

POLICE LIFE

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE
2021 / ISSUE 3



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



CONTENT SPOTLIGHT



Page 6

Police Psychological Services Department – Developing and Deploying Psychology Know-How in Policing

Previously part of the Manpower Department, the Police Psychological Services Division was reorganised on 1 April 2021 to become the Police Psychological Services Department (PPSD), a standalone specialist staff unit. PPSD provides not only psychological services but also develops psychological competence of police officers for organisational and operational excellence. Find out more about what they do and how they contribute to the Singapore Police Force's mission of safeguarding Singapore!



Page 12

Happy Mother's Day

As part of *Police Life's* Mother's Day feature, peer into the lives of three crime fighting mums who shared about the joy of motherhood, and how they balance it with their work commitments.



Page 9

Off-Duty Policeman Saves Toddler from Drowning

It was yet another day out with friends until off-duty Sergeant (Sgt) Al Asyraf Bin Azman, a Ground Response Force officer from Nanyang Neighbourhood Police Centre, spotted a 3-year-old toddler at the bottom of a swimming pool. What happened next were adrenaline filled moments for Sgt Al Asyraf who responded quickly to rescue the toddler from drowning. His act of bravery won him the Singapore Civil Defence Force's Community Lifesaver Award.



Page 30

An Aspiring Filmmaker

Meet our very own aspiring filmmaker, 25-year-old Special Constable Corporal Thoufiq Ahamed, who is currently serving his Full-time Police National Service at Jurong Division. Hear from him about his passion for filmmaking and the various projects he had worked on – including a short film which was aired on national television!

CONTENTS



04

Let's Get Social!



06

Police Psychological Services Department - Developing and Deploying Psychology Know-How in Policing



09

Off-Duty Policeman Saves Toddler at Swimming Pool



10

Scam Advisory



11

Be a Safe and Responsible Cyclist



12

Happy Mother's Day



15

High Public Confidence in the Singapore Police Force



16

Poster



18

What's in my Neighbourhood?



20

Keeping Singapore Safe for Future Generations



22

Bogus Concert Ticket Scammer Nabbed



24

Winning the Fight: Building Blocks of Psychological Resilience



27

On Point Duty



30

An Aspiring Filmmaker

Committee

Editorial Advisor
Serene Chiu

Editor
Denise Luo

Chief Editor
Ho Yenn Dar

Journalist
Irwan Shah

Senior Editor
Matthew Chua

Journalist
Syam Roslan

Police Life is a publication of the Singapore Police Force. For feedback or enquiries, please write to the editorial team at SPF_PLM@spf.gov.sg. The materials in this publication are not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the prior written consent of the Editorial Committee. All rights reserved. Whilst we tried to ensure that information provided is up-to-date and accurate, the publisher will not be responsible for any errors or omissions.

Let's Get Social!

Syam Roslan

Check out the Singapore Police Force's Facebook page to find out the latest happenings! Here are some of the highlights for the months of March and April 2021!

Singapore Police Force added a new photo. April 7 at 9:03 AM

#POLICELIFEMAGAZINE <Scam Alert! \$180,000 Nearly Lost to "Tech Support" Scammers>

Over three days of lies and deception, scammers posing as technical support employees from a local telecommunication service provider and an officer of a bogus government agency nearly scammed a senior IT professional of \$180,000! Find out how the Singapore Police Force's Anti-Scam Centre worked with their banking partner, OCBC Bank, to prevent the victim from losing his life savings.... See More



405 30 Comments 45 Shares

- Roshant Weerasinghe: Singapore police department is the embodiment of perfection. To all the criminal elements the message is clear you will be brought to justice and do hard time.
- Darren Tan: Thank you for saving someone's life savings.
- Dalip Singh: SPF Thanks for the good work.Salute.

Singapore Police Force March 19

Kudos to SGT AI Asyraf Bin Azman from Nanyang NPC for his quick thinking and swift action in rescuing a drowning child on 27 February 2021. His knowledge of CPR-AED also came in handy to resuscitate the child before the arrival of the ambulance.

On 17 March 2021, SGT Asyraf was presented the SCDF Community Lifesaver Award by Commander 1st SCDF Division.

#SPFPride... See More



TNP.SG Off-duty cop lauded for jumping into hotel pool to save drowning girl

2K 139 Comments 248 Shares

- Philip Lim Yong Lee: Well done Asyraf! And congrats for the award as you deserved it. Your action with care & love were build from where you growth up, your parents has done very well too. I'm so proud of you guys! Huge Salute!
- Worthy Tan: A Cop-Spirit and an instinctively helpful nature. Lucky for the boy to have such an "Angel" around. His selfless effort epitomised the exemplary conduct of the Police Force.
- Pam Ho: Well done SGT Asyraf! I hope you realise the magnitude of what you did, you saved a life.

Singapore Police Force posted an episode of Hello Police? April 15 at 6:00 PM

Who are these officers walking around in shorts? Are they real police officers? What do they do?

Our host Yulin will be answering the above and more in Episode 3 of "Hello Police?" Stay with her till the end as she addresses some of your questions and comments from last week's episode!... See More



845 103 Comments 271 Shares

- Fernando John Paul: Thank you much love keep our community safe keep up the good work...
- Heah Tina: Just love you all. Please stay safe and stay healthy. Thank you so much for keeping us safe. Keep up the good work.
- Puran Chand: Love u guys. smart and alert on duty in service for the respected people's from the security point of view and to maintain Law and Order Keep up very good work. With regards.



Singapore Police Force April 7 at 9:15 AM

Thank you for standing by our side. We have kept our heads up and emerged stronger together since the implementation of circuit breaker exactly a year ago. The SPF will continue to stand by you and safeguard our nation every day.

#SGUnited #... See More



2.2K 186 Comments 684 Shares

- Koe Meng Kiang Keith: Always looking forward to the next performance and video production from the talented Musicians of SPF Band.
- Ray Tan: Wow... SPF has many talented singers and musicians! Nice to see the soft side of the Men and ladies in BLUE! Thank you for the 'stand by me' rendition! Cheers!!!
- Michael Goh: Good job guys. Good initiative and thank SPF for keeping Singapore safe for our citizens.

Singapore Police Force April 8 at 12:30 PM

Knock knock, who's there? #DidYouKnow? Officers from the Community Policing Unit conduct house visits, neighbourhood patrols and even roadshows to share useful crime prevention materials.

Check out the article below to find out more from Station Inspector Chua Kwee Hee and Police NSF Abdul Raaziq Abdul Rashid, officers from the Community Policing Unit at Bishan NPC! ... See More



STRAITSTIMES.COM Police knock on doors to warn people about scammers after record number of cases in 2020

382 26 Comments 69 Shares

- Kang Choon Tong: Thank you all hard working and caring police officers!!!
- Mohd Ramly: I salute our Police Officers so many changing, Now Patrolling our Estate n visiting our hse unit,we thanks U good job n safety for Residents
- Frances Jeremiah: Thanku to all our men n women in blue.

