

**POLICE  
LIFE**

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE  
VOLUME 42 NO. 3

# Navigating the SkillsFuture

The Stroke of Victory

Charting the Technological Path of the SPF



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## Note from the Team

I was looking at the title of our magazine, and wondered to myself - What is *Police Life*?

Spend a day in the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and you would witness apart from catching thieves and solving crimes - a group of spirited individuals working together, every day. While most of us are in blue, some of us, like me, are civilians who do not don the uniform. Yet, we are no different from one another because we are united by common goals.

We are heartened to hear a simple 'thank you' to know that our hard work to safeguard life and property has paid off. A special shout out to the girls from Methodist Girls School for the cute 'thank you' notes they have written to us on Total Defence Day!

Beyond our work, we believe in giving back to our community. In this issue read about some initiatives that we have organised to help bring a cheer to the less fortunate in our society and to make it a better place for you and me. After a day at work, we want to return to a home that is safe too.

Let us all celebrate life by being with the people and doing the things we love. In this vein, we have many officers who have great passion for sports and are good athletes in various fields of sports. Flip on to read about our sporting triumphs of late.

And these are just a few days in the SPF, encapsulated in another issue of *Police Life*.

Ms Chew Si Lei Jinnie  
Journalist  
*Police Life*

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# Charting the Technological Path of the SPF

By Ms Luo Min Zhen, Denise

It was barely nine-thirty in the morning and I was told that I am not the first meeting of his day. For Mr Tay Yeow Koon, Director, Police Technology Department (PTD), it has always been a norm to have meetings scheduled way before office hours. Though not a uniformed officer, Director PTD is attuned to living like one albeit in a different capacity. *Police Life* caught up with Director Tay to learn more about his mind-boggling duties at PTD.

As a Computer Science graduate, it is no surprise that Mr Tay chose to establish his career in the technology sector. Having held previous appointments in the Defence and Security sectors in the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr Tay is more than equipped to lead the Technology Department in the Singapore Police Force (SPF). Unknown to many, Mr Tay first rubbed shoulders with the Force in the 90s where he cut his teeth on developing major technology systems at the Police Coast Guard.

## Tracking the Developments of Policing Technology

Under Mr Tay's directorship in 2012, PTD worked with various departments to develop the CSI<sup>3</sup> Ops-Tech Vision' which charts the technological direction of the SPF until the year 2020. It is envisaged through the Vision that technology would bring about greater efficiency, better user experience and improve governance risk-management and compliance standards. As society progresses, it is crucial to increase productivity by streamlining work processes. "We need to leverage technology to do more with less," explained Mr Tay.

Currently in its fourth year, Mr Tay is pleased to share that the majority of the systems and plans have been successfully rolled out. "I am glad that most of the systems we promised in the CSI<sup>3</sup> Ops-Tech Vision were delivered on time and some even earlier." To ensure that the systems are able to maximise its potential, Mr Tay emphasised the need for users to undergo training. With the necessary training given to users, technology can indeed help to propel efficiency standards.

For the Force, modern surveillance technology is instrumental in deterring and solving crimes. The rollout of the Police Cameras (PolCam) has greatly reduced the number of Unlicensed Money Lending (UML) harassment cases and crime rates

in general. Apart from aiding crime investigation, the installation of PolCam helps to increase Police presence without having to deploy officers on the ground. This certainly helps us to manage any manpower inadequacy. After all, "These cameras are like protection zones. We want to deter people from doing bad things."

When questioned on the possibility of developing new technology for the PolCam, Mr Tay was quick to point out that "this is just the start" and that PTD would continue to push the boundaries to enhance SPF's front-line capabilities.

While he affirmed the boons of technology, Mr Tay also cautioned that technology is double-edged. Body-worn cameras for instance are a classic example of how technology might impede an individual's ability to make decisions. "If not careful, we might face a scenario where the back-end command post tries to control what the frontline officers should do. That is quite extreme and should not be the case," said Mr Tay. Nevertheless, cameras do allow commanders an upper hand to assess situations from the live video feeds. With professional training and protocols, technology can significantly improve policing experience.

