

**POLICE
LIFE**

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE
2018 / ISSUE 02

Investing in Singapore's Security

Racing Against the Law

Love On Wheels



Note from the Team

February is the month of love! In this issue of *Police Life*, we share with you romance stories from some of our police officers who found love within the Force and how their love helped them strike a balance between their work and familial commitments.

Love is yet another true adventure. Be marvelled by two of our officers who embarked on a motor-biking tour around the various countries of Southeast Asia!

Also in this issue, check out the Singapore Police Force's latest annual crime and traffic statistics to keep abreast of the latest trends.

Have a good read!

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One of Us

Safeguarding our Roads Every Day

By Syam Roslan
(Photographer: Chee Yong Tat)

The Traffic Police (TP) plays a critical role in ensuring the safety of road users in Singapore. Through education, engagement and enforcement, the TP remains deeply rooted in its vision to make our roads the safest in the world. While 2017 is a good year with road fatality numbers being at a record low, Commander of TP Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SAC) Sam Tee is not resting on his laurels. Exuding a strict yet candid demeanour, the veteran policeman shares his thoughts and experiences in his stint as the 'Chief Guardian of The Roads' in this exclusive one-on-one interview.

PLM: Share with us how you came to decide to join the SPF.

SAC Tee: It was a childhood dream came true.

Which is your most memorable posting thus far and why?

I have been fortunate to have good colleagues to work with in all my postings. It is the people that make the difference.

Did you have any mentors or people who influenced you in the early phase of your career? Share with us how they have inspired you and shaped your work and personal life.

Over the past 24 years of my career, I have met many kind colleagues and bosses who provided me with valuable guidance. They shared with me much wisdom which is not found in textbooks. Be fair, do the right thing, care for the men, look out for one another, be helpful and don't underestimate the importance of luck in your career. I still meet them for coffee and lunches whenever I have the opportunity. Because of them, I am a better leader and a better person.

What are the key initiatives implemented by TP to enable safer roads?

Strengthening education. We firmly believe education is a key enabler to safer roads. Majority of the road users are aware of the importance of road safety, but they still need to be educated on the dos and don'ts on the roads. Hence, we have been very persistent in our engagement and education efforts with road users. We reach out to them through various media platforms such as newspapers, radio interviews, TV interviews and social media. TP also developed a learning portal which offers free theory handbooks. Soon, road users can take free mock theory tests and watch animated videos on the top causes of accidents on our roads, which will be rolled-out progressively in 2018. This way, both new and existing license holders can learn about road safety knowledge and defensive driving with ease.

What is TP's enforcement approach?

We believe in deterrence. Clear and distinct reminder signs (some with blue blinking light) are displayed preceding all enforcement cameras. We also do not hide behind trees or bushes! I believe motorists welcome this change, knowing TP aims to safeguard their journey and not out to catch and fine them. We hope that such change will increasingly help our TP officers gain respect with the road users as 'Guardians of the Roads'.



(Photo: Home Team News)

Is there anything you wish to highlight from the 2017 Annual Traffic Stats?

The roads are generally safer in 2017. The road fatality numbers are at a record low. I believe the 'RoadSense' of road users have increased. We are very encouraged by the good results and will continue to work hard to improve road safety further.

How do you upkeep the morale of TP officers?

Listen deeply and show genuine care and concern for the officers in both words and actions. You cannot fake such attributes.

What keeps you awake at night?

The safety of my officers. They are on the roads 24/7, rain or shine and often have to perform hot pursuit and high-speed duties. We lost one of our comrades last year - Staff Sergeant Nadzrie Bin Matin. He was an outstanding officer and a fine young man.

Ultimately, what do you hope to have achieved when you call time on your stint?

Safer roads for all.

How do you adopt a work-life balance/harmony?

I play golf when I can spare the time.

How would you convince someone to join the SPF?

Passion is what it takes to join us!

Any road safety advice to share with our readers?

Be more gracious on the roads. The roads will be safer if people do what is right and not just what is legally required. If we are capable of giving way to others on trains, buses and elsewhere, we are likewise capable of doing so on the roads.

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By Md Falliq
(Photographer: Hasif Mohd Ismail)



Within the Force

In this issue of Police Life, meet our very own police couples and find out how they found love within the Force and how their love for each other has grown from strength to strength.

What does Hollywood power couples such as Beyoncé and Jay-Z have in common with the officers featured in this article? Their first encounters were work related. Beyoncé and Jay-Z met during a photoshoot for a Vanity Fair cover back in 2001. Fast forward 17 years later, this billionaire couple welcomed three children and are still playing in whatever they do.

Similarly, these officers have found their soulmates when they are in the Force. Their love at first sight moments grew into something stronger. Slowly, they realised that they have been struck by the cupid's bow and took a step to further their relationship. Read on for the stories of our very own 'Hollywood power couples'!



Meet the ChinLay Couple
Years married: 11 years

When Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Mohd Yazid bin Abdullah met ASP Chai Ming Ling Qistina during his driving lesson, she 'drove' him madly in love. They later got married in 2007 and 11 years later, they are still enjoying a blissful marriage. Here is their story.

Tell us how did you guys meet.
ASP Yazid (ASP Y): We met during our Class 3 driving lessons conducted by the then Force Transport Branch (now

Automotive Engineering and Management Division). It was love at first sight. I remember asking her for her mobile number on the pretext of consolidating officers' contact list in the same Class 3 lessons!