POLICE PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Developing and Deploying Psychology Know-How in Policing

 Khoo Yan Leen

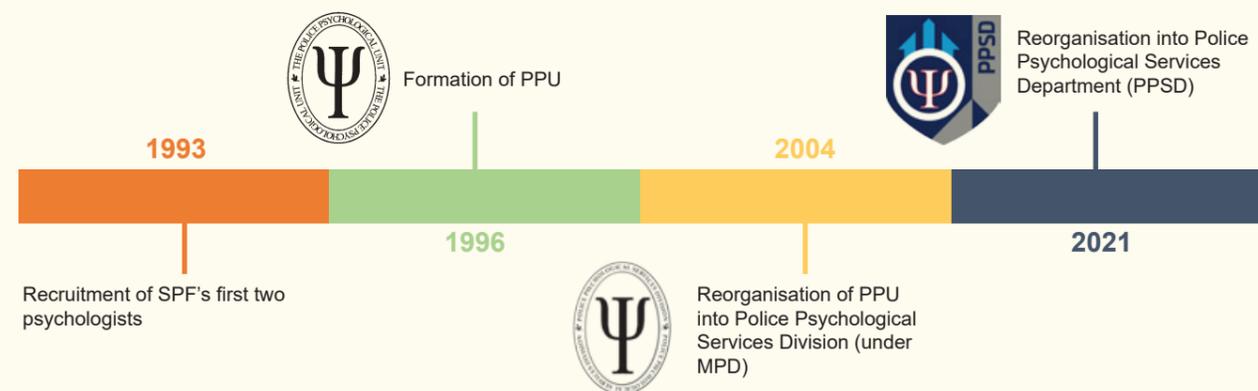
 Police Psychological Services Department

On 1 April 2021, the Police Psychological Services Division was reorganised from a division under the Manpower Department (MPD) to a standalone department and renamed as the 'Police Psychological Services Department (PPSD)'. Moving forward, PPSD seeks not just to provide psychological "services" but to develop psychological "competence" in Singapore Police Force (SPF) officers for organisational and operational excellence. Read on to learn more about PPSD's role in making psychology a key enabler for crime-fighting and enhancing the psychological resilience of SPF officers!

From a Division to a Department

In 1993, a small group of psychologists were recruited into the SPF to provide stress management training and personnel assessment. The Police Psychological Unit (PPU) was subsequently formed in 1996 to also provide counselling and specialised assessment services. In 2004,

PPU was then reorganised into the Police Psychological Services Division under the Manpower Department. Over the years, the scope and demand for police psychological services have expanded tremendously, with the addition of leadership assessment and development, investigation support, victims support, organisational measurement and development, to name a few.



1996: Formation of PPU



The PPSD team in 2020, when PPSD was under MPD
(Photo taken prior to the COVID-19 outbreak)



2021: Reorganisation into Police Psychological Services Department (PPSD)

PPSD's Mission and Vision

PPSD's mission is to use psychological principles to support officers, and to enhance the SPF's operational and organisational effectiveness using evidence-based practices.

SPF officers face many challenges and stressors in their work, and psychological support is crucial to ensuring their mental well-being and, in turn, allow them to perform their duties effectively. Such psychological support includes mental resilience training, pre-operations psychological preparedness training, counselling as well as psychological support following a critical incident.

Psychology is also used to enhance the SPF's operational effectiveness in many ways. An example is studying the psychology of crowds and using such knowledge for SPF officers to sense-make on crowd management, during major deployments. PPSD also contributes to investigation and crime-fighting through crime and offender profiling. For instance, PPSD's research in scams has helped the SPF to better understand the modus operandi of scammers and the psyche of scam victims, so as to develop more effective victim-oriented crime prevention initiatives.

Finally, PPSD contributes to the organisational effectiveness of the SPF by using psychology to better assess and develop SPF leaders, and to measure employee engagement and organisational health.

With its reorganisation to a department, PPSD is transforming from a unit that provides direct psychological services to one that develops psychological competence for policing, not just in PPSD but among SPF officers. The vision is one where every officer is equipped to use psychological principles in their respective areas of work.

This would enable PPSD to focus on deepening its internal psychology know-how as well as evaluating and strengthening its current and future capabilities through the harnessing of technology and data analytics. PPSD would, in turn, be better poised to provide psychological guidance to SPF officers, the standards to achieve and the strategies to develop psychological competence.

The PPSD Team

The PPSD team comprises two divisions and two branches. The Organisational and Personnel Psychology Division (OPPD) is responsible for Assessment and Leadership Psychology, whereas the Operations and Forensic Psychology Division (OFPD) will drive efforts under Operations and Crime Psychology. The Resilience and Counselling Psychology Branch (RCPB) focusses on the work under Resilience Psychology. Together with OPPD and OFPD, they would be supported by the Operations and Corporate Services Branch in ensuring the smooth delivery of PPSD's suite of psychological interventions.

Working hand in hand with PPSD are the Police National Servicemen Psychological Services Officers, SPF ParaCounsellors, community volunteers serving as Victim Care Officers, the SPF Leadership Assessors, Unit Morale Sensing Teams, and the cadre of Organisational Health Programme Activists.

Looking ahead

Moving forward, PPSD will focus on the following areas – Assessment Psychology, Leadership Psychology, Operations Psychology, Crime Psychology, and Resilience Psychology.

 <p>ASSESSMENT PSYCHOLOGY SELECTING THE RIGHT OFFICERS</p> <p>Develop psychological assessment tools and techniques for personnel selection and development</p> <p>Harness existing and emerging technologies into developing and enhancing assessment platforms within SPF</p>	 <p>LEADERSHIP PSYCHOLOGY RAISING EFFECTIVE POLICE LEADERS</p> <p>Develop police-specific and relevant leadership tools, initiatives and interventions to support organisational and operational leadership at all levels</p> <p>Provide measurement and feedback platforms that would enable effective police leadership measurement, development and feedback</p>	 <p>OPERATIONS PSYCHOLOGY DEPLOYING PSYCHOLOGY FOR EFFECTIVE POLICE OPERATIONS</p> <p>Conduct unit measurements and provide timely organisational and operational update on the psychological state of units</p> <p>Develop instruments to provide timely operational and organisational sensing</p> <p>Deploy psychological knowledge and intelligence to supporting effective police operations</p>	 <p>CRIME PSYCHOLOGY DEPLOYING PSYCHOLOGY FOR CRIME-FIGHTING</p> <p>Deploy psychological intelligence in terms of psychological profiling for the resolution of cold/complex cases</p> <p>Deploy psychological know-how to enhance SPF's crime-fighting capabilities in the investigation and intelligence fraternities</p> <p>Deploy psychological expertise to develop the competence of officers in working effectively with victims of crime</p>	 <p>RESILIENCE PSYCHOLOGY BUILDING PSYCHOLOGICALLY STRONG POLICE OFFICERS</p> <p>Provide psychology know-how to police officers and units on enhancing their internal psychological strength and resilience</p> <p>Develop psychological instruments, packages and interventions to support police officers' and units' readiness in performing all levels of police operations</p>
---	---	---	--	---

Some of the upcoming initiatives by PPSD would be:



Conducting leadership assessment centres' scenario-based exercises in a virtual simulation system to enhance the realism of the exercise and assessment experience



Digitalising mental health and well-being materials so that officers can access them more readily via their personal or work devices.



