

The JANUARY 2011 Issue
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**POLICE
LIFE**

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE

THE MAN BEHIND THE HOME TEAM

DPM WONG HANDS OVER THE REINS
AFTER 17 YEARS AT THE HELM OF HOME AFFAIRS

THREE SPF UNITS
CHANGE OF COMMAND

GRADUATION PARADE FOR
630 POLICE OFFICERS



CATCHING UP WITH EX-POLICE K-9 Commanding Officer
MR SEAH THIAN PAU

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ON THE COVER

We salute and pay special tribute to DPM Wong Kan Seng who was at the helm of MHA over the past 17 years.

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facebook

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Police Life Mailbag

Letter of the Month!

Police Life may wish to interview Head of Departments and Divisions and publish them for a more interesting read. The area of interview can also focus on the SPF mission/vision and the advice they could give to new and young officers. It can also focus on the challenges they face as Heads of such departments.

SHAWKAT ALI KHAN,
Tanglin Police Division

Thank you Shawkat for your feedback. You have won for yourself an exclusive SPF booklight!

We have taken your suggestion into consideration and we will be featuring some Heads of Departments in the upcoming issues of Police Life. Do look out for it!



You Were Saying...

“Officers of the SPF, you guys are the guardian warriors of Singapore’s streets! Criminals will always fear you, and the people of Singapore will always respect you. May the new year ahead be a rewarding one!”

IVAN AU,
SPF Facebook Fan

“Happy New Year Singapore police officers... Thanks for all the hard work in 2010. Hope 2011 is better than 2010.”

MUHAMMAD SYAFIQ,
SPF Facebook Fan

Thank you so much for all your letters and feedback! We would like to hear more from you on your thoughts of the Police Life Magazine. So, do not be shy and reach out to us at the following hotlinks!

e-mail : SPF-PAD_Publications@spf.gov.sg
SPF Intranet : SPF Discussion Group and SPF Blog

This is our magazine - the Police Life!

"Akan Datang!"



Love...

When I first told my friends that I was taking on a new posting as Head Publications that would put me as the editor of the Police Life, they envisioned scenarios from the movie, "The Devil Wears Prada." Luckily, the team at Police Life wears Hush Puppies! I have found the Police Life team to be a highly creative, passionate and yet warm group.

For the January issue, we are starting the year paying tribute to a man who has been synonymous with the Home Team for so long – Deputy Prime Minister Wong Kan Seng. Home Team officers bade him farewell at a grand ceremony at the Home Team Academy while SPF honoured him in true SPF-style by hosting a Dining-in ceremony in his honour, this month.

The winning entries from the police week photo competition and our line-up of feature stories – from a retired senior officer, SPF's innovation stalwarts, to an outstanding STAR officer, allow us to continually highlight the rich diversity in police work. Each tells a different, and yet the same, story. The story of what it means to be the "men in blue." Through Police Life we hope to bring to the fore many more of these untold stories to our readers.

In our pride section, yet another rejection of bribe story by our traffic police colleague, you may say. Well, we make no apologies. Officers who embrace our core values always deserve a special mention right?

The Police Life team ushered in the Chinese New Year early this year as we tossed the festive fish salad, 'Yusheng', right after our photo shoot of the dish. This festive season, learn how to toss the 'Yusheng' the right way and what it all means.

"Happy New Year!" from everyone on the Police Life team.

Leena Rajan
Editor Police Life

Write for Police Life!

We have special SPF-edition reading lights and product vouchers to give away to readers who contribute articles or provide feedback selected for publication. So keep those letters and feedback coming and one of those gifts could be making its way to you!

The Man Behind the Home Team





“It is a privilege for me to be here today, to pay tribute to a man whom I have known for over 20 years, and for whom I have developed great respect and admiration. He has been a mentor to me,” said current Minister for Home Affairs and Law, Mr K. Shanmugam at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) handover parade on 30 October 2010 at the Home Team Academy (HTA).

Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Wong Kan Seng took charge of the MHA on 2 January 1994. He had a wealth of experience under his belt by then, having been at the helm of the community development and foreign affairs ministries before.

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) saw tremendous development under his leadership. Over the past 17 years, crime rates in Singapore have gone down significantly. Whilst under his charge, the SPF won the Singapore Quality Award twice in ten years. Professionalism in the Force was raised several notches. Today, the SPF is a leading law enforcement agency, not just in Asia, but in the world.

When he first took on the job, there was a rising rate of recurring offenders.

Recognising early that a high recidivism rate was not just a problem of the police and prisons, DPM Wong confronted it from a multi-agency perspective. From counsellors to home detention officers to engaging prospective employers – no ideas were left unexplored in trying to bring down the number of repeat offenders.

The greatest challenge for MHA, however, has been that from the threat of terrorism. The 9-11 attacks and the subsequent string of terrorist attacks around the world meant that there had to be a fundamental shift in the way in which law enforcement and security had to be approached. DPM Wong took on this feat tenaciously, ensuring that Home Team (HT) departments developed new capabilities, built stronger networks with foreign counterparts and tightened work processes.

DPM Wong oversaw a myriad of policies and initiatives to harden terrorist targets. One of these measures included the setting up of the Police MRT unit in 2005 and eventually the Public Transport Security Command in 2009 to manage all policing efforts throughout the entire public land transport network in Singapore.



“
...Speed and
decisiveness, were and
are his hallmarks.”

– Minister for
Home Affairs and Law,
Mr K. Shanmugam

A big proponent of community policing, he endorsed both the Community Safety & Security Programme and the Security Watch Group Scheme. The former is a platform for the community, grassroots, HT and relevant agencies to work together on safety and security concerns. The latter is essentially a one-stop, whole-of-government approach to enhance safety and security measures for buildings and businesses.

