





**POLICE
LIFE**

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Remembering Mr Lee Kuan Yew

The Singapore Police Force Pays Tribute

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Foreword

I was born in the 1970s and I grew up with Mr Lee Kuan Yew as the Prime Minister. I remember watching him on television and listening to his speeches on the radio. He was someone who inspires confidence because he would do what he said he would do, and he delivered, time and time again.

I was at the Padang during the Lying-In-State with the snaking queue of more than 30,000 people. This was at midnight and I was amazed by the tremendous turnout. What could have commanded such a huge outpouring of respect and gratitude?

At one of the community tribute sites, I stood beside a five-year-old child as he was writing his note. What he wrote summed up my own feelings, and I quote:

“Thank you for the home we live in, for the clean water we drink, for the schools we study at, for the trees that shelter us, and for the safe streets we walk on. Thank you, Mr Lee Kuan Yew.”

While the nation mourned, our police officers worked round the clock to ensure peace and order for the proceedings. Many toiled long hours, held back emotions and persevered at their tasks. This issue of *Police Life* documents those seven poignant days.

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From the Commissioner

By Mr Hoong Wee Teck
Commissioner of Police

The following is a reproduction of the Commissioner of Police's address to officers on the 5th day of the National Mourning.

Fellow officers,

Today we gather to pay tribute to our founding Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew who passed away on 23 Mar 2015. He was 91.

Mr Lee led Singapore to independence and transformed her from a third world country to first. Because of Mr Lee, we live in a safe, developed and harmonious society. All Singaporeans are deeply indebted to him. As we mourn Mr Lee's passing, we remember his leadership and contributions to Singapore.

Special Vigil Guards – CP's personal reflection

Although I had never served directly under Mr Lee, I had the honour to lead our Special Vigil Guards while Mr Lee was Lying-In-State. With me were Hung Hooi, Sin Yun, Chye Meng and Christopher Ng. In the half hour that I was standing in front of the giant, keeping still in my ceremonial No. 1 dress, I could not help but reflect on what Mr Lee did for the Force, and how he had left a lasting impact. There were many thoughts that ran through my mind.

There were many people who came to the Parliament to pay their respects to Mr Lee on the 1st day of the Lying-In-State. Although I could not see them because my head was bowed, I could still hear them. The respect and outpouring of emotions were genuine. Singaporeans, young and old, turned up in strength to pay their last respects. Some cried, many spoke touching words.

We are all familiar with Mr Lee's contributions to Singapore. What I will do today is to share two contributions which are relevant to us – The rule-of-law and our policing values.

Rule-of-Law

Among the many achievements of Singapore that Mr Lee was proud of, was the safety that the people of Singapore enjoyed. After assuming office, Mr Lee's first priority was to establish the rule-of-law. He recognised that Singapore could only progress if there was order. With tough laws, and by giving the Force a strong mandate to go about our duties, we turned the situation around. From a time where crime was rampant and streets were controlled by secret societies, order was established. People could go about their daily lives without any fear for their personal safety. Today, we live in a safe and secure environment which can only be imagined or envied by many others.

Policing values

Mr Lee visited the Force several times in the past 50 years. In those visits, he always emphasised on the importance of values, and the sense of purpose. He visited the Senior Police Officers' Mess on four occasions. During his second visit to SPOM in 1972, he said this, and I quote:

“But most of all, you need integrity; you need a sense of purpose... to have that mark which others recognise to be special. You are upholding the state. Without you, without the quiet civil servant

who gets things done, all the young executives who can wine and dine in the Shangri-La, they will go down the drain. It is as simple as that.”

And in 2011, when Mr Lee visited us for the last time at the SPOM Dining-In, he reminded us again of our timeless values and the importance of having a sense of mission. I would like to share one quote from Mr Lee, and it goes like this:

“So it must be fundamentally based on a sense of mission and a common ethos – our people are striving for the national good. That is what the sacrifices are for – not for personal power or for glory, but for the pride of the mission – keeping Singapore safe, secure and working; protecting the public.”

