

POLICE  
LIFE

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE  
2019 / ISSUE 05

# 敬徽天职5

之海岸卫队

SPECIAL EDITION



**Courage . Loyalty . Integrity . Fairness .**



# CONTENT SPOTLIGHT



## Crime-Fighting Cast of C.L.I.F. 5

Come 23 September 2019, C.L.I.F. returns for its fifth season! Besides zooming in on the role of the Police Coast Guard (PCG) in safeguarding Singapore's territorial waters, C.L.I.F. 5 also showcases how the PCG works alongside various SPF units to fight crime and counter terror threats on land. To know more about the artistes and the respective police roles they play, keep reading as we bring you the inside scoop on their experiences!

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## The 'Force' Behind C.L.I.F. 5

Want to know more about the 'Force' behind the production of this 20-episode police drama? *Police Life* shares with you the thoughts and experiences from the team of officers who is the real driving 'Force' in bringing this drama to life!

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## The Real Deal Behind the Screen

Nothing beats hearing the truth from the real deal! *Police Life* spoke to our very own Police Coast Guard officers who shared with us their experiences and what keeps them going!

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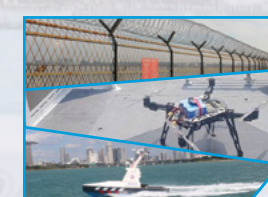
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# 敬啟者天賦5

## 警徽之海岸巡邏

### Character Map



STS: Special Task Squadron  
SIS: Special Investigation Section

### SYNOPSIS

Photos: Mediacorp

Ever since the mysterious death of a fugitive, Inspector (Insp) Wong Man Ting (Rebecca Lim) from the Police Coast Guard and Insp Seow Feng Chek (Pierre Png) from the Criminal Investigation Department found their lives taking a turn for the worse while investigating a series of murders. To top it off, both officers found themselves embroiled in a string of terror conspiracies against Singapore.

Before you catch all the action in C.I.F. 5, check out the rundown on their roles and relations above!



# Crime-Fighting Cast of C.L.I.F. 5

By J. Jaidurga  
(Photos: Public Affairs Department)

*The wait is finally over! The Singapore Police Force (SPF) has once again collaborated with Mediacorp to bring you the latest season of C.L.I.F.! The longest-running Channel 8 drama serial that goes as far as a fifth season, this action-packed drama continues to tug at viewers' heartstrings with stories that revolve around the lives of police officers who dedicate themselves to keeping Singapore safe and secure. Centred on the core values of courage, loyalty, integrity and fairness, C.L.I.F. 5 zooms in on the role of the Police Coast Guard (PCG) in safeguarding Singapore's territorial waters. Working seamlessly as one Force, C.L.I.F. 5 also showcases how the PCG works together with the various SPF departments to fight crime and counter terror threats on land.*

*Debuting on 23 September 2019, be sure to catch the stellar performances of the new-yet-not-so-new cast in C.L.I.F. 5 who took on the roles as men and women in blue. For now, let us welcome the cast to take centre stage as they give us the inside scoop on their experiences acting as reel officers!*



REBECCA LIM

In the first season of C.L.I.F. in 2011, Rebecca played a forensics officer who appeared in just five scenes. Fast forward eight years later, Rebecca Lim has dived back into C.L.I.F. 5 as the lead actress, Inspector (Insp) Wong Man Ting, a PCG Team Leader (TL) in the PCG Brani Regional Base. Rebecca describes her character as a steadfast TL, an understanding colleague and a filial daughter. "Insp Wong is one of the strongest and most challenging characters I have played to date," said Rebecca as she points towards C.L.I.F. 5 as one of her toughest undertakings to date. She shares with us about the challenges she faced while filming and how she felt empowered donning the same set of gear as her male counterparts.

*Thank you for giving me this huge honour of donning this very prestigious uniform and for allowing me to be a part of your SPF family, even if it is just for this moment. Thank you for your patience throughout this production and the immense support you have been to all of us. I truly appreciate all that you have sacrificed to keep us safe and sound. Singapore would not be the same without you.*

## What was the toughest challenge that you faced while filming?

Managing my seasickness was my greatest challenge. Out of the entire cast, my seasickness was the worst. The days we spent out at sea were the toughest as just an hour of seafaring was enough to make me vomit my guts out. I am really astonished that the PCG officers can last for 16 hours straight out at sea in all kinds of sea and weather conditions! To be honest, I never managed to overcome the seasickness, but it did get better. I made it a point to start the day right with a positive mindset, telling myself and the rest of the crew that it would be a good day and I would not get seasick. Whether or not it would eventually turn out that way, I believe that preparing yourself psychologically goes a long way.

## How did it feel having to don the full Emergency Response Team (ERT) suit just like your male counterparts?

It felt really empowering to see that female police officers are physically able to do what their male counterparts can! I became living proof! For one of the scenes, I was able to wear the full ERT suit with all the firearms for one and a half hours under the scorching heat while some of the male actors would take them off from time to time for a breather. It felt like an achievement which I could be proud of, but I also recognise that this would probably be tougher for real police officers, especially the female ERT officers because the armour plates in the suit are quite hefty. It gets worse when you feel tired. I cannot imagine how they are able to wear such hefty gear and still execute their tactical moves swiftly.



PIERRE PNG

In this season of C.L.I.F., the actor who previously took on villain roles in C.L.I.F. 2 and 3 makes a comeback after five years, and this time, as one of the good guys! Playing the lead actor, Insp Seow Feng Chek, a Senior Investigation Officer in the Criminal Investigation Department's (CID) Special Investigation Section (SIS), Pierre describes his character as someone who is intense, focussed, determined and driven to be the best that he can be. But no matter how strong one can be, every human being has weaknesses. For Insp Seow, his daughter is his kryptonite. Pierre takes us through the training he underwent and the challenges he faced while filming.

*From what I can see, the SPF is one big happy family! It is not an easy job, but you guys are the chosen few and I admire your courage, loyalty, integrity and fairness in keeping our streets and citizens safe. You are not alone; the whole of Singapore stands with you and appreciates what you are doing. \*Salute\**

## Tell us more about the training you underwent prior to filming.

The SPF was very helpful in providing us with the essential training for our roles such as weapons handling and investigation protocols. We had to familiarise ourselves with the functions of the weapon while learning how to correctly hold, aim and shoot the way a real-life police officer would. Besides the close supervision, our trainer from the SIS shared expert knowledge on how SIS officers tactically move while armed and how they would cover one another while drawing their weapons. I quickly realise that my preconceptions of gun handling from movies were very different from the reality of the protocols that SPF officers stand guided by. The training made me realise that the SPF is very decisive and firm when handling an incident, but at the same time, they constantly ensure that their responses do not cross the line.

