

**POLICE  
LIFE**

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# Mobilising the Force to Counter Terrorism



**Strengthening Retail Security  
A Meaningful Experience in TransCom**



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## Serving Those Who Serve

By Ms Luo Min Zhen, Denise

As 2016 marks his 20<sup>th</sup> year in the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Assistant Commissioner of Police (AC) Wilson Lim remains grounded and steadfast in his mission. His penchant for serving the nation and making a difference in people's lives has not diminished. Recounting his teenage years in the National Police Cadet Corps, AC Lim revealed that it was then that he developed a strong inclination towards the uniformed culture and was inspired to pursue a career in a uniformed organisation.

## Keeping the Trust

His current role at the helm of the Public Affairs Department (PAD) is unlike any other. According to him, despite years of leadership roles within the Force, nothing quite prepares one to be the face of the Force. On top of that, AC Lim has been appointed to set up the new Community Partnership Department (CPD). Within his first 120 days, AC Lim has already set

in motion strategies to meet the challenges ahead.

At their core, PAD and CPD safeguard the SPF's reputation, and build public confidence and trust. While PAD shoulders the responsibility of providing effective communication to the public, CPD looks to strengthening partnerships with the community.

“Effective communication with the public is essential in maintaining

and enhancing the community's perception of and trust in the Force. This trust enables us to carry out our work effectively and mobilise the community to join us in our fight against crime and terrorism. As the public increasingly consume information via new media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, it has become more challenging to predict and manage public sentiments,” said AC Lim. He shared that this reality is a priority for his team at PAD. Across the world, organisations strive to better balance objectivity and sensitivity when it comes to external communications. To meet its mandate, it is paramount for PAD to adopt strategies to sharpen its responsiveness and presence in the social sphere while carefully curating the SPF's reputation to the world.

A firm believer in strong partnerships with the community, it seems fitting that AC Lim is currently overseeing CPD. He added that with the Police as a trusted community partner, CPD will be able to deepen Police's engagement with the community by spearheading more Police-Community partnership programmes. “We are proud that the SPF is highly trusted by the public but we will not take this trust for granted. Both CPD and PAD will work together at building and sustaining the trust and confidence that the SPF commands. We will also continue to work closely with the community to ensure community safety and in combating terrorism,” explained AC Lim.

## Clarity of Mission

With previous postings as Head Operations and Training at Clementi Division, Assistant Director (Operations Planning) at Operations Department and Commander of Jurong Division, AC Lim is no stranger to executing successful operations. When asked about the principles that guide him, AC Lim pointed to the ‘clarity of mission’, a critical learning value from amongst the many that are deeply ingrained in him.

His involvement in complex operations runs deep, as he recalled his responsibility and learning experiences at the many operations. Some of these included the post 9-11 security management operations, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak, the Nicoll Highway collapse, the devastating 2004 Tsunami and the

intense deployment at the Padang area during the National Mourning period of our founding Prime Minister. “Clarity of mission helps to define clear objectives, shape perceptions and guide one to make the best decisions in that situation,” he affirmed. He certainly has personified this ‘clarity of mission’ through his many successful operations. Moving on from his operational roles, AC Lim continues to adopt this principle as he navigates the new challenges that come with working in a staff department.

## His Secret to Spreading Success

On top of keeping a pulse on the community, AC Lim is personally involved in the development of each of his officers. His emphasis on “serving his officers to help them do better” has been a cornerstone of his people development strategy. He believes that organisational excellence begins with each individual. He feels that as they deepen their capabilities and competencies, their success will cascade to their departments and in turn, collectively contributes to the SPF's overall success at achieving its mission. Throughout the interview, two themes are consistent - caring for his officers and developing each officer to the fullest of his potential.

## A Passion for Your Job

AC Lim shared one of his favourite quotes by Confucius: “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” “In our work, we often get complaints and are unappreciated for doing right. Many will say ours is a thankless job. So, having a passion for our job is crucial.” AC Lim added, “Our work impacts people's lives profoundly. Our work ensures that Singapore is a safe and secure home for all. Our work makes a difference. I believe this is what drives us to wear the Police blue every day.” AC Lim shared his greatest fulfilment comes from him knowing that his loved ones and our fellow people can go about their daily lives safely, and that he is playing a part in laying the foundation of a safe and secure home for future generations.

As the interview came to a close, AC Lim urged us to remember why we joined the Force in the first place. “Keep that passion and everything else will fall into place,” he said with conviction.

