

**POLICE
LIFE**

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 41 NO. 8

The Police at the SG50 Celebrations

World Police Fire Games 2015

A Major Part of the Band



A New Head Honcho to Fight White Collar Crime

By SC Zachary Ibrahim

On June 13 2015, Mr David Chew Siong Tai was appointed Director of the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD). *Police Life* was warmly invited into the office of the CAD's new director, who spoke about his new role, and some of the challenges he's coming up against.

Before joining CAD, Mr Chew wore two hats at the Financial & Tech Crime Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC), one as the Senior Director of the General Commercial Crime Directorate, and the other as Deputy Chief Prosecutor.

Same Brush, Different Strokes

When asked to draw comparisons between his time at the AGC and his new role, he said, "As the Deputy Chief Prosecutor I was familiar with the training and development of the prosecutors and staff under me - including the annual ritual of staff ranking and assessments. So the work that I now do at the CAD is quite similar to the work I did as a prosecutor. However, it is different in that I am a member of a much larger organisation that operates in a larger eco-system of the Home Team."

The lessons learnt training and mentoring young prosecutors at the AGC are equally applicable to his work as Director CAD where he oversees the recruitment, training and development of young Commercial Affairs Officers (CAOs). His legal training has also been most helpful to guide the assessment of complex CAD cases and the exercise of police powers by the CAD. "I have been doing white-collar crime prosecutions for the last 10 years and have a practitioner's grasp of the legal issues surrounding such complex cases," Mr Chew added.

Familiar Faces

Mr Chew's previous time at the AGC means that he has already had useful insights into the CAD's processes, policy, and personnel, thus making his transition to the new role a smooth process. "I was attached to the CAD as the resident Deputy Public Prosecutor between June 2007 and April

2009. Coming back here after 6 years, I am gratified to see some of my CAD IOs take on the mantle of leadership as assistant directors and Heads of Divisions. The excellent team of Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and Heads has been a great help in my acclimatisation process. Their commitment to the mission of the CAD to prevent, deter and detect financial crime was apparent to me as DPP prosecuting their cases and this same dedication to duty helped me ease into my new role as Director CAD," he remarked.

Mr Chew shared that he had become acquainted with the man he replaced at the helm of the CAD, Mr Tan Boon Gin, when they worked together on a high profile soccer match-fixing case in 2001. Mr Tan advised him that his new post requires him to not just have an eye on the legalities of the CAD's action but to also bring the law to bear on the policy objectives of the CAD and the Home Team.

What made Mr Chew decide to take up this post? A mixture of familiarity with the role of Director CAD and a chance to fight crime as part of the Police Force. "Having served under former Director CAD, Mr Tan Siong Thye in 2007-2008 when the CAD were investigating Ren Ci's CEO, the National Kidney Foundation's Richard Yong, and the Sunshine Group at about the same time, I became well aware of some of the challenges and heavy responsibilities of the post. I was also well-served as a prosecutor by the CAD and the Commercial Crime Section (CCS) teams in the Land Divisions. I took this appointment as an invaluable opportunity to be part of the financial crime fight team," he added.

Getting to Work

Mr Chew's immediate challenge is to keep up the momentum of change that his predecessor set

in motion. The CAD has, since 2013, been on a recruitment drive for CAOs. Mr Chew explained, "It takes at least two years to train and equip new CAD officers - the learning curve for CAD cases is very steep and the tsunami of e-commerce cases, along with floods of unregulated investment scams, makes it all the more urgent that we consolidate our manpower resources to get the new CAD officers up and running as soon as possible. This requires us to collaborate more closely with our stakeholders like the AGC, the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the Commercial Crime sections in the Land Divisions and the Home Team Academy to focus the training and deployment of our investigative resources."

White Collar, e-Dollars

As technology continues to advance, it has become more heavily embedded in our everyday activities. This has given the white collar criminals unprecedented levels of access to civilian lives and property. At the same time, the anonymity afforded by technology makes criminals elusive and difficult to bring to justice. Mr Chew believes that dealing with e-commerce enabled crime will prove to be a challenge during his time as Director CAD.

