



**POLICE  
LIFE**

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE  
2018 / ISSUE 10/11

# Diving into the Thick of Action

**Crime Files: China Ponzi Scheme**

**Shine with Design**

# CONTENT SPOTLIGHT



## Crime Files: China Ponzi Scheme

The shutdown of China's largest Ponzi scheme which affected 1.15 million victims in 2016, captured much attention when it was reported internationally. In our first feature of 'Crime Files', read about how our Commercial Affairs Department officers collaborated with their Chinese counterparts to recover more than S\$27 million in relation to this scheme.

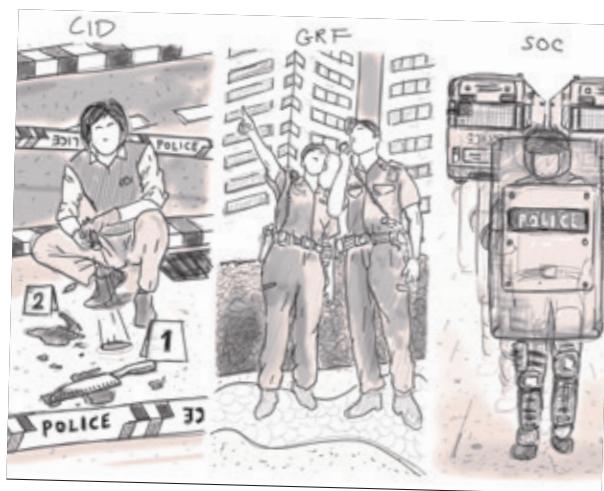
P18



## Diving into the Thick of Action

Candidates for the Special Tactics and Rescue (STAR) unit undergo a gruelling eight-month course before they are officially inducted as a STAR operator. In this second part of a three-piece feature on the STAR unit, *Police Life* brings you an exclusive interview with one of the STAR operators who let us in on his motivations and challenges of being a STAR Assault Diver.

P22



## Shine with Design

Housed within the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) Public Affairs Department, the Web and Design Unit is the Force's in-house creative design arm. Read on to find out how Special Constable Sergeant Muhammad Hariz Bin Azmi brings his creative ideas to life as he contributes to the SPF's mission while serving his National Service.

P26

ON THE COVER: Photo by Mr Dominique Andre

## Contents



04  
Let's Get Social!



06  
The Big Picture



08  
Our Very Own Sports Talents



10  
Saved by a 'Silver Angel'



12  
In the Line of Duty



14  
Service Before Self: Home Alone, But Not for Long



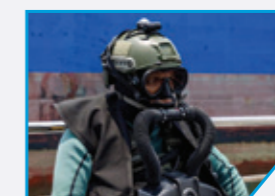
16  
Centrespread Poster



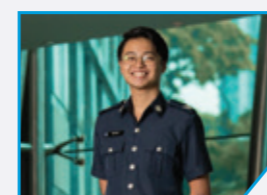
18  
Crime Files: China Ponzi Scheme



20  
Safeguarding Our Public Transport Network Together



22  
Diving into the Thick of Action



26  
Shine with Design



28  
A Different Shade of Blue

## Committee

**Editorial Advisor**  
Wilson Lim

**Chief Editor**  
Serene Chiu

**Senior Editor**  
Matthew Chua

**Editor**  
Denise Luo

**Journalist**  
Hadi Hafidz

**Journalist**  
Irwan Shah

**Journalist**  
Syam Roslan

*Police Life* is a publication of the Singapore Police Force. For feedback or enquiries, please write to the editorial team at SPF\_PLM@spf.gov.sg. The materials in this publication are not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the prior written consent of the Editorial Committee. All rights reserved. Whilst we tried to ensure that information provided is up-to-date and accurate, the publisher will not be responsible for any errors or omissions.

# Let's Get Social!

By Siti Khadijah Bte Mohd Ezat

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) is constantly working to keep you in the loop with the latest buzz. Check out some of these posts on our Facebook page which we have selected for your reading!

**Singapore Police Force**  
October 5 at 9:00 AM · 🌐

Happy Children's Day! Keep smiling and chase your dreams! Inspector Fong's daughter, Rozanne, was all smiles when she said that she aspires to be just like her mummy. The SPF will continue to safeguard our home, a place where all children can grow up safely and happily.... See More



👍❤️👍 857 19 Comments 58 Shares

- Anne Chiam** Lovely pics, Inspector Fong and her Daughter, Rozanne!  
Like · Reply · 2d
- Hui Miao** Beautiful mom with beautiful daughter  
Like · Reply · 4d
- Ang Bielán** Happy go lucky! Good prospect!  
Like · Reply · 3d

**Singapore Police Force** shared a video.  
September 6 at 9:21 PM · 🌐

Fall in love but do not fall for scams. Be wary when befriending strangers online.



499,713 Views

**Goody Feed** with Bukit Batok NPC  
September 6 at 9:00 PM · Paid · 🌐

Xing Xing meets a guy from Facebook and even steads with him. But it turns out that he's not what he seems to be, for this is the saddest Singapore Facebook love story ever (Turn on sound for the best viewing experience and cry out loud).

👍❤️👍 472 19 Comments 348 Shares

- Patrick Chaw** Best video I seen in awhile, well done SPF  
Like · Reply · 3w
- Lim LI** Thank forr. sharing.Sir  
Like · Reply · 3w

**Singapore Police Force**  
September 5 · 🌐

Going out clubbing? Learn the following tips to be a smart clubber to avoid being a victim of crime. #beasmartclubber #smartclubbingiscool #singaporepoliceforce



👍❤️👍 486 86 Comments 590 Shares 68K Views

- Kelvin Lee** Omg this video is gold! Whoever planned for this, well done!  
Like · Reply · 3w
- Farhana Yazid** Hahaha... I like how the video highlighted the types of punishments that can fall on the criminals rather than solely focusing on preventive ways of being victims. Offenders will think twice the next time they want to commit a crime if they are aware of the consequences.  
Like · Reply · 3w
- Lawrence Khoo** This video is good, hope everybody is a smart clubber after watching it.  
Like · Reply · 3w

**Singapore Police Force** shared a post.  
September 10 at 9:57 PM · 🌐

"At the end of the day... this is a job that I really like to do and it's also a job that gives meaning. Every day I come in and I see officers willing to put in long hours, not complaining, and the only reason they do it? They want to see justice done."  
-DC Florence Chua-

Read on to find out more on what motivates DC Florence Chua to keep pushing boundaries.... See More

**Channel NewsAsia**  
September 10 at 6:27 AM · 🌐

"Director of CID doesn't mean I don't go on the ground, I still do. I'm not just sitting behind a desk and looking at policies": Florence Chua, Singapore's first female CID director and first female deputy commissioner of police.



