

**POLICE
LIFE**

Police Highlights at the Home Team Festival 2015

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 41 NO. 11

Steering the Police Coast Guard
90 and Marching Strong





Note from the Team

This is the 48th issue of *Police Life* that I have worked on – first as Editor and then Senior Editor, since 2011. I had been excited when I first landed this role but didn't realise how gratifying the editorial work of bringing the headline stories as well as the lesser known behind-the-scenes ones to the fore, would prove to be. The Singapore Police Force (SPF) truly never sleeps and is indeed a dynamic organisation. There is no dearth of stories to share. Over the years as we spoke to Police officers, VIPs, stakeholders, members of public and many more groups of people, we uncovered the true drivers and contributors behind the Force's achievements – our officers and the support from the community.

Whenever we have a new addition to the team, I always share that there is no single unit in the SPF that knows all the goings-on in the Force except the Editorial team. And we take pride in that privilege. Be it special editions such as *Setia Dan Bakti – 50 Stories of Loyalty and Service* (Pioneers issue) and *Securing the General Election 2015*, or our regular monthly issues, the team's dedication in sharing the stories through *Police Life* has grown from strength to strength.

In this issue, a conversation with the Commander of the Police Coast Guard gives us insight into how the SPF's largest department is steered to achieve its mission. We are proud to share how the Police Band celebrated its 90th Anniversary with a special outdoor concert and bring you highlights from the biennial Home Team Festival held at the Singapore Expo. The Force also capped the year-long appreciation of pioneers and their work with a special exhibition at the former Combined Operations Room at Pearl's Hill. Read on to find out more.

Happy reading!

Ms Leena Rajan
Senior Editor
Police Life

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Design and Production
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Steering the Police Coast Guard

By Ms Luo Min Zhen, Denise

The waters around the vessels looked especially blue and tranquil. The view which stood before me was almost intoxicating. It made me forget the work that awaited me. I was at the headquarters of the Police Coast Guard (PCG) to interview Senior Assistant Commissioner (SAC), Hsu Sin Yun, who has helmed PCG as Commander since 2012.

Bastion of Resistance

SAC Hsu enjoys taking on difficult challenges. Throughout his 21.5 years in the Singapore Police Force (SPF), SAC Hsu has been through a series of postings which have pushed him to new limits.

One of his most memorable postings was when he was drafted back to the Operations Department to head the Security and Counter-Terrorism Division merely a day before the catastrophic 9-11 attacks. Though it was extremely hectic and tough having to deal with the sudden tightening of security island-wide, SAC Hsu recounted that it was such circumstances that gave him the opportunity to learn and grow fast. This, together with his involvement in handling major security operations during the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997, the IMF-World Bank Annual Meeting in 2006 and the 2011 General Elections have honed his organisational and planning capabilities.

As a veteran in the Force, having held key appointments like Deputy Commander Security Command, Deputy Director Planning and Organisation Department, and Commander Ang Mo Kio Division, SAC Hsu is well placed to lead the PCG. He remarked, "I am more confident of my ability to think through issues, command and develop strategies and plans to bring the Coast Guard to the next level."

Land vs. Sea

Operations on land can be vastly different from that at sea. "PCG is a unit that relies heavily on technology and requires specialised expertise that people outside of the maritime domain may not be able to appreciate," he shared.

Running the PCG is a unique challenge. Besides the need to have a good grasp of the operating environment, it is crucial to think ahead. This entails planning beyond 20 years. Some of the key

external agencies that the PCG works closely with include the Maritime Port Authority, Republic of Singapore Navy, Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, Singapore Customs and the Singapore Civil Defence Force. The PCG has also been working with strategic partners such as the Defence Science & Technology Agency, Defence Science Organisation and leaders in the industry to develop cutting-edge technology to meet the PCG's operating requirements. "It is crucial to understand the strategies and capabilities of our partners, so that we can work seamlessly together towards the common objective of making our waters the safest and most secure in the world," explained SAC Hsu.

Additionally, the PCG also undertakes much liaison work with its foreign partners such as the marine police and coast guards from regional countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia. It is important that the PCG maintains a close relationship with its regional maritime counterparts. Many pirates and smugglers transverse maritime boundaries to commit crime and only close cooperation with maritime counterparts can lead to their successful capture. Besides working closely to deter and solve crimes, officers must also keep in mind that every incident that happens at sea has the propensity to escalate into an international incident. Take for instance, when a PCG boat pursues a smuggler, if the crew is not vigilant, they may find themselves in Malaysian or Indonesian waters in no time.

The smuggling of illegal immigrants and contraband has always been a challenge. Though it is a tough mission to achieve, SAC Hsu asserted that his ultimate aim is to see that "not a single illegal person and not a single item of contraband come into Singapore." Moreover, with the onslaught of terrorism, it is critical for our borders to be tightened to avoid a major blow to Singapore's security.

To materialise this ultimate vision for the PCG, SAC Hsu revealed some insights on the Transformation

Plan that is in the pipeline. The ambitious project seeks to transform the PCG's operational capabilities significantly through the revamp of its operating concepts, use of technology and the specialisation of officers. To broaden officers' expertise to include fire-fighting and medical evacuation skills, SAC Hsu is working to increase training hours for the officers. Apart from that, the project also entails the construction of joint bases with SCDF Marine Command to better facilitate the integration of operational capabilities.

In Perspective

Ultimately, it would be pointless to have such a comprehensive plan set in motion if officers do not have a right learning attitude. In the PCG, new recruits are not expected to be the best swimmers or possess prior sea experience. As cliché as it may sound, passion is the most important criteria that the PCG seeks. "Officers need to be interested in the nature of the work and believe in the mission of the Police Coast Guard." If officers are not passionate about their work, no amount of training would help.

