

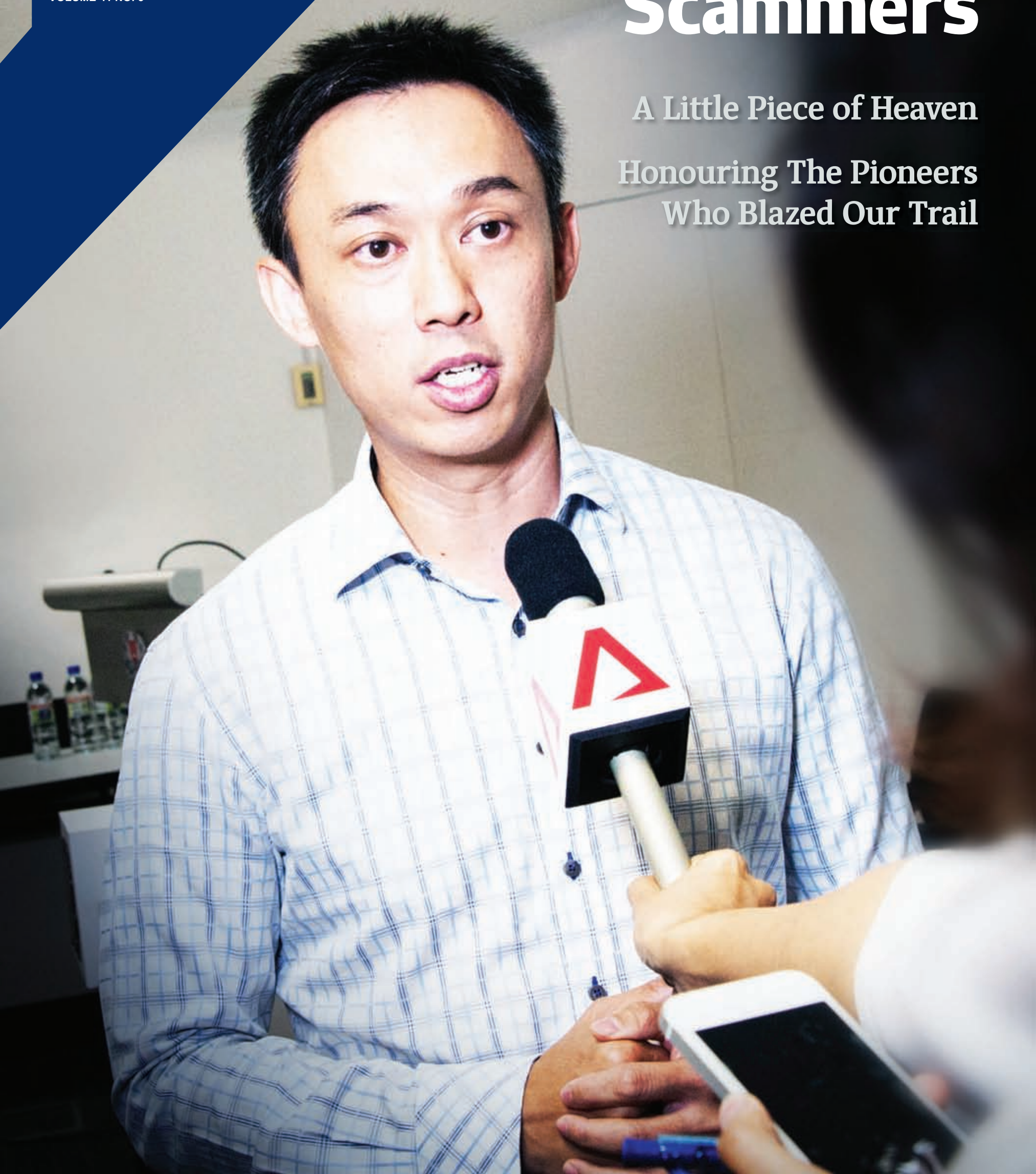
**POLICE  
LIFE**

THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE MAGAZINE  
VOLUME 41 NO. 3

# **Fewer Ah Longs, More Online Scammers**

**A Little Piece of Heaven**

**Honouring The Pioneers  
Who Blazed Our Trail**





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# Building Formidable Investigation and Intelligence Capabilities

By Tan Chye Hee  
Deputy Commissioner of Police  
(Investigations and Intelligence)  
concurrent Director CID

The direction, co-ordination and integration of the investigations and intelligence functions within the Singapore Police Force (SPF) come under the watch of Deputy Commissioner of Police (Investigations and Intelligence) Tan Chye Hee. *Police Life* hears from him on his vision for these two important policing functions.

SPF's investigations and intelligence (I&I) capabilities are formidable.