## What was the toughest challenge that you faced while filming?

Shooting accurately while on the move was really not easy. Emptying a magazine was easier at the firing range when we were stationary because you could just release the magazine and change it immediately without worrying about where it would end up. However, releasing and reloading the magazines while negotiating and manoeuvring around obstacles is much tougher as we had to do it faster so that we would not end up dropping the magazines while on the move. That took a little more getting used to for me.





SHANE POW

Starring as Senior Staff Sergeant (SSSgt) Lee Xiao Rong, a PCG Deputy Crew Commander from the PCG Brani Regional Base, actor Shane Pow believes that his character is the epitome of what C.L.I.F. stands for - Courage, Loyalty, Integrity and Fairness. Since young, SSSgt Lee's dream has always been to fight crime and help those in need. Shane shares with us the most challenging parts of the training he underwent for his role and the revelations he made about the Police Force while playing his part.

*Thank you for keeping us safe every day, not just from internal threats within Singapore but also deterring possible external threats attempting to enter the country. Your dedication to the nation is one of the reasons why I can proudly say that I am a Singaporean when I am overseas because you have made it such a safe place for us. Thanks for being our everyday heroes and heroines!*

#### What was the toughest challenge you faced during training?

The toughest part was the weapons handling training where I had to don the full ERT gear and manoeuvre around with a rifle. While I did have some experience handling a rifle during my National Service, I still encounter difficulty remembering the protocols. It did not help that I also had to learn to fire a pistol on top of a rifle. While it may look simple in the movies, it took quite a while for me to grasp the correct technique. Thanks to the PCG officers on set, I was able to get it right as whenever they noticed that we had made a mistake while filming, they would patiently explain to us the correct procedures and protocols, and give us the necessary guidance.

#### What is your greatest takeaway from filming C.L.I.F. 5?

I have gained a newfound admiration for our police officers. After the past few months of acting as a police officer, the job is not as simple as one could possibly imagine. Behind that professional and stern image that officers carry when they don their uniforms, there is an incredible amount of training, discipline and commitment that they have to possess in order to discharge their duties effectively. Although what we had undergone to portray our role was just a slice of the pie, I am glad to have gained this experience.



HE YING YING

Playing the role of Sergeant (Sgt) Lek Si Min, a PCG Trainee from the PCG Brani Regional Base who eventually gets posted out to Insp Wong Man Ting's team, actress He Ying Ying shares that her role as Sgt Lek is very different from herself. To Ying Ying, Sgt Lek is a highly-determined individual who is able to achieve anything that she sets her mind on. A complete opposite of the character she portrays, Ying Ying proclaims that she is more laid-back as compared to Sgt Lek's competitive character. Ying Ying gives us more insights into the challenges she faced while playing the role of a police officer for the first time.



*Sometimes, policing can be a thankless job since we do not see the hard work and effort that goes into it. It is because the SPF does their work well that we feel safe without having to worry about becoming victims of crime. I really appreciate and would like to take this opportunity to thank the SPF for keeping all of us safe!*



#### What was the toughest challenge you faced while filming?

The most challenging part for me was looking the part. As I have a more petite frame as compared to the rest of the cast, I found it difficult to look stern and intimidating in the way that I have to carry myself as Sgt Lek. I also faced difficulties acting out certain scenes because of my height and build. There was this time when we were filming on board a PCG boat and I had difficulty rushing out through a doorway with a very tall door kerb. Since my legs are relatively short \*chuckles\*, I tripped over the door kerb and fell. I was left with a really bad bruising on both my knees!

#### Share with us your most memorable experience filming C.L.I.F. 5.

It has to be meeting the physical demands that was required of the character I played. I used to think that wielding a gun was very simple, but my perception was proven otherwise. Not only was the gun very heavy, all the modifications added to it made it more challenging for me to carry the gun. Moreover, my arms are not very long, so holding the gun steady and close to me while trying to look good was really tough and tiring.



NICK TEO

Played by Nick Teo, Sgt Seow Yi Shou is a Police trainee who is subsequently posted to the PCG's Lim Chu Kang Regional Base, and finds that his overconfidence is a double-edged sword. At times, this confidence helps to boost his determination to effectively complete his tasks, but it can also make him complacent in carrying out routine tasks. Nick takes us through the challenges he faced while training and how he got into character.



*Singapore is very safe because of the SPF and how they deter possible threats that go unseen by many of us. I truly respect and am thankful for the SPF's commitment to keeping Singapore a safe country!*



#### What was the toughest challenge you faced during training?

I found the PCG trainee test to be the most challenging. The toughest part was wearing the full ERT suit and carrying a rifle up a long flight of stairs, which was approximately seven storeys high! It was very physically draining, especially in this heat. I remember feeling so dizzy and weakened after the exhausting climb that I had to rest before continuing with the rest of the shoot.

#### How did you prepare yourself for your character?

The character that I played is someone who is extremely confident in his abilities. He is an extrovert who enjoys spontaneity. He is someone who can just walk up to any random person on the street and get their contact details. I am the complete opposite as I tend to be more reserved. To get into my character, I had to constantly "hype" myself up, five to 10 minutes before the actual shoot by teasing my co-actors and cracking lame jokes. This really helped me to loosen up and portray my role more convincingly.





JOEL CHOO

"I think many boys, at some point in their lives, dream of becoming a police officer and I am definitely one of them," said Joel Choo when *Police Life* spoke to him about his experience filming for C.L.I.F. 5. Joel stars as SSSgt Aden Thiam, a group leader of the Special Task Squadron (STS) in the PCG. He believes that his character is an accurate depiction of the officers in STS, as he gives insights into his filming challenges and what he learnt about the STS.

**"In many instances, we are not aware of the sheer amount of hard work and sacrifices police officers have to put in every day. Thank you so much for keeping us safe!"**

#### What was the toughest challenge you faced during filming?

The most challenging part was getting used to wearing the heavy operational gear. STS officers are always geared up for their missions and trainings. Being suited up while carrying heavy weapons under the hot sun was really challenging and draining. I had a body double from STS who took over my role for wide shots so I could rest while he did his takes in full gear. Being a real STS officer is no mean feat. This is a job that is definitely not for the faint-hearted. The courage, strength and endurance of the STS is truly remarkable!