In the PCG, officers are highly encouraged to participate in sporting activities such as mass swimming and sea sports that are organised to facilitate team bonding. While SAC Hsu acknowledges the importance of leisure, he strongly believes in maintaining "work-life effectiveness". To him, practicing "work-life effectiveness" is more applicable than the conventional "work-life balance". "It is better to grow the pie by being more efficient and effective," quipped SAC Hsu.

Above all, SAC Hsu believes in leading from the front. "You must be willing to do the tough work yourself, be ready to take decisions and stand by them." Standing firm by his philosophy, SAC Hsu has indeed shown that he has the passion and drive to steer the PCG to greater heights.

Police Highlights at the Home Team Festival 2015

By SC/Sgt Gabriel Chan Duen Yue

What better way to start your morning than hearing the melodic blend of music from a live band? That was how the Home Team Festival 2015 did it – visitors were greeted by musical pieces played by the Singapore Police Force (SPF) band – but not without an additional touch of grandeur from the decorative lights and the numerous exhibits on display.

The opening ceremony of the biennial festival was graced by Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam. Spanning three days from 13 to 15 November 2015, the festival drew large crowds – eager families and children flocked to the Home Team exhibition to get an up-close glimpse into the work of Home Team officers. The exhibition was not just like your normal trip to a museum. There were carnival-like

activities, hands-on workshops and riveting operational demonstrations to engage and excite the visitors.

Themed 'Home Safe Home' and in conjunction with SG50, the exhibition showcased Home Team's contributions to nation-building over the past 50 years and their wide range of latest operational capabilities. The workshops provided members of the public the platform to perform first-hand the same procedures that Home Team officers go through and immerse themselves in similar situations that they face.

From Exhibits to Operational Demonstrations

The Police exhibits featured the latest operational assets and cutting-edge innovation – Load Bearing Vests and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles – which could potentially be utilised in the near future.



Frontline officers from various departments such as the Traffic Police, the Police Coast Guard and the Land Divisions, not only dressed to impress, they were also there to explain to visitors the use and purpose of their gear and equipment.

Police Tactical Unit (PTU) officers from the Special Operations Command (SOC) – donning their dark-blue fatigues and distinctive red berets

– also caught the eyes of camera-wielding visitors. Opportunities such as these to get close to them and take a smiling group photograph are rare, especially when our PTU officers are at work!

“What is that orange-coloured gun?” – Certainly, many would not have missed out on an odd-looking rifle that stands out with its vibrant colour at the SOC weapons exhibit.



It is the 'Pepper-ball' P4.1, which fires spherical impact rounds that can either contain indelible paint for marking of rioters or irritants which have the same effect as that of tear-gas. It is one of the latest non-lethal weapons added to the Police's arsenal. This particular deterrence weapon is employed whenever a violent public order situation arises.

Our Police officers, together with officers from the other Home Team agencies, also conducted operational demonstrations to simulate real-life situations. From taking down of non-compliant criminals to riot-control, there were several eye-opening simulations that satiated the visitors' cravings for action and thrills.

Crime Scene Investigation Room

Guests and visitors here took on the role of forensic investigation officers and were tasked to complete a set of objectives, with the aid of our well-trained Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officers.

The scenes of crime were different on each day and the room was replete with objects and obscure markings. Members of the public had to put their observational skills to the test by discerning and picking out the incriminating ones and gather the right evidence. Luckily, they had forensic toolkits at their disposal to save them from just staring hard at the room.

The K-9 Idols

The popular working canines from the Police and Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), dubbed 'K-9 Heroes', made an appearance at the festival to show off their incredible sense of smell as



they track down suspects on-the-run, explosive devices or missing survivors.

Who wouldn't want to catch these furry companions in action?

Judging by the overwhelming enthusiasm from the crowd, our four-legged colleagues really stole the show!



Spreading Joy with Ice-Cream

Handing out ice-cream while being attired in a law enforcement uniform is definitely something that you rarely see in your lifetime. On 15 November 2015, Director Planning and Organisation Department (P&O), Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SAC) Teo Chun Ching, was seen dedicating his time to distribute free ice-creams to visitors to cool down from the sweltering heat.

All of the officers are very friendly and they explained the information clearly.

Mr Gerard Sini
Visitor at Home Team Festival 2015

We usually see one type of weapon. However, after coming to this exhibition, I realised that there are many different types of weapons. It is a good experience and an eye-opener.

Mr Karmen Abdullah
Visitor at Home Team Festival 2015

It is quite interactive and introduces the kids to the Home Team in a way that we never could. Initially, I didn't know how many departments there are in the Home Team. The exhibition is very informative and a job well done to the Home Team!

Mr Edmond Choo
Visitor at Home Team Festival 2015

A MIRACULOUS COMEBACK

Officers from the Bedok Division proceeded to the finals for the Intra Agency Futsal Tournament that was held on the 15 November 2015 at the Home Team Festival. The remaining teams comprised players from the Singapore Prison Service (SPS), Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Although the Singapore Police Force (SPF) lost their first game against the SPS, their perseverance and sheer determination saw them through and they emerged as champions for the tournament.

“It was a tight and tough game. We thought that it was the end when we lost the first game, but we managed to pull through and eventually did SPF proud.”

Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Hakim Ariffin
Community Policing Officer
Tampines Neighbourhood Police Centre/ Bedok Division Headquarters



My Mind Went Blank

By Foo Jie Ying and Nabilah Awang
The New Paper



For 1½ hours, out of fear, she stayed on the phone with a stranger. "If you hang up, your son's head will roll," the caller, whom she believed to be a kidnapper, told her in Mandarin. Scared out of her wits, Madam Lee (not her real name), said: "I started crying the moment I heard that my son was held hostage. I was ready to give them money in exchange for his safety." The mother of three, who is in her 60s, almost fell prey to a kidnapping scam on Oct 21. Speaking to The New Paper a week after the incident, she said the harrowing experience began with a call from an unknown number. It was about 9.45am and Madam Lee, who is in the service line, was in the vicinity of her Raffles Place office with three colleagues. She said in Mandarin: "I don't usually take calls from unknown numbers. But I did that day because I thought it might have been my second son, who is overseas." A seemingly familiar voice came on. It sounded like her elder son, who is 36. "Ma, someone is beating me up! Help me!" The voice cried, before another male voice hastily took over. "Your son caught us doing something illegal and now we need \$15,000 to run away," said the man, who, Madam Lee thought, was the kidnapper.