CHANNELNEWSASIA.COM  
**Singapore's 1st female CID chief: 'There is no glass ceiling in the police'**

👍❤️👍 509 12 Comments 70 Shares

- Nagarajah Naga** Congratulation Madam Florence Chua  
Like · Reply · 3w
- Simon Foo** ALL THE BEST  
Like · Reply · 3w
- Julini Bte Akob** Congratulation Mdm Florence Chua.  
Like · Reply · 2w

**Singapore Police Force**  
September 30 at 9:00 PM · 🌐

"FACES OF SPF" – TRAFFIC POLICE SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAM OFFICER

In this fourth episode of 'Faces of SPF', Staff Sergeant Fariz is a Special Operations Team officer at the Traffic Police and he shares about the work undertaken by this elite team of patrol officers.

Watch the video to find out about Staff Sergeant Fariz's passion for keeping the roads safe, the covert patrols that he does to clamp down on errant motorists and other deployments that he is involved as well. ... See More



👍❤️👍 1.6K 85 Comments 923 Shares 94K Views

**Singapore Police Force** shared a video.  
October 2 at 9:30 PM · 🌐

Sergeant Desmond Heng from Rochor Neighbourhood Police Centre recounts how he jumped into Rochor Canal to pull a suspect who allegedly molested a churchgoer to safety.

#teamworkcounts #singaporepolicefeatures #safeguardingeveryday  
Watch it here:



40,186 Views

**Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore**  
October 2 at 8:00 PM · 🌐

SGT Desmond Heng recounts how he jumped into Rochor Canal to pull a suspect who allegedly molested a churchgoer to safety.

👍❤️👍 561 56 Comments 103 Shares

- Clarence Tey** He made first pioneers of Rochor NPC like me very proud of him.  
Like · Reply · 2h
- Liao Patricia** Very diligent, good cop  
Like · Reply · See Original (Chinese (Simplified)) · 12h
- David King** Thank you for your service!  
Like · Reply · 13h

1

3

3

# YOUR ONLINE CRUSH WILL CRUSH YOUR HEART.



A handsome man you met online declares his love for you, then asks for money to help him out. Don't fall for his love trap. The only object of his desire is your money.

Since 2017, internet love scammers have cold-heartedly crushed lovelorn dreams, stealing about \$49 million\*. Let's stand together to fight scams and prevent our loved ones from becoming the next victim.



Be wary of people you meet online. They may not be who they claim to be.

\*Statistics from the Singapore Police Force (Jan 2017 - Jun 2018)

Anti-Scam Hotline:  
**1800-722-6688**



# YOUR SHOPPING PLAYGROUND. THEIR PERFECT PREY GROUND.



Spotted an unbelievable deal online? Don't be fooled. If it looks too good to be true, it is probably a shopping trap.

Since 2017, online purchase scammers have brutally chomped up more than \$2.3 million\*. Let's stand together to fight scams and prevent our loved ones from becoming the next victim.



While shopping on online classifieds platforms, avoid making advance payments and arrange to meet the seller before paying.

\*Statistics from the Singapore Police Force (Jan 2017 - Jun 2018)

Anti-Scam Hotline:  
**1800-722-6688**



# Our Very Own Sports Talents

By Patrick Pang and Siti Khadijah Bte Mohd Ezat  
(Photos: Police Sports Association)

The Police Sports Association (PSA) is a key institution in the Singapore Police Force (SPF) that promotes an active lifestyle through sports. Sports bring people from different walks of life together and strengthen the camaraderie among our officers as they participate as one SPF team. To recognise officers for their excellence in the respective sporting domains in the past year, an award ceremony was held earlier in July 2018. Three awards were accorded to the sportsman, sportswoman and team of the year respectively.

In this issue, we bring you an exclusive interview with Station Inspector (SI) Alan Chau and Sergeant (Sgt) Nurul Atiqah Binte Alwi, winners for the Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year awards respectively, as well as the PSA Dart Team's Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Lance Ong, convener of the PSA Dart Team who received the PSA Team of the Year award on behalf of his team.



## Hitting the Bull's Eye

SI Chau was pleasantly surprised when he received a call from the PSA committee that he had been named the Sportsman of the Year. As a member of the PSA Dart Team, SI Chau has a string of accolades under his belt. His achievements in the past year include his wins at the JOM Soft Tip Championship and the China Open Dart Tournament under the Double Open Division. He also finished third in the Count Up Club 1000 Grand Final and the Phoenix Cup Genting under the International Team Event.

SI Chau, who is a Deputy Officer-in-Charge of the Community Policing Unit in Nanyang Neighbourhood Police Centre, likened dart to policing work where teamwork is a crucial element. "No matter where or how we are deployed, policing work is always a collective effort," he emphasised.

Despite his achievements, SI Chau remains humble. He attributed his success to his teammates. "The team had to strategise and plan well so that we know how to score the required points to win the match," said SI Chau, who has been playing darts for more than a decade.

## Rowing Together

The PSA Sportswoman of the Year was awarded to Sgt Atiqah, a key rower in the PSA Dragonboat Women Team. Sgt Atiqah, who has been actively rowing for PSA since 2013, has anchored herself as a regular first team selection. 2017 was a landmark year for the PSA Dragonboat Team, where they emerged champions in several major tournaments including the World Police Fire Games (WPF) in Los Angeles and the Inter-Forces Games (IFG) in Hong Kong and Penang.

As a patrol officer with the Police Coast Guard (PCG), she holds on to the same belief at work. Regardless of the



situation that she has to overcome in the course of her duty, she always gives her utmost best. Most importantly, she approaches every incident with confidence and pride. To her, confidence and trust comes hand in hand. Not only is it important to have confidence in herself, it is also crucial to trust the decisions of her fellow officers when they are attending to incidents.

"Sports taught me the importance of confidence and trust. You have to be confident in your own abilities, trust that you will be able to succeed and trust your teammates," shared Sgt Atiqah as she reflected on her sporting experience.



Sgt Atiqah, who is also the captain of the Women Dragonboat team in the PCG, also shared that the sport helped her to improve her management and motivation skills. "I have learnt to better manage and motivate my team. Staying optimistic and motivated is vital to the success of the team's performance," she reiterated before she and her team resumed their training.

## 'Darting' as One

It was no surprise when the PSA Sports Team of the Year award was presented to the PSA Dart Team. The team clinched a series of gold medals in all the PSA, Public Service Division and IFG competitions that they took part in, including the Home Team Sports and Recreation Association Games and Public Service STAR Games. At the WPF in Los Angeles, the team won two Bronze medals, which is a significant achievement as the competition involved police forces from all around the world!

