



**POLICE  
LIFE**

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE  
2017 / ISSUE 4

# *The Game* **Changers**

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**Seaborne Threats, Watch Out!  
Our Little Heroes at Work**



## Note from the Team

Singapore is one of the safest countries in the world. With the emergence of cyber-threats and the growing sophistication of hackers and terrorists, we must keep ourselves ahead of these challenges and seek new ways to strengthen our policing capabilities.

In this issue of *Police Life*, read about SPF's latest 'start-up', the Next Generation Systems Directorate (NGSD) in our cover story. Learn more about how NSGD is improving our officers' efficiency and effectiveness through the various technological advancements that are being developed. Hear from Deputy Assistant Commissioner Loke Wai Yew, Director NSGD, as he shares his vision for the department.

Also riding the waves of advancements, the Police Coast Guard has unveiled their new capability, the Emergency Response Force (ERF). The ERF was formed as a tailored response towards armed attack incidents at sea and on offshore islands. Catch our ERF in action as they speed across the open sea and board a vessel to swiftly neutralise the threat during a simulated attack.

Have a good read!

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# No RoboCop? Instead, a Digitally Enabled Police Officer

By Denise Luo  
(Photographer: Chee Yong Tat)

Whisked into Hollywood's sci-fi world where RoboCops are the law enforcement superheroes who patrol the streets and fight the crooks to protect its people from criminal harm. Is that the future of policing that we envisaged? Adamant that no matter how far technology advances, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (DAC) Loke Wai Yew, Director of Next Generation Systems Directorate (NGSD), strongly believes that technology will never replace a human being. An astute conversationalist who speaks with pith and verve, DAC Loke carefully parses the reality of policing vis-à-vis the onslaught of technological advancements.

### Technology: An Integral Part of Policing Work

In today's society, technology has become so pervasive in our daily lives. As a newly established department in the Singapore Police Force (SPF), NSGD prides itself as a "start-up" tasked to equip officers with the "right" kind of technology that will enable them to be far more productive and effective in their jobs than they already are.

Officially formed in December 2016, NSGD also positions itself as an instrumental player alongside the Planning and Organisation Department (P&O) that spearheads SPF's efforts to transform as part of the Home Team Transformation 2025 plans. Be it coping with rising public expectations or the sheer increase in

workload, SPF needs to constantly update its policing strategies to remain successful in keeping Singapore safe and secure, and retaining public's trust. As such, it is imperative for NSGD to study the constraints and deliver the cross-functional technology that will improve officers' productivity and effectiveness to achieve SPF's mission of preventing, deterring and detecting crime.

"Tactically, our deliverables are the IT technology systems. They matter because they enable the organisation to bring about the transformation it needs to remain successful. Moreover, with the launch of these systems, our officers can then better do their work with lesser pain and at a faster pace," attested DAC Loke, who holds the concurrent position of Deputy Director (DD) at P&O.

### Creativity Put to Test

As part of the integration of technology with policing work, DAC Loke, who formerly had a stint as DD at Police Technology Department, revealed a few initiatives NSGD has been driving.

To allow Head Investigations (HI) to better guide duty investigation officers on follow-up actions, the Briefing Note Automator (BNA) is one of such applications that allow users to automate mundane processes. Designed such that it allows the user to conduct screenings at a much faster pace, the BNA automates the retrieval of case information, screening and summarising findings in a single interface.

Frontline officers will also be equipped with an easy-to-use computing device that will put all the information they need at their fingertips. Coined as the Police Smartphone, this device is targeted for its first phase launch in October 2017.

In truth, NSGD officers' work does not end when the systems are launched. Regular follow-ups are carried out to ensure that the user is benefiting from the technology. Tweaks or adjustments will be made to improve the overall experience and make the technology more useful.

Taking cue from what NSGD does, it is no surprise that DAC Loke described the unit's culture as being "different" and "casual". To him, this is what contributes to the creative vein.