Danger

He also threatened to hurt her son if she hung up on him. Tears sprang to Madam Lee's eyes as she tried to make sense of the situation. "My mind went blank and I was so shocked," said Madam Lee, who also has a daughter. "The kidnapper told me to hurry up, or my son's life would be in danger. I remember thinking to myself that if money could solve the problem, I wouldn't mind giving it." Still on the phone, Madam Lee walked to the nearest ATM at Raffles Place MRT station and started pacing around the area. She realised that her card's credit limit allowed her to transfer only \$2,000 to the "kidnapper's" bank account — an amount he readily accepted despite the huge dip. Just before she inserted her card into the ATM, she was stopped by a group of Public Transport Security Command (TransCom) officers. It turned out that one of Madam Lee's colleagues, who realised what was happening, approached Mr Jufri Arshad, a senior station manager at Raffles Place MRT station, for help. Mr Jufri, 49, and Madam Lee's colleague then rushed to the row of ATMs, where they found Madam Lee. They pretended to do maintenance checks while assessing the situation.

"Even though I was alarmed, I knew I had to stay composed. I also didn't want to approach her immediately because I was afraid the kidnappers might be watching," Mr Jufri said. He immediately informed SMRT's Command Control Centre and sought permission to call the police.

"The safety of the passengers is my No. 1 priority and that is why I



knew I had to act quickly," Mr Jufri said. Five minutes later, he took four TransCom officers to Madam Lee. Special Constable Sergeant (SC Sgt) Jeremiah Toh, 21, the leader of the team, was forced to think on his feet as kidnapping cases rarely feature in TransCom officers' list of duties. Noting that Madam Lee was on the phone, he whipped out a notebook from his pocket and began communicating with her by writing. Initially, Madam Lee was a little uncooperative, he said, adding that it frustrated him a little. "She actually didn't want the police to interfere in her matter. She started walking around back and forth (the area with the ATMs). At one point, she insisted she wanted to transfer the money, but I told her not to transfer anything and to wait a while," he said. As SC Sgt Toh dug out more information from Madam Lee, alarm bells rang: Why was the "kidnapper" willing to accept \$2,000 in place of the initial ransom of \$15,000? The fact that the "kidnapper" seemed so patient also seemed suspicious.

Stalling

Meanwhile, not knowing what to do, Madam Lee started wandering around the MRT station. Still on the phone with the "kidnapper", she went onto the street level, hoping to

stall for time and figure out a solution. The TransCom officers trailed her, making sure she did not make the bank transfer. What convinced Madam Lee to work with SC Sgt Toh was when he wrote: "If you cooperate with me, your son will be safe." After getting her son's mobile number from her, SC Sgt Toh liaised with the Central Police Division, where an investigating officer called the number. "(The investigating officer) called back, saying that Madam Lee's son is perfectly safe, and instructed me to tell her to hang up immediately and not to pick up any more of their calls," he said. It was only after Madam Lee rang her son that she believed it was all a scam. By then, it was already close to 11.30am. More than a week has passed since the

scam, but the incident still plays in her mind every night. She said: "Come to think of it, there were some tell-tale signs that showed it was a scam. I remember speaking in dialect. Usually, my son would reply in dialect, but that day, the person on the phone didn't." She was unaware of the pivotal role that SMRT's Mr Jufri had played behind the scenes in alerting the police until the day she spoke to TNP, when she met him and thanked him. Mr Jufri, a father of three, simply smiled and said: "It's okay, don't worry." He said he had stepped in to help because he understood Madam Lee's distress. "I cannot imagine being in her shoes at that time. I'm a parent myself and I know I would do anything it takes to make sure my children are safe," he said.

HOW

KIDNAPPING SCAMS WORK

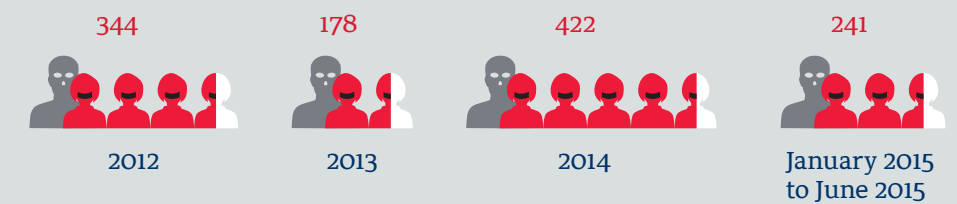
The scammer usually claims that the victim's child has been kidnapped and will demand for money to be remitted or transferred as ransom, said a police spokesman. "They make their ruse believable by including cries for help in the background," said the spokesman. "During the conversation, the scammers will not allow their victims to speak with their loved ones who had supposedly been kidnapped.