Conclusion

Fellow officers, Mr Lee has given to Singapore a life of sacrifice and purpose. We will pay the greatest tribute to Mr Lee by doing likewise.

We will uphold our mission to prevent, deter and detect crime and stay true to our values of Courage, Loyalty, Integrity and Fairness.

We will continue to be relentless in our pursuit for justice and build upon his legacy by making Singapore the safest place in the world.

Mr Lee, thank you for your leadership and inspiration to the Singapore Police Force. May you rest in peace.



“The SOs were an integral part of Papa’s life, even more so in the last five years. They looked after him with tender loving care, way beyond the call of duty. One doctor friend who came to help dress a wound Papa sustained when he fell, noticed this and said to me: “The SOs look after your father as though he is their own father.”

Papa believed that goodwill goes both ways. He was very considerate towards his SOs. Once while in Saudi Arabia on an official trip, one SO came down with chicken pox. The doctors decided that the SO should be isolated in some hospital in Saudi Arabia for two weeks. Pa thought that very unkind to the SO and insisted that the SO return to Singapore together with the rest of the delegation. He wasn’t going to leave any Singaporean behind, not least an SO....

...One occasion, while having lunch at home, Papa choked on a piece of meat. It went down his trachea and obstructed his airflow. Fortunately the SOs knew what to do. ASP Yak and Kelvin together carried out the Heimlich maneuver several times, but to no avail, because Pa’s abdominal muscles were very tense.

Yak then called for help over his walky-talky. Liang Chye was the only senior SO downstairs, and sensing something strange in Yak’s voice, he came running up. They formed a human chain. Liang Chye, the shortest and probably the strongest, was positioned behind Papa; the tallest, Yak, at the furthest end of the human chain; and Kelvin, the one of middle height, between the two. They coordinated their pull, and after several attempts, the piece of meat was finally ejected. By this time, Papa had already turned purple. But within seconds of the meat being dislodged, he was mentally alert.

I would like to give special thanks to Liang Chye and Kelvin, and especially ASP Yak, whose presence of mind saved Papa’s life. To all the SOs who have served Papa over the years, I thank you on behalf of my family.”

Excerpt of Eulogy by Dr Lee Wei Ling
at the Cremation Service of Mr Lee Kuan Yew



Always there, till the end



SC Mok Wen Jie

When the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew became Singapore’s first Prime Minister in 1959, a small group of police officers were assigned to ensure his safety. Throughout the last 56 years, officers from the Security Command (Seccom) have ensured the safety and security of Mr Lee, following him all over the world, through thick and thin

Keeping watch over him to the end, the officers, better known as Security Officers (SO), were the coffin bearers on Mr Lee’s final journey to Mandai Crematorium. In his eulogy at the cremation service, Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong paid tribute to the Seccom officers for their service and dedication:

“Thank you to the Security Command team who have protected my father. You not only ensured his security, but were always by his side, round the clock, beyond the call of duty. You became friends, and almost part of the family. Thanks particularly to the SOs who served as coffin bearers just now, for carrying my father today, on his last journey. And to the pall bearers here at Mandai, who were the SOs, doctors and nurses, for doing my father this honour.”





A Coordinated Effort

By Ms Jinnie Chew Si Lei

Mr Lee Kuan Yew passed away peacefully on 23 March 2015, 3.18am. Singapore's Prime Minister then declared a period of National Mourning for seven days.

The Police Incident Command Post (PICP) – comprising officers from various units of SPF – was activated to facilitate operations and oversee security planning during the week of National Mourning.

With an overview of the entire operations through CCTV feeds and other information gathered from various sources, the PICP was able to coordinate operations among the staff departments and ground units. This was crucial in ensuring a smooth transition between the various phases throughout the mourning period and effectively prioritising resources.

