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A DISTINGUISHED HONOUR



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Police Life

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ON THE COVER

Police General of the Indonesia National Police Drs. Timur Pradopo reviewed the prestige Guard-of-Honour before being conferred the Distinguished Service Order.

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KEEPING OUR HOME SAFE

This note marks a year since I joined the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and I am pleased to be able to put together yet another issue of *Police Life* for you – it is a small part that I play in SPF's effort to keep our home safe.

Crime-fighting can take on many different forms and the definition of "home" may vary for each of us.

For the SPF, one of the police forces safeguarding the peace of our region, home is more than just about keeping our shores safe.

We maintain close ties with our crime-fighting partners. I had the honour of witnessing and filming Singapore's conferment of the prestigious Distinguished Service Order to the Chief of the Indonesia National Police, Police General Drs. Timur Pradopo. You can "experience" it too in our cover story.

Taking on a different approach in combating crime through education, the SPF collaborated with the Singapore Road Safety Council to organise a series of events during the Road Safety Month. The events raised awareness on the importance of commuting safely and courteously to all road users so that we can collectively make our roads in Singapore safer for all.

At the individual level, you can also play a greater role in keeping our home safe.

Take Madam Cheok for example – the recipient of the Public Service 21 Star Award who took charge of the safety of her own neighbourhood by playing an active role in leading her Neighbourhood Watch Group. With her vigilance, she helped the Yishun South Neighbourhood Police Centre to suppress several Unlicensed Money Lending cases.

So, what can you do to keep our home safe?

Share this issue with your loved ones and inspire them to play a more proactive role in making Singapore the safest place in the world.

Jinnie Chew
Journalist
Police Life





You Were **SAYING**

To whom it may concern,

For many years, I have never trusted nor liked the police force of Singapore.

In fact, I have held a very negative image of the Singapore Police Force in my heart for many years, mainly due to a number of things I have seen and heard of the force. So bad is the image that I have told my peers that (we) better depend on ourselves to solve issues rather than to report to the police force for any incident. However, a couple of weeks ago, something happened that changed in a positive way, the image of the Singapore Police Force in my mind.

A few weeks ago, my family and I were harassed by loan sharks 2 or 3 days after we moved in. They splashed paint on my house door without even realising that the former owners have sold their house to us and ran off. My wife said that I should call the police and let them settle this issue. Taking my wife's advice, I made the call.

Shortly after, 2 uniformed officers came to take our statements and take photos of the damage caused by the splashing of the paint. Sir IO Lin Baolong, responded within a very short period of time after I gave him a call to seek advice on what should my family and I do.

For the next 2 weeks, I contacted him almost every day to demand answers and several times vented my anger at him.

However, he was very professional and each time he would calm me down, promise that he will go all out to try to arrest the culprit and assure us that our safety are in the good hands of the Sembawang NPC officers. Within 2 weeks, he was able to catch hold of the former owner, ensuring that he changed his address.

Without IO Lin's commitment to this case, I am pretty sure the borrower will be able to get away scoot free and will never update his address, and might even continue to use my address to do other unspeakable deeds.

Not forgetting the Sembawang NPC officers –after I installed a CCTV camera at my doorstep after the incident, I was surprised to see, not once, not twice, but almost daily, they would make an effort to come up to my flat to ensure everything is in order, which doubled up as a deterrent to those runners who will think twice before they dare to splash paint again.

At a time where corruption is increasing and temptation is high for these frontline officers, IO Lin and his team of officers stood firm in their belief and never gave up. They are the heroes of the public sector, a beam of hope and light in our present day Singapore. If I have a son or daughter in the future who wishes to be a police officer, I will tell them the deed these heroes have done for us and tell my kids that they should learn from each and every one of them, especially Sir Lin Baolong.

Should whoever in charge of reading this email need more clarification of what these heroes have done, please feel free to contact me and I will be glad to share, even if it to a point of repeating again and again, for they deserve it, and may their actions be an example for all present and future police officers to learn from.

Charles Chua



A DISTINGUISHED HONOUR

With 35 years of policing under his belt, Chief of Indonesia National Police (INP), Police General Drs. Timur Pradopo, has had a stellar service in the INP. He led the INP to several successful key counter-terrorism operations in the region. The Singapore Police Force (SPF) has also benefited from the valuable operational collaboration with the INP to bolster maritime security. Further close collaborations in the areas of investigations, intelligence, training and sharing of information have yielded tremendous operational benefits for both forces in combating terrorism and trans-national crime.

For his outstanding contribution to fostering excellent bilateral ties and co-operation between the INP and the SPF, Drs. Timur Pradopo was awarded the Darjah Utama Bakti Cemerlang (The Distinguished Service Order).


In a ceremony held at the Istana on 4 July 2013, His Excellency, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore, presented the award to Drs. Timur Pradopo.

On receiving the award, "INP and SPF have been in an extraordinary relationship and friendship and this award also gives us more spirit to bring this cooperation higher," said Police General Drs Timur Pradopo, Chief of INP.

The Distinguished Service Order was instituted in 1968.

The Order may be awarded to any person who has performed within Singapore any act or series of acts constituting distinguished conduct. In special circumstances, the Order may be awarded to any person who has performed similar acts outside Singapore.

The Badge of the Distinguished Service Order consists, on the obverse side, of a bronze enameled circle depressed inwards on four opposite points with the words "DARJAH UTAMA BAKTI CEMERLANG" (Distinguished Service Order) inscribed in gold letters.

A wreath in green enamel surrounds the circle. In the center of the circle is a red shield on a white enameled background bearing a crescent and five stars with a scroll below carrying the inscription "MAJULAH SINGAPURA", meaning "onward Singapore." The reverse side of the Badge bears the State Arms. 

“ We realise that no single country can address the challenges to fight crime by its own. Cooperation among countries is imperative in a way to tackle transnational crime. INP and SPF have a common goal and commitment to create a safe and secure region and for this reason, we realise that cooperation between us need to be further developed. We gain many benefits from this mutual cooperation and we also believe that we can expand this cooperation in the future. I look forward to seeing this cooperation flourish in the years to come. **”**

- Police General Drs. Timur Pradopo



STARS OF THE PUBLIC

A Public Service that retains its vigour, embraces constant innovation, and always strives to do better will continue to serve Singapore well.

– Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

The date, 29 May 2013, might just be the most memorable ever for three of our officers and a loyal friend of the Force. Held at the Orchard Hotel and graced by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, the Excellence in Public Service Awards Ceremony recognised public officers in service and public organisations for their organisational excellence.

The awards ceremony was also an occasion where members of the public were recognised for their assistance and contributions in one way or another.

Mdm Stella Cheok Ling Ling, Customer of Yishun South Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC)

This year, five members of the public were recognised for their continued contributions to the public service. Among them is Mdm Stella Cheok, a loyal and supportive customer of the Yishun South NPC since 2008.

Courageous, pro-active, enthusiastic – these are characteristics that aptly describe Mdm Cheok. As a resident of Nee Soon Central for 25 years, she deems crime-fighting in her neighbourhood as a shared responsibility between the Police and the community.

She has been working alongside the NPC officers in combating crime, specifically unlicensed money-lending (UML) cases in her neighbourhood despite not being a member of the grassroots. Through the collaborative efforts between Mdm Cheok and officers from the NPC, four arrests in relation to UML harassments were made last year.

In addition, Mdm Cheok would work on the UML information and lead other volunteers to patrol with the victim concerned. More importantly, she is responsible for ensuring that the Neighbourhood Watch Group (NWG) remains active in the long run by conducting meetings and regular sharing of crime information in the neighbourhood with her members.



She is more than just a member of the public. She is driven, like our officers, to make Singapore the safest place in the world. It is befitting that the NPC gave her the more significant role of the NWG leader.

As a leader in the neighbourhood, Mdm Cheok would walk around her jurisdiction to look out for fresh UML cases. Remarkably, Mdm Cheok has performed an average of nine hours of duties per week since 2008. Due to Mdm Cheok's strong presence on the ground, residents are comfortable in approaching her, even prior to reporting cases to the Police.

Indeed, it is residents like Mdm Cheok who make it possible to expedite the process of bringing criminals to justice.

Ms Nurzawani Bte Hassan, Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

She has received not one, two or three compliments. She has pocketed an outstanding total of 132 compliments, including feedback forms and customers' emails for excellent service –all in a span of just one year.

