



SCDF Plays Crucial Role in Exercise Northstar VII

The exercise scenario was similar to the Mumbai attacks in Nov 2008, when terrorists launched devastating simultaneous attacks on the city via the sea.

Successfully held on three days over two weeks, on 6, 7 and 15 Jul 2009, the exercise comprised two phases, with Phase One held on 6 and 7 Jul and the finale – Phase Two – on 15 Jul. Ten incidents took place at various landmarks such as the Raffles Place MRT Station, VivoCity shopping mall and the Rasa Sentosa Resort where the finale was held. The exercise involved more than 2,000 participants from 15 agencies, which included the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), Singapore Police Force (SPF) and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). The SCDF played important roles during each phase to evacuate the injured casualties and administer prompt medical aid to them.

The SCDF Role

After each savage attack by the terrorists, SCDF resources would be activated for the incident site once it was declared safe by the SPF. Protected by ballistic vests and kevlar helmets, the SCDF rescuers entered the affected zones to immediately bring the casualties to the First Aid Point (FAP). At the FAP, paramedics would assess each casualty and provide immediate first-aid to them. Those who were seriously injured were rushed to the nearest hospitals by ambulances. Sensing the gravity of the situation, the SCDF ground commander activated the Special Rescue Battalion (SRB) to assist to convey the large number of casualties to the FAP. The SRB also deployed their Personnel Decontamination Vehicle (PDV) as improvised ambulances to transfer the casualties to the hospitals.

Ringed Endorsement from the Highest Level

Exercise Northstar VII ended on a successful note, with the SAF and Home Team agencies co-ordinating their operations seamlessly to monitor and quickly mitigate the developing situation. Each agency knew its own specific roles and executed them well. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who watched the finale at the Rasa Sentosa Resort, was clearly impressed by the inter-agency effort to thwart the well-planned terrorist attacks. That is what our safety, security, peace of mind, stability and prosperity ultimately depends on, and we are very grateful to the Home Team and SAF for keeping us safe," said Mr Lee when asked about his thoughts at the end of the exercise.

■ CPT Png Yan Da was a Rota Commander in Alexandra Fire Station at the time of writing. He is currently a Senior Staff Officer in-charge of Industrial Regulation, in Hazardous Materials Department.



Swift SCDF arrival at Hilton Hotel, wearing 'Police' vests.



Attending to the seriously injured in Hilton.



Raffles MRT station - attending to the injured.



Transferring the casualty unto the stretcher, at Vivocity.

A caring rescue operation at Vivocity.



Arriving at Sentosa.



Evacuating casualties at Rasa Sentosa, in kelvar helmets.



Vivocity - loading the injured onto the PDV.