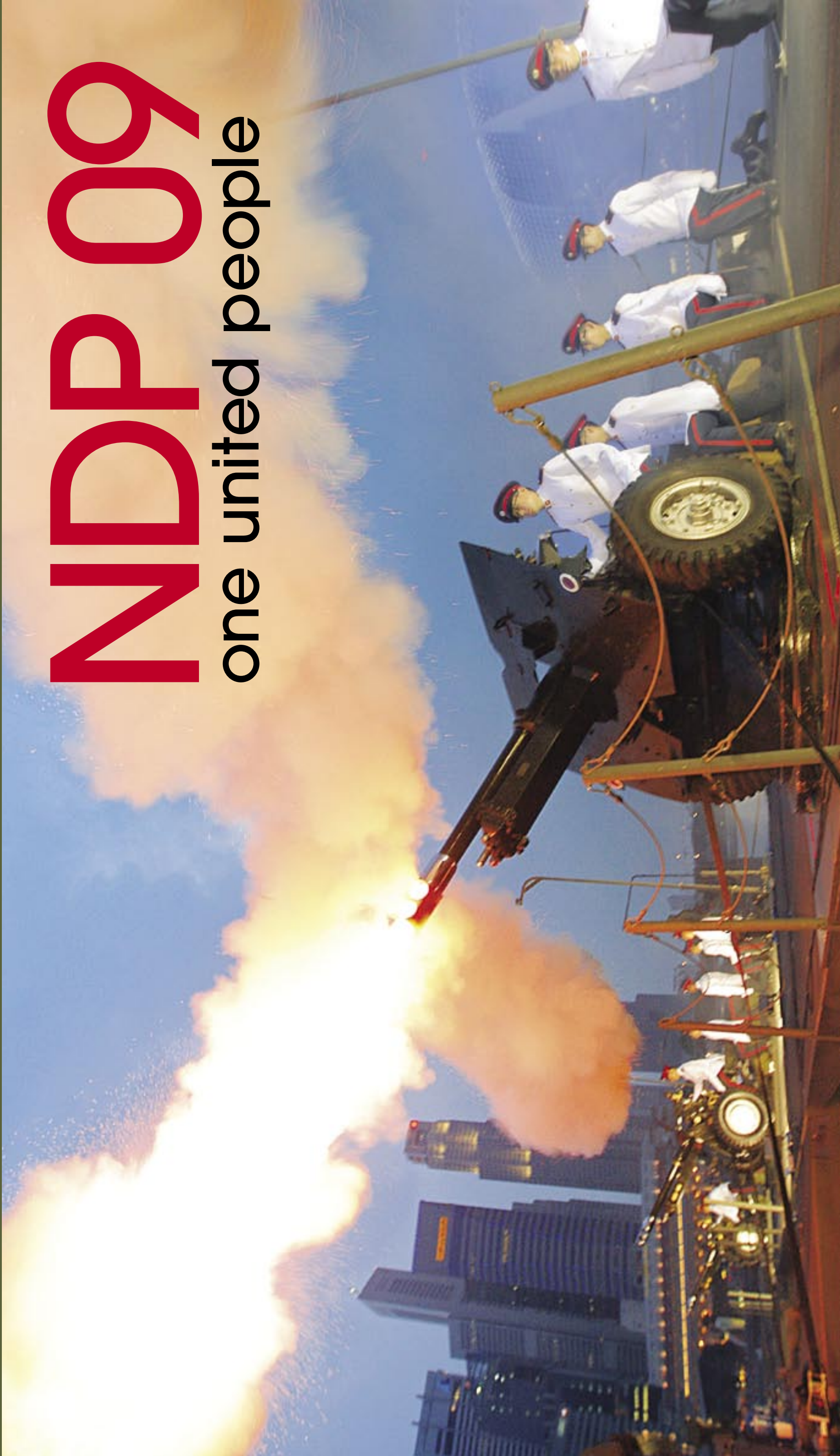


NDP 009

one united people



AHM - Fitness for Life!

Story By Marcus Ho / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei, Jonathan Ong & Samuel Cheam

16 August 2009, 0500hrs. The sky over the Padang was still dark but the place was already teeming with thousands of excited runners raring to go. The countdown to the start of the 18th Army Half Marathon (AHM) and SAFRA Singapore Bay Run had begun. Thirty minutes later, a loud horn broke the early morning calm, and throngs of athletes surged past the start line of the 21-kilometre competitive run. As they jostled forward, shouts of encouragement filled the air.