DSP Ong, a senior Personal Security Officer with the Police Security Command, who is also the convener for the sport, spoke fondly of the team's growth over the past three years. He recalled the time when he was approached by PSA to popularise the sport within the Force. "Growing the team was not an easy task as not many officers understood the basics of the game. Moreover, there were not many members when the team was formed," said DSP Ong. Not only did he actively participated in the competitions, he also managed to recruit more members and organised dart competitions within the SPF. Since 2015, the PSA Dart Team has grown in size from a humble 89-member team to a team with over 200 members.



Be it at work or playing a game of darts, DSP Ong stressed the importance of having a clear mind and keeping one's composure which would better help one to strategise and plan. As the conversation came to an end, he expressed his hopes for more officers to join the darting team and eventually represent the Force in future competitions.

*Kudos to all the award winners!*



# Saved by a

## SILVER ANGEL

By Irwan Shah  
(Photo: Police Coast Guard)

*“As long as we are out at sea, be it on or off duty, we will not hesitate to respond to any calls for help,” said Police Coast Guard’s (PCG) Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Tan Yoong Yiau. SSgt Tan was part of a team of three PCG officers who came to the rescue of two anglers who had encountered electrical problems on their fishing boat and were in danger of drifting out into a busy sea channel amidst an incoming storm.*



### In a Matter of Minutes

At about 8am on 9 September 2018, two anglers were drift fishing near Changi when the sunny sky started to turn dark. Fearing of being caught in a storm out at sea, they decided to head back to shore. But luck was not on their side. The battery of their boat’s motor had died on them. Meanwhile, the sky was getting darker and the sea was also starting to get choppy. Realising that they were drifting further and further out to sea, they tried to lower their anchor but it failed. Thankfully, one of the anglers came prepared with a list of numbers to call for help and he immediately called the PCG for assistance.

The crew on board the PCG patrol boat *Silver Angel* were about to end their night shift near the coast of Changi when they received the anglers’ distress call from the Police Coast Guard (PCG) Command Centre. Seeing that the weather had taken a turn for the worse just within minutes from receiving the call, the crew immediately changed their course towards the anglers’

location while keeping in contact with the anglers through one of their mobile phones.

*“When we first heard that their boat was in the middle of the fairway, we were very concerned as there were many huge vessels such as cargo ships and ferries moving through. Since his boat’s manoeuvrability was restricted, there could be a risk of a collision,”* said SSgt Tan.

Given the dangers involved, they knew that they had to reach them as fast as possible as the weather was worsening rapidly. True enough, a massive downpour ensued and reduced their visibility to a mere two to three metres, making it even more difficult for the crew to locate the anglers. Despite the challenging conditions, they were determined to locate them. Eventually, the crew managed to zero in on the anglers’ location by turning on their boat’s blinkers as markers and guiding the anglers to direct *Silver Angel* to them.

### The Rescue

When the PCG officers finally reached the anglers’ boat, they had already been adrift for some time. The first thing on their minds was to assure the anglers that they would stay by their side and keep them safe. They also made it a point to constantly update the anglers on their next course of action while periodically sounding *Silver Angel*’s horns to divert smaller vessels away from the anglers’ boat. At the same time, the officers kept a close watch on their radar for oncoming vessels. The crew shared that such assurance was crucial to help the anglers remain calm so that they could follow their instructions accordingly to avoid any further mishaps.

As the downpour continued and the sea became choppier, the crew realised that the current was pushing the boat further and further out towards a breakwater, and hitting it could be disastrous.

*“It was a dangerous situation. Time was of the essence and instinctively, we knew we had to act fast to get the boat out of harm’s way,”* SSgt Tan described the situation that they faced.

Despite the heavy downpour, the team did not have time to don their rain gear as they had to quickly assess the boat and find a way to tie it to their vessel to prevent it from drifting further towards the breakwater. As their patrol boat was not equipped for towing and the bollard of the anglers’ boat could not be located, they had to think on their feet to improvise their methods.

*“We have to improvise on the spot to see which is the best place to tie the boat as not all boats are the same,”* shared Special Constable Sergeant Mohamed Faris Mohamed, one of the PCG officers on board *Silver Angel*.

Drenched to the skin, the crew eventually managed to tie the ropes near the starboard side as they had assessed

it to be the strongest point of the anglers’ boat. They then carefully manoeuvred their vessel beside it. Wasting no time, the crew started their engine and began to side-tow the anglers’ boat slowly away from the breakwater.

As the crew kept the anglers’ boat from drifting towards the breakwater, a tugboat from the Marine Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) had also arrived at the scene to render their assistance. The crew eventually handed over the anglers’ boat to the MPA who then secured it to the MPA’s tugboat.

**“It was a dangerous situation. Time was of the essence and instinctively, we knew we had to act fast to get the boat out of harm’s way”**

**- SSgt Tan**

### Good News

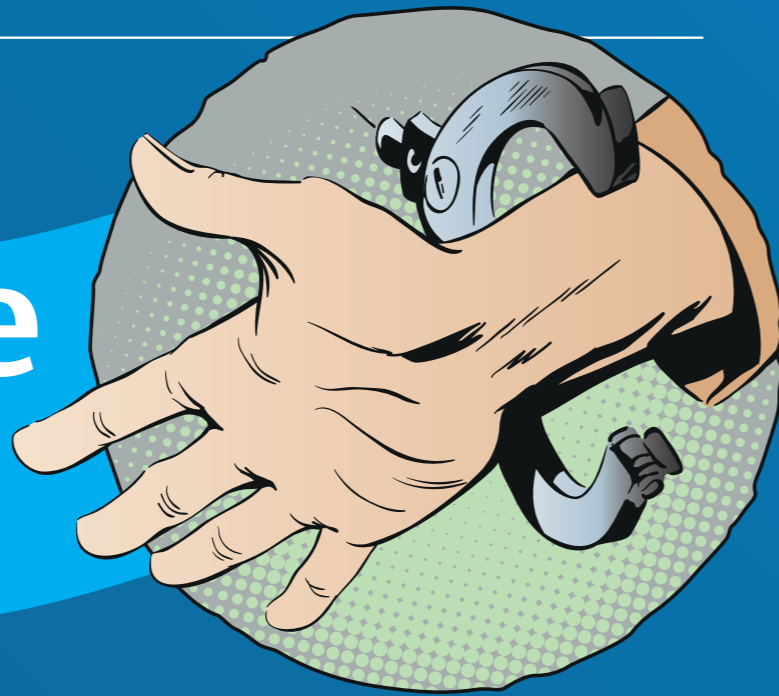
With the mission completed, the crew of the *Silver Angel* returned to their base. Even though they have ended their shift, they wanted to make sure that the anglers were fine. After making a call, they learnt that the anglers’ boat was towed to a Singapore-registered ferry where its captain had graciously helped them to charge their batteries and even treated them to lunch. After hearing the good news, the PCG officers felt relieved and finally retired home for a well-deserved rest.

