

**POLICE
LIFE**

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 41 NO. 2

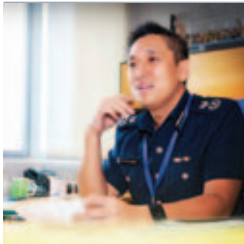





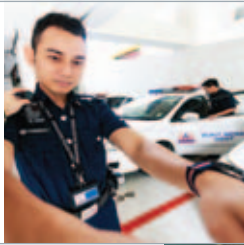







HELPING TO BRING CLOSURE TO **AIR ASIA FLIGHT 8501 TRAGEDY**



Crime-fighting 24/7

Celebrating SG50 on Police Vehicles

CONTENTS

	03 The Operating Environment Ahead		04 Helping to Bring Closure to AirAsia Flight 8501 Tragedy		06 Caught in the Act
	07 Keen-eyed Cop Nabs Pervert		07 Happenings		
	08 Crime-fighting 24/7		10 My View		11 Commissioner of Royal Brunei Police Force Awarded Distinguished Service Order
	11 'Be the Poser in the Poster!' Contest		12 Video Superimposition System for CRO		13 Celebrating SG50 on Police Vehicles
	14 Not Just Another Neighbourly Face		15 Peeling Off the Masks They Wear		16 One of Us

EDITOR'S NOTE



Ms Leena Rajan
Senior Editor
Police Life

Tragedy is hard to deal with. Be it grieving relatives or responding rescue and recovery forces, each person or organisation faces their own set of challenges. And police officers are no strangers to tragedy. They stare it in the face, very often, in the course of their work. In this issue, we share how the Force reached out to support our Indonesian neighbours when tragedy struck the AirAsia Flight 8501 bound for Singapore from Surabaya.

In the policing context, it is precisely the ability to respond and recover from unforeseen and grave scenarios that the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations), Mr Lau Peet Meng talks about. Read his candid sharing of where he thinks the Force is today in terms of our operational capabilities and how to raise the bar in order to raise the standards across the Force.

In this issue, see the ways in which our officers are beacons of light as night falls and they go about in their unassuming and steady ways to secure a good night's sleep for the rest of the country.

As part of the SG50 celebrations, we've also declared our intent to mark the occasion with our SG50 car decals on our police vehicles. Follow us on *Police Life* as we share more behind-the-scenes stories for our various other celebratory efforts throughout the year and you could just get yourself invited to one of the special events!

Oh and don't forget to check out our back cover 'poster girl' for this issue – she's one of us!

COMMITTEE

Editorial Advisor
AC Melvin Yong

Chief Editor
DAC Tan Tin Wee

Senior Editor
Ms Leena Rajan

Editor
Ms Tham Yee Lin

Journalists
Ms Chew Si Lei Jinnie
SC/Cpl Gabriel Chan Duen Yue
SC Mok Wen Jie

Photographers
SSgt Chee Yong Tat
SC/Cpl Gabriel Chan Duen Yue
SC Mok Wen Jie
Cpl Md Shahrunnizam Abdul Rashid

Design and Production
Redbean De Pte Ltd

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

THE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT AHEAD

By Lau Peet Meng
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations)

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations) Lau Peet Meng oversees all operational matters in the Singapore Police Force (SPF), assisting the Commissioner of Police in ensuring day-to-day operations proceed smoothly, exercising command and control as the Incident Manager during major incidents, as well as developing capabilities to continue to improve the way the SPF delivers its operational outcomes for Singapore. He tells *Police Life* about the operational challenges SPF faces and how he plans to overcome these challenges.

The SPF is always on duty; there is a 24/7 nature to police work that never stops. It makes us very distinct and different from most other government agencies, as they don't have the grind of round-the-clock work.

Hence, we do very well in our day-to-day management of incidents. We have been very adaptable, very resilient with any issue, and able to deliver outcomes quickly. When there is a clear and present danger or there is a problem to be solved, our adrenalin is pumping and we will get down together and make things happen. So we are very strong operationally in dealing with the present and we can deal with crises effectively.

Helping our Officers Prepare for the Future

However, it is very easy for us to keep doing that and ignore the developmental requirements and needs of SPF. One challenge for us is how to make our success sustainable, and how to keep laying the ground work for the future – things that are not urgent but very important for the continued success of SPF. As the workload increases, how do we ensure that we are not too far behind the curve? If we just focus on current operations, we would not be able to deal with the future.

That's something I'm trying to prepare for, especially with the creation of the Future Ops Division and the Frontline Policing Masterplan. We have many incremental improvements that we are implementing in order to adapt to current and future challenges, such as improving our uniform design and looking at introducing technology like the body-worn camera. But we need to look beyond these changes to the next quantum leap to bring policing in Singapore to the next level.

Let me illustrate what I mean through one of the most important changes we will be making to frontline policing through the Frontline Policing Masterplan. Over the years, we have made many micro improvements to our frontline policing operations. When an incident happens, we learn and keep adding to the long list of equipment in our Table of Equipment for our Fast Response Cars and also the officers. But all these "good-to-have" changes have only added more weight to our belt and to our cars. We need to review all these holistically, including the uniform we wear,

to make sure that we are fit for purpose today, and not simply because of small unrelated decisions accumulated over the years that we have become comfortable with.