## Understanding Motivation and Satisfaction

Mr Tay is certain that PTD is the perfect place for people in the engineering and computer sciences field to pursue their interest especially if they enjoy the challenges and "excitement" that technology brings forth. At SPF, time has always been the constant battle that needs to be conquered. "We are always fighting against the bad guys who use technology to commit crimes. As such, we need to be able to intercept quickly...get to it before them," quipped Mr Tay.

Ultimately, Mr Tay believes that PTD officers are motivated when they see the results of their "good work". With projects having shorter term measurable goals, officers are able to "see the returns earlier". Besides deriving satisfaction from work, Mr Tay remains adamant that if your vision is aligned to that of the organisation, "you are in the right place doing the right job".

*'The CSI<sup>3</sup> Ops-Tech Vision encompasses: C: Command Control and Communication. S: Surveillance, Screening and Sense-Making. I: Incidents, Investigations and Intelligence.'*

# Navigating the SkillsFuture

By Cpl (NS) Brendan Ang

How do we ensure that the youths of today have the necessary skills needed to face a future that will be characterised by “VUCA” (Volatile, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity)? This was one of the key questions posed to Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (DAC) Arthur Law, Commander, Central Division, as one of the guest speakers at the Ministry of Education N7 Cluster Key Personnel Retreat.

As Singapore’s spotlight shines on the SkillsFuture initiatives, schools are looking increasingly towards coaching and developing their students in the skills needed for successful careers. Sharing with 120 senior educators at the event, DAC Law spoke on the challenges of the new social media landscape, the building of resilience to setbacks and the importance of learning to make decisions under uncertain situations.

“Schools are already imparting soft skills to your students, but I believe more can be done. Students need to learn and appreciate failure in a safe and controlled school environment so that they know how to react accordingly in the outside world. A lot of my police work also involves making critical decisions and critical thinking in the face of uncertainties. In our society and I believe also in a school environment, we typically have everything planned out with precision, and we need to nurture the students to get used to making decisions when plans fall through.”

DAC Law suggested that schools could incorporate more Singapore Police Force (SPF) – inspired scenario-based training and exercises to train these decision making and critical thinking skills. He also shared that with the changing social media landscape, the reaction speed expected of the police has also changed and skills are also needed to deal with these changing public expectations.

Echoing his sentiments was Mrs Sharon Siew, Principal of Riverside Primary School and organiser of the Retreat.

“The SPF has actually transformed quite greatly over the past few years due to things like cybercrime, social media expectations and having to deal with a riot and other challenging scenarios. With DAC Law sharing with us the complexity of the Force, it gives us an insight into the future challenges our students may face and the useful skills that should be developed.”

Mr David Lou, Principal of Christ Church Secondary School and moderator of the event’s discussion panel also shared his favourite takeaway from DAC Law.

“Critical and inventive thinking, or as DAC Law puts it, “thinking on your feet.” In this very dynamic world, where things happen instantly and news is spread so quickly, being able to function effectively, sometimes without standard operating procedures, is crucial. With the Force’s close engagement with schools, it can also help to tear down the perceived barriers between the SPF and our students, leading to more potential activities between both organisations and helping our students to learn skills that the Force knows very well.

Mrs Sharon Siew, further added that the first step in this journey is perhaps to get the teachers equipped with the necessary skills to impart and nurture the students, something that can be achieved by learning and sharing with both commercial organisations as well as key government service organisations like the SPF.



DAC Law concluded by sharing, “There is definitely potential for SPF to work closely with schools. Not so much in terms of curriculum development, an area in which schools already do very well in, but more importantly to seed an idea.

The idea that the multitude of skills and lessons learnt in school will contribute to the bigger role that they will play in the community, just like Police officers, who use crucial skill-sets to defend Singapore, our beautiful home.”