He also scrutinised traffic management efforts in the areas of enforcement, education and legislation. This has led to a 28% decrease in road traffic accident fatality rates over the past 10 years despite the increase in both human and vehicular population.

Yet another stellar example of his leadership acumen was the manner in which he dealt with the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic in 2003. He was the minister charged with co-ordinating the inter-ministerial nationwide effort to counter the epidemic.

“Speed and decisiveness, were and are his hallmarks...” exclaimed Mr K. Shanmugam.

“I am very humbled by the generous praise levelled on me by Mr K. Shanmugam. Not sure if I deserve it all,” replied DPM Wong at the MHA handover parade. Reflecting on his 17 years as Minister for Home Affairs, DPM Wong reiterated, “The key mission of the MHA and its departments, is to keep Singapore safe and secure.”

Before the HT concept was implemented in 1997, organisations such as SPF, the Singapore Prisons Service, Singapore Civil Defence Force, Central Narcotics Bureau and the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority were organisations that operated within their single functional area. Each of the departments under MHA was highly competent and professional in its own functional domain. A highly perceptive DPM Wong saw the need for greater co-ordination and complementation among them.

DPM Wong’s vision was to harness the synergistic potential of the HT so that it would be far greater than the sum of its individual departments. As a result of his vision, the HT Departments reaped tremendous benefits from shared resources and training at the HTA, for example. The SPF

was also able to leverage on joint platforms, operations and exercises with the other HT departments and external agencies to better prepare to deal with crises and to have a more co-ordinated approach to beefing up Singapore’s overall safety and security.

“Despite how difficult some situations may be, Home Team officers have never wavered in our determination to always do our best and more,” said DPM Wong in a strong tribute to his officers in his parting speech.





A New Sword for a New Beginning

Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Wong Kan Seng, was presented the Temasek Sword on 3 January 2011. The presentation took place at the Dining-In hosted by Commissioner of Police, Ng Joo Hee, at the Senior Police Officers Mess. The Dining-In was held in recognition of his guidance to the Singapore Police Force (SPF) over the last 17 years.

DPM Wong received the fourth edition - the Commissioner's Series, of the Temasek Sword. The hilt and crossbar of the sword

are fully plated in gold. The pommel, with the Singapore state crest on it, is designed like a fan, representing the SPF reaching out to the people of Singapore. The grip is decorated with silver stripes around it, signifying the community's involvement and collaboration with SPF to maintain security, law and order.

Among those in attendance were Minister for Home Affairs, Mr K Shanmugam; Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs, Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee; Senior Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Khoo Boon Hui; Deputy Secretary (Security), Mr Tai Wei

Shyong; SPF Leadership Group members and senior officers.

As Minister for Home Affairs, DPM Wong successfully steered the Home Team (HT) through various challenges, which saw the operating landscape for the HT agencies transform dramatically.

Police Life wishes DPM Wong all the best, as the Coordinating Minister for National Security and the new National Population and Talent Division, Prime Minister's Office. [P](#)



Passing the Baton

Officers at Special Operations Command (SOC) described Assistant Commissioner (AC) Raymond Yeo as a “fatherly figure and a humble man.”

Since his appointment as Commander SOC, AC Yeo has “revolutionised SOC’s capabilities,” said Staff Sergeants Sng Meng Lee and Ng Chee Keng.

Learning from the Mumbai terror attacks in November 2008, AC Yeo strengthened SOC’s capabilities by introducing new training programmes and bulking up on equipment and weaponry.

Sadly, his team of officers bade farewell to their treasured Commander on 30 December 2010. Taking over the helm, is Deputy Assistant Commissioner (DAC), Anthony Ng.

Let us wish DAC Ng all the best as he brings SOC to stronger ground.



On 3 January 2011, the Police Intelligence Department (PID) bade an official farewell to AC Hoong Wee Teck as he handed the directorship of PID over to AC Ng Ser Song, formerly the Deputy Director of the Central Narcotics Bureau.

Under AC Hoong’s leadership, PID had achieved many successes on the operational and organisational fronts. What stood out from AC Hoong’s stewardship was the personal interest he had taken in all aspects of PID, especially in his consistent regard for officers’ professional development and welfare.

For AC Ng, taking over the reins of PID may have brought a sense of homecoming for him, as he was the Deputy Director from April 2000 to October 2002.

All the best to AC Ng, as he takes one of Asia’s leading intelligence agencies to greater heights!



Senior Assistant Commissioner (SAC) Ng Boon Gay was not just the Director of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), but also a caring mentor to all his officers.

One of the things that SAC Ng is most remembered for during his nearly three-year stint at CID, is devising strategies to out-manoeuvre unlicensed money lending syndicates.

On 3 January 2011, SAC Ng bade farewell to his officers. Commissioner of Police (CP) received the CID Command Sword from SAC Ng and handed it to AC Hoong Wee Teck to symbolise the change of command.

AC Hoong is no stranger to CID having held several key postings in CID before. These include Head of then Organised Crime Branch, Assistant Director of the Intelligence Division and Assistant Director of the Major Crime Division.

Best wishes to AC Hoong for a successful tenure at CID! 🇸🇬



Graduating with Honours




“**N**ational Service is a good platform to gain a strong sense of discipline and also learn valuable knowledge which you cannot gain from elsewhere. Most importantly, it is an excellent chance to interact and bond with fellow squad mates coming from various cultures, characters and backgrounds,” said Statuette Award winner, Special Constable Corporal (SC/Cpl) Pirakaash Chinna Kumar.

SC/Cpl Pirakaash was among the 630 police officers who graduated from Training Command on 8 December 2010. Having excelled in both physical training and professional police studies, he was awarded the coveted Statuette Award – making him the best of the best of his Police National Service cohort.