Discussing the emergence of such cases and the CAD's plan for action, Mr Chew said, "These crimes are easy to commit but hard to investigate and prosecute. Many of these crimes come from overseas and the money trail often leads to overseas accounts. The CAD has sought to deal with such crimes concurrently on three broad fronts: firstly to educate the public to protect themselves against e-commerce scams; secondly to investigate, arrest and prosecute the offenders to deter accused persons; and lastly to interdict the system of money-mules who are laundering the criminal proceeds."

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SC/Sgt Gabriel Chan Duen Yue
Journalist
Police Life

The Police at the SG50 Celebrations

By Cpl Muhd Shahrunnizam bin Abdul Rashid

***“This is home truly”.* Like the lyrics of Kit Chan’s song titled *“Home”*, Singaporeans all across the island experienced a sense of pride and belonging during the lead-up to, and on the actual day that we celebrated Singapore’s 50th year of independence on 9 August 2015. It was no different for the men and women in blue.**

Singapore celebrated its 50th birthday with a blast. At the National Day Parade (NDP) this year, there was a spectacular array of performances, marching contingents, vehicle convoys, aerial displays, and a breath-taking display of fireworks. Police were represented in three contingents, the Guard-of-Honour and a regular marching contingent. In addition this year’s parade brought back a sense of nostalgia for the Police Force when we saw many of our pioneer police officers donning old Police uniforms to form the Vintage Parade marching contingent.

The Mobile column on the other hand, featured the SPF vehicles from units

such as Traffic Police (TP), Special Operations Command (SOC), Gurkha Contingent and Crime Scene units.

The Vintage Parade

Among the two officers who participated in the prestigious Vintage Parade were Police retirees Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) (Ret.) Goh Boon Aik, 62 who joined the Singapore Police Force (SPF) back in 1972 and Senior Staff Sergeant (SSSgt) (Ret.) Ramalingam S/O Nadasanpillay, 70, who joined the Force back in 1967.

DSP Goh felt honoured being part of the event as he was representing other retired officers. The donning of the old uniform gave these retirees a sense of nostalgia of the Force that they had once served in.

We want to show Singapore how we dressed during our era of policing. Although the conditions were different back then we had the same motive and that is to make Singapore a better place for our younger generation.

DSP (Ret.) Goh Boon Aik

SSSgt (Ret.) Ramalingam shared that donning the old police uniform and participating in the parade has made him feel more alive. He said that this

was the first time he had participated in the National Day Parade and it was one of the best moments of his life.

First of all our government remembers and recognises our past efforts. Secondly my grandchildren will be watching the parade and I want them to be proud of me. All the more reasons for them to be glued to the parade.

SSSgt (Ret.) Ramalingam



Managing the crowd

Apart from the solid performance delivered from our officers inside the stadium, there was another group of men and women in blue who were responsible for keeping Singaporeans safe during the Golden Jubilee week. Officers from the various SPF departments were tasked with the responsibility of maintaining the order and security of the events.

The SOC for instance had its troops deployed at the NDP key activity areas. They were geared up and stood ready to respond to public Security and Public Order Incidents.

The Public Transport Security Command (TransCom) officers were deployed mostly at MRT stations in close proximity to the Padang such as Raffles Place, City Hall, Clarke Quay, Esplanade, Promenade, Bayfront and Marina Bay MRT stations. They also worked closely together with Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) to ensure a smooth flow of patrons entering and exiting the MRT stations.

The TP officers were deployed at areas where there were road closures to direct the flow of traffic, ensure effective traffic management for motorists and pedestrians, and to facilitate the movement of the VIPs to the Padang.

SOUNDING THE SWEET SYMPHONY OF SINGAPURA

There were many spectacular celebrations happening almost everywhere throughout the Golden Jubilee weekend. But just a day before the big birthday, the Women Police Pipes and Drums (WPPD) from the Singapore Police Band collaborated with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) to give a performance at the Marina Bay Sands, Waterfront Promenade. With its unique theme, the “Singa-Medley”

delivered a unique feel to the tunes played using the combination of both Chinese and Scottish instruments.

The fusion between the two sets of instruments gave a gentle and symphonic feel to some of our nation’s signature songs like “Munneru Valiva”, “Rasa Sayang” and “Singapura”. Hundreds of people turned up for the event to catch a glimpse of this special performance.