Where was your first date?

ASP Y: I took her out for an ice kacang date at Choa Chu Kang's Lot 1 right after her class at Bukit Batok Driving Centre.

ASP Qistina (ASP Q): That was not a proper first date! I thought our first date should be the dinner at East Coast Park.



What are some of the challenges that a married police couple might face and how do you overcome them?

ASP Y: One of the challenges that police couples may face is the need to cope with varying work hours as they are on shifts. They tend to see each other less and that may reduce communication between them.

ASP Q: Yes, the working hours can be quite a challenge. Being police officers, we better understand each other's work commitments. We will try to accommodate and make arrangements to 'cover' each other at home to look after our kids. We also make the effort to visit each other's parents whenever possible, to strengthen familial bonds.

Are there any memorable encounters that you have as a couple within the Force?

ASP Y: In 2003, both of us were in the dragon boat teams during one of the Police Sports Association Sea Sports Championship. I represented Criminal Investigation Department and she represented Clementi Division. We were actually rivals during the competition! During that period, we would often try to fish-out training methods from each other adopted by our respective units.

What is the secret to your marriage that you would like to share with us to would-be police couples?

ASP Y & ASP Q: Give each other space and trust. Be understanding and spend more time together whenever the opportunity arises.

Senior Staff Sergeant (SSSgt) Alam Nasir Bin Abd Kasim and SSSgt Siti Nurkhairiyah Binte Anuar were together for six years before they finally got hitched on 16 July 2017. Here is their story.

Tell us how did you guys meet.
SSSgt Nurkhairiyah (SSSgt N): We first met when we were in the Singapore Police Force Band. It was during one of the daily rehearsals for a performance when he first approached me.

Where was your first date?

SSSgt N: It was at the old MacDonald's at King Albert Park. It was not really a date because he was actually accompanying me to study for my music theory exam. I remember how he accidentally knocked over a cup of iced milo on my books. Boy, I was angry! But I forgave him and 'granted' him our proper first date at Mount Faber where we had a romantic dinner.

What are some of the challenges that a married police couple might face and how do you overcome them?

SSSgt Alam (SSSgt A) & SSSgt N: Although we are working in the same unit, there are times when we are deployed for different performances of which some requires us to travel abroad. When this happens, we would make an effort to spend more time with each other and our loved ones whenever our schedules allow. For us, we strictly believe in drawing a line between work and family commitments. To achieve a balance, we ensure that our days off are strictly reserved for family and friends.

Are there any memorable encounters that you have as a couple within the Force?

SSSgt N: We are fortunate to be given opportunities to perform together in local and overseas concerts. I remember that it was a particularly stressful period for me when we were both involved in the Spasskaya Tower International Military Music Festival held in Moscow, Russia. Besides having to cope with the hectic rehearsals, I was also assigned logistic duties. Tasked to ensure that all instruments and uniforms were well-kept after every rehearsal and performance, I was always the first officer to arrive and the last to leave. Though it was really tiring having to cope with the various commitments, I am thankful to have Alam with me. He was my pillar of strength during that overseas work trip.

What is the secret to your marriage that you would like to share with us to would-be police couples?

SSSgt A: It is important to have a strong understanding between each other. Even if the both of you are working in the same department, your workload and job scope will involve different commitments. Though we are both musicians, we have different secondary portfolios to manage. Thus, even simple gestures such as buying dinner for each other matters. It is our way of showing care and concern for the other party.



Meet the Newly-Weds
Years married: 1 year



To date, there are a total of **400** couples in SPF.



2017 saw about **40** of such marriages.



Meet the Biker Couple
Years married: 12 years

It was the love for bikes that started everything for Station Inspector (SI) Balamurugan S/O Raja Singam and Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Priya D/O Vamen. They have been riding through the peaks and valleys in life since 2002. Here is their story.

Tell us how did you guys meet.

SI Balamurugan (SI B): We met while we were working in the Traffic Police (TP) patrol unit back in 2002. We were in different teams and were assigned different shifts.

SSgt Priya (SSgt P): I approached him first as I wanted to know who was that cool guy who rode the blue Harley Davidson bike in TP.

Where was your first date?

SI B: It was a movie date at Plaza Singapura. I cannot remember the title of the movie but it was awkward at the cinema. We did not talk much. In fact, we were cold towards each other.

What are some of the challenges that a married police couple might face and how do you overcome them?

SI B: Fatigue and clashing work schedules. These two factors could greatly affect plans for family outings. It is important to be understanding and accommodating to each other's work schedules. Sometimes, it is really about making the best out of the situation. The support from your family members is just as crucial. When we are both tied down with work, our parents would help to take care of our children.



SSgt P: It is not easy with our different workload and challenges. We strongly believe that communication and understanding between us is necessary to overcome any hurdles.

Are there any memorable encounters that you have as a couple within the Force?

SI B & SSgt P: We were both involved in the National Day Parade (NDP) in 2006.

SSgt P: I was a participant for the "Gymkana" stunt riding while he was part of the Presidential motorcade escort team.

SI B: We were also involved in NDP last year. She was in the military tattoo band while I was the pilot for the Prime Minister's motorcade escort team.

