



# Fact Sheet

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Date: 23 Aug 07

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**(Embargoed till 1800Hrs, 23 Aug 2007)**

## **EXERCISE APEX 07**

1. Exercise APEX 2007 started 13 Aug 07 and will end on 24 Aug 07. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Coastal Command (COSCOM) is the main organiser, with participants from the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) and the Army as well as the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), the Police Coast Guard (PCG) and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA). This exercise enables all key stakeholders involved in Singapore's maritime security to come together and collectively test, validate and review operational plans under realistic training conditions and further strengthen inter-agency collaboration. This is critical as the collective insights, resources and capabilities of all agencies are needed to effectively deal with maritime terrorism in a timely and effective manner.

2. The following assets are deployed:

a. Singapore Armed Forces. Assets include seven Patrol Vessels (RSS Resilience, RSS Sovereignty, RSS Justice, RSS Fearless, RSS Brave, RSS Dauntless and RSS Freedom); four Mine Countermeasure Vessels (RSS Bedok,

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### **MINDEF Public Affairs**

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RSS Kallang, RSS Katong and RSS Punggol), a Missile Corvette (RSS Vengeance); Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Mini-Unmanned Surface Vessels (Mini-USVs), Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs) as well as Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIBs).

b. Police Coast Guard. 16 x PCG Boats.

c. Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. 1 x Port Inspector Patrol Craft; 1 x Fire Fighting Tug and 1 x Harbour Craft.

3. The intensive two-week exercise comprises table top discussions to review and enhance maritime security plans and injects of various maritime security scenarios at sea to exercise all levels of command from the combined headquarters to the ground units at sea. The scenarios will require agencies to detect and respond to simulated threats, which tested inter-agency information sharing and collaboration under realistic conditions. One of the scenarios included the deployment of an ASSeT (Accompanying Sea Security Team) team boarding a merchant vessel to provide protection against terrorist threats. Another scenario involved enforcement of sea security plan against small boat threats. There was also a scenario involving the detection and disposal of mine at sea by the RSN's Mine Countermeasures Vessel.

4. The sea display of the Harbour Craft Transponder System (HARTS) this afternoon also saw how the RSN, MPA and PCG teamed up to render assistance to a distressed vessel out at sea. The scenario began with hostile elements attempting to board a harbour craft, triggering the master of the craft to activate HARTS. This was swiftly responded by the PCG with the support of the RSN and MPA, resulting

in the arrest of the hostile elements. Upon investigation, the hostile elements were found to be terrorists with the intention to hijack the harbour craft for terrorist act.

5. Throughout the exercise, the Exercise Planning Control Team constantly injected scenarios to test the plans and responses of the participating agencies. Two-sided tactical free-play presented challenging and realistic exercise scenarios that required the maritime agencies to be nimble and operationally ready. The exercise is being conducted at the RSN's COSCOM Headquarters at Tuas Naval Base (TNB) and at sea. During the exercise, the Exercise Operations Room in TNB, manned by personnel from the SAF, MPA, PCG and ICA worked in close coordination with the operational centres of the various maritime agencies, such as the Police Coast Guard Command (POLCOM) and MPA's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC).