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pulse of the army



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The Specialist Cadet Rank 12

CSSCOM Integrated HQ

Towards Greater Synergy

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Photography by Michael Thng



BG Lim (centre) signing the plaque at the Ground Breaking Ceremony

"While we are connected electronically today, we fundamentally believe that nothing can ever replace direct personal contact between people. This new Integrated HQ will bring greater cohesion to the whole Combat Service Support Command (CSSCOM)" said Commander CSSCOM, COL Ngien Hoon Ping. COL Ngien was speaking at the CSSCOM Integrated HQ (IHQ) Ground Breaking Ceremony held at Kranji Camp 3 on 26 December.

When the CSSCOM IHQ is fully completed, HQ CSSCOM, HQ Maintenance and Engineering Support (MES), HQ Supply and HQ Transport will move from their current locations of Ayer Rajah and Gloucester Camps to Kranji Camp 3. These units will join the Army Logistics Training Institute, the Army Logistics Training Centre, the School of Logistics and School of Manpower Management which are already situated there. In order to leverage on the existing linkages between HQ Medical Corps and the Army Medical Services (AMS), HQ AMS will continue to remain at Nee Soon Camp.

The benefits of integrating the leadership of various CSS units are manifold. HQ CSSCOM Sergeant Major MWO Chelliah shared, "When we bring people together, a special relationship and bond is built. Most of my fellow Sergeant Majors are from different functional groups. Bringing us together will enable us to achieve better synergy and bonding." This was further emphasised by then Chief of Staff - General Staff, BG Hugh Lim who graced the ceremony. BG Lim said, "By integrating the CSS community, the value-add to the whole formation will grow many times. The community will be able to share the expertise and experience that CSS operators have built up over the past 30 to 40 years. Besides a greater integration of expertise across the different functional groups, the IHQ promises to strengthen the command presence of CSSCOM down to the ground units. BG Lim said, "We've moved the leadership of CSS forward to provide stronger command presence down to our units. This will impact not just the CSS units but the Combat units they support as well."



The symbolic ground breaking represents a move towards greater synergy and integration among the CSS community

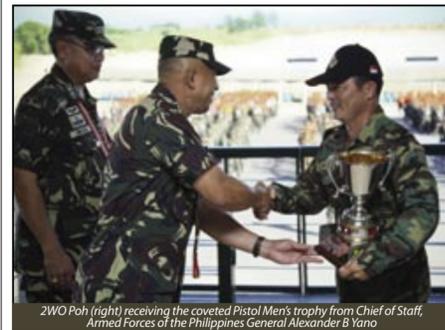
Shooting with the Best from SEA

AARM & ACAMM 2008

Story and Photography by Chia Han Sheng

Battling hard against fierce competition and wind speeds of 14 knots, our Army's top shooters displayed the epitome of fighting spirit as they gunned for success at the 18th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM). Held from 28 November to 11 December in Tarlac City, Philippines, this annual event aimed to foster friendship between ASEAN Armies through friendly competition. A team of 51 shooters specialising in the Rifle, Carbine, Machine Gun and Men's and Ladies' Pistol disciplines represented our Army at the competition, having trained extensively for six months.

A Victory to Savour



2WO Poh (right) receiving the coveted Pistol Men's trophy from Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines General Alexander B Yano

The many hours of hard work and discipline certainly paid off as the team took home the much coveted Men's Pistol Falling Plate Challenge Trophy as well as 20 other individual and team medals in the various matches. Captain of the men's pistol team, 2WO Poh Lip Meng shared that winning the title felt wonderful as the team had been developing a competition strategy for the past two years. He elaborated, "We did a lot of studies on our individual timing and developed a strategy to play on our strengths. It thus feels great to finally win back what we've desired for the past two years."

A Soldier's Fundamentals

For CPL Daniel Chia from HQ 9th Singapore Division/HQ Infantry, training for AARM definitely enhanced his soldiering skills. As one of the two less experienced NSFs on the team, he initially found the competition physically and mentally challenging. Reflecting on how the competition has benefited him he shared, "Shooting is a core skill of a soldier. It is no point only being able to out manoeuvre the enemy without being able to shoot with precision. Through the competition, I've certainly learnt to fire accurately while moving as a section, and to maintain my composure even when I'm under pressure. This has improved my fundamentals as a soldier and I'm truly glad about it."



1SG Wales (right) and his partner CPL Trotsky Jr. focussing intently on the target

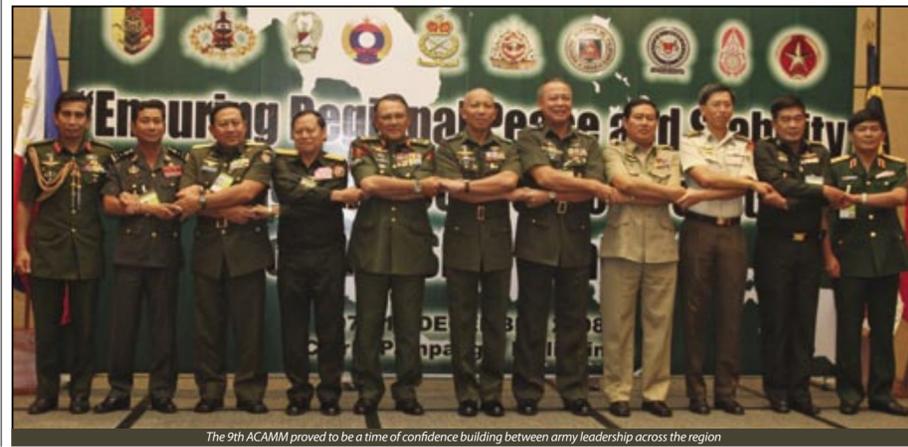
Building Relations Through Competition

Besides working hard to out play the competition, the shooters also had time to build friendship and strengthen ties with their opponents. General Purpose Machine Gunner 1SG Sean Wales from HQ Guards shared, "I've known the shooters from the other armies for the past seven years and everyone's been very friendly. At each competition, we talk about how our countries train and how we select our shooters." Such open sharing was also appreciated by SGT Roweno Baquiroza from the Philippine Army. He said, "The Singapore team performed well this year and most of the team members are my friends. The friendship we share is good and we always have an enjoyable time together." These competitors can certainly look forward to furthering these ties as the Singapore Army prepares to host the 19th AARM in 2009.

Sharing a Common Vision at ACAMM

The close multilateral relations shared by the shooters were also present at the 9th ASEAN Chief of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM). ACAMM, which was held concurrently with the AARM brought together ASEAN armies' senior leadership to discuss issues on terrorism, transnational crime, maritime security and plans for defence cooperation. Speaking on the importance of such a meeting in the light of today's security environment, Chief of Army MG Neo Kian Hong said, "The meeting has been extremely important because given the complexity of the situation in our operating environment, one country cannot do everything on its own. It is thus always good to pull our resources together and foster solidarity and also mutual understanding."

Commanding General Philippine Army, LG Victor S Ibrado shared a similar view. During his opening address he said, "This meeting allows us to better understand one another, and to reflect on how our neighbours work and address their internal issues. In the process, we will learn from one another, build confidence and establish cordial relationships between our Armies."



The 9th ACAMM proved to be a time of confidence building between army leadership across the region

BG Chan Hands Over Command to COL Lim

Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei



BG Chan (left) is confident that 9th DIV/INF will scale greater heights under COL Lim (right)

In a Change-of-Command Parade at Selarang Camp on 23 January, COL Lim Hock Yu assumed the appointment of Commander 9th Singapore Division and Chief Infantry Officer (9 DIV/CIO) from BG Chan Chun Sing. BG Chan has since assumed the appointment of Chief of Staff - Joint Staff.

In his farewell speech, BG Chan expressed his gratitude for the support given to him while he was Commander 9 DIV/CIO. He exhorted the Division to maintain its cohesive team spirit so as to "overcome individual weaknesses and make collective decisions." This, to him, is important as 9 DIV/INF "touches the lives of many men and women in the SAF." BG Chan is confident that with COL Lim's strong commitment and heart to serve, 9 DIV/INF will scale even greater heights.

BG Chan and COL Lim share their thoughts with Army News.

COL Lim Hock Yu

What are your thoughts on assuming the post of Commander 9 DIV/CIO?