Well done guys!



# In the Line of Duty

By Siti Khadijah Bte Mohd Ezat  
(Photo: Public Affairs Department)



**From the moment Sergeant (Sgt) Desmond Heng joined the Singapore Police Force (SPF) in April last year, he has pledged to uphold the SPF's four core values of Courage, Loyalty, Integrity and Fairness when discharging his duties as a police officer. But little did he know that he would one day become the talk of the town for demonstrating such values. When Sgt Heng jumped into the Rochor Canal to rescue and apprehend a man who had allegedly harassed female churchgoers, his act of courage was captured on video and it went viral on social media.**

This dramatic episode happened on 29 September 2018 when police officers responded to a call for assistance at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes in Ophir Road. Upon reaching the scene, the officers learnt from witnesses that an intoxicated man had allegedly harassed one of the female churchgoers and turned violent when one of the male churchgoers tried to apprehend him. The man was eventually subdued by the male churchgoer but managed to break free and escaped from the church. However, he ended falling into a 1.5m deep drain outside the church.

*"When we first encountered the suspect, the most important thing on our mind was to get him out of the drain without endangering him as he was stumbling and appeared to be unstable,"* recalled Sgt Lee Zheng Biao, who was one of the first two officers at the scene.

When the officers entered the drain to apprehend the suspect, the man fled along the drain and entered the Rochor Canal by swimming through a tunnel. As Sgt Lee was worried for the safety of the man, he immediately called for backup. When the backup team of six, including Sgt Heng, Sgt Caleb Kok and Inspector (Insp) Ishak Mohali, arrived and found the man in the canal, they immediately activated the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) for further assistance. Meanwhile, the officers kept a close watch on the man as he was seen to be drifting towards the end of the canal. They also tried to engage the man and threw a life buoy to him, but he did not grab hold of it.

Fearing that the man might drown, Insp Ishak immediately made the call to send one of his officers into the canal to rescue the man. Sgt Heng was selected as he was the most confident swimmer. As Sgt Heng entered the canal and swam towards the man, his colleague, Sgt Kok, was also standing by to enter the canal should Sgt Heng encounter difficulties.

This was the first time Sgt Heng swam in his uniform and boots. *"Having the uniform on was essential to let the man know that I am a police officer, and the boots were for safety measures since the canal was slippery,"* explained Sgt Heng.

Although the undercurrents and the man's unstable behaviour made it tough for Sgt Heng to rescue the man, he was determined to bring the suspect back to shore safely. *"Apart from the undercurrents, there was also language barrier between the both of us. The man was unable to speak English. Hence it was difficult to convey my instructions to him,"* said Sgt Heng. Doing so might have been challenging but getting the suspect back to shore was even tougher. With only the help of a ladder and railings, Sgt Heng mainly relied on the support of his team to pull the man out of the water.

The man was conveyed to Tan Tock Seng Hospital for further medical attention and subsequently arrested under the Protection from Harassment Act.

In the line of duty, police officers encounter many types of scenarios every day, sometimes even life threatening ones. Regardless of the challenges and dangers involved, our SPF officers will not hesitate to uphold the SPF's four core values of Courage, Loyalty, Integrity and Fairness whenever they are being called upon!



# Service Before Self: Home Alone, But Not for Long

By Desmond Ang  
(Reproduction from Home Team News)  
Photo: Desmond Ang



*Honouring our Home Team Guardians  
for their everyday acts of selflessness and bravery.*

***It's easy to take what we have for granted. Every day, our Home Team Guardians perform a myriad of duties that are little remarked upon, but are critical to keeping us all safe and secure. From protecting the most vulnerable among us to putting their lives on the line, our Home Team Guardians are always there, ready to serve.***

***Here's the story of a Home Team officer who was recognised for his efforts at the Minister's Awards Presentation Ceremony on 24 Sep 2018.***

## HOME ALONE, BUT NOT FOR LONG

It was in the early hours of a Thursday morning when Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Mohamad Farhan Bin Mohamad Suhaili, a Ground Response Force Officer from the Singapore Police Force (SPF), responded to a call from a housing unit in Toa Payoh.

The call came from a resident who reported a quarrel in the unit next door. *"When my partner and I arrived, we found a three-year-old boy who'd been locked in the house and two other young children – a two-year-old girl and a two-month-old baby,"* recalled SSgt Farhan. *"The boy told me that the baby was on the bed by himself, unattended."*

Not only were the children locked inside the unit without supervision, their windows were also wide open, and the baby was crying to be fed.

*"As a father myself, I knew I had to do something,"* said SSgt Farhan, 31. *"I know how children behave when they're left unattended; it wasn't safe. That's why we decided to cut the padlock on the gate immediately."*

As he waited for his partner to get the cutter, SSgt Farhan taught the oldest boy to make milk for the baby. A check with neighbours also confirmed that the children's mother, who was a single parent, had left the unit after an argument with her boyfriend.

*"We didn't know if anyone would come back to look after the children,"* said SSgt Farhan. *"So we did a background screening and found the contact number of their maternal grandfather, and called him."*

The grandfather arrived just as the Police officers broke the padlock and entered the unit. *"I was very sad to see the baby alone on the bed,"* said SSgt Farhan. *"I carried him out and handed him to his grandfather."*

But the case was far from over. The grandfather told the officers about his daughter's relationship struggles. *"After listening to him, I explained how he could contact a Family Services Centre (FSC) to get the necessary support,"* said SSgt Farhan. *"With this information, they went to a FSC the next day."*

He also referred the case to the Ministry of Family and Social Development, which agreed to take over custody of the children the following Monday. In the meantime, they would stay with their grandfather.

Having made all the necessary arrangements for the children's care, SSgt Farhan also gave the grandfather his phone number. That very

weekend, the children's mother showed up at their grandfather's place, demanding the children.

*"The grandfather called me for help,"* recalled SSgt Farhan. *"So I spoke to the mother over the phone and also got a patrol car to go to the unit, to make sure there were no further disputes."*

The mother eventually left, accepting SSgt Farhan's assurance that everything had been done according to the law, and that the children would be cared for.

Not long after, SSgt Farhan received another call from the grandfather – not about a dispute, but out of gratitude. *"He thanked me for what I'd done for the children, and said he appreciated my help,"* said SSgt Farhan. *"As Police officers, we don't only attend to criminal cases; we also have the opportunity to really help people. That's what I love about being in the SPF."*

For his willingness to assist those in danger and for going beyond the call of duty, SSgt Farhan received the Star Service Award during the Minister's Awards Presentation Ceremony.