The AHM is the Army's signature event organised annually to promote physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle among our servicemen and the public. Both competitive and non-competitive categories were available for the 21-kilometre and 10-kilometre routes, while the 6-kilometre route was for participants who just wanted to enjoy themselves. The Guest of Honour, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean flagged off the 6-kilometre event.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean flagging off the 6-kilometre event

The AHM is also an avenue to foster cohesion and healthy competition amongst the various Formations. In the Army Formation Teams Award category, the Commandos clinched 1st place. “Our teamwork and brotherhood played a very big role in us achieving our outstanding result. We bonded together through the tough Commando trainings and that gave us the energy to encourage each other throughout the race. The ‘never say die’ spirit was also very essential to us!” said 1SG Wong Kum Fatt, from HQ Commando, who was part of the Commando running team.

Making the AHM Better

Billed as Singapore's largest running event, this year's AHM drew over 70,000 participants including servicemen, members of public and foreigners. Previous AHM running routes included scenic spots and local iconic landmarks such as the Singapore Flyer, Marina Barrage and Benjamin Sheares Bridge to make the run pleasant and enjoyable. This year, the F1 paddock was added to the 21-kilometre route for the very first time.

External associations were also invited to provide entertaining roadside activities to spur runners on. These included the jaunty Bhangra fusion dancers and the lively percussionists. This year, extended water points were introduced to ease traffic flow as runners slowed down to take a sip. The various flag off timings were also staggered to avoid congestion and ensure a smoother run for all.

These various measures and initiatives testified to the meticulous planning put into the event by our Army and epitomised its professionalism. 3SG Scott Tan, Operations Sergeant from HQ Armour, who participated in the 21-kilometre competitive category said, “I'm sure every participant at this year's AHM can say very confidently that the Army has done an excellent job in organising the event.”



The extended water points facilitate the smooth flow of runners as they slowed down for a sip

Another participant, Mr Haran Haniff strongly echoed 3SG Tan's sentiment. He said, “I always look forward to taking part in the AHM every year. The Army has never failed to impress with their high standards of professionalism. This year, I am really impressed by the many water points and the high level of safety coverage provided. The medical posts were strategically located, so I didn't have to worry about anything and could just focus on running!”

Raising Safety



The wheelbarrow stretcher has enabled our medics to speedily bring in casualties for treatment

This year, our Army has further raised safety standards at the AHM with lessons learnt from past events and other marathons worldwide. Not surprisingly, the new 3rd Generation medical equipment, such as the trusty wheelbarrow stretcher, was deployed. MAJ (DR) Jonah Kua, the Second-in-Charge of the Medical Management Sub-Committee for this year's AHM explained, “The wheelbarrow stretcher is very useful as it requires fewer medics to handle it and can transport casualties fast. So once a casualty is spotted by a medic, he will be transported to the medical post immediately. In the past, we had to gather at least four medics before going to where the casualty was located.”



A fully recovered Mr Yeo is thankful for our Army's lifesaving medical support

Our Army's strong emphasis on the readiness of our medical teams at AHM was vindicated when the swift action that day helped several runners avoid or recover from serious or life-threatening conditions. One such participant was Mr Yeo Eng Huat, who suffered a heart attack upon completing the race. Mr Yeo was full of praise for the medical team and said, “The medical officers and medics were very concerned and professional

when they attended to me. They kept asking if I was alright and they sent me to the Singapore General Hospital (SGH) very promptly.”

Explaining the importance for heart attack casualties to receive immediate medical attention, Dr Stanley Chia, the SGH cardiologist who attended to Mr Yeo said, “For heart attacks, every minute counts, since more heart muscles can die. After a while, it becomes an irreversible process which is why it is very important to have a very early and prompt recognition of the problem before the casualty suffers any dire consequences. In this case, there was a very fast reaction by the Army medics and medical officers over there and we managed to unblock the blood vessels within just three hours, which can be considered rather fast.”



LTC Mohil feels that the AHM has helped to strengthen bilateral ties between the Singapore and Indian Armies

Strengthening Ties Through Fitness

Every year, our Army invites teams from foreign armies to participate in the AHM. For 2SG Agus Prayogo from the Indonesian Army, who finished first in the 21-kilometre competitive category, the AHM was one of the most professionally organised races he had ever participated in. He said, “The conditions have been very good. The scenery was great and the crowd was very cheerful. Everybody was singing along even though they were tired!”