“This is one of the most challenging deployments for me as the plans changed constantly due to the outpouring of emotions nationwide which necessitated changes to crowd management on the ground,” said Superintendent of Police (Supt) Tey Siew Choo, Assistant Director Operations C3 & Sense Making Division, Operations Department. Supt Tey was one of the officer-in-charge of controls.

“The situation was dynamic (and) changes had to be dealt with very swiftly by all units,” said Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Tan Ming Jie, Team Leader, Public

Communications Division, Public Affairs Department. DSP Tan and his team members oversaw the management of mainstream media, social media and internal communications that were related to Police's operations for the National Mourning.

On the 4th day of the national mourning, due to the overwhelming response from members of the public to pay their last respect to Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the State Funeral Organising Committee (SFOC) extended the Lying-In-State (LIS) to 24 hours till the last day of the LIS.

Instantly, there was a sharp increase in the manpower required.

But just as how the nation came together to mourn for its founding father, members of the Singapore Police Force (SPF) rallied to overcome the challenges that they faced.

“All units were very supportive. In fact, they even called the manpower cell and volunteered to be deployed. That was very memorable. As I deployed some officers on the ground, I subsequently heard (after the entire operation was over) that they had already been deployed for over 20 hours – but there were no complaints at all,” recalled DSP Willy Ng, Manpower Officer

(Planning), Manpower Department, who was the key staff officer in charge of the planning and execution of manpower plans.

In fact, the National Mourning called for one of the highest manpower deployments in the SPF's history.

What was truly remarkable was the teamwork and camaraderie among the SPF officers that made the operation a successful one. Corporal Yan Ru Choong Flora, a Crime Strike Force Officer from Changi Neighbourhood Police Centre, recounted her deployment during the state funeral:

“I was deployed along Sembawang Road with officers from the Police Coast Guard and the Traffic Police when several members of the public started crossing the road, while some were standing on the road divider. For their safety and smooth facilitation of the procession, we advised them against it but some refused to listen.

With some quick thinking, we cordoned off the pathway along both sides of the road to prevent them from crossing over. The plan worked. It was amazing working with officers from other departments as we all had a common goal in mind – that is to keep this operation a safe and smooth one.”

IN NUMBERS

180,000

man-hours expended by SPF

82

foreign dignitaries protected and escorted by SPF

9,736

barricades deployed

40.8%

percentage of SPF uniformed officers deployed on the last day

From the Frontline

I was at home when I heard of the passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew on television. I was saddened by the news of his passing and I volunteered for duty. I was deployed at Singapore Casket. The place was relatively quiet with the exception of a few curious onlookers and the media. I remembered that the day seemed 'still' and there was lingering silence. I didn't speak much that day and carried out my duties with a heavy heart.

SI Siaw Kah Swee
Senior Investigation Officer, General Investigation Squad 2,
Investigation Branch, Central Police Division

It was a very sad day for the whole nation as Singapore had lost a great leader. I felt a sense of loss for the nation as Mr Lee had done so much for the country. Furthermore, it is SG50 this year yet he won't be around to celebrate with the entire nation. When I was notified that I would be deployed for this operation, I felt honoured as it was the very least that I could do for this great leader.

SSgt Low Wei Qiang
Community Policing Officer, Woodlands West NPC,
Jurong Police Division





I can see that all our officers were standing alongside members of the public with deepest grief while the gun carriage passed by us. Despite the unpredictable weather conditions and long hours, it did not deter the officers as we were all standing strong to perform our crowd control duties. It was heartening when members of the public showed empathy to us through small gestures like offering us drinks and even providing us shade from the hot weather. All this made me feel that we were appreciated in the course of duty.

SSgt Nurulhuda Binte Zailbarudin
Community Engagement Officer, Clementi NPC,
Clementi Police Division

When we were controlling traffic around the carpark, other pedestrians helped to remind other pedestrians to get off the roads when cars were moving around, so that made things easier for us. Love it when people are so proactive and supportive of others who are working.

