POLICE LIFE

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SINGAPORE GENERAL ELECTION 2020

Police Day 2020
All the Right Notes
Police Day 2020

3 June is a special day for the Singapore Police Force (SPF) as we commemorate Police Day with highlights of achievements and contributions from retired and serving officers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s Police Day Observance Ceremony was held online and attended virtually by more than 2,500 SPF officers, the largest turnout for a Police Day Observance Ceremony!

Police General Election 2020

The Singapore General Election 2020 saw more than 12,000 officers deployed across the island to ensure a smooth and safe polling experience for all eligible voters. Police Life brings you snapshots of our officers in action when safeguarding this important event for Singapore.

All the Right Notes

From classical music to contemporary hits, music has been an essential part of the human experience, bringing people from all walks of life together. Read on and find out more about the life of Assistant Superintendent of Police Lau Li Feng, Deputy Director of Music from SPF Band, as she shares with us her love for music and policing.
Let’s Get Social!

Check out the Singapore Police Force’s Facebook page to find out the latest happenings in the Force! Here are some of the highlights from May and June!

1. Irwan Shah

2. Police Life

3. Singapore Police Force

4. Helen Chin

5. Tom Ling

6. Linda Wilson

7. Colonel Joseph Cong Yee

8. Singapore Police

9. Sgt Tan

10. Anne Chua

11. Renyi Oliveira

12. Tan Zhe Hui

13. Julianne Chia

14. M. Abdul Hadi

15. Seefah Ansari

16. Police Life
Police Day on 3 June 2020 will be one that will be remembered by SPF officers as this is the very first time in SPF history that a virtual Police Day Observance Ceremony was held instead of the traditional Police Day Parade.

Despite the disruption of lives caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the SPF continued to commemorate this significant day by leveraging technology to conduct a virtual ceremony that was live-streamed on one of the SPF’s internal communications platforms known as ‘Workplace by Facebook’. It was a huge success as the ceremony was attended virtually by more than 2,500 officers from various SPF units islandwide, the largest turnout ever for a Police Day Ceremony!

As part of the observance ceremony, Commissioner of Police (CP) Hoong Wee Teck led the officers in the recitation of the police pledge virtually. The ceremony also observed one minute of silence to pay tribute to officers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

Lastly, the award recipients for the Best Land Division, the Best National Service (NS) Operationally Ready Unit, as well as the Full-time Police National Serviceman (PNSF) and Operationally Ready Police National Serviceman (PNSman) of the Year were also announced at the ceremony. Bedok Division won the Best Land Division award this year, while Jurong Division won the Best NS Operationally Ready Unit for the second consecutive year.

Check out the highlights here!
The Full-time Police National Serviceman (PNSF) and Operationally Ready Police National Serviceman (PNSman) of the Year Awards recognise the outstanding contributions and commitment of Police National Servicemen. Police Life spoke to this year’s recipients to find out what National Service (NS) means to them.

**What does serving NS mean to you?**

It has been a life-changing and meaningful experience. Serving in the Singapore Police Force (SPF) has shaped me to become a humble, discerning and responsible person. This, in turn, enabled me to become a better supervisor, employee, teammate, citizen, family member and friend.

**What advice would you give to those who are waiting to be enlisted into the SPF?**

This is the same advice that I have given to my son. Be respectful and treat NS like a real job. Do your best to support your regular colleagues. Reflect and appreciate the immense opportunity to learn and grow during your time with the SPF. Do your best for yourself and the SPF and you will gain all much as you have given.

**Highlights as NS Commander:**

DAC (NS) Tan has played a vital role in the development of NS ProCom since its inception in 2016. He was heavily involved in the formation of the unit which was transformed and expanded from its previous iteration, the Key Installations Command. This led to the creation of NS ProCom HQ and its Operational Wings, as he helped to reorganise and restructure the units, as well as reddefining old and new Key Appointment Holder / Responsibility Appointment Holder positions. Thanks to the contribution of DAC (NS) Tan, ProCom is now in good stead for the evolving nature of operations and deployments in peace-time or emergency due to heightened security threats.

**What does serving NS mean to you?**

Serving in the Singapore Police Force (SPF) has taught me that it is a tremendous honour and privilege to serve the community and the nation. Serving NS in the SPF is meaningful because maintaining law and order in our society has a direct impact on the lives of my family, my community and the nation as a whole. I am honoured to be part of the SPF and have a sense of duty in keeping Singapore safe.

**What advice would you give to those who are waiting to be enlisted into the SPF?**

Serving NS in the SPF made me understand the importance of maintaining a safe and secure environment. It gives me the chance to serve the public with the finesse that is the hallmark of SIA while being firm and fair, something I learnt during my NS stint with the SPF.