This year also marked the third consecutive time that the team from Indian Army bagged the first prize in the Foreign Military Teams category. Team manager, LTC Prateek Mohil commented, “The AHM is definitely a good testament to the strong bilateral ties between the Indian and Singapore Armies. It's one avenue which allows our soldiers to strengthen the relationships we've had with each other. We've been participating since 2007, and we've gotten to know each other better through the years of interaction and running with each other.”

Contributing to Charities



This year, our Army raised \$238,940 and \$102,403 for the Community Chest and SAF Benevolent Funds respectively through donation cards

Our Army has also raised funds for the needy. Doing our bit for charity, we presented cheques to two beneficiaries during the AHM. Through donation cards, our Army raised a total of \$238,940 and \$102,403 for the Community Chest and SAF Benevolent Funds respectively.

Army Technology Symposium

Stretching our Edge

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei & Jonathan Ong



Senior leaders sharing their pointers in a panel discussion

The 3rd Generation Advanced Combat Man System (ACMS) includes several cutting-edge components such as head mounted displays with satellite images, camera equipped rifles and portable computers to allow soldiers to call upon our Army's networked capabilities. Have you ever wondered how this sophisticated system was developed? Our Army works closely with the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) and various industry partners to develop technology that meets our operational requirements. The need for such close collaboration among the key stakeholders was underscored at the inaugural Army Technology Symposium (ATS) held on 6 and 7 August.

Speaking on the need for our Army to have this collaboration to develop new technological capabilities, Chief Systems Integration Officer (CSIO) of Systems Integration Office (SIO) COL Ng Kok Wan said, “The ATS is the key capability development, science and technology event in the Army's calendar. We assembled the top 300 individuals from our Defence Technology Ecosystem and immersed them in the Army's future operational challenges. Through this symposium, we forged a stretched vision of what our Army should be capable of to operate successfully in the future battlespace.”

Delivering new technological capabilities requires an integrated and tightly knit Defence Ecosystem. Mr Fong Saik Hay, President of Singapore Technologies (ST) Dynamics said, “The challenges and solutions facing the Army are increasingly diverse and complex. The solutions therefore require a multi-disciplinary and multi-organisational approach.”

Over the years, ST Dynamics has worked with our Army to rapidly prototype and validate new ideas. An example was the quick introduction of an E-Trip Wire system which was deployed to detect human movement during the search for former fugitive Mas Selamat bin Kastari.

The Army Technology Symposium was also an opportunity for stakeholders to demonstrate prototypes of new equipment such as the 40mm Soldier Parachute Aerial Reconnaissance Camera System (SPARCS). The system comprises a projectile carrying a camera within. After being fired from the existing SAR 21 40mm Grenade Launcher, the projectile captures an aerial view of the target area, transmits images to a small portable computing device and gives a stitched picture of the area. This allows front-line troops to overcome blind-spots and identify enemies before moving in.



The ATS was a chance to showcase newly developed hardware to the Defence Ecosystem

WSO – Bridging Operations and Technology

The Weapon Staff Officer (WSO) community in the SIO helps to bridge operations and technology within the Defence Tech Ecosystem. Ops-passionate and tech-savvy, WSOs specialise in military science and engineering knowledge. They formulate future fighting capabilities and integrate new fighting concepts with advanced technologies. WSOs have been closely involved in our major weapon platforms and systems such as the Leopard Main Battle Tank, Advanced Combat Man System (ACMS), Bionix Infantry Fighting Vehicle and the SAR-21 rifle.

WSOs are identified as early as during their Platoon Commander or Officer Commanding tours. Besides educational qualifications, a passion to build our future Army is also a key criterion. The selected officers embark on a dual Master's course including one at the prestigious US Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California, USA. Upon graduation, WSOs work with Senior Plans officers and the Defence Ecosystem leadership to scour the world for the latest technologies to develop our cutting-edge capabilities.

Besides showcasing hardware, the seminar also included group discussions during which the key stakeholders brainstormed on future developments. “We put together Army people, engineers and professionals from multiple disciplines and experiences. The result was a constructive discussion that yielded more than a hundred ideas!” quipped Maj Ong Cher Howe, a Weapon Staff Officer from SIO who organised the ideas generation workshop.

Ultimately, our Army must couple the will of our people to defend their country with leverage on technologies to maintain a cutting edge in battle. This was underscored by Mr Ng Bor Kit, DSTA Director (Land Systems), “With the constant and rapid evolution of our future operations scenarios, maintaining the cutting edge in technology would enable our Army to fight seamlessly in a network centric manner and execute missions in the most precise and effective way.”