"We are not just looking at what we build to help officers do their work better, but it is also about how, as a team, we can be more effective. A lot of what we do is about imagining what is possible. What can we do to make it possible for us to do our work faster and better, and with less pain?" he chuckled.

### The Incessant Challenges

Besides tailoring systems or applications to better address users' needs and constraints, NSGD has to tackle two primary hurdles which revolve around basic communication with officers and SPF's need to retain public's trust.

"NSGD needs to communicate in ways that make it easy for officers to understand how such technology can help them and the organisation to be more effective in keeping our community safe," said DAC Loke.

Moreover, what will drive SPF's adoption of technology in the future is the public's ever-increasing expectations of SPF officers — civilian and uniformed — to do their job well.

"The reason why the rising public expectations present a challenge for SPF is because our inability to meet those expectations will translate to a loss of trust. Our effectiveness will be eroded if we lose the trust that the community has in us," emphasised DAC Loke.

While the solution to this problem is a multi-pronged one, DAC Loke believes that technology is one of the key prongs. "Technology can play a role in improving the productivity of officers, freeing them from mundane repetitive tasks and allowing them to perform higher value work," he deliberated.

### The Need for Human Element

Ultimately, it is important to recognise that technology in SPF serves to augment the officers, not to replace them. The future of policing does not lie in the hands of bots.

"Machines can only do what a person programmes it to do. We have talked about artificial intelligence and this idea that machines can learn. But even then, the machines learn based on instructions that we give them," quipped DAC Loke.

In his opinion, machines and programmes can perform the basic types of human functions. However, "Is it possible for a software to write an article that touches the soul? Machines are unlikely to outperform a human (in this instance). There will always be some things that machines are unable to do, such as considering morals and values and exercising compassion in unique cases," DAC Loke explained.

### Work-Life Harmony

Shedding more light on his personal beliefs, the father of twins is clear on his approach towards work-life harmony. "I always think that officers cannot be effective at work if their personal lives are not in order. The divide between personal and work is an illusion. For me, to be a productive, contributing officer who continues to grow professionally, you must also be growing personally," shared DAC Loke.

Although, it would have least struck him in his teens that his career would take off in the Force, DAC Loke could not agree more that this is the job that allows him to "contribute to the society and know it better".



## Committee



Editorial Advisor Wilson Lim, Chief Editor Serene Chiu, Senior Editor Matthew Chua, Editor Denise Luo, Journalist Md Shahrunnizam, Journalist Md Falliq, Journalist Darwisyah Daud, Journalist Jonas Tan, Photographer Kenneth Tan

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# The Game Changers

By Next Generation Systems Directorate  
(Photographer: Kenneth Tan)

It is 9am on a Monday and the Next Generation Systems Directorate (NGSD) team is about to start its weekly stand-up meeting to pow-wow on the week ahead. Officers sit on bean bags and sip coffee, while Assistant Director Wanyi starts to scribble on the office's glass-panel walls in her ineligious writing. The meeting wraps up within an hour and NGSD officers proceed with their day. One greets officers from various Land Divisions who have come to brainstorm on how to improve a recently-launched application. Another officer is heading upstairs to the development room where software developers are coding machine-learning algorithms while others start to test the user interface of the Police Smartphone beta version. Welcome to Singapore Police Force's (SPF) newest department, NGSD.

In the age of the digital start-up culture (think Facebook and Google), the SPF has created its own start-up through the formation of the NGSD to build applications and systems to enable our officers to be more effective and efficient in their duties.

The recent years have seen much discussion on transformation. The Home Team Transformation 2025 effort has made it clear that SPF and other Home Team agencies will need to be more effective and efficient to meet future challenges. Much of this transformation will leverage new technologies, the automation of laborious manual processes and the proliferation of small computing devices in the shape of smartphones, watches and glasses. These new digital technologies are common but only in the consumer realm. Therefore, the NGSD serves as a dedicated office committed to translating the needs of a Police officer into a new application or system.