#### What is your greatest takeaway from filming C.L.I.F. 5?

STS officers are always on their toes, whether they are deployed or off-duty. On missions, they are a very focussed and coordinated band of brothers. During their breaks, they are a close-knit bunch of buddies who chill together. Their camaraderie, teamwork and friendship is key to their success.



RAYSON TAN

Meet Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Wong Ser Tong from the SIS, played by actor Rayson Tan. As the Officer-in-Charge of the investigation team, DSP Wong brims with experience and courage even in the face of complex cases. Despite his firm disposition, DSP Wong has a soft spot for his daughter, Insp Man Ting from the PCG. Rayson describes the challenges he encountered while portraying his role and the motivations behind his character's behaviour.

**"I truly respect police officers for exemplifying the values of courage, loyalty, integrity and fairness. Our officers constantly strive for excellence as they are motivated by a strong sense of responsibility, discipline and most importantly, the camaraderie that binds them together to achieve their common goals. They swiftly respond to any situation, be it in uniform or not. They work hard to maintain a strong relationship of trust with the public as they continue to safeguard our every day."**

#### What was the toughest challenge you faced during training?

The weapons handling test and, in particular, the quick drawing of a holstered pistol was a tedious challenge to overcome. Even though I had gone through such tests during the filming of C.L.I.F. 1, it was still a struggle for me to execute these moves. It really took a lot of concentration and practice to finally be able to swiftly draw a pistol and aim in a realistic and professional manner. Now, I can imagine the struggle that police officers have to go through and it is indeed challenging to be able to perform such tasks in real high-stake scenarios.

#### How did you prepare yourself for your character?

I wanted my portrayal of DSP Wong to be realistic and relatable for police officers who watch this drama. To achieve this, I carefully parsed through all the lines in my scripts and thought through the emotions and expressions that are in sync with an actual officer's logic and instincts. I wanted to humanise my role by not being overly dramatic so that it would be relatable to police officers.



KAYLY LOH

A warm welcome to the newest member of the CID's SIS team! Played by Kayly Loh, Sgt Peh Xue Ying, an investigation officer from the SIS, injects life and colour into an otherwise serious police department. Kayly describes her character as bubbly and cheerful, yet impulsive. She worked hard to get into the SIS because of her idol, Insp Seow, and hopes to be just like him someday. Kayly tells *Police Life* more about the training she underwent before playing her role and the difficulties she faced during the training.

**"Thank you for keeping us so safe that often we forget that it takes so many people working silently behind the scenes to maintain the peace and security of our country. We must not take this for granted and I salute every single one of you!"**

#### Tell us more about the training you underwent prior to filming.

We had the opportunity to attend a weapons handling training where we learnt how to use the pistol. We were trained on how to hold a pistol, how to load and reload a magazine, and how we should position ourselves when handling a pistol. Honestly, this is not as easy as what you see in the movies. There are certain techniques and strict protocols to follow. We also had the chance to be at an outdoor live firing range where we got to use live rounds for training. This was quite an experience for me. I feel that women have fewer chances than men to experience live firing as we do not have to serve National Service. I considered myself very fortunate to be able to undertake this police role and this experience is one that I will never forget!

#### What was the toughest challenge you faced during filming?

This might sound funny, but I have really small hands and gripping the gun properly was really challenging for me. But what was even tougher than that was unloading the magazine because my thumb and middle finger could not reach the catch which was at the bottom of the gun's handle. I constantly had to readjust my grip to be able to release the magazine and doing this made me lose the proper grip every time. We also had to execute these moves as if it was from muscle memory despite only a few sessions of training. The most challenging part of all was when we were told not to look at our hands or the gun while handling it!



# From Reel to Real: Police Training for the Artistes

By Syam Roslan  
(Photos: Public Affairs Department)

Being a police officer is no walk in the park, even if you are only acting as one. To inject a sense of realism into the drama series, the artistes had to undergo a series of induction training – ranging from weapons handling to Police Defence Tactics – to equip them with the necessary skills and techniques needed to portray their roles. See how our reel officers were put through their paces in our exclusive behind-the-scenes photos from their training sessions!



Pistol training for Pierre at the live firing range.



Kayly gets to feel the real power of a pistol.



Nick bracing himself for a trust fall out at sea!



Joel undergoing training with the PCG's Special Task Squadron.



The Police Coast Guard (PCG) trainer getting Shane and Nick into the 'right' posture when handling the HKMP5 submachine gun.



Rebecca receiving basic Police Defence Tactics training.



Weapons handling training for our reel officers.



Ready, steady, swing! Ying Ying getting ready to charge ahead.



# The Making of C.L.I.F. 5

By Irwan Shah  
(Photos: Public Affairs Department)

***"We have to strike a balance between drama and reality, and marry this with actual police protocols. It has to be done harmoniously and more importantly, we have to keep an open mind. That is the biggest challenge right from the beginning," said Ms Loh Woon Woon, the Executive Producer of C.L.I.F. 5.***

***Apart from balancing reality and dramatisation, the filming work for C.L.I.F. 5 was probably one of the most challenging productions for the Mediacorp production team and the artistes. Read on to find out more from the Executive Producer and Directors!***

## Starting from Scratch

When the concept for C.L.I.F. 5 was first mooted some time back in mid-2018, the team was mentally prepared for the challenges based on the experiences from the past four seasons of the C.L.I.F. police drama. But they soon realised that this time, the challenges have gone up another level as a lot of the filming work would be out at sea as C.L.I.F. 5 focusses on the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) Police Coast Guard (PCG) and what they do to protect Singapore's territorial waters.

Preparations began in October 2018 with the research team spending an extensive amount of time conducting ground research with the PCG and other SPF units. Apart from understanding the daytime operations, the team had to also understand what goes on after the sun sets. Together with the SPF's C.L.I.F. 5 project team from the Public Affairs Department (PAD), the team also invested a lot of effort and time scouting for suitable filming locations all over Singapore, both on land and at sea. While the research was important for the development of the storyline, it was also equally important for their risk assessments as filming out at sea for high action scenes would be a totally different ball game for the Mediacorp team and artistes.

*"There are different lingos and jargons used in our individual industries so when SPF personnel and production crew communicate, we often slip into using our regular lingos and end up*

*not understanding each other. Thus, communication was a major obstacle at the initial stage but we got better as the production progressed,"* quipped Ms Koh Shu Yi, one of the directors of C.L.I.F. 5.