ATM

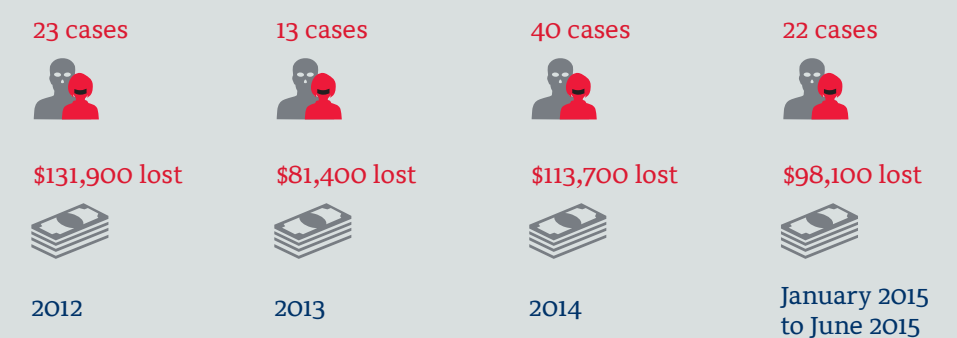
"In recent cases, scammers had mostly requested for the victims to transfer the money to a local bank account through the ATM." Retired police officer Lionel De Souza, who has 27 years of experience, said that the first thing victims should do is to stay engaged on the phone and try to signal for help to someone in the vicinity. For parents with young children, dry runs can be conducted regularly to ensure everyone is aware of the steps to take when facing such situations. They can also establish a code word that can be said in times of danger, so that they will know if the voice on the other end of the phone is their child.

By the Numbers

Number of kidnapping scam cases reported



Number of reported cases in which the money was transferred and total amount of money lost



HAPPENINGS

Singapore Ride Safe 2015

The Singapore Ride Safe 2015 campaign was launched by the Traffic Police and the Singapore Road Safety Council (SRSC) on 20 October 2015. A dialogue session involving 80 road users, comprising stakeholders from motorcycle interest groups, driving schools and taxi and commercial transportation companies, revolved around the attitudes and behaviour of motorcyclists; shared responsibilities of all road users; and their collective contribution in building a better road culture in Singapore.



National Day Award 2015

Held at the Home Team Academy on 17 November 2015 and graced by Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs Investiture Ceremony for the 2015 National Day Awards saw a total of 627 awards being presented to Home Team Officers. They were recognised for their contributions to making Singapore safe and secure. Amongst them, SPF officers received 295 awards commending them for their commitment, diligence and dedication to the Force. Congratulations to all recipients!

Police Headquarters Celebrates Deepavali

On the 25 November the Singapore Police Force celebrated Deepavali with a lunch at the Police Headquarters (PHQ). The event was graced by guest-of-honour Commissioner of Police Hoong Wee Teck. Attending officers were treated to a myriad of performances from members of the Gurkha Contingent Club, Golden Boys and Jigri Yaar Bhangra Singapore. Besides the visual treat, the audience enjoyed a sumptuous spread of curry fish, mutton rendang, masala chicken, naan, gobi manchurian and other dishes. Early birds also had the opportunity to have their hands painted by henna painting experts specially engaged for the celebration. 25 PHQ staff walked away with lucky draw prizes.



Strengthening Our Response to National Security Threats

By Ms Amandu Tu
Intern, Public Affairs Department

Exercise Heartbeat : Readiness Amongst Community and Response Forces Against Terrorist Attacks

The recent Paris and Jakarta attacks reinforce the message that no country is immune from terrorist attacks. Singapore has to press on to prepare our society for such emergencies and crises happening on our own shores. Other than the security and law enforcement agencies, the broader community also plays an important role in helping to keep Singapore safe and secure. First conducted in 2009, Exercise Heartbeat is collaboration by the Singapore Police Force, the Singapore Civil Defence Force, and Safety and Security Watch Group (SSWG) partners to test on their responses to a terrorist attack.

This year, the exercise featured five terror attack scenarios, including a chemical agent (CA) attack, shooting rampages and an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion. "Ready Bags" with basic items like a first aid kit, dynamo torchlight (a torchlight that does not require batteries to operate) and battery-operated radio were also distributed to enhance emergency preparedness and joint response among the community and members of the public.

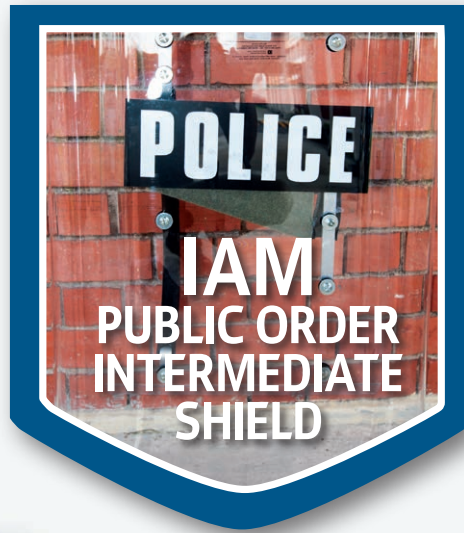


Exercise Highcrest 2015: Government-Wide Response to Simultaneous Maritime Attacks

On 2 November 2015, a five-day government-wide exercise was held to test the sense-making and operational response of the Singapore Maritime Crisis Centre (SMCC) in dealing with simultaneous maritime attacks. A total of 900 personnel were mobilised in this exercise from 15 agencies including the Republic of Singapore Navy, Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), the Singapore Police Force (SPF), the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).

During the exercise, Permanent Secretaries from the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr Leo Yip and Ministry of Defence Mr Chan Yeng Kit observed the Police Coast Guard (PCG)'s latest 2nd Generation PK Class High Speed Interceptors and the RSN's unmanned surface vehicles intercept an intruding terrorist boat. This was followed by the SAF's Special Operations Task Force storming the ship and capturing the hijackers on board as the SCDF's Marine Fire-fighting Vessel put out fire on the ship. With exercises like Highcrest and Heartbeat, the SPF aims to be prepared to handle terrorist threats that come from both land and sea.





My View

By Cpl Muhd Shahrnizam bin Abdul Rashid

It is not easy being the first line of defence. My existence is to protect Police officers from any physical attacks from assailants. I work hand in hand with the troopers from the Special Operations Command (SOC), perfecting our stances and techniques during regular combat exercises to better prepare the officers for times of crisis.

