

**POLICE  
LIFE**

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# **NDP 2021 OUR OFFICERS IN ACTION!**

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# CONTENT SPOTLIGHT



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## National Day Parade 2021: Our Officers in Action!

For the second year, the National Day Parade (NDP) 2021 was held with a significantly reduced number of participants and spectators in view of enhanced COVID-19 measures. Nevertheless, Singapore Police Force (SPF) participants worked tirelessly at every rehearsal to put up a good show during the NDP to commemorate Singapore's 56th birthday. Read on to learn more about their experiences from Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Gregory Kang, who was the Contingent Commander of the SPF Guard of Honour Contingent, and Senior Staff Sergeant (SSS) Abdul Latiff Bin Abdul Rahman, the Drum Major representing SPF for the Combined Band Contingent for NDP 2021.



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## Singapore Police Force's Post-Blast Investigators

In this issue of *Police Life*, we bring you insights into the work of Post-Blast Investigators and what they do when processing a post-blast scene to piece together vital clues to help the Police in identifying the perpetrators and prevent further attacks and harm to innocent victims.



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## Crime Files: Rivervale "Armed Robbery"

In this issue of Crime Files, we look at how our Investigation Officers (IO) from Ang Mo Kio Division unraveled the truth behind an orchestrated armed robbery.

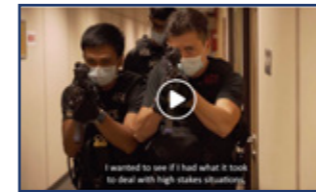


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## Being a volunteer Citizens on Patrol (COP)

For over five decades, Mdm Hamida Binte Khalid has been volunteering to keep her community safe and secure. In recognition of her service and contributions, Mdm Hamida was awarded the Pingat Bakti Setia (Long Service Award) in 1980. Read on to find out what keeps the 71-year-old going as a volunteer Citizens on Patrol!

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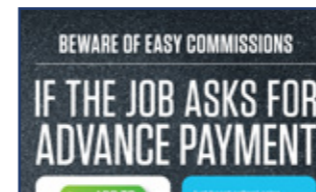
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# Commemorating 200 Years of the Singapore Police Force: The Singapore Police Bicentennial 2020 Medal

 Edwin Lim

 Naveen Raj Kunaseelan

On 3 August 2021, a Parliamentary Motion was passed to commemorate 200 years of the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and honour the contributions of its officers to nation-building. The Motion was tabled by Member of Parliament for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC, Mr Christopher De Souza to commemorate 200 years of the SPF. It also paid tribute to the men and women of the SPF, both past and present, which has made our city state, one of the safest countries in the world.

Sixty nine regular officers, civilian staff, full-time Police National Servicemen, Volunteer Special Constabulary officers, Operationally Ready National Servicemen, retirees and family members of officers who had died in the line of duty attended the Parliamentary Motion.



(From left to right, foreground) MOS HA Faishal, DPM Heng, Min MCI & 2Min HA Josephine Teo and CP Hoong Wee Teck with (from left to right, background) AC Jarrod Pereira, SAC How Kwang Hwee, SAC Wilson Lim and AC Serene Chiu.

Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat and several Members of Parliament spoke in support of the motion, as well as sharing on the contributions and sacrifices made by police officers. DPM Heng, who had served 17 years in the SPF, recounted his experiences and lessons learned in his involvement in setting up Neighbourhood Police Posts (NPPs) in Singapore. "So while we speak of policing approaches, the heart of it, is the trust and confidence of the public in the police. And this trust and confidence rest critically on the values and attributes of our officers." said DPM Heng, who also thanked both past and present officers for their contributions and sacrifices.

Member of Parliament for Bukit Batok SMC, Mr Murali Pillai, paid tribute to fallen officers who had given their lives while carrying out their duties. Mr Murali said, "As a nation, we should never forget the ultimate sacrifices made by our fallen officers in the line of duty." Mr Murali further added, "We should also not forget the extraordinary courage of the families of these fallen officers too. The sacrifice is theirs too."

Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K Shanmugam introduced the Singapore Police Bicentennial 2020 Medal and Medallion, and thanked the SPF for its exemplary service. He also reminded all officers to never detach themselves from the core and professionalism, in order to maintain the trust of Singaporeans whom it serves".

The Singapore Police Bicentennial 2020 Medal will be awarded to police officers who were in service for any period between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020. This includes regular Police officers, full-time Police National Servicemen, Operationally Ready Police National Servicemen, and Volunteer Special Constabulary officers. The Medal and Medallion will be given out from June 2022. The Singapore Police Bicentennial 2020 Medallion will be awarded to former Police officers who had retired or completed their National Service liabilities before 1 January 2020, as well as to the families of fallen officers. Civilian officers who were in service with the SPF in 2020 will also be awarded the Medallion.

The SPF has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1820. The SPF will continue to enhance our capabilities and forge closer partnerships with the community, to keep Singapore as one of the safest places in the world!



The Singapore Police  
Bicentennial 2020 Medallion



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The Singapore Police Bicentennial 2020 Medal

Visit the link below to read more  
about the Singapore Police  
Bicentennial 2020 Medal.





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# National Day Parade 2021

✍️ Domnic Dass 📷 Naveen Raj Kunaseelan

Check out our Singapore Police Force (SPF) officers in action at this year's NDP Ceremonial Parade held at The Float@Marina Bay!



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1. DSP Gregory Kang, Guard of Honour (GOH) Commander of the SPF GOH Contingent. 2. The SPF GOH Contingent marching in unison, dressed in their ceremonial uniforms known as the No.1 uniform. 3. Our SPF Guard of Honour Contingent standing in salute during the iconic state flag flypast. 4. The SPF Marching Contingent marching in unison with their HK-MP5 submachine guns.

5-6. Our SPF Band members, never failing to impress as they march onto the platform with their extravagant ensemble. 7-8. The Traffic Police escorting the President of Singapore, Mdm Halimah Yacob to The Float@Marina Bay.