What is the secret to your marriage that you would like to share with us to would-be police couples?

SI B & SSgt P: Essentially, it boils down to communication. Sharing your problems and understanding each other's needs is the key to maintaining and fostering a healthy relationship.



Meet the Veteran Couple
Years married: 14 years

It has been a long 14 years since ASP Patrick Pang set eyes on his then would-be wife, SSgt Gong Jingyi. He knew that she was the one for him. And became the queen of his heart she did. The pair got married in 2004 and here is their story.

Tell us how did you guys meet.

SSgt Jingyi (SSgt J): We first met when we were at Bukit Merah East Neighbourhood Police Centre when I was there for an attachment. I think both of us wanted to approach each other but he made the first move.



Where was your first date?

ASP Patrick (ASP P): There was this Long John Silver's outlet in Novena Square back then. She was still undergoing training then and I made my way down to meet her.

What are some of the challenges that a married police couple might face and how do you overcome them?

SSgt J: Discussing about work is natural but it might cause unnecessary disagreements especially when we are both police officers. We have different viewpoints so we may end up quarrelling over mundane stuff, even if it is the details of standard operating procedures. To avoid any conflicts, we avoid talking about it totally.

ASP P: I feel that in order to overcome these challenges, you must be understanding. Strong family support is needed too. Everyone in the family plays a part, even the children as well. There will be times when the both of us are deployed for work and that is when our parents will offer help. The kids too must exercise self-discipline.

Are there any memorable encounters that you have as a couple within the Force?

ASP P: I used to be an Assistant Operations Officer in-charge of security planning. I was supposed to work out the deployment details for officers. Guess what?! My wife was actually deployed— and where I deployed her— outside of a toilet! I had to show people that I am impartial and to avoid any complains of biasness, I deployed her at where I felt was the worst place to be at.

What is the secret to your marriage that you would like to share with us to would-be police couples?

ASP P & SSgt J: Expect the unexpected and practise patience. You need to be patient because police officers tend to value time dearly. However, due to the nature of our work, we may be late for appointments. When you have plan A, be sure to have plan B.

