



**POLICE
LIFE**

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 41 NO. 1

SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE CHANGE OF COMMAND

Heroes with Humility
Welcoming SPF's First Jubilee Baby

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NOTE FROM THE TEAM



AC Melvin Yong
Editorial Advisor
Police Life

A new year represents a fresh start and a new beginning. Here at ***Police Life***, we will be introducing new segments to freshen up your reading experience.

Starting from this issue, expect to hear more perspectives – from the plans and aspirations of key officers in the Force (page 3) to snippets of the experiences of those undertaking lesser-publicised roles in the Force (page 15) to the recounting of quirky habits and encounters of various officers (page 16). We are even giving the objects and equipments we use or encounter daily a chance to “voice” their own views (page 10)!

The community, being our valuable partners in making Singapore the safest place in the world, also get recognised on page 14. Be it our regular taxi uncle, the dedicated Crime Prevention Ambassador or a Neighbourhood Watch Zone member, their voices are heard and efforts recognised on this page.

For greater interactivity and excitement, we are bringing back monthly contests on page 11. As before, entering the contests will be fuss-free. We look forward to your active participation!

Finally, as we celebrate Singapore's 50th birthday, we bring you highlights and updates about the Force's role in this grand celebration, starting off with the first SG50 Jubilee baby born to our very own officer!

With this year set to be an exciting one, we hope that you will find each issue an interesting read, and that you will continue supporting ***Police Life*** for another 50 years or more!

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IT HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS PRIVILEGE AND HONOUR

Mr Ng Joo Hee, the former Commissioner of Police, gave this speech at the Singapore Police Force Change of Command Ceremony on 5 January 2015.

“Men and women of the Singapore Police Force, Thank you for this parade.

GOODBYE

Today is my last day as the Commissioner of Police.
Today is also my last day as a police officer.

I joined the police as a 19-year-old while serving NS in the Army straight after “A” levels. After signing on, I immediately left to attend Oxford University in England. On finishing university, I returned to Singapore and started police work without a pause.

I was briefly an investigator at Clementi, before getting posted to ISD. As a young ASP, I had spent a year peacekeeping in Cambodia. I was then given the task of setting up and leading the STAR Unit.

After STAR, I was seconded to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. At MTI, I dealt with water policy, so it is pleasantly ironical that tomorrow I will head the PUB, Singapore's national water agency.

After MTI, I decided to go back to school, went on to Harvard University and signed another bond with the Police.

After Harvard, I came back to the police and commanded Central Police Division, became the deputy director in CID, and then subsequently Director of Police Intelligence.

I was then asked to leave the police again, this time to lead the Prison Service.

But after only two short years in Changi, the Prime Minister decided that I should become the Commissioner of Police.

It has been a tremendous privilege and honour to have been the police commissioner these five years.

For five years, my only motivation for coming to work every morning has been the grave responsibility that I have for the more than 10,000 officers in our police force, and for our mission of safeguarding public safety in Singapore.

When I am finally done at the end of today, I would have completed 29.5 years as a police officer.

This is a long time.

Today, I say goodbye to the SPF and to every policeman and policewoman.

I bid you a fond farewell. And I wish that every one of you will have enriching careers, and live long and happy lives.

THANK YOU

Fellow officers, I also want to say thank you.

I want to thank each and every police officer.

I want to thank you for choosing to be police officers, and for choosing to continue to be police officers.

I want to thank you for your commitment to the policing mission, for your devotion to our values, and for your dedication to your work.

Fellow officers, you are a national treasure.

Your daily toil may often go unappreciated, but it is the stuff that produces the safety-from-crime that we enjoy every day.

Your collective effort is equivalent to performing a miracle for our country, every day, day after day.

Truly, you are among the 10,000 that defend and protect the five million.

Fellow officers, thank you for standing with me these past five years.

I only hope that my leadership has been worthy of your hard work and sacrifice.

Fellow officers, good luck and Godspeed!

Goodbye and thank you.”

SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE CHANGE OF COMMAND

By ASP Tan Ming Jie
Public Affairs Department

The new year marked a new era for the Singapore Police Force (SPF) as we welcomed our new commissioner.