Moving towards a more blended training approach by developing self-directed e-learning packages on leadership and resilience, and using them to augment the in-person training.



Deepening SPF leaders' psychology know-how and supporting them in the leadership of their teams and units through an internal platform of self-help guides (e.g., on running internal surveys), team development and leadership tools



Developing a new SPF Leadership Coaching Framework that provides the foundation upon which SPF uses coaching, internal and external, to develop its leaders.



Implementing a new Peer Support Programme for full-time Police National Service officers (PNSF) where trained and appointed PNSFs offer and provide emotional support to fellow PNSFs in need.

Psychology is core to policing, evidenced in the pervasive application of psychological principles in many facets of the SPF's work. Through strengthening its internal psychological capabilities while building the psychological competence of individual SPF officers, PPSD will continue to drive operational and organisational excellence to better support the SPF's mission of safeguarding Singapore every day!

Off-Duty Police Officer Saves Toddler from Drowning

 Irwan Shah

 Erwyn Shah

A day out with friends turned into a life-or-death situation when Sergeant (Sgt) Al Asyraf Bin Azman – an off-duty Ground Response Force officer from Nanyang Neighbourhood Police Centre – rescued a 3-year-old toddler from drowning. Read on to find out how a tragedy was averted!

Something Strange Below

It was Sgt Al Asyraf's off day and he had decided to join his friends for a swim at a hotel. He was chilling out by the swimming pool, dipping his legs in the water, when he spotted a pink object beneath the waters' surface that was still for seven to 10 seconds. Curious that the object remained submerged for such a while, he decided to have a closer look. Upon checking, Sgt Al Asyraf was shocked to see a motionless toddler in her pink swimsuit at the bottom of the pool!

"As I swam closer and saw the arms and legs coming out from the pink object, I was shocked and immediately dived in to pull her out," said Sgt Al Asyraf.

Reviving the Child

When the toddler's father saw Sgt Al Asyraf bringing up his motionless child from the pool, he immediately rushed over, took the child from Sgt Al Asyraf and placed the child down on a poolside chair to try and revive her. Wasting no time, Sgt Al Asyraf immediately administered Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on the toddler. It took a while before the toddler managed to regain consciousness, threw up water and started crying until she fell asleep. It was a huge sigh of relief for Sgt Al Asyraf and the toddler's father.

"I was worried as she was unconscious but I observed that there were signs of life. So we kept on trying to wake her up to get the water out of her system till the ambulance arrived," elaborated Sgt Al Asyraf.

The toddler's mother approached Sgt Al Asyraf after the ordeal and thanked him for his quick actions before heading off with the ambulance conveying the child.

Anyone Can Save a Life

For his rescue and timely intervention, which saved the life of the toddler, Sgt Al Asyraf was awarded the Singapore Civil Defence Force's Community Lifesaver Award. Sgt Al Asyraf hopes that the award can inspire others to do the same when they encounter similar situations. He also shared that his job as a police officer has prepared him well in keeping him calm and composed when dealing with such life-threatening situations.

"My policing work and training has definitely helped me to be composed in dire situations and enabled me to think clearly and quickly on what to do during such emergencies," said Sgt Al Asyraf.

Kudos to Sgt Al Asyraf for saving a life!



BEWARE OF HOT DEALS

IF IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Dennis
6 months ago



Nintendo Switch
S\$100
Cheapest price in the market
New

John
6 months ago



PlayStation 4
S\$200
Price is firm. Free Delivery
New

G_Smith
6 months ago



iPhone
S\$100
Cheapest price in the market
New

IT COULD BE A BAD SIGN

Learn how to spot E-commerce scams at pricesyoushouldpass.sg

SPOT THE SIGNS. STOP THE CRIMES.

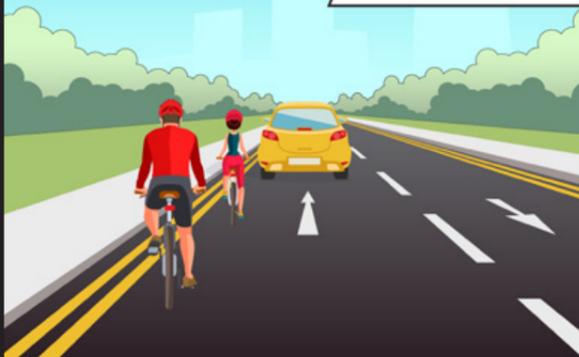
BE A SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE CYCLIST

Irwan Shah

Cycling is a great activity to stay fit and healthy. However, cycling can be dangerous if you are reckless and irresponsible. Gear up with these cycling safety tips from the Traffic Police before your rides.

WHEN CYCLING ON ROADS WITH A SINGLE LANE

Always ride in a single file unless overtaking.



ROAD SAFETY ADVICE WHEN CYCLING

Always keep LEFT and SIGNAL your intentions EARLY to other road users.



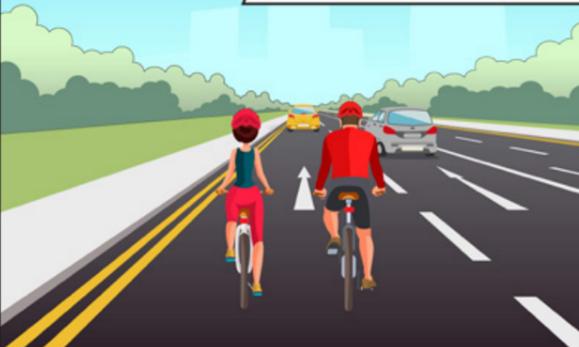
WHEN CYCLING ON ROADS WITH A BUS LANE

Always ride in a single file during bus lane hours of operation.



WHEN CYCLING ON ROADS WITH TWO OR MORE LANES

Up to TWO cyclists are allowed to ride abreast in one lane.



WHEN CYCLING ON ROADS WITH A BICYCLE LANE

Always use the bicycle lane instead of other lanes.



Happy Mother's Day

 Syam Roslan  Public Affairs Department

Pure, strong and unconditional. Such is a mother's love for her child. This Mother's Day, hear from our mums in the Force, who share insights into balancing work and parenting.

Sergeant (Sgt) Anna Anthony
Community Policing Unit Officer
Hougang NPC, Ang Mo Kio Division



Police Life (PL): Briefly share with us your roles and responsibilities at work.

Sgt Anna: Through our engagements with the community, we build relationships and strengthen partnerships between the Police and the community to prevent, deter and detect crime.

PL: Tell us more about your children.

Sgt Anna: I have a 14-month-old son who is currently attending infant care. Recently, he just learnt how to feed himself using a fork and a spoon!

PL: What is your proudest moment as a mother?

Sgt Anna: Since I hardly cook before becoming a mother, it is especially satisfying when I see my son enjoying and finishing his meals that I have prepared. This motivated me to sign up for baking classes so that I can continue to prepare delicious food for my family.

PL: What are some of your challenges as a working mother?

Sgt Anna: Whenever my son is unwell at home, it is never easy to work with a heavy heart. Back when I was serving as a GRF officer, it was always tough to leave for my night shift before my son returns home from infant care. The only time that I got to spend with him is in the morning of my night shift duty, where I would prepare him for school and feed him. Thankfully, I have countless photos and videos of him on my phone to keep me going when I am not with him!