## Note from the Team

Since the hijack of the Singapore Airlines Flight SQ117 more than two decades ago, our nation has made great strides in border control and law enforcement. However, believing that the current security environment makes the island-city inhospitable for terrorism to take root is a misguided optimism and engenders complacency. Recent events such as the Paris and Jakarta terrorist attacks and the arrest of 27 radicalised Bangladeshis under the Internal Security Act in Singapore clearly show that no country is impervious to such acts.

The ease of Internet access and the popularity of social media have been both a boon and bane. It has put us within the reach of terrorist organisations like the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. With their influence permeating the world communication network, radicalisation is no longer restricted to certain regions, but extends globally to behind the screens of our smart devices.

Recent local news reported that youths gravitated to the appeal of jihad through the social media. Could home-grown terrorism in Singapore potentially exist? Could a terrorist attack actually occur?

As our Force confronts this new dimension of terrorism and the seeming inevitability of a crisis on our soil, we must not only continue to stay alert, but also augment our counterterrorism strategies and capabilities to remain a step ahead.

In this issue of *Police Life*, we delve into the work of the Force in combating terrorism. We give you an exclusive glimpse into the counterterrorism exercises conducted by the Force. The Home Team agencies are not only the ones involved in counterterrorism efforts - various stakeholders play a part in these efforts as well. The key to counter extremism is that ‘everyone plays a part’. Read on to learn about the formation of the new watch-group, signifying the partnership forged between the Police and the city retailers.

We hope that you find this issue an interesting read!

SC/Sgt Gabriel Chan Duen Yue  
Journalist  
*Police Life*



# Collective Effort Needed to Safeguard Racial and Religious Harmony: Minister K Shanmugam

By Ms Denise Lee  
Home Team News



**As the wave of terrorist ideology sweeps the region, Singapore needs to step up its efforts even more to counter extremism, said Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K Shanmugam at the second Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Distinguished Lecture and Symposium held at Marina Mandarin Hotel on 19 January 2016.**

As the region becomes “fertile ground” for the breeding of terrorism, Singapore must make a bigger collective effort to safeguard our racial and religious harmony, said Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K Shanmugam. He was speaking to more than 500 guests, including inter-faith organisation officials, civil servants and religious leaders, at the second Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Distinguished Lecture and Symposium held at Marina Mandarin Hotel on 19 January 2016. He said that over the course of this year, the government will be rolling out measures to prevent racial and religious divisions and keep Singapore safe.

The rise of ISIS in the Middle East and that of regional conditions ripe for “an explosion of terrorism, based on religion” pose a threat to Singapore, whose religiously diverse and tolerant society is “unacceptable to zealots” who “consider us infidels, Kaffirs who ought to be exterminated”, he said.

Mr Shanmugam pointed out four types of inter-related threats Singapore faces: direct terrorist attacks; radicalisation of part of the Muslim population; the Muslim population growing somewhat distant from the rest of society; and Islamophobia among the non-Muslim communities.

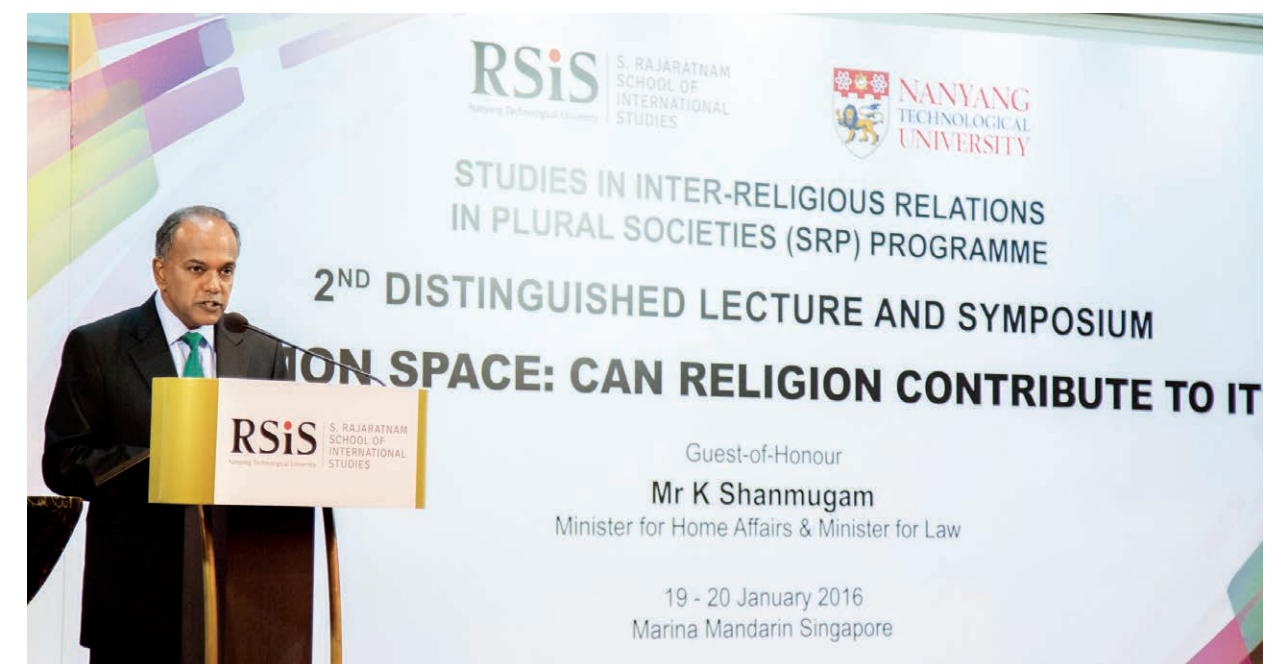
As terrorists evolve new ways of attacking defenceless people, Singapore has to anticipate and prepare for these attacks. This will require the strengthening of Singapore’s security forces, intelligence, and border controls, he said, adding that the long wait at check points during festival periods and holidays are inevitable as tighter border control is necessary. As Singapore itself is “fairly secure”, “attackers are therefore likely to gather, plan just outside Singapore and then attack us”, he said, citing how the Paris attacks were probably planned in Molenbeek where security was less tight.