## THANK YOU SPF

By Cpl (NS) Brendan Ang

This year some Primary One students from the Methodist Girls’ School (MGS) commemorated Total Defence Day by writing notes of appreciation to Police officers of the Singapore Police Force (SPF). Each of these notes were decorated and coloured lovingly by a student and personally signed off with their names at the bottom of each note.

Encouraged by what she saw, Mrs Tse, form teacher of MGS class Primary 1.5, decided to email these handwritten notes to the Commissioner of Police, with a message from the class, “Representing all of us here at Methodist Girls’ School, we extend our sincere appreciation to all of you who devote your lives to protect our beloved nation... these ‘Thank You’ notes express our gratitude to the heroes in your division.”

On 9 March 2016, officers from the Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Sam Lim and his team of Community Policing officers visited MGS and presented them with a written reply from the Commissioner of Police Mr Hoong Wee Teck. The officers also interacted with the students who were especially excited to pose for photographs with the uniformed officers.



way for our officers. We are grateful to MGS for this kind gesture.”

In his letter to the students, the Commissioner had written, “My officers and I will keep your words of encouragement in mind as we work towards our vision of making Singapore the safest country in the world. I hope that you and your friends will work together with us to make this vision a reality.” He also extended an invitation to the students to visit the Police Heritage Centre to learn more about the SPF.



# The Hunt for the Elusive Malaysian Loanshark Runner

By Cpl Muhd Shahrnizam Bin Abdul Rashid



## The Breakthrough

On 22 January 2015 at about 7.20pm, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) arrested a Malaysian man at Woodlands Checkpoint, for a series of unlicensed moneylending harassment. The arrest was made possible by the collaboration between Division Intelligence Branches, Unlicensed Moneylending (UML) Squads and Crime Strike Forces from Punggol and Hougang Neighbourhood Police Centres as part of the Joint Operations Investigation Intelligence (JOII) efforts.

Through the leads captured on the SPF's Police Cameras (PolCam), officers managed to establish the vehicle number and track down the address of the perpetrator. After gathering enough evidence and studying the perpetrator's patterns, the Police issued a look out Police Gazette islandwide. After a 48-hour wait, they nailed him at Woodlands Checkpoint when he entered Singapore with his motorcycle on 22 January 2015.

## An Easy Target

The perpetrator Tam Yoke Long, 29, became unemployed since early 2013. He claimed that he had been reading the Malaysian Chinese newspapers when he stumbled on an advertisement sourcing for debt collectors. He then contacted the advertisement through the mobile application WeChat and befriended

an unknown person who introduced himself only as 'KK' on 12 January 2015. Tam took up the 'job' offer given by 'KK' as the job sounded easy.

On 13 January 2015, 'KK' told the perpetrator to proceed to Singapore on the pretext of collecting debts from debtors residing in Singapore. 'KK' gave Tam the necessary details and the list of addresses of debtors and instructed him to write on the walls near to their units.

## He Terrorised the Heartlands

It was easy for Tam to commit the acts of harassment because he was no stranger to Singapore. For a span of 9 days, Tam harassed people living in units at Bedok, Ang Mo Kio, Sengkang, Punggol, Choa Chu Kang, Admiralty, Woodlands, Hougang, Bukit Batok, Bukit Panjang, Rochor and Toa Payoh, scribbling threats on their walls with markers. He admitted to harassing an average of 11 units per day. After completing the job, he forwarded photographs to 'KK' before receiving a sum of 5000 Malaysian Ringgit.

## Paying the Price

Investigations revealed that Tam had committed the acts of harassment at over 103 locations. Tam pleaded guilty to the 103 counts of unlicensed moneylending harassment. He was sentenced to 60 months imprisonment and given 24 strokes of the cane.

The case was solved due to the commitment, the well-established communications and camaraderie between the officers from different units. Although the officers are from different units, their aim remains the same – to eradicate the UML harassers and keep the neighbourhood safe. This case set a new record for the highest number of UML cases ever committed by an individual and I am really glad that we managed to take him off the streets.