The event was extra special for senior band member Station Inspector (SI) Wahida Binte Mansor who also turned 50 this year. She has been in the WPPD for more than 27 years.

According to her this was the second time the WPPD had collaborated with the SCO. When asked how she felt during the course of the performance she clapped saying,



Each time we have performed together with the SCO, the event has turned out magical. This year, I’m proud to have had the chance to perform with these talented music gurus. Although I have been in the band for more than 27 years, I have come to realise that there is more about music that I have yet to master.

SI Wahida, Chief Musician





Uplifting a Family in Need

By Assistant Superintendent of Police Herman Kassim

After finding a missing elderly man, Nanyang Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) officers went the extra mile to clean up the home he shares with his son.



When Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Koh Seo Kuan attended to a case involving an elderly man who appeared to be lost on 16 July, she did not expect that it would lead her to a startling discovery.

Upon locating the missing 83-year-old Mr Lim, SSgt Koh escorted him back to his flat. It was then that she discovered the poor living conditions of the man and his family. Mr Lim's flat was filled with discarded items from cardboard scraps to plastic bottles and cockroaches were

scurrying around the unit. Shocked by the state of the flat, SSgt Koh knew that the family required immediate assistance.

SSgt Koh found out that Mr Lim lived in the unit with his son and daughter while his two other sons were staying in another unit next door. It is believed that Mr Lim's children have mental conditions. The neighbours had also shared that the Lim family had been staying in the flats for over 20 years but their situation had deteriorated since the passing of Mr Lim's wife many years ago.

Upon learning of Mr Lim's case, Nanyang NPC's Community Policing Unit (CPU) Officer, SSgt Denyse Young, coordinated with various grassroots and relevant agencies to look into ways to assist the Lim family. Together, they engaged the Lim family to obtain their understanding and concurrence to clear and clean up the flats.

On 29 July 2015, NPC officers as well as representatives from the grassroots and officers from the Housing Development Board (HDB), Choa Chu Kang Town Council and the Ministry of Social and Family Development's Social Service Office



came together to organise a massive clean-up of Mr Lim's flat. Alongside workers maintaining the cleanliness of the Jurong estate, the officers helped clear and clean a portion of Mr Lim's living room.

On the efforts of her officers, Commanding Officer of Nanyang NPC, Superintendent of Police Rachel Soh said, "When our officers were first informed of the case, we saw the need to immediately help Mr Lim. We are happy to have been able to play a small part to make a positive difference to the family's life and I am proud of our officers for going beyond the call of duty to help the family in need."

Jurong Division Reaches Out to Foreign Workers in Need

By Ms Amanda Chung
Public Communications Officer
(New Media Engagement)

Officers from the Jurong Division donated over 800 pieces of clothing to the foreign workers affected by the Choa Chu Kang Avenue 1 dormitory fire on 11 June 2015.

As a result of the fire that broke out on 11 June 2015 at the three-storey workers dormitory at Choa Chu Kang Avenue 1, many foreign workers lost everything they owned, from money to clothes and computers.

Upon receiving news of the fire, Jurong Division donated over 800 pieces of clothing to the affected foreign workers. The clothing had earlier been collected as part of Project HeartWear, an on-going community engagement initiative where officers work with community partners



to collect clothing and other items for foreign workers living in the jurisdiction of Jurong Division.

Commander of Jurong Division, Assistant Commissioner of Police Wilson Lim said, "I am heartened by the generous contributions by my officers and we are glad to be able to help the workers in their time of need. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community partners who have been supportive of our outreach programmes in support of the workers."



HAPPENINGS

Roll Out of Community Wardens Programme in Boon Lay and Tampines

Following the Amendment to the Police Force Act earlier this year, selected civilians will be able to exercise some police powers to help tackle noise complaints. The pilot Community Wardens Programme (CWP) trial commenced on 1 July for a period of 6 months. Selected participants were trained in basic law, mediation skills and also self-defence to ensure they can resolve noise complaints. Community Wardens are on duty from 8pm to 8 am nightly, and residents of the two wards will be able to use the CWP hotline 1800-WARDENS (1800-9273367) to reach Community Warden Call Takers (CWCT) who will be stationed at the Police Operations Command Center.