Mr Hoong Wee Teck has taken over command of SPF from Mr Ng Joo Hee as the Commissioner of Police (CP), in a Change of Command Ceremony held at Home Team Academy (HTA) on Monday, 5 January 2015.

Mr Hoong Wee Teck, 51, has served 27 years in the SPF. He has held various leadership appointments, including that of Deputy Commissioner (Investigations and Intelligence), Director Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Director Police Intelligence Department (PID) and Commander Bedok Police Division. He has also served a stint in the then Singapore Immigration & Registration Department as Deputy Director (Enforcement).

On his appointment as CP, Mr Hoong said: "It is a great honour to be in this position to lead a Force of highly committed and professional men and women. The previous Commissioners have done an excellent job in building a strong foundation of professionalism and community trust. I will continue to strengthen this foundation, and leverage technology and innovation to bring SPF's crime fighting capabilities to a new level. Together, my officers and I will work towards realising our vision of Singapore becoming the safest city in the world."

Mr Ng Joo Hee, 48, who had led SPF for close to five years, will assume a new appointment as Chief Executive, Public Utilities Board (PUB), and concurrent Deputy Secretary (Special Duties), Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) on 6 January 2015. He will bring to PUB and MEWR his experience gleaned from 29 years of his distinguished career in SPF and MHA.

We thank Mr Ng Joo Hee for his strong leadership as our Commissioner of Police and wish him every success in his next appointment.



AN INSTINCT WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD

By SC/Cpl Gabriel Chan Duen Yue

Sometimes, we jump at the opportunity to make monetary profits without giving it much forethought. However, we must not allow greed to cloud our judgment. Here is one scenario:

A man donned in dirty clothes walks up to you and reveals that he is a construction worker. Certainly, he appears nothing more than just a humble man. He then shows you a heap of gold ingots that he has unearthed while excavating the ground at an unknown site in Singapore and earnestly implore for your help to sell these gold ingots. He even backs up the reliability of his newfound discovery with old Chinese manuscripts (which appear to be an old will) and demonstrates that the gold ingots are real by cutting out a thin piece of gold and handing it to you for inspection.

You might drag your heels upon hearing his request. Nonetheless, he assures you to take your time to consider and make your finding. Your doubts vanish when that thin gold slip turns out to be authentic upon verification with the goldsmith. That revelation would perhaps now give you ideas. It seems like a lucrative deal – you just have to negotiate a price; buy all the gold ingots off him; and then sell them off at a higher rate to make several thousand dollars in profits! Would you resist that impulse and let the opportunity disappear?



One businessman, who was approached by two Chinese nationals in late November 2014, had an inkling that their story was fake.

The businessman also had his friend to thank. His friend, Lianhe Wanbao associate editor Mr Chin Khai Song, advised him that it could be a scam. Despite obtaining the results from various goldsmiths that the thin slip of gold was real, he did not succumb to the temptation but instead, reported the matter to the police.

The businessman contacted the two Chinese nationals and agreed to their offer. The police then set up an ambush for them. The criminals were swiftly apprehended when they were about to make the deal and police seized their hoard of over 200 'gold' ingots. Another accomplice was nabbed in subsequent investigations. This is an exemplary display of cooperation between members of the public and the Singapore Police Force.

True enough, the 'gold' ingots turned out to be bogus. The ingots were actually painted gold despite being similar in weight to actual ones. Other items seized included six gold-coloured mini Buddha statues,

a thin piece of genuine gold and a Chinese manuscript.

Mr Chin subsequently received an award for public spiritedness from the Central Police Division.

Commander of Central Police Division, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (DAC) Daniel Tan, commended his officers for their excellent investigations which led to the arrest the suspects on the same day the report was received. DAC Tan reminded members of the public "not to let your guard down." If you suspect something amiss, you should report the matter to the Police at the earliest opportunity.

STAY IN THE LOOP!