SC/Sgt Caleb Ng
Assistant PNS(F) Personnel Officer (Development),
PNS Branch, Tanglin Police Division

We worked hand in hand with CISCO, the Army and our Security Command colleagues at the screening point. Even though the army officers were high ranking officers, they were all friendly and approachable.

SSgt Siti Rahmah Bte Abu Samah
Assistant Service Quality Officer, Service Quality
Branch, Tanglin Police Division

At the Parliament House, the challenge was the crowd control. Other than dealing with the persons screening check station, we had to manage the emotion of the crowd as they had grown impatient due to the hours of waiting. We explained the delay to the crowd and pre-empted them to remove their metal accessories to facilitate faster clearance during their turn. This shortened the duration per check and allowed more people to be cleared to enter.

SSgt Chua Kang Lu
CPU Officer, Bukit Batok NPC,
Jurong Police Division

I was directing traffic under the scorching sun in front of Parliament House when one member of the public offered to pass me a bottle of water and two fish burgers. I declined to accept his kind gesture though he insisted. Thereafter, he thanked me for the hard work.

SSI Ang Kheng Guan
Community Policing Unit, Bishan NPC,
Tanglin Police Division

During the Lying-In-State, there were several instances of elderly folk being unable to walk but they still wished to pay their respects. Being in-charge of Parliament House itself required one to ensure total security but not to maintain even a modicum of compassion would be cruel. Where possible, we allowed the elderly to leave Parliament House from the front so that they would not have to walk more than necessary. We received many kudos for this. The Pioneer Generation are the ones who have seen the rise of Singapore and wanted to thank the man responsible for leading and bringing this rise. Helping the Pioneer Generation was truly how we could have made Mr Lee smile wider. As a citizen and as a Public Servant, I am honoured to have played my part in this operation.

ASP Rikesh Chand Rai
Team Leader 'C', Bukit Timah NPC,
Tanglin Police Division





There was a huge turnout of people to pay their respects and waiting to catch a glimpse of the funeral procession of the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew. I had noticed several elderly persons amongst the crowd braving the heavy downpour. I approached them intending to guide them to the nearby HDB blocks where they could still watch the procession and be sheltered from the rain. None took my offer. One elderly lady told me that he (referring to the late Mr Lee) had done so much for the country. Standing in the rain was small in comparison to that. I was moved by her words. A remarkable moment happened when I witnessed a lion dance troupe comprising seven lions bowing as a mark of respect as the funeral procession passed by.

Insp Teo Wei-Myn Darius
Officer-in-Charge, Foreign Worker Management, Rochor NPC,
Central Police Division

Rain started to pour during the early parts of the deployment. However, seeing Singaporeans of all ages, races and cultures stand as one in the pouring rain to pay their last respects to the founding father of modern Singapore, in a way, kept me warm and gave me the determination to carry out my duty in the rain.

One other thing that made the deployment all the more worthwhile was when a member of public walked up to me to express thanks for carrying out my duty in the rain...I smiled and thanked him as well.

Sgt Sharifee Ishak
CPU officer, Pasir Ris NPC, Bedok Police Division

On 29 March 2015, I assisted with the management of CCTVs. There were two challenges I encountered. Firstly, it took a lot of dedication and patience to manage the CCTV during the downpour. The vision was dramatically hindered by the rain. Secondly, during the period of my deployment, it took sheer will to keep my emotions in check, witnessing the saddened expression of the crowd whilst executing my duties. My contribution to this deployment is a small token of appreciation to Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

SC/CPL Bryan Oh Jin Yuan
Staff Assistant to Head Service Quality, Service Quality Branch,
Clementi Police Division

After standing for hours under the rain, hearing MOPs coming to you and saying “Thank You officer” was something that made my day after a long day deployment.

MSO 6 Lai Qiu Ling
Procurement Officer, Support and Technical Branch,
Central Police Division

The challenge I faced was dealing with fatigue. It was my off day after my normal shift but I had to be deployed at the Mandai Crematorium for long hours. However, it was an honour for me to be in the final process of the funeral. The thought of Mr Lee’s sacrifices made me put aside any feeling of tiredness.