And there have been a lot of improvements made over the years to the frontline; most recently with the roll out of Cubicon II, and soon, the MHA Communication Network 2. These changes, if not seen holistically, can be overwhelming. So the Frontline Policing Masterplan tries to put our officers in the centre of all these changes, and help view them holistically in a way that would make sense to officers on the ground. Our officers are at the heart of the changes and, in the end, all these changes should enable the officers to feel more confident and more able to do their job. So that is what we are doing with the Masterplan: trying to make sense of what's happening at the frontline, trying to help frontline officers with the technology that they need, trying to make sure that they can deal with future challenges.

But the Frontline Policing Masterplan deals only with the known future. There are many things happening now that will impact us in five to ten years' time. New technologies like 3D printing, UAVs, nano-technology, and even bio-technology will dramatically change the way we live, work, and play in Singapore. The next phase is to think about mind-set changes that we need to make so that we can consider an entirely new concept of operations to ensure that we can continue to keep Singapore one of the safest cities in the world, even as the world is changing rapidly. Future Ops Division will be rolling out some of these longer term plans in the coming years.

Training to Help Keep the Public's Trust

There is one constant amidst all these changes. It is the need to ensure that we build up the public trust in us as a vital government institution. While public trust in the SPF is still very high relative to other societies that we can benchmark ourselves to, it is very easy for us to lose that public trust.

The nature of enforcement is such that there are always points of pain for the person we are arresting, and whoever that we are enforcing the law against. However we must do it such that the larger community feels that the police are on their side, that we are helping to take out people

who are causing problems; we are arresting the criminals and at the same time we are dealing fairly with every fellow citizen.

We can change all the hardware and systems, but it is how we get officers to understand and respond to the high public expectations. This requires more training and reflection, so one key recommendation for the Frontline Policing Masterplan is to try to carve out more time for training for our frontline officers that result in them developing a deeper understanding of the broader issues that they are dealing with, enabling them to have greater empathy for Singaporeans, and hence become better police officers.

Preparing Specialist Teams for Future Threats

Besides my focus on frontline policing, the other area that I hope we can develop more capabilities will be in the area of our specialist operations. When we look at the larger, broader threat environment, e.g. the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria threats, and the lonewolf attacks around the world, we know that it is only a matter of time that Singapore will face such threats on our soil. Thanks to the hard work of all our security agencies, we don't have a major security incident yet but we need to recognise that we are also very vulnerable as a country. It is not like America where one city is attacked and the rest of the cities are still intact. If Singapore is attacked, the whole country is attacked, so our ability to respond fast and decisively is absolutely critical.

A lot of time is spent thinking about how we ensure that our specialist forces are well-equipped, able and capable of dealing with threats that are coming and how we assure ourselves that we are ready. That means having the right number and level of exercises and the right validation of our plans. We need to work on developing the assuredness that when we press the button, our specialist units such as the Special Operations Command and the Gurkha Contingent can come and work together with whoever they need to work with to neutralise those threats decisively. I think the level of confidence can only come when we exercise regularly and realistically, and we do all we can in peacetime to prepare for these types of emergencies."

HELPING TO BRING CLOSURE TO AIR ASIA FLIGHT 8501 TRAGEDY

By SC/Cpl Gabriel Chan Duen Yue

In the early morning on 28 December 2014, far off the south-eastern coast of our city-island, Indonesian AirAsia Flight 8501 was en route from Surabaya, Indonesia to Singapore when it lost contact with air traffic control and disappeared from their radar. Friends and families, unaware that the ill-fated flight had already turned into a tragedy, were anxiously waiting at the airport for the passengers as the aircraft missed the scheduled arrival at Changi Airport.



News of the crash began circulating in the media. Search and rescue operations commenced soon after. The Indonesian authorities eventually discovered aircraft debris and human remains floating in the Java Sea. It soon became grimly apparent that the crash had claimed the lives of the 155 passengers and seven crew members on board the flight.

With help from several international partners, the Indonesian authorities widened the area for search and recovery operations to find victims of the crash and parts of the wreckage. To help our Indonesian friends, the Singapore Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Team, led by Assistant Commissioner of Police (AC) Sekher Warriier, departed for Surabaya on 3 January 2015. The team comprised eight officers from the Singapore Police Force (SPF), and two forensic experts from Health Sciences Authority (HSA).

“We went there to assist the Indonesians during this difficult period and we were helping them to bring closure and comfort to the families of the victims,” AC Warriier said.

In Surabaya’s Bhayangkara Police Hospital, where the identification and autopsies of the bodies were being conducted, the Singapore DVI Team offered their assistance and technical expertise to the Indonesian authorities in the collection and analysis of post-mortem data. They worked closely with other DVI teams comprising investigators and

experts from Indonesia, Australia, Malaysia, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates.