I am both very excited and honoured to be given this huge undertaking. 9 DIV/ INF is a large formation and I intend to achieve two goals. The first is to continue the operational readiness of the Combined Arms Division. It is important to ensure that the Division's operational readiness is at its sharpest. My other goal is in managing the Infantry Formation. I feel that this is definitely an exciting time for Infantry, particularly because the 3rd Generation Army is transforming very quickly. My predecessors have done good work in putting in place strong foundations. What I have to do now is to build on these strong foundations and continue to keep up the momentum of the transformation, so as to ensure that the Infantry becomes a key component in our 3rd Generation Army.

The ability to operate and fight in an urban environment is an increasingly important one. How can we continue to leverage on Urban Training and facilities like the MUTF to ensure that our soldiers are well trained and ready for these future challenges?

The Murai Urban Training Facility (MUTF) and Urban Training are part of our efforts to constantly find ways to train our soldiers effectively. The MUTF is a good training facility to train our soldiers in Urban Operations (UO). We have already conceptualised the way we operate in an urban environment.

Now is the time we translate all these conceptual thinking into training, so that our people can understand these operational concepts. In fact, the realism brought by the training in the MUTF gives our people the ability to find out how everything fits into the larger system, and also the Infantry's individual part in the Army's 3rd Generation transformation. We have to leverage on technology as it will give us the capability to sharpen our cutting edge. However, our soldiers behind the technology are important as well. Thus, we need to train our people well to ensure that we can maintain this edge.

We understand that you have just completed a one-year course at the UK Royal College of Defence Studies. How has this enhanced your professional development and what advice would you give to those who are given such an opportunity?

I have gained much from this overseas exposure, and am truly glad for this opportunity. This course allowed me to further my horizons, not just in a regional level, but in an international level as well. I was exposed to how the inter-military relationships are closely intertwined with the political relationships between countries. My encouragement to other commanders is to seize every learning opportunity - there are many things we can learn from other people. This way, we can transform our thinking and skills, ensuring that we remain relevant in this highly globalised and rapidly changing world.

On a lighter note, how do you spend your time outside work?

Due to the heavy work commitment, I try my best to spend as much time as I can with my family. In my free time, I also immerse in activities I enjoy, such as exercising and reading. It is important to maintain this balance between work and play.

BG Chan Chun Sing

Could you share with us some of the takeaways from your time as Commander 9 DIV/CIO?

I have three main takeaways from my time in 9 DIV. The first is that of teamwork. I believe that we all are ordinary people trying to achieve extraordinary feats together. Thus, if we organise ourselves and train together well, we can achieve these feats. Whether it was in capability development, training readiness or operational readiness, with our teamwork, we could meet what we set out to achieve. In 9 DIV/INF, we always took pride in our collective successes. This made working there extremely enjoyable.

The second is the spirit of not being too concerned with the results. There is a saying, "We don't set out to be the champion, but so long as we do the right thing, being a champion is inevitable." This was how the team from 9 DIV/INF team went about with each task. We wanted the best for our soldiers, be it in equipping, training systems or commanders. We believed that by putting in the necessary steps, we would definitely achieve our goal.

The third takeaway I have is in getting out as much as we put in. It is in the process of putting in your best and contributing that we can really find the sense of commitment. If you like what you do, you will be good at it.



COL Lim and BG Chan witnessing the march-past

Are there any memorable moments that you can share with us?

I have fond memories of this capability development journey. This includes the new combat uniform, the Advanced Combat Man System (ACMS) and the Body Armour, which ensured that every soldier is well-equipped. Looking at the new combat uniform, we can actually see that it is indeed a result of contribution by many. Besides the design, there were many hands at work to ensure that the choice of material and the functional features would be beneficial. In fact, the functional features and the choice of material actually came from the input of the WOSPEC Corps, who leveraged on their experience on the ground to come up with this useful and effective product. This is surely a testament to the strong teamwork in the Division, in which every individual knew his role and put in his best effort.

The MUTF is another memorable highpoint in our capability development journey. Every building, even the rooms in each building, is unique. This is a product of a collective effort. To have completed the entire project in six months is a strong testimony to the collective effort of everyone in the 9 DIV team.

As the three Services become more integrated, how can the Army contribute to the vision of One SAF? What are the challenges ahead?

The Army's role is no different from the role of any of the other Services. In order to achieve this vision, we would need to have both understanding and trust. We all develop and grow up in our vocation in each Service. In fact, very few of us have the opportunity to understand how other the Services work. In order to integrate into One SAF, we have to understand the culture of each Service - down to the way each Service works, the rationale for doing what they do and also how each works. There is always something we can learn from other Services, where we can learn, internalise and apply.

Integrating into One SAF would also be much easier when trust is firmly forged. Trust can only come after understanding. In the various joint courses across the SAF, soldiers across the Services interact with each other, thereby forging strong friendships and greater understanding. After understanding each other, we build up a stronger rapport and relationship. This way, the three Services can work closely with each other whenever we come together. Once this happens, integration among the Services will be much tighter. I believe that this trust has never changed ever since the beginning of the SAF. These are fundamentals that we should definitely build on.

Our Army: Vigilance Always

Story by Chia Han Sheng & Ian Cheong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei & Michael Thng

To many of us, New Year's Eve is a good opportunity to take a well-deserved break from the hustle and bustle of a busy year and savour the revelry and merriment of the festive season. To ensure that this merrymaking and festivities are possible, many may not be aware of a force that remains unwavering and alert. This New Year's Eve, our men from the 1st Commando Battalion (1 Cdo) and the 6th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (6 SIR) were part of the force that kept their vigilant eye over our island nation as we rested. Army News showcases our watchful warriors.



COA (centre) commending the soldiers for their dedication and vigilance

Commandos: Ready for Any Threat

"You hold the extremely important duty of protecting the nation even as the nation rests. As such, the readiness and responsiveness of our troops are paramount in ensuring that our nation stays safe from any threats." This was the exhortation from Chief of Army (COA), MG Neo Kian Hong to our commandos, when he visited the standby force over New Year's Eve.

Our commandos had the unique opportunity of ushering in the New Year with their Army friends. For many, missing the on-going festivities was no excuse for slackening. In fact, when told of their deployment over the New Year period, they were raring to go. CPL Dominic Nakamura, who forewent his plan to attend the Siloso Beach Countdown with his friends, explained, "Though I would be missing this special time with my friends and family, spending the New Year with my Army buddies in camp, collectively protecting the nation, is a once in a lifetime experience that I cherish very much." 2SG Mark Bernaldez Tan effused, "There is always another New Year, but there are few where we are given the chance of truly making it a happy New Year for everyone."



CPT Chen is glad that his men were purposeful in their mission

Though it was the company's first ever deployment, our Commandos were purposeful in their duties right from the onset. CPT Chen Zheng Xin, a Detachment Commander, commented, "Even though this is our first deployment, we know that the reason for our deployment is to provide assistance for any operation and to ward off any potential threat." CPL Jensen Yap was illuminated with new insights after the sharing by COA. He succinctly summed up the positive mindset of our Commandos, "Despite missing the festive joy, it is our duty to maintain the stability in Singapore, especially in the current uncertain global security climate."

POI: An Unwavering Presence

Rain or shine, public holiday or not, Singapore's key installations are protected round the clock by our Army. At the turn of the new year, 6 SIR watched over the island's key economic

facilities, protecting them against any external threats. In recognition of their contributions to island defence, Chief of Defence Force (CDF), LG Desmond Kuek visited the unit on New Year's Eve. Commending them for their vigilance, CDF highlighted 6 SIR's role in the Protection of Installations (POI), and said, "When people see uniformed soldiers guarding the island, it gives a strong sense of confidence not just to our people but also to the foreigners and investors who are here in Jurong Island. They know that the SAF is interested in the Island's security."

LCP Alan Yeh who was on guard duty during this festive period agreed with CDF and was truly appreciative of his visit. LCP Yeh said, "It's a rare opportunity to meet CDF and doing so really boosts our morale. Like what CDF said, I do my duty with honour as I know that people on mainland can enjoy themselves because of our contributions."



