ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
MARITIME SECURITY SHORE EXERCISE
22-23 JANUARY 2007
SINGAPORE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1.   Pursuant to the approval by the 13th ARF Ministerial Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on 28 Jul 06, the ARF Maritime Security Shore Exercise was held in Singapore from 22-23 Jan 07. This Shore Exercise is a significant milestone in the history of the ARF because it is the first time that the ARF Member Countries have come together to participate in an operational activity. A Planning Conference was held from 7-8 December 2006 to prepare for the actual Shore Exercise. During the Planning Conference, the participants discussed and agreed on the exercise concept, topics for the professional exchanges and the scenario to be used for the table-top and simulation exercises. The Shore Exercise is a follow-up activity of the ARF Confidence Building Measure on Regional Co-operation on Maritime Security that Singapore co-hosted with the United States in Mar 05

2.   The Shore Exercise was attended by delegates from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, United States, Vietnam and the ASEAN Secretariat. The programme and list of delegates appears as **Annex 1** and **Annex 2** respectively

3.   The Shore Exercise was opened by the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Fleet Commander RADM Tan Kai Hoe (the opening remarks appears as **Annex 3**). The Exercise Director, COL Siow Chee Khiang, RSN's Deputy Head of Naval Operations, highlighted that the Shore Exercise was designed to promote confidence, understanding and familiarity among ARF maritime agencies in order to create capacity for interoperability. The Exercise Director also provided a broad overview of the two-day programme, which comprised professional exchanges, a Table-Top Exercise (TTX), a Tactical Training Centre (TTC) Exercise and a professional visit to the Maritime Port Authority's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC). Delegates were also hosted to a welcome dinner hosted by Chief of Navy RADM Ronnie Tay.

Professional Exchanges

4.   During the professional exchanges, delegates delivered presentations along the themes of: (a) Information Sharing Models among National Maritime Agencies and (b) International and Regional Cooperation Arrangements.

5.   The Australian delegate gave a presentation titled "Border Protection Command". In explaining the establishment of the Border Protection Command, the Australian delegate highlighted that Australia had realised that the effectiveness of domestic maritime security operations could be increased by the integration and rationalisation of civil/military activities under a single command structure. The single command (BPC) also ensures effective coordination amongst Australian Government agencies involved in maritime security operations. This was especially so in tackling the multi-dimensional nature of maritime security threats. The Australian delegate also briefed on the assets and capabilities of the

Border Protection Command, as well as some new initiatives that the Command was embarking on. The Australian presentation appears as **Annex 4**.

6. The brief by the Chinese delegation, titled "Coordinating Mechanisms of Offshore Search and Rescue Operations", covered China's maritime search and rescue system, the role of the PLA in Search and Rescue (SAR) and Joint SAR exercises between PLA Navy and foreign navies. It was emphasised that the exchanges and cooperation between the PLA Navy and Foreign Navies were aimed at promoting joint search and rescue capabilities and such joint exercises among regional countries should be conducted in a spirit of promoting mutual trust and benefit and in a step-by-step manner. The Chinese presentation appears as **Annex 5**.

7. The Indian delegate gave a presentation on the "Information Sharing amongst National Maritime Agencies". The Indian delegate highlighted the role and composition of the Maritime Security Agency, which formed part of the National Security Agency (NSA), and emphasised the need to strengthen coordinating agencies and the importance of information sharing processes and systems. The Indian presentation appears as **Annex 6**.

8. The delegate from Indonesia shared on the "Indonesian perspective on Maritime Security Issues". He elaborated on Indonesia's definition of maritime security as well as the importance of dealing with maritime security in an integrated and comprehensive fashion. Various maritime security issues were presented. These issues need to be further defined in order to smoothen cooperation among ARF member countries. The different roles of littoral and non-littoral states were also discussed. The Indonesian presentation appears as **Annex 7**.

9. The Japanese delegate delivered a presentation on the "Japan Coast Guard's (JCG) Cooperation with Asian Countries". He elaborated on the law enforcement missions that the JCG had undertaken, which included combating smuggling, terrorism, piracy and armed robbery. Stressing the transboundary nature of these challenges, the delegate covered the JCG's cooperation efforts with other Asian countries. The Japanese delegate also took the opportunity to brief on the Japanese government's new initiative for cooperation in combating terrorism, titled "Grant Aid for Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism and Security Enhancement". The Japanese presentation appears as **Annex 8**.

10. The delegate from New Zealand briefed on "The National Maritime Coordination Centre (NMCC) - The New Zealand Experience". After sharing on the maritime threats that New Zealand faced, the delegate elaborated on the evolution of the NMCC and its current roles and functions. He also intimated on possible future developments for the NMCC, including its plans to improve inter-agency information sharing through a Computer based Multi-Agency Information Sharing Network system. The presentation from New Zealand appears as **Annex 9**.