Their duties ranged from collection of fingerprints, DNA samples and dental records of victims, to gathering information from the next- of-kin on the clothing and accessories that were worn by the victims before boarding the flight.



This was not the first time that Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Tew Meng Hwee, a Senior Investigation Officer from the Specialised Crime Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), was part of a DVI process.

“I still remember back in the year 2004, there was a major earthquake and tsunami that devastated our neighbouring countries. Our officers immediately responded to assist the afflicted countries in helping to identify the recovered bodies then too.”



The experience moulded him to be well-attuned to deal with unforeseen situations that may occur in the aftermath of a major disaster. ASP Tew subsequently shared his knowledge with other officers on effectively resolving circumstances that they may encounter during the DVI process.

It is not easy for officers to come face to face with families of the deceased in order to obtain information from them as such conversations could further aggravate their grief. The Police Psychological Services Department (PPSD) also routinely steps in to prepare officers mentally and emotionally so they do not suffer psychological stress due to their exposure to the deceased victims and their families’ ordeal during their work.

After more than two weeks of intense work away from home, they returned to Singapore and were heartened to see their families and loved ones at the Welcome Home Ceremony.

Commissioner of Police (CP), Mr Hoong Wee Teck, thanked the team and said, “We assisted where we can and supported our Indonesian counterparts in the disaster victim identification process following this unfortunate incident. I want to thank the officers for their efforts and personal sacrifices as the deployment was at short notice. We offer our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and we hope that our contributions can help bring closure to this tragic incident for some of the families.”

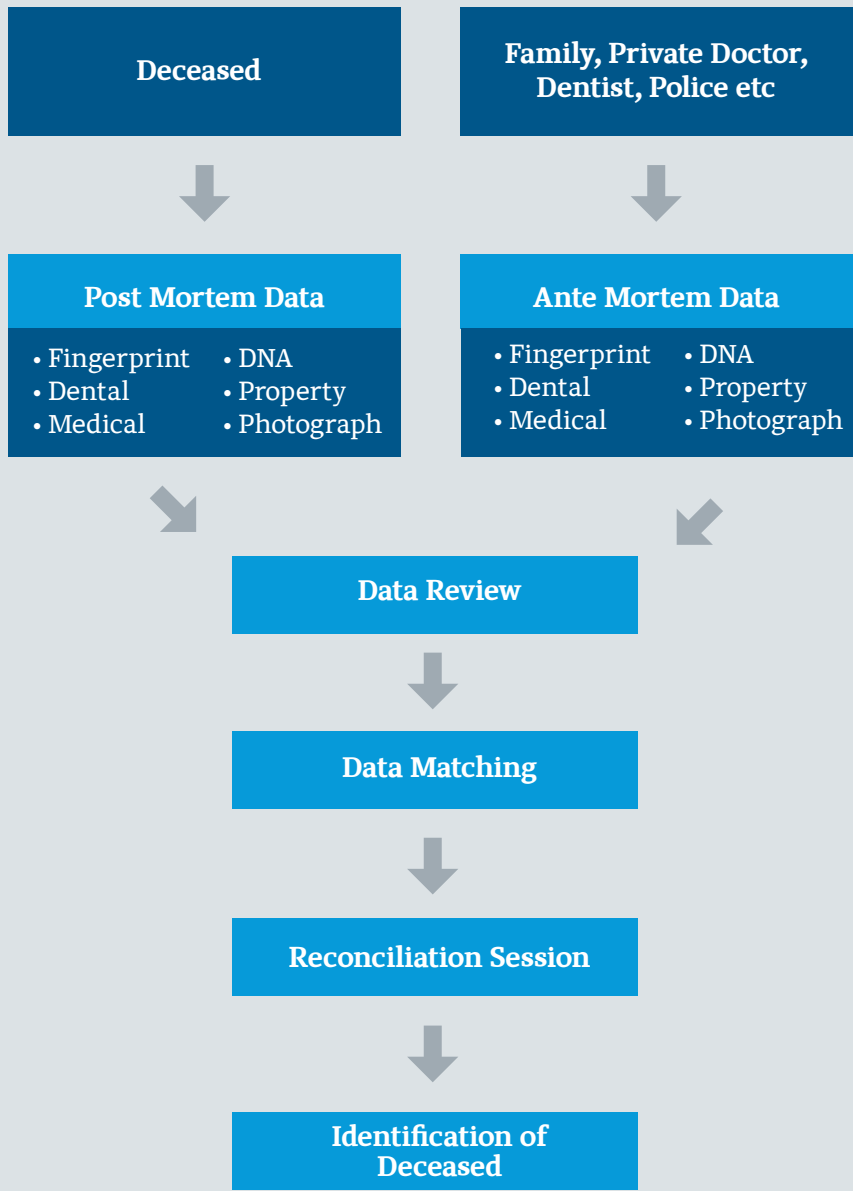
CP Hoong also expressed his gratitude to the families of the team for their understanding and strong support during the team’s deployment in Indonesia.