CDF interacting with the men from 6 SIR

Honing our POI Capabilities

Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei

He crouches behind a wall, his SAR-21 Assault Rifle at the ready. Given the poor visibility at night, he whips out his Night Vision Goggles (NVGs). The flickering headlight of the approaching vehicle ahead arouses his suspicion. With his Protection of Installation (POI) hat fitting snugly and proudly on his forehead, he beckons the vehicle to stop for the necessary checks. Suddenly, a man wielding a chopper springs out of the vehicle, swiping madly with his weapon. He acts quickly, and within moments, the man is taken down.

This described scenario hints at the involvement of our soldiers in skirmishes akin to those in the highly popular computer game, Counter-Strike. Certainly, our soldiers have been involved in many such exciting encounters to hone their POI capabilities. But these trainings occur in the virtual realms of the simulation



Operation Flashpoint enhances our operational readiness and core competencies

programme called Operation Flashpoint. Adapted from a tactical computer-based war game, our soldiers from 6th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (6 SIR) customised this software to recreate POI scenarios in virtual Key Installations (KINS). To achieve greater realism, the virtual KINS re-created in the programme are based on the actual installations that 6 SIR protects. In addition, equipment that our 6 SIR troops use during POI duties, such as SAR-21 Assault Rifles, baton torches, NVGs and binoculars are reproduced in the simulation as well.

Operation Flashpoint has enabled our soldiers to harness on their POI core proficiencies, which include Personnel Access Control (PAC) Drills, Vehicular Access Control (VAC) Drills and even media-relation skills. The realistic recreation of various combat scenarios add an extra dimension to their training, enabling the participants to feel as if they are truly involved in the scenario themselves. This realistic simulation has allowed our soldiers to better understand what has been taught during their lessons, in which visualisation is usually limited.

For 6 SIR, the transition from a conventional infantry to a fully-operational POI battalion was the key driver for introducing the simulation programme. LTA Satish Seshan, then Dy S3 of the battalion, explained, "As we moved from a full-fledged infantry battalion to a POI-based one, the challenge was to quickly heighten the core competencies of our soldiers in POI. This initiative has shortened our learning curve, as through the tangible visualisation of each scenario, our soldiers would be able to internalise their proficiencies more quickly."

In providing a full range of all possible scenarios that could occur in a deployment exercise, the programme allows our sol-



The realistic simulation in Operation Flashpoint allows our soldiers to better internalise their POI skills

diers to maximise their training exposure, effectively and safely. LTA Satish further expounded, "Many scenarios such as bomb explosions or vehicles charging through the VAC cannot be safely replicated during on-the-ground training. With Operation Flashpoint, our soldiers are able to get a real feel of a deployment exercise, albeit in a more comfortable and less stressful environment."

Modifying this programme to our Army's context was certainly no mean feat. Painstaking effort was taken to represent our soldiers realistically. However, such efforts have paid off greatly. LTA Satish commented, "This war game allows our soldiers to practise their various POI proficiencies. Given that our soldiers today are very much part of a gaming generation, the efforts we took are definitely worth it, especially since it goes a long way in enhancing our core competencies."

Equipping a 3rd Generation SAF

Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei, Michael Thng & Chia Han Sheng



"Equipping the SAF with the new SAF combat uniform provides us with a good platform to sharpen our supply chain capabilities. This real-time equipping is crucial in any situation, be it peace-time or in an operational setting. With the sharpening of this crucial operational skill, we are confident that the practices we execute now will serve us well in any operation."

COL Tan Peng Kuan,
Chief Supply Officer (CSPO)

The task of equipping an entire Armed Forces is certainly no mean feat. Right from the onset, much care and effort is required to ensure that each soldier is equipped according to his operational requirement. The new SAF combat uniform is no exception. Ever since it was unveiled in September 2008, the Supply Headquarters (HQ Supply) has been working tirelessly to meet these needs. For a young formation which was inaugurated in October 2006 (previously part of HQ Supply and Transport), equipping the SAF with the new uniform was a perfect opportunity to hone its core competencies.

In "Fast-Track" Mode

Within three months of the public launch of the new SAF combat uniform in September 2008, recruits undergoing the Physical Training Programme (PTP) phase of Basic Military Training (BMT) who enlisted in December 08 were issued with the much-anticipated uniform. CPT Elizabeth Soh, from HQ Supply, explained, "We adopt this speed-to-market approach, whereby we equip our soldiers with the uniforms as soon as the stock delivered passes the relevant quality checks." Indeed, this approach to equipping was very much reflected in the pace in which our first batch of soldiers received their uniforms.

The rationale behind this was quite simple. COL Tan shared, "Knowing the benefits of the new uniform, we made it our mission to equip our soldiers fast so that they can train better." Given this "fast-track" mode, good teamwork amongst the stakeholders, which included HQ 9th Singapore Division/ Infantry (HQ 9 DIV/INF), Defence Science Technology Agency (DSTA) and Army Logistics Base (ALB), was key in fulfilling the objective. COL Tan commented, "Each stakeholder was aware that their role was critical to achieve our goal. Given this intricate process of synchronising these multilateral efforts, it was only with great teamwork that we managed to commence equipping within such a short time."

An Intricate Process

This intricate process that COL Tan referred to is the supply-chain, that begins with the production and culminates with its distribution to every consumer. Army News sheds light on this process.

Production of Fabric

Fabric is woven and printed and treated with permethrin (a mosquito repellent). Treated fabric is then sent to another location for sewing. A forward quality assurance team comprising representatives from HQ Supply, HQ 9 DIV/INF and DSTA is sent to assess the production process and quality standards such as colour fastness.

Sewing

The treated fabric is sewn together, and the uniforms take shape. A team is sent to assess the sewing process and workmanship quality standards.

Delivery

Uniform is delivered to ALB where final quality checks are carried out. Once the stock passes these checks, it is ready for customisation.

Customisation

Based on the individual soldier's sizing submission, the personalised name tags and badges such as Arms badges and skill badges are sewn onto the uniform

Packaging

ALB packages the uniform for individual soldiers and arranges them into consignments, based on unit allocation.

Distribution

Supply Hubs (East and West) coordinate with the units for equipping. ALB will deliver and distribute the packed uniform to the individual soldier within stipulated equipping schedule.

Mass Customisation

A unique feature in this process is the mass customisation. Our soldiers today can now look forward to receiving their new uniforms, customised to their individual requirements. This means that his name tag and the various badges he wears will come pre-sewn when he receives it. CPT Soh shed light on this step. She said, "We aim to provide a one-stop service for our soldiers so that they can don the uniform the minute they receive it." Sewing the right name tag and badges onto the uniform is paramount because any error will result in wastage and additional costs as the name tags and badges will have to be replaced.

This customisation was made possible by the implementation of "e-Sizing" on the Internet. COL Tan highlighted, "e-Sizing enables us to do forward planning of the uniform sizes and the quantity demanded. It is also easier and more convenient for our soldiers, both active and NSmen, to submit their uniform sizing requirements."

Donning It First



Parents getting a feel of the new uniform

Our December and January intake of recruits had the unique distinction of being the first batch of recipients of the new uniform. For many of them, being the first batch receiving this uniform was truly a great honour. REC James Cheong said, "Being one of the first few to receive the new uniform, I look forward to this new phase in my life - where it is just like this uniform, something new. This uniform helps to instil in me a greater sense of pride to serve in an Army that utilises newer technology to meet the changing times."



Recruits catching a first glimpse of the new uniform

REC Kevin Ho looks forward to going for Field Camp in his new uniform. After trying on the new uniform, he quipped, "I can tell that this new uniform absorbs perspiration much more quickly than most fabric. With this knowledge, I will definitely feel more comfortable when I am training, especially during Field Camp."



Trying on the uniform for the first time

Precision in Equipping

For COL Tan, this massive equipping exercise which encompasses the entire organisation truly marks a watershed for the Supply Formation. He commented, "It is through this challenging task of equipping our soldiers with their personalised uniform correctly where we can hone our operational equipping competencies."

How Do I Return My Old Uniform?

During the unit's equipping, return bins will be set up for servicemen to return their old uniform. Servicemen may also return their old uniform and other old Personal Equipment items at any e-Mart outlet.

Deter, Detect, Deny, Deal

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Photography contributed by 2 PDF / Cover Photography by Mandate Advertising International

Gazing steely at the street below, our soldiers man their watch towers. Scanning the bustling traffic for suspicious activity, their dark shades mask the intense concentration in their eyes. These men are standing guard over one of Singapore's Key Installations (KINs).