### Technology as an Aid

NGSD's mandate is to develop applications that enhance officers' effectiveness and efficiency. Improving effectiveness can be about helping officers make better decisions on the ground, and this can be achieved by ensuring that they have all the necessary information at their fingertips. The Police Smartphone that is being developed by NGSD is the first step towards that vision.

Improving efficiency is about helping you do more with less effort and in a shorter period of time. One key example is the Briefing Note Automator (BNA). Rather than screening through three different systems, the BNA pulls the necessary screenings in one single interface. That should hopefully help reduce the time taken to put up briefing notes.

### All About the User

It is no surprise that what matters most to NGSD is the number of officers who want to use their applications, given that its mission is to help frontline officers do their work better. As such, NGSD has two principles. The first is about engaging end-users every step of the way from conceptualisation to development to testing to implementation. The second principle is that NGSD develops rapidly and by versions, so that end-users can quickly try out version 1.0 of the applications and provide feedback on how to improve it for version 2.0.



### Transformation Involves Everyone

NGSD is passionate about making their applications as useful and user-centric as possible with the feedback it receives. The NGSD Associate Programme is an avenue for officers to collaborate with them on developing applications. Through this programme, officers have the opportunity to be beta-testers of the BNA, be involved in user-engagement sessions to design the new Bail/Bond module in CRIMES-2 and gain access to new applications like SPHERE (SPF's Google search engine). To achieve its mission, NGSD is always on the look-out for like-minded officers who want to be a part of this dynamic change.

With the development of new technologies through NGSD, labour intensive tasks and multiple-step procedures are simplified, ensuring optimum efficiency and effectiveness for frontline officers. Owing to such commitment and dedication by NGSD officers, the SPF will be better poised to upgrade its capabilities and achieve its mission of deterring and detecting crime more effectively.

For more details on how to join the NGSD Associate Programme, email us at [SPF-NGSD@spf.gov.sg](mailto:SPF-NGSD@spf.gov.sg).

## Look Out for These Applications Developed By NGSD



### Briefing Note Automator (BNA) — Automating Mundane Processes

The BNA enables officers to conduct screenings much faster by automating the retrieval of case information, screening and summarising of findings across three different databases through a single screen interface. Through the constructive feedback received, NGSD is committed to the continual improvement of future versions.



### Case Information Submission — Smarter Intelligence Collation

To reduce the repetitive effort of information submission through multiple systems, the revamped Case Information submission process guides officers via a step-by-step wizard for the creation of case files. Case details will also be auto-populated to minimise the repetitive manual inputs.



### Bail/Bond — Better Supervision of Bail/Bond Processes

Searching for accused's records in large ring files will be a thing of the past with the Electronic Bail/Bond tracking module. With this system, officers will be able to handle laborious bail/bond matters electronically.



# Crackdown on Internet Love Scam Syndicates

By Tan Yick Wei, Jonas  
(Photographer: Nori Dana)

*“The success of this joint investigation is a testament to the close ties between Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) and the Royal Malaysia Police’s Commercial Crime Investigation Department (CCID). Online scams are increasingly complex and transnational in nature. To the criminals who think that they can hide behind the cloak of anonymity provided by the Internet to perpetrate fraud, we want to send a deterrent message that crime does not pay.” — Mr David Chew, Director CAD*

## A New Era of Crime

With the rapid advancement of technology, the trend of crime has likewise gone with the flow and moved to a new territory: the Internet.

Under the guise of online anonymity, criminals have aggressively exploited the far-reaching nature of the Internet and started festering on its users across borders. The “Internet love scam” syndicates are prime examples. Preying on the feelings of vulnerable victims, these syndicates execute these scams with alarming efficiency, being suspected of at least 108 cases of Internet love scams reported in Singapore and Malaysia, swindling a total of RM21.6 million from the unsuspecting victims.

## Strong Cross-Border Partnership

To combat the new threats that these syndicates bring into the picture, the Singapore Police Force’s (SPF) CAD has responded by collaborating with the Royal Malaysia Police’s CCID, incorporating the transnational trait into their arsenal to effectively fight online crime. Between 6 and 8 February 2017, CAD launched a joint operation with CCID to cripple the elusive Internet love scam syndicates that target victims from Singapore and Malaysia.