“So, in addition to hard security measures, we have to do one more thing which is very urgent. We have to move to change mindsets. Our people must realise that everyone is responsible for our collective security,” he said.

He noted that the highly educated and internet savvy youth here have easy access to “slick, evocative” videos posted online by preachers who glorify violence.

“Some of our young people have been brainwashed,” he added, citing the example of a National Service (NS) boy who began surfing the internet for jihadist propaganda and videos while studying in a polytechnic. The youth had expressed a desire to take part in armed jihad overseas. The NS boy had also searched online for bomb-making information, and produced a video glorifying martyrdom and justifying suicide bombing.

Mr Shanmugam said that as religiosity sweeps the world, Singaporeans are not immune. He also noted that “Singaporeans as a whole are becoming more religious, across more religions.” He spoke of a “worrying trend” among sections of the younger Muslims who feel they should not wish Christians ‘Merry Christmas’ or Hindus ‘Happy Deepavali’, and



that they should not recite the National Pledge or serve National Service as doing so, in their view, contradicts the Muslim faith.

“[I]f these sentiments become widespread, a Muslim Community that grows apart from the mainstream is not good for Singapore and will have serious long term implications,” he said.

Singapore also faces the risk of Islamophobia spreading among the rest of the population, which threatens to “tear our society apart” he said. Already, there are increasing reports of intolerance towards Muslims by non-Muslims, he noted, citing the example of a Malay woman who was called a “suicide bomber” by a man of another race in September this year.

In response to these challenges, religious groups and communities in Singapore have come up with ground-up initiatives to preserve our common

space and to contribute to the well-being of society, said Mr Shanmugam. These include the Singapore Muslim Identity initiative, launched by the local Muslim community in 2004 to provide principles and values for Muslims living in Singapore’s multi-religious society. The Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG) has also counselled Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) detainees and those influenced by terrorist ideologies.

To keep the threat of religious extremism at bay, religious leaders need to help the people understand the true nature of terrorist ideology and counter it through ways such as social media, Mr Shanmugam said.

“The ultimate aim of terrorism is to create sharp and violent divisions between “us” and “them”. If we remain resolutely “us”, one united people, regardless of race, language or religion, no force can divide us, and terrorism will be defeated,” he said.





# Breaking New Grounds: Innovation Award Ceremony 2015

By SC2 Tan Yick Wei, Jonas  
Public Affairs Department

As a crime-fighting organisation determined to make Singapore the safest place in the world, it is important for the Singapore Police Force (SPF) to continually develop new technologies and devise new methods to combat crime. This is why SPF rewards those who break new grounds and forge new frontiers through the SPF Annual Innovation Awards. The SPF Annual Innovation Awards Ceremony 2015 was held during Home Team Festival 2015 on 13 November 2015, celebrating units, teams and individuals who were at the forefront of innovation in the SPF. *Police Life* caught up with some of the award winning teams and individuals.