The grand-scale graduation parade also marked the end of basic training for senior

officer trainees from squad C1/2010; 52nd batch of officer cadets; squads R3, R4 and R5 of regular police officers; and the 140th intake of full-time Police National Servicemen.

Like most other graduation parades held at the Home Team Academy, the sky cleared up from the passing storm just in time for the graduating officers to make their entrance onto the parade square. Reviewing Officer for the parade, Member of Parliament for Bishan-Toa Payoh Group Representation Constituency, Mr Hri Kumar Nair was present together with proud parents and loved ones of the graduating officers.

With the end of the graduation parade, comes the main challenge of carrying out the duties of a full-fledged police officer. We wish the officers all the best in their next phase of police life! 

“ I feel honoured and proud to have won such a prestigious award. The moment of making my family and friends feel proud of me is something I will savour for the rest of my life. ”
– SC/Cpl Pirakaash



Youth Focus in Festive Season Crime Prevention Campaign

For over 29 years, the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) has been educating, raising awareness and motivating the public to exercise self-help in crime prevention. This year's festive season crime prevention campaign was launched on 6 November 2010 by the Minister for Information Communication and the Arts, Mr Lui Tuck Yew at The Atrium, Plaza Singapura.

In his opening address at the launch, the Minister reported a healthy reduction in overall crime rates. Official statistics show a 1.6% decrease in overall crime rates between the months of January and September in 2009 and 2010.

"It is a good statistic," remarked Mr Lui. He also expressed that without the hard work and close co-operation of the community, such an achievement would not have been possible.

"However, we are still looking at about 24,000 cases, which average to about 2000 cases a month. This is not a small figure. Some of these cases can be prevented, if we remain vigilant and take preventive measures," he added.

Despite a 7.5% drop in the total number of youth offenders arrested, they still form about 22 – 23% of the total number of arrests made from January to September, in both 2009 and 2010.

Apart from physical crimes, cyber crimes among the youth were also on the rise.

"On the internet, there are no parents, no policemen, or in other words, no boundaries and safety nets to guide our youth away from cyber crimes," he said.

To curb the rising trend of cyber crimes among the youth, the NCPC has spearheaded an initiative to educate primary school-going children about the dangers of the internet. Coming in the form of an educational game, it aims to teach them to use the internet safely and responsibly.

Police have also been leveraging on the Streetwise Programme. Aimed at helping the youth make a fresh start in life through counselling, guidance and the instillation of proper life skills, the Streetwise Programme is a multiple agency approach to reduce juvenile delinquency. [\[E\]](#)



Don't Drive To Drink. And You'll Never Drink and Drive

The Anti-Drink Drive Campaign is one of the longest running campaigns organised by the Singapore Police Force (SPF). Started by the Traffic Police (TP) Department in 1989, the first annual Anti-Drink Drive campaign was initiated as an outreach programme to remind drivers not to drink and drive.

Back then, only posters, coasters and leaflets were the main collaterals used as the campaign's publicity media. With more reasons and places for people to drink today, TP has become even more determined to actively prevent the loss of lives through drink driving.

Officially launched on 10 December 2010, the Anti-Drink Drive campaign's tagline is: "Don't Drive to Drink. And You'll Never Drink and Drive." About 300 guests and sponsors were present at Shanghai Dolly in Clarke Quay to support the event.


"Held annually, the Anti-Drink Drive campaign constantly reminds motorists not to drive after consuming alcohol", said Guest of Honour, Senior Minister of State, Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee.

"I am heartened to see that community support towards anti-drink driving has been increasing. More entertainment establishments are taking responsibility for their patrons' safety by providing overnight parking, car jockey and taxi services," he added.

As a result of these concerted efforts, the number of drink-driving cases that resulted in injuries and fatalities in 2010, saw a decrease of about 23% from the previous year.

Apart from the use of print, television, and radio to reach out to motorists, TP also leveraged on mobile advertising.

SingTel mobile subscribers can expect to receive an image of the Anti-Drink Drive poster on their mobile phones and an Anti-Drink Drive advisory via short message service (SMS) when users are located at the major countdown parties.

A main feature this year was the issuing of 500 Anti-Drink Drive advisory messages in the form of parking tickets. This attention-grabbing measure involved placing the 'tickets' on the windscreens of vehicles parked near entertainment outlets, reinforcing the dangers and penalties of drink driving. 

“ I am heartened to see that community support towards anti-drink driving has been increasing. More entertainment establishments are taking responsibility for their patrons' safety by providing overnight parking, car jockey and taxi services. ”

– Associate Professor
Ho Peng Kee

Police Week Photo Competition Winners

The Police Week Photography Contest themed "24/7" saw many great entries! We thank you for the support and we had a blast looking through and admiring your creative submissions. Here are the top three winning entries for this competition and on the next page are other worthy mentions.



1st
Prize

By: SSS Benson Goh from D Division

Caption

An officer delivering a crime prevention and safety and security talk to about 500 workers at Resorts World Sentosa when construction was in progress in 2007. Venue was at the basement carpark, which was, at that point of time, without a roof.

By: SSS Ong Hock Soon from Transcom

Caption

Refreshed, Recharged and Ready to Go.