# BEWARE OF EASY COMMISSIONS

## IF THE JOB ASKS FOR ADVANCE PAYMENT

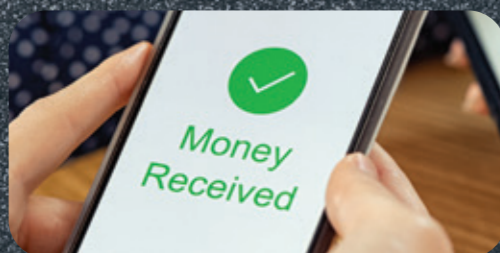


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# IT'S A SCAM

Learn how to spot Job scams at [scamalert.sg](http://scamalert.sg)

## SPOT THE SIGNS. STOP THE CRIMES.



# YOUR ROADSENSE MATTERS

Domnic Dass

In the latest RoadSense Survey conducted by the Traffic Police, it was found that there was an increase in car drivers using mobile phones while driving. The use of mobile communication device while driving is an irresponsible act which may lead to accidents. Drivers found guilty of using a mobile communication device while driving are liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both. Let's use our RoadSense to keep ourselves and other road users safe on the roads.

## PUT PHONES AWAY



*There's no urgent matter as important as road safety - phones off, eyes on the road!*

**WAVE 1**  
(NOV 2019)

**WAVE 4**  
(APR 2021)

**47%** 4% **51%**

indicated seeing drivers using their mobile phone while driving.

**DO NOT BE DISTRACTED, KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD!**

**46%** 16% **62%**

indicated that drivers would give way to signalling vehicles.

**GIVE WAY TO OTHERS.**

- TP has been running a three-year longitudinal nationwide study, known as the RoadSense survey.
- The study began in 2018 and is currently at its fourth survey wave.
- This study interviewed 1000 different road users - pedestrians, cyclists, Power-Assisted Bicycle (PAB) users, motorcyclists, motorists - on how they perceive their own and other road users' behaviour in terms of being safe and gracious.


**Follow us on Facebook**  
to learn more about Road Safety!  
[www.facebook.com/roadsense.sg](http://www.facebook.com/roadsense.sg)



A community message brought to you by SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE SINGAPORE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL

# NATIONAL DAY PARADE 2021

## Our Officers in Action!

 Domnic Dass

 Naveen Raj Kunaseelan

For the second year, the National Day Parade (NDP) 2021 was held with a significantly reduced number of participants and spectators in view of enhanced COVID-19 measures. Nevertheless, NDP participants from the Singapore Police Force (SPF) worked tirelessly at every rehearsal to put up a good show during NDP at the Float@Marina Bay to commemorate Singapore's 56th birthday. In this issue of *Police Life*, we spoke with two officers who participated in the parade - Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Gregory Kang, Contingent Commander of the SPF Guard of Honour Contingent, and Senior Staff Sergeant (SSS) Abdul Latiff Bin Abdul Rahman, the SPF Drum Major for the Combined Band Contingent.

### DSP Gregory Kang

Contingent Commander  
SPF Guard of Honour Contingent



Despite the COVID-19 restrictions limiting the scale of the parade, DSP Kang, having been the reserve Guard of Honour Commander in 2020, remained focussed on his participation in this year's NDP. DSP Kang shared that he was honoured to lead the SPF Guard of Honour contingent for this year's parade, and this experience will stay close to his heart. "Each year, the Police contingents in the NDP represent the men and women of the SPF on the national stage. Being able to be a part of the NDP was immensely rewarding. This experience has also brought back fond memories for my family members, as my father participated in the NDP during his national service in 1980, while my brother participated as a performer in 2009." said DSP Kang.

### Being a Parade Commander

DSP Kang said that the role of an SPF Guard of Honour Contingent Commander required extensive preparations in ceremonial drills, as well as sacrifices in personal time to participate in the rehearsals. DSP Kang shared, "Most importantly, an SPF Guard of Honour Contingent participant must have the willingness to serve, and be keen to share experiences with fellow SPF participants whom they may not have interacted with before." He also noted that previous experiences help. "Two previous parades in my life have taught me to prepare for this day - my Graduation Parade at Training Command in 2016, and the Commissioning Parade during my National Service in the Army", recalled DSP Kang. "As the Parade Commander during my SPF graduation parade, the training and support from my trainers and fellow graduands inspired me to do my best in terms of precision and discipline that are vital to leading a contingent. Thinking further back to my Officer Cadet School Commissioning Ceremony in 2011, where I had the opportunity to meet the late President S R Nathan. I remember vividly how heavily it poured that day, yet we stood still in the rain and watched the lightning in the background. President Nathan stood with us and inspected the parade in the rain. This was one of the most memorable moments in my life, and it taught me a very important lesson on leadership which I still hold dear - that leaders must be there together with those that they lead."

### Safety before all else

For NDP 2021, the NDP planning committee implemented robust safe distancing measures. "The committee worked hard to ensure that COVID-19 regulations were maintained. Contingents had separate changing areas, rest areas, and separate meals were catered for participants as well." DSP Kang also commended the SPF Guard of Honour members for their efforts. He said, "Having a sense of self-discipline and keeping your mask on properly despite the heat can

be tough during training, but our officers endured." DSP Kang also highlighted the importance of team spirit. "We might lose a sense of camaraderie without the hugs and handshakes, but we still stuck closely together and gave each other encouraging fist bumps before each rehearsal," emphasised DSP Kang.

### Recognising the birth of our Nation

Despite the challenges from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, DSP Kang strongly believes that it is important to celebrate our National Day so as to ensure that we

### SSS Abdul Latiff Bin Abdul Rahman

SPF Band Drum Major  
Representing the SPF Band in the NDP Combined Band Contingent 2021



### "Marching the Band forward!"

Leading the SPF Band in NDP 2021, SSS Abdul Latiff Bin Abdul Rahman is no stranger to this annual state event. Having had the privilege to serve as the Drum Major at NDPs for the past seven years, the avid musician, who plays the trombone, brought along his vast experience to the frontline of this year's NDP.