## A Collaborative Effort: Team Tech Hawk

Members:  
Project Leader Superintendent of Police (Supt) Jason Tan, Mr Neo Lee Koon, Station Inspector (SI) Lucius Lim, SI Benson Khng, Senior Staff Sergeant (SSSgt) Lawrence Lee, Mr Hafidz Samat, Mr Neo Chang Feng, Mr Cedric Chai, Mr Dedy Yongs

The team Tech Hawk, from Police Technology Department (PTD), boasted an impressive three Golds, two Silvers and one Bronze for the SPF In-house Team Excellence Symposium (TES) 2015. Their projects aimed to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Police by reducing manpower and costs with new technological inventions, and reduce time wasted by making processes more efficient. However, what made them stand out was not just their impressive number of awards, but their willingness to collaborate with an external party - ITE College West. Recognising that people outside the SPF with specific expertise could help strengthen Singapore's security, they leveraged the college's strengths and collaborated for several projects, with three of them winning gold awards.



Camera is concealed in the side mirror of a motorised vehicle to videotape acts of vandalism on the vehicle

Portable Tablet Personal Computers allow officers in the Police to work on the move

It is important to maintain the culture of innovation within SPF to ensure continued learning and improvement.

Team Tech Hawk  
Police Technology Department

### AWARD WINNING PROJECTS:

- Motorcycle Theft Solution (A Collaboration with ITE College West)**  
A locking device is integrated with the motorcycle cover. When the device is tampered with, it triggers an alarm.
- Multi Network Mobile Device**  
To explore the possibility of fast and deployable alternative communication system using commercially off-the-shelf mobile phones.
- Mobility Enhancement through Tablet Personal Computer Implementation**  
To introduce Portable Tablet Personal Computers in order to allow officers in the Police to work on the move.
- Car Mischief Detector (A Collaboration with ITE College West)**  
A camera is concealed in the side mirror of a motorised vehicle to videotape acts of vandalism on the vehicle.
- Community Distress Locator**  
To introduce mobile applications to allow users to request for help from the general public or the Police.
- Screening through Smart Devices (A Collaboration with ITE College West)**  
To introduce smart devices such as Google glasses in the Police for efficient screening of identity cards.

## A Convenient Solution: Team Punggol Innovators

Members:  
Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Winston Ong, DSP Norliza Bte Hussin, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Abrartaufik Bin Jasmani, Senior Station Inspector (SSI) Fairooz Bin Mohamed Jurimi, SSI Norazmi Bin Ahmad, SSI Darren Ong Han Lee, SI Nuraisha Binte Ibrahim, Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Abdul Malek Faizal Bin Johari, SSgt Muhammad Hairi Bin Jumari, SSgt Mohamad Zaeid Bin Mohamad Rasid, SSgt Foo Dunyao, SSgt Mohd Izuan Bin Ismail, SSgt Muhammad Jumari Bin Ibrahim, Sergeant (Sgt) Jolvin Soh Wei Xiang

After an interactive session with motorcycle owners, Punggol Innovators realised that there were many problems with the current motorcycle security devices. Thus, the team sprang into action by collaborating with Ngee Ann Polytechnic to develop the Iron Horn, a highly visible and convenient device that prevents the clutch lever from being engaged. Feedback from trials commended the convenience of the device, taking less than five seconds to activate. Their readiness to listen to the needs of the public and work to improve their quality of life, as well as their ability to think out of the box, led to their project winning the Gold award.

In these current times where technologies are evolving at a rapid pace, it is vital that we tap upon innovation to keep pace with the current times.

Team Punggol Innovators  
Ang Mo Kio Division

### AWARD WINNING PROJECTS:

- Iron Horn**  
A hassle-free anti-theft device for motorcycles.

## An Organiser of Innovation: Ms Christina Wong

As the liaison between the Planning and Organisation (P&O) and PTD for innovation, Ms Christina Wong is an important cog in the wheel, encouraging officers to take a step back and think out of the box to see what improvements could be made to their work. She actively promotes innovation, briefing every newcomer on its importance in the SPF and instilling a culture of creativity in her office. It is with this winning attitude that she was awarded the Best Innovation Activist for the Individual Innovation Awards.

It is important that the Department sees the merit of Innovation and what it could do to make policing more effective and efficient.

