

Singapore Armed Forces (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 12/2007

Read the first time: 9th April 2007

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Singapore Armed Forces (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 12/2007

Read the first time on 9th April 2007.

An Act to amend the Singapore Armed Forces Act (Chapter 295 of the 2000 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Singapore Armed Forces (Amendment) Act 2007 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

New Part XIIA

2. The Singapore Armed Forces Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 201, the following Part:

“PART XIIA

AID TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES

Interpretation of this Part

201A. In this Part —

“Committee” means the Committee appointed under section 201C(2);

“infrastructure” includes physical facilities, supply chains, information technologies and communication networks or systems.

Deployment of Singapore Armed Forces for air and sea operations in aid of civilian authorities

201B.—(1) The Minister may authorise the Singapore Armed Forces to be deployed in such manner as is reasonable and necessary for all or any of the following air or sea operations:

- (a) to combat piracy or piratical acts;
- (b) to detect and prevent any aerial or maritime threat to the defence or security of Singapore;
- (c) to detect and prevent the unlawful carriage by air or sea of any weapon, explosive or other dangerous device or substance;
- (d) to rescue any hijacked aircraft, vessel or other fixed or floating facility;
- (e) to carry out such other air or sea operation as the Minister, after consulting the Committee, may, by notification in the *Gazette*, prescribe.

(2) The Minister shall have regard to Singapore’s international obligations when giving any authorisation under subsection (1).

(3) Subject to sections 201E and 201F, any serviceman deployed for duty under subsection (1) may, for the purposes of the operation for which he is deployed, do one or more of the following in relation to any aircraft:

- (a) intercept the aircraft and require it —
 - (i) to leave, or not to enter, Singapore airspace or such part of Singapore airspace as may be specified by him; or
 - (ii) to land at an aerodrome or such other place in Singapore as may be specified by him;
- (b) capture or recapture the aircraft;
- (c) board the aircraft;
- (d) where he is on board the aircraft —
 - (i) prevent, or put an end to, acts of violence;
 - (ii) protect persons from acts of violence;
 - (iii) free any hostage from the aircraft;
 - (iv) evacuate persons to a place of safety;
 - (v) detain any person whom the serviceman believes on reasonable grounds to have committed an offence or to have a design to commit an offence, to be handed over to a police officer as soon as practicable;
 - (vi) search the aircraft, and any person or anything on it, including its cargo;
 - (vii) seize any dangerous thing or other thing related to the operation concerned or evidence of any offence found in such a search;
- (e) detain the aircraft and bring it, or cause it to be brought, to any other place in Singapore;
- (f) take measures (including the use of force) reasonable and necessary in the circumstances to exercise any of the powers in paragraphs (a) to (e).

(4) Subject to sections 201E and 201F, any serviceman deployed for duty under subsection (1) may, for the purposes of the operation for which he is deployed, do one or more of the following in relation to any vessel or fixed or floating facility:

- (a) intercept the vessel and require it to leave, or not to enter, Singapore territorial waters or such part of Singapore territorial waters as may be specified by him;
- (b) pursue, stop and board the vessel;
- (c) where necessary and after firing a warning signal, fire at or into the vessel to disable it or compel it to be brought to for boarding;
- (d) capture or recapture the vessel or facility;
- (e) where he is on the vessel or facility —
 - (i) prevent, or put an end to, acts of violence;
 - (ii) protect persons from acts of violence;
 - (iii) free any hostage from the vessel or facility;
 - (iv) evacuate persons to a place of safety;
 - (v) require any person to give information concerning himself, the vessel or facility or anything thereon;
 - (vi) detain any person whom the serviceman believes on reasonable grounds to have committed an offence or to have a design to commit an offence, to be handed over to a police officer as soon as practicable;
 - (vii) search the vessel or facility, and any person or anything on it, including its cargo;
 - (viii) seize any dangerous thing or other thing related to the operation concerned or evidence of any offence found in such a search;
- (f) detain the vessel and bring it, or direct the person in charge of the vessel to bring it —
 - (i) to a port or to any other place in Singapore; or

(ii) out of Singapore;

(g) take measures (including the use of force) reasonable and necessary in the circumstances to exercise any of the powers in paragraphs (a) to (f).

(5) The powers under subsections (3) and (4) shall extend to aircraft and vessels outside Singapore in accordance with Singapore's international obligations.

Deployment of Singapore Armed Forces for land operations in aid of civilian authorities

201C.—(1) Where the Minister, after consulting the Committee, is of the opinion that a relevant event has occurred, could occur or would be likely to occur, the Minister may, from time to time, order the Singapore Armed Forces to be deployed for the relevant event for such period as may be specified in the order.

(2) For the purposes of this Part, the Prime Minister shall appoint a Committee consisting of such persons as he may appoint.

(3) Any order made under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette* as soon as practicable after it is made unless, for reasons of urgency or national security, it would be impracticable or undesirable to do so.

(4) Any order made under subsection (1) shall specify —

- (a) the circumstances to which the order relates;
- (b) the location or infrastructure to which, or the person to whom, the order relates;
- (c) the interest to be protected or threat to be averted, as the case may be;
- (d) the powers under subsection (9) which apply in relation to the order; and
- (e) the period for which the order shall be in force.

(5) An order made under subsection (1) shall not be invalid by reason that it does not specify one or more of the particulars in subsection (4), if the Minister is satisfied that it is impracticable or undesirable that such particulars be so specified.

(6) The Minister, after consulting the Committee, may at any time revoke or