The joint operation was decidedly successful with a total of 27 suspects being arrested, including 13 Nigerian nationals in various states of Malaysia and six female suspects in Singapore who were transferring criminal proceeds to Malaysia-based suspects. Working in tandem, CAD provided timely information to CCID during the course of the joint operation. Owing to CAD’s dedicated efforts, CCID gained the leverage needed to establish the identities of the suspects, while CAD conducted concurrent investigations against suspects based in Singapore who were colluding with those in Malaysia.

*“I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Director CCID, Dato’ Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani and his officers, for their strong support to CAD in this intensive investigation and enforcement effort.” — Mr David Chew, Director CAD*

## Scamalert.sg

This battle was won, but the war is still not over. In 2016, the number of Internet love scams hit an all-time high of 636 cases, increasing by 64 per cent from 2015. The money scammed from victims also doubled to S\$24 million over the same period. To avoid being a victim of scam, stay current and read the latest scam alert from [www.scamalert.sg](http://www.scamalert.sg).

# Safer Roads Begin with Choosing Graciousness

By Aiman Zaki  
(Photographer: Ridhwan Ismail)

**Motorcyclists, drivers, cyclists and even pedestrians have a role to play to help keep Singapore’s roads safe, and that will be the focus of the new Safer Roads Campaign 2017.**

The Traffic Police and the Singapore Road Safety Council, in conjunction with the Singapore Kindness Movement (SKM) and the Land Transport Authority, launched the campaign at Tampines Hub on 21 March 2017. The event was graced by Mr Amrin Amin, Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs.

The theme of this year’s campaign is “Choose Graciousness”, which recognises that every road user can do their part to contribute to safer roads. The campaign also calls for all road users to continue practising good driving etiquette and to be gracious whenever the opportunity arises.

The tagline for the campaign is “Every Life Matters”. This action plan relies on the three pillars of Education, Engagement and Enforcement. A series of initiatives under each pillar will be developed as part of this plan to enhance road safety.

Road safety and road courtesy go hand-in-hand. The campaign also seeks to remind all road users to exercise tolerance and be more patient when driving. Co-produced by the four organisers, the campaign features a series of road safety videos, targeted at specific road users. These videos will be shared

on their respective social media platforms. Banners promoting this year’s campaign will also be placed on lamp posts islandwide.

The number of traffic violations is rising, in particular for speeding and beating red lights. These are dangerous offences and reflect the current road users’ culture as well as their behavioural habits and attitudes. The campaign aims to address this problem by integrating positive emotions such as kindness and graciousness for all road users to practice.

*“Safer driving is a function of mindfulness. We need to be disciplined in paying attention to the present moment in order to be aware of our surroundings and other road users. Being aware of what is happening when we drive will help us to be more gracious, courteous and considerate to fellow road users,”* said Dr William Wan, General Secretary of SKM.

With these initiatives, the organisers hope to partner all road users to build a culture of graciousness on the roads and encourage them to adopt safer road usage practices. Let us all work together to create a safer and kinder road environment in Singapore!



## Happenings

### Police Workplan Seminar 2017

The annual Police Workplan Seminar 2017 (WPS 2017) themed, “Together, Safeguarding Every Day”, was held on 7 April 2017 at Singapore EXPO MAX Atria with Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, K Shanmugam as the Guest-of-Honour for the event. This year’s WPS adopted a seminar-styled approach that comprises a panel discussion and breakout sessions. The panel discussion emphasised the importance of community cohesion and individual responsibility in fighting terrorism while the breakout sessions provided officers with greater understanding of the implementation plans on the SPF transformation.