I am slightly different from the Riot Shields used by our Land Divisions and am considered the upgraded version as I come with an additional feature. I am able to interlock myself together with my peers, forming a solid barrier which enhances the ability of our troopers to hold the line against assailants.

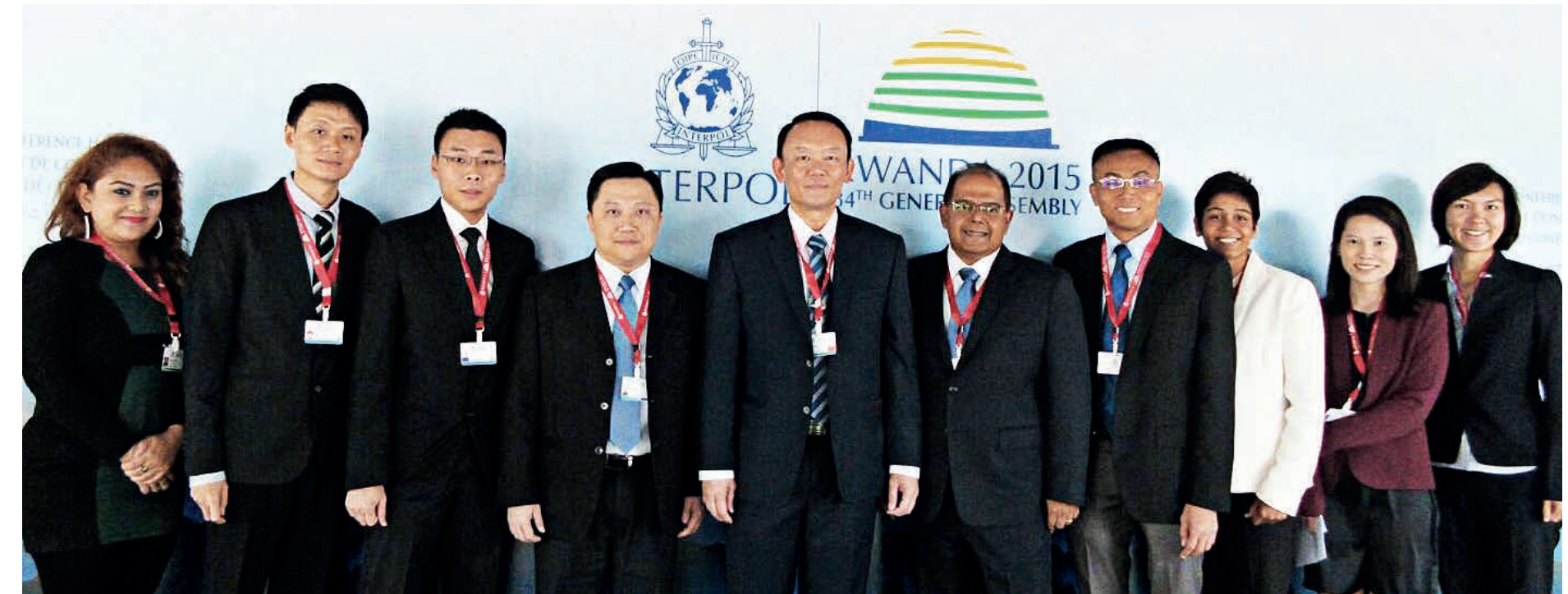


My trooper and I would use a special technique to subdue perpetrators during tough encounters before making an arrest.

My body is made from Lexan Polycarbonate, a special kind of plastic that is strong and able to withstand the impact coming from blunt-edged weapons and any other objects often hurled at me.

I come with a metal handle that is specially designed to give the user a firmer and more stable grip.

I am resistant to fire at certain temperatures, mostly flames that come from Petrol bombs and Molotov cocktails.



Singapore elected to INTERPOL's Top Decision Making Body

By Ms Belinda Cheng
Senior Executive, Strategic Relations Directorate,
International Cooperation and Partnerships Division,
Ministry of Home Affairs

Singapore was successfully elected to INTERPOL's Executive Committee (EC), at the 84th INTERPOL General Assembly (IGA) held in Kigali, Rwanda from 2 - 5 November 2016.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (AC) Anselm Lopez, Director of the Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA) Strategic Relations Directorate (SRD), International Cooperation and Partnerships Division (ICPD)'s election as Delegate of Asia of the INTERPOL EC would see Singapore assuming leadership position in the world's largest law enforcement organisation once again. Singapore last led the Organisation when former Commissioner of Police (CP) Khoo Boon Hui was elected President of INTERPOL from 2008 - 2012

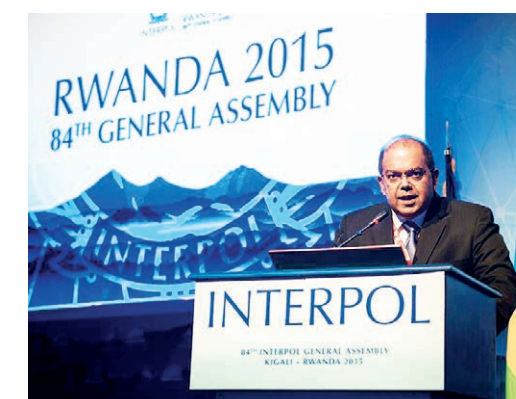
Under Singapore's presidency, the idea of a second INTERPOL global centre, based in Asia, was conceived and implemented. Singapore hosts this centre, named the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI), which was officially opened in April 2016. The IGCI transformed INTERPOL into a truly global organisation with presence in key regions of the world. It is the focal point of INTERPOL's cybercrime fighting initiatives, with a dedicated focus on innovation and multi-stakeholder collaborations to strengthen international law enforcement against transnational and emerging threats.