In the year 2013 (Episode 7), Crimewatch featured a 'Gold Ingot Scam' case whereby its modus operandi was similar to that of the one mentioned in this article. Watch Crimewatch for more useful advices on how not to fall prey to crimes!



HEROES WITH HUMILITY

By SC (NS) Muhammad Idaffi Othman



A lunch-hour armed robbery in the busy Raffles Place area on 14 November 2014 took Singaporeans by surprise. While the bleeding victim was being tended to by passers-by, the robber was chased down by other members of the public.

On 11 December 2014, three of these heroes were commended by the Police for their public-spiritedness. While all three individuals rendered assistance in different ways during the incident, we observed that they had one thing in common: humility. All of them said that it was not solely their own effort, but a collective effort of many passers-by rolling up their sleeves to render assistance in their own ways.

Dr Jacqueline Yam Pei Fan (above, centre)

"If not for the other passers-by who continuously provided me with their own personal items such as tissue papers and towels, I would not be able to effectively render first aid to the victim. I am very glad to hear that the victim is recovering well."

Dr Yam, who has been a medical doctor since 1999, was in her clinic when two passers-by dashed in to inform her about the incident. With a First Aid Kit in her hand, she immediately rushed to where the victim was lying. Together with other passers-by, she successfully stopped the flow of blood from the victim's wounds, while waiting for the paramedics.

Mr Mohamed Nazir S/O Abdul Rahiman (above, right)

"If not for my Police National Service (NS) training during my NS days and my reservist stints, I might not be able to pin the suspect down effectively without injuring him as I noticed he was breathless after running away for quite a distance."

Mr Nazir, who coincidentally just completed his third reservist cycle with the Central Police Division a week before the incident occurred, attributed his skill to his NS training, citing the annual Police Defence Tactics re-certification as an example. He also thanked the passers-by who provided support while he tried to call the Police.

Mr Wilson Benedict Lim Ye Xiang (above, left)

"I did not help much actually. Unlike Dr Yam or Nazir who had skills in lifesaving and policing tactics respectively, I was only there to assist Nazir to ensure that the suspect did not struggle while Nazir called the Police."

Mr Lim did not care if his office attire had unwanted stains. He persisted in helping to the best of his ability. He also emphasised that the public should be more pro-active in helping in such situations instead of merely standing around to record videos or capture photographs.

This incident is a great "testimony" to community-driven policing. Every person can help protect our community and make Singapore the safest place in the world. Commander of Central Police Division, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (DAC) Daniel Tan added that "The brave, selfless and civic-minded individuals truly deserve to be commended for playing an important role in assisting Police." Kudos to you, heroes!

HAPPENINGS

Towards Responsible Drinking

"Don't drive to drink. And you'll never drink and drive". The STCars Anti-Drink Drive Campaign was launched on 11 December 2014 to remind the motoring community to exercise personal responsibility and of the dangers of driving after alcohol consumption. Family members and friends of drinkers were targeted in 2014's campaign to help eschew drink-driving.

All Is Calm, All Is Bright

On 2014's Christmas Eve, nearly 400 officers from the Tanglin Police Division, the Special Operations Command and the Public Transport Security Command (TransCom) were deployed around Clarke Quay and Orchard Road to ensure that everyone enjoyed a peaceful Christmas celebration in town.



Welcome 2015

While Singapore ushered in the New Year, slightly over a thousand officers from TransCom as well as the Central, Clementi, Tanglin and Jurong Police Divisions were deployed island-wide to deter and detect crime.

Helping Hands

On 3 January 2015, a Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) team comprising six officers from the Singapore Police Force and two forensic experts from the Health Sciences Authority were deployed to Indonesia. They were to assist local counterparts in the identification of victims from AirAsia flight QZ8501 that crashed on 28 December 2014. We will bring you the DVI team's stories in upcoming issues of *Police Life*.



SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

Correct as of 31 Jan 2015



Tan Chye Hee
Deputy Commissioner
of Police (Investigations
& Intelligence)



Lim Kok Thai
Deputy Commissioner
of Police (Policy)



Hoong Wee Teck
Commissioner



Lau Peet Meng
Deputy Commissioner
of Police (Operations)

<p>ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT DAC Lee Chwee Huat</p> 	<p>INSPECTORATE AND COMPLIANCE OFFICE AC Lee Chin Ek</p> 	<p>INTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE AC Paramjit Singh</p> 	<p>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT DAC Cheong Chee Ming</p> 	<p>MANPOWER DEPARTMENT SAC Tan Hung Hooi</p> 	<p>PLANNING & ORGANISATION DEPARTMENT AC Teo Chun Ching</p> 	<p>POLICE LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT AC Cheang Keng Keong</p> 	<p>POLICE NATIONAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT DAC Manimaran Pushpanatan</p> 
<p>POLICE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT Mr Tay Yeow Koon</p> 	<p>PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AC Melvin Yong</p> 	<p>SERVICE DELIVERY DEPARTMENT DAC Maria Oh</p> 	<p>VOLUNTEER SPECIAL CONSTABULARY DAC Chua Chuan Seng</p> 	<p>POLICE LICENSING & REGULATORY DEPARTMENT AC Jessica Kwok</p> 	<p>OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT DC Lau Peet Meng</p> 	<p>COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT Mr Tan Boon Gin</p> 	<p>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT DC Tan Chye Hee</p> 
<p>POLICE INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT AC Florence Chua</p> 	<p>AIRPORT POLICE DIVISION SAC Zuraidah Abdullah</p> 	<p>GURKHA CONTINGENT AC Mark Lindsay Ross Forman</p> 	<p>POLICE COAST GUARD SAC Hsu Sin Yun</p> 	<p>SECURITY COMMAND AC Lim Chee Pheng</p> 	<p>SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND AC David Scott Arul</p> 	<p>TRAFFIC POLICE DEPARTMENT AC Sam Tee</p> 	<p>PUBLIC TRANSPORT SECURITY COMMAND DAC Lee Su Peng</p> 
<p>HOME TEAM SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SAC Loy Chye Meng</p> 	<p>TRAINING COMMAND SAC Loy Chye Meng</p> 	<p>CENTRAL POLICE DIVISION DAC Daniel Tan</p> 	<p>CLEMENTI POLICE DIVISION AC Gerald Lim</p> 	<p>TANGLIN POLICE DIVISION DAC Lu Yeow Lim</p> 	<p>ANG MO KIO POLICE DIVISION DAC Lian Ghim Hua</p> 	<p>BEDOK POLICE DIVISION DAC Alvin Moh</p> 	<p>JURONG POLICE DIVISION DAC Wilson Lim</p> 

MY VIEW

By SC Mok Wen Jie



Anti-shop theft standee

Being a police officer is a tough but rewarding job, and this is no different for an anti-shop theft standee such as me! Nothing is more rewarding than helping to spread the critical message: "Shop Theft is a crime!"

Recently, it has become easier for me to spread that message, with a large number of people coming up to take photos with me and uploading them to the internet. Our anti-shop theft message can spread further and faster than ever, and Singapore can become ever safer against shop theft! Oh look, here is another person who wants to help spread the good word...

Chinese New Year is almost upon us! I really enjoy the festive mood. However, we must not let our guard down, as criminals will look for opportunities to prey on unwary victims.

Hmm, that person in the grey hooded jacket did look suspicious. Good thing that the Community Policing Unit officers are speaking to him. Although I am around to deter shop theft, my fellow officers continue to be vigilant and look out for suspicious activity.

Good day Missus, you would like to take a photo of me with this young lady? Sure! Hope the photo turns out good. Please help spread the message!

KNOWING OUR KOREAN COUNTERPARTS

By Asp Wong Rong Kai, Central Police Division and Ms Jinnie Chew

On 14 November 2014, a delegation of 28 Singapore Police Force (SPF) officers went on an overseas study visit to South Korea.

The members in the delegation came from various departments and operational units within the SPF. The aim of this visit was to broaden the members' perspectives and learn from the new ideas and technologies of the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA).