PL: How are you able to juggle your responsibilities as a mother and a police officer?

Sgt Anna: I am fortunate to have a supportive family. My husband, who is also a police officer, always help out whenever possible to look after our son and do the household chores. My parents and in-laws are also ever-ready to help out when necessary. It would be extremely tough without them, especially when both my husband and I work different shifts.

PL: What are you looking forward to in the next phase of parenthood?

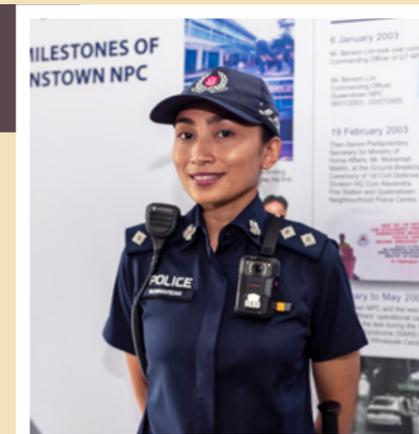
Sgt Anna: Definitely looking forward to more milestones with him! We will also consider giving him a sibling when we are ready in the future.

PL: Any advice for future mothers in the Force?

Sgt Anna: You need to learn to manage your work and time efficiently. There will be sacrifices along the way due to work commitments but family support plays a big part. Do not hesitate to ask for help. You will be amazed at how wonderful your colleagues and your family could be!

Inspector (Insp) Norhafizah Abdul Aziz

Deputy Team Leader, Team 'A', Ground Response Force (GRF)
Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC), Clementi Division



Police Life (PL): Briefly share with us your roles and responsibilities at work.

Insp Norhafizah: Together with my Team Leader, we lead a team of GRF officers to provide frontline police services to members of the public.

PL: Tell us more about your children.

Insp Norhafizah: I am blessed with two active boys, eldest is 13 and the other is 10, and a lovely nine-year-old daughter. My eldest son, who is currently in his secondary school's hockey team, used to take on sport climbing as his co-curricular activity (CCA) in primary school. Inspired by the sport climbing achievements of his elder brother, my second son also took up the same CCA, hoping to excel in the sport as his brother did. My daughter's passion is in dance and music. She joined her school's brass band as a percussionist and was selected to perform for her school's 25th anniversary celebration earlier this year. Though their interests are very different, they are always very supportive of one another.

PL: What is your proudest moment as a mother?

Insp Norhafizah: Juggling work and family commitments with three kids is no mean feat. On top of these commitments, I also took on a degree programme, which really challenged and stretched my limits. My determination and hard work finally paid off when I received my degree at the graduation ceremony. This has been the proudest moment of my life! I hope that my achievement will also inspire my children and motivate them to work hard and strive for their best in whatever they are doing.

PL: What are some of your challenges as a working mother?

Insp Norhafizah: Managing time is a challenge due to our shift duties. We may not always be there for our family and may miss important occasions like birthday parties and family gatherings. But I am very blessed that my children are understanding of my commitments. Despite missing out on some of those important dates, my children would leave me with random notes slipped into my bag, and stick post-it notes on my cupboard at home, to let me know that they love me and want me to stay safe at work. Such words of love keeps me going through the tough times.



PL: How are you able to juggle your responsibilities as a mother and a police officer?

Insp Norhafizah: My children understand the nature of my work since their grandfather is a retired police officer, and my husband and brother are also in the Force. I need to plan my time wisely since my husband also does shift duties. We will make extra efforts to spend quality family time together. When I am at work, my children will update us on their homework through WhatsApp, and I make it a point to go through their school work when I get home. I usually start my day early and walk my children to school whenever possible. That 10-minute walk is quality time, sharing what happened the day before or what they wish to do on our day off or weekends.

PL: What are you looking forward to in the next phase of parenthood?

Insp Norhafizah: Like every parent, I would like to see my children grow up with good health, do well in their studies and be successful in areas they are interested in.

PL: Any advice for future mothers in the Force?

Insp Norhafizah: Take every journey as an experience and cherish the moments. Challenges are part of parenting, and they will teach us to grow as well.

Hong Jinglin

Team Leader, Asset Confiscation Branch
Commercial Affairs Department

Police Life (PL): Briefly share with us your roles and responsibilities at work.

Jinglin: I investigate money laundering offences, complex or syndicated case referrals from the Land Divisions, conduct assets tracing and also perform concealed income analysis.

PL: Tell us more about your children.

Jinglin: I have two kids. My four-year-old boy is currently attending nursery, while my girl is turning one in May this year. Both of them have random bruises lately because my boy has just learnt how to ride a two-wheeled bicycle, and my girl has just started walking.

PL: What is your proudest moment as a mother?

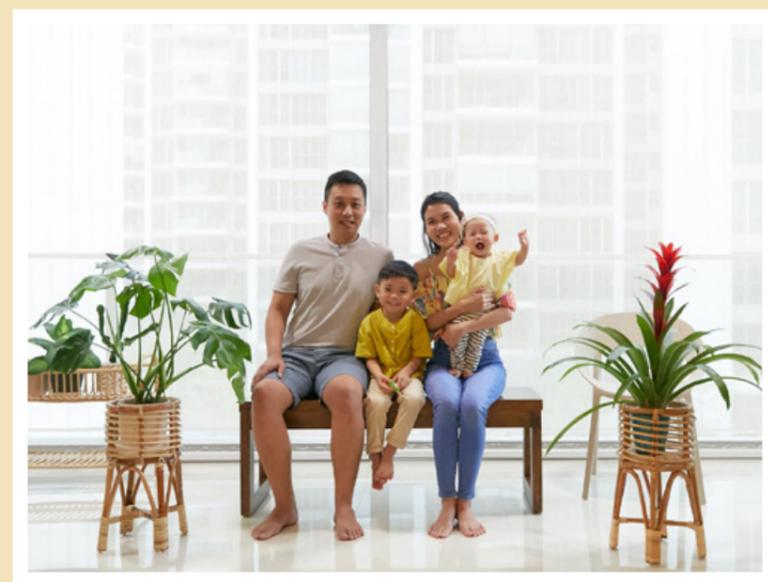
Jinglin: There was once I brought my son to the playground and he was playing at an area meant for older kids. Then, a bigger-sized boy went to him and pushed him for no apparent reason. My boy looked at him and said, "Why you pushed me? I don't like you." That boy was a bit flustered at my son's reactions and mumbled, "I didn't", before walking off. I was so surprised then. Despite being much smaller in size, my son did not cry or run to me for help. Instead, he confronted the bigger boy immediately and stood up against injustice by himself. I was so proud of him for doing that at such a young age!

PL: What are some of your challenges as a working mother?

Jinglin: Investigative work is interesting and yet challenging as cases can be time-sensitive, and you will never know what to expect. Before becoming a mum, it was easier to work late or on weekends. Even when you have to deal with work exigencies, you can cancel your prior appointments. After being a mother, it is certainly more challenging to deal with unforeseen work demands as I have to call for help to care for my children.

PL: How are you able to juggle your responsibilities as a mother and a police officer?

Jinglin: Lucky for me, my mother is an infant care teacher. I can always go to her for help whenever I need, provided that she is not working. It is also a relief that my husband's job is not desk-bound, and it is easier for me to "activate" him.