Acting Inspector Lai Jinlong  
Officer-in-Charge of Unlicensed Moneylending Squad  
Ang Mo Kio Division



## UML CRIMES DOWN IN 2015

2015 turned out to be a successful year for the Singapore Police Force on the UML front as the crime statistics have shown a major decline in UML cases. The number of UML cases reported in 2015 was the lowest in the past 10 years. The joint efforts between the SPF and the members of public have proven to be successful, with the arrest of many loanshark runners.

# Redesigning Warrant Cards for Greater Security

By SC/Sgt Harsha Ramachandran

All Police officers from the Singapore Police Force were issued with new warrant cards with effect from 1 March 2016, replacing the existing warrant cards held by all regular Police officers, Volunteer Special Constabulary (VSC) officers, Full time Police National Service Force officers (PNSFs) and Police Operationally Ready National Servicemen (PNSmen).

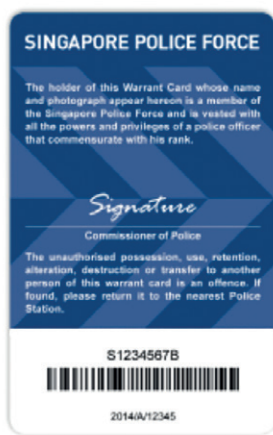
The warrant cards' new design is clean and smart. It is a reflection of the dynamism of the Force as it deals with the evolving and challenging face of

crime in the future. Apart from the design, the new warrant card has enhanced security features that serve to protect the public by preventing identity fraud by impersonation of Police officers.

When the card is tilted at an angle, the holographic word "POLICE" appears below the officer's photograph. On the right side of the card there is a vertical row of five holographic police crests. Members of public can look out for these features when an officer presents them with his/her warrant card to ensure its authenticity.



Front view of the new warrant card



Back view of the new warrant card



View of the word "POLICE" and the five holographic police crests

Police Life spoke to Ms Sharon Lee, Head Administration Division in the Administration and Finance department, the lead officer facilitating the Warrant Card replacement exercise, to understand more about the exercise.

## What were some of the factors that were considered in SPF's decision to replace the warrant cards?

One major factor for the decision was the technology of our warrant card printers. The printers were developed in 2009 and they had become obsolete. In addition to the security features of the new card, a new warrant card system will also be developed to enable an online end-to-end processing to enable officers to make their own replacement of warrant cards. This will help to improve the efficiency in the printing of warrant cards.

## What challenges did you face while driving the warrant card replacement exercise?

The three major constraints we had during the warrant card replacement exercise was time, resources and volume. There was a need to

complete the whole exercise for the entire Force in the shortest time possible so as to ensure uniformity of warrant cards used by the police officers. In terms of resources, the warrant card printers are industrial in nature – heavy, bulky and complex, which makes moving the printers around difficult. We had to plan and schedule for all the officers to come to a single location to have their warrant cards replaced, a feat in itself as it involves officers working across different locations and shifts.

## What benefits will there be from the warrant card replacement exercise?

As the rank and name of the officer are now printed on the front of the warrant card, it makes it easier for the members of public to identify the officer. The enhanced security features of the new warrant card would also give the public a better assurance of the authenticity of the card.

## HAPPENINGS

### The Annual Airport Celebration 2016

The Annual Airport Celebration 2016 was held at the Marina Bay Sands Grand Ballroom on 2 March 2016. The event celebrated Changi Airport Group – CAG's success and gave recognition to CAG's best service providers.

Two Airport Police Division officers clinched the 'Outstanding Service Staff of the Year Award'. Amongst the entire Airport community, the award recipients, SI Goh Kim Chuan and SSgt Mohamed Danial Goh Swee King attained the Bronze Award and Gold Award, out of six and three awardees respectively. The event was graced by the Guest-of-Honour, Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport, Mr Khaw Boon Wan.

