

**POLICE
LIFE**

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE
2018 / ISSUE 04

Fiesta!

**Beat the Heat with the New Uniform
Serving with Pride and Passion**



Note from the Team

While e-commerce scam cases have decreased in 2017, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) is not resting on its laurels in its efforts to raise awareness on anti-scam campaigns. In this issue, see how Jurong Division 'scammed' unsuspecting victims as part of their initiative to further educate members of the public to not fall for deals that are too good to be true.

The SPF Combined Band and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts recently held their first combined concert at the Lee Foundation Theatre. Named 'Fiesta', the concert wowed the audience with their rendition of popular hits which included 'November Rain' and 'Rasa Sayang'.

Lastly, read about the winning formula in the 3rd INTERPOL Digital Security Challenge in Vienna, Austria.

Enjoy!

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Breaking Out of the Design Norm

By Hadi Hafidz, jointly written by Eric Wong and Tan Wan Yu
(Photographer: Muhd Ashraf Arshad)

One might be taken by surprise when they step into this newly renovated office, thinking if they have indeed entered an Investigation Branch (IB) office. Police Life brings you the inside scoop on the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) trendiest Investigation Branch office. We spoke with Central Division's General Investigations Squad (GIS) officers who shared their views on this new space.

The IB's open-concept office is a stark contrast to your typical everyday office. In fact, it bears a striking resemblance to Google and Facebook's offices. The vibrant colours and funky furnishings are just some of the reasons why one would feel invigorated upon entering this new work space.

"When I walk into the new office every morning, I am greeted by the bright and vivid coloured walls which never fails to lift my spirits," shared Inspector (Insp) Lai Jing Hui.

Officially opened on 28 February 2018 by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Investigations & Intelligence) Tan Chye Hee, the revamped IB office is one of the initiatives to improve the work environment, impacts officers' mood, drive and performance. Therefore, apart from aesthetic purposes, the transformation also aims to boost the enthusiasm and morale of officers, especially with the demanding nature of their work which often requires them to work stretched hours.

The vibrancy that fills the revamped space is the brainchild of the Interior Design (ID) team which comprises several IB officers who volunteered their time and effort towards turning this project into reality. The ID team unanimously agreed on an open-office concept to encourage better camaraderie amongst the eight GIS team which was once separated into two offices.



Getting Their Hands Dirty

With the plan in sight, the team then progressed to decide on the finer details of the revamp which ranged from the colour schemes of the table partitions to the theme of each wall. Every so often, the team's WhatsApp chat group would be flooded with ideas, especially on the weekends. Slowly but surely, the designs were finalised.

"After the ID team confirmed the conceptual designs, we proceeded to paint the walls, and finally, put up the decorations," explained Insp Angie Ng, a member of the ID team.

While works were ongoing, the multi-purpose hall was converted into a temporary office to ensure that operational needs were not compromised.

When the project was finally completed, the officers were grinning from ear to ear as they embraced their

new working space with a hint of music and laughter in the background. Gone were the settings where each officer was literally at an arm's swing away, and caught in the maze of antiques, printers, resting corners and stationery cabinets.

The Room on 'The Other Side'

Besides the revamped main room, there is 'The Other Side' room. The room is designed to create a comfortable space for the officers to take a short break and relax amidst their hectic jobs. There is even a guitar there for the officers to play a tune or two. The comfy setting also provided a space for the officers to have their meals there, should they prefer. In preparing for the future, the SPF is a firm believer that success can only be achieved through its people and it is therefore of utmost importance to create a conducive and productive work environment for its officers.



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Beat the Heat With the New Uniform

By Hadi Hafidz
(Photos: Public Affairs Department)

Since 16 April 2018, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) officers have been donning new uniforms. Whilst still sporting its signature blue, the new uniform has been redesigned to help officers beat the heat and humidity. Read on to find out how these uniform enhancements help to improve the operational effectiveness of our officers and support them in their policing work.



Instead of soaking in Singapore's humidity and scorching heat, many of us would rather stay indoors during the day. This is not the case for our SPF officers who continue with their policing duties, even in the extreme heat.

To enable our officers to operate more effectively and comfortably, the SPF has collaborated with the Office of the Chief Science and Technology Officer – as part of the SPF's capability and equipment enhancement programme – to design and develop new operational uniforms. Made of 98 per cent polyester and 2 per cent spandex, the new fabric allows for faster drying and better absorption of perspiration.

