

**POLICE  
LIFE**

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE  
2017 / ISSUE 6

# The Real Show Goes on Behind the Scenes



**Strengthening Our National Service Ecosystem  
Home Team Show and Festival 2017**

**NS50**  
FROM MY GENERATION TO YOURS



## Note from the Team

National Service (NS) is not just a rite of passage for male Singaporeans. It is a journey where lifelong memories and friendships are forged.

In this special issue, *Police Life* celebrates the golden jubilee of NS in Singapore with an extensive coverage on the Home Team (HT) Show and Festival. Beyond the display of HT capabilities, we bring you behind-the-scenes stories on our officers and Parade Commander who helped to make the festival and show a success.

From my generation to yours, follow us on the historical journey as we document key milestones of Police NS in our timeline spread. Relive your NS experience as you read about the feature on our Full-time Police National Servicemen siblings. For newbies, whip out your notebooks and familiarise yourselves with the NS lingos prepared just for you.

As the NS adventure continues, *Police Life* would like to take this opportunity to wish all NSmen a happy NS50!

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## Committee

# Going Down Memory Lane: POLICE NATIONAL SERVICE

By Md Falliq

**FULL-TIME**

Full-time Police NS was introduced on 22 February 1975, following the Laju terrorist incident in 1974. The incident served as a grim reminder of the importance of vital installation security.

24 July 1975 saw the 1st Intake of 200 Singaporean males enlisted to serve as full-time Police National Servicemen (PNSF).

**DISCONTINUED**

**PART-TIME**

Part-time NS was discontinued in 1981, and henceforth PNS (Full-time) comprised SC and VC in the Force.

**POLICE ACADEMY**

On 24 June 1998, the first Direct Enlistment exercise was held for PNSFs where they reported directly to Police Academy (now at Home Team Academy). In the past, enlistees would report to Central Manpower Base to form up before going to the Police Academy for enlistment.

**Handshake**

The Voluntary Extension Scheme (VES) was introduced in 2015. PNSmen are now able to contribute their expertise and experiences by serving as mentors and trainers beyond their statutory age (40 years of age for Police Officers and 50 for Senior Officers).



1967

As we celebrate 50 years of National Service (NS), we trace the key milestones that have helped shape Police National Service (PNS) today.

On 14 March 1967, the NS Amendment Bill was passed to build up the country's defence force. Some 9,000 male youths born between 1 January 1949 and 30 June 1949 were eligible to be called up for NS.

Under the NS Amendment Bill, all male citizens who reached 18 years of age had to serve either full-time in the Singapore Armed Forces, or part-time in the People's Defence Force or PNS (comprising the Special Constabulary [SC] and Vigilante Corps [VC]).

The first batches of SC and VC conscripts were recruited in August and September 1967. They trained and did their duties on a part-time basis over a period of 12 years.

1975

1976

1981

1994

1998

2008

2015

2016

Future

The 1st batch of Police Officer Cadets enlisted directly on 22 January 1976. It provides a platform for trainees with good leadership capabilities to assume roles with bigger responsibilities.

The NS Key Installation Protection Unit (KINS) was formed in October 1994 to take over the protection of key installations in Singapore.

The Public Transport Security Command was formed in June 2008. This specialist unit is largely staffed by PNSF to oversee and manage all policing efforts throughout the entire public land transport network in Singapore.

July 2016 saw the commissioning of the Protective Security Command (ProCom), a new line unit formed to take over KINS in the protection of Singapore's critical infrastructure and event security. PNSF form 85 per cent of the manpower strength in ProCom.

Come September 2018, the Police NSmen Public Order Troops will provide an added boost to the Singapore Police Force's capabilities during national emergencies and major security events. They will be trained and equipped to deal with violent rioters. The troops will be fully rolled out by 2023.



# Walking Down Memory Lane at the Old Police Academy

By: Darwisyah Daud and Tan De Yong  
(Photo: Public Affairs Department)

The Reunion at Old Police Academy (OPA) event will be held on 22 July 2017 from 10am to 4pm. The event aims to commemorate the rich history of the OPA campus and to rekindle past memories of National Servicemen (NSmen) who used to train at the OPA while also giving them the opportunity to catch up with the friends they made from their National Service (NS) journey. The organising committee of the OPA event consists of Police Operationally-ready National Servicemen (PNSmen) and Regular officers from Police National Service Department and various Land Divisions, and is led by event co-chairs Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (NS) [DAC (NS)] Chua Song Heng and DAC (NS) Darric Teo Chai Jing.

*"We are planning this event to help relive shared memories of OPA, not just amongst PNSmen, but for all those who have spent time there, whether they are former staff, Volunteer Special Constabulary officers, National Police Cadet Corps cadets, or our PNSmen,"* said event co-chairman DAC (NS) Chua.