### Annual Ethics Seminar

The Annual Ethics Seminar 2016 was held at the New Phoenix Park on 3 March 2016, with this year's theme "Make Discipline a Way of Life". It was organised by the Manpower Department to proclaim, promote, permeate and preserve the Singapore Police Force's ethical values and integrity among our officers. In his opening address, Commissioner of Police Mr Hoong Wee Teck, shared that discipline can be cultivated by small consistent acts. "Wear the uniform with pride, report for work punctually and be careful of one's expenditure," he said.



### Establishment of SPF's Community Partnership Department

On 18 March 2016, the Community Partnership Department was formed as part of Singapore Police Force's Community Engagement Blueprint. The new Department will oversee SPF's community partnership strategies, policies, structures and programmes. It comprises the Youth and Volunteer Management Branch, Community Groups and Programme Branch, and Business and Society Branch.

# The Force's Corporate

By SC Darwisah Daud

“The Singapore Police Force’s (SPF) collective contribution over the years is an example of the strong culture of giving that we aim to cultivate within Singapore through our SHARE programme. To ensure that our beneficiaries continue to receive the critical social services they require, it is important that we continue to receive such sustained contributions such as those from SPF,” said Ms Ng Ling Ling, Managing Director of Community Chest.

The Singapore Police Force is proud to partner Community Chest, a non-profit organisation that channels funds to the social service sector in Singapore. The contributions to the Community

Chest are vital as it aids and also makes a difference to the under-privileged. The Force’s SHARE contribution in 2015 came up to a total of \$444,067.85.

Amidst safeguarding the lives of its citizens, SPF strives to give back to the community by emphasising the importance of public engagement via social causes. Various units in the Force embark on Corporate Societal Responsibility (CSR) programmes, volunteering time and effort to help the less fortunate. Some of these organisations where our officers have helped at, include the Society for the Physically Disabled, the Handicaps Welfare Association and the Sunbeam Place. Here’s a glimpse of the CSR activities carried out by the Police in the past year.



Director, Police Technology Department, Mr Tay Yeow Koon receiving the SHARE Platinum Award



A Jurong Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) officer donating blood at the Jurong Division Blood Donation Drive



Assistant Commissioner of Police Lee Chin Ek, Director, Inspectorate and Compliance (InCO), planting the 'Garden of Hope' at the Handicaps Welfare Association



A Choa Chu Kang NPC officer interacting with the children at Sunbeam Place



Queenstown NPC officers packing rations during the fasting month of Ramadhan

# Societal Responsibility



InCO staff setting up the wheelchair for the disabled at the Handicaps Welfare Association



Queenstown NPC officers distributing rations to the needy at the Mujahidin Mosque



Choa Chu Kang NPC officers giving out goodie bags to the children at Sunbeam Place



Officers from the SPF Band performing for the residents of Jamiyah Home for the Aged



The SPF Band performing for the crowd at Kandang Kerbau Women's and Children's Hospital



## My View

By Cpl Muhd Shahrinnizam Bin Abdul Rashid

I have been waiting for a long time for this proud moment. My friends, the T-Baton and the Taser X25 had their moments of glory when they were featured in the previous issues of the *Police Life* and now, it is my turn.

I, together with my partner Key, strive to assist SPF officers in restraining perpetrators. Our Police officers would tuck me in a black pouch and place us securely at the back of the Police utility belt before we join them on their routine patrols.

I am made of a mixture of carbon, steel and nickel-electroplating. These strong materials enable me to withstand forces that perpetrators might exert after an arrest is made. Till now, no one has been strong enough to ever break my hold.

*I am the ultimate tool that restrains perpetrators when they are arrested.*

*Their arms are usually placed at the back before I shackle myself to their wrists. This is to prevent them from hurting themselves or others.*

*Key, my best friend, has been a big part of my life. Key is the only one who is able to unlock my strong hold.*

*It is ironic if you think about it, I catch the baddies and he releases them.*

*My metal body comprises two circular rings connected by a metal chain.*

*Each ring has a rotating arm, equipped with a ratchet that locks the hold thus securing the perpetrators.*



## Strengthening Ties with INTERPOL Vietnam

By DSP Stewart Lai

On the evening of 21 March 2016, a delegation of 5 officers led by Director International Cooperation Department (ICD), Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (DAC) Chua Chee Wai arrived at Hanoi, Vietnam for the 5<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL Vietnam – Singapore, National Central Bureau (NCB) Liaison Meeting.