The new uniform also features the replacement of metallic buttons with concealed plastic buttons. These plastic buttons enhance officers' comfort level as they wear body vests (ballistic resistant and operational vests) over their uniforms. The word 'POLICE' is embroidered above the name tag on the right chest of the uniform.



Available in two iterations, the long-sleeved version is worn by the specialist units officers while the short-sleeved one is donned by ground response force officers.

Uniform Put to Test

Prior to the launch of the new uniform, the design went through two rounds of trial testing.

The first trial in 2013 was conducted to test the effectiveness of the uniform on front-line police officers who performed foot and vehicle patrols.

The results showed that officers who wore the new shirts recorded one degree Celsius lower body temperature than officers who donned the old shirts. Officers also commented that the shirts felt thinner and lighter. However, the prototype pants did not garner the same results. This led to a thinner construction for the new pants. Additional pockets and knee pads were also removed.

A second trial was conducted in 2015. Involving 54 officers from Ang Mo Kio North Neighbourhood Police Centre, these officers participated in feedback sessions and provided their responses through questionnaires. The results ascertained that officers preferred their new uniforms over the older ones.

The Minor Tweaks in Between

Although there were no drastic changes made to the uniform since 1969, several minor tweaks had been made along the way. In 1972, the whistle lanyard was changed from a blue and white cord to a silver coloured metal chain. Subsequently, in 1985, the uniform material was changed from 75 per cent polyester to 100 per cent polyester to allow officers to feel more comfortable under the hot weather and to provide a much smarter appearance for officers.

With the advent of better communication technologies, the familiar whistle and chain became obsolete and were phased out in 2002. In 2011, the jockey cap was rolled out forcewide to further improve comfort level, as it was lighter and more breathable than the peak cap. The peak cap, on the other hand, remains a constant for ceremonial usage.

As the SPF continues to look towards greater progress, the uniform is one of the aspects that the Force will review to strive for improvements. With the enhanced breathability, comfort and lightness that the new uniform brings with it, officers are able to operate more effectively and comfortably in this local humidity to better safeguard Singapore.

SPF's Uniform Evolution

The timeline below captures the evolution of police officers' uniform over the decades.



1863 – 1893

- The first official police uniform made its appearance in 1863 when local policemen were fitted with dark blue serge coats, trousers, caps and black shoes.
- However, the 1879 Commission of Inquiry, which was formed to look into the improvement of the Force, found that the heavily-woven fabric was impractical and uncomfortable in humid weather.
- Hence, the blue serge uniform was eventually phased out in 1893.



1893 – 1942

- In 1890, the heavily-woven fabric was swapped for the khaki shirt and shorts, black puttees and black boots.
- In 1893, it proved to be a great success and the Force officially adopted it since.
- Officers donned this uniform until the Japanese Occupation when they wore the Japanese khaki cap, normally used by Japanese soldiers.



1945 – 1969

- After World War II, the khaki police uniform underwent yet another transformation.
- The khaki shirt was replaced with a grey flannel shirt, khaki shorts and skirt, dark blue hose tops, black boots, a black leather belt and navy blue whistle lanyard.
- The beret was worn by officers until 1964 when it was replaced by the peak cap.



1969 – 2018

- In 1969, the dracon polyester material was used to replace the flannel shirt and khaki pants.
- It comprised a peak cap, dark blue shirt and trousers, black belt, blue and white corded whistle lanyard, black socks and black boots.
- The new uniform was both comfortable and smart, and the colour blue, an internationally identified police colour.



16 April 2018 Onwards

- From 16 April 2018 onwards, the new fabric made from 98 per cent polyester and 2 per cent spandex allows for faster drying and better absorption of perspiration.
- Concealed plastic buttons are also used to replace the metallic buttons on the uniform for increased comfort level.
- The word 'POLICE' is embroidered above the name tag portion.

LEAVING A 'GREAT DEAL' TO BE DESIRED

Hadi Hafidz
(Photographer: Bukit Batok Neighbourhood Police Centre)



In 2017, a total of 1,961 cases of e-commerce scams were reported to the police. Although there was a decrease of 8.4% from 2016, e-commerce scams still outnumbered many other forms of scam cases by multiple folds.

While technology has transformed our lives by bringing about greater convenience and accessibility, we must also be mindful of the perils that comes with it. In 2017, a total of 1,961 e-commerce scams were reported. Although this marked an 8.4% decrease from the 2,140 cases recorded in 2016, the high number of cases remained a concern for the Singapore Police Force (SPF). Apart from conducting talks and dishing out crime prevention tips, the SPF has also been constantly exploring creative ways to raise public awareness on scams. In this issue of *Police Life*, we bring you one of these examples.