The Reunion at OPA is a ground-up initiative from the PNSmen and it was inspired by a photo posted on Facebook. Superintendent of Police (NS) (Supt [NS]) Nicholas Phua saw a photo of the Dixon stands, a set of decades-old wood and metal stands, arranged around the OPA field. It received almost 200 likes on the popular social media site, with many PNSmen commenting on the hardness of the structures, and how thousands of PNSmen have sat on those very stands.

The outpouring of affection for these stands showed Supt (NS) Phua that PNSmen still hold many fond memories for OPA. Led by DAC (NS) Chua, a small group of PNSmen gathered for a tour back at OPA, and they all felt a sense of nostalgia as they walked past the various buildings and reminisced their past. It was then that the idea for the Reunion at OPA was born.

*"We hope this event will give PNSmen a chance to meet up with their fellow officers, and would serve as the spark that leads to the first of many reunions,"* said Supt (NS) Phua.

## Reunion at Old Police Academy

Date: 22 July 2017

Time: 10am – 4pm

Venue: Old Police Academy, 1 Mount Pleasant Road S298333

Take a walk down memory lane at the Old Police Academy when it re-opens its doors to all Singapore Police Force (SPF) National Servicemen and their families on 22 July 2017. Do not miss out on this one-day-only opportunity to reminisce with your buddies at your former training grounds.

You can look forward to the following activities:

- Heritage walk around the OPA compound
- Exhibition on OPA
- Fringe activities — bouncy castle, face painting and other games
- SPF Band and NPCC Precision Drill performances
- Taurus Revolver FX round fun shoot (For registered NSmen only)



## Tracing the Roots of Old Police Academy

### 1929:

The Police Academy (originally known as the Police Depot) was built in 1929 to train officers for the growing Straits Settlements Police Force. It was Singapore's first permanent Police training facility and marked the beginning of the Force's formalisation of training for its officers.

### 1930:

In the 1930s, the Depot was known as one of the finest training facilities in the region and trained officers from around the Straits Settlements. It housed three barracks, a classroom, a drill shed, a canteen, an armoury, a firing range, medical facilities and parade grounds. It also had a mosque (demolished in 1968) to cater to its Muslim officers. In its early years, there were as many as 474 men in residence.

### 1942:

During World War II, the Japanese tried to reorganise the Police training system in Malaya by establishing a Police Academy in Singapore. The depot came to be known as the Syonan Police Depot in 1942.

### 1943:

It was renamed Gunseikanbu Police School in 1943. It trained officers from around Malaya to fill the ranks of the local Police which had been purged of British officers. However, it was later converted into an air force depot and fell into neglect towards the end of the war.

### 1945:

After the war, the British gradually resumed training at the Depot. In 1945, it was renamed the Police Training

School (PTS) to reflect its focus on developing Police capabilities.

### 1963:

After Singapore's merger with Malaysia in 1963, the PTS became incorporated into the Federation's network of Police training facilities. It became known as the Sekolah Latihan Polis and trained only Junior Officers.

### 1965:

The institution regained its original name, 'Police Training School' and function after Singapore's separation from Malaysia in 1965.

### 1969:

In 1969, it was reorganised to provide more comprehensive training for its officers. To reflect its elevated status, it was renamed the Singapore Police Academy.

### 1975:

In 1975, it shared its grounds with national institutions such as the Works Brigade, national sporting teams, National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) and Police National Service.

### 2006 to Present:

From 2006, training was shifted to the Home Team Academy in order to integrate all Home Team departments. It was renamed the Old Police Academy and remained as a venue for the training of AETOS Auxiliary Police officers. It also houses the officers of several Police departments. The Thomson area which OPA occupies has been slated for redevelopment.

# Strengthening our National Service Ecosystem

By: Denise Luo  
(Photographer: Kenneth Tan)

For 50 years, the commitment to defend and safeguard Singapore has been pledged by male Singaporeans who served National Service (NS). Painstakingly passed down from generation to generation, the peace and stability that we enjoy today must never be taken for granted. As the Director of the Police National Service Department (PNSD), Assistant Commissioner of Police (AC) Lee Chin Ek, looks at every possibility to strengthen the overall operational readiness of the Force and ways to improve the NS experience for male brethren. Though there was a hint of sternness in his eyes, AC Lee surprises with his witty humor and unassuming candor.

## Building an Operationally-ready Force

Amidst the proliferation of terror attacks around the world, it has become more challenging to cope with the surge in operational demands. As a department which oversees the allocation of NS resources, it is of essence to ensure that the Singapore Police Force (SPF) is always equipped to deal with exigencies through the effective and efficient management of SPF's NS resources.

Coined to maximise the output and potential of Police National Service (PNS) officers, the PNS Master Plan was developed to augment the Force's mission to prevent, deter and detect crime. Multi-faceted, the Master Plan not only boosts the SPF's overall operational readiness, but also strives to create a more meaningful experience for NS officers.