Singapore's role in the INTERPOL EC reflects the Republic's on-going commitment to contribute to a safer world. One of Singapore's key priorities is to enable the growth of a resourceful, globally-relevant and resilient INTERPOL.

"As the host country, Singapore is committed to nurturing the IGCI. This is critical especially in its early years. We have to unleash the IGCI's enormous potential, to strengthen INTERPOL as a future-ready, premier international organisation," said AC Anselm Lopez in his candidature speech at the 84th IGA.

The successful elections at the 84th IGA capped a well-planned and executed campaign strategy led by MHA's SRD/ICPD, with support from the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Besides sending Third Party Notes (TPN) and diffusion messages through INTERPOL's National Centre Bureau (NCB) channels, MHA and SPF conducted bilateral engagements to lobby for support prior to the IGA. These were supported by personal letters sent by members of the Home Team leadership group.

The Singapore delegation at the 84th IGA was led by Commissioner of Police Hoong Wee Teck and comprised officers from MHA and SPF.



TRUE OR FALSE?

- Exercise Highcrest is an exercise preparing for a terrorist attack on land.
- The Police Coast Guard works closely with the marine Police from regional countries.
- Singapore previously led the Interpol Executive Committee during former CP Khoo Boon Hui's tenure.
- Divisional Operations Room officers must communicate with both members of public and Ground Response Force resources.
- The "Pepper-Ball" P4.1 is the new non-lethal weapon for the Divisional Tactical Troops.

Terms and Conditions for PLM Contest

- This contest is open to all Singaporeans and Permanent Residents.
- Each contestant may only submit once for the whole contest period till 28 February 2016.
- Each submission must be complete with the correct answers, name as in NRIC, NRIC, email address and contact number.
- Submit your answers to spf_plm@spf.gov.sg.
- No other forms of submissions will be considered.
- Prize winners will be informed via email or phone call.
- Prize winners are to collect their prize, a Police Life passholder with a C.L.I.F. lanyard, in person.
- Any prizes not claimed within a period of three months shall be forfeited without any liability on the part of Police Life.
- Police Life reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions stated without prior notice.

90 and Marching Strong

By Inspector (NS) Daniel Ow
Public Affairs Department



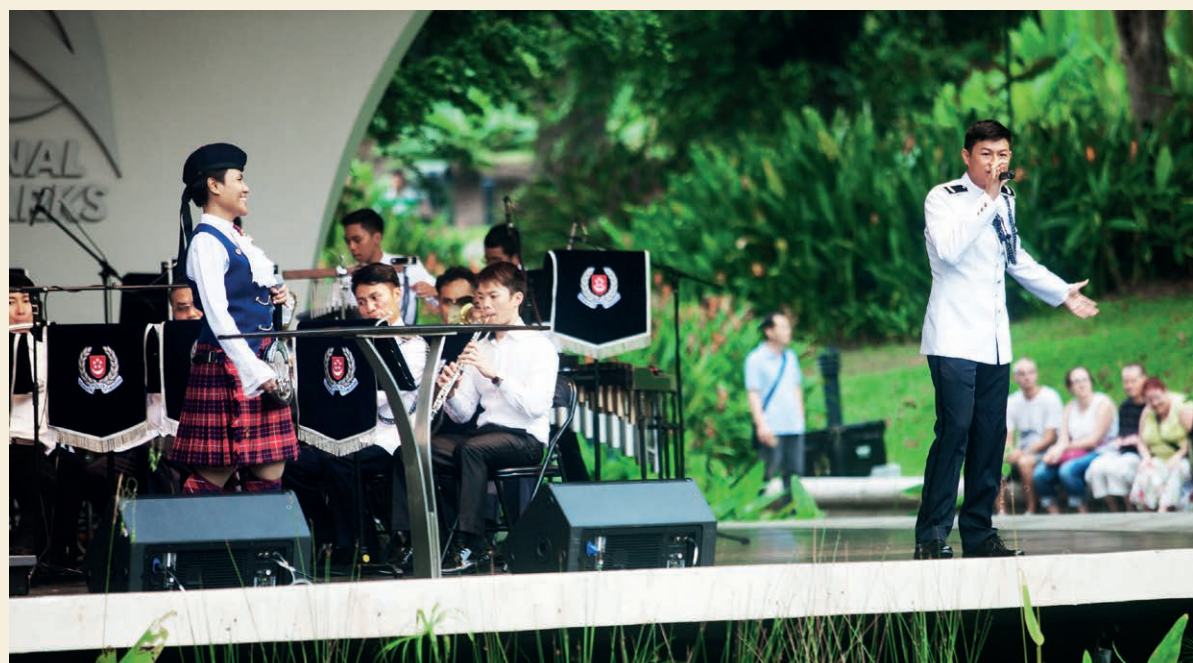
The Singapore Police Force (SPF) Band celebrated its 90th anniversary by taking to the Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage at the Singapore Botanic Gardens with a public concert called "A March to Remember".

On 8 November 2015, park-goers, young and old, were brought on a journey back to the band's roots – when it first started as the second Straits Settlement Police Band. Unknown to many, the band had functioned as a strictly regimental marching band for a hefty chunk of its history, existing solely to provide music for State and Police events and ceremonies.

In light of this rich ceremonial history, the band dedicated the concert to an entire repertoire of march music. 'Metamorphosis', a composition by the SPF Band's very own Deputy Superintendent of

Police (DSP) Sulaiman Abdul Wahab kick-started the musical extravaganza. For an hour, the air of the newly minted world heritage park was filled with classic march tunes like FJ Rickett's Colonel Bogey and Franz von Suppe's Light Calvary Overture, providing the audience with glimpses of the band's heritage, whilst modern compositions like Jan van der Roost's Mercury offered glimpses of the band's growth and foray into the future. The celebratory event was also complemented by the SPF Band's Women Police Pipes & Drums, the Gurkha Contingent Pipes & Drums and the Police Dixie Band.