Scam Cam



A 'Great Deal'

As part of Jurong Division's anti-scam awareness campaign, a roadshow was held at the West Mall on 3 March 2018 to reach out to members of the public. In addition to the usual exhibition panels and game booths, a special retail booth was also staged with actors masquerading as scammers selling branded shoes at a tempting price of S\$30!

Oblivious that the deal was part of the Police's anti-scam efforts at a Jurong Point roadshow held earlier on 28 January 2018, many shoppers continued to pay for their purchase even though the price sounded too good to be true. Upon payment, the shoppers were then led to a dark room where a video on e-commerce scams was screened and many reacted with disbelief as they had unknowingly participated in a live re-enactment of such scams. Their entire shopping experience was captured on video by the Bukit Batok Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) officers and shared on their Facebook page. The video received many positive comments of it being an effective way to warn shoppers to be cautious when they are shopping online.

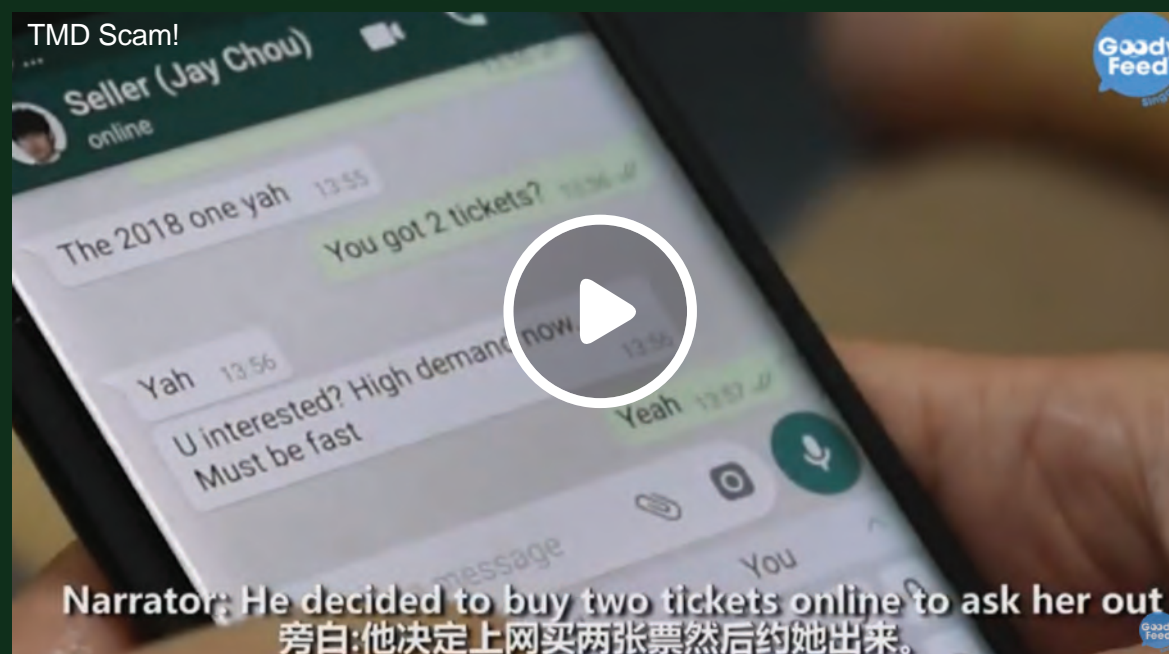
"I think that *this is a very effective way of making us realise that it is easy to get tempted into such a situation,*" exclaimed one of the "victims" who fell prey to the shoes scam.