The ceremony did not signify the end of the DVI efforts – a second DVI team was also deployed to assist the Indonesian authorities in the efforts to bring comfort and closure for friends and families in this tragedy.



DISASTER VICTIM IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

DVI TEAM WORKFLOW



Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) refers to procedures used to positively identify deceased victims of a mass fatality event.

Positive identification is not only a legal requirement, but it is also a social obligation – the families of the deceased need to be sure that the remains of their loved ones have been correctly identified and returned to them as quickly as possible. This allows grieving and funeral rites to take place.

Post-Mortem (Detailed Examination of Human Remains in Mortuary)

In the mortuary, the bodies are examined. Fingerprint, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and dental samples are obtained from the deceased. These data serves as primary identifiers as they are the most reliable in determining the identity of the deceased victims.

Other post-mortem data being collected includes victims’ personal information, medical findings, clothing and belongings found after the victim’s death. These data are considered secondary identifiers which are used as supporting evidences to conclude a positive identification.

Ante-mortem (Collection of Missing Person Data from Various Sources)

After a missing person list has been created, information is gathered from various sources (e.g. families, private doctors, dentists etc.) in relation to the potential victims of the disaster.

Ante-mortem information includes full description of victims, description of jewellery, clothing, dental records, medical histories, radiographs, photographs and DNA samples prior to the victims’ disappearance or death.

Reconciliation (Matching Post-Mortem and Ante-Mortem Data)

Data obtained during ante-mortem procedures is analysed against data obtained during post-mortem procedures in order to positively identify the deceased.

After the identity of the deceased is unanimously determined by the experts and authorities, the deceased can be released to the family.

PRIMARY IDENTIFIERS



Fingerprint Analysis

A fingerprint is unique to every individual. Moreover, the pervasive use of fingerprint biometrics in Singapore allows the fingerprint record of an individual to be retrieved easily. Thus, fingerprint comparison is a quick and highly reliable process to determine the deceased’s identity as long as the post-mortem fingerprint data is obtainable.



Dental Analysis

Teeth are the hardest tissue in the human body and are the most resistant to trauma, decomposition, water immersion and fire. Dental records have been proven to be integral for primary identification if the deceased is in a severe state of decomposition or extremely burnt.



DNA Analysis

The chemical ‘blueprint’ which determines a person’s genetic make-up. DNA is a proven source of identification, as a significant portion of the genetic information contained in a cell is unique to a specific individual and thus differs – except in identical twins – from one person to the next.

SECONDARY IDENTIFIERS



Medical Findings

Medical findings include surgical and unique (numbered) medical devices (e.g. heart pace-makers and prosthetic devices), which are also reliable identifying features.



CAUGHT IN THE ACT

By SC (NS) Zachary Ibrahim

“We wanted to get this guy. We really wanted to get him once and for all,” said Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Muhammad Imran bin Meslan, Group Leader of Team ‘D’ from Yishun North Neighbourhood Police Centre as *Police Life* spoke to him and a teammate about an arrest on the night of 5 November 2014. SSgt Imran and his team were conducting anti-crime patrols in the neighbourhood of Yishun Avenue 9 due to a recent spate of housebreakings in the area.

Persistence Pays Off

The officers, together with team mates Sergeant (Sgt) Muhammad Mubarak bin Abdul Ghani, Corporal (Cpl) Benjamin Tan Chao Feng and SC/Sgt Muhammad Danial bin Osley were targeting block 318 in particular. **“We went to every single unit from the first floor all the way to the 40th – one by one.”** Just as they were about to complete their patrol of the block, a man entered a lift with them. Sgt Mubarak asked the man if he was living in that block, only getting a nervous “yes” in response. The officers pressed the 10th floor button in the lift. The man only further aroused the officers’ suspicions by pressing both the 11th and 15th storey buttons.

Exiting the elevator on the 10th floor, the officers decided to stay in the lift lobby area to observe which floor the suspicious man chose. When it became apparent that the man was on the 15th floor, the officers promptly followed him up. The officers’ suspicions were confirmed. **“True enough, he was already standing inside a unit on the 15th floor with the gates closed,”** said Sgt Mubarak. **“We asked him to step out of the unit but he refused to and eventually tried to close the door on us.”** Luckily, the officers managed to get a hand on the slightly ajar door and barged into the unit.

Desperate and Dangerous

Like the majority of the units in block 318, this flat was under renovation and as a result was poorly lit with construction materials lying around. When the officers found the man, he was halfway out the kitchen window. **“We pulled him back in, but he desperately struggled and threw punches trying to escape. It took all four of us to pin him down,”** explained Sgt Mubarak. Only once he was finally subdued did the officers radio for backup.

As he had no form of identification on him, it was only later through a fingerprint scan that the officers found out that the subject had been on the wanted list for 4 years for a variety of offenses including Possession & Consumption of controlled drugs.