The selection of the cast was also extensively discussed between Mediacorp and the SPF to ensure a good mix of new and veteran faces as well as their suitability for the roles. With all the information gathered, the team then started on the scripting for the 20-episode drama. This was yet another intensive and challenging task as the balance between dramatisation versus reality was not always aligned between the Mediacorp team and the SPF units. After rounds of 'negotiation' and deliberation plus several dashes of open mindedness and creativity, the script was finally perfected and approved after six months of preparation work!



Photo: Executive Producer, Loh Woon Woon

*"Since the writers are not police trained, it is like throwing them a blank piece of paper. They need to put in their own imagination and it has to be realistic,"* elaborated Woon Woon. *"There is also a need for clear communication among the writers, the creative team, the SPF and myself. Balancing the elements of drama, reality and protocols has to be done harmoniously."*

## Getting Ready

With the approved storyline and script, Woon Woon dove right into the filming preparations. To ensure that they made it on time for its debut date, the filming had to be done concurrently by two different directors, one for the land scenes and one for the sea scenes. On top of the tight schedule, the weather and sea conditions had to be factored in to ensure the safety of everyone involved. Nevertheless, they could only keep their fingers crossed and hoped for the best as any delays could potentially affect the debut date, increase their production budget and affect the schedules of all the artistes involved.

The next most important aspect was the training for the cast acting in police roles. Even though they were experienced and professional actors, learning the various police protocols and techniques was no easy feat as their training was only several crash courses due to the actors' limited schedule.



Director, Koh Shu Yi

*"Our artistes are very professional. Knowing that C.L.I.F. is a long-standing series, they hold themselves to high standards. Other than getting the techniques right at the police training sessions, the actors must always be on their toes since they are portraying themselves as police officers,"* added Woon Woon.

The correct portrayal of their police roles was certainly a huge challenge as the actors had to walk a fine line between popular appeal and professional image. With the help of the SPF C.L.I.F. 5 project team, the actors got to interact with the actual police officers in the roles they were playing to understand their 'typical police behaviour'. Woon Woon further elaborated that as she was responsible for sculpting the character's personality, she had to impose some limitations on their acting, to maintain that balance.

## Lights, Camera, Action

On 10 April, the two directors, Mr Oh Liang Cai and Ms Koh Shu Yi, kick-started the filming. As Shu Yi has seasickness, all the land scenes were undertaken by her while Liang Cai got to 'enjoy' the sun, the rain and the sea. As expected, the filming process was fraught with many challenges, especially when the crew was out at sea. The weather was, at times, especially unforgiving, and the long filming hours and extreme heat were even more gruelling in turbulent waters, which often induced seasickness among the team and artistes. Once seasickness occurs, they have to pause the filming and

allow the team to rest. Owing to the delays caused by bad weather and seasickness, there were several sessions where filming overran. But they had no choice as they had to fulfil the callsheet, which lists down the scenes to be filmed for the day. The schedule was really tight and it was also very costly to extend another day of filming out at sea.

*"We are often working at the mercy of the weather and sea conditions. On a typical day, we spend more than 10 hours under the hot sun. If it rains, we would not be able to shoot and have to wait inside the boats or take shelter at nearby islands,"* recalled Liang Cai.

Liang Cai also shared that another huge challenge was the positioning of the cameras on the boat to ensure that the action-packed scenes were well-captured without compromising the

safety of those involved.

*"Filming out at sea was uncharted territory for most of us in the production team,"* explained Liang Cai. *"The main challenge was to find a proper and effective way to mount our cameras on the PCG boats to capture the high-speed boat chase scenes while working with tight-space limitations. We also had to ensure the safety of the team when filming as the boats can easily reach a speed of up to more than 50 knots (92 kilometres per hour) while manoeuvring at acute angles."*

## Wrapping Up

On 30 July, after four gruelling months, the filming was finally completed and the two teams from SPF and Mediacorp celebrated their success with a Wrap Up Party filled with laughter and good food!

Looking back on the entire process, Woon Woon and the two directors reiterated that this was one of their most challenging projects thus far. However, the journey was an enriching one as they gained new experience, learnt a lot more about what the SPF does in keeping Singapore safe, and most importantly, made many new police friends along the way!



Director, Oh Liang Cai







9月23日起  
周一至五 晚上9:00

9月16日起  
优先观看

林慧玲 方展发 杨一展 包勋评 何盈莹 罗美仪 谢俊峰  
陈泰铭 卢传瑾 张鈞洧 朱哲伟 许美珍 郭亮 潘玲玲

监制：罗温温 总编剧：林锦兰



# 警徽天职5

不惧风浪的无名英雄  
海域防线的守护使者



# The 'Force' Behind C.L.I.F. 5

By Irwan Shah  
(Photos: Public Affairs Department)

*As shared by the Mediacorp production crew and artistes, the production of C.L.I.F. 5 was one of their most challenging projects to date. These challenges were equally shared by a dedicated team of officers from the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) Public Affairs Department who was responsible for bringing this drama to life! Read on to find out the thoughts and experiences from the 'Force' behind C.L.I.F. 5!*



**Rank/Name:** Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP)  
**Winson Ng (a.k.a The Papa Bear)**  
**Role:** Head Special Projects

to constantly look up the dictionary and relied on my teammates to explain the various scenes to me.

When I was more settled in, I

taking cues from the actors. Though my scenes and lines were pretty limited, it soon got rather tiring and monotonous after so many takes. In my mind, I thought to myself, 'Thank goodness I am not an actor!'.

The most memorable moments were the times when we explored 'lesser-known' filming locations. We went to places that I would have never known or gone to if not for this project. A good example was when we had to film some scenes on Kusu Island and Lazarus Island. It was my first time on these islands and I felt like a tourist in my own country! This project has given me a very refreshing and enriching experience. If there is a C.L.I.F. 6 in the future, I would definitely want to be in it, but right from the start!



I head the PAD Special Projects Team which was tasked to work with Mediacorp to produce C.L.I.F. 5. On top of our role as the SPF's gatekeeper of police protocols and branding, we also had to ensure that all manpower and logistical requirements were ready for the daily shoots. In my entire 20 years of police career, I have never been involved in such media projects. Thus, it was pretty challenging for me to adapt to my role since I joined the team midway through the project. The learning curve was extremely steep as the filming was already in progress and the schedule was really tight. I had to quickly get up to speed and the first task was to understand the entire drama plot. I spent nights reading through the 20 episodes of Chinese script. This was particularly challenging as my proficiency of the language is still rather basic. I had

started visiting filming sites to familiarise myself with the production. I had always been serving on the frontline throughout my police career. I never knew that my frontline police knowledge would one day become useful in such projects, which is to ensure that the on-screen depictions of police officers are accurate. That aside, I also had the opportunity to cameo in C.L.I.F. 5!