As part of the action plan, NS deployments are restructured for greater effectiveness and mobility. Commissioned to replace the NS Key Installations Protection Unit, the Protective Security Command was formed to undertake a range of protective security operations that involve the protection of installations, strategic location protection and event security. Similarly, Divisional Special Task Force (DSTF) are formed to reorganise Police Operationally-ready National Servicemen (PNSmen) who are recalled to better meet ground operational requirements in their respective Land Divisions. Tasked to prevent, deter and detect crimes through regular patrols, DSTF officers are as trained and equipped as any Regular officer. Having gone through similar trainings, they are able to complement the regular officers to plan and execute ground operations seamlessly.

To complement the restructuring of NS deployments, it is also necessary to ensure the optimisation of NS resources. For PNS officers who are of a lower Physical Employment Status, they too can be engaged with "real and meaningful work". Apart from serving in support functions, they are now also deployed to the frontline as Community Engagement (CE) officers. With terror attacks becoming more poignant in recent times, it is imperative for the community to understand that fighting terrorism is a collective effort. As CE officers, it is their duty to engage and educate the community on essential emergency preparedness knowledge. In line with the SGSecure movement, CE officers conduct house visits and hold talks at schools to raise awareness on SGSecure advisories that outline the appropriate response to take in the event of a terrorist attack.

In addition to the above structural implementation, AC Lee is keenly aware of the need to maintain and enhance the physical fitness levels of Full-time Police National Servicemen (PSNF) and PNSmen. *"The Individual Physical Proficiency Test (IPPT) passing rate is one of the key indicators of the overall operational readiness of the Force. Hence, it is imperative to maintain a healthy IPPT passing rate as it will impact the public's trust on our officers' ability to protect our people,"* cautioned AC Lee.

In consultation with the NS leaders, PNSD has plans in the pipeline to improve the current infrastructures to facilitate IPPT training. *"We want to build more training centres to improve accessibility and create more slots for IPPT Preparatory and Remedial Trainings (RT) to better cater to the needs of our working PNSmen,"* stressed AC Lee.

In addition to training infrastructure enhancements, AC Lee also shared about the importance of reviewing the RT curriculum to make it more targeted and purposeful. Instead of sticking to conventional training regimes, it would be useful to tie up with gyms to get our PNSmen in shape. *"On top of cross-fit trainings, a simple game of sports could also help the group to build up their stamina and fitness level,"* enthused AC Lee, a former National Softballer who has a bottomless zest for sports.

Above all, AC Lee also highlighted the importance of adding a personal touch and creating a sense of belonging in this betterment journey. *"Having a pool of Physical Education teachers and fitness coaches amongst our PNSmen helps. With them taking the lead as Officer-in-Charge of fitness, PNSmen who require RT will be grouped and have their progress monitored and tracked individually."* Through peer encouragement and support, AC Lee believes that this will be an effective way to spur PNSmen to pass their IPPTs.

## Enhanced NS Experience

While the PNS Master Plan articulates strategies that strengthen the operational capabilities of the Force, it also seeks to provide an enriching NS experience for all NS personnel. Apart from making their work purposeful, it is worthwhile to note that all PNS officers are given equal room for personal development through promotion opportunities and taking on leadership positions should they demonstrate the required potential.

In a move to narrow the gap between Regulars and PNS officers, the rank structure for PNS officers has since been aligned across the board. Besides being equipped with better training gear and accessories, education is no longer a criterion for promotion of Special Constables. PNSF who hold leadership or trainer positions are now able to rise to the rank of Special Constable Sergeant 2. In the same vein, NSmen are also able to climb the ranks as they undergo different postings and trainings to become NS leaders who can help to uphold discipline and improve the performance and morale of their team.

Apart from the enhancement of manpower policies, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health, Amrin Amin also chairs regular Parliamentary Secretary engagement sessions to gather feedback from the NSF about the challenges they faced when carrying out their duties, and to encourage them to play an active role in safeguarding Singapore's safety and security. Assured that their voices are being heard, these engagement sessions also inspire NSF to be Home Team Advocates so that they can help to influence our community to support SPF's mission of safeguarding Singapore's safety and security.

As AC Lee aptly summarised, *"The NS experience is about ensuring that officers are empowered to do meaningful work and are able to understand that whatever they do contribute to SPF's mission."*

## My Generation to Yours

With 2017 being the golden jubilee of NS, AC Lee hopes to take the chance to thank all PNS officers for their hard work. *"NS is the bedrock for our nation's continual peace and stability. Although there may be tough and rough moments when serving NS, always be mindful of the greater good that you are doing for your country and loved ones. From my generation to yours, please pass on the NS spirit and make our country stronger,"* said AC Lee with gusto.





# The Man Behind the 2017 Home Team Show and Parade

By Md Falliq  
(Photo: Joel Low)

In celebration of 50 years of National Service, the biennial Home Team Festival received a major revamp with the addition of a show and parade. Touted as the National Day Parade veteran, it is no surprise that local acclaimed musician, Dick Lee, is the man behind this inaugural show.