Commissioning Ceremony for Police Coast Guard Boats

On 21 July the Police Coast Guard (PCG) held the Commissioning Ceremony for the new Patrol Interdiction boat and the 2nd Generation PK Class High Speed Interceptor. The event was held at PCG headquarters at Pulau Brani and was graced by Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Teo Chee Hean, and Mrs Teo Chee Hean. The new boats are custom-designed and are better equipped to deal with the increasingly complex and difficult nature of maritime policing.



Start of Trial for New Load Bearing Vest

On 6 July 2015 the 6-week trial for the new Load Bearing Vest (LBV) at Ang Mo Kio North Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) began. The new LBV is targeted at providing efficient weight distribution for patrol equipment carried by the NPC Officers. The results from the trial will be used to facilitate fine-tuning of the design specifications, ergonomics and functionality of the LBV.



14th IISS Asia Security Summit

The 14th International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Asia Security summit was held at the Shangri la from the 29 to 31 May. The annual summit touches on the advancements and military capabilities of nations, global politics, and annual reviews of both world and international affairs. Among the guests present were Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen, and other Defence ministers from various countries.



Bedok Police Division named best land division at police dinner

By Lim Yi Han
Singapore Press Holdings Limited

SINGAPORE - Bedok Police Division won the best land division competition at the Annual Police Dinner held at the Istana on Wednesday.

It beat five other land divisions and took the accolade this year. The performance of the six land divisions was assessed based on mission effectiveness, efficiency and values and readiness, said the police in a press release on Wednesday.

Bedok Police Division covers the eastern part of Singapore stretching from Geylang to Changi and serves about 1 million residents.

Its commander, Assistant Commissioner of Police Alvin Moh said: "This award recognises the dedication and commitment of our officers... I dedicate this award to the families of our officers who continue to support us as we go about our job to prevent, deter, and detect crime."

Meanwhile, Ang Mo Kio Police Division won the best national service (NS) operationally ready unit. Its NS

commander, Superintendent Eric Koh said a "key priority" of the division is to ensure that its Police NSmen go through upgrading and re-training so they are equipped with "necessary competencies".

Five officers also received the NSman of the year award, to recognise their contributions and achievements towards NS. They are Superintendent (NS) Lok Weng Hoe, Deputy Superintendent (NS)

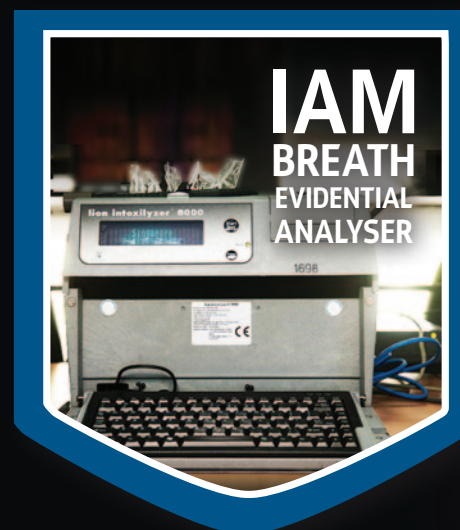


Derrick Goh, Deputy Superintendent (NS) Firdouse Sukor, Senior Staff Sergeant (NS) Tan Soo Koon, and Staff Sergeant (NS) Mohammad Moiz Malik.

Five others received the full-time NSman (NSF) of the year, the most prestigious award a Police NSF can receive.

They are NS Inspector Muhammad Azhar Haj Mohamed, Special Constable (SC) Sergeant Andrew Koh, SC Sergeant William Tin, SC Corporal Abdul Rahim Jasmen and SC Corporal Toh Kian Keat.





My View

By Cpl Muhd Shahrunnizam Bin Abdul Rashid

Take a deep breath and blow into the Mouthpiece! My name is Lion Intoxilizer 8000SI and my job is to keep the streets of Singapore safe from any inconsiderate drivers on the streets after consuming high levels of alcohol. I wasn't the first of my kind. My brother the Lion Intoxilizer 6000SI, served a similar purpose for 11 years since 1996. His functions and design were remodelled, reprogrammed and revamped, for a more advanced breath analyser machine. That was how I came to be born in 2007.