As a Certificate of Clearance Officer (CRO) with the CID, Ms Nurzawani processes applications for certificates that prove a person has no criminal conviction in Singapore. Despite being a Division Three officer, her call of duty is as strong, if not stronger, than any other officer.

One of her satisfied customers is Mr Lee Chwee Huey. Mr Lee was deeply impressed with the sincere service rendered to him despite turning up at Ms Nurzawani's office after operating hours on 6 July 2011.

Another delighted customer is Mr Thilo Grossman. In his eyes, the service he received was equivalent to the experience in a five-star hotel. He also complimented Ms Nurzawani's polite and amicable attitude.

Another customer who could not thank Ms Nurzawani enough was Mr Ng Say Pek, who complimented her for being helpful in assisting him despite not bringing all the necessary documents. In addition, he mentioned that Ms Nurzawani's assistance saved him a great amount of time as he did not need to return to the CRO's office. In fact, he concluded that Ms Nurzawani's service attitude is one of the best that he had ever seen in any of the Government service departments.

Station Inspector (SI) Chan Hong Mun Jason, Airport Police Division (APD)

In January 2012, SI Chan, who worked as a Senior Investigation Officer (SIO) at the APD, responded to a case of strange behaviour at the airport. The passenger appeared to be mentally disoriented, so SI Chan arranged for him to be conveyed to the Changi General Hospital (CGH) for medical treatment.

As the passenger was a South Korean national and it was a non-working day, SI Chan, on his own accord, contacted the First Secretary from the South Korean Embassy's Consular Office. Despite being at work for more than 24 hours, SI Chan's concern for the passenger and his passion for his work kept him going. He even went beyond the call of duty to accompany the embassy's officials on their visit to the CGH.

Two days later, the passenger's brother flew into Singapore to bring the passenger back home. However, as it was the brother's first time travelling out of South Korea, the Embassy was concerned that he might lose his way at the airport.

SI Chan swung into action by requesting the airport staff to ensure a Korean language interpreter was present to facilitate the brother's disembarkation from the flight.

The next day, SI Chan was also at the airport to ensure that both brothers went home safely.

SI Chan received the Embassy's gratitude for his outstanding service rendered. The Singapore Police Force (SPF) also recognised his excellent service by awarding him with the SPF Quarterly Service Champion trophy.

Throughout the investigation, he demonstrated a high level of compassion and empathy. He was also proactive and thorough in his investigation despite facing complex circumstances.

Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Chang Boon Kiat Jonson, Pasir Ris NPC


His story tugged the heartstrings of many as SSgt Chang not only carried out investigations after his official duty hours, but he also re-united a child with his mother.

Despite having gone through a 12-hour shift, SSgt Chang was prepared to sacrifice his personal time to locate the mother of a missing child. A customer had handed over the child to the NPC, and the child could not verbalise his mother's name nor address.

SSgt Chang's concern for the child and his panic-stricken mother made him oblivious to his exhaustion. He conducted searches and inquiries at the vicinity of the playground where the child was found. His hard work soon bore fruit. While SSgt Chang was in the midst of conducting enquiries, the child's mother was nearby and he overheard her frantic conversation with some shopkeepers.

SSgt Chang is an excellent role model. On or off duty, an officer's duty to the nation doesn't stop.

Congratulations

Police Life extends our heartiest congratulations to all recipients of the PS21 award, both in and out of the Force. Thank you for your dedication to the nation, and for embodying the service in public service. 



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23 March 2013 03:37

Sergeant (Sgt) Ong Chun Kai and Sgt Jing Tay Huei of Punggol Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) were called to attend to an alleged case of assault. An unidentified lady had called 999 to inform that she had been assaulted by her boyfriend and that she needed help. After indicating that she did not need an ambulance, she hung up.

Upon reaching the caller's block, the officers could not locate the caller nor the boyfriend. What they saw, however, was a spine-chilling bloody trail from the void deck of Block 206A Punggol Place to the unit where the call was made. They then contacted Senior Investigation Officer (SIO) Alvin Gn.

04:15

SIO Gn, alongside other investigation officers from the Ang Mo Kio Police Division including Chief Investigation Officer Vijay S/O Rajendra Prasad, Investigation Officer Juliyanah Mahdi and Assistant Investigation Officer Chong Wei Qiang, made their way to the scene. This highly-experienced team felt that it was paramount to preserve the scene as it could be a murder case and that the victim might have been brought away.

They observed high-velocity blood splatters on the walls of the living room and in the lift. A massive blood trail spanned all the way from the living room to the staircase and down to the driveway.

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS**CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS****CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS****CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS****CRIME**

05:00 – 11.00

SIO Alvin contacted Inspector (Insp) Chris Lee, a fellow SIO from the Serious Investigations Section (SIS), Criminal Investigation Department. Insp Lee and several other officers from SIS hurried down to the scene.

Concerned for the lady's safety, they called all hospitals to check for any case of mutilation reported earlier. Insp Lee also contacted experts from the Health Sciences Authority to examine the blood splatters and the bloodied footprints.

The lady's uncle, who was staying with her, told officers that he overheard a quarrel and understood that she wanted to mutilate herself. However, he remained in the room for fear of waking his toddlers.

The investigations had to be carried out rapidly as saving the lady was their biggest concern.

11.00

After the team of ten investigation officers (six from SIS and four from Ang Mo Kio Police Division) examined the various evidence, they started the manhunt for both individuals. Based on intelligence, the officers realised a probable hiding place of the boyfriend.

13:00

As expected, the boyfriend was found at the Redhill vicinity. Through skilful interviewing, the officers concluded that the lady might be at Beach Road.

The officers were elated when they finally came across a lady with a bandaged left arm there. Insp Lee said, "We were very relieved to see her safe and alive; to us, our main mission is to protect lives and property."

Upon interviewing the lady, the truth was revealed. She had tried to mutilate herself after quarrelling with her boyfriend. 📺

Highlights:

- Officers in the SPF do not take any information as it is. Deductions to any case have to be done only after thorough investigations.
- Collaborations between the Force and other agencies like the HSA are crucial in expediting the administration of justice.
- Despite being crime-fighters, the officers' biggest concern when handling violent cases is the safety of each individual. Nothing is more important than saving lives.
- Investigation is never a one-man show, it is a group effort. Officers work hand-in-hand to analyse the evidence.
- There is no time that is too late or too early for police officers. The Force never sleeps.



SOLVED WITHIN A DAY



One day was all it took for the officers from the Clementi Police Division to track down a man suspected of committing two cases of theft of jewellery and watches at a goldsmith shop and a pawnshop respectively this year.

19 March, 5.00pm

The suspect acted like an interested patron of a pawnshop along Holland Drive. He requested one of its staffs to show him two luxury watches from the display shelf. After several minutes of viewing, he expressed his interest to purchase both watches, which were valued close to \$30,000. He informed the staff that he would return shortly.

19 March, 6.00pm

As promised, he returned approximately an hour later. While viewing the watches again, the suspect suddenly bolted out of the premises with both luxury watches. He was later seen fleeing in the direction of Queensway in a getaway vehicle that had a false licence plate number.

The Police were alerted. Officers from the Clementi Police Division immediately responded and conducted thorough on-scene investigations and searches with the aid of CCTV footage from the shops involved and established the identity of the suspect.

20 March, 8.40pm

The team of officers led by Inspector Tan Yong Sen, listed probable pawnshops and goldsmith shops where the suspect could disposed his stolen items.

Approximately a day later, the officers arrested the suspect at Pearl's Centre along Eu Tong Sen Street.

He was not only found with one of the luxury watches stolen earlier, but many other case exhibits were also seized. These included a television, two portable hard disks and a mobile phone.

All these items, also believed to be stolen, were estimated to be worth approximately \$1,500. He was also believed to be involved in stealing a gold bar valued at \$2,300 from a goldsmith shop in Bukit Merah Central the previous month and many other theft cases since January 2013. A gold saloon car with false license plates was also seized, alongside the exhibits.

He also faces several traffic violation charges such as driving without valid licence, driving without road tax and driving without insurance.

Commander of Clementi Police Division, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (DAC) Melvin Yong, commended the officers involved for the excellent teamwork and prompt investigative follow-up. He added that the Police are committed to ensure that such criminals will face the full brunt of the law.