SSS Abdul Latiff acknowledged that the Drum Major's role is a challenging one. "It is a privilege to be entrusted for such an important role, and there is certainly a sense of pressure when you are standing in front of a State band. To be a Drum Major, you need to be firm and demanding, yet empathetic and approachable," said SSS Abdul Latiff. He also emphasised that the Drum Major's responsibility comes with a lot of training and effort. SSS

keep the legacy of the NDP. "If there is one message this NDP has, it is that no matter which way we celebrate, this is an important occasion for everyone in Singapore to come together to commemorate the birth of our nation," said DSP Kang. He further added, "This NDP signifies Singapore's 56 years of independence and showcases the resilience of its people and their ability to weather through stormy days. I am proud to represent SPF with my fellow officers in the Police Contingents, especially knowing that as we train, our fellow officers are out there doing their part every day to safeguard Singapore."

Abdul Latiff shared that the SPF Band musicians had to endure numerous days of training under the unforgiving sun, marching while carrying and playing instruments that weigh up to 15kg!

### Adapting to the 'new norm.'

SSS Abdul Latiff shared that the NDP planning committee had customised training so that technology played a vital part in the Band's preparations. "As a Drum Major, I had to continuously motivate my team to upkeep their physical well-being and get them to practice individually with their individual scoresheets via online platforms while working from home". Nevertheless, the combined training for the NDP still presented some challenges. SSS Abdul Latiff explained, "Due to the COVID-19 safe distancing measures, physical interaction was drastically reduced to just once a week for combined rehearsals with the SAF Band. We had to work on our display formation separately and adapt fast when we came together at the floating platform." SSS Abdul Latiff also shared that the Band musicians had to undergo weekly swab tests before rehearsals and were placed under Stay Home Order two weeks before the parade. However, SSS Abdul Latiff credited the SPF Band musicians for their resolve and determination. "All of us worked hard together towards the common goal of making NDP 2021 a success!" exclaimed SSS Abdul Latiff.

### We are stronger, together.

When asked about his feelings towards NDP 2021 being held during a pandemic, SSS Abdul Latiff shared similar thoughts as DSP Kang. He believed that the NDP symbolises the resilience of the Nation, especially during these difficult times. He also emphasised the significance of NDP and how it brings together everyone, even though not physically, to celebrate the birth of our Nation and reflect Singaporeans' resolve to remain united regardless of any challenges. At the end of the interview, SSS Abdul Latiff had a meaningful message to share. "Just like this year's theme song, 'The Road Ahead', there is a line in the lyrics that caught my attention, and it is, 'We did it before, we'll do it again.' I strongly believe that we will come out of this pandemic stronger. Happy 56th National Day, Singapore!"

# Precision At Its Best

 Syam Roslan  Singapore Police Force

Since the very first National Day Parade on 9 Aug 1966, our Traffic Police (TP) officers have been escorting the motorcades for the President and the Prime Minister to the parade venue. The TP officers involved in these motorcades were pre-selected and underwent extensive training and rehearsals to perfect their formations and speed control. Read on to find out more from two TP officers involved in this year's motorcade escort!



**SI Pan Jianhong**, Group Leader, Special Operations Team, Patrol Unit, Traffic Police

Station Inspector (SI) Pan Jianhong has been deployed for NDP traffic duties for the past 12 years. However, for NDP 2021, he played a different role. Due to his wealth of experience, he was selected to train the TP officers involved in the motorcade escort as well as to be the liaison officer and coordinator between TP and the parade organisers.



**SSgt Muhammad Ihsan Bin Mohamed Helmi**, Patrol Officer, Special Operations Team, Patrol Unit, Traffic Police

Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Muhammad Ihsan Bin Mohamed Helmi, on the other hand, was the 'newbie' of the team as this was his first time being part of the Presidential motorcade. **"I have always wanted to be involved in the NDP since I was young. It feels surreal that I will be on live TV as part of the motorcade this year!"** he shared.

Preparations started from June 2021, with the selection of suitable TP officers from the Special Operations Team (SOT), with each of them taking up a specific position within the formation of the motorcade. SOT officers received specialised training for VIP escorts, aside from their daily deployment for traffic enforcement duties and operations. As part of the preparations, SI Pan and his team attended meetings and site visits with the parade organisers to finalise arrangements before training for NDP in early July 2021.

When asked about the most challenging aspect of the motorcade deployment, SI Pan explained, **"We need to meet the exact timing given for the President to arrive at the parade, right down to the second, as it will affect the timing of the State Flag fly-past during the National Anthem."** SSgt Ihsan, who was deployed on the front left of the motorcade, reinforced the same sentiments and further emphasised the need to be synchronised with the other riders while using the motorcade's lead rider as his focal point to maintain his position.

SI Pan shared some little-known facts about the motorcade deployment. He mentioned that in the motorcade, all five riders, including the VVIP vehicle, have to travel at the same speed of about 12km per hour on the parade ground. In addition, all the riders must come to a stop on their motorcycles and lower their left legs onto the ground at the same time. Such precision requires not only extensive practice but also flawless coordination among

all the riders. Aside from that, SSgt Ihsan also stressed the need for him and his fellow motorcade riders to ensure that their turnout and bearing is tip-top, both for their uniforms as well as for their motorcycles. Before the big day, all of them will meticulously wash and polish their motorcycles and even their helmets, as well as press their uniforms so that both men and machines look sharp and flawless on screen!