**What advice would you give to those who are waiting to be enlisted into the SPF?**

Stay humble. Regardless of your rank, be open to acquiring knowledge. Every situation allows us to learn to and be better as a person. Also, listen to the message, not how it was delivered. Certain leaders may deliver a message differently than what we are used to. We must learn to always take a step back, look at the bigger picture and understand that it is never personal. Lastly, it is good to question the status quo, but always know the timing and the delivery of such questions. There are times when we will feel that the ‘old’ ways are inefficient or out of data. But take the time to observe and always mind our body language and choice of words when we do bring across our opinions. It is important to ensure a high level of discipline in a uniformed organisation.

**Highlights as NS Head Training:**

DSP (NS) Lam led his unit to achieve a high level of efficiency, including being self-sufficient in running their own classroom and Police Defence Tactics training without support from regular trainers. He also improved the classroom training programme by making it more engaging and interesting. The programme was very well received by the NSmen who went through the training. He also introduced new practical training programmes into the curriculum such as the use of Sabre 5000 (trace detector for explosive or chemical agent), person and vehicle checks and the use of the escape hood.

**What does serving NS mean to you?**

I would like to share a quote which meant a lot to me when I was an SPF trainee - “A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what ships are built for.” by John A. Shedd. Some of us are ‘bigger ships’ than the other. A large ship is stable and can go far, but a small ship is nimble and can go fast. It doesn’t matter how big or small your ‘ship’ is. Most importantly, identify the type of ship you are, understand your strengths and put them to good use as that may make up for the shortfall of others. There is no perfect person but only a perfect team. If you are able to understand this and put it into practice, you will find serving NS in the SPF both meaningful and fruitful.

**What advice would you give to those who are waiting to be enlisted into the SPF?**

Some may think that serving NS is lasting two years of their time. My advice to those waiting to be enlisted is to ponder about what they want to achieve during their two years in the SPF and to adopt a positive mindset towards NS. The skills that they will acquire during their NS will benefit them when they join the workforce in the future. They can be better prepared to face different types of situations. “Tough time don’t last. Tough people do.” will be my words of encouragement to all the SPF pre-enlistees. Things might be tough at times, but if you are determined to work through them, you can overcome the situation.
What does serving NS mean to you?

I was not sure what to expect when I was enlisted to join the SPF, as most of my friends were enlisted to the Army. But I soon realised that it was much more meaningful than I imagined. I picked up useful skills such as incident management and communication skills through my policing work and interactions with members of the public. My NS stint was also the time when I grew as a person, as compared to my younger and less mature self in the past.

What advice would you give to those who are waiting to be enlisted into the SPF?

Make full use of the two years in NS to learn new skills, meet fellow NS mates with common goals, and plan for your post-NS life.

Highlights as NS Provost Officer:

With immaculate conduct, turnout and bearing record, Sgt 3 (NS) Cheah is one of the key provost officers in Bedok Division highly regarded for his experience and fair judgment in assessing cases during the PNSmen Charging and Disciplinary sessions.

What does serving NS mean to you?

Serving my NS with the SPF has been a fruitful and rewarding journey as I can contribute to safeguarding everyone’s home, including my family and friends. The responsibility that I carry on my shoulders when I don the uniform is unlike any other. I take great pride in knowing that members of the public placed a high level of trust in the SPF to uphold the law and keep them safe.

What advice would you give to those who are waiting to be enlisted into the SPF?

Embrace and treasure the two years you have in the SPF. Do everything with pride and make the most of the time you have in the SPF.

Highlights as NPCO:

SC/Sgt 2 Ammar was involved in a fire incident at the Kaki Bukit Industrial area, in which he aided the Ground Commander to manage the incident by assisting with the evacuation of the occupants. 150 occupants were evacuated successfully, with zero casualties. For his actions and contributions, he received the Commander’s Award. His vigilance and courage on duty also led to the arrest of four individuals for drug-related offences. SC/Sgt 2 Ammar was also commended for his professionalism and patience in guiding a man suffering from dementia, to open the door when he was stuck in his home.

What does serving NS mean to you?

Serving my NS with the SPF has been a heart-warming journey as I can contribute to safeguarding everyone’s home, including my family and friends. The responsibility that I carry on my shoulders when I don the uniform is unlike any other. I take great pride in knowing that members of the public placed a high level of trust in the SPF to uphold the law and keep them safe.

What advice would you give to those who are waiting to be enlisted into the SPF?

Enjoy the unique experience that cannot be found elsewhere. I am proud to be able to walk the streets of Singapore as a protector!
What does serving NS mean to you?