Suddenly, amidst the monotony of the morning traffic, a loud crash is heard as a van hurtles through a gantry barrier. As the vehicle accelerates towards the KINs, Retractable Roadblades

deployed on the road are quickly activated, shredding the vehicle's tyres. Just as the van skids to a stop, a Military Security Vehicle arrives on site. Shooters from the tower and response teams train their weapons on the immobilized vehicle, ready to pull the trigger should the need arise. As the aggressors emerge from the vehicle, they are quickly pounced upon by specially trained dogs from the 2nd People's Defence Force (2 PDF) K9 unit. As these large hounds stand victorious over their captives, ground forces move in to arrest the intruders.

This potential operations scenario is what every soldier on Protection of Installation (POI) operations is trained to execute, should there be a security threat to KINs like Jurong Island and Changi Airport. These KINs are protected round the clock by POI Forces from the Guards and Infantry formations which follow a systematic 4D framework to Deter, Detect, Deny and Deal with any potential aggressors to these KINs. 6th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (6 SIR) however undertakes the bulk of these operations and is the SAF's only 24/7 deployed force. Army News got in touch with 6 SIR to find out more about the comprehensive 4D framework.

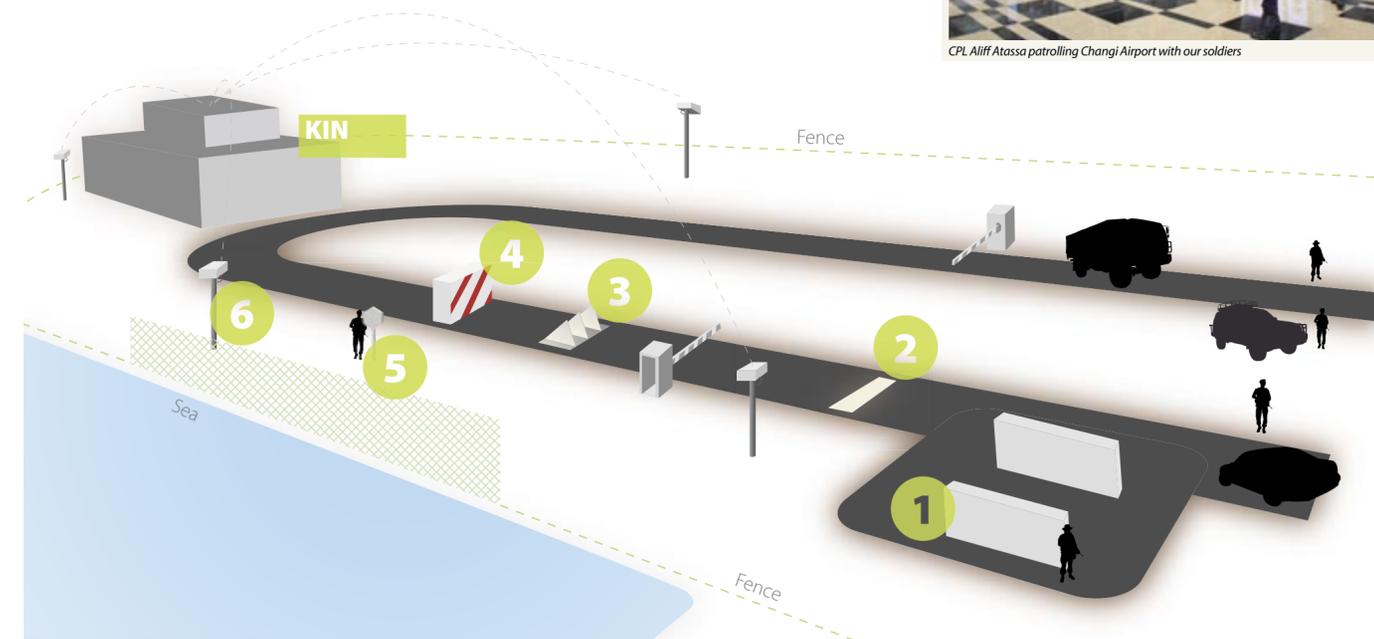
Working Alongside the SPF

In the protection of KINs, our Army works alongside members of the Singapore Police Force (SPF) on a daily basis. A tight information loop connects both our Army and the SPF to provide a quick and decisive response to a potential threat. POI exercises between the Army and SPF also ensure that work processes are refined and that both forces maintain a robust response and communication system.

CPL Aliff Atassa from the Airport Police Division conducts frequent patrols of Changi Airport's terminals with our Army's POI forces. Reflecting on his duties, he shared, "During our operations, we must be alert and vigilant at all times. We believe that working together with the Army during our patrols is very important as our presence helps instil confidence within the public. We therefore maintain constant and active communication, ensuring that we can respond to any situation quickly."



CPL Aliff Atassa patrolling Changi Airport with our soldiers



- 1 Search Bay & Blast Mitigation Walls**
Should there be a need to search a vehicle extensively, the vehicle will be directed to a nearby search bay. This search bay is barricaded by sand bags and concrete to reduce collateral damage should an explosive device detonate.
- 2 Portable Under-Vehicle Surveillance System (PUVSS)**
The PUVSS consists of a high resolution camera which captures images of the underside of a vehicle as it passes over. The system is highly intelligent and can warn operators if there are any suspicious objects or discrepancies on the underside of the vehicle.
- 3 Retractable Roadblade System**
The roadblade system is highly portable and can be rapidly deployed by a 2-man team. At the press of a button, razor sharp blades can be activated to shred the tyres of oncoming hostile vehicles.
- 4 Mobile Crash Barrier (MCB)**
The MCB can be activated in the path of an oncoming hostile vehicle. The MCB is designed to absorb the impact of an accelerating vehicle, stopping it before it reaches the KIN. This ensures that the threat is contained before it arrives at the KIN.
- 5 Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)**
The LRAD can emit long range acoustic warnings to approaching suspicious vehicles. This means that POI forces do not need to approach suspects up close to warn them which can be both impractical and risky.
- 6 Intelligent Portable Surveillance System (IPSS)**
The IPSS consists of a network of cameras which automatically rotate to their pre-programmed locations within a surveillance perimeter. These cameras detect motion and can send computerised alarms wirelessly to the control centre should a perimeter be infiltrated. This system enables a large area to be observed at all times with little strain on manpower.



"2 PDF is a full spectrum force capable of defending Singapore in peace time and in war. Functioning as the Island Defence Headquarters, 2 PDF protects Key Installations and conducts security operations to make Singapore safe from terrorists and external threats. As a result of the good work of our people, Singaporeans can sleep soundly at night and foreign investors can have confidence to do business here."

BG Teo Jing Siong
Commander 2 PDF

Deter



Our POI soldiers' tough and stern demeanor aims to strike fear in potential aggressors

As seen in the diagram in the previous page, deterrence forms the outermost ring in POI operations and is essential in warning potential aggressors that a KIN is no easy target. The visual presence of patrolling soldiers coupled with systems ranging from cameras to mobile crash barriers plays a part in this deterrence process. Ultimately, a POI unit's image as a tough and vigilant force is aimed at striking fear in any potential aggressor.

Detect



A soldier on POI operations searching a car's under carriage with the Mongoose Search Camera

Detecting hostile intentions early plays a key role in preventing aggressors from achieving their objectives. There are two aspects of detection that POI operations are concerned about, namely the early detection of potential perpetrators, and the detection of payloads that are being brought into the KIN. POI forces therefore leverage on hi-tech equipment to help in the

detection of potential threats. The Mongoose Search Camera is one example of how POI equipment has evolved over the years. The Mongoose Search Camera is a hand-held camera with an attached light that can be used to search the undercarriage and crevices of vehicles. Compared to the previously used Under Carriage Mirror, the Mongoose Search Camera enables operators to search vehicles with greater thoroughness and ease.

Deny

Should an aggressor attempt to infiltrate a KIN, POI forces have a range of responses to deny him entry. An array of equipment such as road breaks and crash barriers are strategically placed at entrances and exits of KINs. Retractable Road Blades can be activated to shred the tyres of an intruding vehicle. Once the vehicle loses traction, the quickly activated Mobile Crash Barrier serves as a barricade to the oncoming vehicle.