With the team achieving mission success at the NDP 2021, both SI Pan and SSgt Ihsan reflected on a job well done after the long hours of training and rehearsals. SI Pan said, **"I feel proud and honoured to be involved in this year's NDP, albeit in a different role"**. As for SSgt Ihsan, it was a dream come true as he enjoyed his first-ever experience of being in the presidential motorcade. SSgt Ihsan said, **"I am proud to be a part of this year's NDP. I wish Singapore can continue to enjoy progress, harmony and prosperity as a nation. Happy National Day, Singapore!"**







# COSPLAYING FOR A GOOD CAUSE



✍️ **Domnic Dass**    📷 **Aloysius Low & SI Khoo Lu Jie**

Formed in 2013, 'Pause for a Cause' (PFAC) is a volunteer group made up of cosplay enthusiasts who are dedicated to supporting charities, charitable causes, and children in need. *Police Life* (PL) caught up with Station Inspector (SI) Khoo Lu Jie, who started the PFAC volunteer group, to learn more about his interest in cosplay and how it helped in his volunteering work with the PFAC.

Apart from being a crime-buster since joining the Singapore Police Force (SPF) in 2003, SI Khoo has always been passionate about giving back to society. What started out as an interest in cosplay back in 2005 eventually became an opportunity for SI Khoo to materialise his aspirations. SI Khoo shared that he first learnt about cosplaying for charity when he read online about the "501st Legion", an international Star Wars fan-based group that dressed up as Star Wars characters to do fundraising and charity work. Being an avid Star Wars fan and always looking out for opportunities to do his part for society, he was naturally drawn to joining them in their volunteering work.

Through his volunteering with the "501st Legion" as a Star Wars cosplayer, SI Khoo began to realise that cosplaying for charity could be more inclusive by adding other characters for variety so as to reach out to more people. Thus, SI Khoo started the PFAC volunteer group in 2013, and they had since supported various charities and organisations through cosplaying for their charity events. "PFAC also commits quarterly hospital visits to KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH) and surprise birthday appearances for the Make-A-Wish Foundation," said SI Khoo. He further shared that while the PFAC volunteers were passionate about supporting good causes, it did take some time for organisers of charity events to accept their cosplaying idea to support their events as cosplayers were not perceived very well back then," said SI Khoo. But SI Khoo never gave up



and started to leverage the power of social media and the growing popularity of cosplay to help spread awareness of the PFAC.

SI Khoo shared that whenever he saw the big smiles that PFAC volunteers brought to the people in their volunteering work, it would motivate him further and reinforce his passion for continuing with his volunteering efforts. There was also a great sense of achievement when they were able to support the charities in their fundraising activities through photo opportunities with their PFAC volunteers cosplaying as superheroes. SI Khoo also shared that their volunteering efforts go beyond participation in charitable events. "We have also made surprise appearances for children fighting terminal cancer. To bring that momentary delight and a smile to a child who has been suffering from their illness as well as the grateful appreciation from the parents reinforce the meaning and purpose in our volunteering work," said SI Khoo. Throughout the seven years of volunteering with PFAC, SI Khoo revealed that he had gained many positive memories as well as emotional ones. He recalled that the most emotional one was for a little girl who had late-stage cancer. "The family requested for her favourite 'Minion' character to pay her a surprise visit, but none of our members had the costume. Our members worked hard and eventually found the costume through the cosplaying community. When we made the surprise visit to the little girl at the hospital, she was so delighted that you could see that it lifted her spirit." SI Khoo recalled.

However, SI Khoo admitted that juggling between his volunteering work and responsibilities as a Police officer is no easy feat. Apart from managing a 55-member volunteer group as well as dozens of ad-hoc volunteers, he has to ensure that all volunteering activities have to be planned carefully with the event organisers to meet the requirements and coordinate the PFAC members' availability to support the event. "These events require a lot of time and dedication to plan and coordinate. This is especially challenging as we are not full-time volunteers. It

would have been very mentally and physically challenging if not for the great support and understanding from my family, supervisors and colleagues," emphasised SI Khoo. In addition to the support from his family and colleagues, SI Khoo also credits his ability in managing the PFAC workload to his experience and training gained over the years in the SPF. He shared that his experience in various SPF units and expertise gained in planning events and working with large groups of people have taught him leadership skills and the effective management of stakeholders.



SI Khoo pictured in his Iron Man costume, supporting a fundraising event that raised \$33,825 on 18 Sep 2016.

2020 presented new challenges for SI Khoo and PFAC due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Regardless of the challenges, SI Khoo was determined to carry on his volunteering work. Owing to the various COVID-19 safe management practices, the PFAC volunteers had to pivot to virtual events and took on smaller family birthday wish requests. He also revealed that one of their setbacks was the cancellation of their planned recruitment roadshows. Nevertheless, SI Khoo adapted his recruitment strategies according to the

COVID-19 regulations and continued to recruit volunteers for future events. Apart from recruiting new volunteers, he is also constantly looking out for collaboration opportunities and updating and engaging members in their chat groups. "I think our journey thus far has really proven that many hands can indeed move mountains. We will definitely keep going and welcome all like-minded individuals to join us and 'Pause for a Cause'," affirmed SI Khoo.

# Singapore Police Force's POST-BLAST INVESTIGATORS

Domnic Dass Public Affairs Department

The speed of investigation at a post-blast scene is of critical importance in identifying the perpetrators to prevent further attacks and harm to innocent victims. Read on to find out more about this crucial operational capability of post-blast investigations in the Singapore Police Force (SPF)!



## What do post-blast investigators do?

In the event of a terror attack involving explosives, post-blast investigators from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) are quickly deployed to comb through the messy blast scene for clues. Post-blast investigations (PBI) are time-sensitive as the earlier the critical pieces of evidence are pieced together, the faster they will help in providing clues to identify the perpetrators so as to prevent further attacks and harm to innocent lives. PBI involves several processes, including processing the blast scene, documentation and evidence collection, which helps the Police in their investigations and subsequent prosecution of the case.

## Training locally and overseas.

To remain operationally ready, CID invests much time and resources to continually enhance the SPF's PBI capabilities. The CID also collaborates with both local and overseas strategic partners to conduct training exercises for its post-blast investigators. Such training exercises help to sharpen the investigators' skills and ensure that there is a high level of operational readiness to deal with incidents involving bombs and explosives. These training exercises include the local Post-Blast Investigation Basic Course (PIBC) and the Biennial Overseas Exercise "Solar Wind", which is conducted between the SPF and the Royal Brunei Police Force.