Under the showbiz maestro's creative direction, the end product was a captivating 45 minutes show that ran over a period of four nights. Each night, about 5,000 guests filled the Singapore Indoor Stadium and were mesmerised by the stunning visuals, dazzling display of lights and an array of song and dance to celebrate the occasion.

On top of overseeing the creative aspects of the show, Mr Lee also composed the theme song for Home Team Show and Festival 2017, entitled "Everyday Heroes", to honour and acknowledge the Home Team officers for their dedicated

efforts and sacrifices in safeguarding the safety and security of Singapore. Singapore Idol's Season One winner, Taufik Batisah, who is a Police National Serviceman, performed the song during the show.

"It is an honour for me to be part of the show and given the opportunity to sing the theme song. Sometimes, we do not realise that each and every one of us play a part to keep our country safe so the song emphasised that there are everyday heroes to be found. Everyone can play a part to keep our country safe," said Taufik Batisah.

## Dick Lee's Message to the Home Team:

I am very proud to be part of this important event. The Home Team has never been more relevant in our lives than now. This effort to educate the public and show our gratitude to Home Team members could not come at a better time, when the world is changing so rapidly, bringing new situations that threaten our security.

Creating the show posed many exciting challenges, especially getting the message across in a meaningful and entertaining way. I am very grateful to my creative team whose combined efforts have brought the concept to life.

I sincerely hope that the Home Team Show and Festival will bring the message home to the Singapore public and Home Team personnel alike.

Last but not least, this event would not be possible without the dedication of the working committee, Home Team participants and all the wonderful performers.

## Everyday Heroes

Written by: Dick Lee

In a world where there is strife  
We protect our precious life  
Keeping kindness within sight  
Doing only what is right  
But when we confront a time  
Faced with peaks we cannot climb  
Still we try with all our might  
To ascend the steepest heights

There are  
Everyday Heroes to be found  
Who are  
Helping to keep us safe and sound  
And together we can go  
To the future, for we know  
There are Everyday Heroes  
All around

If we look inside our hearts  
Find the place where caring starts  
Then we'll know what we must do  
When the love and care shines through  
When we move ahead as one  
Till the troubles all are gone  
When the challenges are won  
Only then we can move on

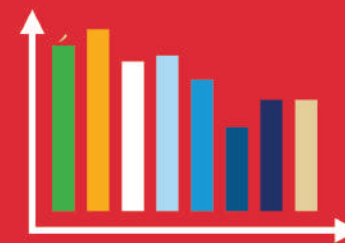
There are  
Everyday Heroes to be found  
Who are  
Helping to keep us safe and sound  
And together we can go  
To the future, for we know



# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW: HOME TEAM SHOW AND FESTIVAL 2017

By Md Falliq, Aiman Zaki and Zachery Ryan Bala

## BY THE NUMBERS



70,000

Goodie bags were produced for the Home Team Show and Festival.

57,776

Visitors to the Home Team Festival.

15,083

Spectators watched the Home Team Show.

652

Costumes at the Home Team Show.

600

Participants at the Home Team Show.

11

Contingents at the Home Team Parade.

90

Minutes (Duration of the Home Team Show and Parade).

5

Days of the Home Team Festival.

## THE FIRST OF ITS KIND

For the first time ever, members of the public were allowed to ride on Police Coast Guard vessels.

It is the first time all Home Team agencies marched alongside one another.

It is first time that there is a Show component to the celebrations.

For the first time, the festivities had a specially composed theme song.



President

Tony Tan

was the Guest-of-Honour at the gala performance of the Home Team Show on 6 May 2017.

Parade Commander Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (National Service)

Mohammed Azhar Bin Yusof

is the first ever Malay NS officer to attain his rank.

Award-winning film-maker,

Boo Junfeng,

directed the short films that featured the personal challenges of Home Team officers and National Servicemen. These films were shown during the Home Team Show.

Acclaimed musician,

Dick Lee,

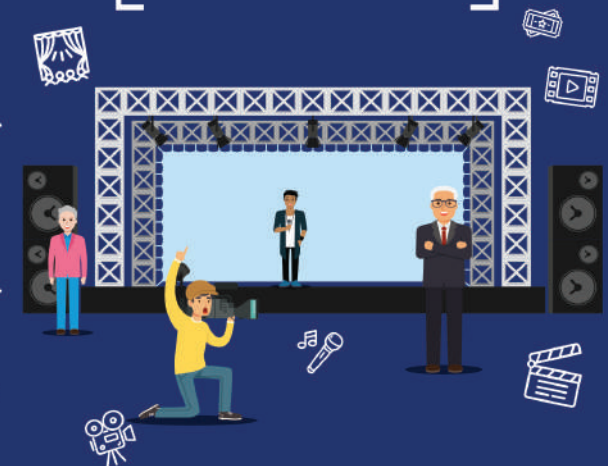
is the Creative Director of the Home Team Show.