Police Instinct

“All Police Officers have something called police instinct,” said Sgt Mubarak, **“if we didn’t have that instinct, we would have just left the block when the man entered the lift. Always trust your instinct. It will surely help you in your career.”**

SSgt Meslan had this to share with members of the public, **“When you notice anyone suspicious in your neighbourhood try to give as detailed a description as possible and call the Police immediately.”**

KEEN-EYED COP NABS PERVERT

HE WINS AWARDS FOR SPOTTING MAN WHO TOOK UPSKIRT VIDEO OF WOMAN ON ESCALATOR

By Choo Mei Fang
The New Paper

When he spotted a man taking an upskirt video of a woman on the escalator, he knew he had to bring the culprit to justice.

It did not matter to police sergeant Mohamad Noorhisham Mohd Yusof, 35, that he was off-duty when he witnessed the act.

For his act of vigilance, he was honoured with the Special Operations Command (SOC) Commander’s Award last year, and the Commissioner of Police’s Commendation earlier this year.

The officer, who has been with the force for eight years, said: **“It’s my responsibility to protect the people around me.”**

Sgt Noorhisham, who is from the police tactical unit under the SOC, was travelling from Choa Chu Kang to meet a friend at Commonwealth on July 12 last year, when the incident occurred.

While walking to the escalator leading to Choa Chu Kang MRT station’s platform, he noticed that the man in front of him, who had his arms by his side, was holding a phone set on video mode.

He could not confirm that the man, 33, had lewd intentions at that point. **“I thought he just forgot to lock his phone,”** he reasoned.

Sgt Noorhisham stood behind the man on the escalator and continued observing him. He noticed the man looking left and right.

“Then he suddenly propped his left leg up, onto the next step.”

“He also placed his phone face down on his thigh, with the camera pointing up.”

That’s when the alarm bells went off in his head, said the married father of a four-year-old girl.

Things became clear when he noticed a woman in her 20s standing on the escalator in front of the man, one step up.

When they reached the train platform, the woman and the man headed in different directions.

Suspicious

Sgt Noorhisham promptly approached the woman and told her about his suspicions.

He also approached a female MRT staff member, and the trio made their way towards the suspect slowly.



Lauded: Police sergeant Mohamad Noorhisham Mohd Yusof was given awards for being alert and observant. He caught a man taking an upskirt video of a young woman last July.

“My training with the police has taught me to be alert and vigilant at all times.”

While they were walking, a train pulled into the station.

Worried that the man would get away, Sgt Noorhisham ran towards him and introduced himself as a police officer. He also asked to see the man’s phone.

After the man handed it over, Sgt Noorhisham unlocked the phone and found the upskirt video, which lasted less than a minute.

To distract him, Sgt Noorhisham kept talking to the man and asked him to explain his actions.

He kept quiet.

Then in a bid to sidestep the question, he replied that he was late for work.

Just then, a few public transport security command officers who were patrolling the platform approached the group.

Sgt Noorhisham explained the situation, and handed the man over to them.

The culprit was convicted for insulting the modesty of the woman on Oct 24 last year, and jailed for two weeks.

He could have been jailed up to a year, fined, or both.

Sgt Noorhisham said: **“People are busy with their phones and not observing the things around them, but my training with the police has taught me to be alert and vigilant at all times.”**

Source: The New Paper © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Permission required for reproduction

HAPPENINGS

MHA Excel Fest 2015

Our hearty congratulations to the SPF officers who received the MHA 3i Awards in recognition of their efforts and passion towards innovation and improvement, at the biennial Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Excel Fest held on 8 January 2015. Our officers also received the MHA Star Service Award for their outstanding service to members of the public. Award-winning Security Awareness for Everyone (SAFE) projects were also exhibited during the MHA Excel Fest. One of them is “Speed PhotoFit”, a mobile phone application created by National University of Singapore (NUS) student Carol Cheng Hoi Yee, under the mentorship of the Criminal Investigation Department’s Assistant Superintendent of Police Justin Ong. This prototype allows members of the public who have witnessed a crime taking place to sketch a picture of the suspect on the spot.



Crime Statistics 2014

Overall crime in 2014 increased by 7.4% from 2013, largely because of an increase in cheating involving e-commerce cases. This is likely due to an increase in the number of users of online shopping facilities. Other crimes such as Housebreaking and Related Crimes, Theft and Related Crimes and Unlicensed Money Lending-related harassment cases registered declines.

Traffic Police Annual Road Traffic Situation 2014

The road traffic situation showed improvements in many areas in 2014. Despite an increasing human and vehicular population, the number of fatal traffic accidents and fatalities has continued to fall. Sustained education and enforcement efforts by the SPF proved successful, as seen by the decline in number of persons arrested for drink-driving even with an increase in the number of drink-driving enforcement operations. The number of fatal accidents involving drink-driving also registered a 28.6% decrease from 2013.

Safe and Secure Transport for Singapore

The Public Transport Security Command (TransCom) welcomed Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Teo Chee Hean on 16 January 2015 at SMRT’s Kim Chuan Circle Depot for an introduction to their latest developments and future expansion plans. DPM toured SMRT’s Operations Control Centre where he was shown TransCom’s close working relationship with SMRT in ensuring a safe public transport system in Singapore. At the visit, DPM shared his views on the recent security climate and motivated our TransCom officers to continue their efforts in fighting crime and terrorism.