Other noteworthy collaborations with online multimedia content creator

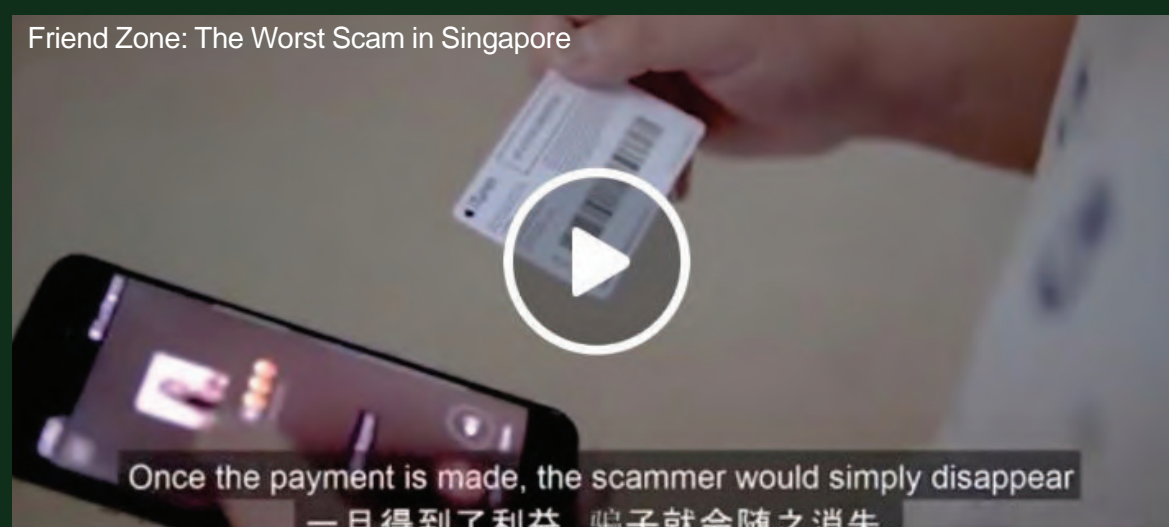
In addition to the creative anti-scam campaign, officers from Bukit Batok NPC also collaborated with Goody Feed, a renowned online multimedia content creator, to produce anti-scam videos with a comedic twist. Two videos regarding e-commerce and credit-for-sex scams were aired in November and December 2017. The three videos, including the '\$30 deal' scam, went viral and garnered over a million views on Facebook.

To keep pace with the rapidly changing operating environment, the SPF will continue to innovate and explore new methods to drive crime prevention efforts. Scammers are also continuously looking for new ways to scam their victims. Therefore, it is important for members of the public to always remain alert at all times when the deals are too good to be true!

TMD Scam!



Friend Zone: The Worst Scam in Singapore



Fiesta!

Singapore Police Force Combined Band and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Wind Orchestra Collaboration Concert

Syam Roslan
(Photographer: Public Affairs Department)

Recognising the potential to forge stronger ties with the community while upholding the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) image, the SPF Band recently collaborated with the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) to curate a unique concert that is both entertaining and educational for the audience.

The SPF Combined Band and the NAFA Wind Orchestra successfully held their first collaboration concert at the Lee Foundation Theatre on 21 March 2018. The sold-out event also marks the SPF Band's first collaboration with a tertiary institution to jointly organise a performance for members of the public.

The concert was planned with two objectives in mind. For the SPF Band, the collaboration served as a platform to engage the community through the SPF Band's music, style and genre. On the other hand, the joint concert is a means for the NAFA Wind Orchestra to deliver an educational music programme through the appreciation of classical music. The challenge, however, is for both groups to strike a balance between their individual repertoire selections which should provide both entertainment and educational value for the crowd.

The ultimate music selection brilliantly showcased the virtuosity of the performers. The one-and-a-half hour long performance featured renditions of popular tunes that captured influences from the different musical genres such as classical, pop, rock, jazz and latin. Well-received by the audience, it is commendable that the collaboration was a success even though there were only two combined rehearsals prior to the event. Members of the public can look forward to future collaboration concerts as the SPF Band looks towards co-organising more public performances with the different tertiary institutions and community bands.

Police Life captured these magical moments at the event. Enjoy!

The joint concert provided me with the opportunity to work with talented performers from NAFA. Both bands were able to put up a fantastic show despite having only two rehearsals together. We look forward to such collaborations in the near future."

Staff Sergeant Nurdyana Fadzlina Angelyn Ong
Bagpiper
Singapore Police Force Band

"I believe the opportunity gave us a reason to have faith in being able to reach out to even more audiences in the future. The gruelling practices and exchange of musical ideas allowed us to improve our techniques. The collaboration was an eye-opening and finger-running experience."