Crime Prevention Advisory

Some suggested crime prevention advisories are:

- Install CCTV cameras in shops and ensure that they are in working condition.
- Remember specific description of suspects and the direction in which they fled.
- Be on high alert when a customer requests to view valuable items.
- Remain calm and call the Police immediately when theft has occurred. [P](#)



enhanced » EASY_ePC



The Electronic Police Centre (ePC) was first launched in 2002 to provide online police services for the convenience of members of the public. Members of the public no longer need to make a trip down to the Police station to lodge a report on lost or stolen property, or find information on driving licence and outstanding traffic offences. On 1 April 2013, the revamped ePC was launched offering better features and more value-added services.

NEW FEATURES

» More User-centric Design

With the new user interface, users will be able to complete transactions within a shorter period of time with fewer clicks. Users can update the serial number(s) of their stolen or lost property within seven days of reporting should they not have the information while lodging a report. Users will receive a soft copy of their Police reports via email in PDF format upon clicking the 'submit' button.

» Authentication using SingPass Account

Most e-services will now require users to login via SingPass for authentication purpose. The SingPass authentication provides a safe and secure login procedure.

Since basic information will be auto-populated upon login, users need not key in as much data as before, making online transactions faster.

Those who are not eligible for SingPass such as foreign visitors would be advised to proceed to the nearest Neighbourhood Police Centre or Neighbourhood Police Post if they need to lodge a police report so that proper authentication can be carried out.

NEW SERVICES

» Vehicle Repossession Report (VRR)

With this new e-service, a person who is authorised to repossess a vehicle has to lodge a VRR online instead of making a trip down to the Neighbourhood Police Centres or Neighbourhood Police Posts. Since October 2013, VRRs are no longer processed at police counters*.

*VRRs may still be processed at police counters when (i) ePC system is down, (ii) informant made errors in their online reports or (iii) they have issues lodging the ePC reports.

» Stolen and Lost Property Index (SPEX)

Users no longer need to worry if the second-hand items they bought are stolen or lost items. With SPEX, users can screen items such as:

- Mobile phones or Mobile devices with IMEI
- Laptops/Notebook Computers
- Portable Media Players
- Cameras
- Watches

Items that are reported lost or stolen will automatically be tagged in the SPEX database. All information on the tagged items will be provided instantaneously upon screening.

Owners of lost items who do not have the serial number(s) of the item(s) when lodging e-reports are allowed to submit the missing serial number(s) within seven days.

» Electronic Driver Data Information and Enquiry System (EDDIES)

By the first quarter of 2014, EDDIES will allow the public to submit traffic violation reports or compliments for good driving behaviour. Currently, EDDIES provides members of the public information on Driving Licence, such as:

- Certificate of Merit (COM);
- Status of Driving Licence;
- Status of Driver Improvement Points (DIPS); and
- Photocard Driving Licence Delivery Status

For members of the public with outstanding composition of offence, they will also be able to furnish their driver particulars through the system. [FL](#)



Police Report



Lost Property Report



Furnish Details of Stolen or Lost Property



Vehicle Repossession Report



Furnish Driver's Particulars



WHAT YOU NEED

(average completion time is about 15 minutes)

- SingPass User ID and Password
 - No SingPass?
- Email Address
- Serial number, brand, model of lost or stolen of property (If applicable)
 - Can't remember USN?

Login via SingPass

LAUNCH OF SINGAPORE ROAD SAFETY MONTH & ROAD SAFETY SEMINAR



This year, an inaugural Singapore Road Safety Month (SRSM) was launched targeting four specific groups of road users – the elderly pedestrians, students, motorcyclists and the transport industry. This was part of the Safer Roads Singapore initiative by the Singapore Road Safety Council and Traffic Police. The SRSM which was launched at the Singapore Science Centre on 6 May 2013, marked the start of a series of road safety events and activities, specifically targeted at the identified road-users.

Mr S Iswaran, Minister in Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, was the Guest-of-Honour for the launch event. The event included a road safety exhibition and sharing of best practices on road safety by guest speakers.

Outreach to Transport Industry: "Making Road Safety Our Business"

The focus on the day of the launch of the SRSM 2013 was the transport industry which is a key stakeholder in the drive towards road safety. Drivers within the industry need to have a high level of road safety awareness as they ply the roads very frequently. It is thus imperative that the industry adopts safe road practices and promotes a culture of safe driving as part of their business philosophy. The message to the industry is "Making Road Safety Our Business".