The KNPA warmly welcomed the SPF delegation at their headquarters in Seoul. The visit had to be shortened from two days to one due to a large police deployment in Seoul in response to a protest held by thousands of farmers against the China Free Trade Agreements. Nevertheless, the delegation still gained much insight from the KPNA's generous sharing.

The KPNA officers began by sharing their crime investigation expertise in the Cyber Bureau's office.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Wong Rong Kai, Team Leader from Rochor Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) was particularly impressed with the KPNA's efforts in combating cyber crime. "Their

capabilities in tackling a variety of cyber crimes are very advanced, and are kept sharp through constant threats from abroad," said ASP Wong.

At the KPNA's scientific investigation centre, the delegation was introduced to various new techniques and technologies developed by the KPNA, such as the portable Faraday Cages carried by their Crime Scene Investigation officers and their fingerprint database system. The Faraday Cages, in particular, was an interesting contraption that allowed ground officers to seize electronic items and insulate them from any external wireless interference.

After a visit to the Korean Police Heritage Museum, the Seoul Public Security Force Command put up an excellent show of force in their realistic demonstration of their capabilities against rioters. The troopers displayed their well-drilled routines and formations much to the excitement of the delegation, and shared their various locally developed technologies, vehicular anti-riot capabilities and gear. Commendably, the officers playing the roles of the rioters had to endure being drenched by strong jets of water while



being part of the outdoor demonstration held during winter.

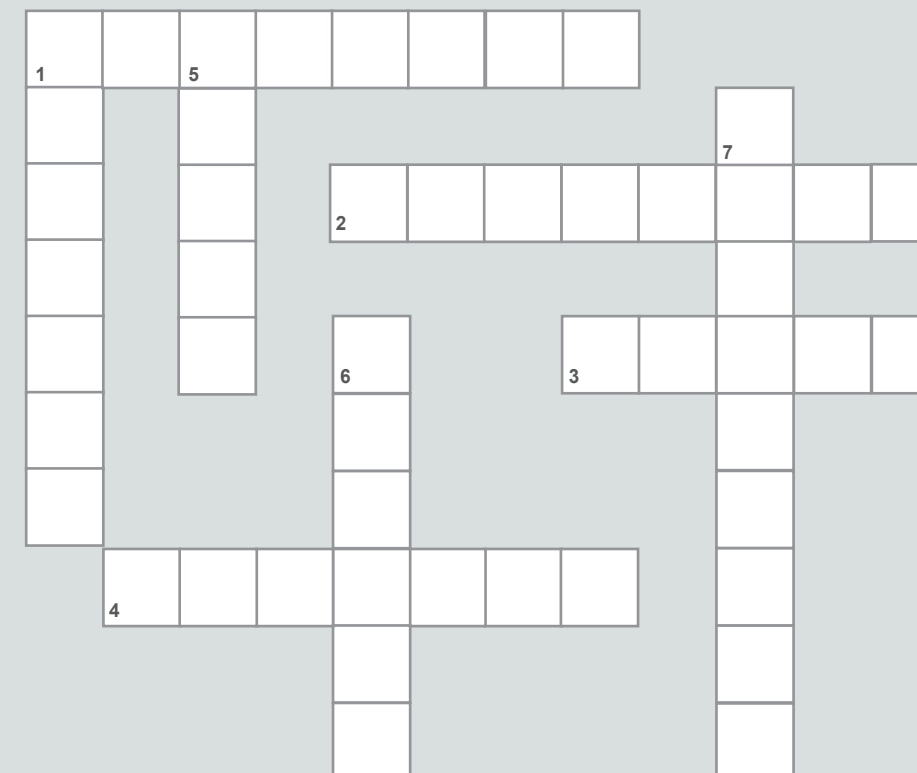
With actual stones and Molotov cocktails hurled at the officers, they depicted a riot scene so realistic that "tears welled up" in the eyes of Ms Serene Kok, finance officer from the Administration and Finance department.

It was the graciousness, generosity and great capabilities of the KPNA that

left an everlasting mark on the SPF officers, who came back to Singapore inspired to find opportunities to apply the knowledge they have gained.