Special Operations Command, K-9 Unit

They may be a man's best friend, but they are certainly no friends to a criminal. Trained to track down things like illegal substances and persons at large with their acute sense of smell, these intelligent and tenacious police dogs will not let criminals escape under their nose, even in the midst of darkness.



Neighbourhood Police Centre Officers

The night is a great time for opportunistic criminals to thrive, but alert officers from the 35 Neighbourhood Police Centres around the island are around to make them think twice. They are ever ready to swiftly respond or put a stop to crime.



Traffic Police Department, Patrol Unit

As enforcers of road safety, traffic police officers not only manage traffic during an accident or emergency, they also keep speedsters and drink-drivers off the roads so you could get home safely after an all-nighter.



Airport Police Division, Patrol Unit

The Airport Police Division officers oversee over a hundred thousand tourists arriving and departing from Changi Airport each day. Working with other security agencies, they watch out for suspicious activities, catching criminals before they can take flight.



Special Operations Command, Police Tactical Unit

When party-goers hit the clubs and get together, the Police Tactical Unit officers also show up to ensure that nobody spoils the party. They are deployed at strategic locations and stand ready to respond to act in public order situations at a moment's notice.



Police Coast Guard, Coastal Patrol Squadron

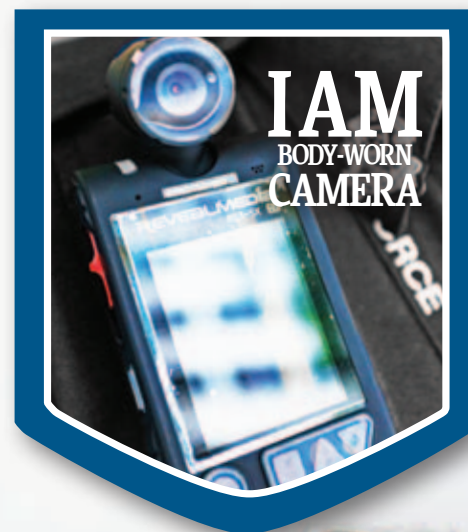
Enduring the choppy waters and seasickness round-the-clock, these seasoned officers of the Coastal Patrol Squadron sail far out to the South China Sea to maintain maritime border control and thwart criminal activities in our waters.



CRIME-FIGHTING 24/7

By SC/Cpl Gabriel Chan Duen Yue

Have you ever wondered what police officers are up to every night? Whether you are at home, or enjoying a late night supper with friends, or getting your exercise for the day done in a park most of us may not give the safety we experience in this populous city island a second thought. Take a look into the work of our frontline officers at night in making Singapore one of the world's safest cities.



MY VIEW

By SC Mok Wen Jie

Greetings! My name is RS3-SX, a proud new member to the equipment issued to the Singapore Police Force's frontline officers. My fellow Body-Worn Cameras, or BWCs in short, and I were officially launched on 31 January 2015. I am so excited about all the new things I will be able to see!

What am I for? Well, my job is to help officers in their duties by recording real time video evidence of their work, thus helping investigations and after-action reviews to name a few.

While we are only available at Bukit Merah West Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) at the moment, keep a look out for more of my fellow BWCs as more NPCs are equipped with them over the following months. It would be nice to see more familiar faces!

Hold still my friend; we just need to get your aim right. Our swivel cameras allow officers to capture anything important in their work, while our front screens help show what exactly is being recorded, helping to build confidence with honest members of the public.

I am a little crooked? Why thank you! While I may be able to help our officers when faced with difficult complainants, I am no substitute for an officer's disciplined bearing and genuine attitude when interacting with members of the public!

COMMISSIONER OF ROYAL BRUNEI POLICE FORCE AWARDED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

By Afiq Fitri Bin Alias
Home Team News

Yang Mulia, Dato Paduka Seri Bahrin bin Md Noor, Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for fostering ties and co-operation between the Royal Brunei Police Force and the Singapore Police Force.

Yang Mulia, Dato Paduka Seri Bahrin bin Md Noor, Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force was conferred the Darjah Utama Bakti Cemerlang (Distinguished Service Order) by President Tony Tan Keng Yam on 27 January at the Istana State Room.

Prior to the conferment ceremony, Dato Bahrin called on Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs Teo Chee Hean and Commissioner of Police (CP) Hoong Wee Teck.

Dato Bahrin also paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on 26 January.

Instituted in 1968, the Distinguished Service Order is awarded to any person who has performed any act or series of acts constituting to distinguished conduct within and in special circumstances, outside Singapore.

Past recipients include Ronald Kenneth Noble, Secretary General of INTERPOL, and Timur Pradopo, Chief of the Indonesian National Police.

In a statement released by the Singapore Police Force (SPF), "The long standing friendship between the Royal Brunei Police Force and the SPF has been substantially enhanced" under Dato Bahrin's charge.