Singapore Idol's Season One winner,

Taufik Batisah,

is the voice behind the Home Team Show theme song "Everyday Heroes". He is a Police National Serviceman.

## WHO'S WHO





# HOME TEAM SHOW AND FESTIVAL 2017

By Darwisyah Daud  
(Photos: Public Affairs Department)

The Singapore Sports Hub was abuzz with excitement as the biennial Home Team Festival was back in town. Held between 3 to 7 May 2017, the largest public showcase of Home Team capabilities also featured a myriad of activities to keep the adrenaline pumping. In celebration of 50 years of National Service, this year's Home Team Festival also received a major revamp with the addition of a show and parade held at the Singapore Indoor Stadium. Feast your eyes on photos captured just for you!





# The Real Show Goes on Behind the Scenes

By Md Falliq and Aiman Zaki  
(Photographers: Chee Yong Tat, Kenneth Tan and Ridhwan Ismail)

For the first time ever, a parade segment comprising contingents from all the Home Team (HT) agencies and even HT volunteers was included in the 2017 Home Team Show and Festival (HTSF). The event celebrated the efforts and contributions of HT officers as 2017 marked 50 years of National Service (NS) and the 20th anniversary of the Home Team. *Police Life* brings you behind the scenes, shedding light on the extensive planning work for the HTSF 2017 and the challenges involved in the preparations for the parade segment.



The Show opened with a spectacular display of lights before Taufik Batisah, who served as a Police officer during his NS days, wowed the 5000-strong crowd with his performance of the official theme song, 'Everyday Heroes'. Following his mesmerising performance, 11 marching HT contingents proudly took to the stage.

## Planning for Success

The planning of the arduous task started sometime in June 2016. Regular meetings were held to ensure that even the slightest details were well taken care of. There was no room for error as the Show was telecast live on Mediacorp's Channel 5. The HTSF Organising Committee was led by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Policy) Lim Kok Thai who oversaw the entire event. The many meetings were all part and parcel of ensuring the seamless execution of HTSF 2017.

The Organising Committee Secretariat had the delicate task of balancing the interests of many stakeholders involved vis-à-vis the objectives of the event. As the Head Secretariat of the HTSF Organising Committee, Assistant Commissioner of Police (AC) Manimaran Pushpanatan, shared that on top of formal meetings, many issues were resolved over "kopi sessions".

Although it was a challenging 10 months for the committee members to simultaneously juggle their primary roles and responsibilities in the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and their tasks for the HTSF, AC Manimaran said, **"The values and skills instilled in us through our policing work — sheer tenacity, resourcefulness, strong team spirit and quick thinking helped us overcome many challenges."**



## New Challenges for the First-Time Parade

The parade witnessed the first time where all HT agencies and volunteers marched alongside the National Police Cadet Corps and the National Civil Defence Cadet Corps. This brought with it a different set of challenges.

The SPF and the Singapore Civil Defence Force contingents are used to parades and marching drills, but not for the other HT agencies and volunteer contingents. To ensure that their drills are executed to perfection, all the marching contingents have to take on extra training, which tested everyone's physical and mental limits.

**"We have dedicated instructors to take them through component training — teaching them basic drill steps, before gathering everyone for the rehearsals. We do our best to accommodate to our participants' schedules to allow as many of them to attend and be well-prepared for the parade,"** shared Superintendent of Police (Supt) Dominic Tan, Deputy Chairman of the Parade Working Group.



Overcoming physical fatigue was one of the key challenges faced by Supt Tan in preparing the participants for the parade. **"Parades are usually not conducted in a consecutive row of four days. Thus fatigue will set in for those who are not used to it,"** shared Supt Tan. To help the participants manage their fatigue, Supt Tan was mindful and ensured that the participants were given ample rest time between rehearsals to rejuvenate themselves.

## One Home, One Team

Throughout the preparations for the HTSF 2017, all the parade participants have many opportunities to mingle and work with various HT agencies. Owing to such frequent interactions, the event has enabled the different agencies to become more bonded and better understand how each other contributes to our country's peace and harmony.

**"As we have to come together to train for this parade, it has made us appreciate one another (HT agencies) as we often helped and supported each other during our rehearsals. Through our sharing sessions, we developed a deeper understanding and are better able to appreciate the roles each of us play and how important it is for us to work hand-in-hand to safeguard our every day,"** said parade participant from the SPF contingent, Special Constable Sergeant Paskalis Seto Pranoto.

A large-scale event such as HTSF 2017 would not have been possible if not for the dedicated efforts of our unsung heroes who overcame all odds to bring the best to our national audience. With a strengthened identity, the Home Team will continue to stay strong and united to keep Singapore safe and secure.



# The First Home Team Parade Commander

By Md Falliq  
(Photographer: Chee Yong Tat)

Appointed as Parade Commander of the inaugural Home Team Parade that is part of the 2017 Home Team Show and Festival, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (NS) [DAC (NS)] Mohammed Azhar bin Yusof shared his thoughts on taking on this role as he recounted his NS experience.