### Delta Citizenry Community Day 2017

About 500 people from 13 constituencies within the jurisdiction of Clementi Division were involved in the Delta Citizenry Community Day 2017 on 18 February 2017. The event, held at Ayer Rajah Community Club, was graced by Ms Foo Mee Har, Advisor to Ayer Rajah Grassroots Organisations and Member of Parliament for West Coast Group Representation Constituency. Organised by Clementi Division, the event gave participants an opportunity to equip, develop and share useful knowledge and skills such as crime prevention measures and how to render first aid. The initiative not only aims to enhance safety and security within neighbourhoods but also sets as a platform for the Police to strengthen the ties with community partners and reinforce the instrumental role which the community plays in safeguarding Singapore.

### Opening of Police Coast Guard’s (PCG) Heritage Centre

On 13 February 2017, Commissioner of Police Hoong Wee Teck officiated the opening of PCG’s new Heritage Centre. This day also marks the 24th anniversary of PCG’s formation. The new PCG Heritage Centre not only showcases an array of exhibits that articulated the history of PCG, the exhibits also pay tribute to the officers who have contributed to the development of PCG over the years.





# Seaborne Threats, Watch Out!

By Md Falliq  
(Photographer: Cheo Yong Tat)

From June 2017, the Police Coast Guard (PCG) will introduce a tiered response model for armed attack situations where the first wave of response consists of the sector boats with Emergency Response Force (ERF) officers. The ERF is PCG's tailored response to armed attacks out at sea and on the offshore islands. When an armed attack incident occurs, the ERF will respond, engage and neutralise the attackers quickly to minimise casualties. With evolving means of threats, it is imperative to have all hands on deck to keep Singapore safe and secure.

Dive into the action and learn about PCG's newest capability to safeguard our waterways against armed incidents out at sea.




**Target Neutralised:** The ERF officers undergo customised trainings, preparing them for their confrontation with the attackers out at sea.




**Always There, Always Ready:** By June 2017, every PCG patrol boat will consist of ERF-trained officers. This includes the Marina Reservoir Patrol Boats that will be deployed in the Marina Reservoir for important events such as the National Day Parade.

**Safeguarding Our Seas:** Some of the scenarios that ERF would respond to is a boat charging towards a vessel and when a routine boarding operation escalates into a knife or weapon-wielding situation. They would also act on information received about gunman on board a vessel or any of the offshore islands.



 **Tactical Gloves**

To protect the officers' hands from cuts and enabling a firm grip on their weapons.

 **Radio Set**

The officers' radio set for communications, essential in relaying crucial information during their operations.

 **Elbow and Knee Guards**

To protect the key joints of our officers while aiding them in their tactical movement along the narrow corridors and inside cabins.



 **Ballistic Glasses and Ballistic Helmet**

To protect the officers' eyes and head in the course of operations.

 **Floatation Bullet Resistant Vest (FBRV)**

Besides providing ballistic protection, the FBRV will also serve as a life vest.

 **HK MP5 submachine gun with optics lights and additional magazines**

To subdue armed threats at sea, the HK MP5 submachine gun provides enhanced firepower for the officers.



**Coast is Clear:** Similar to the Land Division's Emergency Response Team, the ERF's mission is to neutralise the attackers quickly to save and minimise casualties when responding to an armed attack incident out at sea and on the offshore islands.



**Target Spotted:** The ERF officers swooping in to swiftly bring down the armed attackers, saving the casualties on board.





## My View — I am Escape Hood

By Darwisyah Daud  
(Photographer: Kenneth Tan)




It began as a whispering in the air.


A gust of wind and a sheet of rain followed. The sound intensified. I can hear the doors of the Police Fast Response Car slam shut behind me. I was there at the scene with the Police officers, securely strapped and fastened to their utility belts.

There was an unconfirmed information of a release of toxic chemical gas inside a convention centre. The Police officers are now outside the convention centre, with me offering respiratory protection to them.

As we approached the convention centre, we spotted a group of civilians convulsing on the ground, many of them having breathing difficulties and foaming from their mouths; these are the tell-tale signs of a chemical attack. Our officers quickly paced themselves and helped those who are fleeing to evacuate from the convention centre to seek immediate medical attention.

Who am I? I am Escape Hood, ready to protect officers against toxic gases from terror-related incidents!