There are only 9 of us in Singapore, and we perform our duties daily without fail.

Faster & more efficient

In the past, drink drivers caught during operations would be escorted to either one of the 6 Land Divisions or the Traffic Police (TP) headquarters within 90 minutes to have the exact reading of the level of alcohol content in their body system taken. Now with the help of the Mobile Breathalyser Vehicle (MBV), I no longer need to be stuck at the Divisions as I'm able to conduct breath analyser tests on site for faster results during operations. I feel good aiding the officers who help keep Singapore roads a safer place.

My purpose is to ensure the safety of every road user.

My mission is to bring down the number of accidents involving drink drivers.

My hope is that every driver would take my advice and not drive after consuming alcohol.

You'll only get one chance

I'm not quite, like the analysers used by our Land Division officers. Those analysers give the reading of the suspected drunk driver at the scene. After that, they would have to go through me, because the readings I produce would be printed and used as evidence for the purpose of prosecution.

The TP officers use me to decide whether a driver has exceeded the legal alcohol limit when stopped at road blocks. They can be charged for the offence of "drink driving", an offence if left unchecked, could result in the loss of lives of road users.

World Police Fire Games 2015

By SC/Sgt Gabriel Chan Duen Yue

The 16th World Police & Fire Games (WPFG) was an excellent networking platform with police forces from around the world. 57 athletes from the Singapore Police Force (SPF) competed in 10 sports at the WPFG this year. The Games was held in Fairfax, Virginia, USA on 26 June 2015 to 5 July 2015.



Over 10 days, 12 000 athletes from police and fire departments all over the world competed in more than 60 sporting events against the best in their respective sports. It is the 3rd largest sports competition after the Olympics and Commonwealth Games in terms of the scale of Games.

Our SPF team turned in a remarkable performance and set a new record, bringing home 17 Gold, 10 Silver and 7 Bronze medals. This is a significant improvement over the previous record of 9 Gold, 13 Silver and 9 Bronze medals set in the 2013 Games held in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) contingent left having done their



best to promote the good name of Singapore, and establish new friendships, while renewing old ones. The next Games will be held in Montreal, Canada in 2017 and our SPF athletes are already looking forward to it.



GUESS THE OBJECT!



NOTE: The four pictures above are in reference to the same object.

Terms and Conditions for PLM Contest

- 1) This contest is open to all Singaporeans and Permanent residents.
- 2) Each contestant may only submit one entry for the contest.
- 3) Each submission must be completed with the correct answer, name as in NRIC, NRIC, email address and contact number.
- 4) Submit your answers to spf_plm@spf.gov.sg by 28th October 2015.
- 5) No other forms of submissions will be considered.
- 6) Prize winners will be informed via email or phone call.
- 7) Prize winners are to collect their prize, a *Police Life* passholder with a C.L.I.F. lanyard, in person.
- 8) Any prizes not claimed within a period of three months shall be forfeited without any liability on the part of *Police Life*.
- 9) *Police Life* reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions stated without prior notice.

Always One of Us

By SC Zachary Ibrahim



For many of us, our commitment to the Singapore Police Force runs far deeper than others who consider their work “just a job”. The Force, in turn, is constantly looking for ways to foster a sense of belonging and to provide welfare support for its precious officers.

So what happens after you retire from the Singapore Police Force?

The Singapore Police Retirees Association (SPRA)

On 17 November 2000, a Pro-tem Committee was elected and retired Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police Mr L. Thambiah, became SPRA's first President. Assisted by the late Superintendent of Police Ang Chiang Teck and a team of SPRA members, the Association's objective was to build a society exclusively for SPF retirees.

Three years later, on 23 October 2003, the Association was finally given the approval to operate as a society from the Registrar of Societies. Then Commissioner of Police Khoo Boon Hui officiated the historic launch and the first General Meeting on 26 March 2004.

Now in its 12th year, the SPRA is located on the 3rd floor of the HomeTeam NS Club House at Ah Hood Road. The association aims to promote social interaction and camaraderie among police retirees, maintain strong links with the SPF, to meet some of the welfare needs of police retirees, and further the financial interests and financial security of police retirees.