Being in the SPF means that I am expected to uphold certain standards in my duty as a law enforcer. From my experience of working in the PNS Branch of my division, I learnt the importance of organisational and people management skills.

What advice would you give to those who are waiting to be enlisted into the SPF?

Keep an open mind, as you will learn a lot of things during your NS stint. Never belittle any task that you are given. As a law enforcement officer, every bit of your support contributes towards the bigger mission. Be willing to learn, and NS can be an incredible experience.

What does serving NS mean to you?

It has been both a fulfilling and rewarding experience. Even though I am not posted as a frontline officer, my NS experience continued to be just as meaningful. I had the opportunity to learn how the SPF operates, including planning for security events and deployment of manpower. But most importantly, my colleagues have given me a sense of belonging and purpose which made my NS meaningful. It has been a great honour to be a part of something so profound and amazing.

What advice would you give to those who are waiting to be enlisted into the SPF?

Do not be afraid to start and press on. Some people gave up after a while because they do not see results immediately. Achieving fitness is a journey, not a destination. The key is perseverance and hard work.

What motivated you to create the workout video for this contest?

As some of us are the fitness advocates of the division, we decided that it would be fun to create a small skill to promote healthy living among our officers through a simple home workout routine.

What were the challenges you faced when making this video?

Owing to the COVID-19 safety measures, there were difficulties in arranging the filming and the sequence of the videos. However, every member of our small group stepped up and helped each other as best as we could through constant communications using video calls to work out the routine for the video.

What is your advice for people who want to get fit?

Do not give up and press on. Once you have started, you will be amazed by the results just after a while. The key is perseverance and hard work.
What motivated you to create the workout video for this contest?

I was initially hesitant to enter the contest as I saw many amazing workout videos by other fellow contestants. However, my Commanding Officer encouraged me to give it a try. My colleagues and friends were also incredibly supportive of the idea and were excited to see the end product.

What were the challenges you faced when making this video?

For a first-timer, it was not easy to talk in front of the camera. I kept laughing halfway through the recording, and I recorded the whole segment many times over. Aside from recording the video, I also had to develop a workout routine that is challenging but also makes you feel good after completing the whole session. Sheer determination and constant support from my peers helped me to overcome the obstacles.

What is your advice for people who want to get fit?

We all must start somewhere. Develop a plan that suits your abilities and do not compare yourself with other people. Focus entirely on your progress, and try to learn new methods to enjoy. Just go for it!
The Singapore General Election (GE) 2020 saw over 12,000 Singapore Police Force (SPF) officers deployed across the island to ensure a smooth and safe polling experience for all eligible voters. The combined effort of officers deployed on the frontlines and behind the scenes, brought about the success of the GE 2020 operations that began with the issuance of the Writ of Election right up to Polling Day. Let us look back at some of the highlights of our officers in action!

Support and Technical officers from Ang Mo Kio Division unloading food rations for officers in preparation for Polling Day.

Operationally Ready Police National Servicemen, Full-time Police National Servicemen, and Voluntary Special Constabulary officers attending a briefing for General Election 2020 deployment at Clementi Division.

Traffic Police officers preparing to set off from Traffic Police Headquarters on Polling Day.

An officer from Woodlands Division conducting security checks at the Nomination Centre on Nomination Day.

Briefing to officers deployed for the security escort of ballot boxes.

Officers from Protective Security Command patrolling at the school hall of Deyi Secondary School.
Special Operations Command officers conducting a briefing outside Jurong Division Headquarters in preparation for GE deployment.

Officers on duty at the Police Headquarters Incident Command Post on Polling Day.

Police officers from Jurong Division patrolling a polling station on Polling Day.

Logistics officers at the Police Logistics Branch on Polling Day.

Police officers from Woodlands Division ensuring the safety and security at a polling station on Polling Day.

Officers from the Public Affairs Department on duty at the Information Management Centre on Polling Day.

Police officers from Jurong Division patrolling a polling station on Polling Day.
**Fighting COVID-19 with Police Patrol Robots and Drones**

**Irwan Shah**  
*(Photos: Public Affairs Department)*

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, more than 3,000 Singapore Police Force (SPF) officers have been deployed to support the nation’s battle against the COVID-19 virus. To further enhance the SPF’s operational effectiveness, the SPF has also leveraged technology through the deployment of autonomous police robots and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) at the migrant worker dormitories – gazetted as isolation facilities – to augment police operations.

**Robots on the Ground**

With their ability to patrol and navigate routes without supervision, two Multi-purpose All Terrain Autonomous Robot (M.A.T.A.R.) 3.0 units have been deployed at Changi Lodge 2 Dormitory and Toh Guan Dormitory to complement police officers on the ground as they conduct foot patrols and project police presence at the isolation facilities. As these robots are able to perform automated routine tasks, they are able to help patrol an area, minimise the need for officers to come into close contact with the dormitory residents, and thereby lowering the risk of infection. Moreover, the M.A.T.A.R. also keeps the dormitories safe by helping to ensure safe distancing within the premises.