Ms Christina Wong  
Assistant Director, Capability Development Division  
Police Technology Department

### SPF ANNUAL INNOVATION AWARD CEREMONY 2015 NOTABLE AWARD WINNERS

SPF In-house TES 2015 Awards				Total
Number of Winners	31	34	21	86

Annual Innovation Awards	Winner
Best TES Facilitator	Supt Chong Soo Pin from Special Operations Command
Best TES Facilitator	SSI (2) Zainudin Majid from Traffic Police
Best TES Facilitator	Mr Tan Chin Hoe from Criminal Investigation Department
Best Innovation Activist	Ms Christina Wong from Police Technology Department
Best Innovation Advocate	DAC Loke Wai Yew from Police Technology Department
Most Innovative Unit 2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner Up	Police Coast Guard
Most Innovative Unit 1 <sup>st</sup> Runner Up	Criminal Investigation Department
Most Innovative Unit Champion	Police Technology Department

### HAPPENINGS

#### Press Release of Annual Crime Statistics

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) released its 2015 crime statistics on 12 February 2016. Overall crime increased by 4% in 2015 due to a significant increase in online commercial crimes (+46.5%). Criminals hide behind the anonymity of the Internet to prey on victims, sometimes striking from across our borders. The SPF continues to increase public awareness of the evolving modus operandi of these scammers and strengthen coordination with foreign law enforcement counterparts to crack down on syndicates.



On the other hand, there were significant improvements in nearly every other crime class. Rioting, robbery, housebreaking, motor vehicle theft and snatch theft registered 20-year lows. Unlicensed money lending cases hit a 10-year low. In addition to tough enforcement efforts, the SPF will continue to invest in public education and community partnerships to keep our streets, virtual and actual, crime-free.

#### Press Release of Traffic Statistics

The Traffic Police released the 2015 Road Traffic Situation on 16 February 2016. The overall road traffic situation in 2015 had improved. Fatal traffic accidents and fatalities continued to decline through targeted enforcement operations to deter reckless and dangerous driving and judicial installations of Fixed Speed Camera around the island. Injury accidents, however, remained a concern, increasing by 2.7% from the previous year. Notwithstanding, there were improvements across causes of accidents in drink driving, red-running and speed violations.



#### Chinese New Year Celebrations at Police HQ

On 17 February 2016, staff from the Police Headquarters gathered for an afternoon of Chinese New Year (CNY) celebrations in the Multi-Purpose Hall. The Commissioner of Police, Mr Hoong Wee Teck graced the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour. Attendees were treated to traditional dances and music performances, including a number by our very own talent, Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Benjamin Cheah. No CNY would be complete without the traditional Yu-Sheng. Everyone joined in the festivities as they tossed to the continued success of the Singapore Police Force.





# Mobilising the Force to Counter Terrorism

By Cpl Muhd Shahrunnizam bin Abdul Rashid

With the dramatic rise in global terror attacks, police forces around the world are stepping up their anti-terrorism measures. The recent bombings in Paris, Istanbul and Jakarta, are stark reminders that we need to be ready for such attacks on our soil, if and when they happen.

The Singapore Police Force (SPF), together with the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), conducted a Police Counter Terrorism Exercise on 18 and 19 January 2016. Lasting till the wee hours of the morning, the exercise saw more than 1,800 SPF and SCDF

officers mobilised in response to a series of simultaneous armed attacks, hostage situation and bomb attacks at multiple locations island-wide. Such exercises help to better prepare officers to respond effectively in the event of a terrorist attack.



Terrorists in a simulated attack on a key installation.



Police and SCDF officers discussing their strategies and tactics.



A terrorist successfully subdued by a Police officer.



The Special Tactics and Rescue Unit from SOC storming the bus where hostages were being held.



Special Operations Command (SOC) assessing the situation from behind the Armoured Personnel Carrier.



An SOC officer geared up and confronting the crisis.



Ground Response Force officers, the first line of defence, responding to the incident.



A group of SOC officers moving into their tactical positions.



Ground Response Force officers taking notes and brainstorming ideas.



Officers from the Criminal Investigation Department conducting on-site investigation.





## My View

By SC/Cpl Harsha Ramachandran

I am a handheld trace detector and able to accurately detect explosives, chemicals, narcotics and many other substances. My duty is to assist my colleagues on the frontline by detecting explosive substances that may pose a threat to public security. On any given day, you can find me at land checkpoints, ferry terminals and at some Neighbourhood Police Centres.

When officers need to check if there is explosive residue on an item, they run a swab over it and pass the swab over to me. Thanks to my convenient design, officers are able to keep a strong grip on me while the analysis is taking place.

With my state-of-the-art 'Ion Mobility Spectrometry' technology, I am able to analyse the sample and display the results in less than 15 seconds on my 3.5 inch colour display screen.

With my superior analytical skills and ability to detect a wide range of explosives, it is obvious why I am the perfect candidate to assist officers in keeping Singapore safe.