The Association has recently grown its presence in social media through its revamped Facebook page, which has become its centre of communications.

Retired Assistant Commissioner of Police Ms Ng Guat Ting is the current president of the SPRA.

Police Life caught up with her to find out what her plans were to take SPRA into the next lap.

“My vision as the President of SPRA is to build on the success of our predecessors and develop SPRA into an organisation that upholds the dignity of police retirees. All of us have served the Singapore Police Force for least 25 years and some have even longer than 40 years of service. Therefore, the term “police retirees” must in itself hold a strong meaning – one that can conjure the image of a community that has contributed their prime of life to build and maintain a safe and secure Singapore. One manifestation of that image is the value of the SPRA membership card. We will build that value.

Next is how, we as a community, embrace the hard truth that our body and mind will be deteriorating over time. In this regard, SPRA can help by transforming itself to provide additional service of support to us and our families.

We are working in collaboration with the HomeTeam NS Club House to organise gatherings for all retirees. There are plans to hold a poolside dinner in November. We look forward to having many retirees to join us at this event.

Collectively through SPRA, we believe that we can build a strong community of ex-policemen and women; ready to help each other along in our golden years.”

It is the vibrancy and sense of belonging we want to create.

Ms Ng Guat Ting
Retired Assistant Commissioner of Police
President of the Singapore Police Retirees Association

HIS VISION FOR SPRA

I was enlisted to Fulltime NS in 1977 attached to the SPF. My ORD was in 1979 and I decided to join SPF in 1980. I retired in 2008. I was reemployed till 2011. I am currently an Operations Manager with the Ministry of Education. I have fond memories of my training life at the Old Police Academy, especially the marching and drills to inculcate in us discipline and proper decorum. My vision for SPRA is to have all police officers join SPRA as members upon retirement.

Sazali Bin Sulaiman
Retired Police Officer
Member of SPRA

SPRA's email address : policera@singnet.com.sg

Facebook Page : [Singapore Police Retirees at www.facebook.com/SPRA04](https://www.facebook.com/SPRA04)

Police Pioneers Appreciation Night

By SC/Cpl Harsha Ramachandran

As the nation celebrated its 50th birthday, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) looked back and celebrated the individuals who protected the nation in the early years. On 31 July 2015, the SPF held a ‘Pioneers Appreciation Night’ to thank pioneer police officers for their contributions to the Force.

The Gala event at the newly restored Capitol Theatre was a night to remember, with almost one thousand guests attending. Most of the guests showed up early to catch up with their ex-colleagues while enjoying a variety of local dishes at the dinner reception. It was heart-warming to see the excitement with which some pioneers greeted their ex-colleagues, some of whom they had not seen for a good 40 years! As each of the guests arrived, they were presented with a golden medallion with their name engraved on it to thank them for their years of service to the Force. By 6.30pm everyone was inside Capitol Theatre where they were entertained by the Singapore Police Force Band, who played some uniquely Singaporean songs including ‘Home’ and a set from the ‘Xin Yao’ Genre. There was also a ‘Down Memory Lane’ quiz segment that saw some sporting pioneers answering questions on the Police's rich history and winning some token prizes for their enthusiasm.

When the Guest-of-Honour, Mr S Iswaran, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry, arrived at the theatre after spending some time talking to some of the pioneers at the dinner reception, he thanked the pioneers for their contributions to the Force. Along with Commissioner of Police Hoong Wee Teck, Assistant Commissioner of Police Melvin Yong, Director Public Affairs and Mr Rahul Pathak, the Associate News Editor of the Straits Times, Mr Iswaran launched an eBook titled ‘Guilty as Charged’. The eBook, which was produced in collaboration with Singapore Press Holdings, features 25 high profile crime cases from the last 50 years. All pioneers were also given a specially produced *Police Life* edition which featured the compelling stories of 50 police pioneers.

The Pioneers were then treated to an exclusive screening of the movie *1965* which was released only a day before in cinemas. ‘1965’ is a film that explores the racial tension and riots during Singapore's formative years, seen through the eyes of a young police constable. The many police-related scenes undoubtedly brought up memories for the pioneers. The happy good nights ended what we hoped was a memorable evening for the pioneers.