Keeping Pirates at Bay

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Photography by Jonathan Ong

“Arrrrr matey, hand me your treasure and that bottle of rum!” is what unfortunate sailors might have heard from ship raiding pirates in the 17th century. Although these historical villains are often portrayed humorously, dealing with the pirates of today is no laughing matter. The Gulf of Aden situated off the coast of Somalia saw 28 hijacking incidents in the second half of 2008 as pirates attempted to disrupt and plunder the rich shipping lane. As part of a concerted international effort to stem this menace, the SAF deployed the RSS Persistence with 296 servicemen on board from April to July. For a job well done, these servicemen from our Army, Navy and Air Force received the Overseas Service Medal (OSM) upon their return to Singapore on 31 July.



Chief of Army MG Neo Kian Hong interacting with our servicemen

The international efforts to deter and deal with pirates were so successful that the Gulf of Aden saw hijacking incidents drop from seven in April, to two in May and one in June. Not a single attack occurred in the SAF Task Group's assigned areas of operations during its period of deployment. Despite this lack of engagement, the mission proved exciting and highly eventful. The Task Group launched 80 helicopter sorties and responded to 57 calls for assistance by despatching its Super Pumas to provide air surveillance and turn suspicious boats away from merchant vessels.

While several suspicious vessels turned out to be innocent fishing boats, the team had to constantly stay vigilant and alert. 1SG Sim Cher Chian from the Task Group elaborated, “Whether it is a false alarm or a real hijacking, we had to consider it as a true event. We had to stay ready and positive with a clear mind of what we were doing every time because we did not know whether the next call would be for a real incident or not.” Remaining vigilant amidst the tough weather conditions of the gulf was no joke as CFC Dino from the Task Force explained, “The temperature reached highs of 40 degrees to 50 degrees Celsius. We had to stand in the hot sun for hours and man the guns, so now in Singapore it is actually very cooling!”

Preparations for operating in the gulf were swift and effective. It was only in January this year that the decision



(from left) CFC Ramesh Singh, CFC Dino and 1SG Sim cherish the operational experience gained

to deploy was made and our Army personnel had to quickly assimilate into life and operations on board a Navy ship. 1SG Sim shared, “Before we came on board, we had various training sessions by the Navy which were very essential to operations. We had live-firing, voice procedure training and emergency drills. It was our first deployment with them and during these four months we worked very well together.” Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean underscored this ability to deploy swiftly and effectively at the OSM Presentation Ceremony. He said “This [mission] demonstrates that the 3rd Generation SAF is versatile, creative and operationally ready, capable of rapidly mobilising a wide spectrum of skills and resources to accomplish a wider spectrum of missions.”

New Chief for Guardsmen

Story by Marcus Ho / Photography by Jonathan Ong



BG Tung (left) handing over the command sword to COL Chan

“I feel very honoured to be appointed as the new Chief Guards Officer. The Guards Formation is one that I grew up in, where I had previously served as OC, S3 and Head General Staff. I must say that I’ve learnt a lot through these positions. As a Guardsman, it is indeed an honour to be able to command such an elite infantry force.” These were the words of COL Chan Wing Kai as he took over the helm of the Guards Formation from BG Tung Yui Fai in a Change-of-Command Parade on 28 July at Bedok Camp II. BG Tung has moved on to assume the post of Assistant Chief of the General Staff (Operations).

As the new Chief Guards Officer, COL Chan already has his plans laid out. Firstly, as the SAF is rapidly transforming into a 3rd Generation fighting force, the 43-year-old strongly

believes that the Guards must keep pace and leverage on the new capability developments. He elaborated, “As an elite infantry formation, one of my immediate focuses is to look at how we can strengthen our operational capabilities and capacities such as heliborne and light strike operations.”

A second key focus of COL Chan is to spearhead the developments in Operations Other Than War (OOTW). He added, “One of the key missions that the Guards Formation is anchoring for the SAF is in the area of OOTW — such as Peace Support Operations. I think it’s important that we continue to build on this knowledge by learning from what the other militaries are doing. This will enable us to strengthen our processes and also build new structures and capabilities. If ever the nation requires the SAF to continue such efforts, we will be ready.”