# Security on Our Public Transportation

By Insp (NS) Ng Kian Boon

You see them in your daily commute. Familiar uniformed personnel are wearing their blue uniforms with grey berets. These men and women carry arms yet they exude a sense of reassurance, rather than threat. They are from the Public Transport Security Command (TransCom) that keep the peace as we make our way around our island for work and play.

On 25 February 2016, TransCom played host to the Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Amrin Amin. Following a briefing at the TransCom headquarters, Mr Amrin was accompanied on a guided tour at Bugis and Boon Keng MRT stations.

Established to oversee policing throughout the island's transportation network, TransCom is a specialist unit that deters and responds to crime on our buses and trains. Their presence is commanding as they patrol in teams of four to maintain law and order on our public transportation. What most may not know is that TransCom officers are specially trained to operate in large crowds. From security checks to detection and handling of improvised explosive devices, these officers form part of our broader efforts to safeguard key infrastructure and combat terrorism.

Not many know that the frontline of TransCom comprises primarily of Full-time Police National Servicemen (PNSF). Mr Amrin commented that the professionalism displayed by TransCom officers makes it nearly impossible to distinguish between them and their regular counterparts.

During his visit, Mr Amrin posed a memorable question that invoked a similar thought-provoking response. Making reference to the recent terrorist attacks in Paris and Jakarta, he asked about the motivation behind these National Servicemen putting their lives on the frontline.

National Service Probationary Inspector (NSPI) Ang Yao Ying simply responded, "Our safety, our family's safety is on the line." These words truly captured the essence of what TransCom represents in executing their work every day. Mr Amrin ended



his visit on a high note, "I think it speaks volumes of the people that we have, the quality of our NSFs, their love for the country and their commitment to service, and I think that is very inspiring."

In a nod to the heightened security worldwide, Mr Amrin highlighted that cooperation between the Police Force and the community continues

to be critical. Manpower continues to be a challenge. Conscripting our National Servicemen to serve has been a step towards easing those constraints. He noted that evolving technologies, building designs and efforts to reach out to the community will continue to play important roles to secure peace and counter terrorism on all fronts.





# Strengthening Retail Security

By SC/Cpl Harsha Ramachandran

Marina Bay Neighbourhood Police Centre launched the Central Division Retail Watch Group (RWG) at Bugis+ on 30 January 2016. This is an initiative that brings together the Police and retailers from major shopping malls such as Bugis+, Bugis Junction, Raffles City, Marina Square and Suntec City. It aims to establish a collaborative partnership between the Police and retailers to deter, detect and prevent crime, by providing a platform for the Police and retailers to exchange information on how they can strengthen vigilance and measures against potential terrorist attacks.



As part of the RWG initiative, the Police will regularly disseminate an e-newsletter on crime and security-related information to retailers involved in the RWG. The newsletter will update retailers on the latest crime trends and share good crime prevention and security practices. There will also be regular 'red teaming' exercises conducted by the Police and retail management to test the effectiveness

of stores' security features and the vigilance of staff. After these exercises, the Police will hold a review with the retail management to reinforce learning points.

The launch was graced by the Guest-of-Honour, Madam Rahayu Mahzam, Member of Parliament for Jurong GRC and Member, Government Parliamentary Committee for Home Affairs and Law.

In the wake of recent terror attacks in the region, the RWG can play a larger role in our overall efforts to detect and deter potential security threats. We have read news reports about terrorists targeting commercial centres and retail outlets, most recent of which is the terrorist attack outside a shopping mall in Jakarta, Indonesia earlier this month.

We cannot imagine the catastrophic consequences of a similar incident here in Singapore. We also cannot take it for granted that such incidents will never happen here. It is thus imperative that retailers and the Police, through the RWG, work closely to ensure the safety and security of commercial and retail establishments.

Madam Rahayu Mahzam  
Member of Parliament, Jurong GRC,  
Member, Government Parliamentary Committee,  
Home Affairs and Law.



# The Star is Born

By Reproduction from Police Life December 1993

Four seconds was all it took to intercept a hijacked bus, neutralize the gunmen and rescue the hostages.

The newly formed Special Tactics and Rescue (STAR) Unit put up this spectacular display during its commissioning ceremony on 9 November at the Police Tactical Training Camp in Mandai.

The morning full of demonstrations of the Unit's operational capabilities climaxed with a coordinated assault on a four-storey building seized by armed criminals. This saw the entry of STAR assaulters from vehicles and helicopter. As they descended on the roof-top from a helicopter, other assaulters entered the building on various storeys from ground level using ladder-mounted Land Rovers. The building was secured and hostages rescued in seventeen seconds.