Deal

Once the aggressor's vehicle is immobilized, ground forces will move in to deal with the aggressor and any hazardous payloads. Our POI forces have a spectrum of responses ranging from subduing aggressors through less lethal force to neutralising the aggressor should the need arise.



POI forces practising their drills on a mock intruder

2 PDF's highly-trained K9 dogs can be first sent in to subdue the aggressor before ground soldiers move in. Other than the use of K9 dogs, the X-26 Taser can be used to render the aggressor immobile. The Taser fires darts at targets 7 meters away which send an electrical current through the aggressor, paralysing him momentarily. With the aggressor subdued, it is easier for ground forces to move in and make an arrest.

If a chemical or explosive payload is detected on the vehicle, POI soldiers are trained to don individual protective equipment and are capable of detecting and isolating the payload. Engineers from the Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Explosive (CBRE) forces can also be called on site to professionally mitigate any potentially hazardous materials.

Keeping Operations Sustainable

Sustaining POI Operations across the year is no simple task. With 6 SIR on operations during 9 out of 11 public holidays a year, there is a need to ensure that the battalion is able to overcome vigilance fatigue and strain. This sustainability is made possible by the unique "Evergreen System" which 6 SIR operates on. Unlike other infantry units, 6 SIR consists of eight companies with four companies constantly on operations. While these four are on operations, the others undergo various stages of training which prepare them to be operationally ready. This ensures that there is always a new batch of soldiers ready to take over POI duties when one batch of NSFs completes their full-time service.

People Remain Core

Even with a comprehensive 4D framework and an Evergreen System to sustain the battalion, a strong sense of purpose and commitment to defence still remain core to POI operations. Commanding Officer 6 SIR, MAJ Tan Hock Leong shared, "As commanders, we want to ensure that NS is a personal and beneficial experience for our servicemen by imbuing in them a strong sense of purpose and values. We believe that this focus on our people is the way to achieve success in our operations."

This focus on people was reiterated by Chief of Staff 2 PDF, COL Ng Soon Watt. He said, "The heartware of our soldiers on POI operations is very important. When on duty, they need to have a strong sense of purpose in what they do. This purpose motivates our soldiers and affirms that what they do is a very honourable duty."

Coupling this strong sense of purpose is the need to build unit identity. Chinese New Year this year is an opportune time to do so as it marks the start of a month-long break from operations for 6 SIR. MAJ Tan elaborated, "For 6 SIR, time together as a unit is to be treasured. It must be capitalised upon through battalion runs, training and games. Most other units are able to do such things at any time, but for us, we must use these few weeks to build a cohesive spirit to strengthen our unit identity."

For the soldiers of 6 SIR, these few weeks are also of great value. Echo Company Section Commander, 3SG Ruzaini Bin Hashwam elaborated, "As our entire unit gathers back at Maju Camp, we see different companies in different phases. As an NSF who is about to ORD, it gives me flashbacks about my own journey with 6 SIR. As a more senior soldier, I hope that I will be able to share my lessons learnt from operations with the more junior soldiers."

NSmen Play Their Part

Also helping to sustain POI operations are several NSmen Units. Like the men of 6 SIR, these NSmen have a unique role in that they are not on standby but are on real time operations. MAJ Tan said, "NSmen have a strong commitment to POI operations as well. During their duty, they too remain vigilant and contribute to the security of KINs. They do this as part of their In-Camp-Training and I believe it's commendable that their vigilance remains high."

Whether the KINs are being guarded by NSmen Battalions, 6 SIR, or other units on POI Operations, the need to remain vigilant remains constant. 3SG Ruzaini accurately pointed out, "During our 12 hour shifts, we may do the job well for 11 hours and 59 minutes. But if we slacken in the last minute and an intrusion occurs then, all our hard work is lost. We must therefore always be vigilant and ensure that we never let our guard down."



MAJ Tan is looking forward to having his entire unit together for a time of bonding this Chinese New Year



COL Ng stressing the importance of heartware in POI operations



3SG Ruzaini hopes to share his experiences in operations with more junior soldiers

An Eye Opener on Survival Skills

Story and Photography by Chia Han Sheng

The tropical jungle can be an unforgiving place. Constant rain, thick foliage and unpredictable terrain can easily disorientate the inexperienced. This unfamiliar land does not however, faze soldiers from Combat Intelligence School (CIS) who routinely conduct Combat Survival Skills Training for our Army. On 5 December, a group of National Cadet Corps (NCC) Cadets visited CIS to learn jungle survival skills from the best. This NCC visit was part of "Camp Pinnacle" - a 5-day course which exposed NCC Cadets to life in the SAF.

As part of the visit, CIS set-up an outdoor "Jungle Survival Village" which comprised several educational stations. These stations gave NCC Cadets insight into jungle survival, teaching them essential skills such as water purification, shelter building and how to trap jungle animals for food. Pratyush Paul, a Secondary Three cadet from Swiss Cottage Secondary School certainly found the experience beneficial. He shared, "I'm really impressed by what I've seen. Being taught how to build bashas, tents and learning what can be eaten in the jungle was definitely very educational!"



2WO Thevadasan delighting NCC cadets with his knowledge of edible jungle plants

The highlight of the event was a presentation on the types of edible plants and animals in the jungle. 2WO Thevadasan, an instructor at CIS wowed the NCC cadets with his vast knowledge of edible plants as he readily handed out samples of ginger flowers and fresh coconut juice. He also revealed that many common plants which people often take for granted can actually contribute to a tasty meal that could save one's life. Reflecting on the morning's events he said, "Understanding jungle plant and animal foods is just one element of jungle survival. It however feels good to show them the realities of jungle survival and I hope that they will bring back what they have learnt to their friends in school."

The NCC Cadets left the Jungle Survival Village, benefitting greatly from the morning's activities. Jacob Lee from Queen-sway Secondary School certainly felt that the visit enriched his understanding of NS and jungle survival. He shared, "This visit has given me a taste of what NS is like. I see NCC as preparation for NS and I'm looking forward to enlisting." Ultimately, the visit was a first touch point in building commitment to defence amongst students. CPT (NCC) Elizabeth Lee from NCC HQ shared, "Besides today's outdoor experience, we also brought the cadets to the Infantry Gunnery Training Simulator and other units such as the Combat Engineers to learn about their jobs. The Cadets have been extremely excited and I believe that it's great to show them the progression and development of our Army."

Maju FCC

Enhanced Training Facilities for NSmen

Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei



Maju FCC will bring more efficient training for our NSmen

The opening of the Maju Fitness Conditioning Centre (FCC) on 12 November last year heralded a new era for more effective and efficient training for our NSmen. Officially unveiled by BG Chan Chun Sing, then-Commander, 9th Singapore Division and Chief Infantry Officer (Comd 9 DIV/INF), the new facility boasts the only indoor running track among all the FCCs, and is also equipped with the latest state-of-the-art equipment that will allow our NSmen to train in a more conducive manner. 1WO Lem Yew Teck, Officer Commanding of Maju FCC, said, "Maju FCC has been conducting Remedial Training (RT) for NSmen since the early 90s using the existing facilities there. However, today is the first time we have an official building we can call our own."

Indeed, it can be seen that the new facility, which was two years in the making, does bring many benefits for our NSmen. After a quick tour around the facility, the meticulous planning put in was evident. One such feature that reflects this is the new indoor running track, a facility that will certainly bring about more effective training. The running track, utilises the nearby Multi-Vehicular Storage (MVS) to give our NSmen a fully-sheltered environment when they are running. In the past, the

outdoor running track often subjected our NSmen to various interruptions, such as the flag-lowering ceremony, rain, or even marching troops. With an indoor running track, our NSmen can now fully concentrate on their run.

Besides the indoor running track, all the fitness equipment in the centre is now fully automated, meaning that the results of our NSmen are captured directly into the system. 3SG (NS) Clive Quek, formerly a Physical Training Instructor (PTI) in Maju FCC, could only find words of praise for this new development. He commented, "In the past, PTIs had to not only conduct training, but also had to concurrently collate and input the results into the results slip. These fully-automated stations will allow our PTIs to carry out their training more effectively. They allow us to focus on carrying out the training as expediently as possible instead of trying to juggle both the administrative and the physical tasks."