Being tasked to lead a parade with the President of the Republic of Singapore as the Guest-of-Honour is one of DAC (NS) Azhar's greatest challenges in life. Not only does he need to be confident and familiar with the commands and parade protocols, he also needs to face the added pressure of having all eyes on him when he takes centre stage during the live telecast on national television.

To ensure that he delivers the parade commands and protocols perfectly, DAC (NS) Azhar dedicated a large amount of his time attending rehearsals despite his hectic schedule in his day job as a Senior Lecturer at the National Institute of Education.

*"We had training and rehearsals daily for two weeks leading up to the event and that is a big challenge for all of us as we need to balance that, our time with our family and our day job. As it was the examination period for the students at university, I had to invigilate the exams, mark the exam papers and key in the marks on top of attending rehearsals,"* DAC (NS) Azhar elaborated.

Armed with strong support from his family and bosses, DAC (NS) Azhar was able to juggle his commitments well. It also helped that the rehearsal sessions were in the afternoon, allowing DAC (NS) Azhar time to manage his work in the morning.

Despite the challenges, DAC (NS) Azhar, who is the first Malay Police NS officer to attain the rank of DAC (NS), felt a great sense of honour to be given such an opportunity.

*"This is the first Home Team Parade and I am really honoured, privileged and humbled to be given the opportunity to be its first Parade Commander,"* expressed DAC (NS) Azhar.

## Unforgettable Real Life Experiences

Having served the Force first as a Full-time Police National Serviceman in 1992, DAC (NS) Azhar has experienced it all. He served as a Police Operationally-ready National Serviceman in 1999 as the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Multi-Task Group in Central Division. Subsequently, he was posted to the NS Key Installation Protection Unit as the OC Unit with more than 130 men under his charge.

During his stint, he highlighted that there were many unforgettable encounters that served as life lessons and gave meaning to the work he did.

*"In 1992, I was sent to the scene of an armed robbery of a goldsmith shop in Chinatown. The robbers were armed with semi-automatic pistols and grenades, and one of the gunmen was shot dead by a Cisco officer. That was a*



*huge eye opener for me. Later that year, I was assigned to a suicide case, again something I have never encountered before in my life. As a young officer back then, these cases were really daunting but I knew I could always count on my fellow officers to provide guidance and support to help me discharge my duties effectively,"* recounted DAC (NS) Azhar as he shared his most memorable experiences.

## Words of Encouragement for NS Officers

In his course of serving NS, DAC (NS) Azhar reaffirmed the notion that NS officers played important roles in safeguarding Singapore's peace and harmony.

*"NS officers play a vital role in the Home Team as they work and stand shoulder to shoulder*

*with Regular officers, attending to cases and executing their daily duties. And if all NS officers realise the importance of their roles, especially in this current security climate, then together we will make Singapore safe and secure,"* he emphasised.

Even though the Show is over, DAC (NS) Azhar hopes that his enduring passion and dedication to the Force will inspire his NS comrades and future generation of officers.

*"You might not see it now but just know that the work you do can make a difference to someone's life. The experiences gained during this phase of your life is invaluable. Regardless of your vocation, do your utmost best to uphold the Force's mission to prevent, deter and detect crime,"* advised DAC (NS) Azhar.

# Brothers in Blue

By Darwisyah Daud  
(Photographer: Md Shahrunnizam)

As the nation calls on every male Singaporean to serve their National Service (NS) obligation, a new chapter unfolds as they brave the thick and thin that lies ahead of them. NS is also known as a time where long lasting bonds of brotherhood and friendship are forged alongside a sense of unity and camaraderie.

In celebration of NS50, *Police Life* caught up with Special Constable (SC) Salehan Bin Jaafar and SC Suffiyan Bin Jaafar, who are brothers serving their NS together in the Singapore Police Force (SPF).



## Strengthening and Forging Bonds

After completing their Police Officer Basic Course (POBC) in the Training Command (TRACOM), the brothers were posted to different units. SC Salehan went on to become a Police Tactical Unit trooper in the Special Operations Command (SOC) while his older brother, SC Suffiyan, became a Protective Security Unit trooper in the Protective Security Command.

Though both of them are serving in different units, the brothers have become closer than before as they are now bonded by a common set of experiences and memories from their training and also from the sharing of useful experiences gained from their current posting whenever they get together.

*"I would never forget how Salehan helped me with my laundry when I fell sick. I was moved by his actions...that incident really brought us closer,"* SC Suffiyan shared, when quizzed on his most memorable experience at TRACOM.

Apart from their brotherhood, SC Salehan also shared about the importance of friendships forged along the way. To him, it is NS that allows him to meet squadmates from all walks of life and helps him better understand the importance of Singapore's multi-faceted cultural diversity, which is one of the key pillars that supports Singapore's peace and harmony.

*"I made great friends from all walks of life, whose paths I may never have crossed if not for NS. It is indeed true that NS plays a crucial role in building cohesion and strengthening bonds with people from different races,"* quipped SC Salehan.

