounded the Laju ferry, which was hijacked by four armed terrorists and successfully prevented them from escaping.

1974 - The RSN became the first Navy in the region to successfully fire an anti-ship missile, when RSS SEA WOLF fired the Gabriel Surface-to-Surface Missile (SSM). This marked the Navy's entry into the missile age.



2 May 1975 - Operation Thunderstorm was activated as a result of the large exodus of Vietnamese people due to the success of the North Vietnamese Communist group. The MGBs were activated to assist in the Operations. Despite logistics and manpower challenges, the MGBs contributed significantly to the success of the Operation.



1976 - MGB participated in first foreign Exercise - Ex EAGLE. Since then, the MGBs were also involved in various other bi-lateral and multi-laterals exercises such as Ex MALAPURA (Malaysia), Ex PELICAN (Brunei), Ex SINGSIAM (Thailand), Ex STARFISH, Ex FLYING FISH and Ex BERSAMA PADU (FPDA countries), SIMBEX (India), Ex SINGAROO (Australia) and Ex CARAT (USA).

1986 to 1988 - The MGBs were upgraded with the Long Range Harpoon Anti-Ship Missile. This missile, with a over-the-horizon firing range of over 90 kilometres, enhanced the ships' strike capability and complemented the existing Gabriel missile giving the ship a wider versatility in surface-to-surface combat.



1990 - MGBs participated in the Presidential Sea Review, National Day celebration.



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June 1994 - The final upgrading of the MGBs with the Mistral Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs) to replace the Bofors 40mm gun. The twin-missile system improved the ships' ability to defend themselves against enemy aircraft.

July 1994 - The Mistral Surface-to-Air missile was successfully fired by the MGB.



Throughout their operational service, the MGBs were involved in numerous operations at sea and exercises. 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.

As a testament to the MGBs' combat readiness, operational proficiency and administrative excellence, the MGBs have won the Best Ship award five years in a row from 1986 to 1991. They were Best Ship for a total of 11 years.

With the decommissioning of the MGBs, the new FORMIDABLE-class Stealth Frigates will make their way into 185 Squadron.

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News Release:

- [Missile Gunboats Retire After 33 Years of Distinguished Service \(MINDEF_20080513001.pdf\)](#)