“The M.A.T.A.R. 3.0 also plays a deterrent role. When the residents see M.A.T.A.R 3.0 patrolling, generally, they tend to adhere to the safe distancing measures,” explained Assistant Superintendent of Police Teo Wan Ling, Overall-In-Charge (OIC) of Team C at Changi Lodge 2.

The functions of M.A.T.A.R. 3.0 have surpassed that of its predecessors. Working closely with research institutes and industry partners, the SPF and the Home Team Science and Technology Agency conducted iterative trials and reviews to develop the first generation M.A.T.A.R. to M.A.T.A.R. 2.0 and subsequently enhancing it further to become M.A.T.A.R. 3.0. The current version comes in two variants, each with its own set of unique gadgets. One variant has a Pan-Tilt-Zoom Camera, which can be raised up to two metres to provide 360-degree surveillance coverage. The video feed captured by the camera can then be live-streamed to the police command centres on the ground or to the Police Operations Command Centre (POCC) at the Police Headquarters, providing real-time footage from the frontlines to assist in sense-making. There is also a two-way communication feature on the robot that allows officers on the ground to communicate with officers in the command centres. This communication feature has also been used to remind the migrant workers at the dormitories to adhere to safe distancing measures.

The other variant of M.A.T.A.R 3.0 spots a tethered Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) which can soar up to 30 metres, providing enhanced aerial surveillance of the surrounding area. Like the Pan-Tilt-Zoom Camera, the UAV can transmit a video live-feed direct to the command centres, which proved to be very useful in assisting SPF officers involved in the dormitory operations.

**Eyes in the Sky**

In addition to the patrol robots, the SPF has also deployed UAVs, operated by certified SPF UAV pilots, to support the dormitory operations at the Kranji Lodge Dormitory and Cassia@Penjuru Dormitory as a form of contactless patrol, and to reduce the frequency of police patrols on site. The UAVs are used to conduct aerial surveillance of the perimeter surrounding these dormitories. Having ‘eyes in the sky’ allows the SPF officers to detect any anomalies within the compound, such as crowd gathering or trespassing, and also enables them to coordinate their responses to better manage such situations.

“Our responsibilities are to support the in-situ officers in the dormitories by complementing their patrol with aerial surveillance,” said Station Inspector Jason Quek, a UAV pilot. “During the UAV patrol, we are able to remind the foreign workers, through the UAV’s loudspeakers, not to congregate at the open area and wear their masks at all time.”

Since its first deployment in 2016, the SPF’s UAVs have undergone continual improvements to ensure that they are enhanced with the latest UAV technologies to meet the challenges of SPF’s operational landscape. The Sky Aerial Response Command (SkyARC), which was unveiled during the Police Workplan Seminar 2019, was part of such developments. The SkyARC, which was also deployed for the dormitory operations, is equipped with an arsenal of UAVs capable of advanced aerial surveillance on different terrains and acts as a mobile UAV response force. The footage and images captured remotely by these UAVs can be live-streamed to the police command centres, enabling better sense-making and enhanced operational responses to be made.

**Always Evolving**

As technology continues to evolve, the SPF must constantly adapt to ensure the relevancy and effectiveness of its capabilities. Currently, the Home Team (HT) UAV Unit is working with specialist units, such as the Criminal Investigation Department and Traffic Police, to develop 3D scanning tools in UAVs for scene reconstruction, and to embrace artificial intelligence that utilises UAV footage for video analytics. SPF UAV pilots from the various land divisions and specialist units, are also concurrently trained to grow the SPF’s own organic ground forces for future UAV deployments. Beyond these ongoing developments, the SPF remains committed to working with its partners to develop more technologies to better augment police operations.
When the ‘Circuit Breaker’ (CB) was implemented in early April to combat the spread of COVID-19, most workplaces were ordered to be closed, except for those providing essential services. Schools went into Home-Based Learning (HBL), and most workplaces adopted telecommuting as the default mode of working. In tandem with the nationwide measure to contain the spread of the pandemic, the Singapore Police Force suspended the Police Officer Basic Course (POBC) until 1 June 2020, which was the tentative end date of the CB period at the time.