It was weird to me at first – the acting – since I was pulled out of my comfort zone. I played the role of a Deputy Head of Investigation in one of the scenes and my only line of dialogue was 'Yes Sir!'. I did not think much about it and went with the flow until I realised that the same scene had to be shot repeatedly from many different camera angles. I sat there and repeated 'Yes Sir!' countless times while

**Rank/Name:** Inspector (Insp) Brenda Yeo (a.k.a The Nanny)  
**Role:** Project Coordinator

I was known as 'The Nanny' because my job scope covered the end-to-end process for the entire production. From paper work (planning) to hands-on work (execution), my 'paw' prints were all over the place. Coming from a frontline posting with no experience or formal training in media production, it was really daunting at first, especially when you know that the past four seasons of C.L.I.F. were highly successful. The expectations were high but I was really grateful to have patient and supportive bosses and colleagues from the Public Affairs Department who were always

there to provide the needful guidance and support.

The nature of my role required me to be always on my toes as I was the 'lifeline' between all the stakeholders, be it to Mediacorp or the various SPF units. Hectic would be an understatement to describe the entire experience. My mobile phone was constantly ringing or beeping with messages that all required immediate attention. At some point, I nearly went berserk trying to plug all the holes and firefight at the same time! But I soon learnt that I had to stay focussed, stay calm and



prioritise what needed to be dealt with urgently. All these had to be done even when I was on-site supervising the filming to ensure that all police protocols and branding guidelines were adhered to.

Since the start of the project, the biggest challenge that I faced was balancing the reality and dramatisation needs of the SPF and Mediacorp respectively. There were occasions where Mediacorp would want to dramatise certain police scenes and actions for better visual and story appeal. As far as possible, we would keep an open mind and try to push the boundaries of creativity. However, we had to be also mindful not to give the public an inaccurate portrayal of our police protocols and techniques. When such situations occurred, we would have to consult the relevant units to understand the actual protocols involved and work with Mediacorp to achieve a win-win situation. However, it was not always possible as we had to abide by established protocols. One example involved a scene of the police attending to a hanging incident.



My family members were flabbergasted to learn that I jumped off the second storey of a building! Frankly, I was not at all prepared for this stunt as I was only told to cameo for some supporting roles. Although taking the leap at such a height is nothing compared to the arduous training that I had in my previous posting with the Police Security Command, I could feel my heart pounding really quickly when I stood by the ledge preparing to take my plunge. In three counts, I landed with a thud. I opened my eyes and there I was lying on the safety mattress – alive in one piece! \*chuckles\* What an exhilarating first attempt, cameoing for a drama!

That was not the only first for me. This was the first time I was given the opportunity to be involved in a SPF media production project that is going on national TV! As a project coordinator, my key role was to oversee the filming

Mediacorp had scripted it in such a way for the police to set up a cordon first around the scene to prevent members of the public from entering and contaminating evidence. This seems logical but in reality, we were trained to always first check for any signs of life in the victim so that we can render immediate help. Eventually, Mediacorp was convinced and made the necessary adjustments.

When I took on this project, I never thought that I would make so many new friends, especially with the Mediacorp artistes. I first met the artistes during imaging, where we had to work on the 'look' of the character on scene. I was cautious initially about getting too comfortable with them, and they were cautious too \*chuckles\*. However, as time went by, we got closer and more comfortable with each other, and I got to see a different side to the artistes. They are actually very easy-going people with no airs, just like my colleagues in the Force. We became a mini-family, often cracking jokes, laughing together, and having meals together after a long

**Rank/Name:** Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP)  
**Desmond Song (a.k.a The Stuntman)**  
**Role:** Project Coordinator

of the scenes involving the Police Coast Guard (PCG) where I had to ensure that the police protocols and SPF branding guidelines were adhered to. Owing to my operational experience, I also had to guide the artistes on the correct techniques to handle and operate certain firearms as well as tactical movements. This project is especially meaningful for me as I know that my efforts contributed to the success of the project, and the Mediacorp artistes, production crew and my SPF colleagues were dependent on me to ensure that the production was carried out smoothly. Besides keeping tabs on police protocols and branding issues, I was also responsible for the arrangement of firearms required for the filming. This was a very serious responsibility as we were using real firearms and I needed to ensure that the safety of the users, who were the Mediacorp artistes, were well taken care of. Apart from the safety aspect, I also had to ensure that the correct firearms were being collected for each filming session as any errors could upset the entire filming schedule which would have cost and resource implications.

As many of our scenes were out at sea, the biggest challenge was the weather and sea conditions. You could have everything planned out but a change in weather or sea conditions could totally disrupt the filming schedule, which would cause filming overruns and prolong the entire filming duration. Such overruns would

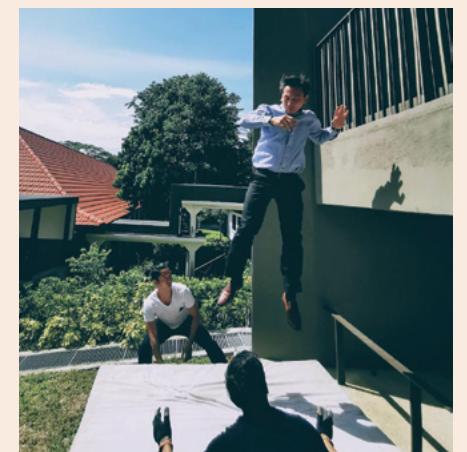
day's work. This part is the same as what I have experienced in my police career! The long hours that we spent together helped to forge camaraderie as we battled the everyday challenges on set. At the end of the day, the outcome was much more than just a 45-minute drama.

Now that the production has come to an end, I do not know if I will ever get the same opportunity again in the future. However, I am very thankful to be involved in this project. The C.L.I.F. 5 journey is definitely one of the highlights in my career!



also affect the PCG resources which were crucial for their operations. I am grateful to have had the understanding and immense support from our PCG colleagues. They were always patient and would help to make the necessary arrangements to achieve the required filming requirements. The unforgivingly scorching weather was also very draining on all of us.

After 100 days of filming, our mission was accomplished! The key takeaway for me was not just the completion of my work. It was the friendships that were built over the entire process. We had lots of laughter and fun, but we also had moments of disagreements. However, all of us were aligned in our mission and our hearts were in the right place, which was to deliver the best police drama in Singapore!