### The Minister's Awards Presentation Ceremony 2018

The Minister's Awards recognise Home Team officers for their professionalism, dedication and achievements in safeguarding Singapore. This year's ceremony took place on 24 September 2018 and saw 132 awards presented to outstanding Home Team officers, teams and agencies.





**SINGAPORE  
POLICE FORCE**  
SAFEGUARDING EVERY DAY



# CRIME FILES: CHINA PONZI SCHEME

By Syam Roslan  
(Photo: Public Affairs Department)

**The shutdown of China's largest ever Ponzi scheme in 2016 garnered significant attention when it was reported internationally. A whopping 1.15 million victims were affected by the Ponzi scheme, which was worth 38 billion yuan (\$10.8 billion).**

In our first feature of 'Crime Files', *Police Life* spoke to our Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) officers about the collaborative efforts with their China counterparts, which led to the successful recovery of more than S\$27 million in relation to this scheme.

### The Multi-Million Dollar Crime

In February 2016, the media reported that Ezubao, an online peer-to-peer lending finance company, was under investigation in China for conducting a Ponzi scheme that was worth S\$10.8 billion. It was also revealed in the media reports that Ding Ning, the Chairman of Yucheng Group and one of the two masterminds behind the scheme, had given his alleged girlfriend, Zhang Min, Yucheng Group's then President, a lavish villa in Singapore worth S\$23.8 million.

### The Thorough Investigation

Following the media reports, the CAD received further information that Zhang Min had maintained significant sums of monies in Singapore. The CAD team, led by Commercial Affairs Officer (CAO) Tan Ruiyun, then proceeded to engage the Chinese authorities and commenced a money laundering investigation in Singapore. Through their investigations, the CAD uncovered that more than S\$27 million had been transferred to Singapore for the planned purchase of a Sentosa Cove bungalow, which fell through when one of the Ponzi scheme's key accomplices were arrested. The funds were subsequently seized by the CAD for further investigation.

As the Chinese suspects were not in Singapore during the CAD's investigation, the team had to engage and coordinate extensively with China's Economic Crime Investigation Department (ECID) to gather critical evidence. This was a complex process as there were several parties involved. Nevertheless, the CAD team worked tirelessly on its task and finally established that the seized funds of more than S\$27 million were indeed crime proceeds related to the scheme.

The CAD team also established that Zhang had intended to purchase the villa through a property agent and a conveyance lawyer in Singapore. After paying more than S\$5.4 million as the initial payment for the property, Zhang went uncontactable when the conveyance lawyer tried to contact her to complete the purchase. The CAD team eventually discovered that the property agent and conveyance lawyer were aware that Zhang was detained by the Chinese authorities. Despite knowing of Zhang's arrest in relation to the Ponzi scheme, they did not file a suspicious transaction report with the authorities even though they had suspected that the money Zhang used towards the property purchase may be criminal proceeds from the alleged Ponzi scheme.



### The Resolution

In China, 26 individuals, including Ding and Zhang, were sentenced to between three years' jail and life imprisonment for their offences.

In Singapore, the conveyance lawyer and property agent involved in the property purchase were convicted and fined S\$10,000 each for failing to disclose knowledge and suspicion of the buyer. This is the first time that Singapore had prosecuted a conveyance lawyer and property agent for such an offence.

As for the seized criminal proceeds, the CAD worked with the ECID and the Attorney-General's Chambers to return the monies to the Chinese authorities in August 2018.

### The Learning Points

When asked what motivated the CAD team throughout the long and tedious investigation process, CAO Tan mentioned, "We cannot allow criminals to enjoy the fruits of their illicit wealth. Hence, it is important to recover as much criminal proceeds and return them to the rightful owners as soon as possible".

The success in recovering over S\$27 million is also a significant achievement for the CAD. "I have been investigating money-laundering cases for a number of years, and it is rare that we are able to recover such a substantial amount of criminal proceeds as the funds will

usually be dissipated by the time we are made aware. I am very proud to have achieved this with my team," said CAO Tan.

With the successful prosecution of the conveyance lawyer and property agent related to this case, CAO Tan hopes that it will send a strong signal to the respective industries on their obligations to file suspicious transaction reports should they detect any suspicious activity.

As there are bound to be complexities when investigating a crime that happens overseas, it is critical to establish a good working relationship with international counterparts to help detect and deter transnational crime.

Mr David Chew, Director CAD said, "This case is a testament to our commitment to work with our foreign counterparts to detect and deter transnational crime and preserve the integrity of our financial system. The strong ties between the Police Forces of China and Singapore is instrumental in ensuring that our financial system is not abused by criminals."

CAD remains undeterred by challenges that transcend national boundaries and will spare no efforts to investigate any illicit flow of funds into Singapore, to preserve the integrity of our financial system.



**Over \$27m linked to China Ponzi scam recovered**

**Myanmar worker gets jail, fine for failed abduction**

**Lawyer fined \$10K for not reporting shady deal**

**Engineering company loses appeal over workplace accident**

**Company president goes back to jail, another to court**

**146%**

**747 billion**

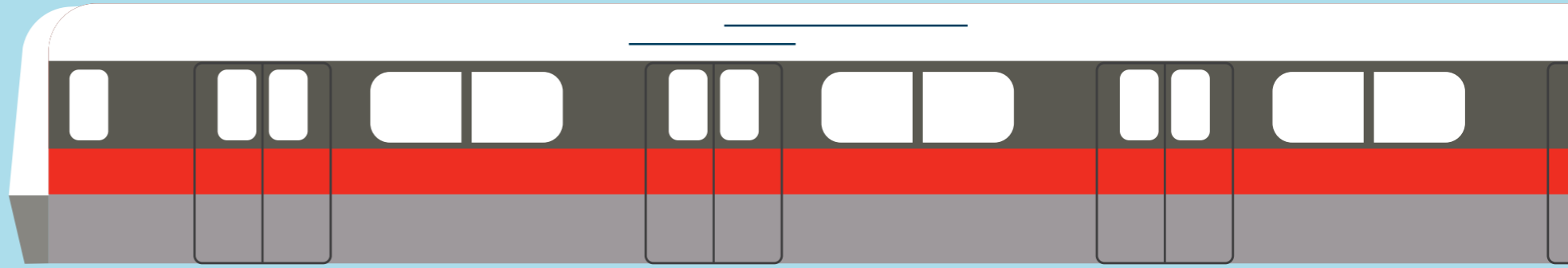
**115 million**

**WHAT IS A PONZI SCHEME?**

It is a fraudulent investment scam that promises high returns for investors with little risk. The funds obtained by newer investors are used to pay off the profits reaped by earlier investors. Investors are usually led to believe that the profits come from product sales or any other means.