In routine operations and major crises, the interplay of Investigations and Intelligence (I&I) has helped the SPF solve complex and challenging crimes. Some high profile cases which were solved by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Police Land Divisions with the support of the Police Intelligence Department (PID) include the:

- Kidnapping of Madam Ng Lye Poh, the mother of Sheng Siong supermarket chain's Chief Executive Officer on 8 January 2014
- Series of cybercrime (hacking) incidents in November 2013 by "The Messiah"
- Syed Alwi Road dismembered body murder case in June 2014
- Trespass and vandalism committed by two graffiti artists at the Bishan depot in Nov 2014

The collaboration between CID and PID is crucial in crippling criminal syndicates. Some examples include:

- Busting several football betting syndicates where a total of 56 suspects were arrested and cash of about \$2.8 million was seized in the lead-up to and during the FIFA World Cup tournament in June 2014.
- Joint operations with the Land Divisions in 2014 which saw the arrest of more than 1,000 persons involved in loan-sharking activities – this was the highest haul in a year since such dedicated operations commenced four years ago.

## The I&I vision: paving the way to a desired future

My vision for the I&I fraternity is that through intelligence-led policing, timely intelligence is delivered upfront, so that relevant SPF units have time to act to prevent major criminal acts or planned public disorder from occurring. In the event that crime could not be prevented, investigators, with the support of intelligence officers, must be able to act swiftly and decisively to bring the perpetrators to justice.

## Three key areas to bring us closer to the vision

**Enhancing Capabilities to Address Complex Criminal Threats** – Emerging and complex criminal threats such as cybercrime and transnational organised crime place new and heavy demands on the I&I fraternity. As Singapore is a hub for business, info-communications and travel, we have to be vigilant against criminal networks and businesses that seek to exploit our hub status to perpetuate criminal activity.

We need to aim for peaks of excellence and deepen our competencies in the I&I domains to deal with complex and highly specialised crimes. In 2015,

we will operationalise new units and enhance capabilities to address these threats. This includes setting up the new Cyber Crime Command in CID. Dedicated investigation and forensic teams will also be deployed to the Police Land Divisions by end 2015.

As such complex crimes are borderless, we aim to combat these emerging and complex threats in collaboration with local and foreign partners who have specialist knowledge and capabilities. We also intend to collaborate with our partners in terms of training, to ensure that our officers are equipped with the necessary skills and expertise to do their job well.

**Leveraging Technology** – My firm belief is that technology is a force multiplier. For example, PID's next-generation criminal intelligence system, C-CRIS 2, was commissioned in November 2014 and has significantly enhanced the quality of intelligence generated.

There are also plans to build technological capabilities to better distil leads from crowd-sourced video footages, photographs and static CCTV camera images in a more efficient and effective manner to better aid investigations and intelligence. Here, we draw from overseas lessons and experiences such as how our US law enforcement counterparts had used crowd-sourced information to enhance investigations and intelligence in the aftermath of the Boston Bombings in 2013.

We have implemented an electronic mode of submitting intelligence in 2014 and are also looking at and experimenting with mobility platforms (e.g. recording of statements while on-the-go). This is so that investigators can be productive in and out of office.

To enhance service delivery, CID is pushing ahead with the digitisation of services offered to the public (e.g. digitising the process of applying for a Certificate of Clearance from the Criminal Records Office).

**Talent Attraction and Retention** – We need to continue to attract capable and committed people to join the investigation and intelligence fraternity. The work in the investigation and intelligence domains is very demanding but deeply satisfying.

We constantly look out for good officers with the right attitude and aptitude to join as investigation officers and intelligence

officers. We are in the midst of reviewing how we can better recognise the work of investigation officers and intelligence officers as specialist jobs in the SPF.

Through cross-postings between investigation and intelligence, we will constantly develop people so that they acquire the instincts and judgement needed as key leaders in the I&I domain.

By bringing in and developing people with the relevant talents, robust training and learning from past experience, and also benchmarking with international best practices, we maintain our sharp edge in I&I.

## Becoming more formidable

The I&I vision, our motivation and plans to build capabilities in these three key areas will enhance our ability to fight crime, thereby increasing the deterrence and prevention of crime. This is a virtuous cycle that will help SPF achieve our mission to make Singapore the safest place in the world."

## Note from the Team

Most of us remember the slogan in our crime prevention pamphlets, "Low crime doesn't mean no crime". Throughout the years, Police officers have worked hard to ensure the safety and security of Singaporeans. While new technologies have led to a rise in cheating and scam cases, Police efforts have contributed to fewer numbers of cases in other areas such as Unlicensed Moneylending cases. Fighting crime is tough work but with the joint effort of the public and collaboration with various agencies, crime is sure to be stemmed effectively.

In this issue you will read about how the Punggol Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) equipped its residents with a set of crime-fighting skills. Find out what they did.