# Stars of the Force

By J. Jaidurga and Hadi Hafidz  
(Photos: Public Affairs Department)

**C.L.I.F. 5 is getting a dose of reality with its force of reel and real officers. Meet the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) very own 'celebrities' below, dishing out their roles and unforgettable on-screen moments.**

## Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Leslie Kang

I played the role of an Investigation Officer (IO) from the Criminal Investigation Department in C.L.I.F. 5 and that brought back bittersweet memories of my IO foundation posting in Ang Mo Kio Division some 15 years ago. As opposed to my on-screen role, I currently serve as the Chief Investigation Officer with the Traffic Police, supporting the Head Investigation in overseeing the running of our Investigation Service Centre.

Apart from some stage drama in secondary school, I have had no experience in acting. As such, taking on the role in C.L.I.F. 5 was both interesting and challenging. For instance, scenes on case discussion involving long complicated dialogues were not easy to perfect. It was helpful to truly engage in the discussion rather than to merely regurgitate the lines. In the show, I was also required to assist my senior, Pierre Png, in the re-enactments of certain crime scenes. In one particular scene, I had to be 'strangled' by Pierre with some true force to make it realistic. Fortunately, the scene was perfected within two to three takes! There were also some light-hearted moments. I remember an overnight filming session at Labrador Park which was particularly trying. It was a dark gloomy night with the perfect ambience for a solemn scene... save for an odd crowing rooster that kept interrupting our takes! While that was a little disruptive, it certainly cracked the team up whenever the rooster crowed.

The filming of C.L.I.F. 5 had been a very unique and memorable experience. I feel honoured to be involved and am very thankful to have supportive bosses and colleagues who made this possible. I am also impressed by the professionalism and camaraderie of the Mediacorp crew. Seeing myself on-screen for the first time feels a little strange, but I hope that my acting is convincing enough.



## Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) (V) Matthew Yap

I played the role of a Police Coast Guard Command Centre (POLCOM) Team Leader who was responsible for overseeing coastal surveillance from the command centre and relaying distress messages to the PCG patrol boats for response. In reality, I am actually a Volunteer Special Constabulary (VSC) officer with the PCG overseeing the administration and training for PCG's VSC officers.

As a VSC officer, I am honoured and privileged to once again be part of the SPF cast in this production. This season had been an amazing experience. In fact, C.L.I.F. 5 was more challenging than before as I had more lines and screen time. Besides memorising the lines, I also made an effort to visualise the expressions that my character needed on set. On the actual filming day, we still did over 10 takes of the same scene, from various angles. Sometimes, there were even two cameras shooting at the same time. Regardless of the number of retakes, we had to keep our energy level high to ensure that we looked our best on screen.

Although the filming process was tough, I am glad to have been given this opportunity to do my part for the Force. While I have seen the PCG officers in action in the command centre, reciting similar lines while trying to look natural walking around in the POLCOM compound

required consistent effort and focus. Looking relaxed in an unfamiliar place, is not as easy as we imagined when watching our favourite actors on screen. You need to be composed as you immerse yourself in the role while mentally filtering stares from the crew and actors behind the camera. This was another pressure that I had to learn to overcome and I am glad that I could do it. The experience was all worthwhile. Enjoy C.L.I.F. 5!



## Sergeant (Sgt) Sky Lian Yong Ming

I played the role of Head Manpower in the PCG where I was responsible for planning the respective patrol teams' manpower needs alongside the PCG Team Leaders. In reality, I am a Ground Response Force (GRF) officer at Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC), where I attend to '999' calls and conduct police patrols to ensure the safety of my jurisdiction.

Although this is my second time acting in C.L.I.F., it still felt like a brand new experience for me. Besides exploring a different role, I was also given the chance to row with the SPF's dragon boat team, which I had no prior experience with and had to learn on the spot. The physical challenge was real! As part of a dragon boat competition scene, we had to row hard for several rounds under the scorching sun in Bedok Reservoir so that the camera crew could capture different angles. I recall that we did four takes. It was really exhausting but fun and exciting at the same time! Now I know how resilient our SPF dragon boaters are!

While filming was tiring, I really enjoyed the experience as I learnt a great deal about what it meant by 'striving

for excellence!' The actors and production crew demanded a very high level of standards from themselves. Even the slightest imperfection would not be accepted. I am truly inspired by their spirit!





### Sergeant (Sgt) Isabella Then Li Ling

I played the role of an Investigation Officer (IO). In reality, I am a GRF officer at Jurong East NPC where I patrol the neighbourhoods to prevent, deter and detect crime.

As an IO in C.L.I.F. 5, I had two scenes. The first scene showed me escorting a victim out of the Police Cantonment Complex while the second scene showed me updating my teammates, Inspector Seow (Pierre Png), and Sergeant Peh (Kayly Loh), on the details of a crime case.

This is my first time acting in a TV drama. Although I was not given any lines, I felt really nervous acting alongside the seasoned artistes. I was also worried about causing retakes from my mistakes. But the artistes were very patient and supportive throughout the filming. They even guided me on how to make my acting look realistic.

I was especially surprised to learn that filming a scene that is only 10 to 15 seconds long, can actually take many hours to perfect. This is not only because of acting mishaps, but also because some scenes are required to be shot from many angles to ensure that the crew will have more perspectives of the scene for the editing

process. This experience has definitely enriched my perspectives in life!



### Senior Staff Sergeant (SSSgt) Benjamin Cheah Fook Yeong

I played the role of a PCG patrol officer, SSSgt Alvin Ang Jin Yun from the PCG Brani Regional Base, who worked under the supervision of Insp Wong Man Ting (Rebecca Lim). In reality, I am a Community Policing Unit (CPU) officer with Woodlands East NPC where I mainly conduct proactive interactive patrols, SGSecure house visits and follow up on cases under my precinct.

The media scene is not something that I am unfamiliar with. I started acting in primary school and was involved in a couple of Channel 8 drama productions. Since then, I stopped and only began acting again when I was casted for various SPF in-house video productions, SPF recruitment television commercials and Crimewatch. I first acted in C.L.I.F. 4 where I played the role of an IO.

In C.L.I.F. 5, I spent most of the time filming out at sea and at various Singapore offshore islands. From pursuing fugitives on foot to performing high-speed boat chase scenes, C.L.I.F. 5 was really an exciting experience for me! I also had the opportunity to undergo training with the Mediacorp artistes at the PCG Brani Regional Base to prepare for our roles. We went through basic weapons handling training and



it was different from the training that I had received as a GRF officer. As on-screen PCG officers, we had to learn how to handle other weapons such as the HK-MP5 and M4 Carbine in addition to pistols and revolvers.