Sergeant Muhammad Faisal Banjuwi
Clarinetist
Singapore Police Force Band

"The collaboration provided NAFA musicians with great insights as they learn to curate an exciting programme unlike what they are used to i.e. classical music. NAFA musicians were introduced to big band music and learnt a great deal while working with a professional jazz clinician Mr Marques Young. They were also introduced to rock music when the band played 'November Rain' by Guns 'N' Roses. It was one of the first instances where NAFA musicians had the opportunity to work with a rhythmic section (comprising vocal, electric guitar, bass guitar, drum set and keyboard). It is a very different and exciting soundscape for the music students who are classically trained."

Mr Joost Flach
Head of Winds
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Wind Orchestra





My View — I am Division Command Vehicle

By Darwisyah Daud and Irwan Shah
(Photo: Operations Department)



Otherwise silent in the dead of the night, the stillness of the empty road was broken by the roar of my engine. I have been activated by my brothers-in-blue and proceeding towards an incident site. With a resolve of steel, I drove on, unafraid of what lies ahead.


We arrived at a cluster of high-rise flats. Throngs of onlookers gathered at the empty field as they pointed out to a particular unit. Apparently, there was a hostage situation.


A man was holding his wife with a knife on her throat, blaring profanities at the men in blue while our comrades tried to calm the situation. The tensions were high and for almost two hours, the stand-off showed no signs of closure. I monitored

the situation from afar as it unfolds with my Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) camera. My brothers-in-blue were swiftly coordinating resources on the ground and within moments, the Crisis Negotiation Unit (CNU) officers were deployed to ease the atmosphere.

Finally, the CNU officers successfully controlled the situation and convinced the man to release his wife. He was eventually subdued and apprehended.

I am always ready to assist my brothers-in-blue with command and control, situational awareness and resource management. Who am I? I am, the Division Command Vehicle.

 Nothing escapes my sight. I am armed with a PTZ camera which gives me an unobstructed 360- degree view and allows me to monitor incidents from up to 150m away.

 I have got a smaller and more robust chassis than my predecessor, the Forward Command Vehicle. This allows me to seamlessly move through congested gridlocks while holding up to six officers at a time. I can even support an outdoor briefing posts within minutes.

Officer Triumphs at the 3rd INTERPOL Digital Security Challenge in Vienna

By Syam Roslan & Daniel Ow
(Photographer: Muhd Ashraf Arshad)



Meet Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Tee Cheong Siang, whose team won the 3rd INTERPOL Digital Security Challenge in Vienna. Police Life spoke to DSP Tee, shedding light on his experience during the competition.

From 19 to 21 February 2018, 43 cybercrime and digital forensics experts from 23 countries gathered in Vienna, Austria for the 3rd INTERPOL Digital Security Challenge.

DSP Tee, Deputy Head of Technology Crime Investigation Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), decided to put his name in the hat to be considered for this year's challenge after hearing from his colleagues who raved about it after participating in the last two editions held in Singapore.

To qualify, INTERPOL required prospective applicants to solve four complex quiz questions meant to test their understanding of basic cryptography and forensic examination. Despite not being academically trained in information technology, DSP Tee managed to pass the quiz. Interestingly, he had honed and developed skills relevant to the sector only when he was posted to the Computer Crime Branch (as it was then) of the CID as an Investigation Officer.

This year's challenge involved a simulated cyber attack launched on a bank through a network of hacked web cameras. The challenge comprised four missions of which DSP Tee's team successfully completed three in quick time to emerge as the winning team. Participating teams had to analyse the bank's computers and the web cameras for details relating to the malware that was installed by the perpetrators, before identifying the command and control server that was being used to remotely control the device to launch the attack on the bank. **"At various stages of each mission, we had to rely on clues from the organisers. To me, this illustrates that law enforcement cannot work in silo. There is a need to partner and engage with**

various stakeholders, including the community and external experts to tackle problems that ultimately will affect us all," said DSP Tee.

True to the aim of INTERPOL's mission to strengthen the cooperation between police organisations around the world, DSP Tee's diverse team comprised forensic examiners and investigators from Austria, Belgium, Japan, South Korea and the Netherlands.

DSP Tee highlighted that the cultural and language differences were not hurdles in cyber forensic investigations and shared that the approach to such investigations and evidence examination were largely similar amongst members of his team. He further shared that all of them understood each other perfectly when they discussed about particular tools, techniques and places to look for evidence. Apart from the challenge, participants were also exposed to training sessions by specialists from NEC Corporation, InfoSec, Meiya Pico, SECOM, Kaspersky Lab and Trend Micro on the current and future trends of cyber security and cybercrime, including the latest forensic tools available to assist law enforcement in enhancing their cybercrime investigation capabilities.