PL: What are you looking forward to in the next phase of parenthood?

Jinglin: I think it will be a bittersweet feeling, but I am looking forward to my kids attending primary school. Academic stress aside, I would love to see them becoming more independent, making new friends, being more aware of their surroundings and learning how to care for others.

PL: Any advice for future mothers in the Force?

Jinglin: Motherhood is a fulfilling and incredible experience. It is possible to pursue your aspiration to fight crime while being a mother. There is also no need to shoulder all the responsibilities by yourself or feel bad about seeking help from family members. Family is our best support system to depend on!



HIGH PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

 Irwan Shah

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) recorded the greatest increase in public confidence in a study conducted by the Institute of Policy Studies, published in March 2021. Around 87 per cent of people polled are confident or very confident in the SPF, up from 79.1 per cent in 2012. The study measured the people's attitudes towards institutions, politics, and policies, and is a part of the World Values Survey. The public's confidence level in Singapore's police force came up top among 13 other countries that took part in the survey, closely followed by Sweden (86.3 per cent) and Switzerland (85.4 per cent).

The strong trust and confidence that the public has in the SPF is also evident in the findings of Gallup's 2020 Global Law and Order report, with Singapore ranking first, for the seventh consecutive year. Singapore topped the law and order index with a score of 97 out of a possible 100. 97 per cent of the people living in Singapore said that they felt safe walking alone at night, as compared with the worldwide average of 69 per cent.

The SPF will continue to strive to maintain and deepen public's trust and confidence. Kudos to all SPF officers for their dedication in making Singapore the safest place in the world!





WHAT'S IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD?

  Irwan Shah



In this issue of 'What's in My Neighbourhood?', Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Kristian Kirkwood – a Team Leader of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) at Central Division – let us in on his favourite spots in the Central Business District (CBD), and his memorable moments at work.

Police Life (PL): What it is like being a part of the ERT?

As an ERT officer, we do more than just patrolling the streets of Singapore. We strongly believe that national security is a shared responsibility, and our community plays a crucial role in protecting it. In line with the SPF's vision of making Singapore the safest place in the world, we regularly engage our stakeholders in the community through talks and meet-ups, and organise joint emergency preparedness exercises [before the COVID-19 pandemic] to better prepare the citizenry.

PL: What do you like about your current vocation?

The strong camaraderie in the team! We are like a family that trust each other; got each other's backs in the event of an emergency; and when the going gets tough!

PL: Where do you usually patrol?

Patrols are carried out in places with high levels of footfall and the CBD is one such place. Patrolling in the CBD never gets mundane due to the hustle and bustle of the CBD. The city's liveliness is something to behold, especially the night scenery. The Marina Bay area comes to life after dark, offering a scenic and relaxing atmosphere for those who look forward to unwind after work. Apart from the CBD, we also patrol in shopping malls and tourist hotspots including the Merlion Park, and Gardens by the Bay.

PL: Do members of the public mistake you for a Special Operations Command (SOC) or Protective Security Command (ProCom) officer when you are patrolling? How can they tell them apart?

Honestly, most people just see us as police officers patrolling with mid-range weapons, without distinguishing which unit we are from. A quick way to differentiate us would be our headgears. We [ERT officers] wear dark blue jockey caps while our SOC and ProCom counterparts wear red and beige berets respectively.

PL: What is the most memorable work-related incident that you have encountered?

Someone had called the Police in the middle of the night, reporting that a big gang fight was about to break out at a carpark, and they were armed with metal rods and poles. We rushed down to the scene immediately, jumped out of our vehicles - ready for action! But it turned out only to be people who were doing pest control, trying to catch rodents with their rods. It was anti-climactic, but we were relieved that no fight has taken place.

PL: What is your greatest fear?

The fear that we have much to lose if we let our guards down. Our forefathers built this beautiful city on the foundations of hard work and sheer dedication. We must always remain vigilant to uphold the peace and keep the country safe and secure.

PL: Which food haunt is a must go in your neighbourhood? Why?

Maxwell Food Centre stands out amongst the rest. Home to a plethora of hawker stalls which champions diverse food fares, you can find food such as Hainanese Chicken Rice and Nasi Lemak.

PL: What about hidden gems in your neighbourhood, any place you have in mind?

The Golden Mile Complex is almost iconic in Singapore's history as it exists as a commercial as well as a residential development. It feels like a "Vertical City" in itself. If you are looking for good Thai food, look no further, you will be spoilt for choice.

PL: What should fellow readers do when they see you around town?

Just come over and say "Hi!" We love to chat!

Keeping Singapore Safe for Future Generations

 Mok Wen Jie

 Iffat Arfan Mahmud



When Ms Eleanor Lim learnt about the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) Volunteer Special Constabulary (VSC) (Community) vocation, the 54-year old Manager (Regulation & Standards) with the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA), decided that she wanted to do her part in keeping Singapore safe for her children and grandchildren.

Police Life (PL): How and when did you first learn about the VSC (Community) vocation?

Eleanor: In 2018, my husband and I visited the Police Community Roadshow at Bedok Mall. A police officer approached us as we were going through the exhibits and he shared with us about serving, volunteering and supporting the SPF in its mission to keep our community safe and secure. That was when I found out about the VSC (Community) programme.

PL: What motivated you to sign up as a VSC (Community) officer?

Eleanor: Singapore is one of the safest cities in the world. I want my children and their children to enjoy the same peace of mind for their future. Should anything happen to disrupt the peace and threaten our community, I want to be able to do my part to keep my family and fellow Singaporeans safe until help arrives.

PL: Were your family members supportive of your decision to join the SPF as a VSC (Community) officer?

Eleanor: My husband was so proud of me when he found out that my application was successful! He is my pillar of support, helping me out with the chores at home so that I can commit my time and focus on fulfilling my duties as a VSC (Community) officer.

PL: Was your boss supportive of you joining as a volunteer in the SPF?

Eleanor: My supervisor is very supportive and would even remind me to leave half an hour earlier when I was undergoing training. Even now, when meetings overrun, my supervisor would ask me if I need to go off earlier for my duty. She also makes it a point to check on my schedule when planning late evening meetings.

PL: How long did it take for you to complete your training?

Eleanor: The training lasted about three months. Classroom trainings were in the evenings on weekdays and we had full days of training on Saturdays. After the completion of training, I usually take on two duties per month, and attend other events such as Neighbourhood Police Centre meetings, in-service training and refresher courses.

PL: What were some of the challenges you faced during the VSC (Community) training? Which training session or lesson stood out for you?

Eleanor: The Police Defence Tactics (PDT) training was physically demanding for me. To ensure that I can pass the re-certification test annually, I exercise regularly to improve my fitness and that helps to improve my health too! As for the theory lessons, I enjoyed them very much as I am now enriched with the knowledge of the Penal Code and Rules of Engagement. What stood out for me was putting our training to practice during the Situation Based Assessment. I can now better understand the operational challenges of a police officer.

PL: Are there any moments where your experience in ECDA helped you as a VSC (Community) officer?

Eleanor: As a regulation officer in ECDA, I work closely with multiple stakeholders and this certainly helps with my engagements with members of the public when I carry out my duties as a VSC (Community) officer.