Filming can be really tiring. For one of the night scenes that required us to perform the duties of the Coastal Hardening Strike Force, filming lasted till the break of dawn. We were all exhausted but we were happy to have completed the filming mission. At the end of the day, it was the C.L.I.F. spirit that kept us going, throughout the filming. I am thankful for the opportunity to be part of this production.

### Special Constable Sergeant (Sc/Sgt) Sam Lee Wei Lin

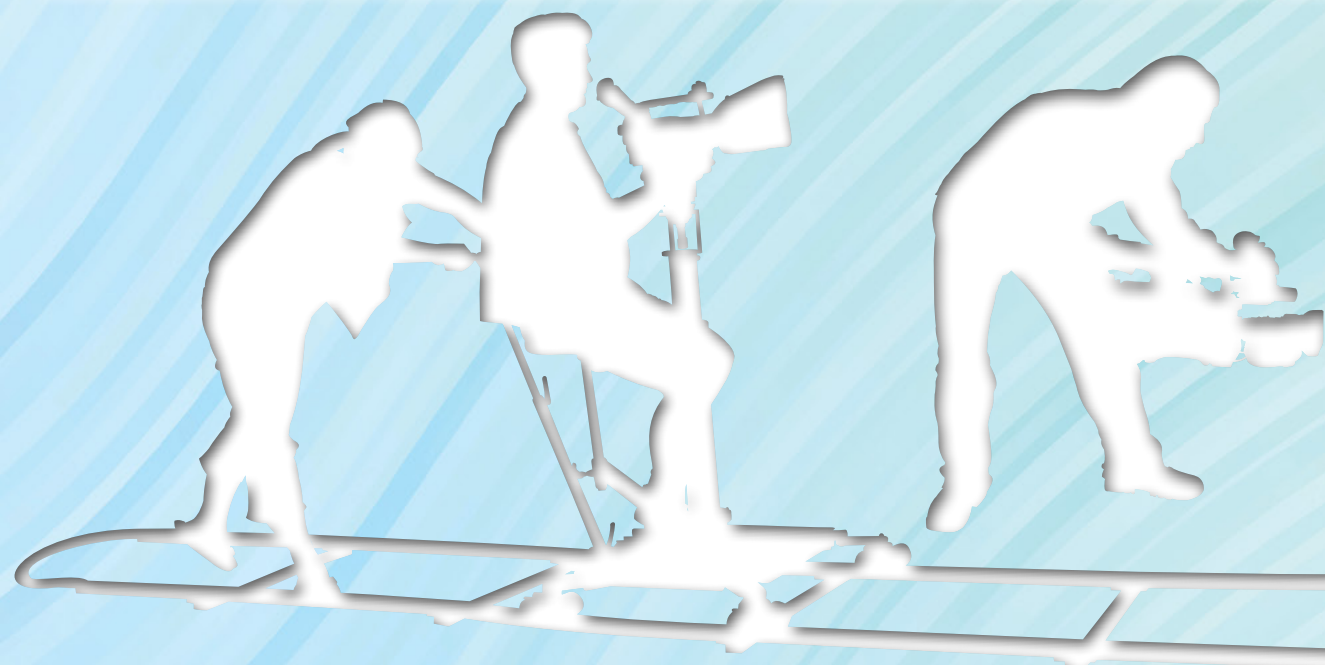
I played the role of an officer in the PCG's Special Task Squadron (STS), who happened to have the same name as me. You may notice me acting alongside SSSgt Thiam (Joel Choo), as I was one of his close friends in the show! As opposed to my on-screen character who is a regular officer, I am currently serving my National Service (NS) as an Assistant Trainer in the training unit of the Public Transport Security Command.

This is my first time acting but standing in front of a camera is not foreign to me. Before I started my NS stint with the SPF, I used to model for various fashion shows, commercial videos and product promotions. However, acting can be challenging because of the difficulty in bringing out the emotions of my character. But the entire filming process was enriching and fruitful for me as I had the opportunity to get up close and learn from the artistes.

I like how the series constantly reminds us of the importance of teamwork in the SPF. Stay tuned to see how I was saved by SSSgt Thiam in one of the scenes where I was trapped under a boat. I feel that this is one scene that all police officers can relate to. It is a strong sense of teamwork and camaraderie that

keeps our officers going even in times of difficulty.

Despite the many memorable moments in the show, it was the police funeral episode that I hold close to heart. As a matter of fact, all police officers put their lives on the line to protect our country and loved ones. It is important for us to stay vigilant and responsible to ensure a safe and secure Singapore for all.





# The Real Deal Behind the Screen

By Hadi Hafidz  
(Photos: Public Affairs Department)

*It is common for people to think that what is on-screen is different from reality. Read on to hear from the real deal!*



## Inspector (Insp) Elvin Ho Kay Heng

I am Insp Elvin Ho, an Assistant Team Leader in the Police Coast Guard's (PCG) Brani region team. We are responsible for conducting patrols to safeguard the southern waters of Singapore.

As frontline officers, we have to be highly vigilant and be ready to respond to any situations, especially when we are performing night duty where visibility is extremely limited. One incident that stuck deeply with me was the time where I had to conduct hot pursuit of a suspicious boat speeding towards the Singapore shores in the dark. It was pretty nerve-wracking as I had to make fast and acute manoeuvres through a cluster of anchored vessels to intercept the target boat. This is when I appreciated the rigorous training we have received. To help

me navigate through the anchored vessels, my crew quickly fired up flares to brighten up the surrounding. Owing to our vigilance and the teamwork of my crew, the suspicious boat decided to make a hasty retreat and exited our territorial waters.

Whenever I get home to see my loved ones enjoying a peaceful life, it reminds me that I need to continue doing my best so that we can continue to live in a safe and secure Singapore.



## Staff Sergeant (SSgt) "Nurul"

I am SSgt Nurul (not her real name), a Special Task Squadron (STS) operator. The STS is the PCG's highest level of armed response to any maritime threats that enter Singapore's waters.

I have always aspired to join the STS and jumped at the opportunity when it came along three years ago. As I expected, the selection process was extremely rigorous as the physical fitness requirements for male and female officers were the same. Likewise, the training, which we had to undergo after the selection process to prepare us for the unpredictable and harsh conditions of maritime policing, was intense and arduous, and there are no concessions for female officers!