COL Chan also feels that his former appointment as Commandant of SAF Command and Staff College (SCSC) has prepared him well for his new position. He shared, “One of the key lessons that I’ve learnt as the Commandant of SCSC is the important process of shaping minds and influencing hearts. In SCSC, we give officers the opportunity to reflect on themselves. However, this business of shaping minds need not necessarily be confined to college education. These are all important traits that can be ploughed into the formation as well. I think this will go a long way as to how I can help the Guards Formation to clarify its sense of purpose. At the same time, I want to create a formation which is committed to its purpose as well as one that is able to learn with an open mind.”

As BG Tung bade farewell to the Guards Formation, he reflected on his most defining experience there, particularly on, how he was embraced and recognised as Chief Guards Officer. He said, “Previously, not many people from Guards knew me since I was away from the formation for more than 20 years. Yet, they gave me their full hearted support in all of the things that I wanted them to do. That’s very comforting.”

Having served in the Combat Engineers Formation for extended periods of time, BG Tung believes that the leadership skills acquired from his previous appointments are relevant and applicable anywhere. He continued, “I think our Army trains our people very well. While we have very functional competencies in terms of technical skills, what is more important is that our Army trains our people to have leadership and management abilities which transcend across different types of arms. You still need to lead whether you are part of the manoeuvre arms or the support arms, and you lead by interacting with people and motivating them.”

Supply Formation Welcomes New Chief

Story by Ian Cheong / Pictures courtesy of HQ Supply

On 27 July, COL Lam Sheau Kai became the third Chief Supply Officer (CSPO) since the inauguration of the Supply Formation in October 2006. He took over from COL Tan Peng Kuan who has since moved on as a Senior Project Officer in General Staff (Operations). Army News interviewed both officers for their stories.

COL Lam Sheau Kai

As our Supply Formation develops into a World-Class Supply Chain organisation, what are some of its immediate objectives?

This year we will be delivering the new Personal Equipment to our soldiers. The pixelised uniform has already been issued and now we’re looking towards issuing the Body Armour. By the end of this work year, we want to see these items fully issued to the soldiers. Another thing we want to do is to review our nutrition studies. Combat fitness and nutrition go hand in hand, and we need to ensure that our soldiers are fed well. Finally, we are looking towards going green. As we run an end-to-end supply chain, we need to look at how our disposal can be better conducted so as to reduce, reuse and recycle. As a responsible ministry, we must play our part to sustain our environment in Singapore.

I understand you are trained both as an Artillery officer and a Logistics officer. How has this contributed to your professional development and growth?

I’m a dual track officer – an Artillery officer as well as a Logistics officer. As a combat officer, I know the pressures of combatants, their needs – before, during and after a mission and why these needs are important. Being a Logistics officer as well, I know the bigger ecosystem and how we can bring to the combatants the capabilities of the Logistics fraternity and its various partners to deliver the things we need for operations. I’m very fortunate that the SAF provides me this

track as the experience on both sides helps me to pull these two ends together and string up the different requirements on both ends.



COL Lam (left) and COL Tan witnessing the march-past

COL Tan Peng Kuan

You have overseen the initial stages of equipping the SAF with the new uniform. What are the operational lessons we can take away from this?

In war, it’s all about knowing what the demands are,

where the demand points are and matching our supplies with these demand points. The uniform equipping gave us the opportunity to test out these capabilities. We captured this demand information, produced the required quantity of uniforms in the different sizes and customised it to the needs of the soldier. In this way, it’s no different from a situation in war where we are able to sense quickly and respond accurately in a timely manner. If we can do it well consistently, we are ingrained with this operational thinking, and this enhances our operational readiness.

What are some of your achievements as CSPO?

Almost all our achievements are a collaborative effort with the General Staff departments, Divisions and Formations, Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) and our strategic partners. For example, our mobilisation and equipping capabilities were developed jointly by General Staff (Operations) and executed jointly with the Brigades, CSS formations and our strategic partners. Similarly for the pixelised uniform development, it was the strong teamwork with 9th Singapore Division/Infantry (9 DIV/INF), Systems Integration Office and DSTA.

I’m OK, Honey

On 8 August, family members connected via tele-conferencing with their loved ones serving in Afghanistan. This was part of the family engagement session, during which the families were also updated on the situation there, as well as the security and safety precautionary measures adopted by the SAF. The occasion also enabled the various families to interact among themselves. The present team is scheduled to return to Singapore by end October.



