



# NEWS RELEASE

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## SAF Armour Turns 40

26 Jun 2009



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean affixing the unit emblem of the newly inaugurated 48th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment, onto the Leopard 2A4 Main Battle Tank during the Armour 40th Anniversary Parade held in Sungei Gedong Camp on 26 Jun 09.

National Archives of Singapore

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean officiated at the 40th anniversary parade of the Singapore Armed Forces' (SAF) Armour formation this afternoon. During the parade, Mr Teo also inaugurated the 48th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (48 SAR), which operates the new Leopard 2A4 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs). The inauguration of 48 SAR signifies the operational readiness of the battalion and marks another major milestone in the SAF's transformation into the 3rd Generation fighting force.

Today, at 40, the SAF Armour formation deploys a comprehensive complement of combat, combat support and combat service support vehicles based on locally designed and produced fighting platforms. These include the Bionix Infantry Fighting Vehicles, the Bronco All-Terrain Tracked Carriers and the Primus Self-Propelled Howitzers. The addition of the Leopard 2A4 MBTs, with their superior firepower, protection and mobility, will provide a significant boost to the SAF Armour formation. These tanks performed their first integrated live-firing exercise in Australia in October 2008 during Exercise Wallaby.

Speaking at the parade, Mr Teo highlighted the crucial role played by network-enabled armoured battle groups that will provide the SAF with an edge in the battlefield. "Success in the modern battlefield is increasingly being determined by how well various combat assets which used to fight as separate entities can now be integrated into a fighting system that leverages on a network of sensors, manoeuvre units and fire-delivery systems," he said. "Armour does not fight alone. It fights today as part of a system - adding the weight of its protected firepower and mobility to the overall combat power of the SAF, whilst drawing on the whole range of capabilities in the rest of the SAF to add to Armour's combat power."



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean inspecting the Armoured vehicles displayed at the Armour 40th Anniversary Parade held at Sungei Gedong Camp on 26 Jun 09.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean talking to a soldier during the Armour 40th Anniversary Parade at Sungei Gedong Camp on 26 Jun 09.

#### Related Resources:

- Speech by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean, at the Armour 40th Anniversary Parade (MINDEF\_20090626002.pdf)