## Striving to continuously improve our capabilities

The SPF works closely with Home Team Science & Technology Agency (HTX) for scientific and engineering assistance on post-blast investigation. HTX experts assist the SPF in the examination of electronic components that may be found at the blast scene and also works closely with the SPF to examine samples with their forensic laboratory. To enhance the professional knowledge of the post-blast investigators, SPF participates in the Internal Bomb Data Centre Working Group (IBDCWG) Conferences to learn best practices from other members, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the United States of America. SPF is also a member of the South East Asia Bomb Data Centre Working Group, which holds annual conferences for members to discuss and share findings of recent bombing incidents and learn about new developments in explosive-related technologies. These conferences enable the SPF to gather information and resources to help assess and identify probable perpetrators should an attack ever occur.

## Check out the tech!

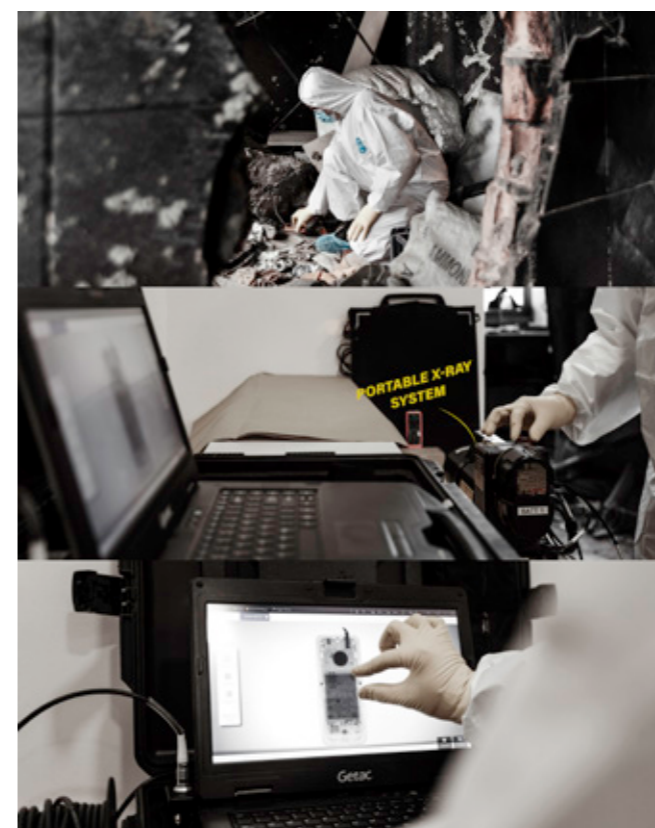
Let us take a closer look at some of the equipment that our post-blast investigators use on a scene to gather and process leads!

## Handheld Chemical Analyser



The handheld chemical analyser measures the amount of light energy absorbed or scattered by the unknown chemical after being excited by a laser. It is used to identify unknown chemicals both in solid and liquid forms in PBI operations.

## Portable X-Ray System



The portable x-ray system helps to capture x-ray images so that items can be examined and analysed without being dismantled, thus preserving the integrity of the evidence.


## Explosives Test Kit




An explosive test kit is used to help identify the type of explosive substances or trace residues present at a post-blast scene. The test kit helps detect a broad range of explosive materials by using a sampling stick to swab a surface. The substance is identified when a particular colour on the sampling stick appears after it comes into contact with the respective chemical reagent in the test kit.

Do check out our SPF social media posts on PBI below!



 Singapore Police Force @Facebook



 Singapore Police Force @Instagram

# WHAT'S IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD?

 Saiful Imran

 Aloysious Low



In response to the rising terror threats around the world, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) started deploying the Emergency Response Team (ERT) in 2016 to strengthen its counter-terrorism capabilities. ERT officers are handpicked from the Land Divisions and specially trained in tactical as well as counter-assault skills to respond to terror-related incidents in Singapore. In this issue, *Police Life* (PL) speaks with Sergeant (Sgt) Aelma Sheiqa, an ERT officer from Tanglin Division. Read on to find out more!

**Police Life (PL): What are your responsibilities as an ERT officer?**

**Sgt Aelma:** As ERT officers, we are the first responders to a terror-related incident. On a daily basis, ERT officers will patrol locations with high footfall such as shopping malls to project presence, detect suspicious activity, and link up with relevant stakeholders to develop joint response plans.

**PL: What motivated you to become an ERT officer?**

**Sgt Aelma:** Before becoming an ERT officer, I was a Ground Response Force (GRF) officer. As a GRF officer, I underwent tactical training on how to manage unexpected situations that we may face during our patrols. I enjoyed the tactical training very much, and that was what drew me to join the ERT.

**PL: What is it like to be part of the ERT?**

**Sgt Aelma:** It is physically and mentally demanding to be an ERT officer. We need to be in tip-top condition all the time. We take part in physical training routines regularly, which include weight training and running to enhance our muscle endurance, strength and stamina. Apart from that, we perform scenario-based exercises to simulate how we repel terror attacks as a team to upkeep our tactical preparedness. With every exercise that we go through as a team, it improves our team's synergy and enables us to develop effective communication within the team.

Whenever I found it challenging to keep up with the gruelling training, my teammates would spur me on. This bond that we have established as a team during training and deployments brought us closer and made us more effective when responding to incidents.

**PL: What kind of equipment do you use as part of your job?**

**Sgt Aelma:** Our gear consists of a bullet-resistant vest, a "HK MP5" submachine gun and our sidearm.

**PL: What keeps you going in your line of work?**

**Sgt Aelma:** It is not a matter of "if" but a matter of "when" a terror attack may take place in Singapore. Like every Singaporean, I am very concerned about the threat of an attack on our soil which could lead to the loss of lives and significantly impact the safety of our nation. This is exactly why we are always prepared to handle these incidents if we are ever called upon to do so.