The idea of these bilateral meetings between the two Forces was mooted in 2010, with a view to strengthen mutual understanding, enhance friendship and cooperation amongst the two Police Forces in combating transnational crimes; provide a forum for sharing best practices

and experiences in combating major crimes; and understand both agencies' capabilities in combating cyber-related and commercial crimes.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by Director-General of Department of Foreign Relations, Ministry of Public Security (MPS) of Vietnam,

Director of Vietnam INTERPOL Department, Major General Tran Van Tat. After the welcome address and complimentary exchanges, delegates from both agencies gave their report updates from the 4<sup>th</sup> Liaison Meeting, detailing the numerous activities undertaken between the two agencies with several positive outcomes.

The meeting then moved into higher gear, with both agencies sharing enthusiastically and citing specific case studies on the types of economic and cybercrimes that each had encountered. The meeting also discussed at length these areas

of mutual concern and how they combat such crimes. Vietnam MPS also shared the challenges they faced when dealing with cybercrime. It was not surprising that the meeting over-ran. Both agencies had a fruitful discussion, understanding each other's capabilities and challenges faced.

The trip also enabled the SPF delegation to establish new contacts and renew old ties with Vietnamese counterparts. Both sides are now looking towards the 6<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL Vietnam-Singapore NCB Liaison Meeting in Singapore in 2017.

# Scam Awareness Day and Launch of Anti-Scam Wall Mural at Buona Vista

By Cpl (NS) Brendan Ang

On 12 March 2016, Buona Vista residents gathered at Blk 13 Holland Drive to commemorate Scam Awareness day and the launch of the Anti-Scam Wall Mural at Buona Vista. The event, organised by the Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) and Buona Vista Zone 'D' Residents' Committee, kicked off with an energetic Scam Prevention-inspired dance by the School of Science and Technology Singapore's Show Choir.



At the event, Guest-of-Honour, Minister Chan Chun Sing, Grassroots Adviser to Tanjong Pagar GRC and Radin Mas Single Member Constituency, Mr Tan Kian Hoon, Chairman of National Crime Prevention Council,



(NCPC), and Assistant Commissioner of Police (AC) Gerald Lim, Commander of Clementi Division, completed the winning entry of the Anti-Scam Wall Mural Competition 2016. Students from several schools had participated actively in this competition, which was aimed at highlighting common scams in Singapore through the creative expressions of youth. The engagement of youths by the Singapore Police Force is especially effective as youth are particularly vulnerable to scams and early knowledge can help them to be alert to these threats.

Students from Fairfield Methodist School emerged as the winner, with their mural submission "Stop Donating to the Story-Tellers". Students from Assumption English School and Global Indian International School finished first and second runners-up respectively. All three murals were painted on designated walls in the Buona Vista estate.

To better engage residents of all ages, a Crime Prevention Cake Design Competition and Crime Prevention Children Colouring Competition was also held concurrently.

Mr Tan said, "NCPC organised this project with the Police under the Neighbourhood Watch Zone scheme to complement our existing campaign against the rising number of scams in Singapore. In the recent competition, which attracted more than 100 participants, the research and brainstorming by team members generated a great deal of awareness and caused many more potential victims to be on guard, and to spread the word to family and friends. Besides adorning prominent walls in the heartlands, the eye-catching murals serve to constantly remind residents and visitors the need to be vigilant and transact cautiously in cyber-space. We plan to hold similar competitions island-wide to reach out to the community at large."

# The NPCC Formula Through Work and Play

By Reproduction from Police Life (Vol 3 Nov 2 Oct - Nov 78)

Crowd and traffic control, housekeeping and hiking. You name it, they have done it.



For National Police Cadet Corps in Areas 7, it is the wisdom of combining work with play that has kept members close with camaraderie.