SINGAPORE REMAINS ONE OF THE SAFEST CITIES IN THE WORLD

Economist Intelligence Unit
Safe Cities Index 2017

1. TOKYO
2. SINGAPORE
3. OSAKA

Gallup Global Law and Order
Report 2017

1. SINGAPORE
2. UZBEKISTAN
3. ICELAND

Overall crime and overall crime rate decreased in 2017

OVERALL CRIME
DECREASED BY **↓1%**

2016 **33,099** cases
2017 **32,773** cases **↓326**

OVERALL
CRIME RATE
PER
100,000
POPULATION

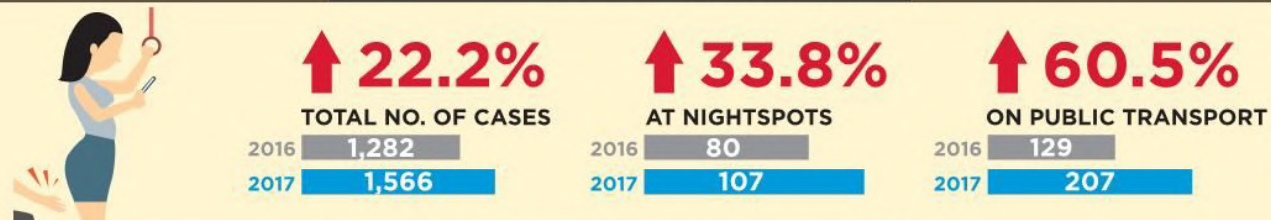
590 cases
584 cases
2016 2017

4 CRIMES AT ALL-TIME LOW



3 CRIMES OF CONCERN

INCREASE in OUTRAGE OF MODESTY



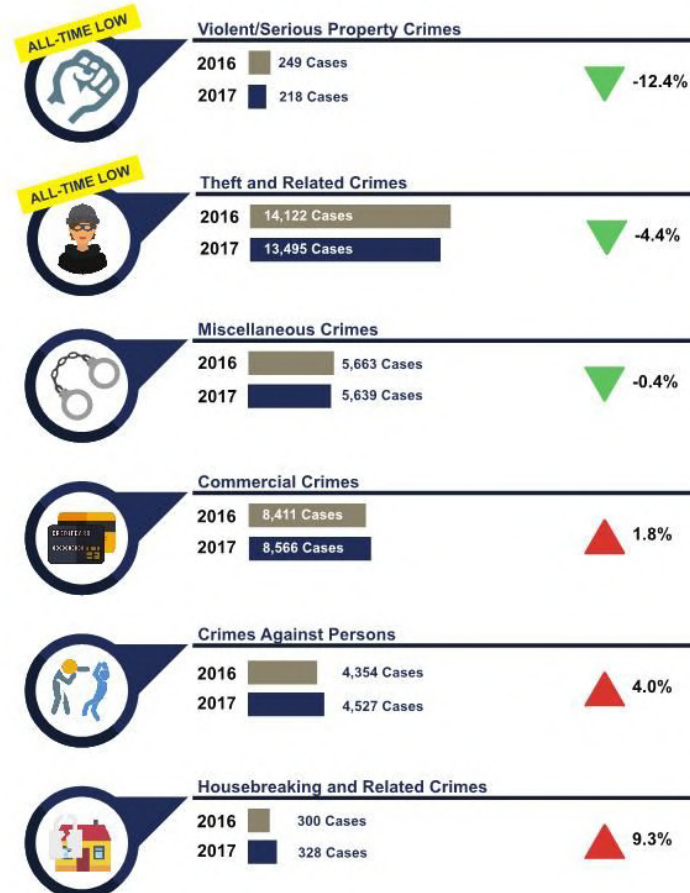
INCREASE in INTERNET LOVE SCAMS



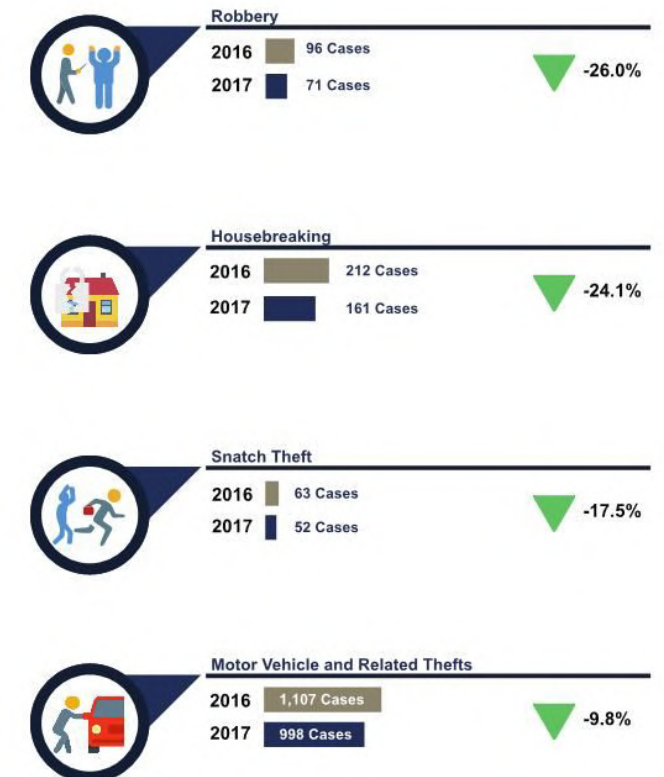
DECREASE in E-COMMERCE SCAMS BUT **HIGH** NUMBER OF CASES REMAIN A CONCERN



2017 CRIME STATISTICS IN SINGAPORE



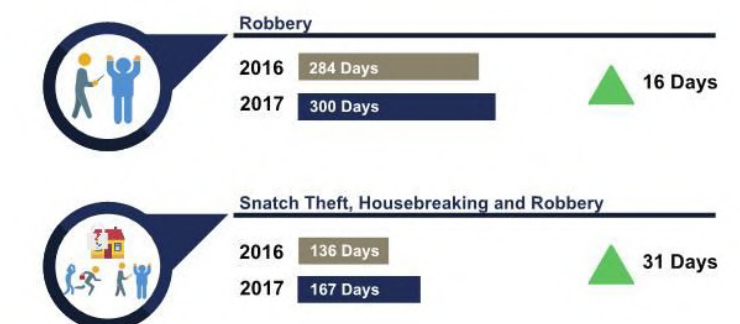
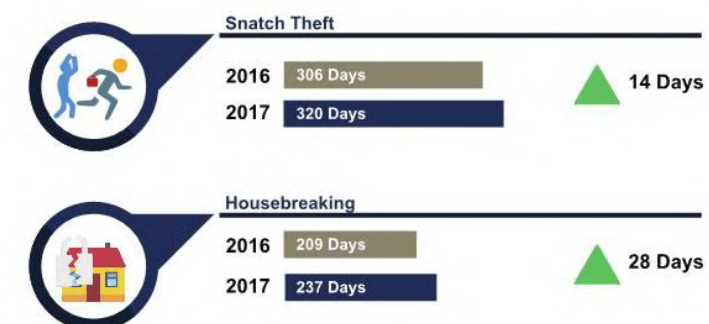
CRIMES THAT REGISTERED AN ALL-TIME LOW IN 2017



SCAMS OF CONCERN



CRIME-FREE DAYS IN 2017



IMPROVED ROAD SAFETY SITUATION

SAFER ROADS IN 2017

Fatal traffic accidents and fatalities at an



Drop in accidents resulting in injuries



Drop in speeding, red-light running and drink-driving accidents



TRENDS OF CONCERN ON THE ROAD

Motorcyclists continue to be over-represented in traffic accidents



More accidents involving elderly pedestrians who jaywalked



EDUCATION IS KEY FOR SAFER ROADS

Reach Out to Elderly Pedestrians and Motorcyclists



Educate Learner and Existing Motorists



LAUNCH OF SIMULATION TRAINING



1 FEB 2018

Implementation Timeline

- On 1 February 2018, trial commenced at ComfortDelGro Driving Centre.
- In 2019, simulation training will be made compulsory for all learner motorists

YEAR
2019

Applicable To:



Key Features

Enable learner motorists to apply defensive driving and riding techniques in a safe environment

- Modular scenario-based training with realistic traffic situation developed based on Singapore's actual road terrain
- Immersion experience with motion and sound simulation system to enhance virtual driving environment
- Equipped with virtual instructor that provide audio instructions & commentary



