



NEWS RELEASE

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Fact Sheet: Leopard 2A4 Main Battle Tank

25 Oct 2008



The Leopard 2A4 Main Battle Tank (MBT) is a direct-fire platform that offers enhanced fire power, protection and mobility. As part of the 3rd Generation SAF fighting force, the Leopard 2A4 MBT adds to the arsenal of weapons that the SAF can employ to conduct coordinated fires and manoeuvres to deliver swift, lethal and precise effects.

Fighting as a Networked Force

The SAF is integrating the Battlefield Management System into the Leopard 2A4 MBTs which will enable them to contribute and share a common situation picture while operating as an integral component of the SAF's fighting force. This enhances the survivability of mobile

forces as they can manoeuvre in dispersed formations, and allows the SAF to concentrate their fire power to overwhelm opposing forces at the right time to achieve maximum combat effectiveness.

Fire Power

The Leopard 2A4 MBT is equipped with the 120mm, L44 smoothbore gun operated with the Stabilised Control System. The fire control system enables the MBTs to maintain accuracy even while on the move. Further enhancements include the use of more lethal and versatile kinetic energy and multipurpose ammunition (for example advanced kinetic energy rounds and programmable fuze, multi-purpose rounds).

Protection

The Leopard 2A4 MBT is enhanced with upgraded protection levels all round for greater crew survivability. The multi-layered armour provides effective protection against kinetic projectiles from tank guns, armoured vehicle cannons and anti-tank weapons. The upgraded protection levels took into consideration the need for the Leopard 2A4 MBT to maintain a high level of mobility.

Mobility

Powered by a turbo-charged diesel engine producing a maximum of 1,500hp, the Leopard 2A4 MBT has one of the most favourable power-to-weight-ratio in its class. The 55-tonne MBT can travel at a maximum of 72km/h on road and up to 60km/h in cross-country terrain.

Training Leopard 2A4 MBT Operators

In October 2007, the first batch of SAF commanders were sent on a two-month course in Germany to understand the technical aspects of the Leopard 2A4 MBT, and how they are employed in operations. Subsequently, these commanders customised a full set of training modules for the local terrain. These instructors are now responsible for developing a crew of proficient MBT operators. This includes training the operators using a simulator before they begin to operate the actual MBT. The first batch of MBT operators from the 48th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (48 SAR), graduated this September. In the coming months, these Full-Time National Servicemen crews will be trained in MBT fighting doctrines at the platoon- and company-level.

Leopard 2A4 MBT Timeline

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| Dec 06 | MINDEF announced the SAF's decision to acquire 66 refurbished Leopard 2A4 MBTs, together with 30 spare tanks and supporting equipment from the German |
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| | Armed Forces. |
| Sep 07 | The first Leopard MBT to arrive in Singapore was displayed at the Army Open House. |
| Oct 07 | A team of commanders left for Germany to learn how to operate the Leopard MBT. |
| Jun 08 | The first batch of refurbished MBTs arrived in Singapore and made Sungei Gedong camp their new home. |
| Sep 08 | Soldiers from the inaugural first company 48 SAR graduated from the trades course which prepares crewmen for their individual roles as tank gunners loaders and drivers. |
| Oct 08 | Leopard tanks take part in Ex Wallaby. |

Technical Specifications

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| Crew | 4 |
| Combat Weight | 55.15 tonne |
| Dimensions | (L x W x H) 9.668 x 3.7 x 2.79 m |
| Main Armament | 120mm smoothbore, L44 |
| Other Armament | 1 x 7.62 mm coaxial MG 1 x 7.62 mm anti-aircraft MG 8 x 76 mm smoke launcher per side |
| Fire Control System | With stabilisation, thermal imager |
| Engine | MTU MB 873 Ka-501 diesel engine |
| Power | 1500 hp |

Performance Specifications

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|-------------------|---------------|
| Power-to-weight | 27.2 hp/tonne |
| Max Road Speed | 72 km/h |
| Max Road Range | 550 km |
| Vertical Obstacle | 1.1 m |
| Trench Clearance | 3 m |
| Gradient | 60% |
| Side Slope | 30% |

News Release:

- Singapore, Australia Defence Ministers Visit SAF Exercise in Queensland, Australia (MINDEF_20081025001.pdf)