Cpl Muhammad Shaqeel
Neighbourhood Police Centre Officer, Ang Mo Kio North NPC,
Ang Mo Kio Police Division

During the funeral procession, Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Yus Mastari, Investigation Officer from General Investigation Team D, Traffic Police Department, was deployed to perform VIP Escort duty for Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong from the Parliament House to the University Cultural Centre for the funeral service. Due to the heavy downpour, he lost control of his motorcycle and skidded.

“When the incident happened, the first thing that came to my mind was the convoy. Should I fail to recover from the fall, my other fellow colleagues in the motorcade would have to double up.”

With the determination to fulfil his duties, after ensuring that there was no major damage to the vehicle, SSgt Yus quickly recovered and caught up with the motorcade.

SSgt Yus continued with his escort duties for the rest of day and checked himself for any injuries only when he returned home later in the night. He had sustained bruises as a result of the accident. However, SSgt Yus said, “I had to complete what I started.”

On 6 April 2015, PM Lee took the opportunity to commend SSgt Yus for his sterling service during his visit to the official opening of the Police Operations Command Centre.

SSgt Yus said, “Honestly, I didn’t see this coming. I am honoured to have received the commendation from our very own PM. However, I believed that if the similar incident were to happen to other patrol officers, they would have done the same thing. Nonetheless, I thank PM Lee for acknowledging (my effort). I’m humbled by the personal touch (of this gesture). At the end of the day, it is a duty that I have to accomplish.”



Supporting from Behind the Scenes



SC/Cpl Gabriel Chan Duen Yue

Police's ability to keep a close watch on the ground situation during the national mourning was greatly assisted by current day technology.

At the start of the national mourning period, Mr Hong Jian Hui from the Police Technology Department (PTD) was tasked to set up surveillance cameras to offer ground awareness and facilitate the operational needs of the Police Force.

"There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes for every video streamed to the operations rooms. Typically, it requires no less than four parties to work together for PTD to get a camera online. Needless to say, this process takes time and careful coordination," Mr Hong shared.

One of his first objectives was to install long-range surveillance cameras overlooking the Parliament House and Padang.



"The installation plan was daunting because rooftop camera installations are significantly more difficult than street level camera installations due to the higher elevation and greater exposure to harsh weather elements such as strong winds and lightning," said Mr Hong.

However, in less than two days, Mr Hong and his team rushed to get the cameras connected temporarily via a wireless network. These provided a commanding view of the Parliament House

against the backdrop of the Singapore skyline to the Command Posts. A permanent installation would have taken about a month to set up.

"We thought our work was done, but this proved to be just the tip of the iceberg," he said.

On the first day of the Lying-in-State, Mr Hong used the camera to search for the end of the queue that meandered several kilometres through the Central Business District. As it turned out, the queue extended towards Hong Lim Park which was way beyond the camera's observable range.

"These cameras turned out to be very useful in supporting police operations because its images were used to make effective decisions on the management of the crowds who were paying their last respects," said Mr Hong.

"The camera needed to be constantly repositioned to get an optimal view of where the crowd were," Mr Hong said.

The wireless connection used, however, did not have the required capacity. Consequently, Mr Hong and his team had to employ an alternative solution.

"We had to do the seemingly impossible; to have those cameras converted to a fixed fibre optic line so that the signal could be reached, and to complete it with minimum disruption since the



Lying-in-State was changed to a 24-hour operation. Fortunately for us, we managed to get the line up quickly without major hiccups."

Asked about how he felt after the funeral, Mr Hong said, "At the onset, like most other officers in the Police Force, I felt it was the least I could do for Mr Lee - who so tirelessly gave of himself to the betterment of Singapore. It was fulfilling knowing that I did my part. There was a surge of sadness in me, which were the exact feelings confronted by every Singaporean, only trickling through after my job was done."