PL: How do you feel about your work as a VSC (Community) officer?

Eleanor: I feel that I am always learning something new. Members of the public do notice police presence amongst them when we conduct patrols. When they acknowledge our presence, I feel proud that I am able to contribute to their peace of mind. I also really enjoy the camaraderie and bond that I have built with fellow officers.

PL: Do you have any advice you would like to share with others who are interested to sign up as VSC (Community) officers?

Eleanor: Volunteering requires strong discipline and commitment. Being a VSC (Community) officer is my commitment to my family and loved ones - to provide them with the safe and secure environment that I grew up in. If you have the time and share my commitment, do your part by volunteering with the SPF.

If you are interested to learn more about the VSCC vocation, scan the QR code to head over to the SPF website!



Crime Files: Bogus Concert Ticket Scammer Nabbed

Irwan Shah Commercial Affairs Department

In this issue of *Crime Files, Police Life* zoom in on an e-commerce scam case involving over 43 victims who lost over S\$38,000 to a scammer selling fake concert tickets. Find out how Investigation Officers (IOs) from the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) connected the dots to bring the perpetrator to justice!

thenewpaper. WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2019 7

news

Man charged in scams involving over \$38,000

He became evasive and uncontactable after receiving money from 43 victims

KOKYUFENG

He would make bogus offers of tickets to in-demand concerts like those of Korean pop groups BTS and Blackpink on online marketplace Carousell.

After his victims gave him money, Chua Yi An, 24, would become evasive and uncontactable.

In all, 43 victims were left high and dry, while Chua spent \$38,608 of his ill-gotten gains on food, drink, a fortnight at a Jurong hotel and on computer gaming.

Yesterday, Chua pleaded guilty to 16 counts of cheating, with another 32 similar charges taken into consideration.

Court documents revealed only \$2,280 was recovered and Chua has so far made no restitution.

The amounts he cheated people of ranged from \$65 for an official BTS light stick he did not have, to thousands of dollars.

In one case, Chua cheated a 20-year-old out of \$13,125 in a series of scams.

He responded to the victim's Carousell advertisement asking

for BTS tickets using two different usernames, and the victim gave him more than \$2,000 for six tickets and six light sticks.

The victim did not receive the items Chua promised.

On Jan 23, Chua contacted the victim using WhatsApp, claiming to be "Xiaoqi", a partner in a clothing business with one of the bogus sellers, "Kaixuan".

Chua said he would return some of the money he owed via cheque if the victim transferred \$2,500 to "Kaixuan's" boyfriend, which the victim did.

The next day, he told the vic-



Chua accepted money for BTS tickets and light sticks that he did not have. TNP FILE PHOTO

tim that a clothing supplier had to be paid before the refund could be processed and asked the victim to transfer \$1,049 to another bank account.

In fact, these were to pay for virtual game currency and a necklace Chua had bought.

Chua then asked the victim if she wanted to invest in the bogus clothing business, promising a five-fold profit.

The victim gave him \$7,440, which he used to buy more virtual game currency.

Chua also cheated another of his victims a second time by

promising the 16-year-old a share of the profits in a scam to re-sell BTS tickets.

He was nabbed after a police report was made last November and more victims later came forward.

Seeking a jail term of 24 to 26 months, Deputy Public Prosecutor Kelvin Chong said Chua's scams involved a lot of planning and premeditation.

Multiple victims as young as 13 and the large sum involved were also aggravating factors.

Calling Chua a habitual offender, DPP Chong highlighted a previous conviction in 2017, when Chua was jailed 10 weeks for an investment scam.

"The accused's conduct has escalated.

"It has gotten worse," DPP Chong told the court.

Chua, who was unrepresented, asked for a lighter sentence.

He is expected to return to court on July 12 for sentencing.

yufengk@sph.com.sg

Gotcha

From the local bank lead, the IOs managed to identify the bank account's owner as "Chua Yi An". His transaction records and home address were retrieved, and his bank account was frozen. Over at the Carousell's office, the IOs obtained the scammer's seller accounts' chat and transaction history, subsequently suspending all his accounts to prevent further scams. While they were unable to obtain any further useful leads from the telco, there was enough information to bring the IOs closer to the scammer's real identity.

After consolidating their findings, they discovered that the bank's transaction records – including the dates and the amount of money transferred – matched with the details found on the chat and transaction history of the scammer's seller accounts. The scammer also used the same email address to create these accounts, inferring that the scammer might have closed past accounts and made new ones in place. All these findings further solidified "Chua Yi An" as the person behind all these scams. Having identified the perpetrator, the IOs proceeded immediately to Chua Yi An's home to arrest him.

Not at Home

Upon arrival at Chua Yi An's home, the IOs learnt from his mother that her son had not been staying with her for quite some time and it had been several months since they last spoke. He also changed his mobile number without informing his mother.

Finally, a breakthrough came when the IOs were trawling through his social media account and noticed that Chua Yi An's social media profile was constantly tagged in many photos by a male friend. There was also the same geotag in each photo, suggesting that he frequents a certain location which was a shophouse.

Wasting no time, the IOs proceeded to stake out the area around the shophouse. When one of the IOs spoke to the shop owner, it was revealed that the same male friend as Chua Yi An was his tenant for the apartment above the shophouse and Chua Yi An had stayed over with him for about a month. However, Chua Yi An was not there at that time. With this knowledge, the IOs devised a plan to arrest Chua Yi An with the cooperation of the landlord.

Nowhere to Run

Under the pretence of water leakage from the apartment, the landlord persuaded the male tenant to come back home the next day at about 4 pm to allow the "repairmen" to fix the "leakage". When he arrived at the apartment, the IOs immediately approached him and confirmed that Chua Yi An was in the apartment at that time. The IOs entered the apartment and apprehended Chua Yi An, who was relaxing in the living room. They also confiscated Chua Yi An's electronic devices for further investigations. It was subsequently revealed that Chua Yi An's male friend - who housed him - had no prior knowledge of Chua's criminal activities.

Chua Yi An eventually confessed that he had scammed 43 victims on Carousell and used the money to buy other items for his personal benefit. He was convicted of cheating and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.



Mobile phones seized from Chua Yi An

Source: The New Paper @ Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Reprinted with permission.

Multiple Police Reports Lodged

Between November 2018 and February 2019, a string of online scam cases involving the sale of concert tickets was reported to the Police. Victims had failed to receive their concert tickets purchased through an online marketplace, Carousell. In all cases, the scammers became unreachable when they were asked to refund the victims' money.

After studying all the police reports, a team of IOs from CAD, which was set up to investigate the cases, noticed that the different online sellers were in fact, a single person who operated several seller accounts on Carousell. The modus operandi was similar and the scammer had used the same bank account number for several monetary transactions between the scammer and the victims. They also observed that the scammer used the same mobile phone number for all the transactions. Based on these observations, the team split up to follow up on several leads – to a local bank, a telco, and Carousell – to ascertain the scammer's identity.