Hear what the T-baton would have to say about itself and how it protects our officers while they keep the streets in Singapore safe.

Also, hear the story of Corporal Kok Ziwei who lent a helping hand beyond the course of her duties after learning about the plight of one of the callers for Police assistance for a Death on Arrival case.

Find out how the Police Coast Guard's Principal Master Mariner is helping to build up the competency of our officers and instil confidence in them when protecting the shores of Singapore.

We hope that you find this issue an interesting read!

Cpl Md Shahrunnizam Abdul Rashid  
Journalist  
*Police Life*



# Fewer Ah Longs, More Online Scammers

By SC Mok Wen Jie

The efforts of the Singapore Police Force (SPF) have led to the continued decline of Unlicensed Moneylending (UML) related cases. However, cheating involving e-Commerce cases have more than doubled from 2013, leading to an overall increase in crime. We take a closer look at some of the figures and measures being taken by the SPF to fight such crime.



Our partnership with the community to raise public awareness on the severe consequences of getting involved in UML activities has also contributed to this downward trend.

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

## A declining 'shark' population...

UML-related harassment cases have fallen 18.3% from 7052 in 2013 to 5763 in 2014, while the number of harassment cases where property was damaged dropped by 46.4% from 5176 in 2013 to 2772 in 2014.

The SPF worked with the Ministry of Home Affairs to implement strong deterrence measures and

stiffer penalties against unlicensed moneylenders and their helpers. The SPF is also leveraging technology and deploying Police cameras to provide round-the-clock deterrence and collect useful information for investigations.

The SPF has been unrelenting in our efforts to prevent members of the public from falling victim to UML-related crimes. We tap on various

media platforms to raise public awareness about anti-UML initiatives and conduct road shows to increase public awareness on UML-related crimes. The SPF is also continuing to work with Resident's Committees, Neighbourhood Committees and Citizens' Consultative Committees to educate the public on the dire consequences of borrowing from unlicensed moneylenders.

## NEW SCAM, OLD SCAM

BOTH CONTINUE  
TO TRAP THE UNWARY

### Credit For Sex Scam

"Help me buy the iTunes gift card, I will then meet you later." Asking their victims to help them purchase gift cards or virtual/online credits, scammers would promise to meet the victims for sex once they have received the purchase. A devious new form of scam, 149 cases were reported in 2014, with up to \$138,700 cheated.

### Kidnap Hoax Phone Scam

"I have your kids, pay me or else." A relatively old and classic scam, it has still proven difficult to stamp out, with an increase of 27 cases from 13 in 2013 to 40 in 2014. The total amount cheated also increased from \$81,400 in 2013 to \$113,700 in 2014.

## TIPS

TO AVOID BEING SCAMMED

- Always be wary of strangers you meet online and on social messaging platforms
- Do not send money or gifts to people you do not know well
- Do not share personal details online or through email
- Always try to make online purchases from reputable vendors
- Always check the authenticity of any request for payment, to make purchases or help with transactions by contacting the person/organisation directly

Learn more about the various scams and how you can protect yourself from becoming a victim at [www.scamalert.sg](http://www.scamalert.sg)



## ...but more falling victim in the online ocean

However, the growing number of regular Internet users has led to a dramatic increase in online crimes. As more people go online for their shopping needs, cheating involving e-Commerce cases increased, jumping from 510 cases in 2013 to 1659 cases in 2014 - three times the number of cases in just a year.

Of these crimes, two scams stood out prominently. 'Multiple Payment Online Purchase' scams which involve victims being duped into making multiple payments to receive the products ordered and paid for, rose from 269 cases in 2013 to 904 cases in 2014. 'Phony Paypal Email' scams which involve scammers posing as buyers and sending fake notifications from 'Paypal' to swindle payments from the sellers for the administration of their 'Paypal' accounts. Such cases jumped dramatically, from 9 cases in 2013 to 122 cases in 2014.

The year 2014 also saw many heartbreaks for those going online for love, as Internet Love Scams increased by 143.2%, and saw approximately \$8.8 million cheated out of victims. Cyber extortion also rose by 138%, and formed the bulk of an increase in both attempted extortion and extortion cases.

## Educating potential victims

As more and more criminals go online to conduct their nefarious deeds, it becomes more important to ensure that potential victims are aware of the dangers and possible scams that they might experience.

While Singapore remains a safe place to live and work in, the SPF will work closely with the National Crime Prevention Council to use various media platforms as well as community engagement, such as road shows, to help keep the public informed on the ever-changing modus operandi of online scammers and to keep up their guard against these menace to society.