As Staff Sergeant Zenden Loh, Officer-in-Charge Communications from the Public Transport Security Command put it, "Crime fighting isn't only done within Singapore, so it is important that we learn from each other and grow."

READ & WIN!



Give us all the correct answers to this crossword puzzle and win one of 10 exclusive SPF pouches!

Email your answers, full name, NRIC number and contact number to spf_plm@spf.gov.sg by 6 March 2015. Only the first entry will be considered.

This contest is open to all persons residing in Singapore.

Across

- ① SPF's new commissioner said he will "leverage technology and innovation to bring SPF's crime _____ capabilities to a new level".
- ② The father of SPF's first jubilee baby works at the _____ Command
- ③ The point-of-view of the Anti-shop _____ standee is found on page 10
- ④ Besides jogging, Assistant Superintendent of Police Zeya is cheered up by his _____ photo frame

Down

- ① _____ Cage – A device used by the Korean National Police Agency
- ⑤ Even when offered lots of gold, we must not allow _____ to cloud our judgment
- ⑥ Mr Tee Tua Ba was the chief of _____ Police when he negotiated with terrorists who hijacked a boat
- ⑦ One of the 32 departments in the SPF: Police _____ Regulatory Department

TWINS AND TRIPLETS BRING JOY

Reproduced from *Police Life* 1990

While the nation celebrated its 25th birthday on a massive islandwide scale, three blissful officers from “J” Division were celebrating more birthdays.

One of them was Sgt Peng Ming Kok, currently attached to Team Policing, Team “C” of Jurong Police Station. Sgt Peng has served in the Force for sixteen years. And the source of their happiness? Mrs Peng has just given birth to triplets!

“Initially, I was a little shocked when I discovered that we were going to have three more babies, but it soon turned to happiness,” said Sgt Peng.

Cherrie, Cheryl and Cherill were born in the National University Hospital on 11 May 1990. The pretty lasses weighed 5.7 lbs, 5.3 lbs and 6.2 lbs at birth.

Another very happy couple was WPC Alice Goh Siew Hiang and her husband Mr Hammond Wong. Alice gave birth to twins – a boy and a girl – on 16 February 1990. Elder sister Bayleen weighed 5.8 lbs and brother Baylor was 5.7 lbs at birth.

As WPC Alice puts it, “With two more babies around, the family will definitely be happier.”

19 June 1990 is also a memorable day for DPC Ang Kok Keong who joined the Force in 1978 and is currently attached to “J” Crime Branch. DPC Ang, Mrs Ang and daughter Cindy welcomed the new additions to the family with much joy. Naturally, little Cindy is pleased to have two new playmates in brothers Andy and Benny.

“We wanted to have just another baby, but I guess we scored a bonus!” said DPC Ang with a huge grin.



The Pengs with Cherrie, Cheryl and Cherill



WPC Alice with Baylor and Bayleen in 1990 (left), and the happy family now (right)



The Angs with Andy and Benny 25 years ago (left), and at a recent family gathering (right)

25 YEARS ON

Ms Ines Yeo
Public Affairs Department

Senior Station Inspector Alice Goh Siew Hiang's daughter, Bayleen, is now pursuing a degree at the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) while Bayleen's twin brother Baylor is part of the Infantry Division of the Singapore Armed Forces. Management Support Officer Ang Kok Keong's twins, Andy and Benny, are both schooling now, with Andy studying at the Singapore Polytechnic and Benny pursuing his degree at the SIM.

WELCOMING SPF'S FIRST JUBILEE BABY

Home Team
celebrates
SG
50

Ms Ines Yeo
Public Affairs Department

When he was choosing a name for his son who was born on the midnight that marks Singapore's 50th birthday, Station Inspector (SI) Chee Kuan Eng received suggestions such as ‘Temasek’, ‘Jubilee’ and ‘Sang Nila’. Eventually, he decided to name his baby Jared, following the initials of Jared's older sister, Jadelyn.