However, as soon as the new investments slow down or stop, the scheme will collapse, affecting the returns of all the investors.

# SAFEGUARDING OUR PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK TOGETHER



By Irwan Shah  
(Photo: Public Affairs Department)

Over three million or more than half of Singapore's population commute by public transport daily according to [data.gov.sg](http://data.gov.sg), the government's one-stop portal for publicly-available datasets. Hence, the safety and security of our public transport commuters are of paramount importance to the Singapore Police Force (SPF). In this issue of Police Life, we delve into the efforts of the SPF to stem Outrage of Modesty (OM) cases on public transport. We also look at how the SPF is working together with its counterparts and members of the public to prevent, deter and detect crime on our public transport network.

## A CRIME OF CONCERN

Despite having one of the lowest crime rates in the world, Singapore's public transport networks are not immune to crimes such as Insult of Modesty and OM. In particular, OM cases on public transport have been on the rise. This is a crime of concern for the SPF, and the Force has come up with a slew of measures to tackle the situation.

"The Police is closely monitoring the increase in OM cases. We will continue to step up our efforts to work closely with stakeholders and the community to prevent and deter such cases, especially in public entertainment night spots and public transport networks. Offenders will be dealt with severely in accordance with the law," said Director of Operations Department, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police How Kwang Hwee.

## INTENSIFYING COLLABORATIONS WITH OUR STAKEHOLDERS

The SPF's Public Transport Security Command (TransCom) has also ramped up its efforts by working closely with Public Transport Operators (PTOs) and the Land Transport Authority (LTA) to adopt a multi-pronged approach to tackle the issue of OM. This includes putting up more OM-related crime advisory posters and specially produced videos at the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) stations, on MRT trains, bus interchanges and on public buses to raise awareness. In addition, there are also more boots on the ground from TransCom and other units during the peak periods to conduct high-visibility patrols at the MRT stations and bus interchanges.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The SPF has also been working closely with members of the public to raise awareness about OM through various community engagement programmes and volunteer schemes, such as the Citizens on Patrol (COP) scheme. Established in 1999, there are currently more than 700 COP groups distributing pamphlets and sharing about crime prevention advisories with the residents in their respective communities to raise awareness of crime prevention. In addition, the COP teams also help to keep a lookout for suspicious activities and report them to the Police.

To mitigate the rise of OM cases on public transport, the COP volunteers from various SPF divisions, such as Clementi and Ang Mo Kio Division, have stepped up their efforts to include patrols at various MRT stations. The first COP MRT station



patrol at Queenstown MRT station was conducted on 17 August 2018, involving both COP volunteers and police officers. As part of their patrols, the COP volunteers also distributed crime prevention pamphlets to the commuters to raise awareness against molestations on trains.

## COMING TOGETHER

As the saying goes, "Low crime doesn't mean no crime". Over the years, the community has played a significant part in supporting the SPF's mission. By building a cohesive community, we can all play a part to better prevent, deter and detect crime to ensure that Singapore will continue to be one of the safest countries in the world.

### Public Spiritedness Award

The Public Spiritedness Award is presented to members of the public who have displayed courage and civic-mindedness when the situation called for it.

On 16 August 2018, Mr Goh Tong En received the Public Spiritedness Award for assisting the Police in detaining a 27-year-old man at the Marsiling MRT Station for insulting the modesty of a woman.

Mr Goh was going up an escalator when he noticed a man placing his mobile phone underneath a woman's skirt. He then approached the man and confronted him. The man admitted his dark intention and Mr Goh quickly alerted the station's

management office after asking a fellow commuter to watch over him. The man was detained until the TransCom officers arrived at the scene.

### Do you know?

Six other members of the public have been awarded the Public Spiritedness Award in the past three months\*.

Owing the close cooperation between the SPF and the community, Insult of Modesty cases are steadily dwindling with 597 cases in 2015 to 447 cases in 2017.

\*Numbers collated from June 2018 to August 2018.

# DIVING INTO THE THICK OF ACTION

By Hadi Hafiz  
(Photo: Public Affairs Department)

*The calmness of the sea concealed the turbulence of the current beneath. Despite the unknown dangers of the deep blue sea, a team of heavily armed masked men in diving suits prepared to dive towards a vessel. Their mission – to rescue hostages on board a vessel which had been hijacked by terrorists as part of a simulated hostage rescue exercise. Such, is a scenario that our Special Tactics and Rescue (STAR) Assault Divers from the Singapore Police Force (SPF) are specially trained to handle!*

As the unit with the highest level of tactical armed response capabilities in the SPF, STAR operators are called upon to deal with armed criminal situations and hostage rescue operations not only on land, but also at sea. In this issue of *Police Life*, we get an exclusive interview with one of the STAR operators who let us in on his motivations and challenges of being a STAR Assault Diver. Known only as Senior Staff Sergeant (SSSgt) 'I', this STAR operator has since served in the unit for the past eight years.

## Aspirations

During his National Service (NS), SSSgt 'I' first came across the STAR unit through some articles. As he read about their past missions, his interest in this unit started to grow. He was further intrigued by their capabilities after watching some of their tactical demonstration videos, which mirrored scenes from action movies. Like any hot-blooded youth, he wanted to be just like them. Immediately after his NS, SSSgt 'I' signed on with the SPF, with the aim of becoming a STAR operator!

After completing the eight-month STAR Main Course, which all STAR applicants have to undergo before being certified as a STAR operator, SSSgt 'I', along with other new STAR operators, went through the Basic Air Diving course (BADC) and Basic Oxygen Diving course (BODC) for another two months. Contrary to the name of the courses, these were no 'basic' diving courses. A large part of the courses required them to dive and execute challenging tactical tasks underwater, which sometimes could stretch up to an hour!

*"An hour feels much longer when you are manoeuvring underwater. With 40kg on your back while diving against the underwater current, it was immensely challenging to complete the tasks,"* SSSgt 'I' recalled.

It was during the diving courses when SSSgt 'I' found out that shortlisted candidates would also need to go through the highly rigorous two-week Assault Diving Course (ADC), and only those who managed to complete it could become an assault diver.



Photo Credit: Mr Dominique Andre



After overcoming one challenge after another, SSSgt 'I' realised that the training was much tougher than he could imagine. But knowing that he was getting closer to achieving his goal motivated him to push on, in the hope that he would be shortlisted for the ADC.

*"At the end of the BODC, we had to carry out surface finning for two kilometres. The session was arduous as it was akin to doing a backstroke in full gear, without the hand movements. It also felt like the finishing line was never near. But when we finally completed the task, we felt a great sense of accomplishment as we have become physically and mentally stronger,"* said SSSgt 'I'.