THEY RETURN TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN!

Retired Police Officer Mr Eng Guan Hock and his wife Mrs Ang Geok Kheng had their first date at capitol theatre! They returned to where their 53 years of Courtship began at the Pioneers Appreciation Night on 31st July.



Home Team celebrates
SG 50

Youth-Focused Neighbourhood Watch Zone Initiatives Nabs Gold

By Mr Tan Teng Hong, Colin



The youths of the east in Singapore were the focus of award-winning community projects to help detect and deter crime. Neighbourhood Watch Zones (NWZ) in Pasir Ris and Bedok South are two gold award winners for successful projects that promoted a safer community for all; both touching on one of the most important demographic of Singapore, our youths.

Nipping Youth Delinquency in the Bud

The number of youths arrested for overall crime in Pasir Ris saw a decrease in 2013 but the concern of youth delinquency is a perennial one that will require constant community attention.

Even with the Pasir Ris Neighbourhood Police Centre taking the lead - cultivating close relationships with community partners such as MENDAKI and Youth GO! to engage youths - more could be done. The Operations Manager (OM) of Coral Secondary School, Mr Sam Meng Chong (Chairman of School Cluster E1) thought exactly that when he proposed joint patrols with community partners at various youth hangouts in Pasir Ris after school hours. That created the basis of the Youth Guardian Eastern-1 (YGE) initiative; by deterring youth congregation after school hours, the chances of youths falling prey

to crime or becoming perpetrators of crime are greatly reduced, which in turn will lower the rates of youth delinquency.

All Secondary Schools from Cluster E1 participated in the YGE project. The OM's of all respective schools pooled information such as background of the youths in their schools and other valuable insights that will help deal with the youths in the best possible way. Bi-monthly patrols were planned, ensuring that the timing and routes taken allowed for the greatest efficiency and effectiveness. Community partners who had expressed interest in engaging youths, such as MENDAKI, the Joint Operations (Security) of NTUC Club @ Downtown East, Neighbourhood Watch Group (NWG) members and also Grassroots leaders from 20 Residents' Committees (RC) were roped in to ensure that all bases were covered.

Since the implementation of the YGE project, the number of cases reported involving secondary school students in Pasir Ris has dropped from 30 in 2013 to 27 in 2014. The Pasir Ris NWZ received the Gold Award for their services rendered.

Anti-Bike Theft Murals

The other east-side success was the Anti-Bicycle Theft Murals Project, which was driven by prevalence of bicycle theft there. Though initially tackled by the Police through advisory notices and other community engaging programmes, it was the community who stepped up help bring the anti-theft message closer to home.

During discussions involving the Bedok South Police Officers, Citizen's Consultative Committee and RC (Ansar, Ping-An & Ping Yi Garden) Chairmen, a consensus was reached to engage the youths on the project. Mr Eddie Fong, Chairman of Ansar RC noted that part of the motivation behind engaging the youths was to have them channel their spare time to designing and executing the project during their holidays. "We needed some anti-theft messages and engaging the kids to draw in their own estate gives them a sense of ownership."

The Anti-Bicycle Theft Mural Project was launched with the objective of engaging youths to take part in a community effort in crime prevention. Notices about the project was posted up at lift landings by the Police and the RC went on to rope in youth participants to form teams of 4, each to submit designs for a wall mural. The best six designs would win cash prizes ranging from \$800 to \$200, as well as the chance to execute their works on the actual walls of some of the void decks in the area. During the actual painting of their works, Community Policing Unit (CPU) Officers visited the youths regularly to engage them on crime prevention

measures so as to help them better understand the impact their work will have on the community.

Upon completion of the murals, a road show was held on 17 January 2015 to spread the crime prevention measures for bicycle theft. The event was graced by the Guest-of-Honour, Minister for Manpower Mr Tan Chuan-Jin. Mr Tan Lauded the youths for their efforts in helping to prevent bicycle theft, and presented the prizes to the respective winners.