"The Digital Security Challenge was a great learning experience with regard to understanding the developments in real-world cybercrime investigation," exclaimed DSP Tee. He further stated that it was a fulfilling experience to work together with his team to achieve their common objective of solving the problem as quickly as possible. He is also grateful and proud to have represented SPF in this, and would encourage officers to consider taking part in the next run of the challenge.

Through participation in events like the Digital Security Challenge, the SPF is able to gain new perspectives and ideas that would aid in beefing up its capabilities when dealing with cyber investigations, digital forensics and cybercrime policy. The Force will also continue to engage private and public stakeholders in a multi-prong approach to overcome the scourge of new and increasingly complex cyber challenges.

Happenings



Ethics Seminar 2018: Policing with Pride and Honour

Held at the New Phoenix Park auditorium on 23 February 2018, the theme for this year's Annual Ethics Seminar was "Policing with Pride and Honour". More than 250 officers attended the seminar including colleagues from the State Courts. Commissioner of Police (CP) Hoong Wee Teck was the Guest-of-Honour at the event. Mr Vincent Lim, the Director (Investigations) of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau, was one of the guest speakers for this year's seminar. Mr Lim shared with the audience statistics and cases of corruption involving public officers, which serves as a reminder for our officers to remain vigilant against corruption. Another guest speaker, Assistant Commissioner of Police Tan Chia Han, Commander Tanglin Division, also shared with attendees on how to handle an individual in distress and render help before it becomes too late.



VSC Commitment Awards Ceremony

More than 300 Volunteer Special Constabulary (VSC) officers were presented awards during the VSC Commitment Awards Ceremony. Graced by Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee, Chairman of the Home Team Volunteer Committee, the ceremony was held on the evening of 27 February 2018 at the Police Cantonment Complex. VSC officers who served 700 or more duty hours last year received the Outstanding Award from Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee. Commander VSC, Assistant Commissioner of Police Poh Lye Hin and Deputy Commander VSC, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (V) Chai Yee Hoi presented the High Performance Award to VSC officers who served between 350 and 699 duty hours last year. 31 VSC officers also received the Recruiter Award for bringing in fresh volunteers into the VSC family.

Serving with PRIDE AND PASSION

Md Falliq
(Photographer: Wong Yew Kit)

A group of deserving officers were recognised for their dedication and outstanding contribution at the Commissioner of Police's (CP) Commendation Ceremony held on 2 February 2018 at the Senior Police Officer's Mess. At the event, 68 individuals, 47 teams and 16 special commendations were presented. Police Life spoke to two officers who bagged the award under the individual category. Read on to find out about their thoughts on receiving the accolade.



Crime will always be in existence, and it is essential to come up with new ways to prevent and deter them from happening. Supermarket staff in Chua Chu Kang and Teck Whye were introduced to a simple and yet ingenious way to deter crime - by offering baskets to shoppers, especially those whom they observed to be behaving suspiciously.

This is one of the initiatives that the Jurong Division has introduced to clamp down on shop theft, and this initiative came from CP's Commendation Award recipient,

Inspector (Insp) King Tay, Deputy Officer-in-Charge of the Community Policing Unit (CPU) at Chua Chu Kang Neighbourhood Police Centre.

"Genuine shoppers will be pleased with the service provided (being offered a basket) but shoplifters will be wary as their covers are broken," he elaborated.

Insp Tay also believes that traditional tactics coupled with technology is the way to go in tackling crime.

"We need to be future-ready and embrace the changes in our fight against crime. We should not be afraid of trying out new methodologies and leveraging technology like data analytics which can provide us with very useful and comprehensive information," he commented.

Insp Ang also shared that although there are some retailers who might be resistant to certain policing initiatives, the majority remains supportive of their crime prevention initiatives.

"We have to constantly build trust and relationship with our community partners, especially during peacetime," he said.

We spoke to Insp Tay about his thoughts on receiving the accolade and here is what he has to say.

What was your first reaction when you found out that you have received the CP's Commendation Award?

I am pleasantly surprised as I understand that there are a lot of nominations and there is a keen competition for this award.

What does the award mean to you?

It is an honour. However, the award is not mine alone. It would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of my team at Chua Chu Kang CPU (Business) and the support from my other CPU colleagues and supervisors. This award is for them as well.

How does this award inspire you to do better?

It will no doubt spur my team further. I believe my colleagues will agree with me that we are not just working for the award. Winning the award is secondary. Our main goal is doing real work that matters for the betterment of our residents and community stakeholders. We work hard to safeguard our nation.