### Short-lived Joy

SSSgt 'I' was eventually selected for the ADC which would train him to integrate the tactical diving skills with the core skills of a STAR operator. The joy, however, was short-lived, as he soon realised that the toughness of the BADC and BODC was nothing compared to the ADC.

SSSgt 'I' never knew that his physical and mental limits could be stretched that far! One of the toughest training was diving in the open sea. It was immensely strenuous. Even advanced swimmers were struggling tremendously due to the undercurrent. The training did not stop there. Diving was only the start of a series of intense training sessions. At times, he even found it strenuous to climb back onto the vessel.

*"I initially had problems climbing onto the vessel using the caving ladder with the 40kg of load on my back. Every step up the ladder was difficult and even during instances where I barely managed to complete the climb, I would be too gassed out for the rest of the exercise,"* recalled SSSgt 'I'.



With the help from seniors and countless hours of practice, SSSgt 'I' persevered through a series of highly strenuous diving-related training and finally completed the course and was certified as a STAR Assault Diver.

### No Finishing Line

Even though it appears that SSSgt 'I' had crossed the 'finishing line' at the end of the course, the work did not end there. One of the key factors that could affect the effectiveness of the STAR unit is the fitness level of each STAR operator. Therefore, it is imperative for every STAR operator to be in tip top fitness level. To do that, SSSgt 'I' shared that he maintains a rigorous training regime to upkeep his fitness, ranging from regular 10-kilometre runs to weight trainings.

An incident which epitomises the need to be always well-prepared as a STAR Assault Diver took place a few months ago. A team of STAR assault divers were activated along with their fellow STAR operators to arrest a group of suspected gunmen on land. As with every operation, teamwork was key to accomplishing the mission. Both sea and land operators coordinated and executed their tactical



plans seamlessly, leaving the suspects with no time to react. Swiftly taken to the ground in cuffs, the suspects were then escorted away before members of the public could decipher what was happening before them.

### The Pillar of Strength

Having served in the unit for the past eight years, SSSgt 'I' shared that having strong family support is one of his pillars of strength.

*"Although my wife understands the risks involved in my line of work, I know that she wants me to go for my missions in a clear state of mind. As a result, she will always try to conceal her worries and fears whenever I tell her that I have been activated for a mission. She never fails to encourage me and I am thankful to have her constant support,"* shared SSSgt 'I'.

Life as a STAR Assault Diver is a test of one's physical and mental resilience as it takes a great deal to endure and overcome the tormenting circumstances on land

and sea. Be it rain or shine, our STAR Assault Divers are always ready to provide the highest level of tactical armed response when called upon to safeguard Singapore's every day!

\*This article is the second part of a three piece profile feature of our STAR officers in celebration of the 25th anniversary of STAR unit.

The first part of the three piece feature on the STAR operators and the STAR Main Course can be found on the previous issue of *Police Life* magazine.

For SPF officers who aspire to be part of the STAR family, the STAR unit will be recruiting officers for the 20th batch of the STAR unit from November 2018 to January 2019.

For members of the public who are interested to apply directly to the STAR unit, do visit our Singapore Police Force's Facebook page to sign up for the STAR selection course.



# Shine with Design

By Siti Khadijah Bte Mohd Ezat  
(Photo: Public Affairs Department)



The Web and Design Unit (WDU) within the Public Affairs Department (PAD) is the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) in-house creative design arm. This is where talented officers like Special Constable Sergeant (SC/Sgt) Muhammad Hariz Bin Azmi gets the opportunity to utilise his creative talent to contribute to the SPF's mission while serving his National Service. In this issue of *Police Life*, we spoke to SC/Sgt Hariz to find out more about his passion for creative work.

## Tell us more about your work.

As a WDU officer, I am entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that all corporate collaterals and literature from force-wide units, be it on print or digital mediums, are graphically designed within the SPF's corporate identity guidelines. Apart from this aspect, the main bulk of my work involves creating graphic designs for various types of corporate collaterals and literature that would be used for both internal and external communications, ranging from crime advisories to event and exhibition posters.

In addition to graphic design work, I am also responsible for ensuring timely updates on the organisation's website. Another important aspect of my work is my role in the PAD's crisis communications team. In this role, I am responsible for the setting up and manning of the crisis microsite in the SPF internet website when the need arises. While it may not be as creatively challenging, it helps me to be more attuned with web compatibility issues which designers may overlook.



## When did you develop the passion for graphic design?

Since young, I have always had a penchant for the arts. I am also a firm believer in practical, creative and smart designs. That is why I decided to pursue a Diploma in Communication Design at Temasek Polytechnic. Being in school exposed me to another side of graphic design, which allowed me to discover a new meaning to art and design.



**SINGAPORE  
POLICE FORCE**  
SAFEGUARDING EVERY DAY

THE NEW  
SPF  
LOGO

"The enhanced logo with SPF's tagline is a product of several iterations. To uphold SPF's visual identity system and to create a comfortable visual balance, I toggled with its typography, ratio and layout.

Along with the tagline that was added, we also introduced the gradient bar that mirrors the blinkers on the Fast Response Car and used the SPF's official blue and red."

- SC/Sgt Hariz

## What is your most significant project thus far?

Since joining PAD in May 2017, I have worked on more than 200 design assignments. My involvement in the redesigning of the SPF logo to integrate the SPF tagline, 'Safeguarding Every Day', was one of the projects that I am most proud of. When I was briefed on this task, it did not occur to me that it would take more than 30 versions to arrive at the finished product! It may look like a simple logo but I soon realised that it was much more complex than I thought. Every single minute detail such as the font size, font colour, colour gradient of the accompanying light bar and proportion matters. This is a very significant project to me because the tagline is what the SPF is all about.

When I hear people appreciating my work, I really felt a great sense of accomplishment. A good design is more than just aesthetics; it is about effective communication. Thus, I make sure that people see my designs as more than just another poster with aesthetically pleasing visuals.



Sketches done by SC/Sgt Hariz for photo concepts

## What keeps you going at work?

Knowing that my creative works would be showcased all over Singapore through the various SPF touchpoints and communication channels with the public invigorates me each time I take on a new design assignment. While there are certain guidelines that I need to adhere to when coming up with designs, it is actually a kind of motivational force that will further challenge me to explore different ideas and think out of the box.

## What are your hopes after National Service?

I am really grateful to be able to contribute to the SPF's mission in my own unique ways and having the opportunity to hone my creative skillsets while serving my National Service with the SPF.