Between January and March 2020, over 530 reports of e-commerce scams were reported, involving a total loss of S\$380,000. This was 43.9 per cent more cases than the same period in 2019. To avoid becoming a victim of e-commerce scams, here are some tips:

- Be wary of people selling items at prices that are too good to be true.
- Check the seller's track record by reading reviews or contacting previous customers
- If advanced payments are required, use shopping platforms that only release your payment upon the receipt of the item in good order.
- And never share your personal details and credit card number with anyone.

Together, the SPF and the community can work to fight scams!

Winning the Fight:

Building Blocks of Psychological Resilience

Reproduced from the 'Resilience Stories Through the Years, Issue 01'
by Police Psychological Services Department

Over the years, Singapore Police Force (SPF) officers have demonstrated their capabilities in overcoming challenges. Even during times of peace, frontline officers may face life-and-death situations or have to make split-second decisions to save lives. Some have been deployed to potentially hazardous sites. Nevertheless, after every deployment, officers resume their normal duties and take on familial responsibilities after work hours. Demands from both work and personal life may be daunting for some. Strengthening the resilience of officers during challenging times is critical towards building a stronger Force.

As one of the psychologists in the pioneering group, he recounted the challenges he faced as a young graduate in building up the foundations of the Police Psychological Unit (PPU) and his personal resilience journey while in the SPF. For the past 26 years, Dr Majeed Khader has overseen the development of psychological services for the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), building up our capabilities in the areas of stress, resilience, employee selection, deception psychology, leadership, crisis negotiations, crime profiling, and crisis psychology. He is currently the Chief Psychologist in MHA and concurrently Director of the Home Team Behavioural Sciences Centre (HTBSC) in the Home Team Academy (HTA).

Police Psychological Services Department (PPSD): Share with us the challenges that you faced in the early days?

Dr Majeed: Back then, being one of the pioneering psychologists in the ministry and the only one in Police Academy (PA), I was tasked to look into the resilience of our officers. When I first reported to work, I had no desk of my own or a computer. I had to bring my personal computer and printer, which were big and bulky.

There were many times I felt like I did not belong there. I faced cynicism from officers as well. Some comments I received were, "Who do you think you are?" and "We don't need a psychologist here." Work was quite intense back then. I still remember having to curate slides from scratch and conduct 35 trainings on resilience and stress management yearly on my own. I did not have a senior psychologist to guide me. As a fresh graduate, applying my knowledge about resilience research into useful, simple and interesting content for officers was one of the challenges I faced. Using fancy jargons like "Stimulus Response" did not help me to connect with the officers.



The early days with the PPU Panel of Advisers.

PPSD: How did you overcome it?

Dr Majeed: Though the beginning was tough, I gradually learnt to adapt. When I received comments from some officers, I would try to brush it off and joke about it, "Don't like that lah. Relax. Just joking with you," and then used other methods to get information from them.

I realised the importance of building rapport and working closely with the officers, so one helpful way for me was having various informal chats with them. It helped me develop the psychological resilience framework tailored for them with the deeper understanding of what they go through in their policing work.

PPSD: How has the challenge influenced you in any way?

Dr Majeed: Looking back at my time in the PA, it is without a doubt one of the best things that happened in my career. It helped shape me and allowed me to forge closer bonds with officers, whom I now call friends. I will not trade those precious years for anything else. The sincerity and genuine interest I showed towards their work and lives helped me tremendously in building good rapport with them. Through understanding their experiences, my perspective on police officers has changed. Police officers are some of the most fun-loving and supportive people I have encountered. I admire the passion they show in their endeavours.



Dr Majeed in the early days with the PPU Panel of Advisers.

PPSD: How did you manage to get through that tough period?

Dr Majeed: I was very fortunate to have many amazing people around me. From helpful seniors such as Mr Fred Long, then working in Woodbridge Hospital (now known as the Institute of Mental Health), advising me on effective training skills, to close teammates like Jansen (currently Director of PPSD) and other PPSD colleagues, I am very grateful for their support.

Not forgetting my eight bosses whom I worked for, including the Deputy Commissioners who have been great leaders, always supportive of PPSD's and HTBSC's work. I count myself lucky to be working with them throughout my years in PPU/PPSD.



Dr Majeed (second row, first from the left) in the early days at the PA office.

PPSD: What advice would you have for officers who may be going through challenging times as you did?

Dr Majeed: Never give up. There were difficult times for me just as there would be difficult times for you too, especially in this dynamic and fast-paced environment. You may face criticism in the things that you do but it is normal. Be curious, understanding and *cari makan* (find ways to survive). There were many testing moments for me, and these were few things that got me through that period.

Firstly, understand the people you work with and be proactive. Understanding things from their perspective helps a lot in delivering what they need. Always empathise with the officers. There may be reasons behind the words mentioned and understanding where they are coming from may help in finding the right solution. Secondly, find support from your seniors and colleagues. Support one another as no one else will understand your work and difficulties better than them.



Police Psychological Unit was renamed to Police Psychological Services Division in 2004, and further renamed to Police Psychological Services Department (PPSD) in 2021, after its formation as a specialist staff department in the SPF. PPSD celebrated their 25th Anniversary at the Senior Police Officers' Mess in 2018.

ON POINT DUTY

✍ Rachel Ng 📷 Singapore Police Force



In 1896, the first car arrived in Singapore. It heralded a new age of motorised transport that changed the way that roads were used. New methods of traffic control had to be developed to regulate the increasing motor vehicle population. In 1926, an innovative officer in the Traffic Branch came up with the idea of the 'winged' traffic policeman, whose eye-catching look had made him an icon through the decades.

The Age of the Automobile

The first motor car which arrived in Singapore in 1896 was a curious sight. Unlike the horse drawn carriages or rickshaws of its time, it appeared to move completely on its own. For all the uniqueness of this 4.5 horsepower Benz Victoria, it proved impractical as it only had a top speed of about 30km/hr. It also had to be pushed uphill and rattled so loudly, that its owner C. B. Buckley nicknamed it 'the Coffee Machine'.



C.B. Buckley was the owner of the first car in Singapore, a 4.5 horsepower Benz Victoria which he nicknamed 'the Coffee Machine'. (Source: Traffic Police Heritage Book)



Left: Raffles Place was dominated by rickshaws and other traditional modes of transport in 1902. (Source: Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore).
Right: Raffles Place in the 1930s showing the dramatic increase in motor vehicles. (Source: Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore)

Despite these initial shortcomings, motor vehicles were here to stay. Throughout the early 1900s, engine technology continued to improve, and mass production made these vehicles more affordable. From around 300 registered motor vehicles in 1909, their numbers increased to 2,750 between 1917–18, and 11,160 a decade later in 1928.

Formation of the Traffic Office

With their exponentially increasing numbers and vast speed differences compared to traditional forms of transport, the errant operation of motor vehicles soon led to chaos on the roads. Congestion, reckless driving and accidents became all too common. Something had to be done to improve the traffic situation. In 1914, the government passed tougher traffic legislation. In that same year, the Police also formed the Traffic Office to take charge of regulating the island's traffic. This was the predecessor of the Traffic Branch that was formed in 1918, or the Traffic Police today. Specialised policemen called 'point men' began to be deployed on the roads to direct traffic using hand signals.

These developments improved the traffic situation. Gone were the days when the only form of traffic regulation was the sound of motorists honking at each other. However, it would be years before the road infrastructure was expanded to fully accommodate motor vehicles and a formalised highway code was developed.