**PL: Are there any hidden gems in the areas that you patrol?**

**Sgt Aelma:** We have several culinary gems within my patrol areas. Some of the places that my team and I love are the Chicken Ban Mian stall at Fork & Spoon Food Court at Toa Payoh Central, Mat Noh Chicken Rice at Whampoa Drive Hawker Centre as well as the delicious Salted Egg Chicken from GLC Restaurant along Upper Paya Lebar Road!

## Crime Files: Rivervale Plaza “Armed Robbery”

 Edwin Lim

In this edition of Crime Files, we take a look at how an armed robbery turned out to be an orchestrated attempt to embezzle company funds. Read on to find out how our Investigation Officers (IO) from Ang Mo Kio Division worked tirelessly to bring the perpetrators to justice.

### Hello Police?

Just before mid-day on 3 March 2019, Lee Kah Yeow, a 48-year-old Manager with *Kopitiam* food court, reported to the Police that he was robbed at knife point in his management office at Rivervale Plaza. Lee reported that the robber was armed with a knife and had demanded that he emptied the contents of the safe deposit box into the robber's bag. Lee did as he was told and filled up the bag with cash from the safe. Before fleeing, the armed robber directed Lee to put his head into the empty safe. As soon as Lee heard the door had closed behind him, he stood up and gave chase.

### Man, 48, jailed for his role in staged robbery at Kopitiam office in Sengkang



A manager of the Kopitiam outlet at Rivervale Plaza (above) is allegedly a co-conspirator in the robbery ruse. PHOTO: LIANHE ZAOBAO

Source: The Straits Times © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Reprinted with permission.

Outside his office, Lee was approached by a *Kopitiam* staff who told him that he had seen a man behaving suspiciously before walking towards the direction of the food stalls. Both of them then proceeded to give chase but after a short chase down a flight of stairs, both men lost sight of the armed robber.

### Victim or Antagonist?

In the Police's interview with Lee, the IOs noticed several suspicious calls and texts received on Lee's mobile phone before and after the robbery. The IOs also found that Lee had shared his work address to the same number via text message. When probed further, Lee informed the IOs that his friend had contacted him on some investment opportunities. Acting on these suspicious calls and texts, the IOs found out that the number belonged to one, Tan Lye Meng. From their preliminary investigations, the IOs suspected that Lee may be involved in the armed robbery as well.

### Suspicion Mounts

Through an interview with the company's auditor, the IOs established that the money in the safe box amounted to \$26,043.20. The auditor also informed the IOs that while Lee and him were reviewing the CCTV footage of the incident, Lee had remarked, "How come he never wear mask, so stupid." The auditor said that he was surprised by the remark, but Lee dismissed it as just a joke. He further added that Lee had mentioned the Police might reinterview him as he had just paid off some bank loans. These revelations by the auditor further reinforced the IOs' suspicion that there was more than met the eye.

With this crucial information, the IOs brought in Lee for further questioning. Lee continued to deny his involvement but when probed further on why he had texted his work address with the number found on his phone, Lee revealed that the text was for someone who was supposed to collect a sum of money from him. Lee told the IOs that he was to pay \$1,000 to a man named "Duku" in exchange for horse-betting tips. Lee claimed that "Duku" was to arrange for someone to collect the money from him. "Duku" was later established to be Hoi Hoy Leong, a 51-year-old unemployed man.

With this new information, the IOs wasted no time and managed to trace the whereabouts of Hoi. During Hoi's interview, he revealed that Lee had approached him to stage a robbery. Hoi rejected Lee and referred him to the would-be armed robber, Tan Lye Meng. Not wanting to be involved, Hoi distanced himself from the duo who went on to make plans for the offence.

### The Arrest

On 7 March 2019, four days after the report was lodged, Tan was apprehended at his friend's residential unit by the Police. Tan came clean when interviewed by the IOs and confessed to his role in the fake robbery ploy. Lee was arrested shortly after.

On 9 January 2020, Tan was sentenced to seven years and seven months imprisonment for the charge of Dishonestly Receiving Stolen Property under Section 411 of the Penal Code, Chapter 224 and other drug offences.

As Lee had made full restitution to the company, Lee was sentenced to 25 weeks in imprisonment for the charge of Criminal Breach of Trust as a Servant under Section 408 of the Penal Code, Chapter 224 on 17 January 2020.

Armed with a keen eye for details and shrewd investigative skills, the IOs worked tirelessly round the clock to establish the link between the different parties involved in the staged robbery. They kept the heat up on the leads and eventually brought the perpetrators to justice!

# Being a Citizens On Patrol (COP) Volunteer

 Syam Roslan  Singapore Police Force



**As a Citizens on Patrol (COP) volunteer, 71-year-old Mdm Hamida Bint Khalid shares crime prevention tips with residents and conducts routine patrols and house visits in her neighbourhood. At first glance, no one would have guessed that Mdm Hamida has done volunteering work for over five decades! Here is her remarkable story.**

It all started in 1967, when Mdm Hamida, then a secondary four student, joined the first all-female Vigilante Corps (VC) squad. As a VC volunteer, she served at three police stations, namely Joo Chiat Police Station, Central Police Station and Toa Payoh Police Station, for over a period of almost 14 years from November 1967 to September 1981. She rose through the ranks, and became a VC

Team Leader holding the rank of Staff Sergeant, with 15 volunteer officers under her leadership. Some of her tasks included scheduling duties for the full-time Police National Servicemen (PNSFs) as well as monitoring the PNSFs while they were on duty. For her outstanding performance and commitment to duty, Mdm Hamida received the Pingat Bakti Setia (Long Service Award) on 2 March 1980.