11. The delegate from the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (MSA) briefed on the role of the MSA in maritime security. He reasoned that maritime security challenges were transnational and highlighted the need for capacity building and joint/bilateral exercises and patrols. Many useful case studies were also shared. The presentation from Pakistan appears as **Annex 10**.

12. The representative from the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre (ISC) briefed on the roles and functions of the ReCAAP ISC. He also shared on the focal points

concept of ReCAAP ISC, and spoke on the processes for information sharing and initiating responses. The presentation from ReCAAP appears as **Annex 11**.

13.   The Singaporean delegate delivered a presentation on "Singapore's Approach to Maritime Security". The presentation focused on the importance of inter-agency coordination and regional and international collaboration. The presentation briefly described the range of Singapore's initiatives including homeland security measures such as the Accompanying Sea Security Teams, as well as regional initiatives such as the Malacca Straits Patrol. The Singaporean presentation appears as **Annex 12**.

14.   The delegate from the United States shared a presentation titled "Maritime Law Enforcement Agreements". In sharing the challenges that the US faced in ensuring maritime security and noting the similarities to the Pacific Rim region, the US delegate highlighted the merits of prearranged international agreements in facilitating cooperation in tackling transnational maritime security threats. The presentation from the US appears as **Annex 13**.

15.   The presentation from the European Union appears as **Annex 14**.

16.   From the ensuing discussions, the delegates agreed that while the exact approaches varied, the key to addressing the transnational nature of maritime security threats was through multilateral and inter-agency information sharing and cooperation.

Table-Top Exercise

17.   Building on the knowledge gained during the professional exchanges, the delegates participated in a Table-Top Exercise (TTX) designed to encourage discussions and sharing of operational experiences. To maximise participation and sharing, two concurrent table-top exercises were conducted. Each table-top group was facilitated by a Singapore inter-agency panel comprising representatives from the Republic of Singapore Navy, Police Coast Guard, Maritime Port Authority, Singapore Customs and the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority.

18.   The TTX was executed through a series of scripted questions, designed to facilitate discussion on pertinent maritime security issues such as modalities of information exchange and collaborative security arrangements. The delegates then came together for a combined debrief session to share their responses and lessons learnt. The delegates from Australia and India presented the report from their respective TTXs. The delegates agreed that while the TTX may not have provided definitive solutions, its value was in the broadening of perspectives made possible by the presence of different agencies and countries participating in the exercise. The TTX debrief pointers appears as **Annex 15**. The meeting also noted that Indonesia's proposal for environmental protection could be discussed at future ARF events.

Marsec Ex @ TTC

19.   The scenario for the Marsec Ex @ TTC revolved around a generic target identification and tracking scenario with a fictitious Area as well as a vessel-of-interest (VOI). Delegates were divided into mixed groups, (both by countries as well as by agencies) and assigned to cubicles for the exercise. At the tactical level, the delegates compiled the sea situation picture, directed their units to detect, identify, track and report vessels-of-interest (VOI) and coordinated the handing and taking over of contacts. At the operational level, the delegates

were given scenarios to discuss and formulate responses. The Marsec Ex @ TTC not only achieved its objective of fostering interaction and cooperation but also provided greater awareness for any future inter-agency and international coordination both at the tactical as well as operational levels.

20.   A total of seven injects were included in the exercise. These injects were designed to elicit responses pertaining to information sharing as well as tactical responses. After the exercise, a debrief session was conducted to discuss the possible responses to the injects. Many valuable insights and perspectives were derived from this debrief. The TTC debrief appears as **Annex 16**.

Conclusion

21.   Given its wide membership that encompasses the key stakeholders in regional maritime security, the ARF should continue to play an important role in forging regional cooperation in maritime security. The Shore Exercise is an important first step in the ARF's progress from the conduct of dialogues to forging concrete and practical cooperation in the area of maritime security. The Shore Exercise laid the foundation for greater interoperability and operational cooperation, including the possibility of a joint maritime security exercise at sea among ARF countries.

22.   The delegates expressed their appreciation to Singapore for the hospitality and organization of the first ever ARF Maritime Security Shore Exercise. In closing, Fleet Commander RADM Tan Kai Hoe noted that the ARF Maritime Security Shore Exercise had achieved its objectives by gathering maritime security experts from diverse backgrounds, each with a wealth of experience and a breadth of perspectives. By providing a platform for them to share this expertise, the Shore Exercise had raised the collective intelligence of ARF member countries in addressing the threat of maritime security. RADM Tan thanked the delegates for their contributions in making the ARF Maritime Security Shore Exercise a resounding success.

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