For the SPF Band's finale item, Mr Idris Mohd Yusof, who had served as its Director of Music from 1986 to 2004, took to the stage and conducted the SPF Band to Johann Strauss I's Radetzky March.



Orchard Parade

By Reproduction from Police 1982 Volume 6 Issue 3

Thousands of spectators lined the sidewalks of Orchard Road on Easter Sunday, Apr 11 82 to watch the first ever Orchard Parade led by the Combined Police Band.

The crowd had gathered long before the planned commencement of the parade at five o'clock in the evening. Hotels looked like high-rise beehives as guests waited eagerly on the balconies of their rooms for a glimpse of the parade. They were not to be disappointed. Just as the much-awaited hour arrived, the sound of drums from the direction of Ming Court Hotel silenced the murmurs of the impatient crowd. The parade had begun.

The drummers were probably unaware of this but their usual instruments could have been switched for African rain drums because the rain also came with the sounding of the drums. And it really poured. Yet no one in the crowd moved away. Cameras clicked away under colourful umbrellas as the spectators cheered the participants on. The latter responded beautifully.



Special mention must be made of the tuba players in the band. With seemingly well-practised precision, they overturned their open-opened instruments one after another to pour away the collected rainwater. This thrilled the amused crowd. The drummers also performed remarkably well, twirling the slippery drum-sticks as if they were only extensions of their own arms. The combined Police Band certainly rose to the occasion.

A monthly affair, the parade was jointly organised by the Force, the Singapore Hotels Association and the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board. Also included in the parade were a still walking display, a traditional Malay wedding, a Chinese loop dance by a group of young petite girls and a lion dance.

Former Combined Operations Room Exhibition

By Ms Amanda Tu
Intern, Public Affairs Department

As part of the SG50 Golden Jubilee Celebration in 2015, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) with the National Heritage Board (NHB) and the Singapore Police Force (SPF) launched the Home Team SG50 exhibition at the former Combined Operations Room (fCOR). It was aimed at bringing to the fore the stories behind this little-known room and its major operations as well as to pay tribute to our Pioneers for laying down the foundation for Singapore's safety and security that we have today.

Situated at Pearl's Hill, this former secret bunker is now open to the public. It recreates the settings and furnishings of the fCOR specifically, post 25 October 1956. It allows for viewers to experience the path taken by our Pioneers in upholding their mission to keep Singapore safe and secure amidst instability in the 1950s with major events such as the 1956 Chinese Middle School Riots, Konfrontasi, and the 1969 racial riots.

The exhibition brings viewers back to 1948 where Singapore was faced with violence and subversion of the Malayan Communist Party till the 1950s. While the Police Radio Division was already deemed to possess the finest radio network systems for policing, the need for a safe place for the Police and Army to conduct joint operations resulted in the creation of the fCOR in 1954 and its opening in 1956. Similar to a bunker, the

fCOR was built with thick walls and narrow corridors that can withstand a direct hit from a 500-pound bomb and to prevent an incursion by a mob.

Through the showcasing of various rooms such as the Office of the Commissioner of Police (CP), the Radio Control Room and the Teleprinter Room, the exhibition highlights the three important functions of fCOR – a permanent headquarters (HQ) for Radio Division, a combined Police/Military HQ to handle internal disorder, and a combined Police/Civil Defence HQ in times of war – to consolidate information and despatch boots and orders. Viewers also get a first-hand experience on operations involved in conflict management through guided tours and the staging of a stay-demonstration of 4,000 students protesting against the de-registering of the Singapore Chinese Middle School Students' Union in 1956 that progressively turned violent.



Home Team celebrates
SG 50

BACK TO THE PAST

"It was chaotic. The phones kept ringing," recalled Madam Evelyn Wong, 71, who used to work at fCOR. The Pioneers of the Police Force visited the new Police Operations Command Centre on 24 November 2015 as they shared their experiences with current officers. This tribute to the Pioneers received heart-warming responses as Madam Wong got "teary when they [told] me how much they appreciate the pioneer generation for working hard to get Singapore to where it is today".



Putting A Stop to Shop Theft

By Cpl Muhd Shahrnizam bin Abdul Rashid

The “Shopwatch” initiative was trialled in July 2014 by officers from Jurong Division together with supermarket chain Sheng Siong as part of the Community Safety and Security Programme (CSSP). The aim of the programme is to combat the rise of shop theft cases occurring at Sheng Siong supermarkets. The initiative was launched personally by the Chief Executive Officer of Sheng Siong, Mr Lim Hock Chee and then Commander of Jurong Division, Assistant Commissioner of Police (AC) Wilson Lim on 14 October 2015. It was introduced at three Sheng Siong supermarkets in Woodlands for a start and later extended to 38 other Sheng Siong supermarkets island-wide.

Keeping A Close Watch

As a part of the ‘Shopwatch’ initiative, staff from Sheng Siong supermarkets don the blue anti-shop theft vests to enhance

their presence in their respective supermarkets, to deter and also detect potential shoplifters. The vest with the words “CSSP” emblazoned on the front stands for the Community



By Cpl Muhd Shahrnizam bin Abdul Rashid



Safety and Security Programme, was designed by officers from the Jurong Division to empower the staffs to give them more visibility and also a sense of identity to own the initiative.

The back of the vest which states “SHOP WATCH, MAY I HELP YOU?” is intended to serve as a deterrence and make potential thieves think twice before stealing. At the same time, it seeks to improve customer experience at Sheng Siong with staff proactively seeking to render assistance to customers in the shopping aisles.