On the topic of bicycle theft, he said "The main problem for some is, when we secure our bicycles, we are using locks which are not very effective." Free U-Locks were given out at the road show to introduce a better lock alternative. In addition to the exhibition of the murals, a skit themed "Fight bicycle theft, you and me" was put on by the Bedok South Community Policing Unit Officers and the Citizen-On-Patrol members to encourage community collaboration with the police on the fight against bicycle theft. The event was received positively by the residents and succeeded in raising awareness on bicycle theft; some of the residents even wanted to see more murals like this in the coming year!

The event that had began from a simple idea of mural painting, had brought about not only crime awareness and prevention but also injected vibrancy into the lives of the residents of Chai Chee. The NWZ of the area received the Gold Award and was also featured by local media for a successful project.



A Major Part of the Band

By SC/Cpl Harsha Ramachandran

The Police band is an important part of the Singapore Police Force (SPF). They add ceremonial pomp, tradition and grandeur to events like the Police Day Parade and every uniformed officers' passing out parade. Leading the band in these quintessential events as a Drum Major is Sergeant (Sgt) Abdul Latiff Bin Abdul Rahman.

It is his job to not only lead the band at the outdoor parades but to conceptualise, plan, prepare and execute the display formations for the band. Sgt Abdul plays the Trombone and the Euphonium for the band during concert events. Concurrently with his full-time work in the band, he works as an officer on the ground performing policing duties.

Sgt Abdul's choice of profession is very much a product of his childhood. He told us how his mother was a Police Officer and for him, "growing up seeing her going in and out for work sparked my ambition to become a Police Officer." He has always been interested in music and was in his school band from the early age of nine. A role in the SPF band was almost perfect for him, as it combined his ambition to become a Police Officer with his love for music. In his own words, he is really "in the best of both worlds".

Work in the SPF band is demanding but for Sgt Abdul, it all pays off when the audience "reciprocates with a big smile or a thank you... the small gestures make it all worthwhile". He is also encouraged by the positive working environment in the band which pushes to him to further his musical skills. Sgt Abdul's favourite part about his job is the "long-day performances" which he describes as "tiring but fulfilling". He fondly described how after those performances, the entire band packs up together and how it builds strong camaraderie.

The performance he remembers most vividly is the Change of Command ceremony which was held at Home Team academy on 5 January 2015. It was his first parade as a drum major and a very important event. He was "under a lot of pressure" and very nervous. Nevertheless, he proudly declared that the ceremony went by smoothly and he left with his first successful parade under his belt.





ONE OF US

Hi, I am...

Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Den Indra Bin Zainal, from the Airport Police Division. I'm an Aviation Security Inspector from the Security Regulatory Branch.

What is something you do every day without fail?

I like to have a good start to the day. I would usually have breakfast and do up a short list of things to be done and the meetings for the day.

Identify one item on your desk that motivates you while you are at work.

My wife bought this paperweight gift with our picture in it during our early courtship days. She has always been supportive and positive throughout my career to this very day. It motivates me every time I look at it.

Where do you go to take a break during work?

When work gets hectic, I would pop by Starbucks to get a cup of hot mocha. The fresh aroma from the blend of mocha always perks me up as well as relaxes my mind. I would gaze at the beautiful greenery at the Airport to relax my eyes as well.

On a work day, what is your favourite dish to have for lunch and where can you find it?

I love to lunch over at Terminal 3 Kopitiam as this place has a variety of delicious food. One of my favourite dishes would be Nasi Sambal Goreng.

What is the weirdest misconception you have heard about policing work/ police officers?

Police officers are often perceived to be ruthless, with no consideration for the feelings of others. For instance, when we arrest someone for misusing their airport pass to send off their family members who seem frail and in need of assistance within the airport's restricted areas. The family members would beg the officers not to arrest their loved ones, for they feel that the offence is not serious enough to warrant an arrest.

Actually the abuse of airport passes is a serious security breach. Such breaches can lead to the compromise of the safety of travellers and airport users. We are enforcers of the law and we always try to go about it in the most professional manner.

I believe in...

"If you aim at nothing, you are going to hit nothing."
This means if you don't set goals, then you have nowhere to go. So set goals and travel the path that will lead you to success!