Strengthening Ties With MAF

Story by Marcus Ho / Photography by Jonathan Ong

“Today, acts of terrorism are of a transnational nature and are not constrained by geographical boundaries. As such, military cooperation between nations takes on added significance to negate security threats. We are confident that Exercise Semangat Bersatu will further strengthen the strong defence relations between the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) so that we can operate seamlessly in the future should the need arise.” This was articulated by BG Philip Lim, Chief of Staff - General Staff in his speech at the closing ceremony of Exercise Semangat Bersatu.

This annual bilateral exercise between the SAF and the MAF, the fifteenth in its series, was held from 15 to 24 July. The participants included troops from 1st Battalion, Singapore Guards (1 GDS) and the 5th Royal Malay Regiment (5 RMR). BG Lim added, “Exercise Semangat Bersatu is an important annual exercise that symbolises the depth of defence relations between Malaysia and Singapore, and a testament to the strong relations between the MAF and the SAF.”

Over the 9-day period, participants forged close bonds with each other during training which saw the MAF soldiers using our SAR 21 rifle while our troops were exposed to their Steyr AUG rifle. Friendship was also forged outside training through games like soccer. CPL Goh Jing See from 1 GDS commented, “I enjoyed my interaction with the Malaysians. They are warm and friendly people. Although there were some difficulties in understanding their language, we still managed to learn about each others’ backgrounds and our cultural differences.”

For most participants, however, the most relishing experience was the combined battalion exercise on 22 July, where the Malaysian troops fought alongside our Guardsmen at the Sarimbun built-up area. LTC Halim Haji Yusof, Commanding Officer of 5 RMR said, “We learnt a lot from this exercise. There is an increasing number of security challenges in urban areas and we’re not that well-trained with urban operations. This exercise has enabled us to have a better understanding on how to plan and coordinate our forces.”

The Malaysian soldiers also enjoyed our Army’s warm hospitality. MAJ Mohammed Haji Yusof, Officer in Command from 5 RMR said, “Our soldiers interacted a lot with the Singaporean troops. Most of us haven’t been to Singapore before and it was a really great experience for them to tour the country. In addition, we’ve really enjoyed the variety of food at the cookhouse!”



Soldiers from the MAF and SAF coordinating an attack

Our Home, Our Future, Our Singapore

Story by Samuel Cheam / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei

About 340 students from various junior colleges, integrated programme schools and polytechnics attended this year’s Temasek Seminar held on 27 July at the SAFTI Military Institute. The theme, “Our Home, Our Future, Our Singapore” exposed participants to various pertinent issues such as how Singapore became a modern city, its success factors and the importance of national defence.

Introduced in 1991, the annual Temasek Seminar has sought to create interest in public service and to increase awareness and appreciation of security-related issues among students. Meant initially only for first-year junior college students, the seminar has expanded in recent years to include students from integrated programme schools and polytechnics.

At the seminar, students had the opportunity to interact with senior officials from MINDEF and senior commanders from the SAF. Wu Lian Zhi, a student from Nanyang Polytechnic, found his dialogue with SAF officers useful. He said, “Being in the SAF, they have a different perspective from us. They know things we don’t and have different views on issues like security. The seminar has been a great chance for me to learn about Singapore, our security and what is important to us. It’s definitely relevant and useful for promoting the importance of national security for Singapore.”



SAF officers sharing their experiences with students

Apart from small group discussions, students also took part in an open forum chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean. Prior to the forum, Member of Parliament for Pasir Ris – Punggol GRC Michael

Palmer discussed the concerns of Singaporean youths today and the role they play in Singapore’s continued success.



DPM Teo interacting with students at the Seminar

Minister for Manpower Gan Kim Yong was also present to share his views. Reiterating the unique strengths of Singapore and their continued importance in the future, he said, “We must not take our resilience as a nation for granted, we need to make conscious efforts to strengthen our resilience. The journey of nation building is not over, it has just started. Our resilience does not just stand in commonality of race or religion, but the unity of values and vision.”

Students’ Close Encounter with Our Army

Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei

“Today’s visit was really very inspiring. I’ve always thought that when in the Army, I’ll only learn military skills and knowledge, but today I’ve realised that in addition to these, we can develop our leadership qualities, situational awareness and other life skills as well,” shared Shaun Tan, a student in Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) [ACS (I)]. Students



Students experiencing first hand the application of camouflage paint

from ACS (I), Hwa Chong Institution (HCI), Nanyang Junior College and Ngee Ann Polytechnic visited the Officer Cadet School (OCS) in the SAFTI Military Institute (SAFTI MI) on 22 July as part of the Army’s continual effort to engage students on national defence. An interesting segment of the programme saw students taking part in platoon-level firing drills and applying camouflage paint on each other. SAFTI MI certainly was abuzz with laughter and joy as the students, teachers and cadets alike had a good opportunity to share their perspectives of life in the Army.