## From Boys to Men

As the siblings had to spend an extended time away from their family during their 6-month long Basic Police Training, the experience and skills gained taught the siblings to be independent and appreciate how such skills help them to protect their loved ones and those that matter against harm. SC Suffiyan added that through serving the nation, he learnt about selflessness and how such values are imbued in every Police officer to enable them to discharge their duties faithfully.

The siblings agreed that NS is indeed a transformative experience, transforming them from boys to men.

Their mother, Mdm Samsiah Binte Samad is proud to see how much her children have grown in NS. When asked about how she felt when both of her sons were enlisted into SPF, she said: *"It was totally unexpected to see my boys serving NS together in the Police Force. Though I am unable to see them as frequent as before, I am happy that my children have grown up to become tougher and more matured in their thinking."*

## PNSF Are As Important As Regular Officers

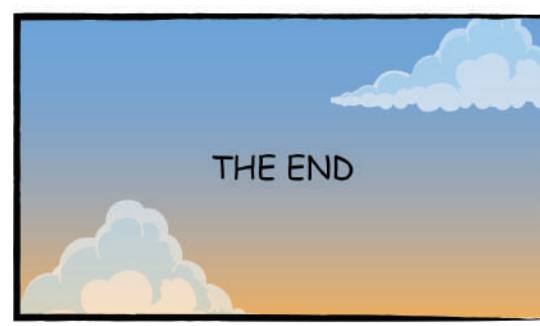
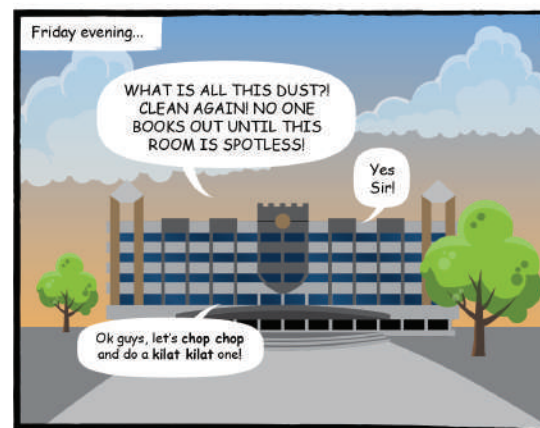
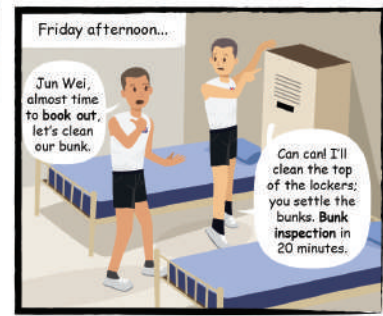
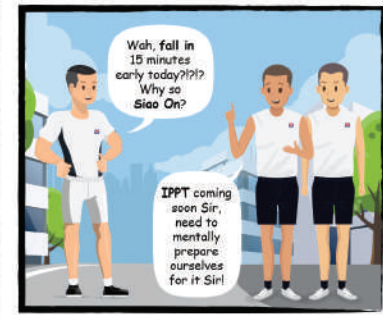
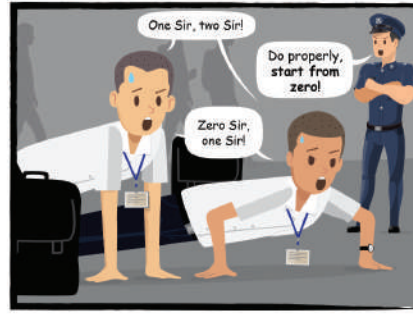
In light of today's heightened security threats, the roles and responsibilities of Full-time Police National Servicemen (PNSF) have been expanded to complement the Regular officers. PNSF with leadership potential are also exposed to leadership positions, which could also benefit them in their future career development. As the interview came to a close, the siblings emphasised that they are thankful for the opportunity to serve the nation alongside the Regular frontline officers.

*"Never for a day do I feel like a PNSF while I am on duty. Similar to our Regular officers, PNSF are also tasked with important responsibilities. The work we do is not mundane, it is real and meaningful. We are an integral part of the Police Force,"* shared SC Suffiyan.