"The Singapore Police Force has benefited greatly from the invaluable operational assistance provided by the Royal Brunei Police Force through the exchange of information, various operational exercises and training programmes.

"Dato Bahrin's constant advocacy for extensive bilateral co-operation has also led to the deepening of ties and the development of exceptional rapport between officers of both countries," the SPF said.



'BE THE POSER IN THE POSTER!' CONTEST



Get creative! Re-enact any National Crime Prevention Council (NCP) crime prevention poster that can commonly be found at Neighbourhood Police Centres, Community Centres and even bus stops, and stand to win a digital photo frame!

All you have to do is to find a NCP crime prevention poster and re-enact it! Ask a friend or your family to snap a shot of your best pose or impersonation! Finally, caption it yourself to spread the crime prevention message!

You can also refer to the website below to access and get an inspiration from a variety of crime prevention posters that you could pose and take: www.police.gov.sg/advisories/posters.html

When submitting your entry to: spf_plm@spf.gov.sg, please title the photo as Feb 2015 Contest, include your full name, NRIC, email and contact number. The picture has to be in JPEG format and must not exceed 5 MB.

Only persons residing in Singapore can participate. The contest closes on **8 April 2015**.

The top 10 winners will be decided by the Police Life Editorial Committee and the decision by the judges will be final.





VIDEO SUPERIMPOSITION SYSTEM FOR CRO

By Reproduced from *Police Life* 1991

A sophisticated \$30,000 video-superimposition system has been acquired by the Criminal Investigation Department's Criminal Records Office (CRO), and will offer a more efficient means to solving crimes.

In particular, the system will offer a more accurate means of identifying the remains of deceased subjects, even those which are in very advanced stages of decomposition. The other usages are in medico-legal and anthropological identifications.

Superimposition techniques using photographs of skulls and portraits have been successful in identifying deceased persons where other methods are not available. The facial bones provide a clue to the features as they were in life. The gender, age, height and the approximate size of the subject, can also be determined through the bone structure.

Before the video system was introduced, superimposition was

done by printing from two negatives that have been bonded closely together. However, this would only be accurate if the negatives were of the exact size and properly aligned.

For example, a negative of a skull would be mounted on an appropriate skull rest and then placed in front of a camera. Care had to be taken to ensure that the position of the skull was properly aligned to the portrait. Then, a photograph would be taken.

The entire process was cumbersome and normally took a few hours to complete.

The video system allows superimposition to be done electronically, such that the images

of the skull and the available photograph of the deceased are anatomically arranged to determine if they belonged to the same person.

Two video cameras capture the images. With the use of a video mixer, which costs about \$4,000, these images can be adjusted and set on the monitor screen to determine if there is in fact, a positive identification.

The video technique also allows for special effects to enhance the superimpositioning of the two video images. It is a highly accurate method, and takes a much shorter time. As such, it enables the deceased's next-of-kin to claim the remains for burial or cremation as soon as possible.

S/Sgt Chang Cheng Fei commented on the video system: "One of the basic

functions of the Police is to determine the identity of a deceased person. This new video superimposition system greatly enhances the efficiency of our work. Compared to the previous method, it is definitely easier and faster."

The CRO is now looking into the possibility of acquiring a video printer which would be able to print out a particular scene from the video instantaneously.

Technological advancement is a definite boon to Police work. With hi-tech equipment, things which were previously not possible to do, or much more difficult to carry out, can now be done faster and more accurately.

CELEBRATING SG50 ON POLICE VEHICLES

By SC Mok Wen Jie

Home Team celebrates

SG 50



The SPF has introduced a special initiative for its police vehicles as part of this year's SG50 celebrations. No, they are not just pretty red dots, but specially designed SG50 decals. The red decals will feature prominently on police vehicles to spread SG50 fever to all over Singapore!

Implemented in February this year, this initiative will see the SPF's diverse vehicle fleet, with more than 1000 police vehicles, wearing the SG50 decal in support of celebrations this year. The stickers will be affixed on the wide variety of police vehicles, including Police fast response cars and Traffic Police motorcycles, scooters and vans among others.

The decals will be displayed until the end of the year, so keep your eyes peeled for them!

NOT JUST ANOTHER NEIGHBOURLY FACE

By SC Mok Wen Jie

Formed in 2002 under the National Crime Prevention Council, Crime Prevention Ambassadors (CPA) are volunteers who help to spread the crime prevention message through chit-chat sessions, exhibitions and road shows. We speak with Madam Shirley Au Yeung, a veteran CPA with 11 years of experience, about her work and what continues to drive her as a CPA.

A shared responsibility to spread the crime prevention message

Madam Au volunteered as a CPA when she read the newspapers that people fell victim to crime as they were caught completely unaware, having never seen the news or crime prevention messages about the crimes. "It is a shared responsibility for us to tell them to be alert," said Mdm Au. Coincidentally, she was also a Liaison Officer of the Neighbourhood Watch Zone under Bedok South Neighbourhood Police Centre.