Police Coast Guards Pay Their Respects



SC/Cpl Harsha Ramachandran

On Sunday 29 March 2015, Singapore mourned the passing of the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew. The Police Coast Guard (PCG), too, paid their respects in the form of a sail-past.

The sail-past involved two PCG costal patrol crafts and two Navy ships. They sailed along the east coast near Marina Barrage while the funeral procession was taking place. On each Coast Guard ship, 22 officers stood solemnly facing inland with their heads bowed as a sign of respect for Mr Lee.

The ships flew 3 signal flags, each of which corresponded to the letters L, K and Y. The flags are a maritime system of communication and so they are a unique sea-related way of showing respect.

The Public Affairs Department's Media Production and Liaison Officer, Mr Peh Mingcheng, was filming from a RSAF helicopter at that time. Throughout the

sail-past, the skies thundered and rained down onto the crafts. This added to the already sombre atmosphere of the event. "I remember the rain whipping against my face and thinking how difficult this must be for the officers on the ships. It was a deeply touching event," said Mr Peh.

The mourning officers faced the central business district, a collection of skyscrapers that attest to Singapore's success in the modern world. Singapore would not have this success if not for the work of the Late Mr Lee Kuan Yew. Thus, it was fitting that the 44 coast guard officers bowed their heads towards this symbol of Singapore's success, almost as if to reflect on Mr Lee Kuan Yew's contributions to our society.



The Highest Form of Respect

By SC/CPL Harsha Ramachandran

While the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew was lying-in-state, selected officers from various uniformed groups took turns to stand vigil. *Police Life* spoke to some of the Vigil Guards who represented the Police Force to understand their experience.

As Singapore mourned, they stood solemnly – four at each corner of the casket and one senior officer facing inwards.

The Vigil Guards consisted of uniformed officers from the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). Senior officers donned their white Number One uniform and stood vigil in thirty minute shifts. These officers must be still as statues and show no emotion.

This was no mean feat as some of the senior police officers had personal encounters with the late Mr Lee. The officers attended events as honorary aides-de-camp (ADC) to the President and Mr Lee was present at those events too. Superintendent of Police (Supt) Chan Hee Keong was once the President's honorary ADC and was also one of Mr Lee's Security Officers. "He was a very disciplined person, and had an intense devotion to Singapore. Even when he was at home, he would still be working," recalled Supt Chan.

The vigil guards presented a striking contrast to the outpouring of grief in the Parliament House where Mr Lee's Lying-In-State took place. "Many of them were crying. Some were praying, some were respectfully shouting out his name and some stopped to kneel and bow," remembered Superintendent of Police (National Service) Nicholas Phua Yeow Boon.

As the nation's highest form of respect, the Guards maintained a very high standard of discipline; Uniforms crisp, heads bowed, they stood, and made no eye contact or movement. Maintaining discipline was not a problem. Instead, they suffered in other ways.

"While I could expect the physical challenge, the emotional portion was very different. It was draining," said Deputy Assistant Commissioner (DAC) of Police (NS) Lionel Chai Yee Yuen.

Their suffering was a 'small price to pay' though.

"I was deeply honoured and privileged to keep vigil for Mr Lee Kuan Yew, who gave his all, so that we can have the life we are having now," said DAC (NS) Jonathan Wan Chee Tong. DAC (NS) Wan offered silent prayers to Mr Lee as he stood vigil, thanking him for what he had sacrificed for the nation.

For some of the vigil guards, the most memorable part of standing vigil was how deeply the members of the public grieved.

DAC (NS) Chai's most memorable moment was he witnessed a 50-year-old man breaking down into tears. It was "heart wrenching" seeing the man's companion wiping away his tears and comforting him, said DAC (NS) Chai.

A total of 60 SPF and SAF officers stood vigil, including the Commissioner of Police, who led Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SAC) Loy Chye Meng, SAC Hsu Sin Yun, SAC Tan Hung Hooi and SAC Christopher Ng to stand vigil on the first day of the lying-in-state.



Tribute