# The Unforgettable Lingos

By Hadi Hafidz, Aiman Zaki and Zachery Ryan Bala

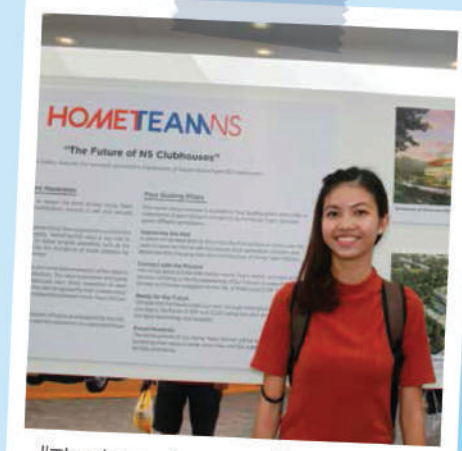


## NS Lingos Definition

- Book-in:** The act of reporting back to camp (usually accompanied with a stipulated timing).
- Confinement:** Time-off on weekends taken away as a form of punishment.
- Nevermind, take your time:** A sarcastic remark made by superiors when trainees do not show a sense of urgency.
- Drop 20:** An order given by superiors to perform twenty push-ups as a form of punishment.
- Mangkuk:** Term used in training towards a trainee who underperforms as a result of being unfocused.
- Start from zero:** When carrying out static exercises, usually as a punishment, the counting of reps begin from zero.
- Recover:** Relieving oneself from a static exercise position (E.g. push-ups/crunches), and proceed to stand at-ease.
- Keng PT:** Pretending to be temporarily unable to perform physical training in order to avoid PT (common reasons given: feeling feverish or coming down with the flu).
- PT:** Physical Training.
- MO:** Medical Officer.
- Coy Com:** Company Commander, the overall in-charge of trainees housed in one particular block consisting of about 450 trainees.
- Chao Keng:** An act of giving excuses in order to avoid responsibilities, which is frowned upon by peers.
- Cat 1:** A term to signify lightning alert so as to suspend any outdoor activities.
- Ah Huat:** A nickname given to the shooting target in Home Team Academy, Training Command.
- Fall-in:** To take individual standing position in a military formation (usually in rows of three).
- Siao on:** A term used to categorise an individual who is determined and enthusiastic when performing a given task.
- IPPT:** Individual Physical Proficiency Test is a standard physical fitness test.
- Semula:** Instruction given by superiors to redo a particular drill that was not done up to standard.
- Hentak kaki, cepat hentak:** Trainees lift one leg at a time to a 90 degree angle before stamping the ground, whilst in a stationary position.
- OB oh:** OB refers to orderly barrack. OB oh is an expression signifying their emotions in carrying out the OB duty which involves being in the office to carry out administrative duties exempting from any other activities.
- Two diamonds:** Refer to a person who holds the rank of Inspector of Police. The rank insignia resembles two diamonds.
- OTOT:** Own Time Own Target, a situation where individuals are given the allocated time to conduct preferred activities at their own pace (includes performing hobbies such as playing sports and weightlifting).
- Tornado:** A term to identify an occurrence where superiors intentionally create a mess in the bunk, as a form of punishment.
- Book-out:** The act of leaving camp based on time-off given from superiors (usually over the weekends).
- Chop Chop:** To carry out a task given, without delay.
- Kilat Kilat:** To carry out a task given, with high level of quality.
- Bunk inspection:** Thorough checking of cleanliness and tidiness of bunk-bed rooms (Thorough enough that a minor lapse in cleanliness can lead to late book-outs or Drop 20s).

# Thank You Notes for You

By Editorial Team  
(Photographer: Zachery Ryan Bala)



"Thank you for your effort in serving Singapore and sacrificing for our country. We as countrymen really appreciate it."  
— Jamie Yeo, 19, Student



"I would like to thank the National Service (NS) officers for protecting the nation. I feel safe because of them. Great job and keep it up!"  
— Mohd Noh, 40, Operations Manager



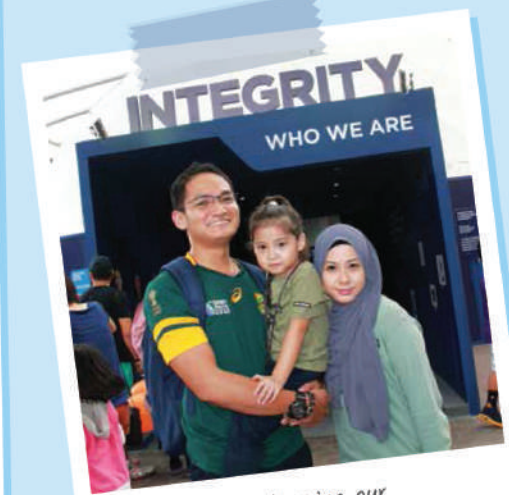
"I was previously serving in the Singapore Civil Defence Force. I must say that the Police Force is doing a great job in Singapore to serve our citizens."  
— Sundaram, 65, Logistic Officer



"Thank you to the servicemen who have sacrificed so much. They work tirelessly even on weekends. Thumbs up!"  
— Guna, 28, ST Synthesis



"All the NS officers come from different backgrounds, but they all have one common goal of keeping Singapore safe."  
— Chua Ming Sing, 48, Senior Executive Life Planner



"Thank you for keeping our families safe."  
— Mohd Hairry bin Jamaluddin, 34, Civil Servant



"Thanks a lot Home Team! You guys have done a great job in educating kids about the importance of safety in a country and all the activities that you have been doing to protect us."  
— Amit Padhye, early 40's, working in the banking industry