What is your message to officers out there?

We are all leaders in our own ways. I believe a listening heart is important. Though we hear from our ears, we might not really 'listen' to the concerns from our men and the solutions or suggestions that they might have. Always treat your men with respect regardless of your rank. Inspire them through your actions and lead by example.

“We need to be future-ready and embrace the changes in our fight against crime. We should not be afraid of trying out new methodologies and leveraging technology like data analytics which can provide us with very useful and comprehensive information.”

THE DETAILED COMPASSIONATE INVESTIGATION OFFICER



It was Insp Ang Xin Yan's sense of compassion and his thoroughness in investigations that earned him the individual award at this year's ceremony.

The Tanglin Division Investigation Officer's thoroughness helped to solve a domestic violence case which involved a man trying to stab his girlfriend's eye using a knife. When arrested, the man tried to deny everything.

"We conducted a forensic examination by visiting the scene and interviewing all the parties involved. We examined the crime scene thoroughly and managed to recover the knife that was discarded by the man. With the evidence on hand, he finally admitted to his offence," he shared.

Insp Ang highlighted that as every case is unique, he needs to have an open mind and be innovative when searching for solutions to solve the cases. He also emphasised the importance of being meticulous and thorough in his line of work.

"Often, there is only one golden opportunity for you to collect the required evidence and confront the accused person. Missing out on such opportunities may result in the case being thrown out of court or giving the accused person a chance to find a loophole that benefits himself instead," he emphasised.

In another case, the second-time CP's Commendation Award winner showcased his compassionate side when he was handling a case involving an alcoholic.

"I tried to help an alcoholic who has committed family violence when he was in a drunken stupor. I worked with his social worker to persuade him to find a job and seek alcohol rehabilitation. Despite numerous attempts, he was still unable to overcome his addiction. Unfortunately, he was prosecuted in the end," Insp Ang shared.

We also spoke to Insp Ang about his thoughts on receiving the accolade and here is what he has to say.



We are often seen as firm and maybe to some, intimidating at times. However, I can assure you that my colleagues are as compassionate as any decent human being.

What was your first reaction when you found out that you have received the CP's Commendation Award?

I was overjoyed and I remember sharing this piece of good news with my loved ones and teammates almost immediately after finding out!

What does the award mean to you?

To me, it is a mark of acknowledgement for my hard work knowing that my supervisors and senior management recognised the work and commitment that I have put in. 2017 has been a challenging year for my team and I. We handled numerous high profile cases which included the arrest of the couple that caused public nuisance at the Toa Payoh Lorong 8 Hawker Centre. It also speaks a lot about the support given by my team and supervisors. I am very grateful to them as I would not have received the award without their support and assistance. I am also appreciative of my family who has always been giving me their utmost support and understanding.

How does this award inspire you to do better?

It gives me an added motivation to work even harder as I continue to learn on my job. This accolade assured me that I have been doing the right things the right way.

What is your message to officers out there?

I believe that the public and the organisation will recognise and appreciate our efforts so long as we do our best on the job and uphold good workplace ethics!



Meet ATyme, otherwise known as Mohd Suhaimi Bin Ami by his colleagues. In his free time, Suhaimi pursues his hobby of rapping with his crew. Police Life caught up with our very own rapper as he shares his love for this craft.

Suhaimi is not your average officer in the Singapore Police Force. His profound interest in rapping sets him uniquely apart from most of his colleagues. At work, Suhaimi manages the daily 999 calls as an Emergency Communications Officer at the Police Command Control Centre (POCC). Once he clocks out and enters the studio, he is better known by his stage name, ATyme.

Suhaimi first encountered hip-hop at the age of eleven when his friends introduced him to the music of a famous rapper, 50 Cent. His interest in the genre grew as he began to listen to the tunes of other rap icons such as Eminem and Dr. Dre.

According to Suhaimi, 'Rap' is an intricate form of modern day poetry. The verses are skilfully penned down and requires a strong rhythmic sense to get it right.

"Writing a rap song is not as easy as it looks. You need to convey the right message in the right mood, with the right rhythm, and with the right delivery," Suhaimi said.

However, most rap critics tend to focus on the negative influence of rap culture on society, drawing references to lyrics that talk about fast cars, money, women and drugs. Although there is some truth of rappers out there covering such topics, Suhaimi is determined to shun away from it and works hard to present his creations in a more positive light.