Minister for Law and Home Affairs, Professor S Jayakumar, commissioned the Unit with these cautionary words: "Criminals have not only become more organized and bolder but are now more ready to resort to violence."

"We have in place stringent laws to act as a strong deterrent to potential criminals. But these laws, by themselves, are not enough. They must be complemented by equally stringent enforcement. The formation of STAR is another step forward by Police to stay ahead of the criminals," he added.

Replacing the Police Tactical Team, STAR's contributions to the Police are two-fold. First, it provides the Police with a dedicated and sophisticated armed response in criminal hostage/barricade situations.



The neutralization of the hijacked bus.

Second, STAR's formation lays the foundation for building specialist expertise and tactical excellence in the SPF.

Led by Police Overseas Scholar, DSP Ng Joo Hee, all officers of the elite Unit had come through an arduous five-month selection and training process. STAR officers are highly trained in the use of weapons, methods-of-entry and other specialized skills, and are continuously training to maintain their operational edge.

The essential characteristics of STAR are firepower and mobility. With a Quick-Response-Force on short notice to move 24-hours a day, the Unit maintains a high level of operational readiness. It is also highly mobile and employs a fleet of turbo-charged all terrain Land Rovers for rapid deployment.

To commemorate the commissioning of the Unit, Prof Jayakumar presented Commander SOC, AC Lim Soo Gee, with the Unit's emblem and its motto - Vigilance Valour Victory



The hostage rescue in 17 minutes.





# Security and Counter-Terrorism Officers

By Insp (NS) Ng Kian Boon

The Police Headquarters (PHQ) houses many departments that support the critical work that the Singapore Police Force does. In an inaugural feature of officers from the Security & Counter-Terrorism (SCT) Division of the Operations Department, we caught up with two officers to bring you more insights in Police work and its diverse nature.



## Keeping the Peace

Both officers are in the thick of things when it comes to securing the peace. If we thought of Singapore as part of an inner and outer sphere, it would aptly describe the roles that Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Mark Low and Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Aly Musa play to keep the spheres protected.

Looking at how to keep intrusions into our borders at bay, ASP Aly is responsible for safeguarding both land and maritime checkpoints. He works closely with his counterparts

floor plans to get our infrastructure security up to mark.

## What It Takes

The demands of the job appear to be not much different from that of a regular Police officer. They shared that as operations officers in the SCT Division, a crucial skillset required in their jobs is the need to align and manage stakeholders, internal and external. ASP Aly explained further that security can be taken for granted, sometimes even by those in government agencies. It takes a combination of soft skills and technical know-how in order to successfully sell the policies and recommendations that we push to ensure border security.

DSP Low noted the evolving complexities in the operating environment require that SCT continually navigates the evolving security landscape in Singapore. For examples, beefing security measures can remain relevant for only so long, as terrorists are constantly learning and exploiting weaknesses in order to carry out attacks successfully. This only serves to highlight the importance of good intelligence, the ability to translate intelligence into an action plan, and the need for coordinating countermeasures across units can be rolled out promptly and efficiently.

While most of their work in SCT remains confidential, DSP Low was able to share his thoughts on one of the more memorable incidents during his service. In the early hours of a Sunday, he was awakened by a call to be part of a response team to the crash-through at a road block near the Shangri-La Hotel where the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) was holding the Shangri-la Dialogue with leaders from all over the world. This had resulted in a fatal shooting of one of the perpetrators involved. The incident was memorable for how it led to the activation of security plans. DSP Low remembers the combination of adrenaline and sense of responsibility he felt as he responded to the incident. It reminded DSP Low, and almost certainly every officer involved, that what they do each day is important. The incident continues to be etched in DSP Low's mind, reminding him of the seriousness of the work that he does, and how it contributes to the Police's mission to keep Singapore safe and secure.

from the Police Coast Guard and other maritime agencies to keep our territorial waters safe. When not protecting our waters, he coordinates with the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA), which has taken over the protective security and first responder functions at our checkpoints from the Singapore Police Force (SPF).

DSP Low is the man when it comes to securing Police infrastructure within the island. With some of our establishments and physical structures built primarily for functionality many years ago, there was a need for someone to come in and take a critical look at how to enhance and upgrade our establishments. Working with government agencies and other officers in the Force, he scrubs through blueprints and

The situation can get out of hand in a security incident. There are times when evacuations are not necessary and security personnel may need to conduct a search. **You can do your part with these tips.**

**A**ssist to gather your belongings to facilitate identification of suspicious items.  
**L**ook around you for unattended items; do not touch them.  
**E**valuate whether the unattended items are suspicious.  
**R**eport all suspicious items to security personnel or the Police.  
**T**ake further instructions from security personnel or the Police.