TRAFFIC STATISTICS IN 2017

Fatal Accidents

2017 118 Cases
2016 140 Cases

-15.7%

Fatalities

2017 122 Persons
2016 141 Persons

-13.5%

Fatality Rate Per 100,000 persons

2017 2.17
2016 2.51

-13.5%

Accidents Resulting in Injuries

2017 7,724 Cases
2016 8,304 Cases

-7.0%

Speeding Related Accidents

2017 762 Cases
2016 1,087 Cases

-29.9%

Speeding Violations

2017 164,315 Cases
2016 172,920 Cases

-5.0%

Red-light Running Related Accidents

2017 117 Cases
2016 118 Cases

-0.8%

Red-light Running Violations

2017 45,617 Cases
2016 34,437 Cases

32.5%

Drink-driving Accidents

2017 143 Cases
2016 147 Cases

-2.7%

Persons Arrested for Drink-driving

2017 2,044 Persons
2016 2,126 Persons

-3.9%

Crackdown on Illegal Sales of Marine Gas Oil

By Hadi Hafidz
(Photographer: Ridhwan Ismail)

The Police Coast Guard (PCG) are the crime busters of the seas who work tirelessly around the clock, regardless of the weather and sea conditions, to safeguard Singapore's territorial waters. Through their rigorous enforcement efforts, they prevent illegal intrusions into our waters and serve justice to those involved in illicit activities. Read on to find out how the PCG officers work with the shipping industry to crackdown a case of illegal sales of Marine Gas Oil (MGO).

On 29 July 2017 at about 10pm, PCG's Senior Investigation Officer Station Inspector (SI) Helmi was alerted by a staff from a Singapore registered tugboat company about an illegal transfer of MGO from one vessel to another at the Tuas Reclaimed Land. SI Helmi also learnt that the vessel which sold the MGO would be arriving back at Jurong shipyard on 30 July 2017 at 4am.

To ensure that the crew members would not leave the vessel for the PCG officers to conduct their investigations, SI Helmi sought the help of the vessel's management to delay the crew members. Concurrently, SI Helmi disseminated the information to his team of officers and began planning for an ambush on the boat early the next day. Through the ambush, the PCG officers managed to seize undeclared cash amounting to S\$9,000 from the crew.

Unfolding Details of the Crime

Through their investigations, one of the crew members admitted to have sold the excess MGO which were bought previously by another company who leased the vessel. He further confessed that they had sold 20 tonnes of MGO to a crew member of another vessel on 27 July 2017 at Tuas Reclaimed Land for S\$9,000.

In total, eight crew members were charged in Court on 1 August 2017 with conspiracy to commit Criminal Breach of Trust as a Servant punishable under section 408 of the Penal Code, Chapter 224. They were sentenced to between three to six weeks imprisonment.

Commander PCG, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Hsu Sin Yun explained that the PCG will spare no efforts and continue to step up enforcement against such crime. As PCG officers continue to scour the seas, these officers are constantly guided by their mission to prevent, deter and detect crime occurring in Singapore territorial waters.



Happenings



Delta League Concludes Its 14th Edition

On 23 December 2017, the Delta League Grand Finals kicked off at the Jalan Besar Stadium as its last match of the year. As a bi-annual youth engagement programme jointly organised by the Singapore Police Force and the National Crime Prevention Council, the Delta League has grown into the largest football competition for youths in Singapore. Apart from participating in football competitions, the youths also design crime prevention posters and work closely with their police mentors to serve as Crime Prevention Ambassadors by disseminating crime prevention advisories to the public.



27th Joint ASEAN Senior Police Officers' Course

The Training Command successfully played host to 15 participants of ASEANAPOL member countries during the 27th Joint ASEAN Senior Police Officers' Course (JASPOC) that was held from 9 to 11 January 2018. As part of the ASEANAPOL Conference Series, the annual JASPOC aims to enhance regional cooperation through the sharing of knowledge, skills and expertise amongst senior police officers from the ASEANAPOL member countries. The participants also visited the various Home Team Departments and Singapore Police Force's establishments as part of the three-day programme.

The New NUS Graduate Certificate Course in Criminal Justice

To prepare senior Home Team officers for the challenges of criminal investigations presented by the dynamic criminal and legal landscape, the Home Team Academy and the Home Team School of Criminal Investigation collaborated with the National University of Singapore to launch a new Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice course.

The inaugural course began on 11 January 2018 at the NUS Faculty of Law with its first batch of students comprising 30 senior investigation officers from the Singapore Police Force.

Apart from drawing on the rich legal expertise of the Faculty, the eight-month course will also include talks by speakers from the Attorney-General's Chambers to provide expert, practitioner-anchored perspectives on the subject of criminal justice. Through the course, the participants will sharpen their legal knowledge in an applied criminal investigations context and be better equipped to make high-quality assessments in law enforcement and apply legal concepts in policy work.



Punggol Neighbourhood Watch Day 2018

On 20 January 2018, eight Punggol residents were presented with the Public Spiritedness Award for their assistance in keeping the neighbourhood relatively crime-free over the past year. The award presentation is a segment of the Punggol Neighbourhood Watch Day 2018. Dr Janil Puthucherry, Senior Minister of State for Ministry of Communication and Information and Ministry of Education, graced the annual event which took place at the Punggol Town Square. The event served as a platform for the Punggol Neighbourhood Police Centre to reach out to residents and educate them on crime prevention measures, and to recognise the contributions from our grassroots, organisers and volunteers.