 I am made with a streamlined design. This makes me more efficient for our officers to use especially in confined or crowded areas. I am also engineered to provide a clear range of vision. Even in low light condition, the reflective label on my hood allows my brothers-in-blue to be easily seen by victims who need help.

 My companions, the self-adjusting harness and the close fit filters are always there to provide comfort and protection for the officer. I am always prepared to execute my duties to protect my brothers-in-arms from inhaling toxic gases.

## International Women's Day — Fireside Chat by the Police Women's Committee

By Police Women's Committee and Lee U- Wen  
(Photographers: Nur Hidayat Bin Santoso and  
Zarifah Adilah Bte Zainol)

**Just one out of every five uniformed officers in the Singapore Police Force (SPF) today are female, but that has not stopped them from making their voices heard and their presence felt in more ways than one.**

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Sharreen Ibrahim, one of about 1,800 female uniformed officers in the Force, makes a concerted effort to stay fit, despite the fact that much of her time outside of work is taken up by her three children.

She believes that training regularly contributes to building up her physical and mental strength. In fact, during her days as a trainee, she could even outrun most of her male counterparts. ASP Sharreen's motivational story was among several that were shared at a recent fireside chat organised by the Police Women's Committee on 8 March 2017, to coincide with the International Women's Day celebrations.

The event, titled "Police Woman — More Than Just a Woman", was held at the Senior Police Officers' Mess and was attended by female officers from all ranks and departments. The Police Women's Committee was set up in 2014 to raise awareness and understanding of the issues affecting the Force's female officers. It also helps to promote the esprit de corps among them and build informal channels for them to interact and learn from one another.

### The Fireside Chat

In the words of the committee's chairperson, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SAC) Florence Chua, the aim is to "help ensure that SPF remains a female-friendly organisation" for female officers. Those who took part in the fireside chat, the first of such events organised by the committee, were SAC Chua, her predecessor SAC Zuraidah Abdullah, ASP Sharreen and Station Inspector (SI) Zeenat Nisha.

### All about the Police Women's Committee

- To raise awareness and understanding of issues affecting female officers in the SPF
- To facilitate and contribute to discussions on issues of concern to female officers — providing wherever possible the women's perspective
- To attract women to enter and remain in the Force
- To develop a network of social contacts between female officers, both retirees and serving
- To contribute to the personal and professional development of female officers

SAC Zuraidah, the first female officer to attain her rank, shared about how she uses her values as a compass to guide her when making difficult decisions at work. She encouraged her audience to have the moral courage to voice their opinions, and stressed that self-awareness would help develop a strong character to enable officers to lead with a sense of purpose.

SI Zeenat, who once reached the finals of the Miss Singapore-Universe pageant, was asked if she would give up her career in the Force to become a Miss Universe beauty queen. She firmly stated that her preference would be to remain in SPF to pursue a life-long career, given that she has gained so much from her time as a Police officer. Currently serving in the Community Policing Unit, she spoke about her numerous opportunities to interact with members of the public that have helped improve her communication skills and build up her confidence.

As SAC Chua wrapped up the session, she made the point that the ability of a female officer in the Force comes from her efforts and dedication, and not the gender. She also stressed how, if given the right opportunities, female officers have often proven that they are as capable as their male counterparts in carrying out policing duties, and at times even more so.



*"The Police Women's Committee serves to raise awareness and understanding of issues affecting female officers and acts as the voice on policies that might impact them. It also serves to promote the esprit de corps among female officers, building informal channels to interact and learn from each other and contribute to their personal and professional development. The Committee aims to help ensure that SPF remains a female-friendly organisation."*

— SAC Florence Chua  
Chairperson, Police Women's Committee





## Our Little Heroes at Work

By Gabriel Chan Duen Yue  
(Photographer: Kenneth Tan)

**“Stop! Hands in the air! Don’t move!”**

These are words that no one usually wants to hear, but such exclamations are commonplace at KidZania, an indoor play city where children can role-play and “work” in adult jobs. In this case, the order to cease and desist were uttered by two kindergarten children, decked in white polo shirts tucked neatly in their trousers and wearing soft caps that resembles the uniform of a regular Community Policing Unit officer.