THE WORK OF A POINT DUTY OFFICER

In the interim, something had to be done to cope with the ever-growing motor population. In 1926, Assistant Superintendent of Police N.L. Lindon of the Traffic Branch introduced an innovative way to control traffic. In order to improve the efficiency of officers on point duty, he created wicker 'wings' that were strapped horizontally across their backs. The wings, when facing across the path of a vehicle approaching from the front or behind were a signal to stop. Before changing the signal, the officer would raise both hands. A change in the officer's position then signalled that the way was clear for traffic to proceed. In effect, point duty officers acted as a sort of human traffic light.



The wings, when facing oncoming vehicles from the front or back, was a signal to stop. When the officer raised both hands, it was a signal that he was about to turn to stop traffic in another direction. The Traffic Police adopted a white uniform by the late 1930s which increased their visibility on the roads.

These 'four-armed' point duty officers soon became a distinct feature of Singapore's cityscape that foreign visitors often remarked about. Despite their strange appearance, these officers played an important role in improving road safety. Their 'wings' made traffic control signals clearer and more instructive than the at-times confusing hand gestures that were used previously.

Being a point duty officer was not an easy task. They were typically Constables who would be stationed at prominent traffic junctions for hours at a time, repeating the same action. Not only they had to time their movements to be as consistent as possible, they also had to enforce traffic laws. They carried a pocketbook bound in black leather, in which they would note the number plate of any vehicle that failed to obey traffic rules for summons. If found guilty, the motorist would be fined depending on the nature of the offence. Sometimes, there would be a second officer stationed nearby to take note of errant road users.

The First Electric Traffic Lights

'Winged' point duty officers were gradually phased out as Singapore's road infrastructure continued to improve alongside the growing number of the vehicles. The first electric traffic lights were introduced in the early 1930s. Some of these were hand-operated, and required up to three Constables and a non-commissioned officer to man it throughout the day. Interestingly, the Traffic Branch favoured these over fully automatic lights which did not have the ability to discriminate timings and caused 'unnecessary delay' when road users stopped to wait for the signal to change.



'Winged' point duty officers continued to operate alongside a variety of traffic control signals until after the Second World War. An example of a manually operated traffic light can be seen in the foreground of this 1930s photo of Collyer Quay.

It was only after 1945 that automatic traffic lights became the norm in Singapore. This change was made to be in line with internationally standardised traffic control, and to ease the manpower burden which was in short supply after the Second World War.

Although point duty officers became a thing of the past, they reflected the era they inhabited – one which was navigating its way through an increasingly mechanised world. Faced with such developments, the police force had to adapt and make use of available resources to maintain order even amidst rapid changes.

An Aspiring Filmmaker

✍️ Syam Roslan 📷 Iffat Arfan Mahmud

For most, watching a film in the cinema can be a day out to unwind with your friends or loved ones after work or school. But for some, film holds a different meaning, where they see it as a platform to explore and express their creativity through visual storytelling and showcase their cinematic vision to the world. Special Constable Corporal (SC/Cpl) Thoufiq Ahamed is one such individual with a knack for producing and acting in short films. In fact, one of his works was featured on television (TV) before!

A LIFELONG MOVIE BUFF

As a Full-time Police National Serviceman (PNSF), 25-year-old SC/Cpl Thoufiq, is currently serving his stint at the Jurong Division's Police National Service (PNS) Branch as an Operations Support Officer.

But before his enlistment, SC/Cpl Thoufiq is an aspiring filmmaker, and has always been interested in films since young. **"I have always loved watching films, especially in the cinema. It is my only source of entertainment to get myself distracted from what goes on around me, be it good or bad,"** SC/Cpl Thoufiq mentioned.



AN INTERESTING ACADEMIC JOURNEY

Armed with this passion, SC/Cpl Thoufiq enrolled in the National Institute of Technical Education Certification (Nitec) course for Digital Audio and Video Production at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) College West after secondary school. This is where he learned the basic knowledge in film making, and subsequently worked on his own short films.

When asked about his inspiration for producing his own short films, SC/Cpl Thoufiq credited it to his habit when watching films. **"When I am watching a film for the first time, I have a habit of predicting the storyline and the next scene. Sometimes, the actual scenes would not happen as how I predicted them. But, these failed predictions will become an idea for my new storyline,"** he explained.

FIRST TASTE OF SUCCESS

Aside from producing short films, SC/Cpl Thoufiq does occasional acting too. He acted as the main lead in two short films, which he had produced and directed himself. 'Watch Out', was one of his works where he had to wear multiple hats, including acting, directing and producing.

The 15-minute short film, 'Watch Out', which was released on YouTube, was a story of a guy trying to save a villain from a group of friends who were hell-bent on exacting revenge as their friend was murdered by the villain. Subsequently, it was also aired on Mediacorp's Vasantham Central. This opportunity came about when he responded to an advertisement by Mediacorp's Vasantham Central for aspiring youngsters to submit their short films. **"I was pleasantly surprised to be chosen, along with four other short films,"** he mentioned.

Being only 18 years old at that time, he recalled the moment as his first real achievement in his budding film career. **"My family members were extremely proud of me. They even called my relatives, asking them to watch my film on TV!"** said SC/Cpl Thoufiq.

As for his influences, SC/Cpl Thoufiq cited two names, Tamil cinema director Gautham Menon and Hollywood director Zack Snyder. **"Gautham Menon's way of storytelling has always inspired me and I always took his films as reference. For Zack Snyder, he is famous for his movie adaptations of comic books like 'Superman' and 'Justice League'. I admire how he is able to transform the knowledge from the storyline and characters from the comic book into films,"** he said.

DEVELOPING CHARACTERS THROUGH NS

For SC/Cpl Thoufiq, NS has been a rewarding experience, and an excellent opportunity for him to develop new content and characters for his future works.

"As a PNSF in Jurong Division's PNS Branch, I have the opportunity to interact with people from all walks of life and learn a lot about the realities of life. Such interactions and encounters actually helped in my work on character developments for my future films," he quipped.

THE TRUTH ABOUT BEING A FILM MAKER

While being involved in films may seem glamorous to some, SC/Cpl Thoufiq explained the harsh truth of producing short films in general. **"Most of our short films are passion projects and therefore, we do not get paid. But the joy and satisfaction that comes from seeing the final product coming to light is something money cannot buy,"** he mentioned.

Despite the challenges encountered in pursuing his passion, SC/Cpl Thoufiq is not one to shy away from adversity. After completing NS, he hopes that he will be able to work full-time and save enough to fund his next film project, with enough budget to pay his cast and crew members!





SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE
SAFEGUARDING EVERY DAY

HERE WE ARE TODAY,
**MADE OF
200 YEARS
OF HISTORY.**



Ground Response
Force Officer
MOHD RIDZUAN



Investigation Officer
STELLA TAY



**WE ARE THE
SINGAPORE
POLICE FORCE**



From social unrest to rampant crime, we have overcome many challenges since our formation in 1820. They have shaped us into a strong and effective Force, ever ready to protect you and safeguard the future. We have been here for 200 years, and we will continue to be here for you.

Make history with us. Join the Singapore Police Force.