Exercise Heartbeat @ KidZania Singapore

On 26 January 2018, the Singapore Police Force (SPF), together with Sentosa Development Corporation, the Ministry of Manpower, the Singapore Civil Defence Force and KidZania Singapore conducted an emergency preparedness exercise codenamed "Exercise Heartbeat". The exercise tested the coordination between Home Team agencies, community and business stakeholders in their collective emergency responses in dealing with a simulated terror attack by a group of gunmen that took place in KidZania Singapore. The exercise reaffirmed the capability and responsiveness among our Home Team agencies and other organisations in the event of a terror attack.

Investing in Singapore's Security

By Home Team News
(Photographer: Ridhwan Ismail)

With the threat level at its highest, it is important to continue supporting the Home Team's efforts to keep Singapore safe and secure.

Innovation across the Home Team has allowed our officers to be better trained and equipped. However, given that the threat level is at its highest, we must continue to invest in building up capabilities that keep Singapore safe and secure.

This was highlighted by Minister for Finance Mr Heng Swee Keat during his visit to the Home Team Tactical Centre (HTTC) on 2 February 2018.

According to Mr Heng, the protection of Singapore will be a "very major" item in the 2018 Budget, and the Government will continue to support the Home Team's efforts. *"I do expect our security expenditure to go up because we want to be able to support our security agencies in this very important mission to keep Singapore safe and secure,"* he said.

Mr Heng also praised Singaporeans for taking the necessary steps to prepare themselves against terrorism. *"I'm glad that Singaporeans are taking this very seriously. Since we rolled out SGSecure, many more people are taking action to raise their knowledge level as well as their abilities to prepare for contingencies,"* he added.



Leading-edge Capabilities

During his visit to the HTTC, Mr Heng observed demonstrations of joint counter-terrorism capabilities by the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF). These included showcases by the SPF's Armed Strike Team and Rapid Deployment Troops (RDTs) responding to a simulated terrorist attack within an urban setting. Ground Response Forces, Emergency Response Teams and RDTs from the SPF also responded to an attack by "gunmen", after which SCDF officers arrived to evacuate and treat "casualties".

The SPF's Special Tactics & Rescue Unit also used explosive charges to storm a room to apprehend "terrorists".

The Tech Advantage

Spending on security has increased steadily from \$14.8 billion in 2011 to \$19.5 billion in 2016. In 2016, 27% of the Government's total spending was channelled to the security domain.

Recent investments made by the Home Team in technological infrastructure include data analytics, sensors and sense-making capabilities to enhancing training as well as new equipment for frontline officers.

During his visit, Mr Heng also voiced his support for the efforts made by the Home Team to increase their operational readiness through the use of technology.

"[Security] is clearly an important area to invest our resources in, because keeping Singapore safe and secure is a fundamental requirement," Mr Heng added.



Racing Against the Law

By Hadi Hafidz
(Photographer: Hasif Mohd Ismail)

The Traffic Police (TP) of the Singapore Police Force is chiefly responsible for ensuring the safety of all road users in Singapore. Apart from enforcing traffic laws, the TP also invests heavily in public education and community engagement efforts to remind road users on the importance of safe driving practices and to inculcate "Roadsense", a movement that aims to spark self-reflection, raise empathy and respect amongst road users. Nevertheless, there remains a handful of road users who continue to challenge traffic laws. Read on to find out what happens when one attempts to race against the law!



Illegal racing is the act of carrying out unauthorised speed trials. This is one of the traffic offences that could lead to serious fatal consequences, not only to the drivers themselves but also to other road users. Following reports of such incidents along Seletar Link, the TP mounted an operation on 8 May 2015 to serve justice to such irresponsible road users.

To catch the culprits in action, TP officers in plainclothes proceeded to the location at around 11.30pm and blended in with the crowd to monitor the situation.

About 45 minutes later, the officers saw a Lamborghini and a Nissan GT-R driving along Seletar Link towards Tampines Expressway. Shortly after, both vehicles made an unauthorised U-turn and positioned themselves along Seletar Link towards Punggol Way. Within minutes, the two cars sped past the crowd at a speed that was obviously way above the road speed limit of 60km/hr!

Peaking at 219km/hr

Before they could start another race, uniformed TP officers who were staking out nearby arrived swiftly and put an end to the race. Both drivers were eventually

placed under arrest. Post-investigations revealed that both vehicles peaked at 219km/h, which is almost four times the road limit of 60km/h!

On 9 May 2015, both drivers were charged with Section 116 (1) of the Road Traffic Act Chapter 276 (punishable under Sec 116 (7) of the same Act) – Taking part in an unauthorised speed trial competition. In 2017, both drivers were sentenced to two weeks' imprisonment and were disqualified from driving for 18 months. The Lamborghini driver was fined \$1,500 while the Nissan GT-R driver was fined \$2,500. Apart from the imprisonment and fines, their cars were also forfeited to the state to be auctioned off.

It was fortunate that no mishaps occurred in the above case. At such speeds, any mishaps could have caused serious injuries or even fatalities. So, in order for all of us to continue enjoying safer roads, it is important for all road users to always practice safe driving habits and more importantly, have "Roadsense".

