



# NEWS RELEASE

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## DPM Teo Observes Maritime Security and Consequence Management at Exercise Northstar VIII

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Mr Teo and Dr Ng, accompanied by other ministers and members of parliament, being briefed about the NMSS at the Changi C2 Centre.

Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs Teo Chee Hean visited the final day of Exercise Northstar VIII today, where he observed a whole-of-government approach to maritime security and consequence management. Also present to witness the exercise were Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister in Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry S Iswaran, Minister of State for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs Masagos Zulkifli, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Defence and National Development Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, members from the Defence and Home Affairs Government Parliamentary

Committees, as well as senior officials from various ministries.

Co-led by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), this year's Exercise Northstar tested and validated the National Maritime Security System (NMSS), a framework involving various maritime security agencies which enables the early detection of maritime security threats and provides a timely and coordinated response to these threats. The exercise also tested the robustness of consequence management plans for various emergency scenarios at Jurong Island. Held from 10 to 25 Nov 2011, Exercise Northstar VIII involved about 700 personnel from 18 different agencies which included the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), the Singapore Police Force (SPF), the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority, the Maritime and Port Authority and Singapore Customs. About 500 staff from companies located in Jurong Island also participated in the exercise.

As part of the programme, Mr Teo visited the NMSS Command and Control (C2) Centre at the Changi C2 Centre where he observed representatives from various maritime agencies working together to share information and coordinate operational responses. Thereafter, Mr Teo observed how the NMSS was being tested in response to a mock terror attack at sea which comprised a ship interception and boarding operation conducted by assets and personnel from various maritime agencies. He also observed a demonstration on consequence management in Jurong Island, which tested the readiness of various agencies in responding to a range of chemical, fire and vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) incidents.

Speaking to the media after observing the successful completion of Exercise Northstar VIII, Mr Teo emphasised the importance of a coordinated and integrated response by the various agencies in dealing with terrorist threats. He said "Recent history has shown us that the terrorist threat is increasingly unpredictable, and we must constantly up our game. This year's Exercise Northstar has tested our resilience in both the maritime and land domains. I am happy that the new National Maritime Security System, which brings together several agencies to enhance our detection and response capabilities, was successfully validated. The exercise showed how the Government and the private sector need to work together to deal with emergency situations. Exercises such as this are useful as they help all participating parties to be better prepared for



Troopers from the SAF's SOTF boarding MV Avatar during the sea demonstration.



SCDF personnel conducting a consequence management demonstration at Jurong Island.

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