## CRIME SHIFTS ONLINE

Cheating  
involving  
E-Commerce

Year 2013  
**510**  
cases

225.3%

Year 2014  
**1659**  
cases

Multiple Payment Online  
Purchase Scam

\$240,600  
cheated

\$735,000  
cheated

\$10,000  
cheated

\$116,800  
cheated



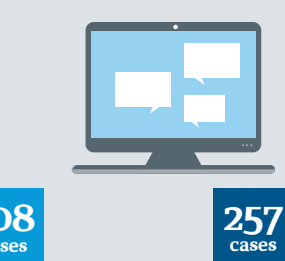
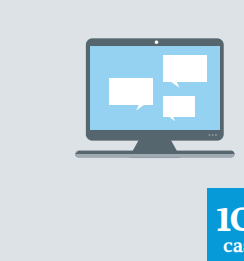
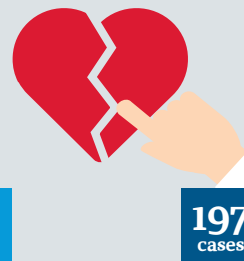
Internet Love Scam

\$5.8 million  
cheated

\$8.8 million  
cheated

\$56,000  
extorted

\$145,000  
extorted







Staff Sergeant Muhammad Nizam Khan and Inspector Darius Teo showing how they tried to put out the fire.

# ‘They Came from Nowhere to Help’

By Mr Zaihan Mohamed Yusof

**Thick black smoke blanketed the Serangoon Road hotel lobby as a fire consumed parts of the hotel restaurant.**

Broadway Hotel shift manager Liaquath Ali found himself in a desperate situation.

But as he was wondering how he was going to get everyone out safely, he heard two voices assuring him he was not alone.

Unknown to Mr Ali, the two men were plainclothes cops who had turned up to help when the fire broke out in the restaurant’s kitchen on Jan 25 at around 5pm.

Mr Ali, 54, told The New Paper recently: “Out of nowhere, the two men approached me and asked: ‘How many fire extinguishers do you have? Give us as many as possible.’”

The duo were police Inspector Darius Teo, 37, and Staff Sergeant Muhammad Nizam Khan, 30, from Rochor Neighbourhood Police Centre

who were doing their supervisory rounds along Race Course Lane.

Said Insp Teo, who had seen white smoke from the kitchen’s exhaust vent: “Very quickly we noticed the white smoke become thick black smoke. That’s when we knew that something was probably wrong.”

The pair rushed to the hotel lobby where they bumped into Mr Ali.

They then entered Delhi Restaurant armed with only two fire extinguishers while Mr Ali tried to douse the fire from outside the hotel with a water hose.

In the kitchen, the officers were confronted with a raging fire which was devouring the ceiling above the stove.

Said Insp Teo: “It was smoky and we couldn’t see where we were going.

An announcement to evacuate the building was made on the hotel’s public address system.

Mr Ali said: “One of the hotel guests pleaded in Tamil for us to look for her 10-year-old son. She kept repeating that he was in a room on the fourth floor.” When the boy’s room was checked, it was empty.

## Safely evacuated

Luckily, the smoke had not spread to the upper floors.

Mr Ali escorted one sickly European man on the fourth storey to safety while Insp Teo continued his door-to-door checks.

In about 15 minutes, all 65 rooms on seven storeys were cleared and 26 guests were evacuated to safety.

Among those evacuated, two were taken to hospital for smoke inhalation and breathlessness. Fortunately, most of the guests were out sightseeing or shopping.

Aside from smelling badly of smoke, the two police officers only suffered sore throats. Staff Sgt Nizam lost his voice the next day but he did not tell his family about his Sunday afternoon drama.

He said: “I don’t want to get them (his parents) worried. For me, it’s part and parcel of my daily job.”

Likewise, Insp Teo did not tell his wife the full extent of what had happened.

Immediately after the incident, both men even continued with their foot patrol duty in Little India.

Insp Teo, who has been in the Singapore Police Force for 17 years, said: “The end result was what we wanted. There were no fatalities... It was a good outcome.”

Mr Ali said he was grateful to the two policemen. “Without them, I would have had a hard day.”

Inspector Darius Teo



Staff Sgt Nizam and Insp Teo with Broadway Hotel shift manager, Liaquath Ali.

Source: The New Paper 24 February 2015 © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Reproduced with permission.

# A little piece of Heaven

By Cpl Md Shahrunnizam Abdul Rashid

**Our Police officers diligently attend to incidents that they are assigned to whenever help is needed. Corporal (Cpl) Michelle Kok took it one step further by going beyond the call of duty to help a family in need after she had attended to their case.**



## One man’s sorrow, one woman’s sincerity

Corporal (Cpl) Kok Ziwei Michelle had responded to a case of Death on Arrival in July 2013, where an elderly woman had passed away of a heart attack in Jurong West. As she entered the flat, she couldn’t help but notice that the unit was rather rundown. She met up with Mr Ng Kuang Bong, the owner of the flat and the deceased’s husband. During her interview with him to find out more about the deceased, she realised that the elderly couple had been struggling on their own to take care of themselves and their two adopted grandsons. For years the elderly couple had been living in poor conditions. Saddened by the hardship faced by the elderly couple, she realised how fortunate she was to have a job which gives her a stable income and the opportunity to serve people, especially in their moment of need and despair.