At KidZania, the “city’s” Police Division is “managed” by children who are as young as four years old. Enthusiastically running their assigned jobs, these children answered their call of duty to protect the city and ensure the safety of the citizens of KidZania. Through experience, these children were able to appreciate the importance of policing work.

*Police Life* captured the moments of our future Police officers at work. Enjoy!





# Our Avant-Garde: Future Operations Division

By Tan Yick Wei, Jonas  
(Photographer: Kenneth Tan)

A huge Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) prototype sat on the table alongside a CommandWear smartwatch prototype, with a few individuals seated around the prototypes engaged in a soft, hushed discussion: that is the sight of one of Future Operations Division's (FOD) meetings. Set up in April 2014 in Operations Department, this five-man outfit works tirelessly to ensure that the Singapore Police Force (SPF) is future ready, be it in terms of technological advancements, work methodologies or problem solving paradigms. In this issue of Police Life, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Chen Ke Xin, Operations officer from FOD, talks about their mission, "to engage, explore and experiment to ensure Police operations are future ready".



## Project Galore

"Through engagements, we can better understand ground concerns, advocate (forward planning) futures thinking and source for the best solution to their problems. We then explore and experiment these new concepts and ideas using various methodologies in order to prove its relevance and effectiveness." — DSP Chen

The pace of life has never been faster than now. This rings especially true for technology, with numerous surreal and game-changing developments occurring in the past few years: Smart Robots, Unmanned and Autonomous Systems, and Virtual and Augmented Reality, just to name a few. Experimenting with these new technological advancements as their projects, the FOD tests their viability and practicality in prototyping trials, with the objective of making the work of our frontline officers more efficient and effective in our increasingly complex operating terrain.

Several projects initiated by FOD are making their way into the frontline. The motorised scooters are one of such personal mobility devices issued to officers.

With the assistance of such a device, fatigue during long deployments can be reduced, particularly when officers need to cover significant ground during patrols. Other projects in the pipeline include customised UAVs implemented to create a more sophisticated surveillance system. This project was initiated in partnership with GovTech; the Multi-purpose All-Terrain Autonomous Robot built to supplement perimeter patrols; and a soon to be rolled-out Command, Control and Communications platform to monitor officer's heart-rate to know when they are in distress. These are just but a few of the multitude of projects FOD has been working on, and their presence and significance can definitely be felt deeply in time to come.

## Educating Officers About the Future

To expose officers to emerging technology, FOD uses a myriad of platforms to update the SPF community on the future of policing. Ways of updating officers on these advancements include dissemination of the bi-monthly publication 'What's Next', discussion on upcoming technology, and Brown Bag Lunches which are organised to bring officers together for meaningful discussions on the future of policing. In addition, a Future Advocacy group has been formed to gather

like-minded officers who are passionate about effecting positive change.

## Shaping the Future

"Futures, for some, may seem to be the selling of Fear — the future landscape is bleak, so listen to how we can minimise its effects. For us, the business of Futures is really the selling of Hope — we can influence these trends, so let us do something about it now." — excerpt from FOD's Year-in Review 2015-2016 describes the firm belief held by the officers of FOD.

Undaunted by the threats emerging technologies might bring, FOD works towards two goals: to neutralise those threats now and to incorporate these technologies into Police operations. By keeping SPF officers updated, they are primed to react effectively whenever these technologies threaten Singapore's security. Similarly, we could use these technologies to give SPF an edge, effectively enhancing our means to prevent, deter and detect crime. That is the hallowed duty that FOD is in charge of, to not fear change but embrace it, and by doing so pave the way to develop a SPF prepared and ready for the future.

# Sparring to Stay Fit

By Darwisyah Daud  
(Photographer: Kenneth Tan)

As part of our healthy lifestyle series, *Police Life* caught up with Senior Staff Sergeant (SSSgt) Hasyer Umar, a former national Silat athlete to find out how the sport has played a role in shaping him as a Police officer, throughout his nine years of service in the Force.