Sharing of Best Practices by Guest Speakers

To help the companies to constructively shape the road behaviour of their drivers, the SRSM facilitated the sharing of best practices, economic impact of traffic accidents and road safety measures by prominent guest speakers through a road safety seminar. The seminar saw the participation of the management and drivers from various transport-related businesses such as logistics, courier services and public transport companies.



National Road Safety Award

Companies which actively promote a culture of safe driving amongst their drivers will be commended for their efforts. The National Road Safety Award will be given out to companies and organisations that have done well to promote road safety among their workforce.

Road Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

The Singapore Road Safety Council and the Traffic Police will continue to work together to make Singapore roads safer for all. However, road safety is ultimately everyone's responsibility and we can all play our part to be responsible road users. This can help to save lives. Remember: Every Life Matters.

“ROAD SAFETY CONCERT FOR THE GOLDEN AGE”



The concert on 19 May 2013 marked the second instalment of the Singapore Road Safety Month 2013, which is part of Safer Roads Singapore.

Road safety messages specially designed for senior citizens were infused into songs and skits performed in different languages by local television and radio artistes namely Marcus Chin, Yati and Poobalan. Through such entertainment, the nearly 1,000 senior citizens left the

Republic Polytechnic with messages and lessons on how to be safe pedestrians on the roads.

Following this event, there will also be continual outreach to other senior citizens through road safety activities such as talks and road shows. The performance was recorded and made into DVDs for distribution to community partners such as People's Association for broadcast during community events.



“EDUCATING THE YOUNG”

The youth outreach segment of the Singapore Road Safety Month 2013 - “Educating the Young” - was conducted on 23 May 2013. The event reached out to about 500 students from the Woodlands Primary School. Mr Hawazi Daipi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower, was the Guest-of-Honour for the event.

Road Safety Skit Performance

Recognising the importance of instilling good road use habits in young children, a road safety skit performance was specially designed for them and emphasised the need for young children to practice kerb drills to look right and left and right again and raise their hands as they cross the roads. In addition, the skit also touched

on the importance of donning the safety gear for cyclists and the wearing of seat belts by passengers. This skit will be performed at primary schools so that the students can learn how to be safer road users.

Road Safety Begins with Each and Every Road User

Each and every road user has a part to play in road safety. Young children must be aware that the roads can be dangerous. Therefore they must obey traffic rules and practise kerb drills when crossing the roads at pedestrian crossings. It is also especially important for parents to be good road safety models for the young. Let us all do our part and work towards safer roads in Singapore together because every life matters. 🇸🇬



LATEST ADDITION TO THE MARINA BAY: MARINA BAY FIRE STATION & MARINA BAY NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE CENTRE

Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Mr S Iswaran officially launched the Marina Bay Fire Station (MBFS) and Marina Bay Neighbourhood Police Centre (MB NPC) on 26 April 2013. Such co-located facilities can better facilitate training, planning and operational coordination, he said.

What used to be an entertainment outlet at 70 Marina View now houses the Marina Bay Fire Station and Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC).

The joint Singapore Police Force - Singapore Civil Defence Force facility was officially launched by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr S Iswaran, on 26 April 2013.

It is the second Fire Station and NPC to be co-located, after Alexandra Fire Station and Queenstown NPC

"Co-locating our fire stations and the neighbourhood police centres here, there are clear advantages from an operational point of view, in terms of planning and co-operation," said Mr S Iswaran, who is also the Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry.

In addition, the co-located facility is a useful platform for both agencies to share information and resources.

"There is a growing number of business activity and residential projects coming up, so it is an area that needs to be well served and having this location means greater proximity between our operational agencies and the areas where they serve," said Mr S Iswaran.

Operational since 17 November 2012, SCDF's 18th fire station provides emergency response for the Central Business District as well as key locations such as Marina Bay Sands and Marina Bay Financial District.

It is equipped with two fire engines, two Light Fire Attack Vehicles, two fire bikes and two ambulances.

With the Marina Bay area becoming more vibrant with new developments such as the Gardens by the Bay,

the MB NPC serves businesses in the financial district, tourists and visitors to the many attractions in the area.