"As the producer, composer and lyricist for my team, I try my best to write about topics relevant to the masses, like love and everyday life," Suhaimi reiterated.

He also notes the shift in the way people write rap lyrics these days.

"If you observe, older songs tend to evoke strong emotions. With the shift in musical trends, lyrics are becoming more repetitive," he explained.

At age 15, Suhaimi experimented with writing his own verses after being inspired by his musical idols. It was also during this period that he was exposed to the local hip-hop scene.

"I had no idea that the local hip-hop scene was alive back then. Upon knowing more about the scene's activities, I joined the BeatSociety Rap competition back in 2007 where local Malay artists such as Imran Ajmain and Sleaf were the judges. It was from there that I got to know more local acts," he elaborated.

The Rap Crew

Much like avid soccer fans starting their own soccer team, Suhaimi started his own rap crew with his like-minded friends. He was the leader of his crew which goes by the name 'Popaloc' when he was younger. There, he would perform frequently in hip-hop gigs and competitions in Singapore.

Suhaimi's current crew is mellower as compared to the more energetic Popaloc. He is now part of MVRCH, a group that consists of three individuals including himself. The group usually raps in Malay but they are not just a one-trick pony.

"We (MVRCH) can easily rap in English, Malay or even Tamil. We are also flexible in our song compositions, which extend to genres other than hip-hop. You can hear us venturing into



trap music, reggaeton, R&B and even pop music on our Youtube channel. Our way of making music is limitless," he revealed.

The group was formed as they felt that they have the 'X' factor. MVRCH's first single, titled 'Ok'jer', and his individual single, titled 'Kisah Cinta (Love Story)', were picked up by Singapore's very own local Malay radio station, RIA 89.7FM.

"I am really grateful and proud to have my songs played on the radio," shared the POCC officer. **"All those hours we spent recording the songs and producing it from scratch were worth it,"** added Suhaimi.

Too Much Time on His Hands?

Just like his colleagues, the demands of his job is a constant challenge that he needs to cope with. Working shift duties meant that Suhaimi has to adjust to working around his schedule to strike a balance between his work and passion.

"When I am working the morning shift, I would head home once it ends. However, when I am on the night shift I would find some time to work on a song before the shift commences. The next two days off are split between my team's recording sessions and quality time with my family," he said.

Although Suhaimi acknowledges that there are still some reservations about the rap culture in Singapore, he takes it with a pinch of salt.

"Negative vibes are everywhere. All I have to say is, you just have to continue working hard as though it is your last and only focus on the positive aspects," he said with gusto.



Beach Road Police Station - The End of an Era

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This graceful colonial building was not only the home of Central Police Division ('A' Division) for nine years; it also contained within its hallowed gates, the memories and emotions of several generations of police officers.

However, on 10 May 2001, after 70 years of service to the public and Singapore Police Force (SPF), the police station closed its gates for the very last time as the Division, arguably one of the busiest in the SPF, moved to its new home at the Police Cantonment Complex.

Beach Road Police Station was designed in December 1930 and was built within a year. The style was typical of pre-war government buildings, a genre deeply influenced by Municipal Engineer F Dorrington Ward. An old concrete building once

stood where Beach Road Police Station was later built. According to Municipal reports, this was a "Chandu" shop which had a petrol pump on its premises.

After construction in 1931, Beach Road Police Station became the Headquarters of 'C' Division and remained the HQ until May 1988 where 'C' Division Headquarters moved to Geylang Police Station.

Renovations to the building were completed in 1992, after which 'A' Division took over the premises. 'A' Division continued to operate from Beach Road until its recent move to the newly completed Police Cantonment Complex this year.

A memorable flag-lowering ceremony was held on the evening of 9 May to mark the move. This symbolic event was preceded by a press conference which was chaired by Commander 'A' Division,

DAC Ang Hak Seng. The press were treated to an exhibition of 'A' Division's history at Beach Road and the building's rich history.

This was followed by a march past witnessed by more than 150 officers who had gathered to bid a respectful farewell to the building they called home for nine years. The highlight was when the bugler played the final retreat and the state and police flags were lowered. These were then presented to Commander Ang.

This finale marks the transfer of yet another historical legacy. Although change is seldom welcomed as it usually brings uncertainty, the officers of 'A' Division are nonetheless, confident that they can ride on this challenge to build a closer and more cohesive unit that will help make Singapore a safe and secure home for all.