# A Meaningful Experience in TransCom

By Sgt (NS) Sheikh Nizaamuddin  
Former Group Leader  
Public Transport Security Command

National Service to some may seem like a waste of two years, while others perceive it as a point in time where a boy becomes a man. Well, I must say, there were times during my service that I felt both of these sentiments to be true. I served my National Service with the Public Transport Security Command (TransCom) of the Singapore Police Force. I was brought up in a foreign country, in the city of Yangon, Myanmar. I was very reluctant to come to Singapore for National Service, as I spent my entire life in another country where all my family and friends are. However, as a citizen of Singapore, I had to return to serve National Service I was especially interested in TransCom as it is the only vocation where Full-time Police National Servicemen (PNSF) officers are trained to patrol, handle incidents and make arrests by themselves. Luckily enough I did get posted to TransCom.

In TransCom, one of our aims during patrol is to make proactive arrests. After I was posted there, I realised just how good the PNSF officers were in executing this. I recall this one time when I was still new, where my group made one outstanding proactive arrest. What intrigued me were the good profiling skills and the ability of my group leader who managed to spot a particular person amongst the crowd

during the rush hour. Although nothing incriminating was found on that person, my group leader knew that the person was under the influence of controlled drugs, and thus interviewed him further until he admitted to the offence; the person was then arrested for consumption of controlled drugs. I was inspired and aspired to be like them when I become a group leader one day. After a year, I was promoted to the rank



of Special Constable Sergeant (SC/Sgt) and appointed as a group leader. I am proud to say that I have made a few proactive arrests using the knowledge and experience gained from my seniors. It then became my responsibility to teach my juniors.

TransCom gave me the opportunity to be deployed at events such as the Formula One Singapore Grand Prix, New Year's Eve celebrations and Thaipusam. I was exposed to a different side of the events which I would not normally notice. I had to control the crowd, guide people, and detect crime during the events. Usually I would be part of the crowd at these types of events but now

I was the one helping to manage crowds at public transport facilities and provide security to ensure the smooth proceeding of the events.

I successfully completed my National Service with the Force in December 2015. I aspire to be a successful businessman. My National Service stint in the Force has moulded me to be a better leader which is essential in running a business. By taking on heavy responsibilities as a policeman and as a group leader, I have undoubtedly become a more mature person. I have no regrets joining TransCom and am grateful for the experience that National Service with the Police offered me.

## HIS THREE MOST PROACTIVE ARRESTS

- 1 SC/Sgt Nizaamuddin and his team spotted a subject on the train with bloodshot eyes. They took him back to the staff room, conducted a full search and found Heroin hidden on his left ankle.
- 2 While patrolling around Chinatown, SC/Sgt Nizaamuddin and his team noticed someone become visibly nervous after being spotted by them. They screened him and eventually uncovered that he had overstayed two years and was working illegally. The case was surfaced to an investigation officer who discovered that the offender's boss was hiring illegal workers.
- 3 At Aljunied MRT station, SC/Sgt Nizaamuddin and his team spotted a man selling illegal sex pills. Upon sighting the officers, the man attempted to run away. They gave chase for 200 meters and managed to apprehend him.





# ONE OF US

## Hi, I am...

Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Stephanie Cheung from the Traffic Police, Patrol Unit. I am a mobile two-wheeler rider and have been in the Force for close to four years now.

## What is something in your job that keeps you going?

Being able to ride outdoors to assist motorists who are in desperate need of help on the roads as well as stopping errant motorists who could endanger the lives of innocent road users, keeps me going. It also helps knowing that the work I do educates motorists and saves lives.

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

A picture of my team. This picture motivates me as the bonds I share with them are like those of brothers and sisters. We have fun together whether in or out of uniform and I always look forward to the end of the day where all of us gather in the briefing room, share about our day, and go for a meal together before heading home.

## Please share with us the most interesting/amusing incident that you have encountered while at work.

Motorists approach me in disbelief over the fact that I'm a female two wheeler rider on a 900cc motorcycle. They often call me, "A petite girl handling big machines".

## What is the weirdest misconception you have heard about policing work/police officers?

Females are not allowed to be on big bikes.

## I believe in...

The fact that policing work, be it the issuing of summons or the educating of motorists, has to go on no matter how much unhappiness or disagreement it causes in the members of public. As long as our heart and conscience is clear, that is what matters.