## What moved her

As she spoke to Mr Ng, she came to know that the mother of Mr Ng’s adopted grandchildren was imprisoned and that Mr Ng was not receiving any financial aid from anyone. She wanted to help and do more to ease Mr Ng’s burden. Cpl Kok started visiting Mr Ng fortnightly to check on how he was coping with the death of his wife. She would spend about thirty minutes during each visit, bringing food for Mr Ng and his adopted grandchildren.

Sometimes, she would also bring recycled toys for the kids to play with. Cpl Kok kept up this routine for the last two years.

## An admirable nature

When her supervisors and family and friends came to know of this, they were proud of her actions. She became a role model among her colleagues. Mr Ng’s case had tugged at Cpl Kok’s heartstrings and made her a more caring officer. An officer who not only upholds the law, but also someone who does not turn a blind eye towards the needy and the weak who clearly needed her assistance.

These days Mr Ng also receives aid from the Community Development Council (CDC) which delivers food to his home twice daily.

**Money is nothing. What is important is that I know that somebody is keeping an eye on me. I’m really thankful that Cpl Kok is here to give her support.**

Mr Ng Kuang Bong

## HAPPENINGS

### PNSD Moves to Still Road

Moving from Old Police Academy to 170 Still Road, the Police National Service Department held their Official Opening Ceremony on 13 January 2015. Commissioner of Police Hoong Wee Teck graced the event as the Guest-of-Honour. Occupying a total built up space area of 1400m2 and housing 7 divisions and branches within 2 stories, the new building will be PNSD’s home for the next 4-5 years until they are permanently located together with the other staff departments in NPPK



### ACJC Students Visit Marina Bay Neighbourhood Police Centre

As part of the “ACS Thanks You” community service event by the Anglo-Chinese School (ACS) family, a group of Anglo-Chinese Junior College (ACJC) students and teachers visited the Marina Bay Neighbourhood Police Centre on 18 February 2015 to give out oranges to Home Team officers as a token of their appreciation for the hard work and sacrifices made by the officers to keep Singapore safe and secure 24/7, even during public holidays such as during the Lunar New Year.



### Ethics Seminar 2015

The annual Police Ethics Seminar, graced by the Commissioner of Police Hoong Wee Teck, was held on 5 March 2015. It is a keystone event by the Manpower Department to reinforce the importance of upholding integrity and trust among officers. Two guest speakers, Mr Wong Choong Mann, Director of Investigations of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) and Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (DAC) Lian Ghim Hua, commander of the Ang Mo Kio Police Division, shared insights into discipline and values. For the first time a plenary session was also included in the Seminar for the audience to field questions and share comments.





# Insights into the Police Officers Basic Course

By SC/Sgt Gabriel Chan Duen Yue

**All our police officers are trained from the very beginning to handle any situation reliably and professionally.**

Choosing to don the police blue requires you to undertake the mandatory Police Officers Basic Course (POBC). The course encompasses several types of training, from physically-demanding components such as the Police Defence Tactics, to in-depth lectures on Legal Studies, to make our officers effective law enforcers.



## Police Defence Tactics

Violence is not always the solution to conflicts, but when suspects turn non-compliant and violent, officers are required to use an appropriate level of force to safely subdue the suspects.

In the dojo co-located at the Home Team Academy, trainees learn various manoeuvres, from unarmed tactics to handling of their trusty batons so they can effectively deal with such situations.



## Life-saving Lessons

In line with our organisation's pledge 'to protect life and property', officers are taught basic life-saving techniques.

Here, they learn to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, operate the Automated External Defibrillator and apply rescuing techniques in water such as pulling drowning victims out of the currents with ropes or a pole.



## Legal Studies

Each trainee is provided a laptop which stores law-related materials that allows them to study during their free time. As law enforcement officers, every officer has to be familiar with certain laws pertaining to policing (i.e. Police Force Act) and crimes (i.e. the Penal Code). Such knowledge will guide their actions on the ground, for example assessing whether an arrest or further action is warranted.



## Firearms Training

When lives are at risk, officers may resort to deploying their firearm to deter or neutralise a deadly attacker.

Every potential frontline officer learns to competently use a handgun, the Taurus Model 85 0.38 calibre revolver.



## Drills

"Squad, Sedia!" One of the military commands that trainees always hear whenever they are instructed to be at attention. Dreaded amongst trainees for being repetitive and exhaustive, drills are essential in instilling a sense of discipline and unity amongst them. Trainees are also required to march when travelling from one destination to the other within the Academy.