Despite the suspension of POBC, the Basic Training School (BTS) from Training Command continued to work tirelessly to process the scheduled enlistment of incoming trainees. The 179th Full-Time Police National Service (PNS) Intake was enlisted administratively on 15 April 2020 while the 180th Full-Time PNS intake was enlisted administratively on 13 May 2020. Both intakes then adopted HBL, where BTS trainers used Zoom to conduct non-sensitive lessons to the trainees, while materials deemed as sensitive were delivered to the trainees directly. During the HBL, Field Instructors also conducted simple static exercises to maintain the physical fitness of the trainees at home. All trainees will be required to take an assessment test when they report to the Home Team Academy (HTA) after the CB period.

When the CB ended on 1 June 2020, the BTS arranged for the return of the intakes to HTA. The 179th Full-Time PNS intake and 180th Full-Time PNS intake trainees reported to HTA for training on 2 June 2020 and 8 June 2020 respectively.

To reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19, the BTS put in place several safe distancing measures to ensure that the POBC could be conducted safely. These measures include ensuring wider physical spacing during drills, classroom lessons and mealtimes. Tapes were also used to mark out where trainees should stand, especially when queuing to collect their meals. Check out some of the training highlights, with safe distancing measures in place.
In this issue of Crime Files, Police Life reveals how Investigation Officers (IOs) from the Criminal Investigation Department leveraged Police Camera (PolCam) footage and successfully arrested a loanshark runner responsible for harassing 24 housing units over a week-long period, vandalising and even setting fire to several of these units.

Fire on the “Wrong” Floor
On 12 June 2015, the Police were alerted to a fire incident on the 12th floor of a residential unit along Toh Guan Road. The IOs who arrived at the scene spotted loanshark graffiti scribbled on the wall at the staircase landing. However, something was amiss. The unit that was set on fire was the unit above the one that was stated in the loanshark harassment case. Further investigation revealed that the occupant of a unit at the 11th floor had taken a loan from “Denzel”, whom he had believed to be a licensed moneylender. The debtor also shared with the IOs that “Denzel” had threatened him when he was unable to repay his loan. With the information provided by the debtor, the IOs tried to establish the link with other loanshark harassment cases reported. However, investigations went cold as the mobile number scribbled on the wall was linked to a pre-paid sim card belonging to a foreigner who had already left Singapore.

Vandalism at Serangoon Avenue 3
On the same day, another case of loanshark harassment was reported at a residential unit along Serangoon Avenue 3. This time round, the unit was splashed with yellow paint and loanshark graffiti, scribbled in similar fashion as the case at Toh Guan Road, were found on the wall of the 5th floor staircase landing. But instead of “Call Denzel”, it was “Call Marco” scribbled on the wall. Upon examining the graffiti, the IOs discovered an uncanny resemblance of the fonts and handwriting, and decided to send the images of the scribblings for handwriting analysis by the forensics team to ascertain if the same person wrote them.

In addition, the IOs also obtained PolCam footage of the vicinities where these two incidents happened and spotted a person in similar outfit appearing at both locations. The handwriting analysis results by the forensics team also indicated that the graffiti was likely scribbled by the same person, establishing the links between both cases.

Almost Splashed
Two days later, on 14 June 2015, a resident staying at a flat along Tampines Avenue 9 reported to have had a close brush with a loanshark runner. It happened when the resident opened her door to investigate some strange noises along the corridor. As the door opened, the resident came face-to-face with the perpetrator who was attempting to open a can of paint in front of the unit. Shocked, the perpetrator, who was wearing a pair of sunglasses and a black cap, fled the scene immediately.

Upon receiving the report, the IOs contacted the Police Operations Command Centre (POCC) to conduct a review of the footage of the PolCam in the area. Concurrently, the IOs also pooled together a list of recent loanshark harassment cases involving the name “Denzel” or “Marco”, and discovered that there were six of such harassment cases within the past week at various locations around Singapore – all bearing similar traits including reports of fire or vandalism.

The Breakthrough
After trawling through hours of PolCam footages, the IOs finally found a strong lead from one of the PolCam footage from the Tampines Avenue 9 case. In the footage, the perpetrator was seen hailing a taxi by the main road and left hurriedly. With the vehicle number plate, the IOs managed to find out the route of the taxi from the taxi company and their investigation led them to a block in Toa Payoh where the perpetrator alighted. This lead was reinforced further with PolCam footage extracted from the vicinity and the Toa Payoh block, showing the perpetrator alighting at the block and heading up to the fourth floor.

On 15 June 2015, the IOs staged an operation to arrest the perpetrator. Operating in two teams, they eventually found the perpetrator’s unit on the fourth floor where they spotted the same type of shoes worn by the perpetrator in one of the incidents as seen in the PolCam footage. When the perpetrator answered the door, the IOs immediately placed him under arrest and searched his unit. The officers found markers, gloves, sunglasses, a black jacket and cans of paint inside his backpack – all matching the descriptions provided by the eyewitnesses and as seen from the PolCam footage.