Besides getting accustomed to the equipment load that we had to carry in excess of our own body weight, our stamina and mental resilience were often put to the test, especially in bad weather conditions. During one of the night training sessions, our boat was caught in a heavy storm. Visibility was so poor that we could hardly see further than five metres and we were completely drenched.

With such dire conditions, it was even more challenging to get our bearings. But our team spirit remained high. We persevered, completed the training, and made our way back safely to the base.

Becoming an STS operator is one of my greatest life achievements! While training was tough, the team spirit and camaraderie got us through. Gender is never a limiting factor in the Force. If you have the right aptitude and capabilities, you will get the opportunity to shine!



# C. L. I. F. 5 in Perspective

By Syam Roslan & Rajendran Nadaraja  
(Photos: Public Affairs Department)

Ever wondered what is the difference between a Special Task Squadron officer and an Emergency Response Team officer? Want to know how fast a Patrol Interdiction Boat can go? We have got you covered below with a quick summary of some of the key Police Coast Guard capabilities featured in C.L.I.F. 5!

## Emergency Response Team (ERT PCG)

Every frontline PCG officer is ERT-trained to be entrusted with the mission to neutralise threats and to save and prevent further loss of lives when responding to an armed terror attack.

## Lim Chu Kang Regional Base

## Police Coast Guard (PCG)

All PCG officers are dedicated to keeping Singapore safe and secure by preventing, deterring and detecting crime in Singapore's territorial waters.

## Special Task Squadron (STS)

The STS is entrusted with the mission to intercept high-speed threats and conduct tactical boarding of non-compliant vessels in Singapore's territorial waters.

## Did You Know?

As part of their water survival training, the Mediacorp artistes acting as PCG officers had to execute a confidence jump from a height of four metres.



## Loyang Regional Base

## Patrol Interdiction Boat (PIB)

The 4th Generation PT Class Boat or Patrol Interdiction Boat, as it is more commonly known as, is fitted with armoured protection against direct armament and is capable of speed exceeding 45knots (83 km/h). Deployed at the southern regions, the Patrol-Interdiction Boats are built with beaching capability and are also fitted with the state of the art Stabilised Naval Gun Systems to facilitate effective interdiction.

Photos: Mediacorp

## Gul Regional Base

## Brani Regional Base (PCG's headquarters)

## 2nd Generation PK Class Boat

The 2nd Generation PK Class Boats are operated by the Special Task Squadron and are designed to perform interception on high-speed smuggling boats carrying contrabands into Singapore's territorial waters. The boats are propelled by twin high-powered inboard engines and are capable of travelling at speed in excess of 55 knots (102km/h).

# SINGAPORE



# [ Protecting our Coastline ]

By Syam Roslan & Rajendran Nadaraja  
(Photos: Police Coast Guard & Public Affairs Department)

*As Singapore is one of the world's busiest ports and shipping hubs, our Police Coast Guard (PCG) officers are dedicated to keeping Singapore safe and secure by preventing, deterring and detecting crime in our territorial waters.*

*The PCG takes a three-pronged approach to protect our coastline. They are Deterrence, Detection and Response.*

## DETERRENCE



**Coastal Hardening Strike Force**

The Coastal Hardening Strike Force aims to project a strong police presence along the coastline of Singapore, deterring and detecting any attempts of illegal landing or departure from coastal areas while providing a swift force to deal with any intruders.



**Land and Sea Barriers**

Floating sea barriers and land fences are placed at hotspots to prevent intruding boats from coming too close to our shores.

## DETECTION

The PCG is constantly looking to enhance its detection capabilities, with land and sea surveillance for a coordinated response to prevent intruders from entering Singapore's territorial waters. In addition to the use of the Coastal Surveillance Camera System, the PCG also uses electro optics to complement radar use for clearer detection of swimmers, speed boats and small crafts from afar. With such technology, the PCG is equipped to detect suspicious activities along Singapore's coastline and territorial waters.

**Coastal Surveillance Camera System**



The Coastal Surveillance Camera System (CSCS) comprises cameras deployed strategically at hotspots along the coastline of Singapore. Upon detection of suspicious activities, the CSCS unit will send an alert to our officers, who will verify these alerts via viewing terminals to proceed to the location for further investigations if necessary.

**Unmanned Aerial Vehicle**



The Unmanned Aerial Vehicles will be deployed to obtain an aerial view of Singapore's territorial waters to detect any anomalies or threats.

## RESPONSE

The PCG is ready to respond to maritime threats, including armed attacks on vessels and on offshore islands. Besides being equipped with the necessary hardware for enhanced response, the PCG officers are well-trained to safeguard Singapore's waters even in the roughest conditions. In addition to the operationalisation of the Emergency Response Team (ERT PCG), the PCG is also trialling the use of the Unmanned Surface Vessel to complement its response capabilities.

**Unmanned Surface Vessel**



The PCG has been trialling the use of Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV) at various parts of Singapore's territorial waters. Some of the key benefits of deploying the USV include reducing officers' exposure to high operational risk and leveraging technology to mitigate manpower constraints in projecting police presence and performing patrol.

**200 Series PC Class Boat**



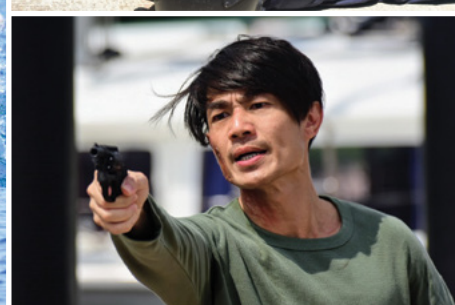
The 200 Series PC Class boats are deployed to patrol the porous and narrow northern regions of Singapore's territorial waters. These boats are capable of speed in excess of 42 knots (78km/h) yet agile with good manoeuvrability to cater to its operating environment.



# Sneak Peek at C.L.I.F. 5!

By Hadi Hafidz  
(Photos: Public Affairs Department)

*C.L.I.F. 5 is back! Debuting on 23 September, the fifth season of C.L.I.F. promises more action, stirring plots and a closer look into the work of our Police Coast Guard. Here are some sneak peeks that we have specially curated for you!*







Lester Lim  
Police Coast Guard

Muhammad  
Dzul Adly  
Police Coast Guard

Melrize Ng  
Police Coast Guard

# THE SENTINELS

No one knows our territorial waters better than **Police Coast Guard** officers. Highly trained in seamanship, communications, radar and weaponry, they are the ever-vigilant gatekeepers who prevent threats from reaching our shores. More than just a job, it is a career that makes a real difference by safeguarding every day.

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