Unplanned surprise to kick-start 2015

Expecting their baby to be delivered before 31 December, SI Chee and his wife were pleasantly surprised when Jared was born at midnight on 1 January 2015. “I was very excited because this is once in a lifetime. There won't be another golden jubilee for me.”

With Jared being their second child, SI Chee and his wife are more prepared and are looking forward to repeating the growing up process that they had gone through with their daughter, who is now three years old. Equipped with the SG50 Baby Jubilee Gift, which they found “very useful and comprehensive,” SI Chee and his wife are all set to begin a new chapter in their lives.

Supportive structure of the SPF

SI Chee is not worried about juggling his family commitments and his work at the Training Command (TRACOM). The 20 year veteran of the Singapore Police Force (SPF) recalls the days when his first child was born. At that time, he had to cope with the new demands of being a father and caring for his mother-in-law who was unwell, all on top of his workload. Citing his colleagues as sources of help he can count on and the various welfare benefits that the SPF offers, he said, “In the Police Force, you will always find a way (to cope).”

Meaningful work at SPF

“I love this job,” declared SI Chee. Cultivated since young, it is this passion for Police work that spurs him to strive for his best at

work. As a course manager, he teaches trainees essential police knowledge that will allow them to perform their duties as Police National Service Full-time officers.

SI Chee highlights his interaction with the younger generation as a distinctive feature of his work at SPF. “Because I have to give them instructions, I am like their boss. At the same time, I am also their nanny because I have to take care of their well-being.”

His experience as a father figure in TRACOM will likely come in handy as he raises his two children. Having served National Service (NS) and taught as a course manager in TRACOM, he believes that he will have much to share with his son when his son finally serves NS years down the road.



POLICE ENLIST FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS TO HELP FIGHT CRIME

By Jacqueline Ng
Home Team News

Domestic Eyes on Alert programme gets foreign domestic workers involved in crime detection and prevention efforts in Ang Mo Kio.



When I see a suspicious character, I am prepared to alert the police," said Rosemarie Silat, a 31-year-old domestic worker who works in the Mayflower estate at Ang Mo Kio.

The Filipina – who has been in Singapore for two years – knows how to report a crime to the police after participating in the Domestic Eyes on Alert (DEOA) programme introduced by Ang Mo Kio North Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) at Lentor estate in October last year.

The programme educates foreign domestic workers on how to watch out for crime in their private housing estates.

"I feel happy to be able to participate again this year because I can learn more techniques to prevent crimes," said Rosemarie, beaming with delight.

"Last year, I learnt a lot of crime fighting techniques. For example, how to spot suspicious strangers and how to call the police in times of emergency. This year, I want to learn more," said Rosemarie, who hopes to encourage others to join her in fighting crime.

On 29 November, Ang Mo Kio North NPC partnered Mayflower Gardens Neighbourhood Committee and Kebun Baru Community Centre of People's Association to extend the existing programme to domestic helpers at Mayflower estate.

In his opening speech, Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio constituency Inderjit Singh said, "Singapore is a safe place, but it is not zero crime," adding that maids are recognised as important partners in crime prevention.

The police said maids could act as extra eyes and ears to look out for criminals who might be surveying the estate in the day for targets that they could hit on later.

"Guest-of-Honour and Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio constituency Inderjit Singh (left) and Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lian Ghim Hua (right) were

at the event to witness the launch of the Domestic Eyes on Alert programme.

Ms Sallina Ng, 43, was at the event to support her domestic worker, Nur Khomsah, the newest ambassador of the community programme.

The owner of a domestic placement agency learnt about this initiative through a friend and encouraged her Indonesian helper to participate in it.

Thantarmoa's employer also reacted positively to the initiative.

"It (the programme) is good for them, because Thantarmoa learnt what number to call the police. Before, she thought the number was 199, but now she knows it is 999," Mallina, 64, said.

Nur is enthused about participating in the training workshops that is said to run twice a year.



"My boss asked if I wanted to join the programme. I said yes because I can learn how to protect my employer's house" said Nur, 32, who has been working with the family for three years.

Ms Sallina Ng and her family members turn up to show their support for their maid, Nur Khomsah (in pink) at the Community Safety and Security Programme event organised by Ang Mo Kio North NPC on Saturday, 29 November.