As this visit was a cadet-run initiative, the theme, “Privileged to Lead” not only resounded with the students, but our officer cadets as well. OCT Ng Wei Wen from Delta Wing was the chairman of the organising committee. He said, “It is very inspiring that our instructors actually have enough faith in us to entrust us with the responsibility of organising such a large-scale event. As we shared with the students about this theme, it held true for me as well as I was really reminded that it indeed is a privilege to lead.” A tour guide for the day, OCT Hewlett Chew from Foxtrof Wing shared OCT Ng’s sentiments. He said, “Through our

interactions, the students can see some of the qualities of the officers to be. The male students may perhaps, be inspired to strive for OCS when they enlist, echoing today’s theme.”

For the students, the interactive programme gave them intimate insights into life in the Army. Tsai Yeong Tyan, a HCI student was thrilled by the platoon-level firing drill and shared, “Today was the first time I carried a rifle. It’s not very light and now I can really understand what my seniors go through in the Army.” Nicholas Hui from ACS (I) said, “The level of discipline that these cadets have is truly very high. Being in a Uniformed Youth Organisation (UYO) myself, I can really understand the efforts the cadets take in maintaining this high standard.”

The visit has also galvanised the commitment to defence for teachers. Ms He Jia Wen, a teacher in HCI expounded, “A huge percentage of our population is involved in National Service. As such, it is important that we not only understand the efforts they go through in their training, but also what life is like in an SAF camp so that we can support our servicemen in whatever way possible.”



Picture courtesy of NDP 09 Exco



NDP 09

One United People

Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei, Jonathan Ong & Chia Han Sheng

The task of organising an NDP is certainly not an easy one. Much creativity, coordination and innovation is needed to ensure that each NDP is different from the last. Yet every year, the organisers do not disappoint as their spectacular shows truly encapsulate our nation’s joy. This year was no exception as the 3rd Singapore Division (3 DIV) worked closely with a host of other units, agencies, organisations and people, within and outside the SAF, to put up a truly memorable show.

An Anchoring Idea



BG Tan Chuan-Jin addressing the performers before the Parade

A unique feature of this year’s Parade was the anchoring idea of the Pledge. Besides the hallowed Pledge Moment at “8:22”, each of the 10 chapters in this year’s Parade programme also reflected an excerpt from the Pledge. BG Tan Chuan-Jin, then Commander 3 DIV, and Chairman of the NDP Exco, explained, “We used the Pledge as the anchoring idea because we are all very familiar with it. We say the Pledge every day in school but we really want to mean what we say, so once we understand what the words mean and why they were nuanced in such a way, we can understand what being Singaporean is all about.”

This was echoed by COL Desmond Tan, Commander 3rd Singapore Infantry Brigade (3 SIB) and Chairman of the Show segment. He shared, “We wanted to find an emblem that could anchor our version of the Singapore story. When you reflect upon the words of the Pledge, you realise that the words were very carefully selected. They represent the hopes of our forefathers and now we are living the dream that they first envisioned when they came up with it.”

Besides getting Singaporeans to reflect on their heritage, the celebrations also aimed to galvanise hope in our people amidst the current global situations. COL Tan shared, “I hope that Singaporeans are moved and inspired, especially in this very difficult time. Through the performance, I hope that they can see that we as a nation, collectively, triumph over many difficulties together.”

Showcasing Our Capabilities

Another unique feature of this year’s Parade was the integration of the Total Defence segment into the show. The mock “terrorist attack” at the Floating Platform was swiftly overcome by the combined efforts of the Home Team and the SAF. For our Army, this segment was an excellent opportunity to showcase its latest technology, such as the Advanced Combat Man System (ACMS) and Integrated Body Armour (IBA). PTE Goh Wei Yang, a Signaller in 8th Singapore Armoured Brigade, who donned the ACMS in the Total Defence



The ACMS and IBA-equipped soldiers ‘clearing threats’ at NDP

segment, was surprised by the feedback received. He said, “During some of the rehearsals, some members of the audience actually came up to us and started snapping photos. Some even told me that they were amazed at how our Army has changed over the years, as we add newer and more advanced systems into our operations. To us, such equipment may be taken for granted, but to them, it’s a totally different thing and they are very impressed with it.”