The area comprises Bartley Secondary School, Cedar Girls' Secondary School, Maris Stella High School, Mt Vernon Secondary School, Chung Hwa Girls' High School, Paya Lebar Methodist Girls'

School and Raffles Institution. Said Assistant Commandant Goh Ang Heng, who has the task of monitoring and spearheading Areas 7.

"We help with the Government Yeoman Service. Once a year five cadets from each unit will visit either the Red Cross Home or the Home for the Aged or some other charity organisations to help in any way they can. Recently, we sent a team of volunteers to the Red Cross Home."

The cadets cleaned the Home; helped in other housekeeping chores and even assisted the inmates in eating and other gardening work.

Mr Goh said usually more than five cadets from each unit volunteered. "And they always tell me that they enjoy it."

In addition, Areas 7 cadets were also involved in school functions, crowd and traffic control with some help from their teachers.

"We recently had a combined hiking expedition to Pulau Ubin and Pulau Tekong which everyone enjoyed," said Mr Goh.

"We also organised a shooting practice- although I'm not sure if you can call that a social activity. Only officers participated in this. The idea was to give them the experience. They used .22 rifles and found the practice useful and thoroughly enjoyable. We would like to extend this down to the cadets, but perhaps some of them are too young."

Mr Goh, himself a teacher, added: "We also took part in the Youth Festival Parade, the recent Riflethon, and of course the NPCC Annual Parade. We have had quite a busy year. Next year, we hope to have a more time to be involved with more civic and charity services."



# Striking Down Crime

By SC/Sgt Harsha Ramachandran

Patrolling in plainclothes, Crime Strike Force (CSF) officers work in and around communities to detect, prevent and solve crime. They fulfil a very specific and vital function in the Force. In this section of Lesser Known Jobs, we give you a glimpse into the role of Crime Strike Force officers.

## Working Unseen

CSF officers mount ambushes in response to follow-up on crime trends and launch investigations into crimes in their Neighbourhood Police Centre's (NPC) jurisdiction. When someone reports a crime, they follow up to gather evidence and solve the case. These can range from trawling through closed-circuit television camera (CCTV) footage to performing stakeouts. On top of all of this, they perform patrols in public areas to detect crime and gather evidence. Being in plainclothes allows them to work relatively unseen as compared to a uniformed officer. Thus, they are able to detect certain types of crime that uniformed officers may not be able to. *Police Life* went to the ground and spoke to Sgt Peter (not his real name and rank) to get his views on the vocation.

Being a CSF officer is not like a routine patrolling job. You get to conduct detective work and it trains you to be street smart.

Sgt Peter  
CSF officer

## Unyielding and Resolute

“As a CSF officer, you must be resolute and unyielding - rigorously following up on cases and investigating them” said Sgt Peter. Sgt Peter shared with us how he often has to look through hours of CCTV footage to find potential suspects for a case. “You need to think out of the box because you have to solve cases that have no leads. You need to make ground enquires and review CCTV footages. From there it does not finish, as you have no particulars, you need to trace suspects. We follow up on this

information until we make an arrest,” Sgt Peter explained.

## A Symbiotic Relationship

Sgt Peter shared with us that one of the most important aspects of his work as a CSF officer is his connection with the community. He engages in conversation with members of public while patrolling around HDB flats in order to understand their needs and solve crimes. Often, he goes beyond the call of duty and provides his number to complainants who come in to report a crime. This

close connection with members of public often pays off in unexpected ways. Members of public sometimes spot evidence for a case that officers are working on and they feel more comfortable when reporting crimes—it is a symbiotic relationship.

Sgt Peter told us about a particularly engaging case where a member of public – whom Sgt Peter had previously provided his phone number to phoned him about a case of loanshark harassment she had just witnessed. The member of public followed the criminal while Sgt Peter stayed on the phone with her. He was eventually able to track the criminal down and arrest him. Despite the difficult and painstaking work, Sgt Peter shared that he still enjoys his vocation, as it is never routine. It is engaging and makes a direct impact on the community he works with.