## Physical Training

What good can chasing after a fleeing suspect do if you are not fit for the job – literally?

Trainees undergo routine workouts each training day to improve their physical fitness.



## Police Standard Obstacle Course

The obstacle course is designed to simulate urban obstacles that our frontline officers operate in.

Undergoing this training allows trainees to know how to manoeuvre past various obstacles and get to their suspect swiftly.



## Scenario Based Test

In the scenario-based test, officers are given a realistic scenario and their actions and responses in the scenario are evaluated and judged to see if they had acted responsibly and according to procedure.

During the tests, officers are assessed on a number of areas, including how they communicate over the walkie-talkie, how well they apply procedures, and how well they handle the different situations.

Potential officers learn to be attuned to constantly thinking on their feet and expect the unexpected when deployed on the ground.





## My View By SC Mok Wen Jie

"Move back sir! When it comes to upholding the law, I am one of the options available to the frontline police officers of the Singapore Police Force. Although I am currently used as a training baton for the rookies in Home Team Academy, my fellow batons are out on the front lines of crime fighting!"

*We are the third level of force that officers deploy when dealing with uncooperative suspects, after verbal commands and unarmed tactics.*

*Look out above, he's coming in high! Used primarily in a defensive role, police officers are thoroughly trained on how to use us in a variety of scenarios. From defensive blocks to restraining techniques, we give officers the ability to react flexibly to any situation.*

*As my name suggests, I am a T-shaped baton designed to aid our officers on the ground. I also come with an extended end to help officers maintain a distance from an attacking suspect.*

# Renewing Ties

By Assistant Superintendent of Police Brian Ng Kian Boon  
International Cooperation Department



The Commissioners of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Singapore Police Force (SPF) attended their first bilateral Meeting on 2 February 2015. Both Commissioner of Police (CP) Hoong Wee Teck and CP Andrew Colvin, together with senior officers from both Forces, reviewed the mutual collaborations for the past two years, candidly shared experiences tackling domestic and transnational crimes, and discussed training exchanges between the two police forces.

The Commissioners were pleased with the fruitful exchange and expressed their interest to renew the AFP-SPF Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is due to expire this year.



## READ & WIN!

Get all the answers to the 6 questions below correct and win one of 10 *Police Life* passholders with a C.L.I.F. lanyard!



Email your answers, full name, NRIC number and contact number to [spf\\_plm@spf.gov.sg](mailto:spf_plm@spf.gov.sg) by 22 June 2015. Only one entry per person will be considered.

This contest is open to all persons residing in Singapore.

### Questions

- Which online scam saw the greatest increase in the number of cases percentage-wise?
- 2014 saw a new form of scam, \_\_\_\_\_, which saw 149 cases reported with up to \$138,700 cheated.
- List 3 tips you can follow to avoid being a victim of scams.
- T-batons are used in a primarily \_\_\_\_\_ role by police officers.
- List 3 activities police trainees took part in in 1979 during their training at the Police Academy as mentioned by DSP Jarmal Singh.
- What was the theme of this year's Punggol Neighbourhood Police Centre Annual Neighbourhood Watch Day?



# Square Bashing

Police Academy moulds 96 into professional policemen

By Reproduced from *Police Life* 1979

**One day in February, 96 men reported at the Police Academy for training to become efficient police officers.**

**E**ighteen of them were ex-national Police National Servicemen who signed on as regulars. Their training period will be 12 weeks.

The remaining 78 new trainees comprised ex-national servicemen from the army and school-leavers. Their period of training will be 20 weeks.

The residential training course with breaks during the weekend teaches the young trainees (from 18-22 years old) basic law relating to the identification of common offences and the powers of the police in law enforcement and crime prevention. Trainees were also taught police administration, including methods and procedures of routine police duties and police discipline.

DSP Jarmal Singh, Chief School Instructor at the Police Academy, said: “The young trainees are not only taught basic law and police duties, but also first aid and Mandarin. In addition, they take part in field training, which includes drill, physical and weapon training, self-defence, swimming and life-saving”.

ASP S. Nair, Senior Instructor and the OsC Squad David Choong, Johari Juma'at, K.K. Wee, and Lee Tai San plan and conduct courses.

The Drill Instructors, PCs Pang Sap, Subramaniam, Low Yong Joo and Anthony Quek are responsible for the physical development of the trainees. Each trainee is assessed periodically by the OC Squad and the Field Instructor.

Instructor David Cheong said the Phase 1/80 intake recruits were good.

He was happy with their enthusiasm. Their standard of drill was the best he had seen among new recruits.

During the first week, the instructor's job was to try and “break-in” the recruits as soon as possible.

## “Refresher course”

Mid and final term tests were held to appraise their progress. Private counselling sessions between instructors and recruits were held periodically. Each recruit was given a chance to be squad leaders so as to instil confidence in them.