Love On Wheels

By Gabriel Chan Duen Yue
(Photos: Carol Tan)

"In life, it is not about the achievements, status or money. It is about our simple wishes, dreams or maybe things that people do not pay much attention to. We seek to create stories that we have not told." –Sgt Carol Tan.



A hammock sits at the veranda, lulling idly gazers into the comfort of resting on its linen. A forest nearby buzzes with crooning chirps of insects that seamlessly inter mingle with rich, soothing tunes of sunset birds and distant rumbles from motor vehicles driving by. Inside the thatched dwelling, mosquito nettings hang loosely from the wooden ceilings and sprawl intermittently across the antiquated interiors, around the rustic bedframes and at the doorways. Mayflies circle merrily around an incandescent lightbulb overhanging above a fairly spartan living room; seated there on a couch were a married couple.

The two holiday makers were lodging at a rattan guest house located in Pai, a remote town in the hilly northern region of Thailand. They are Singapore Police Force's Ground Response Force officers, Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Rakcent Wong from Bukit Merah East Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) and Sergeant (Sgt) Carol Tan from Rochor NPC. Both had taken time off from work to embark on their two-week adventure tour of Southeast Asia on their motorcycles.

SSgt Wong and Sgt Tan spoke vividly of their encounters to *Police Life*. Their experiences could not be easily summed up with just words alone. We let the pictures speak for themselves.

According to Sgt Tan, what started out as SSgt Wong's wacky idea to perhaps ride their motorcycles to China eventually became an adventure that she has never looked back on. As a matter of fact, this is not the first time that they were on a biking tour together, though mostly on trips to Malaysia. Prior to this trip, Khao Lak, Thailand, was their furthest destination.



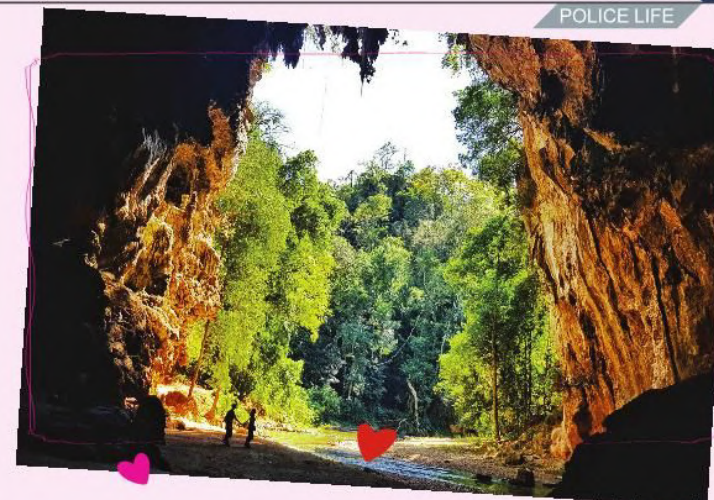
Motorcycles are a symbolic part of their relationship. In truth, it was SSgt Wong who inspired Sgt Tan to take up motorcycling. *"The sense of freedom is a wonderful feeling when I am riding on the bike,"* exclaimed Sgt Tan.

The couple saw themselves constantly pushing their boundaries beyond their comfort zones. *"Riding across the highways and unpaved roads that were occasionally littered with potholes was by no means easy. The motorcycle journey was mentally and physically challenging. At one point along the roads at Nakhon Pathom, Thailand, both our motorcycles skidded uncontrollably as a result of the wet weather condition,"* recounted the couple. Despite the mishap, they quickly picked themselves up and checked on each other's well-being. After making sure that each other is all right, they continued on with their journey, fuelled by constant mutual encouragement.