Given these new features, much care was taken to ensure the well-being of our NSmen is maintained throughout. 1WO Lem highlighted, "The in-processing counter has also been expanded for greater efficiency for all users. This is a big change compared to the old counter, which was just a small training shed. Furthermore, each of our Individual Physical Proficiency Test (IPPT) stations is now fully automated. Our NSmen will also enjoy bigger washrooms, which makes a tremendous difference given the large number of personnel using our FCC."

With the various benefits that Maju FCC brings, it is no surprise that it has already garnered many ringing endorsements from its users. 1WO Lem effused, "Many of the RT personnel who have seen the new facility told me that they are much happier with the changes made, and with this facility, they are all the more motivated to pass their IPPT. In fact, they even told me that they will now recommend Maju FCC to their friends who are in need of the training, as they are truly impressed with the positive changes effected."



With all the fitness equipment fully automated, PTIs can carry out their training more effectively

G1 Army's Festive Cheer

Time to Celebrate and Reflect

Story and Photography by Chia Han Sheng

Officers, WOSpecs, DXOs and NSFs came together for a time of merry laughter and good cheer at G1 Army's 2008 Year End Function. Held at Singapore's very own Gardening Hub-HortPark, members of the G1 Family participated in a host of fun-filled activities that brought out the lighter side in many of them. LCP Wee Yeong Wei who organised the games shared, "It was definitely enjoyable spending time with my officemates in a different setting. I'm glad that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable time." For Head R&A Branch, LTC Gerard Koh, the event was a fitting end to a productive year. He reflected, "The event gives us a good happy closure for the year's hard work. It's for everyone to know that it is not all work and no play."



Members of G1 were all smiles at their Year End Function held at HortPark

621 SIR Completing NS with Pride

Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei

"I never expected this chapter in my life to pass by so quickly, and now that I'm about to finish my training cycle, I cannot help but reflect on the days gone by," said 3SG (NS) Khairil of 621st Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (621 SIR). In a parade marking their transition into MINDEF Reserve (MR) on 11 December 2008, the men from 621 SIR looked back with fond memories the camaraderie and sense of brotherhood fostered through their years of training together. LTC (NS) Ong Teck Soon, Commanding Officer 621 SIR, elucidated, "This battalion had a very strong background even in their NSF days, as evident in their past ATEC results. Going through all the missions, In-Camp Trainings (ICTs) and exercises together only made the bonds of friendship even stronger."

For many in the battalion, their time in the Army was a tremendous learning experience which equipped them with many life skills. LCP (NS) Francis Aundrey Bosco, a Section 2nd-In-Charge (ZIC) explained, "When we were NSFs, we often questioned the necessity of area cleaning or waking up so early in the morning. However, upon reflection, I realise that it is through these routines that we gained life skills such as discipline and responsibility."

His sentiments were echoed by CPT (NS) Seow Yong Ann, Officer Commanding of 'C' Company, who felt that his stint in



621 SIR continues to train with gusto as they complete their NS cycle

Officer Cadet School (OCS) put him in good stead for the working world. He shared, "In OCS, we were trained to approach things in a systematic fashion and also to practise effective time management. All these skills are useful in any situation, and I am glad to have learnt them when I was an NSF."

Even though each had gone his own way after full-time national service, the many ICTs provided the perfect opportunity for them to reconnect with each other. LCP (NS) Bosco

quipped, "My friends are always very happy to come back for ICT as it is a good chance for us to meet up with each other again. It is as if we had never changed from the days when we were still 19 or 20, digging shell scrapes, running up hills or practising our individual marksmanship skills." The cohesion in LCP (NS) Bosco's battalion is so strong that they often meet up outside of their ICTs to simply catch up on their lives. LCP (NS) Bosco's friends often organise paintball outings "just to re-live the moments and execute the same drills".

For the soldiers who received their medals and mementos at their MR Parade, the feeling was bittersweet. While they had closed one chapter in their lives, it was for all, an eventful, unforgettable and most definitely, a meaningful one. 3SG (NS) Khairil waxed lyrical about his NS experience. He said, "Having watched each other grow up, I cannot help but feel a sense of loss that all of sudden, the many friends I have made over the years will no longer meet up that regularly."

As 621 SIR transitioned into MINDEF Reserve (MR), its cohesion and fighting spirit live on, as explained by LTC (NS) Ong, "Now the challenge is to continue to network with each other out of the Army, but I am sure that with the strong bonds forged in our battalion, we will still meet up regularly and reminisce about our days in the Army."

6 SIR Joins in the Spirit of Giving

Story by Choo Chee Chong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei



6 SIR soldiers serving fruits to the residents

Taking a break from this season's festivities, the men of 6th Battalion Singapore Infantry Regiment (6 SIR) visited the Moral Home for the Aged Sick on 29 December. As part of their community involvement efforts, the soldiers cared for the elderly residents by ensuring that everyday objects like bed railings, toilets, furnitures, fans and windows were spic and span. Besides helping to clean the premises, the battalion also brought gifts of fruits and put up performances to entertain the residents.

Many of the soldiers found working at the home very meaningful, as shared by LCP Jose Jeffrey Rubia, "As many of the elderly are handicapped, they are unable to do tasks like cleaning their living facilities. I therefore wanted to contribute and help them clean the place as I know that a neat environment is essential to their health. Although this is just a small gesture, contributing today has given me a strong sense of satisfaction."

For 3SG Chay Sheng Leong, the visit's timing was perfect as it coincided with the season of giving. Being in green, he felt a great sense of social responsibility as he conducted the cleaning. He shared, "While we are busy with our training, it is also good to take some time off to contribute our services and give back to society." He added "We also enjoyed ourselves while doing community work together. We should encourage more community service whenever we have the time."

MAJ Tan Hock Leong, Commanding Officer 6 SIR, explained that this departure from the usual festive celebration in camp had given his men an excellent opportunity to contribute back to society meaningfully. He said, "While we are busy with work and training, we have to know what we are fighting for. Though community service, if the soldiers know that this is the society we want to defend, then National Service would be more meaningful for them."

Good Service Makes the Difference!

Story and Photography by Michael Ting



CPL Deepan's training has prepared him well to handle various difficult situations

CPL Shendeepan is an Admin Support Assistant (ASA) at HQ Signals and Command Systems, Stagmont Human Resource (HR) Centre. Though his vocation may sound ordinary, his job is a highly challenging one. CPL Shendeepan deals with NSmen daily, liaising with them on various matters, including those concerning their In-Camp Trainings and IPPT. He

also helps to respond to queries raised by NSmen through the Customer Relations Management (CRM) system, helping to answer any concerns they might have juggling their NS commitments. To prepare him for these demanding tasks, he had attended a customer service course, entitled 'Superior Frontline Skills', in which he was taught how to deal with a plethora of customer-types. CPL Shendeepan was grateful that the course had trained him well to better manage the difficult situations that happen occasionally.

He recalled one incident in which these skills were put to the test in pacifying some upset NSmen. Due to a miscommunication between the HR Centre and the Medical Centre at his camp, the Medical Officer was not present when the NSmen reported for their IPPT medical screening. Understandably frustrated at their wasted trip, they immediately called CPL Shendeepan for an explanation. He recalled, "Recounting what I had learned during the course, I anticipated their frustration and hence listened emphatically to their grievances. At the first available opportunity, I apologised for the lapse. I assured them that the relevant follow-up actions would be taken to prevent such inconveniences from reoccurring." By remaining cool and

skilfully applying his new knowledge, CPL Shendeepan eventually managed to placate the complainant.

Noting that customer service is a "lifelong skill", CPL Shendeepan acknowledges the value that it has for him beyond NS. "I have learnt skills that will be relevant to me wherever I go because no matter what, I will always be interacting with people and communication skills - a key facet of customer service - will always be of use to me".

Like CPL Shendeepan, the NSFs at the National Servicemen Service Centre (NSSC) face similar challenges on a daily basis. LCP Bjorn Wong, an ASA at NSSC Customer Service Branch has to deal with walk-in queries and complaints. He explained the value of his job, "It helped boost my interpersonal skills and would definitely give me a head-start should I go into the customer service line".