# The Stroke of Victory

By Insp (NS) Ng Kian Boon

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Police Sea Sports Championship, as part of the annual PSA sporting event, saw hundreds of officers from the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and Home Team agencies hit the water to battle it out. The games were held at the Sports Hub Water Sports Centre on 3 February 2016. The Commissioner of Police, Mr Hoong Wee Teck was the Guest-of-Honour.



This year was a crucial one for the officers from the Police Coast Guard (PCG). There was much at stake as they prepared to defend their title as the reigning champions. Before it all even began, the men and women that safeguard our marine security were hard at work to ensure their success. In a show of inclusion and coming together to achieve results, PCG teams comprised both regular and Police National Service (PNS) officers.

We spoke with Special Constable (SC) Gaffoo Brani, who was part of the Mixed Team on preparation tips to compete with the best of SPF.

SC Brani and his team spent weeks training together while juggling a full 8am to 5pm workload. Even the weekends were not spared as the officers spent time in the waters working on their strokes and on the land, bonding over meals and rest sessions. It was certainly worth the effort as PCG made an excellent showing at the championships, capturing six gold medals to retain their place as Overall Champions. This was no mean feat considering the steep competition from the legendary Gurkha contingent and scores of divisions and units looking to cause an upset in 2016.

In the weeks leading up to the championships, one could spend time walking along the Kallang River and spot many colourful boats cruising along the coast of the sealine. Highly synchronised and

familiar sounds could be heard as our officers did exercise sets on their dragon boats. We were told that there are two key sets—a long distance set that trains endurance and a short-burst set that tests the limits of rowers as they hasten their strokes while keeping in sync with their team mates. No easy feat considering that many of these activities had to be performed under the scorching sun in mid-afternoons.

Across the Home Team and the SPF, there were smiles all round as every participant made a good showing on the day.



Here are some of the other highlights:

- True to their name, the Home Team Marine Sector emerged victorious in the Mixed and Men's Team category.
- The Bedok Police Division clinched the Overall Men's Non-Specialist Unit Championships.
- The Central and Ang Mo Kio Police Divisions came in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> runners-up respectively after a close fight.

It was a fun-filled day of games that underscored our competitive spirit and instilled a culture of healthy lifestyle across the force.

Kudos to the organising committee on a job well done and to all who have supported this event.

# ONE OF US

## Hi, I am...

Staff Sergeant Shalini. I have been in service for the past 6 years and am attached to Woodlands East Neighbourhood Police Centre as a NPC officer in Team Delta.

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

My biggest motivation is my family. I have pinned up my family photo on my desk. My family has never given up on me and their support and encouragement has always driven me to create the best version of myself.

## How do you de-stress during your breaks at work?

I listen to good music to de-stress. I particularly enjoy reggae and contemporary R&B! Music is my only form of escape from the hectic work load.

## What is the most interesting incident you have encountered while at work?

In my 6 years in the Police Force, I have come across many different types of people. Everyone has their own opinions and beliefs on how things should be. But only at the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew's funeral did I have the opportunity to experience the unity and love that Singaporeans share for one another. Everyone queued patiently to get a glance of the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew. People offered food and drinks to one another during the long hours of queuing. The graciousness of Singaporeans was a rare and memorable sight that I experienced in my line of work.

## Why did you choose to become a Police officer?

Policing is an extremely challenging job. It drains you physically and mentally. But end of the day, I believe that no other job out there will be able to provide you with the satisfaction that policing provides you with. And that is why I chose to become a Police officer. Women officers make up 18 per cent of the 9,100 uniformed officers in the Force. I am proud to be part of the Singapore Police Force.

## What is one thing that you cannot do without on a daily basis?

I have to read the newspapers every day. I need to update myself on the happenings around Singapore. If I don't get to buy the papers, I go online and read the news.

## I believe in...

A quote which states, "Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try." Never give up the things that you love doing when you stumble upon obstacles.