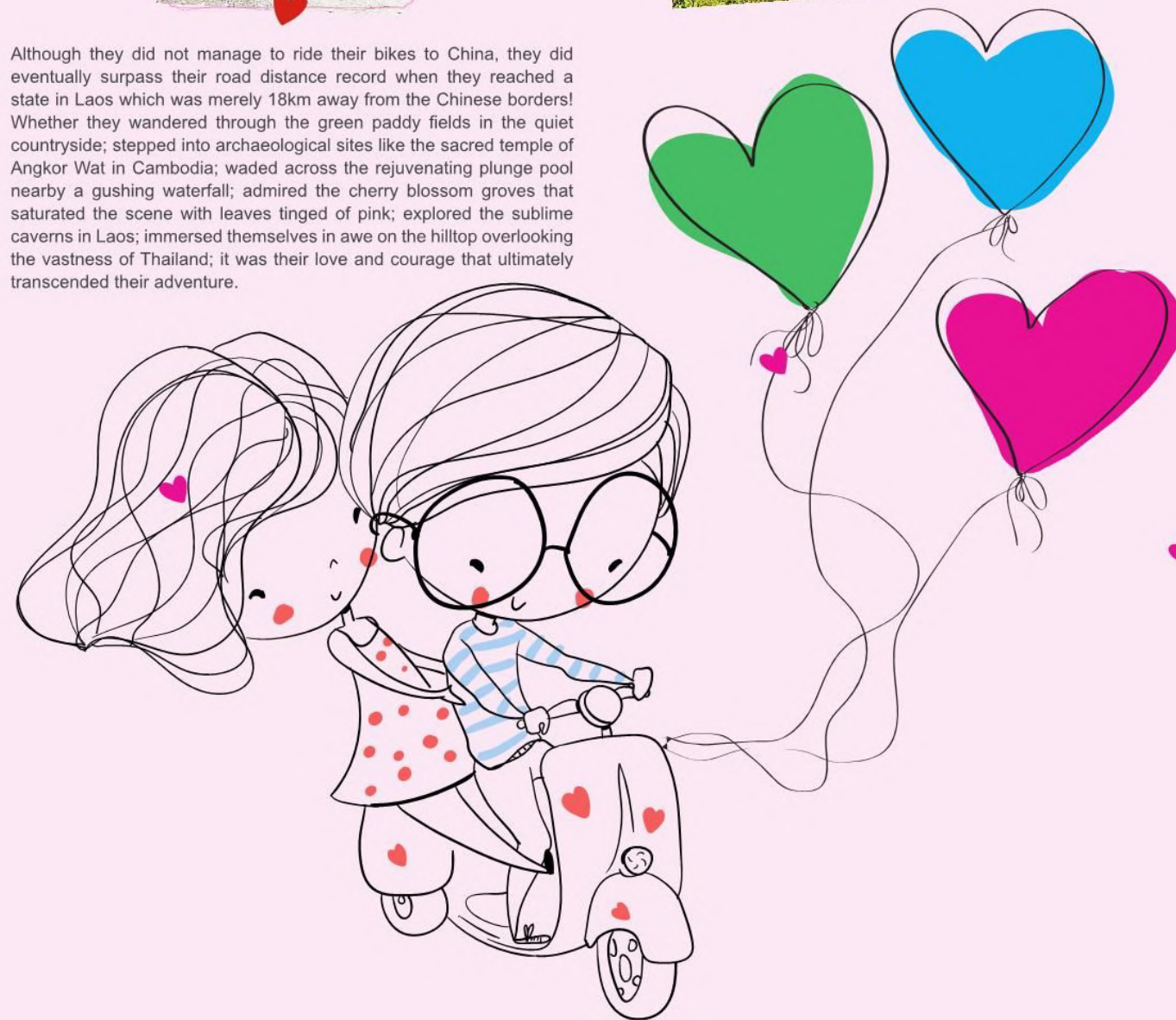


Owing to the nature of their jobs which moulded them to become more physically and mentally resilient, both Sgt Tan and SSgt Wong were able to effectively make the best out of the arduous journey. Just like how they prepare for their daily policing duties, they thought through the various scenarios and made ample preparations to equip themselves for this trip. Besides ensuring that they brought the necessary tools to do the basic repair work, the couple even brought tents with them as a contingency plan if they failed to secure a lodging.

Their thirst for adventure also led them to explore and uncover new places. The uncertainty and spontaneity – making unscheduled visits to whichever places of interest that the map would navigate them to – brought elements of thrill and surprise.



Although they did not manage to ride their bikes to China, they did eventually surpass their road distance record when they reached a state in Laos which was merely 18km away from the Chinese borders! Whether they wandered through the green paddy fields in the quiet countryside; stepped into archaeological sites like the sacred temple of Angkor Wat in Cambodia; waded across the rejuvenating plunge pool nearby a gushing waterfall; admired the cherry blossom groves that saturated the scene with leaves tinged of pink; explored the sublime caverns in Laos; immersed themselves in awe on the hilltop overlooking the vastness of Thailand; it was their love and courage that ultimately transcended their adventure.



One of Us

Hi, I am...

Assistant Superintendent of Police Eric She and I have been in the Singapore Police Force (SPF) for more than eight years. I am currently a Product Manager with the Digital Transformation Department (DTD) and my core job involves developing mobile applications for the Police Smartphone.

An interesting part of my job...

Developing ways to automate work processes through the use of mobile applications. One notable example is the Book-IT application, which will be launched with the Police Smartphone in March 2018. This is a mobile application that allows officers to book their Individual Physical Proficiency Test or their firearms handling proficiency test through the Police Smartphone.

In the past, officers had to go through their respective unit representatives to book a timeslot for training and test sessions. The information will then be processed by their divisional training branch officers, who will then secure the slots for them in the system. With the implementation of the mobile application, officers are able to log in to the site and book the slots themselves. This significantly reduces time spent on the administrative processes and allows officers to focus their time on other aspects of their duty.

I hope that my contributions in SPF...

Allow us to improve officers' work efficiency and effectiveness as we leverage technology to automate or enhance certain processes. Officers will then be able to do more within a shorter period of time which will in turn enhance the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Force.

When I am not in uniform you can find me...

At home hanging out with my two toddlers doing what all dads do. Whenever there are opportunities during the weekends, I will squeeze in some time to play mobile or personal computer (PC) games such as Mobile Legends, PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds or World of Warcraft. Hopefully, I can influence my kids to share the same interest as me when they are older.

I cannot live without...

My PC or PlayStation 4. I often find solace when I immerse myself in the diverse gaming world. Through such gaming sessions, I have also met great friends who not only share the same passion as me, but have also moved on towards their next phase in life – A Daddy Gamer.

I believe...

If we desire for change, we must not sit around hoping for it to happen. Instead, we need to step up and take on an active role to make things happen!



Hadi Hafidz
(Photographer: Ridhwan Ismail)