The important service provided by NSFs like CPL Shendeepan and LCP Wong testify to the strong emphasis placed by our Army in meeting the needs of our NSmen and also reflects the quality and commitment of our national servicemen.

Going Through the Proper Channels

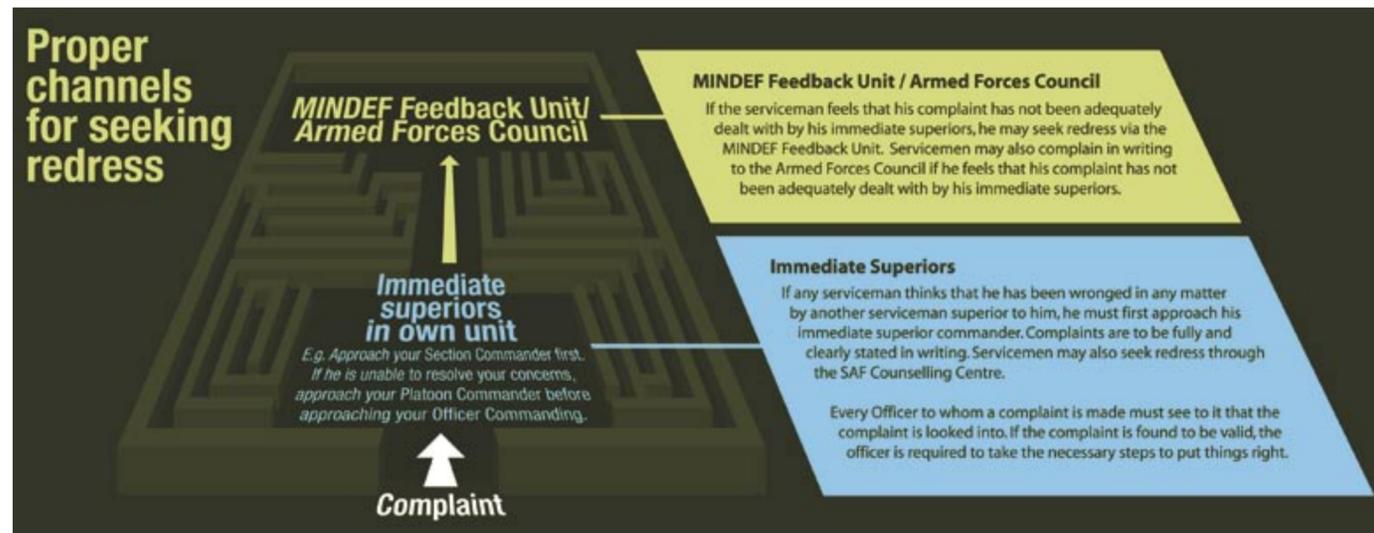
SAF Redress System Explained

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Graphics by Jonathan Ong

A military organisation like the SAF needs to maintain a high standard of discipline for effective functioning, especially critical when it has to fight as one. As a policy, MINDEF discourages servicemen from seeking redress from an external person or organisation as this may lead to a breach of security regulations.

Whether you are an NSF, Regular, DXO or NSman, there is already an established system in place for you to seek redress within the SAF. This system is underpinned by the Chain-of-Command and requires every officer to whom a complaint is made

to thoroughly investigate the matter. If valid, the officer is to take the necessary steps to put things right. The process for seeking redress is not a maze, just remember to adhere to the proper procedures as explained in the diagram below.



Investigation by Military Police

In the event that there is an alleged breach of military discipline, the SAF MP Command will conduct an investigation into the complaint. If the investigation discloses evidence of wrongdoing, MINDEF will take disciplinary action against the offending parties. MINDEF also takes false accusations very seriously. If the complainant is found to have made a false accusation, disciplinary action will be taken against him.

Seeking Redress Through Outside Parties

Under exceptional circumstances where a serviceman has explored all internal channels for redress and still feels his complaint has been inadequately dealt with, he may approach his Member of Parliament (MP). The serviceman should ensure factual accuracy in order to facilitate the MP's handling of the complaint.

Ultimately, the SAF Redress System is designed to maintain a high standard of discipline in the SAF while catering to the redress needs of our servicemen. Do adhere to the proper channels and always remember to follow the Chain-of-Command!

Feeling down?
You can call the SAF Counselling Hotline at **1800-278 0022**

Life After Work

Rugby

Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by Michael Thing



Rugby is a very robust game that builds your physical and mental strength

one who enjoys playing Rugby, even though he acknowledges that its physical nature can be daunting to those who are not mentally prepared. He explained, "It is a unique game that is very physical but yet involves teamwork. I believe that it is the only sport besides martial arts such as karate or judo where you are allowed to bring down your opponent." Playing since the age of 13, LCP Zulhimie is now a diehard fan of the sport, spending many hours both playing and watching rugby matches.

The reason for LCP Zulhimie's passion is quite apparent. He simply loves rugby. This is due to the numerous life lessons he has learnt on the rugby pitch. He elaborated, "Rugby has taught me numerous lessons. It has taught me to be brave, especially when I need to take down my opponents. It has also built my mental strength, as I always had to put in my best even though I was physically battered."

For LCP Zulhimie, the lessons learnt on the pitch has rubbed off into his daily life. There are often many instances in which he had to apply what rugby has taught him, especially in the aspect of teamwork. He reflected, "From my training in rugby, I now

understand that each team member has an integral role to play in any situation, and some circumstances I even have to trust them without any reservations."

The benefits of rugby do not end just at the inculcation of various life lessons into his life. LCP Zulhimie's physical training in rugby has certainly paid off. He commented, "My agility, strength and stamina have improved ever since I picked up the sport. This, along with the mental determination that I have gleaned from rugby, has enabled me to witness a marked increase in my level of fitness."

His advice to potential enthusiasts is quite simple. He enthused, "Regardless of however painful the sport may be, you have to keep at it. When you start off, it will be painful, but once you start enjoying the sport, you will realise that pain is no longer a barrier to stop you from pursuing what you like."

To learn more about the sport, you can visit the Singapore Rugby Union website at www.singaporerugby.com

Customs and Traditions

Ranks

Story by Tham Wei Yang / Photography by Michael Thing

Respect for the hierarchy has long been recognised as necessary for the efficient functioning of a military organisation. Ranks, which identify the various levels of hierarchy, are therefore an integral part of our Army's traditions. Many of us are already familiar with the various ranks and their relative positions in the chain of command, but this familiarity means that only a few have ever wondered how they were chosen or came about. But ranks were not arbitrarily designed or assigned. This article explores the history behind some of the ranks used in our Army.

Private: The term 'private' dates from the Middle Ages, when they were known as 'private soldiers'. These were usually commoners recruited into a nobleman's army. A private is generally recognised as the lowest-ranking soldier in an army, but was known by a variety of names in the past, such as 'man-at-arms', 'sentry', 'common soldier', and 'rank and file'.

Corporal: This rank is derived from the Italian phrase 'capo corporale', literally translating into 'head of a body' of soldiers. 'Capo' is derived from the Latin 'caput' or head, from which the rank of 'Captain' also originates. The term 'corporal' was used to denote the leader of a section of soldiers.

Sergeant: Under the English feudal system, vassals swore their allegiance to a feudal lord which entailed providing serfs from their fields for their lord's army. The demand for soldiers

grew to the extent that they had to send their own sons into battle. In acknowledgment of their social status, the vassals' sons were placed in charge of the lesser field serfs. These commanders were called 'sergeants', a corruption of the Latin 'serviens', which means 'one who serves'.

Staff-sergeant: Usually the eldest son of the most powerful vassal under a particular lord, the staff-sergeant was the soldier selected to carry the lord's coat-of-arms into battle. The coat-of-arms was raised on a pole or staff, hence the name.

Sergeant Major General: Although this ancient rank is no longer used, its background is an interesting one. Historically, the Sergeant Major General was usually the third-in-command of the Army and its Chief of Staff. 'General' was added to distinguish between the Sergeant Major of an army and a regiment. Later, Sergeant Majors of a regiment were known by the shortened 'Major', which is still used as a rank today. The modern equivalent of Sergeant Major General is 'Major-General'.