David Cheong said, “From practical experience drawn from our divisional duties and our training as instructors, we constantly update ourselves and give our best to the recruits.”

New recruits from K1/80 ROD Squad said they were happy to have been given the opportunity to go through a “refresher course”.

Mohd Omar said, “This training gives me a chance to catch up on things which I missed during my National Service training”.

Razali Mohd Hakim, who was posted to the Police Band and to divisions, also found the course useful.

Weapon training gave them the opportunity to learn how to handle new arms like the Sterling, pump gun and the Smith and Wesson.

Most of the recruits found the first week very interesting, adjusting to a new way of life, new friends, an opportunity to learn new things, and even some aspects of law.



First steps to becoming professionals includes stripping weapons



Collecting their law manuals



First steps to becoming professionals includes polishing boots.



Physical training includes rope climbing

# Honouring The Pioneers Who Blazed Our Trail

By Ms Ines Yeo  
Public Affairs Department

Along with other ongoing SG50 projects, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) looks to celebrate Singapore's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday by publishing a SG50 Pioneers Special of *Police Life*. Let's go behind the scenes of this milestone project to find out what will be coming up for this commemorative issue.

## Highlights of the issue

**T**he idea of a SG50 Pioneers Special issue of *Police Life* quickly evolved into an elaborate project involving 50 of SPF's pioneers. The highlight of this special issue involved the team from the Public Affairs Department and the Home Team News conducting oral interviews with the pioneers and weaving their personal stories into this Pioneers Special, dedicating two to four pages to each pioneer and his story.

Beyond merely recognising the pioneers for their achievements and contributions, the Pioneers Special is about collecting and safeguarding the myriad of invaluable experiences that they have accumulated. Apart from 11 pioneers who had passed on, because the stories are told by the pioneers themselves, the accounts encompass genuine emotions that enrich your reading experience.

Coming from different departments and having undertaken a wide variety of jobs – all in the police force, the pioneers featured in this issue bring with them each a story that is unique to them.

## A peek behind the scenes

To help fully bring out the bittersweet memories of the past, some of the interviews were conducted at places of significance like the Senior Police Officers' Mess and the Old Police Academy. That, coupled with our friendly interviewers, helped eased the pioneers' recollections, allowing for even deeper scoops of the stories that they had to share.

Past glories of late pioneers were also not forgotten as our writers sought to gather information about them through oral history interviews conducted by the National Archives of Singapore and newspaper articles from the archives of the National Library Board.

## Moving forward

You can look forward to seeing the Pioneers Special in the third quarter of 2015, where it will be made available to the public on SPF's website. Stay tuned!



Home Team  
celebrates  
**SG  
50**





# Residents in Punggol Learn to Fight Online Crime

By Mr Muhammad Farhansyah Bin Musa  
Home Team News

Punggol Neighbourhood Police Centre held its annual Neighbourhood Watch Day with interactive exhibition booths set up, to engage the members of public. This is part of the Singapore Police Force concerted efforts to raise awareness to the rising number of online scams.

The Neighbourhood Watch Day (NWD) celebrated the efforts of the community in helping the Police in fighting crimes.

Cheating involving e-commerce had risen by 225.3 per cent in 2014.

To fight online crimes, the theme for this year's Neighbourhood Watch Day is mainly focused on spreading awareness on the types of scam such as cyber extortion and kidnap phone scam.

Punggol Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) held its NWD on 01 February at Punggol 21 Community Club, which had a number of interactive exhibition booths highlighting the spike in the amount of scams that happened last year.

The booths were both engaging and educational in teaching the public signs of such scams and measures to protect themselves. There were also a series of activities that Punggol NPC planned for residents – such as

a puppet show that was targeted at children to inform and educate them of such acts and to not fall prey to it.

Also, during Punggol NWD, tokens of appreciation were given out to the Citizens-On-Patrol (C.O.P) members for their continuous support and effort in keeping the community safe together with Punggol NPC.

Commander of Ang Mo Kio Police Division, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police Lian Ghim Hua said, “To keep our neighbourhood safe, we really need the community to work hand-in-hand with the Police. The Neighbourhood Watch Day is an avenue which allows us to have greater interaction.”

Punggol NPC also introduced its Vehicle-On-Watch (VOW) which aims to safeguard theft from vehicle at car parks by leveraging on the in-vehicle closed circuit television (CCTV) installed by car owners. This is further complemented with police



cameras, which will be installed at the entrances and exits of multi-storey car park.

VOW is an initiative that first started out in Bedok Police Division and was adapted to the demographics of Punggol Neighbourhood.

Member of Parliament for Pasir Ris-Punggol Group Representative Constituency Penny Low said, “(Effective) crime fighting requires a strong working relationship between Police and our community. Our experience has shown that the partnership between our community, our grassroots leaders, C.O.P members and the Police is the most effective force in keeping Punggol safe.”