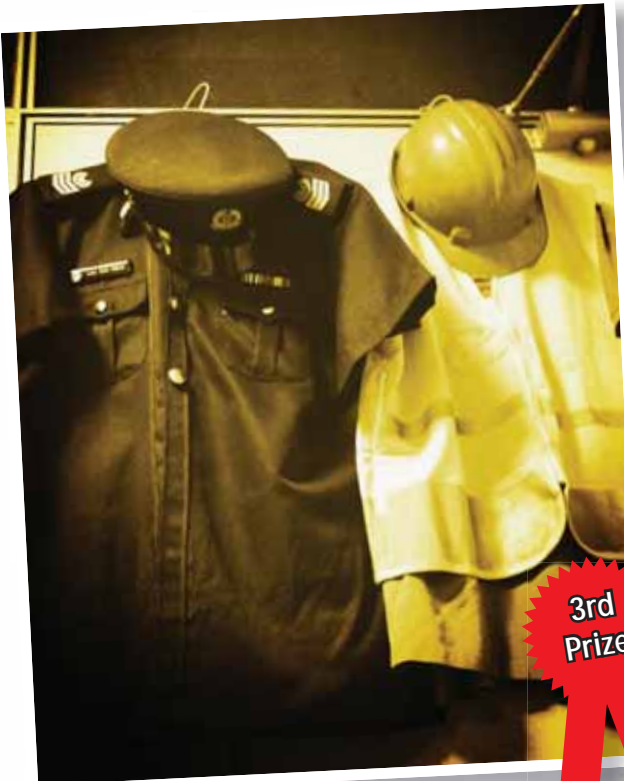
2nd
Prize



By: SSS Lau Soo Meng from G Division

Caption

An extraordinary career with an extraordinary jobscope.



3rd
Prize

Consolation Prize



SSgt Sam Teo from CID
"Standing out among the masses"



Supt Jason Loke from CID
"Resoluteness in uncovering evidence"

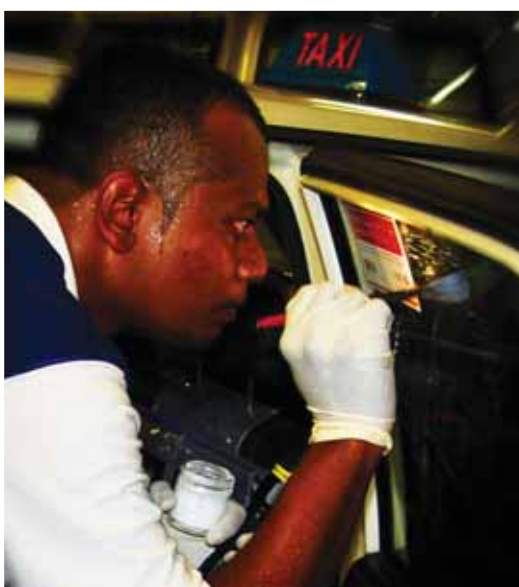
Outstanding Entries



SC/Cpl Jap Ren He from PLD on Police Logistics Family Day
"Skipping our way to fitness"



SSSGT Mohamad Razan B Abd. Wahab from G Div
"Services with a heart"



Supt Jason Loke from CID
"Quest for the truth"



SC/Cpl Nicholas Soon from G Div
"Keeping our streets safe"



SSgt Geoffrey Chow from PCG
"Ensuring the safety and security of shorelines"



Total Wellness = Enriching Life

Physical health is only but one portion of what makes up total wellness. Total wellness implies health on many levels through achieving balance in all areas of our life, including mental, social and financial wellness, on top of the health of our physical bodies.

Aimed to encourage our officers to strive for holistic wellness, the launch of the Total Wellness Campaign 2010, in conjunction with the Police Family Day by Commissioner of Police (CP) Ng Joo Hee, was held at the Police Cantonment Complex Multi-Purpose Hall on 30 November 2010.

"Enriching Life" was the theme of the campaign. It highlighted the four aspects of total wellness - physical, mental, social and financial health.

Through a fun and engaging skit, and a highly informative Health Fair for all ages, the participants were thoroughly engaged. Titled "Saving – The Sensible Habit," the skit's primary audience was the officers'

kids. However, it delivered the message of cultivating a habit of saving, which was no doubt relevant to audiences of all ages. It helped to reinforce the importance of saving for the financial well-being of the family.

From health screenings to short talks and demonstrations by participating fair vendors, the health fair indeed achieved its goal of educating officers and their families present on various aspects of total wellness.

Based on the saying "Laughter is the Best Medicine", a "Humour Station" - filled with jokes, stories and quotes to bring joy to the officers, was just one of the many interesting booths. Other useful booths that day included one which provided counselling services to those keen to quit smoking and another which provided officers free financial health checks and advice. [▶](#)



SPF Command and Staff Course

On 14 December 2010, a joyful group of Senior Officers celebrated their graduation from the Singapore Police Force Command and Staff Course 2010 at the Senior Police Officers' Mess. The event was graced by Guest of Honour, Acting Commissioner of Police, Wong Hong Kuan. The top student prize for the regional security module went to Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Tay Wee Li from 'F' Division. We were glad that one of our Hong Kong course mates managed to attend this proud moment with us.

The course, held from 8 October to 5 November 2010 comprised two weeks of local training at the Home Team Academy and two weeks overseas training in Western Australia. We were privileged to learn from the academics from the Rajaratnam School of International Studies on regional security. The local curriculum provided us with a wider perspective of issues related to security, and added options of strategies during crisis and peacetime.

Prior to the overseas leg, most of the participants were anxious and tried to fish out information from the earlier batches. It was a futile attempt. Thinking back, the essence of the unknown added a valuable dimension to the course.

The overseas training provided us with a platform to experiment various leadership styles. Joining the 25 of us, were four overseas participants from Hong Kong, Malaysia and Indonesia and our mentors, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Zuraidah Binte Abdullah, Deputy Assistant Commissioner (DAC) Melvin Yong, DAC Florence Chua and Mr Jansen Ang.


On the first day of our course, lead mentor AC Zuraidah shared with us the A, B and C of leadership. It is Always

about the mission; a leader must have a Bias for action; and Care for his officers. This message was entrenched in our hearts throughout the course and beyond.

We went through various experiential stages in the overseas learning. It was 'chaotic' in the beginning and we were often stretched beyond our comfort zone. What seemingly was torture was later cherished. All of us learned much about ourselves. The trust gained through these interactions serve us well today.

