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Singapore and New Zealand Navies Conduct Bilateral Exercise

08 Nov 2011



RADM Lai Chung Han and CDRE John Martin at the opening ceremony of Exercise Lion Zeal.

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The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) are participating in a bilateral exercise, code-named Lion Zeal, from 8 to 9 Nov 2011. RSN Fleet Commander Rear-Admiral Lai Chung Han and Joint Forces New Zealand Maritime Component Commander Commodore John Martin officiated at the opening ceremony of the exercise at Changi Naval Base this morning.

Established in 1999, this series of exercise aims to enhance the interoperability and professionalism of both navies. This year's exercise is hosted by Singapore and will involve about 265 personnel from the RSN and RNZN. Besides professional exchanges in conventional operations, the exercise participants will also be sharing best practices in navigation, naval aviation, fire-fighting and damage control.

Exercise Lion Zeal underscores the close and long-standing bilateral defence relationship shared by both countries. The RSN and the RNZN also interact regularly through professional exchanges, cross-attendance of professional courses and multilateral exercises under the ambit of the Five Power Defence Arrangements and the Western Pacific Naval Symposium. These regular interactions have served to strengthen the interoperability between the two navies and foster mutual understanding between their personnel.



Damage Control Training Centre (DCTC) Senior Instructor ME3 Brian Rajoo (centre) briefing exercise participants on the setup of the DCTC.

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