The “ASK” Approach

The Sheng Siong staffs are trained to use the ASK approach when faced with suspicious persons

The “A” in the initiative is to ask suspicious subjects politely, striking a normal conversation with them and asking them if they need further assistance.

We are happy to partner Sheng Siong Supermarket to roll out this programme island-wide. We welcome other retailers to likewise adopt a more proactive approach to deter and prevent shop theft while enhancing their customer shopping experience. We are confident that such strong Police-community partnership will put us in a good stead to curb shop theft.

AC Wilson Lim
Former Commander of Jurong Division

“S” stands for safety. Two staff are to approach suspicious persons while the letter “K” is to keep close to the potential subjects at all times.

How Successful Is It?

The ASK approach has proved successful in bringing down the number of shop theft cases at Sheng Siong supermarkets because shoppers are aware that there are dedicated personnel keeping a close watch at all times.

The implementation of the Shopwatch initiative has resulted in a 41% decline in shop theft cases between August and December 2014 at the three Sheng Siong supermarkets in Woodlands alone.

Due to the success of the Shopwatch CSSP initiative, officers from the Choa Chu Kang Neighbourhood Police Centre are planning to introduce the same concept to Prime Supermarkets in its jurisdiction from January 2016.

Coordinating the First Response

By SC/Cpl Harsha Ramachandran

Located at the nerve centre of the Singapore Police Force (SPF), the Police Operations Command Centre (POCC), our Divisional Operations Room (DOR) officers play a crucial role in the policing process. They interact with our frontline officers, members of the public and other stakeholders in order to keep them all connected and informed.

Keeping SPF Connected

A member of the public reports information on a crime; a Ground Response Force (GRF) resource is dispatched to deal with a situation; a senior officer is informed on the details of a case. All three of these steps would be handled by a DOR officer. It is their job to talk to members of public to obtain succinct and accurate information on cases, relay this information to frontline officers attending to said cases and keep their supervisors updated on any potentially sensitive situations. Without DOR officers, frontline officers would go into cases without all the information, which would hinder them from carrying out their duties effectively, and may even end up endangering their lives.

The Officers Behind the Phones

“You must be able to always keep calm,” said Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Siti Shamisah who has been a Clementi Division operations room officer for two years. SSgt Siti shared with us how as a DOR officer she has developed the ability to multitask,



handle stress and think under pressure. Officers are often handling many cases at the same time and thus, they need to be able to quickly identify potentially sensitive cases. SSgt Donny Yap from Tanglin Division told us how he has learnt to digest information from ground officers quickly and make a decision on whether or not to escalate a case to his supervisors. On top of all these skills DOR officers need to have a robust understanding of the standard operating procedures, laws and the terrain of their division.

Co-location and Improved Communication

Currently, Tanglin and Clementi Divisions’ DORs have moved to the POCC. Central Division’s DOR will move in on 22 February. Tanglin, Clementi and Central Divisions were chosen for co-location on the basis of the key installations that lie within their boundaries. Ang Mo Kio, Bedok and Jurong Divisions’ DORs will remain at their Divisional Headquarters until the infrastructure for their co-location is developed.

The co-location of Tanglin and Clementi’s DORs and their respective officers at the POCC, has led to an improvement in communication and the flow of information. SSgt Donny shared about a case where a car tried to force its way through the Tuas immigration checkpoint. Officers traced the licence plate of the car and discovered it was rented from a company in Tanglin Division. As the Tanglin Division DOR officers were co-located with the officers handling the Tuas case, they were able to immediately dispatch a GRF resource down to the car rental premises. In the previous setup where the DOR officers were not centralised, the officers receiving the information from the checkpoint would then have had to make a separate call to Tanglin Division DOR officers. With this setup, Police response is quicker and more seamless.

Often, the effort that DOR officers put into the successful resolution of a situation goes unrecognised. Yet without them, the Force would not be as successful as we are today. So, keep in mind the unsung heroes who are working behind the scenes every day to keep Singapore safe.



By SC/Cpl Harsha Ramachandran



ONE OF US

Hi, I am...

I am Catherine Soh, a Forensic Specialist from the Technology Crime Forensic Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

What does a work day entail?

I have the habit of checking my e-mails first thing in the morning upon reaching my desk. I would then proceed with my day's work, such as conducting forensic examination for the cases I am assigned and getting in touch with Investigation Officers, etc.

What is your favourite gadget and why?

My iPad! Ever since I got my first iPad, I have been glued to it. As someone who loves to sing, I use it as a portable "recording studio" to record my songs. When I'm in an artsy mood, I use it as a canvas to draw as well. It has everything I need to kill time and boredom!

Identify an item on your desk that motivates you while you are at work.

I have a medium-sized Policeman teddy on my desk. I got it when I first joined CID, so there is definitely a sentimental value for it. The teddy is a constant reminder of how grateful I am to be working here. It's a job I take pride in.

On a work day, what is your favourite dish to have for lunch and where can you find it?

I absolutely love the famous curry chicken noodle stall at Hong Lim Food Centre! As my workplace is just a station away from Chinatown, I often go there to satisfy my craving.

The most interesting incident in my police career so far...

I had a cameo role in one of the C.L.I.F. series, and I have friends (who are not aware that I am working in SPF) thinking I was a hired freelance cafare after they spotted me on TV. I had to tell them that I am a real officer, much to their amusement.

The weirdest misconception that I have heard about Police officers is...

"Police officers can do everything you see on TV." (Example: CSI) Yes, that includes being involved in forensic work, investigation, patrolling streets and fighting criminals all at the same time.

Truth is, they are made up of separate roles. While Police officers focus on patrolling, enforcement and investigation work, the forensics part is left to Forensic specialists – some of whom are Police officers and some civilians.

I believe in...

"No amount of money or success can make up for time spent with family." It's important to maintain a healthy work-life balance and spend quality time with loved ones!