We were also given time alone to reflect on this journey. The solo night was great to philosophise on many things, including the meaning and importance of 'silence in leadership', as well as the 'power of thoughts.'

We are truly fortunate to be selected for this premium course. The friendship forged will certainly go a long way in life. We would like to thank SPF for the opportunity, our mentors for

their inspirational stories and passionate sharing of life experiences. The course has definitely made a difference in the way we deal with situations, people and our decision-making henceforth. 

'Power of Thoughts'

“ Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny. ”

– Frank Outlaw




Staying True to Integrity

On 23 December 2010 at about 4.40pm, Corporal (Cpl) Roslan Abdul Rasip was patrolling along the Seletar Expressway towards Bukit Timah Expressway when he spotted a lorry driving recklessly by changing lanes without signalling any of his intentions. This nearly caused a motorcyclist to collide into him from the rear. Fortunately, the motorcyclist managed to swerve out of the way in time, in order to avoid a collision. Cpl Roslan witnessed this and reacted immediately by signalling the accused to pull over his vehicle.

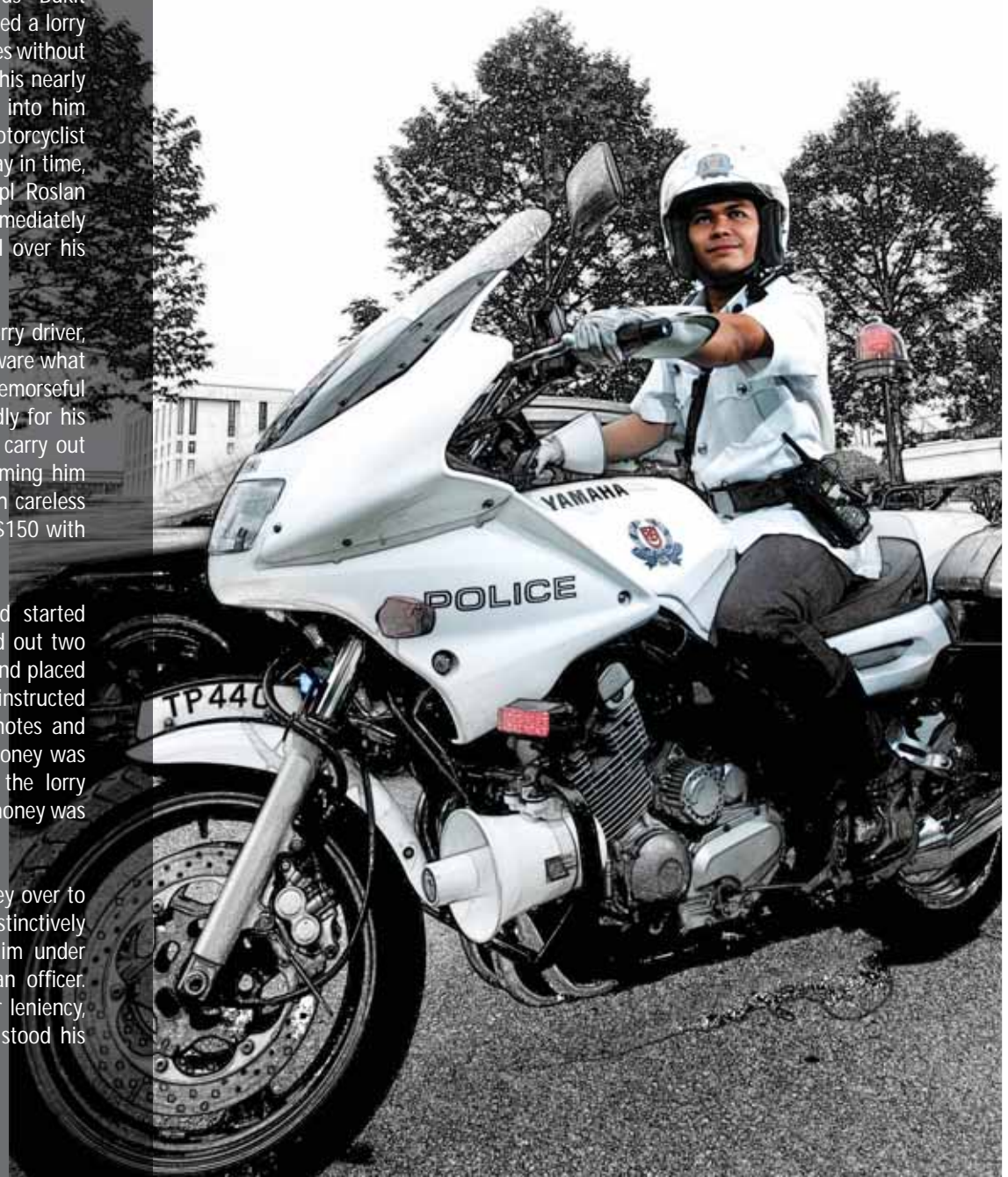
As Cpl Roslan approached the lorry driver, it was clear that the latter was aware what he had done. He appeared remorseful and began to apologise repeatedly for his actions. Cpl Roslan continued to carry out his duty by explaining and informing him of the offence committed through careless driving, which carries a fine of S\$150 with 6 demerit points.

At this juncture, the 65-year-old started behaving erratically and whipped out two 50 dollar notes from his pocket and placed it on the ground. The officer instructed the lorry driver to retrieve the notes and questioned him as to why the money was placed on the ground. To this, the lorry driver replied by saying that the money was meant for the officer.

The lorry driver handed the money over to Cpl Roslan. However, the latter instinctively rejected the offer and placed him under arrest for attempting to bribe an officer. Despite the lorry driver's plea for leniency, Cpl Roslan was undeterred and stood his ground. 