End Game
Over 200 hours of PolCam footage and more than 20 witnesses were interviewed to solve the case within two weeks. It was established that the perpetrator, Mohamed Ashyik Mohamed Shawal had borrowed money from unlicensed moneylenders – “Denzel” and “Marco” but was unable to repay the loan. The loansharks had struck a deal with Mohamed Ashyik to clear his debt, if the latter agreed to work for them. “Marco” offered him $80 to harass the debtor by splashing paint and writing graffiti on the wall. “Denzel” offered him $1,000 to harass the debtor by setting fire in addition to writing graffiti. The temptation was too great and Mohamed Ashyik agreed to work for them. For his crimes, Mohamed Ashyik was sentenced to five years’ corrective training and 24 strokes of the cane on 30 November 2015.

If you have information on loansharking activities around you, please call the Police Hotline at 1800 255 0000 or submit the information online on www.police.gov.sg/witness or via the iWitness tab of the Police@SG application. Alternatively, you can contact the National Crime Prevention Council at their X’Ah Long Hotline at 1800-9 24-5664 / 1800 X AH LONG.
THE BEST LAND DIVISION 2020

From solving high-profile cases to rolling out new initiatives to enable a safe and secure community, it has been an action-packed year for Bedok Division. For their relentless crime-fighting efforts and unyielding service to the community over the past year, the Gryphons (as officers of the division call themselves) received the Best Land Division Award at a virtual Police Day Observance Ceremony on 3 Jun 2020 that was live-streamed and ‘attended’ by more than 2,500 officers forcewide.

Keeping the Crime Rate Low

Introduced in 1995, the Best Land Division Award has been presented yearly to the most deserving Police Land Division for their outstanding performance in crime-fighting efforts. Over the past year, Bedok Division, which oversees the safety and security of the eastern part of Singapore including Pasir Ris, Bedok, Tampines, Geylang, Marine Parade and Changi, saw a significant decrease in overall crime within their division’s jurisdiction (excluding scam cases, which has significantly increased across the board, in Singapore) as compared to the previous year.

Steadfast Commitment

With great resolve and a strong commitment to the SPF’s mission, officers from Bedok Division were involved in solving several high-profile cases over the past year. These cases included an attempted armed robbery case at a pawnshop in Bedok in July 2019, where the suspect was arrested within 32 hours and the Geylang stabbing incident which happened shortly after in August, where six suspects were arrested within 28 hours.

Three suspects arrested within 28 hours of incident

Man charged with trying to rob Bedok pawnshop

Partnering with the Community

Recognising that the Police cannot fight crime alone, Bedok Division has been working closely with the community to address socio-economic challenges upstream.

United as One

Be it fighting crime or supporting the nation’s battle against the pandemic, the SPF works as one united force to achieve its mission. Emerging as the best land division, as what AC Lim aptly summarised – is an affirmation of the combined operational effectiveness of all SPF units.

Committed in the Collective Fight Against COVID-19

Since the onset of COVID-19, officers from Bedok Division have also been mobilised for various COVID-19 related operations. Over the past few months, in addition to their regular duties, officers have also been deployed to ensure public order and safety at multiple government quarantine facilities, migrant worker dormitories and other areas to support the nation’s efforts in curbing the spread of the virus. Despite the risk and prolonged period of deployment, Gryphons have stepped up to the challenge. Their resilience, strength and determination reflects the strong sense of duty to the SPF’s mission that they are committed to fulfill.

Dedicating the division’s achievements to his fellow officers, AC Lim is proud that they have displayed “courage and commitment in keeping their neighbourhoods safe from crime, while also coping with COVID-19 related deployments at quarantine and isolation facilities”.

Winning the Best Land Division is not simply a recognition of Bedok Police Division’s achievements. But also, an affirmation of the strong partnership that exists between the division and the other units in the Singapore Police Force. On behalf of Bedok Police Division, I would like to thank the other land divisions, staff units and specialist units for the strong support that you have rendered over the past 12 months.

To my officers, remember that what matters are the values that make us special as police officers. A sense of duty to the SPF’s mission, responsibility to the community and care for each other. Congratulations! A job well done. Keep up the good work!

“By working with the community to address socio-economic challenges upstream, we are in a stronger position to strengthen public trust and safety,” said Assistant Commissioner of Police (AC) Julius Lim, Commander Bedok Division.

To tackle the scourge of online scam, the division also intensified their efforts and worked tirelessly to raise public awareness by leveraging social media and messaging platforms to push out anti-scam messages, as well as crucial and timely advisories to the public.