Mdm Hamida (fourth from right), with the first all-female Vigilante Corps squad in late 1960s.  
(Photo credit: Hamida Bint Khalid)



Mdm Hamida (second from left), at a parade inspection for a ceremony at Vigilante Corps Headquarters, circa 1970s  
(Photo credit: Hamida Bint Khalid)

The VC was reorganised in 1981, and Mdm Hamida was appointed to lead a team of 30 volunteers under the newly-formed Civil Defence Corps, where she continued her volunteer duties by sharing with residents fire safety-related advisories. In 1981, the SPF introduced the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS) to encourage mutual care and help among neighbours by having residents keep an eye on each other's premises, discuss initiatives to mitigate crime concerns as well as to share crime prevention messages. Owing to her strong passion in keeping the community safe from crime, Mdm Hamida eagerly joined the NWS, carrying on till the NWS became the Neighbourhood Watch Zone. In 2009, she became a COP member and is currently attached to Kampong Java Neighbourhood Police Centre, where she patrols the neighbourhood, disseminates crime prevention advisories and reports to the Police if she comes across suspicious persons or spots crimes in progress.



Photo taken before the COVID-19 outbreak.  
(Photo credit: Hamida Bint Khalid)

In addition to her volunteer roles, Mdm Hamida has also been serving as a Residents' Committee (RC) member of the Moulmein-Ah Hood RC since 1982. Her passion for volunteerism and public-spiritedness had led her to participate in many community engagement activities organised by Home Team agencies, such as crime




prevention workshops, fire emergency exercises and fire safety workshops. To attract like-minded individuals to volunteer, she has also proactively promoted the SPF volunteer schemes such as the Volunteer Special Constabulary and COP schemes to her fellow residents and grassroots members.


Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mdm Hamida and her team of COP members continued to patrol their neighbourhood to ensure their community stay safe and secure. When asked about her driving force to continue serving the community until today, she mentioned that she was touched by the gratitude shown to her by her fellow residents for her volunteering efforts. She said that the residents regard her almost like a 'mother', whom they can come to whenever they need any assistance. *"The residents here, if anything happens, they will knock at my door and asked me for help. But instead of feeling burdened or annoyed, I am more than happy to help, as I felt a sense of duty to do so!"* Mdm Hamida said.

In recognition of her outstanding dedication and contributions as a volunteer for the past five decades, Mdm Hamida was awarded the Minister for Home Affairs National Day Award (Home Team Volunteer) at this year's Ministry of Home Affairs National Day Observance Ceremony, which was conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 situation. When asked about her plans with regards to volunteerism, she said, *"Volunteerism is a part of my life, and I will continue to serve as long as my body allows. But I am helping to groom some of the younger volunteers so that when I retire, they will continue the work that I have passionately done for the past 54 years."*

Mdm Hamida's story on volunteerism is one of selflessness and sacrifice. Over five decades, Mdm Hamida has proved that there is no age limit when it comes to volunteering. Regardless of age, everyone can play a part in safeguarding their neighbourhoods, so long as one has the passion to serve the community!

# BRAVING THE STORM – RESCUE MISSION OUT AT SEA

 Rachel Ng

 Aloysius Low



Almost twenty years ago, in 2003, a Police Coast Guard (PCG) vessel, *Hammerhead Shark*, was dispatched near midnight to assist a vessel involved in a collision at sea off the coast of Pedra Branca. For *Police Life*, The Heritage and Social Responsibility Branch (HSB) spoke with Senior Station Inspector (SSI) Mohammad Faizal Bin Ali, one of the PCG officers who was involved in the rescue operation. He and five other PCG officers received the Police Medal of Valour in 2003 for their bravery shown during the rescue mission. SSI Faizal is currently serving as Crew Commander at the Gul Regional Base.

**HSB:** *What were some of your thoughts going into the rescue mission?*

**SSI Faizal:** We were alerted by the PCG Operations Room that there was a collision at sea off Horsburgh Lighthouse. As we approached the last known location of the affected vessel, we sighted a trail of floating debris amidst heavy rain and choppy seas. Nevertheless, we pushed on and were determined to rescue our fellow mariners. Mentally readying ourselves for all possible scenarios, we prepared our emergency equipment and continued the search for the vessel and its survivors in low visibility.

**HSB:** *Did you feel a threat of danger in that situation? How did you overcome it?*

**SSI Faizal:** After securing our vessel, my crew and I immediately boarded the other vessel to help in evacuating the crew. It was only after I had climbed down an escape ladder into one of the dark, flooded compartments of the affected vessel that I realised the water level was at my chest area, and my boots were hardly touching the floorboard. The smell of diesel permeated the air, and I could hardly see anything in the darkness other than the lights from the hatch above. It was nothing like I had experienced before. The sense of danger heightened, and I started to think through all the actions that needed to be taken if the situation worsened.

**HSB:** *How did the PCG team split up the rescue work?*

**SSI Faizal:** Our team evacuated the casualties, rendered first aid and ferried the crew over to the *Hammerhead Shark*. To reduce the risk of hypothermia, some of our officers prepared hot drinks and provided blankets to keep the crew onboard warm. Concurrently, some of us stayed behind in the damaged vessel to operate a motorised pump to extract water out of the flooding compartments to ensure that it remained afloat. I helped to relieve an injured crew member who was bailing water from the flooded electrical room. Additional PCG boats also supported the operation by transferring casualties from the *Hammerhead Shark* to Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal, where ambulances were ready to receive them.

**HSB:** *What was the following day like?*

**SSI Faizal:** At the break of dawn, a few tugboats arrived and secured the affected vessel. It was only then that the *Hammerhead Shark*, ferrying the remaining crew, left the scene to head to shore. We brought the crew ashore, then headed back to base for debriefing and prepared ourselves for search and rescue operations to look out for the missing persons.

**HSB:** *How did you feel when you were awarded the Police Medal of Valour?*

**SSI Faizal:** It was an honour to receive the award. The officers who responded to the incident worked as a team to brave the dangers and overcome the challenges during the entire search and rescue mission. I am glad that we were able to prevent further harm to the crew through the bravery and teamwork of the officers that night.

**HSB:** *Do you have any takeaways from that incident?*

**SSI Faizal:** To all my fellow officers out there, stay your course and trust that all of you have each other's backs. Always be courageous and resilient to go against all odds, especially when you are facing adversities.