“ Integrity means doing things wholeheartedly. ”

– Cpl Roslan Abdul Rasip



Sniffing out the Ex-Police K-9 Commanding Officer

Mr Seah Thian Pau, former Police K-9 Unit Commanding Officer had dedicated 30 years of his life to the Singapore Police Force (SPF) prior to his retirement in December 2008. Currently serving as Director, Office of Campus Security at the National University of Singapore (NUS), a poised Mr Seah walks us through the highlights of his 2 careers.

"My 30 years in SPF were very rewarding. I had various roles in investigations, planning, public relations and traffic management before finally assuming command of the K-9 unit in November 1997. My planning experience in SPF has been very helpful in my second career," reflected Mr Seah.

"I really enjoyed my posting at K-9. At first, we were a tenant of the Army Provost Unit at the Mowbray Camp at Ulu Pandan Road. It was a small set-up; we were not really established then. We came under the spotlight after the September 11 attacks. We had to quickly develop a new capability in specially selected dogs. We sourced around the world for various training courses to suit the threats that had emerged. I am quite happy to have been involved in the formation of the explosive detector dog programme. We have quite a formidable team there now."

Instrumental in the establishment of the new base at Choa Chu Kang, Mr Seah beamed, "It is a comprehensive and purpose-built training centre." Originally shelved owing to a lack of funds, Mr Seah's unwavering determination saw the construction and re-location of the base to where it is today.

A man of foresight, undoubtedly accumulated from his vast experience in the Force, Mr Seah saw tighter security measures as critical for student and visitor security at NUS. His current responsibilities include staff recruitment and he strives to hire the 'cream of the crop.' About 50 'in-house guards' come under Mr Seah's direct supervision while 70 others are outsourced.

Eco-friendly Honda Civic hybrid patrol vehicles prowl the campus - a deliberate selection by Mr Seah. This model was listed as one of the "Greenest Vehicles of 2010" by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy.

"Forging good working ties with our stakeholders such as Clementi Police Division is highly essential. We have an advantage as most of the staff here are ex-police officers," shared Mr Seah, with a clear sense of pride of having served with the SPF. 🇸🇬



Our Innovation Generals

P S21 Excel (Excellence through Continuous Enterprise and Learning) Awards are presented to the brilliant minds behind innovative ideas and projects. Three categories of awards - "Best Ideator", "Outstanding Activist" and the "Best PS21 Project" were given out this year on 2 November 2010 at the two-day convention, at the School of the Arts (SOTA).

Police Life got in touch with two of our very own officers, who clinched the top spots in two out of the three categories of the highly-coveted Awards!

Best Ideator Category: Gold Award
Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Loo Yam Hong
Head Bomb Data Centre
Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

DSP Loo has always had a passion for innovations which embrace science and technology.

One of DSP Loo's notable contributions was the recent setting up of Southeast Asia's first vehicle paint database. With the help of his team and the Health Sciences Authority, vehicle fragments found in the aftermath of a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device incident or in criminal cases can now be easily narrowed down through vehicle paint analysis.

How do you feel about your win?

I am very honoured to have won. I would like to thank CID's Directorate and my fellow colleagues for their support.

What drives you to continually innovate?

It is the joy and fulfillment to see the fruition of the idea.

What inspires you?

The people I have met and spoken to, the things that I have seen and the books and magazines that I have read. I have a personal motto, "If you think you have a good idea, explore it." Dr Geoff Nicholson, the father of 3M's post-it notes is also a role model for me. Along with a sales staff, he personally peddled the post-it notes in four test markets while facing strong resistance from the Marketing Division. The product eventually turned out to be a great success!

How to encourage more officers to be involved in innovation?

Officers may feel that they would be ridiculed for wasting time and money, lose the trust of the management and be passed over for promotions if the idea or solution does not work. We should foster an environment of trust and a culture of acceptance that treats every idea with respect.

Common constraints faced by officers?

Officers have to balance between performing their core duties and managing the project, as a lot of time and effort is required to brain-storm ideas, conduct research and run experiments.

“ The best angle from which to approach any problem is the try-angle...It is only through this “dare to try” attitude that one will be able to transform ideas into reality. ”

– DSP Loo





**Outstanding Activist Category: Gold Award
Superintendent of Police (Supt) Sim Mong Hong
Assistant Director, Service Development
Service Development and Inspectorate Department**

Supt Sim is always on the lookout for new ways to improve the innovation culture in the SPF. One of his core roles is to spearhead innovations in SPF. He is the man behind the Staff Suggestion Scheme (SSS) and Work Improvement Teams (WITs) refocus to quality and the formation of purposeful Innovation teams at 13 SPF units to “revolutionise the Force”

To assess the innovation climate in the SPF, Supt Sim commissioned an Innovation Survey. Other key innovation movements he conceptualised include an Innovation Video to help mould officers’ perspectives on innovation and an Innovation Journal, written in an inspiring and unassuming manner, documenting SPF’s experience and triumphs in her innovation journey. He is also behind the Partnership and Development model which allows innovative collaboration between SPF and various education institutions.

How do you feel about your win?

I am honoured. It’s really a team award for all my colleagues in the Innovation Office. I guess the journey ahead is still a long one but winning the award also means that we are not behind.

What inspires you?

I read some books written by Clayton Christensen, who talks extensively on innovations in the private sector, and I adapted some of them to try out in the Innovation Office. My previous postings in planning, operations, technology and personnel have also been extremely useful.

What are the common obstacles you face from the ground in driving innovation?

Officers often are fixated with the thought that innovations must be in product form and must be big and sophisticated. Consequently, many of them may have missed out on innovations.