A fervent Silat exponent, SSSgt Hasyer has been practising the sport for over 16 years. His interest was piqued as a young boy when he first attended a Malay wedding reception with his family. He was fascinated by the elegance, the flowy moves and stances of the Silat Pengantin — an artistic aspect of Silat which is ubiquitously seen at Malay wedding ceremonies usually performed by a pesilat (a person who practises Silat) for the bride and groom. As a late bloomer, SSSgt Hasyer joined the Grasio Sports Silat School when he was 16. With the support and blessings from his family, it spurred him on to pursue his dreams to be a national Silat athlete.

## A String of Accolades and Achievements

SSSgt Hasyer 'fought' his way up through the national Silat trials and was selected to represent Singapore at the 24th Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) in 2007. Though he did not manage to reach the finals during the SEA Games, he continued to train even harder. He eventually made a fiery comeback for the 2010 ASEAN Pencak Silat Championship in the Class B (50kg to 55kg) category and won his first medal by finishing second. His regular participation in competitions such as the Pencak Silat Kebangsaan Championship in 2010 and other national tournaments earned him a string of accolades. To this very day, his 'never say die' attitude remains rooted in his beliefs.

## Health Benefits

Similar to other forms of martial arts, Silat also helps to refine the level of concentration of one's senses and ability to focus, because the exponents must be aware of the moves of their adversaries and their surroundings. In addition, it aids the strengthening of core and leg muscles as it involves a variety of intensive stances and movements. For SSSgt Hasyer, practising Silat is a way to stay fit. Despite the long hours of shift work, he continues to train for Silat tournaments. During his days off, SSSgt Hasyer trains for an average of two hours at a time before heading home to spend quality time with his family. His unwavering interest and devotion in the sport is truly an inspiration to other officers in the Force.

## Valuable Lessons

SSSgt Hasyer has benefited tremendously from his sparring sessions. He believes that Silat has a rich cultural legacy that hones the mind. Practitioners can build up their self-confidence and discipline. Silat not only improves his overall stamina but also better prepares him for his duties. As a Ground Response Force (GRF) officer, SSSgt Hasyer is expected to respond to emergency calls as a first responder during his patrols. SSSgt Hasyer has been a GRF officer for nearly a decade at Marine Parade Neighbourhood Police Centre in Bedok Division.

"The years of experience in the Force has taught me to never take the peace and security in Singapore for granted, and to always be on your toes, and stay vigilant," he added.



*"Discipline is the key to success. Always be humble, listen and be open-minded to the opinions of others. Only then can you progress through leaps and bounds."*

*— SSSgt Hasyer's message to officers who are practising martial arts to lead a healthy lifestyle.*



# One of Us



#### **Hi, I am...**

Superintendent of Police M. Malathi, Assistant Director (AD) from the Future Operations Division (Future Ops) of the Operations Department. It seems like it was only yesterday when I joined the Singapore Police Force (SPF) in 1999.

#### **An interesting part of my job...**

As AD Future Ops, I am thankful for the opportunity to be involved in shaping Police operations to be future ready through engaging partners, exploring new ideas and experimentation. A unique part of the job is meeting people from diverse backgrounds, looking into concepts that I never thought I would or playing with 'toys' that could potentially be adopted by SPF.

#### **What keeps you going at work?**

The team. It is a privilege to be able to pour your time and energy nurturing the team of officers who are dedicated to the work that they are doing.

#### **When I am not at work, I enjoy...**

Exercise, whether it is at the gym or running outdoors. I find that something is missing if I do not get a dose of a heart-pumping workout.

#### **I cannot live without...**

Food and beverage. As simple as it is, it is the essentials of life; a good meal with a glass of wine amongst family and friends is something I always look forward to.

#### **I believe...**

Live your life to the fullest. Do what you love and live life without regrets. Whatever you do, even if it is the smallest thing, work at it with all your heart.