After my National Service stint, I plan to enrol in The Glasgow School of Art under the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). I hope to be able to apply what I have learnt throughout my stint and hone my craft to better Shine with my Designs!

# A DIFFERENT SHADE OF BLUE – POLICING AS A VOLUNTEER

By Hadi Hafidz  
(Photo: Public Affairs Department)

*Navy blue has been a shade synonymous with our police uniform. Since April 2018, a batch of officers have been seen sporting a brighter shade of blue. Attired in bright blue polo tee shirts, black cargo pants and black sports shoes, these are our Volunteer Special Constabulary (VSC) (Community) officers who have recently joined the Singapore Police Force (SPF) to prevent, deter and detect crime!*

Specially tailored to suit those who are keen to volunteer but are concerned about not being able to commit the time, the VSC (Community) vocation was created to provide more opportunities for the public to volunteer with the SPF. This new vocation now only requires volunteers to contribute eight hours per month and has a shorter training duration that is conducted over seven weeks. VSC (Community) officers will be trained in law, Police procedures, Police Defence Tactics (PDT) and first aid.

Upon completing their training, these officers will be deployed at the Neighbourhood Police Centres (NPCs) to conduct foot patrols in community areas with high human traffic.

In this issue of *Police Life*, we caught up with some of our VSC (Community) officers who let us in on their motivations and their experiences thus far.



**Special Constable (V) Amy Cheow Poh Yen, Clementi Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC)**  
42 years old, Field Application Support Engineer, Rudolph Technologies Incorporation

## What inspired you to join as a VSC (Community) officer?

I was introduced to the SPF's volunteer schemes by two Community Policing Unit (CPU) officers who visited my home to share about the SGSecure movement. The sharing session brought back memories of a terror attack incident that took place when I was in New York City. A lorry had ploughed into the bikeway and killed eight people. The thought of that incident prompted me to sign up for the vocation as this is an opportunity for me to contribute to the safety and security of our home.

## Which part of the training do you feel is most important?

Through the first-aid lessons, I have learnt very useful skills such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and various bandaging techniques. Such skills could make a difference in situations of life and death!

## What was your most memorable experience while on patrol?

I remembered an incident when we were approached by a drunkard during our foot patrol. When we asked him for more information, he started getting agitated. Together with the CPU officers who were patrolling with us, we managed to calm him down. I learnt that policing was not just about the hard skills but also the soft skills that are equally important in helping us to engage the community effectively.



**Special Constable (V) Khanna Moneesh Kishanlal, Choa Chu Kang NPC**  
47 years old, Vice President, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited

## What inspired you to join as a VSC (Community) officer?

My interest was piqued when the CPU officers shared about the volunteer schemes in the SPF during one of their house visits. As they were sharing, I thought about the time when my family and I migrated to Singapore 17 years ago and how the community helped us to integrate into society. The peace and harmony that we have enjoyed over the years cannot be taken for granted. So I decided to take this opportunity to do my part in keeping Singapore safe.

## Which part of the training do you feel is most important?

As a newbie to policing work, I found the PDT training very useful as such skills would help me to carry out my duties confidently.

## What was your most memorable experience while on patrol?

During one of my patrol duties at a heartland mall, we were informed by members of the public that a man had sustained a fall. When we reached the incident location, we learnt from the man that he had lost his balance and fell. After assessing that he had no injuries, we helped him to rest at a nearby restaurant. We chatted for a while until he felt stable enough to walk. He expressed his gratitude and we parted ways. I was happy not only because I had helped someone, but also because the residents appreciated our presence and turned to us for assistance.



**Special Constable (V) Muhammad Imran, Trainee**  
24 years old, Undergraduate at National University of Singapore

**What inspired you to join as a VSC (Community) officer?**

It all started when I received an email, sent to all recallable Police Operationally-Ready National Servicemen, about volunteering opportunities with the SPF. As I learnt more about the vocation, I was intrigued by the idea of how I could contribute to crime fighting efforts through engaging the community and at the same time, juggling with my study commitments. When I was serving my National Service with the SPF, I was deployed as a Police Coast Guard officer, spending most of my time patrolling the Singapore waters. As a VSC (Community) officer, my policing terrain would be significantly different. Hence, this piqued my interest to join.

**Which part of the training do you feel is most important?**

The knowledge gained from the law lessons were very useful as it would help to guide us on the necessary actions to take when we come across incidents. The trainers also made the lessons interesting by including some real life examples.

More than 50 VSC (Community) officers have since been appointed and deployed for duties, with the numbers steadily increasing. The fourth batch of officers, including Special Constable (V) Imran, underwent their training and graduated on 30 October. In our bid to expand the VSC (Community) family, the SPF will continue our efforts to encourage like-minded individuals to volunteer with us. If you know of friends or family members who are keen to contribute to the safety and security of our community, do encourage them to drop us an email at [spf\\_volunteers@spf.gov.sg](mailto:spf_volunteers@spf.gov.sg) or scan the QR code and register with us!



**Keen to contribute even more?**

The VSC scheme is available for those who can contribute a minimum of 16 hours of duty per month. Volunteers will be equipped with firearms after undergoing six months non-residential training inclusive of basic police skills, basic legal knowledge, street craft, firearms training, physical training, drills and unarmed combat.

# POLICE COMMUNITY ROADSHOW 2018



**SINGAPORE  
POLICE FORCE**  
SAFEGUARDING EVERY DAY

Join us at the Singapore Police Force's **Police Community Roadshow** this November and December. Come experience and learn how the different capabilities help the various police units safeguard Singapore from crime and security threats every day. Don't miss out on all the fun! See you there!



## HIGHLIGHTS



Performances by police bagpipers



Get up close with Police K-9 buddies



Demonstration of tactics by Rapid Deployment Troops



Experience firing a X26 TASER



Check out the latest police weapons



Learn more about police vehicles



Gear up in police uniforms



Take selfies with futuristic police robots

and many more...

**24 & 25  
NOV  
2018** TOA PAYOH HDB  
HUB ATRIUM  
10AM - 8PM

**01 & 02  
DEC  
2018** BEDOK TOWN  
SQUARE  
10AM - 8PM

**08 & 09  
DEC  
2018** OPEN FIELD  
NEAR WESTGATE  
10AM - 8PM

For more information,  
please visit [www.police.gov.sg/roadshow](http://www.police.gov.sg/roadshow) or scan the QR code







Natalie Yap  
Traffic Police

Farhan Mohamed  
Traffic Police

# THE GUARDIANS

Our roads are safer thanks to **Traffic Police Officers**.

They maintain law and order on the roads and are beacons of safety, rushing to aid those in distress. More than just a job, it is a career that makes a real difference by safeguarding every day.

**BE A GUARDIAN. JOIN THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE.**