



SPEECH

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Transcript: Door-Stop Interview of Minister Teo Chee Hean after Witnessing the Live Firing at Exercise Lightning Warrior

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Tan Yingjia (Lianhe Zaobao): 	Sir, could you please share with us some thoughts for this exercise? Minister: 	Well, first of all we would like to thank the South African National Defence Force and South Africa for allowing us to train here. This exercise confirms the SAF's capability to have comprehensive awareness and precision strike on multiple targets. This includes targets which are static as well as fleeting targets, which means targets that appear only for a short while. This is done by integrating a network of sensors and shooters. Sensors include things like the Weapon Locating Radar, our Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and even our Apache helicopters. Shooters include things like fighters, our Apache helicopters as well as our artillery and precision strike weapons like SPIKE. What this means is that the SAF division now has the capability to see first and to strike first well into the division's depths and that means that the division is able to influence the battle well into the depth. This is a capability which we are happy to have and is part of the third generation transformation.

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Tan Yingjia (Lianhe Zaobao): 	Sir, how is this relevant to the current operational environment within the greater region? Minister: 	It is a much more dynamic operational environment. It is much more important for a division to be able to influence the deep battle. It also means that targets which are both static and fleeting can be seen and engaged quickly.

Tan Yingjia (Lianhe Zaobao): 	There is also an increasing threat in unconventional threats such as terrorism. How could such technology be extended to deal with these threats? Minister: 	We have a whole range of capabilities. This capability is one end of it but we have other capabilities which deal with things like protection of installations, the special forces, as well as capabilities to deal with chemical and biological threats. So, different parts of the SAF are tuned for different capabilities. This part of the SAF is tuned for the capability to deal with a deep battle as well as to deal with both static and fleeting targets, which may appear only for a short period of time. Teh Joo Lin (The Straits

Times):	Sir, third generation has been going on for quite a number of years. How does this exercise fit into the overall scheme of things? How far are we ahead?Minister:	Well, it is important now because the battle moves much more quickly. And because of longer-range weapons, the ability to influence the battle in the depth and to have very tight sensor-shooter loops is very important so that both the static targets and fleeting targets can be engaged very quickly. This exercise confirms our ability to do that by having a very tight loop between the sensors when you detect the target and being able to bring precise weapons onto the target.

News Release:

- Integrating 3rd Generation SAF's Strike Capabilities (MINDEF_20080518001.pdf)

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