One of their anti-scam efforts include using WhatsApp to share crime prevention messages, maximising the reach of their advisories to the residents within the jurisdictions of the various Bedok Division Neighbourhood Police Centres.
While many of us stay at home during this Circuit Breaker period to fight the spread of COVID-19, our Home Team Guardians are working harder than ever to combat crime on the ground – with the help of eyes in the sky.

**Airborne Drones for a Crime-Free Zone**

_How SPF and HTX are trialling a new drone box system to fight crime_

Reproduced from Home Team News (MHA)

**Spf-HTx drone box system**

While many of us stay at home during this Circuit Breaker period to fight the spread of COVID-19, our Home Team Guardians are working harder than ever to combat crime on the ground – with the help of eyes in the sky.

It was a mid-week afternoon and I was on the roof of a nondescript industrial building in the western part of Singapore. In a corner of the roof stood two rectangular grey structures about two metres tall. These drone boxes are part of an initiative by the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and the Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HTX) to trial drone operations.

The drone box system in action.

**Supporting Our Boots on the Ground**

In recent years, SPF has introduced drones with various capabilities to complement Police operations. Equipped with lights, cameras and speakers, such drones offer officers a better situational picture in order to enhance their responses on the ground.

This latest drone trial began in early May 2020 and demonstrates how SPF and HTX are rising to the challenge in these challenging times by employing innovative technologies to support crimefighting on the ground.

“The industrial estates can get rather deserted during this Circuit Breaker period, and the Police need to keep up our presence to detect unusual or illegal activities,” explained Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Elvin Chong, Commanding Officer of Clementi Neighbourhood Police Centre. “We don’t want criminals to take the opportunity to break into warehouses or offices, especially during this difficult period.”

I watched as the panels on the top of one of the drone boxes slid open to reveal the star of the show – an advanced drone measuring about 1.8 metres wide and weighing about 10kg. With its propellers spinning, the drone lifted off and embarked on a flight path that took it over the surrounding industrial estate.

The drone box system in action.

**Airborne Force Multiplier**

I watched as the drone flew across the industrial estate, stopping at a series of preset waypoints. While in flight, cameras on the drone capture video that’s transmitted in real time to the Command and Control Centre. “This video can also be sent to officers who are on foot patrol or in a vehicle, via a tablet,” said Hsien Meng. “This gives them a better situational picture, especially of areas that are hard to access.”

Another feature of the drone box system is that it can deploy a drone without a pilot or visual line-of-sight control. With a few clicks of a button, an operator at the Command and Control Centre can deploy the drone and fly it beyond line-of-sight, extending its effective range in an operation.

Monitoring the drone’s progress, Hsien Meng explained how the trial has yielded important data for his team. “This is a very good opportunity for us to collect real ops data on system reliability and mission effectiveness,” he said. “With this information, HTX engineers can customise solutions to better support officers in the field.”

**The Drone Box System: Automated for Effectiveness**

Walking us through the drone box system’s capabilities was Low Hsien Meng, Senior Engineer, Robotics, Automation and Unmanned Systems, HTX. An aerospace engineer by training, he worked closely with his HTX colleagues to conduct a comprehensive review of the operational requirements and deployment area before deploying the drone box system.

Unlike conventional drones, the drone box concept allows the preflight process to be largely automated. Within each drone box are robotics systems that complete preparatory tasks like attaching mission-specific payloads (such as cameras) and changing batteries. This allows the drone to be prepped for flight by an operator at the Command and Control Centre.

“With routine tasks and activities taken care of by automation, SPF officers can focus on what’s important, which is to complete the mission at hand,” explained Hsien Meng.

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Among the officers sharing their feedback with HTX is DSP Sum Tuck Meng, Officer-in-Charge, UAV Operations, Home Team UAV Unit, Operations Department, SPF. Having served 25 years with SPF, he’s excited by the capabilities offered by the drone box system. “With its automated functions and ability to perform virtual aerial Policing, it has the potential to be a force multiplier for our ground patrols,” said DSP Sum.

As the drone completed its route and returned under the watchful eyes of Hsien Meng and DSP Sum, a second drone had finished its automated preflight check and soon took off to cover a different area of the industrial estate – little noticed by most people, but playing a vital role during this challenging period to keep us all safe.
A Childhood Dream

“When I was around seven or eight years old, I attended a performance by the SPF Band at the British Club. Though I did not know of the band at that time, I was deeply inspired by the way they carried themselves throughout the show, playing their instruments with a kind of excellence and fervour that struck a chord with me.” This was ASP Lau’s first encounter with the SPF Band, and one that would stick with her for many years to come, igniting her passion for music and leaving on her a deeply respectable impression of the SPF.