Operational since June 2009, the MB NPC is part of the Police's strategy to ensure a safe and secure downtown Singapore.

The proximity of the co-located facility to these areas will help the Home Team respond more quickly to incidents as well as engage the people in the area better.

The MB FS and MB NPC has also been working closely with the building management staff and stakeholders on safety and security initiatives.

Exercise Heartbeat is one such initiative.

The annual exercise involves SCDF, SPF and members of the Safety and Security Watch Groups to validate contingency plans in a crisis.

In line with the eco-friendly character of the Marina Bay area, the MB FS and MB NPC have both obtained the Building and Construction Authority Green Mark Gold Award for its eco-friendly building design and sustainability practices. [B&C](#)





COMMANDER SPOTLIGHT: FIRST FEMALE SENIOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ZURAIDAH BINTE ABDULLAH

Venturing into new ground may faze some, but definitely not trailblazer Madam Zuraidah Binte Abdullah of the Singapore Police Force (SPF). The feisty commander of Training Command was promoted to Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police at the Home Team Promotion Ceremony 2013 – the first female to hold this rank in the SPF.

Madam Zuraidah Binte Abdullah, the feisty Commander of Training Command (Tracom), has pioneered a trail where no females have gone before in the Singapore Police Force (SPF) – to be Singapore's first female Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SAC).

"At the age of nine, my mother told me to decide for myself 'what's good for you...' and that's what I did," she said.

Since then, the Home Team Academy's deputy Chief Executive has never looked back.

In 1986, the Nanyang Technological Institute (now Nanyang Technological University) civil engineering graduate was drawn to a Police career advertisement after a short teaching stint with Saint Theresa's High School.

"It said to join the Police force for an extraordinary career, and every day (with the Force) is different. That was what I liked, and I decided to apply."

SAC Zuraidah became the sixth female senior officer and first Malay female senior officer to join the SPF in 1986.

Yet, gender was never an excuse for the former National Cadet Corps Cadet Lieutenant.

As the eldest and only daughter of a bus driver father and nanny-cleaner-cook mother, SAC Zuraidah was never given any preferential treatment in her formative years.

"Gender was never an excuse; my three younger brothers and I did the same household chores... if we played together and one of us cried, all got whacked."

Having a grand-uncle who was a Police officer and chief of the kampong (Malay for village) at Ulu Pandan also helped in instilling a strong appreciation for discipline, which SAC Zuraidah has carried along with her throughout her career with the SPF. "I'm a stickler for discipline... Discipline is important so that we can live our values. More so in Training Command, where I have to inculcate this in our trainee officers and recruits, walk the talk and be the role model," shared SAC Zuraidah.

Having headed various departments within SPF such as being Head Operations of Central Police Division, Commander of Jurong Land Division, and previously seconded to Yayasan Mendaki, the straightforward SAC Zuraidah has no qualms about the decisions she makes.

"If you are looking to 'blame' someone for (the 1993 ruling that imposed the mandatory usage of) rear seatbelt and child seat (for children under eight), you

are looking at her," laughed SAC Zuraidah, who was with the Traffic Police Department from 1989 to 1993.

"It was difficult convincing the public then, but it was necessary... it was not about enforcement but more for the safety of the public."

Now, my fellow Traffic Police officers say that if they see me without a seat belt in the rear seat, they would be the first to fine me," she laughed.

SAC Zuraidah's background in civil engineering also saw her play an instrumental role in setting up the very first batch of speed cameras along the Pan Island Expressway.

She cites reading, and exercising as her methods of de-stressing from work, which quite often sees her in the office way past dinner time.

"I like to have my own personal time reading, and also cycling and running... this way I kill two birds with one stone in keeping fit and relaxing!"

"It is important for a leader to be fit... as a leader, how can you be behind; you have to be in front," said the TRACOM commander who affectionately called the 1,500 trainees currently training in Home Team Academy her children.

Like her parents, she values everyone equally and this is evident in how she treats her trainees and recruits.

"For example, now, for our trainees we never separate the gender for physical trainings and activities; we run the same distance, albeit slower, and all of them do the same things."

"Previously, as head of Operations at Central Police Division, I got to decide who I employed on the ground and I started to deploy more women officers on the ground."