Getting our officers to strike that delicate balance between investing time for innovation activities and their day-to-day tasks is a challenge. Hence, the focus now is more on outcomes and quality so that more can be achieved with less. Changes have also been made so that we do not make it a frightening experience when officers approach us for funds to test out ideas. In fact, we want to be a one-stop help centre for officers who have brilliant ideas but do not know where to start. 🇸🇬

“ A successful innovation is one that brings in higher productivity, new capabilities or solves existing problems. Though the idea might not be entirely original, it is the successful application of the idea to meet a particular need that matters. ”
– Supt Sim

Mr Florence Nightingale, I Presume?

The usually uneventful drive home was interrupted by an important call from my Team Leader who informed me that I would be attending the Singapore Armed Forces' (SAF) Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course from 12 Jul to 1 Oct 2010.

I had mixed feelings. Whilst I dreaded the prospect of having to face needles, my greatest phobia, I was also glad for the opportunity to hopefully overcome my fears of those dreaded sharp objects.

The 3-month EMT course conducted by the SAF Medical Training Institute, requires participants to study anatomy, physiology, learn to diagnose illnesses and apply the appropriate treatment and to finally perform ten successful intravenous therapies. Course participants would eventually graduate as full-fledged combat medics.

The entire course was split into two components: The service phase and the combat phase.

The service phase of the course was riddled with seemingly endless medical concepts and Greek-like medical terms. Without any foundation in biology, I found the initial weeks of the course extremely challenging. Nevertheless, I continued to give my best and my results eventually improved.

In the combat phase, we had to negotiate weekly route marches ranging from four to ten kilometres while lugging fully loaded medical bags weighing about ten kilograms with a SAR 21 rifle slung on our shoulders.

Towards the end, a combat scenario exercise where participants were required to treat casualties at the frontline and manage a Battalion Casualty Station (BCS) gave us a realistic taste of the stress and chaos that could be experienced at the BCS during a war.

Eventually, my efforts paid off and I was awarded the coveted 'Overall Best Trainee' for the course. In the history of the course, this was the first time a non-SAF participant had won the award.

Aside from the award, the thing I cherish the most from this course was the respect and the close camaraderie with my fellow course participants. Long-lasting friendships were forged during the course and that was what motivated me to give my best.

And my phobia of needles? It is now but a thing of the past. [👉](#)





“ I had mixed feelings. Whilst I dreaded the prospect of having to face needles, my greatest phobia, I was also glad for the opportunity to hopefully overcome my fears of those dreaded sharp objects. ”

– SSgt Goh Chee Sing

Vigilance, Valour and Victory

The elite Special Tactics and Rescue (STAR) unit was formed on 9 November 1993, following a gruelling nine-month selection and training course for its first batch of officers. The first Commanding Officer of STAR was DSP Ng Joo Hee, our Commissioner now.

The STAR unit was initially modelled after the conventional special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team that provides tactical support in apprehending the most dangerous criminals. Operational procedures are never set-in-stone when the difference between life and death is measured in seconds. The STAR unit, as a result, trained to deal with all sorts of barricade and hostage incidents.


The unit is created and constructed around mobility and firepower. It deploys from assault vehicles, tactically-equipped command buses, pursuit vehicles and assault sports utility vehicles fitted with rotating and elevating ladder systems. The unit's mainstay weapon is the Heckler and Koch family of MP5 9mm submachine guns.

The unit divides its operators into specialties — assaulters, snipers and divers. It has developed numerous capabilities for its specific missions, including manual and explosive method-of-entry, counter-suicide bomber, counter-sniper and counter-assault.

In recent years, the STAR unit added another component to its growing order of battle — the Maritime Assault Capability (MAC). The MAC possesses divers and special assault specialists trained to search a suspected ship, execute arrests or carry out hostage-rescue operations.

Indeed, the unit has gained a reputation in the region for producing top-notch operators.

Applicants who clear the initial screening process are put through the basic phase of the STAR main course. This three-month phase prepares them for the 2-week selection phase affectionately known as "Hell Week." Officers who pass are put through the intermediate phase which includes close quarter battle, sniping, diving and assault options training.

Today, the STAR unit possesses a potent array of equipment and capable men ready to administer swift justice onto those inclined to serious crime and terrorism. 



“If you are looking to do something that only a few can be proud of, look no further. The STAR unit is currently looking for the right men to join its ranks. Recruitment details are on the SPF intranet.”

The First of Many Inter-Mess Games

In the finals of the inaugural annual Inter-Mess Soccer tournament for Home Team Departments, organised by the Senior Police Officers' Mess (SPOM), officers from SPOM and Singapore Prison Service (SPS) played an 11-a-side game at the Home Team Academy on 10 January 2011.

Played in league format, SPOM and SPS officers had also played against senior officers from the Singapore Civil Defence Force, Immigration and Checkpoints Authority, Internal Security Department and Central Narcotics Bureau over a three-month period in the lead-up to the finals.

Both sides had strong supporters rallying their teams. SPOM captained by Commissioner of Police, Ng Joo Hee, piled on the pressure but it was SPS who drew first blood. Eight minutes into the first half, SPS broke through the left flank and scored the first goal. SPOM remained undeterred.

There was a light of hope when SPOM's left striker dashed past SPS's defence line on the eighteenth minute, managing a cross to the centre. But the shot was swiftly saved by SPS's goal keeper.

The first half ended with SPS leading by one. Fifteen minutes into the second half, SPOM broke through once again, squeezing in from the right flank, curving in a shot. SPS's goalkeeper was unfazed and performed a beautiful save.

With the match revving up into its final minutes, SPS finished the game with a final push through the centre, sealing the fate of the inaugural first Inter-Mess Games with a final score of 2-0.

The tournament brought together the senior officers for the first time at such a sporting platform and they thoroughly enjoyed the competition and experience. 🏆



“It's heartening to see the officers from the Home Team departments getting to know each other better through sports. We are confident that this will continue for a long time.”

– Chairman SPOM Sports Committee, Superintendent Adrian Sim.