At the age of 14, ASP Lau was introduced to the euphonium (a brass instrument) in her school band. “Beyond mere entertainment and a good portfolio, playing that instrument felt magical to me. Through this instrument, I was able to speak in a universal language that transcended cultural and linguistic barriers, forming a connection with people from all walks of life.”

Pursuing the Dream

In 2006, after spending four years at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, ASP Lau graduated with a Diploma in Music. She went on to pursue a degree in Mass Communication and upon graduation, explored a variety of career choices - from conducting as a band instructor to performing all sorts of gigs. Soon, she began to realise that she needed more in her career. Apart from earning a stable income, she wanted just as much to build a career that would allow her to fulfill her role as a police officer, leading her men in keeping Singapore’s streets safe. Over time, she developed a love for the profession and began to recognise the importance of her job beyond herself.

While police work has enabled ASP Lau to serve the community, it has also provided her with the opportunity to pursue her passion for music. With the help of a former Commander at the Police Training Command, ASP Lau’s musical talent was recognised and she was finally posted to the SPF Band. The SPF Band not only allowed her to demonstrate her talent, she was also given the opportunity to complete a music degree in the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom (UK), studying under the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Music programme.

Journey to Policing and the SPF Band

ASP Lau soon grew into her roles in the SPF, and through trial and error, found her own unique style of leadership that enabled her to wield this power of music with their stirring melodies, occasionally even taking centre stage in their very own concerts. Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Lau Li Feng, Deputy Director of Music of the SPF Band, shares with us her unique experience as both a musician and a police officer, as well as the challenges that she had to overcome to balance her two passions.

“All the Right Notes

Elliot Wong (Photos: Public Affairs Department and Assistant Superintendent of Police Lau Li Feng)

Shakespeare once wrote, “If music be the food of love, play on.” From classical musicians like Beethoven to modern pop artists like Ed Sheeran, music has been an essential part of the human experience, bringing people from all walks of life together. The Singapore Police Force (SPF) Band wields this power of music with their stirring melodies, occasionally even taking centre stage in their very own concerts. Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Lau Li Feng, Deputy Director of Music of the SPF Band, shares with us her unique experience as both a musician and a police officer, as well as the challenges that she had to overcome to balance her two passions.

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In her search for her ‘dream’ job, ASP Lau recalled her past encounters with the SPF Band. Seeing that the SPF Band would give her the platform to serve the community and perhaps, even further her musical career, ASP Lau thought to herself, “why not?” And so, she took the leap of faith and signed on as a senior officer, which turned out to be a journey that would take her to places that she never would have imagined.

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Journey to Policing and the SPF Band

After completing her training, ASP Lau spent a few years as an Investigation Officer (IO) at Central Division, followed by a few years as a Team Leader (TL) in the Public Transport Security Command (TransCom). Her time in Central Division and TransCom came to teach her many valuable lessons about leadership.

“As a TL in TransCom, I had to lead a large group of men. Even though hierarchy matters in a uniformed organisation, I soon began to realise that leadership extended beyond rank alone, and that I would need to exercise compassion and sincerity to gain the respect of my men.”

Being in the SPF Band has also given her the creative space to arrange her own musical pieces for performances, blending classic military music with contemporary pop hits. “I always try to write pieces with my own creative spin on old melodies while keeping it relatable for modern audiences,” ASP Lau elaborated on her musical arrangements. “As police officers, our job involves engaging the community that we protect so that we can forge closer ties with them and work together in crime prevention efforts. Being on stage allows us to do just that. Through music, we hope to form a special connection with our audience, and that through seeing us perform, they may trust us to excel in policing as we strive for excellence on stage.”

The Magic of a Melody

Though leading the band has not always been easy, ASP Lau takes the challenge in its stride, practising the sincere and compassionate leadership style that she learnt back in TransCom. To ASP Lau, her job is most meaningful when she sees how music changes people, especially her officers who grow during their time in the band.

“I have seen them grow from people shy of the stage to bold musicians willing to step out of their comfort zone. These stories hearten me as they show that music really can change people, just as it changed me all those years ago.”

Not Just the Music

After returning from the UK, ASP Lau was posted to the music development office, and eventually became a Deputy Director of Music. The role was not without its share of menial tasks and challenges, which included rehearsing for performances and conducting the band, to administrative matters such as procuring locations for performances and co-ordinating with technical crew.

Yet, to her, even the most laborious of tasks gave her the opportunity to do what she set out to do those many years ago: meet with people of all walks of life and engage them through music. “I have had the privilege of meeting people of a variety of disciplines,” ASP Lau said. “When we organise a show, I have to liaise with the lights technician, the sound technician and the events manager. I never thought I would get to meet and work with all these people outside my area of expertise.”

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Ftote: All photos were taken prior to Circuit Breaker.
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