Mr Linus Goh who works as an inventory management executive at PSA Corporation Limited spends his days-off volunteering as a C.O.P. He acts as a C.O.P Liaison Officer, going on joint patrols with the NPC officers every month.

The 33-year-old who was awarded a token of appreciation for his efforts, mentioned that he previously served his National Service with the Singapore Police Force and that being a C.O.P reminded him of the days where he played a part in keeping Singapore safe.

“I am honoured to be part of the team that helps to keep Punggol a safe place for all to live in. Not only do we keep it safe during patrol, my members and I also remain vigilant when we are off-patrol,” he said.

# Keeping Heads Above Water

By Cpl Md Shahrunnizam Abdul Rashid

Mr V.K. Muralidharan spent years teaching and ensuring PCG officers acquiring acceptable standards of skills and competence to perform the required tasks before certifying them.



## His past experiences

Mr V. K. Muralidharan developed his passion for the sea when he served his National service in the Republic of Singapore Navy when he was 18. He started his career as a deck cadet and climbed the ranks before taking command of ships. He holds a Class 1, Master Mariner (Deck Officer's) Certificate of Competency, and has twelve years of sea experience.

He has sailed various classes of ships ranging from General Cargo, containers, bulk carriers to even tankers. Throughout the years he had mastered both theory and practical knowledge in maritime and obtained a Master of Educational Management.

He further enhanced his maritime knowledge and experience when he was working as a shipbroker and subsequently became a lecturer in Maritime studies at the Singapore Polytechnic in 1994. However, he was keen to be back in action at sea, and so he decided to apply for a post in the Police Coast Guard (PCG).

In January 1998, he was appointed as Marine Surveyor in the PCG and in September 2012 he was re-designated as Principal Master Mariner. With this re-designation, he is now empowered to certify officers who are eligible to man patrol crafts at sea.

## Tackling the rising tide

When asked about the challenges he faced, Mr Muralidharan, shared about having to constantly keep up with the ever-changing geographical landscape within Singapore's territorial waters together with the new operational technology implemented on the crafts. While he said that he tended to be keenly concerned about the PCG officers' skills during training, he was always confident of their abilities to face the sea once they graduated.

When assessing officers using scenario-based questions, he often encouraged officers to have more than just one answer. Such assessment methods are to get officers to exercise their minds and develop critical thinking.

“You have to be ready and think on your feet when you are at sea to face any changes that could happen in an instant. Steering a craft is different from driving a car because you can't apply the emergency brakes when you are out at sea. You must react quickly because your life and the life of your passengers depend on your capability to react and this is the greatest challenge for anyone out at sea,” he shared.

## Practice makes perfect

Mr Muralidharan also observed that the younger generation often get stressed out when they are facing both theory and practical examinations. This inevitably results in officers answering the questions or performing practical tasks incorrectly. There are no model answers in maritime operations as different situations require different measures to be taken. Officers must not only be proficient in the theory of the subjects, but also be familiar with the various drills taught in practical sessions, so that they will be more confident after their training.

## A captain and a visionary

He envisions a future where the current PCG Training School would be transformed into the 'Home Team Maritime Security Academy. With this transformation, he hopes that all the other local maritime and related agencies such as the Maritime Port Authority and the Singapore Civil Defence Force, would be able to share their knowledge and technologies better and work together towards improving both the training methods and certification of every maritime officer.





# ONE OF US

## Hi, I am...

Iskandar Ismail. I currently hold the rank of Staff Sergeant, and am attached to Special Operations Team, Traffic Police (TP).

## What is your quirkiest habit at work?

I put on perfume when I report for and off duty. [Laughs]... maybe I want people to smell me before they see me coming.

## Identify one item on your desk that motivates you/ cheers you up while you are at work.

A picture of my team mates during the last National Day Parade (NDP) training. It reminds me of the early mornings when we had to wake up for NDP rehearsals, and the fact that these guys are the people watching my back all the time.

## Where do you go to take a break during work?

Usually it will be at the TP Headquarters (HQ) itself. Actually come to think of it, very rarely do we go to other places for breaks. The next best choice would be Kreta Ayer Neighbourhood Police Post because the place has got a very nostalgic feel to it. As we are riding most of the time, we appreciate the air-conditioning!

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

Lucky for me, I do not have to go that far. My favourite dish would be fried chicken rice in our very own canteen. While stocks last though, you won't get it if you are a bit late for lunch.

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

The weirdest I have ever heard is that police officers work harder when bonus month is coming. (Laughs) I hope people will know that we work equally hard even after we have received our bonus.

## I believe in...

Treating people the same way you want people to treat you. Don't expect good treatment if you treat people otherwise.