"During the workshop, foreign domestic workers will be trained on how to look out for physical traits and location of suspicious people, and in such cases, how to make a police report," said Senior Station Inspector (SSI) Lim Peng Chye, officer-in-charge of the Domestic Eyes on Alert programme.

"For example, in the event when owners are not around, they will be well prepared to secure the premise," he added.

At the event, the participants flocked to the game stalls and learning booths to pick up crime prevention tips and tried their hands at performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on a resuscitation manikin.

SSI Lim said the response to the event was very enthusiastic.

"It is very heartening to see the huge turnout despite the rainy weather conditions. It is a surprise, and I am very happy," he said.

THE SPF'S CRISIS NEGOTIATION UNIT

By SC (NS) Mohamed Noh Iskandar

The Crisis Negotiation Unit (CNU) comprises Psychologists and Police Officers from various Police units holding secondary appointments as Negotiators. The mission of the CNU is to save lives by defusing potentially life-threatening situations through negotiation. Superintendent of Police Philip Ong Chee Kheong (PO) and Assistant Superintendent of Police Jin Yifeng (JY) have 10 years of Negotiator experience between them, and share what it is like.

PO: "When the CNU arrives at the scene, we will assess the demeanour of the subject and find out what action had already been taken by the officer-in-charge at the scene. We operate as a team. The primary Negotiator is the "voice" and may be too engrossed in the negotiation itself, and potentially neglect his or her own safety due to the intensity of the situation. That's where the Number 2 Negotiator will watch out for his/her safety, and provide negotiation advice. The Number 3 records and updates the log book, and will also assist the Team. The Number 4 is the "Boards Man" who updates the various charts used by the Team.

My role as a CNU Team Leader (TL) is to coordinate with other resources at scene such as the Singapore Civil Defence Force and other Police units. Supporting the CNU in each Team are four Psychologists, who can do a very good psycho-analysis of the subject, the next-of-kin and even our own Negotiators.

The whole support network is crucial because as a Negotiator in the hot seat, you may not have complete awareness of what's happening around you."

JY: "In one of my cases, I was assigned as the Number 2. However, I ended up being the main Negotiator as the female subject preferred to talk to a female officer - the number one officer at that time was a male. It was a little scary. Even though we are all well trained, but in reality, you know that if you say the wrong thing, the situation may end up getting out of control. But if you follow the training, naturally what you've learnt comes into play.

Thus far in my short stint as a Negotiator, another memorable incident was the time when I was called up in the middle of a date! Half an hour into the dinner, I was activated. I had to excuse myself and was so paiseh (embarrassed) that I promised the guy to pay for the 2nd dinner."

PO: "On the ground, it is definitely not an action movie. Whatever we do out there when we respond to a situation is real, and our mission is to save lives."



ONE OF US

Q: Hi, I am...

Zeya, and I hold the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police. I am currently a Senior Investigation Officer of the Investigation Branch in Central Police Division.

Q: What's one item on your desk that motivates you while you are at work?

It has to be my digital photo frame. It loops the photos that I took on my travelling experiences, from Europe to the US and New Zealand. Looking at those pictures reminds me of how small our daily problems are and motivates me to persevere and push on no matter what the challenge is.

Q: Where do you go for a break?

Our work is endless; thus there is hardly a time to take a break during work. However, should the rare occasion arises; I go a quick jog near the Police Cantonment Complex.

Q: What is the most interesting or amusing incident that you have encountered while at work?

Hmm.. is someone getting arrested three times over three days for doing the exact same thing considered "amusing" or "interesting"? For the third time in three days, he had gone to the exact same place and just like the previous times, jumped in front of moving cars at the drop-off point and pretended to be knocked down, in attempts to claim insurance money from the drivers. "Amusing"? Maybe. But it also goes to show what people can resort to doing in times of desperation.

Q: The weirdest misconception you have heard about police officers is...

That Police officers don't have to pay tax.

Q: I believe in...

being sincere and doing things with a clear conscience.