Today, 'Sergeant Major' is an appointment held by warrant, or non-commissioned officers. The Sergeant-Major, whether of a regiment, company or any other numerical unit of soldiers, maintains the discipline of the personnel under his charge and ensures that they are up to scratch in their drills. He is a highly respected figure of authority entrusted with preserving the traditions of his unit.

Second-Lieutenant: Second-Lieutenants were known exclusively as 'subalterns'. 'Altern' was the German or Saxon word for 'elder', subaltern therefore indicated that second-lieutenants were of a junior rank. Today, 'subaltern' is a collective term for all junior officers.



Each rank used in the military has a long history behind it

Lieutenant: 'Lieutenant' comprises 'lieu', in place of, and 'tenant', to hold a place or position; therefore, to temporarily occupy a position in place of the unavailable person. The Lieutenant is the Captain's deputy. The appending of 'lieutenant' to a title also describes the deputy to the officer holding the full title, i.e. Lieutenant-Colonel is the Colonel's second-in-command.

Captain: As explained earlier, 'Captain' was derived from the Latin 'caput' or head. It is the oldest of all military titles but has many non-military applications, usually to describe a leader, for example, the captain of a football team.

NSmen Matters

Improve your IPPT with IPT

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Photography from Army News Archive



The IPT provides formalised training for NSmen seeking to improve their IPPT results

Training Schedule and Programme

NSmen can choose from three schedules offered per IPT intake. Each IPT intake consists of 10 sessions of three hours each. The IPT dates will be made available at the FCCs every five weeks and NSmen can visit the NS Portal Website to choose a time slot and location that would best meet their schedules. As training is progressive, participants must remain in their selected schedule at the chosen FCC for the entire duration of the IPT.

On the 8th session of the IPT, NSmen will be required to take the IPPT. NSmen will be eligible for an IPPT Monetary Award if they achieve the required standards. An NSman may also choose to attempt IPPT earlier than the 8th session. If he attains the IPPT PASS standard during a test taken at any time, he will exit from IPT. If an NSman is absent from any IPT session, he is encouraged to arrange for Make-Up Training (MUT) within the 5-week

IPT schedule so as to continue with the training programme.

An NSman who fails his IPPT but has completed the IPT within his IPPT year will be exempt from Remedial Training. This is to recognise the NSman's efforts and personal commitment to build his physical fitness. However, as participation in IPT is voluntary, participating NSmen will not be paid Service or Make-up Pay, except for the 8th Session (IPPT Session).

Quiz Of The Month - DEC / JAN

Send us the correct answer and win a pair of Golden Village movie tickets. There will be 5 winners!

Q: What two aspects of detection are POI forces concerned with?
Closing Date : 5 March 2009

Answer: Rank / Name:

Unit: E-mail:

NRIC: Contact No.:

- This contest is open to all Army personnel except the executive staff of Army News Section.
- Each person is allowed one entry.
- Prizes are not exchangeable for cash. Winners can either collect their prizes from Army News or arrange for mail delivery.
- The judges' decision is final. Please send us your entries via mail or email us at armynews@starmet.govsg.
- Prizes not collected within a month of notification will be forfeited.

NOV / DEC Quiz NOV / DEC Winners

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Q: Which device implemented at Wallaby '08 records the speed of vehicles in Shoalwater Bay Training Area? | 1) 3SG CHONG WEN HAW | NRIC: 5000348E |
| A: Individual Vehicle Tracking (IVT) System | 2) CHUA HONG TIAND | NRIC: 5000558A |
| | 3) 1SG (NS) CHING SOW TAT FREDERICK | NRIC: 5000270J |
| | 4) 2SG (NS) LOO SAU SHYONG | NRIC: 5000271Z |
| | 5) 1TA (NS) LIM TSEYANG, KENNY | NRIC: 5000391D |

Winners are to contact Army News at 67682206 for collection of prizes.

The Specialist Cadet Rank

An Evolved Specialist

Text by Ian Cheong / Photography Wan Zhong Wei & Michael Thng



Dr Ng inspecting the parade

Over the years, the role of a Specialist has continually evolved in response to the fast-changing nature of combat and military operations in the SAF. Certainly, the old stories of sergeants berating at their men to “knock it down” or “fall in” have gradually been replaced by new ones in which our Specialists are at the forefront of our operations. With greater emphasis placed on empowering small combat units, new technology such as the Advanced Combat Man System (ACMS) and pedagogy such as Urban Operations (UO) drills have been implemented to meet the needs of the 3rd Generation Army.

Exercising a greater responsibility and influence on the battlefield, our Specialists have to lead, engage and motivate their men positively. In recognition of the importance and evolving role of the Specialist in the 3rd Generation SAF, the Specialist Cadet (SCT) rank was officially unveiled by Second Minister



“The role and responsibilities of the Specialist have greatly evolved over the years. With the Specialist Cadet Rank, our Specialists will be given the recognition

of their evolved role, instilling in them a sense of pride and in turn, motivating them to give of their best in leading their men.”

SWO Joseph Koa,
Sergeant-Major of the Army

for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen in a parade on 23 December at the School of Infantry Specialists (SISPEC). In his speech, Dr Ng commented that this rank will “serve as a visual symbol of their status as commanders-in-training and will also serve as a constant reminder of the values, attitudes and professionalism that the WOSPEC Corps is founded upon.”

Bringing Greater Recognition

With effect from the 49th Advanced Section Leaders Course (ASLC) and the 50th Basic Section Leaders Course (BSLC) onwards, both NSF's and regulars selected to undergo Specialist training will be accorded the new SCT rank. This rank will be worn throughout the trainee phase, which comprises both basic and advanced Specialist training. Besides replacing the Private (PTE) and Corporal (CPL) ranks once held by the Specialist trainees, all SCTs receive a revised rank allowance of \$490 per month, an increment from their previous allowance when they were PTE or CPL.

The new SCT insignia gives greater visibility to our Specialist trainees, who are now officially recognised as future Specialists to-be. SWO Jeffrey Chung, SAF Sergeant-Major, who was at the parade, explained, “With the promulgation of this new rank, we now distinguish our Specialist trainees as Specialists to-be, thereby showing our recognition for the efforts each individual puts in.” SWO Chung's sentiments were echoed by MWO Wee Peng Choon, Officer Commanding of Kilo Company in SISPEC. He agreed, “The visual recognition that comes with the new rank will motivate our soldiers to become the best Specialist they can be.”



A moment of pride as Specialist Cadets receive their SCT Rank

For our trainees, the SCT that they put before their name gives them an immense sense of pride. SCT Zachary Peter Cruz-Tan, an ASLC trainee, effused, “There are many Corporals throughout the SAF who have no doubt earned their rank and graduates from BSLC are no different. However, when I now wear my uniform in public, I will be recognised as a Specialist in-training. This gives me a greater sense of pride and achievement in being an ASLC trainee.”

An Added Push

This greater recognition has indeed rubbed off on our Specialist trainees. SCT Kannan Nadarajan, another ASLC trainee,



SCT Kannan feels that the new rank will spur him on during the difficult trainings

shared, “My motivation to become a section leader is still the same – I want to learn to lead my men to the best of my abilities. With the new rank sewn on my sleeve though, I now have the extra bit of pride that pushes me on during the difficult trainings.”

New Rank, New Responsibilities

The new rank our SCTs now wear on their sleeves reflects expediently the new roles and responsibilities our Specialists are expected to undertake. MWO Wee shared, “This generation of soldiers is more technologically-inclined. With this in mind, they are now given a greater autonomy to decide on the next course of action given the real-time feed of information. It is important that our trainees are well-versed in these core competencies.”



It is SWO Chung's hope that every Specialist trainee will take pride in his duty

SWO Chung further expounded, “Not everyone is selected to be a Section Commander. Thus, it is my hope that every Specialist trainee will take pride in his duties. Each of the Specialists on parade today receiving their rank will eventually become an expert in his own field. Even so, he will still have to be the role model for his men, setting the same high standards that he holds himself accountable to.”

As a reflection of how much the WOSPEC transformation has progressed, SWO Chung said, “The parade today was commanded by two Specialist Cadets. This can only highlight the increasingly magnified role of each and every one of our WOSPECs. This Specialist Cadet rank is then, a fine reflection of the holistic development and transformation that our Corps undergoes.”



The parade was commanded by two Specialist Cadets, demonstrating their strong leadership capabilities