Prevent Crime and Cataract?

Good vision is critical for police officers. Whether on duty or off, a keen eyesight enables our law-enforcers to carry out their everyday tasks effectively.

In this issue, Police Life talks about “cataract”, an eye condition which can be caused by “prolonged exposure to the sun” — a significant part of daily policing.

So, what exactly is cataract? Cataract is one of the leading causes of blindness and is caused by the clouding or yellowing of the clear lens of the eye. In a normal eye, light passes through a transparent lens inside the eye and focuses precisely on the retina, allowing crisp vision. Cataract, however, causes a scattering of light throughout the eye instead of focusing on the retina, which most often results in blurry vision.

Common symptoms of cataract include a painless blurring of vision; glare, or light sensitivity; poor night vision; double visions

in one eye and the fading or yellowing of colours.

The most common cause of cataract is related to aging of the eye. Other causes of cataract can be hereditary; due to injury to the eye; side effects of medications; secondary effects of conditions like diabetes and/or smoking and long-term, unprotected exposure to ultraviolet rays of the sun.

The condition can only be detected through a comprehensive eye examination conducted by certified eye care professionals.

To date, cataract surgery carried out by ophthalmologists seems to be the only proven treatment for cataract. Surgery is normally only required when the sufferer feels that his/her daily lifestyle has been compromised.

There are certain things, however, that you can do to possibly slow the rate at which cataract forms. Annual eye examinations

can help detect cataract and other eye problems at their earliest stages.

Lifestyle and diet changes which might help, include quitting smoking and consuming more fruits and vegetables. Green leafy vegetables, sweet potatoes, elderberries and cranberries are said to be beneficial.

Sunglasses and hats help delay cataract formation by helping to block out harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun. So use them whenever you can, especially if you spend long hours in the sun daily! 📺

Sources:
www.nei.nih.gov/health/cataract/cataract_facts.asp
<http://www.suite101.com/content/fruits-and-vegetables-for-cataracts-a276304>

“Lo Hei!”

The Dish

Yusheng meaning “raw fish” is a Chinese New Year dish, served traditionally on the seventh day of Chinese New Year or Ren Ri (“Everyman’s Birthday”). It is a salad dish made of thin slices of raw fish, vegetables and various spices, mixed by tossing by the diners. A play on Chinese homonyms links the ingredients and tossing to prosperity and longevity, all adding to the good wishes for the new year. Police Life shares with you how it’s done, what to say and what it symbolises and means. Happy lo hei’ing everyone!

Start

Ritual [R]: Offer new year greetings

Say [S]: “Gong xi fa cai !”

Means [M]: Wishing you prosperity.

[R]: Lay fish meat in the middle of the plate.

[S]: “Nian nian you yu,” and “You yu you sheng.”

[M]: Abundance or excess throughout the year.

[R]: Add pomelo pieces over the fish.

[S]: “Da ji da li.”

[M]: To add both luck and auspicious value.

[R]: Add a dash of pepper .

[S]: “Zhao cai jin bao.”

[M]: To attract more money and valuables.

[R]: Pour oil, circling the ingredients

[S]: “Yi ben wan li ,” and “Cai yuan guang jin ,”

[M]: To increase profits by 10,000 times and to encourage money to flow in from all directions.

[R]: Add shredded carrots.

[S]: “Hong yun dang tou.”

[M]: Blessings of good luck.

[R]: Add shredded green radish

[S]: “Qing chun chang zhu.”

[M]: Wishing eternal youth

[R]: Add shredded white radish

[S]: “Feng sheng shui qi,” and “Bu bu gao sheng.”

[M]: Prosperity in business and promotion at work. (yeah!)

[R]: Sprinkle crushed roasted peanuts

[S]: “Jin yin man wu.”

[M]: A household filled with gold and silver; Peanuts also symbolise longevity and eternal youth.

[R]: Sprinkle sesame seeds

[S]: “Sheng yi xing long.”

[M]: A flourishing business.

[R]: Pour over the sweet plum sauce

[S]: “Tian tian mi mi.”

[M]: A sweet beginning to the new year.

[R]: Add deep-fried flour crisps in the shape of golden pillows

[S]: “Pian di huang jin.”

[M]: The whole floor to be filled with gold.

[R]: Toss the salad an auspicious seven times altogether with loud shouts of “lo hei” and other auspicious New Year wishes whilst mixing the ingredients towards the centre.

[S]: “Lo hei!”

[M]: Cantonese for “tossing luck” and an encouragement to push on the good luck of all at the table. 🍴

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This Month in History

1971

SPF was involved in providing security coverage for the first **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting** held between **14 and 22 January**. It was the largest event hosted by Singapore since World War Two then.

1974

On **31 January**, four terrorists hijacked the **passenger ferry, Laju**, in a bid to escape after their attempt to sabotage the Shell refinery on Pulau Bukom failed. **Superintendent Tee Tua Ba**, officer-in-charge of Marine Police, was part of the party of guarantors who took the place of the hostages held captive during the incident.

1981

The **Road Safety Community Park** was officially opened at East Coast Park Service Road on **11 January**. It represents SPF's longest-running road safety programme. Since then, more than a million pupils have benefitted from this programme.

1997

On **25 January**, **Commissioner of Police Tee Tua Ba**, signed the **Police Service Pledge** at the Old Police Academy. The service pledge was made public for the first time, marking a landmark event in SPF.

2003

A Republic of Singapore Navy patrol vessel, the **RSS Courageous**, and merchant ship, ANL Indonesia collided on **3 January**. Six Police Coast Guard officers were awarded the **Medal of Valour** for their involvement in the rescue efforts.

2004

The current 2.8 hectare Police **K-9 unit**, equipped with state of the art training facilities at **Mowbray Road**, was officially opened on **31 January**.