Happy to give advice that has helped to prevent crimes from happening

Her work as a CPA has saved many potential victims, as she shared a story with us. A resident approached and thanked Mdm Au one day, explaining that she was nearly cheated by a stranger who posed to be a Public Utilities Board (PUB) staff, wanting to go into her house to check the gas stove when she was alone.

"However, having attended our crime prevention talk, the resident was suspicious and questioned his supposed identity. The man just flipped a card to her, saying that was his PUB staff Identification

card. Following our advice, she asked him to wait with the intent to call the PUB office to verify. This frightened the would-be criminal and he quickly left."

"I felt happy as residents really accept, listen, digest and make use of our advice. If everybody can follow the correct procedure to identify a potential criminal, the culprit will not have a chance."

"Not free" is no excuse for not helping out

Currently working full-time as an operations officer at a travel agency, Mdm Au tells us that she initially worked part-time in order to spend more time as a CPA. With more CPAs recruited over the years, she now has enough time to work full-time, although she works flexible hours which allow her to help out during volunteer events.

"My motto is that even though money is important, as long as it is enough to survive it is sufficient. Why don't we spend more time on people who need our help instead of just making money? Do not use a thousand excuses, especially 'I am not free', to justify not volunteering. If I can do it, you can do it too!" said the 58-year-old.



“Crime can happen anytime, anywhere. We should be alert and not complacent.”

FOR ANYONE WITH
THE PASSION
TO MAKE SINGAPORE
**A SAFER
COMMUNITY**

Any member of the public who has the passion to serve the community by making Singapore a safe and secure home to live in can join the CPA program. To date, there are 160 CPAs, and their ages ranging from 20 to 79 years old, coming from all walks of life.

Visit www.ncpc.gov.sg/cpas.html to find out more about how you can be a Crime Prevention Ambassador too!



Mdm Shirley Au Yeung

PEELING OFF THE MASKS THEY WEAR

By Ms Ines Yeo
Public Affairs Department

Through an open placement in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID)'s Criminal Records Office (CRO) back in 2004, Senior Staff Sergeant (SSSgt) Rashidah Bte Yusoff underwent specialised training in criminal registration to become a Criminal Registry Officer.

Beyond what it seems

While taking fingerprint impressions, mug shots and body samples for DNA profiling are my main duties as a Criminal Registry Officer, my job is hardly as robotic as it sounds. In fact, it is quite the opposite as I get to interact with people from all walks of life. The thought of meeting an accused person typically conjures up images of aggression and danger, but having been with the CRO for more than ten years, I know now that there is so much more to them than the hostile masks they wear. Every person who comes to get their personal information recorded reacts to the stressful situation differently. I have observed so many different human behaviours. You will be surprised at how easy it is to strike up a conversation with some of them.

Misconceptions no more

That many people think of a Criminal Registry Officer's job as one that is unimportant or having bleak prospects is an unfortunate misconception. I do not actively arrest criminals, but I collect information that is vital to the CID officers, land divisions and other external agencies in fighting against repeat criminals.

The misconception that the CRO is a place where officers do not get to learn and excel further is definitely not true either as I was given opportunities to attend overseas courses and also upgrade my educational level. Being a Team Leader in the Disaster Victim Identification team has also stretched me greatly as I get to execute my duties on an entirely different level, in an entirely different context.

My positivity supplements

To top it all off, I have a supportive team behind me to inspire me with a positive outlook on work each day. As a trainer, I find it meaningful that I am passing my knowledge to new officers who need to be trained as Criminal Registry officers. The understanding and tremendous support from my bosses, supervisors and colleagues have gone a long way in supporting me throughout my years in CRO.

Despite my passion in music, I will certainly choose to become a Criminal Registry Officer again because I never tire of my job. Every day brings a different twist and I never know what new character I will get to meet tomorrow. I hope to see more civilians joining me at the CRO to get a taste of the fulfilling experience that I have been fortunate to be a part of.

SC Mok Wen Jie

ONE OF US

Q: Hi, I am...
Staff Sergeant Seow Yee Lin Patricia, and I am a Crime Control Unit Officer at Jurong Police Division.

Q: What is your quirkiest habit at work?
Before starting the day at work, I will fill up my 3 litre water bottle and make myself a 600ml cup of lemon water or hot green tea.

Q: What's one item on your desk that cheers you up while you are at work?
My police bear.

Q: What is the most interesting or amusing incident that you have encountered while at work?
When I was a new Neighbourhood Police Centre officer, my in-charge drove to a landed property estate during one of our night shifts. He parked right outside this old abandoned property and asked me to look out for any suspicious movement. I thought that maybe there was a trespassing problem at this abandoned property. So I looked hard for any suspicious sightings. Then, my in-charge started to tell me the scary history of the place. That's when I got stiff and had goose bumps all over. Furthermore, it was the lunar 7th month period.

Q: The weirdest misconception you have heard about police officers is...
"Police officers are not patrolling the streets efficiently because I don't/never see them around my neighbourhood"

Q: I believe in...
Perseverance. At some point in life there are down sides, but by hanging on, you will see the other side of life. So, focus on your goals.