# Sharp Eye for Design

✍ Syam Roslan 📷 Muhammad Iffat Arfan Bin Mahmud

Mention the term 'Ang Chia', and you will naturally conjure up images of police officers in red berets deployed with sub-machine guns from the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) Special Operations Command (SOC). Apart from being tasked to respond to public order and public security incidents, some of these specialist officers also possess other unique talents. In this issue of *Police Life*, we caught up with one of them, Sergeant (Sgt) Ahmad Aqil Bin Ahmad Aswat, a 29-year-old Trooper from the SOC's Rapid Deployment Troop (RDT), to learn more about his talent and passion for graphic designs.



## Looking for more than just a job

After graduating from Temasek Polytechnic with a Diploma in Environment Design in 2017, Sgt Aqil decided to join the SPF as he wanted a career that was more than just a job and allowed him to contribute back to society. He added that he was attracted to the SOC when he came across their recruitment posters and eventually joined the SPF through the SOC's Police Tactical Unit (PTU) Direct Recruitment Scheme. Currently, Sgt Aqil is an RDT Trooper under PTU, and his duties include supporting first responders from Land Divisions for public order and public security incidents.

## Contributing as a Graphic Designer

The opportunity for Sgt Aqil to contribute his design expertise came in late 2018 when his unit made an open call for officers with design skills to join an initiative to recognise PTU troopers who had gone above and beyond their call of duty to render assistance to members of the public. "As this was a meaningful project and an opportunity for me to put my design skills to good use, I volunteered to be the designer and submitted my proposal called the "SOC Heroes Playcard", a design concept which was inspired by baseball



Sgt Aqil in his RDT Trooper gear



The 'SOC Heroes Playcard', inspired by the designs of baseball trading cards.

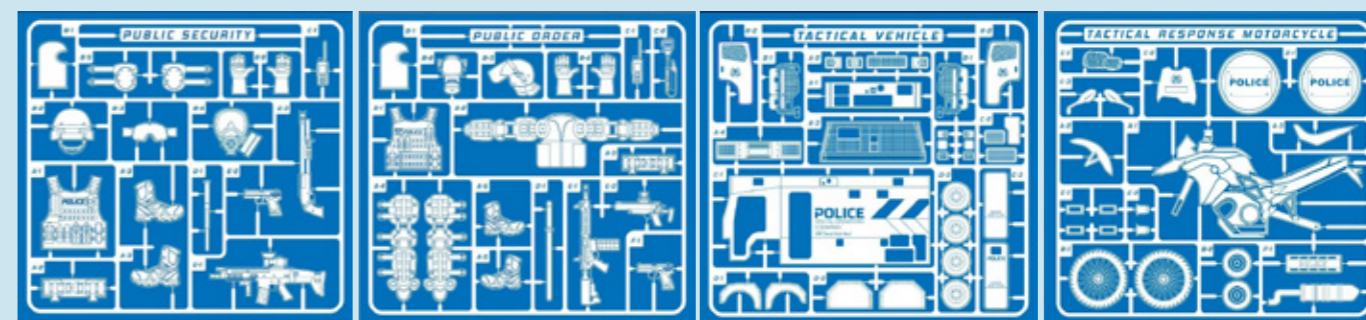


Poster design for an SOC event, created by Sgt Aqil and his team.

trading cards. His proposal was well-received, and from then on, Sgt Aqil got involved in more design projects for the unit. Some of his other design projects included the unit's internal newsletter called "SOCiety" as well as SOC's event posters. Sgt Aqil was also quick to share that he could not have accomplished all the design works without the contributions from another five like-minded team members, which formed the PTU infographics team. Like Sgt Aqil, the other five team members all volunteered to

in completing the entire model, which he related to how each SOC member played an important role as part of the unit.

Sgt Aqil shared that the entire project took about eight months to complete, from conception to production, as the intricacy of the design required each piece of equipment to be photographed first and then translated into a digital design before exporting it out to the design software for rendering. It was a time-consuming and tedious process, as the team had to carry out their usual operational duties



The artwork for the PTU wall mural.

take on this secondary portfolio as members of the SOC's Infographics team due to their passion for content design and creation. When asked about his proficiency with the various design software, Sgt Aqil shared that: "I self-taught by going through online tutorials and learning from my peers in the design scene. Currently, I am learning how to use Adobe After Effects!"

## Design Troopers, Assemble!

In February 2020, Sgt Aqil was asked if he was interested in working on a mural design to celebrate the illustrious history of PTU, which would also instil a sense of pride and belonging among PTU troopers. Sgt Aqil knew that the scale of the project was too large and complex to handle by himself. "So, I recruited a team of eight officers from my PTU family to brainstorm on the design concepts for four mural panels, and we eventually arrived at the 'Tamiya' concept design, which displays PTU's operational gear and our prominent operational vehicles, including the Tactical Vehicle and the Tactical Response Motorcycle," said Sgt Aqil. He added that he wanted to portray the essence of the PTU in a subtle but insightful manner and revealed that he was inspired by the 'Tamiya' model kits. Sgt Aqil shared that he was intrigued by the idea of how each part, regardless of their size, played an important role

and worked on the project outside their working hours to complete the project on time.



The actual mural done by Sgt Aqil and his team (Photos: Sgt Aqil)

When the mural was finally completed, Sgt Aqil shared that the feeling was surreal. "I have never done a mural before. This is by far my biggest and most memorable art piece. We could not have completed this project without the collective effort of my team members," Sgt Aqil claimed proudly.





**HERE I AM TODAY,  
FORGED BY  
200 YEARS  
OF COURAGE.**



Special Tactics  
and Rescue Officer

**I AM A  
SPECIAL  
TACTICS  
AND RESCUE  
OFFICER**



Singapore did not become one of the safest countries in the world by chance. The courage and commitment of our officers made it possible. Leading by example is the STAR unit, taking on the toughest of threats to protect you and safeguard the future. We have been here for 200 years, and we will continue to be here for you.

**Make history with us. Join the Singapore Police Force.**