"I made it clear that it depends on your potential. If you can do the job, you do the job, and it has nothing to do with your gender."

Wise words from Singapore's first female Senior Assistant Commissioner. 

SPF'S GOLDEN CONTRIBUTORS

Having served the Singapore Police Force (SPF) for over four decades, Mdm Suselah D/O Perisamy, 61, said she had no regrets working in the SPF.

In her 27 years with the Traffic Police Department (TP), Mdm Suselah rose from cashier to supervisor. She gained valuable experience serving numerous TP branches such as Traffic Accident Sales, which sold accident reports, to provision of Traffic Statistics.

Her glowing praises spoke volumes about her experience. "TP was very good to employees. Our welfare and work-life balance, especially, were well taken care of," she said. "We can bring our children to TP events and even to our workplace," she added.

However it wasn't all a bed of roses either.

Mdm Suselah shared some stories that reflected the poor attitudes of some people she encountered in the 1970s. She recalled how people would pay their fines in coins just to make the cashiers count them. They would even spit on the table to express their displeasure. To make matters worse, Mdm Suselah's integrity came into question when an irate customer accused her of theft.



"I once had an officer searched me to ensure the amount of money paid for the fines tallied. That was the first time I was accused and I cried hard after the incident."

Eventually, Mdm Suselah learnt not to take incidents like these to heart and to stand firm when customers become unruly. "After the first few accusations, I just took things in my stride. I know I am in the right and I learnt not to fear those people," she said.

Most importantly, working as a civilian officer in the SPF exposed Mdm Suselah to the tireless and sometimes thankless work that the Police do.

"Generally, people do not have much knowledge about how the Force runs and they take it for granted, thinking that the Force is always there to take care of us," she said.

She bade SPF adieu after another 14 years of committed service at the Clementi Police Division.

From Cheng San to Cambodia

Mr Jason Koh, 52, has seen the Force transform massively ever since he joined back in 1980 all the way until his retirement last year. His passion and earnestness, were the driving factors that made him stay in the SPF for 33 years.

Cheng San Neighbourhood Police Post (NPP), Ang Mo Kio Police Division

Mr Koh will never forget doing "kampong" policing and the solid camaraderie between the officers and residents. He recalled, "We did house visits very often, to the extent that they invited us to their family occasions like birthday parties. It's like the Community Policing System that SPF is currently implementing."

As a patrol officer, he loved the strong bonds that the team enjoyed. Despite being a Police Constable (PC), he was tasked to attend to difficult cases with Sergeants and Corporals. Mr Koh's seniors trusted his capability to be independent as a patrol officer.

Special Operations Command (SOC)

Previously known as the Police Task Force, SOC was Mr Koh's home for 16 years. Initially, he preferred his previous posting in Cheng San Neighbourhood Police Post (NPP) as he felt that he was closer to the community. However, he understood the need to have police troopers to guard Singapore against major crises.

Besides being a police trooper, Mr Koh was also part of the STAR team pioneers, where he assisted the team in areas like logistics, transport and intelligence liaison.

United Nations Peacekeeping Force (UNPKF), Cambodia

In 1992, he relived his "kampong" policing experience when he was selected to partake in the UNPKF in Cambodia. What he remembered about this stint was how the rural and dangerous environment in Cambodia helped foster stronger bonds among the officers as they looked out for one another's safety.

The selection test for UNPKF was far from easy. Officers had to go through tough physical and mental tests. Mr Koh attributed his success to his strong resilience and targeted determination.

Security Command (SecCom)

His last post in the SPF was in SecCom. He brought his previous experiences into SecCom to assist in the setting up of the air marshal unit in the areas of staffing, procurement and logistics.

One of his memorable experiences in SecCom was the numerous opportunities he had to travel abroad. Setting up this unit required many professional exchanges and study trips with other Police counterparts. His nine-year tenure in SecCom allowed him to experience the best of both worlds: operational and non-operational.

Mr Koh was thankful for this posting as it taught him many skills that are useful for his current job as an Operations Manager at Evergreen Secondary School.

The *Police Life* team congratulates Mr Koh, Mdm Suselah and more than 165 other 2012 Gold Medallion Award recipients. All the best for the future! 🇸🇬



A FORCE FOR THE NATION