21 Fires the 21!

The 21-gun salute is a national salute fired in honour of the President, and is usually accorded during important occasions, such as on National Day. This year’s Presidential Gun Salute, fired by 21st Battalion, Singapore Artillery (21 SA), was unique as the 25-pounders were fired atop a Mobility 3rd Generation (M3G) float bridge moored in the Bay area. With the mystical



Soldiers from 21 SA getting a final brief before the show

Merlion, iconic Fullerton Hotel and the stunning view of the cityscape as the backdrop, it was of added significance when we consider that these historic guns were utilised for the defence of our country in World War II.

For LTA Kelvin Soh, the Gun Positioning Officer, this year’s unique approach meant that his team had to rehearse many months in advance. He said, “This is the first time we’re doing it on the M3G float bridge – it’s never been done before. Thus our drills need to be even more polished and a lot of patience, effort and hard work is needed to ensure that we carry out our drills proficiently.”

Supporting the men from 21 SA were Engineers from 35th Battalion, Singapore Combat Engineers. They set up and



The Engineers preparing the M3G for the 25-Pounders



operated the M3G float bridge. CPT Lee Yee San, Officer Commanding, said, “Setting up the M3G float bridge here is very much like our normal operations. Setting it up for NDP has enabled us to gain a lot more operational experience on this float bridge.” 2SG Gauthaman, an Anchorage Commander, added, “I will never again experience sitting on a 6-bay open double raft with artillery cannons on it and travelling around the Bay area in my life. The cityscape here is so beautiful!”

Marching With Pride

“At every combined rehearsal I see the trainers taking people out of the parade because the numbers are limited. Each time they do so, I see the participants tearing, it makes me feel quite sad but also very motivated because I know that everyone is committed and wants to be part of the Parade. To see their commitment really warms my heart,” said MWO Devendran, Formation Sergeant Major of HQ Supply and the



The Colours Party rehearsing for the parade

NDP Parade Sergeant Major. This strong sense of pride and dedication was certainly evident in 2LT Justin Low, a Colours Party contingent member from 41st Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment. He said, “Training was not easy as we spent long hours practising our drills, familiarising ourselves with the ceremonial procedures and brushing up on steps we were not so proficient in. However, this was necessary as we each represent our organisation in the most important event of the year.”

Another participant, 2LT Oliver Lee, from 38th Battalion, Singapore Combat Engineers, who bore the Colours for his formation, had even more reason to celebrate. Like Singapore, his birthday falls on 9 August. He said, “While I’m fortunate

to have my birthday fall on the same date as Singapore’s, this year is different. Marching with the Colours Party and seeing the audience stand up when we march past gives me an immense sense of pride and honour in carrying the Colours of my formation.”

Telling The Singapore Story

Scaling a 9-storey structure? Donning a metallic silver costume and sparring with your partner? Performing in front of a crowd of 28,000? No sweat for our soldiers from 5th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (5 SIR) and 20th Battalion, Singapore Artillery (20 SA) as they, among other units, performed their various routines in this year’s Parade.



20 SA's hard work and effort resulted in a stirring performance

For our wall-scalers from 5 SIR, who performed in the rousing “Against All Odds” chapter, preparations for this Parade were not easy. Each walker was supported by three soldiers controlling the harness that pulled the walker up. 3SG Idham, a performer from 5 SIR, shared, “It’s risky because of the height, but we trust each other. We know that we are each very important not only to the performance itself, but to the show as well.”

Also involved in the “Against All Odds” chapter were 200 soldiers from 20 SA. LCP Lin Ke Hong shared, “Our routine saw us practising martial arts for long hours under the sun almost every day. But it all paid off when on stage, we saw the people watching us, the audience waving the lit-up hearts and flags. In fact, as time passed, we didn’t even mind spending our weekends practising because up on stage, you automatically want to put on your best performance.”

What Do You See?

Penning and recorded by a local English rock band, Electrico, this year’s theme song, “What Do You See?” exhorts our people to envision Singapore’s future. David Tan, the lead singer in the all-male rock band, shared about their experience working with 3 DIV. Recalling the filming of the music video, David added, “You rarely get an opportunity for roads to be closed, a helicopter flying by with the camera, just for us to get one shot. The process is very efficient, and this year’s committee is extremely open-minded. From the creative standpoint, things got done a lot more quickly and efficiently.”



The Pledge Moment was a uniting moment for all Singaporeans

The Pledge Moment

When all the action, sounds and fireworks finally climaxed in the grand finale, audiences everywhere, at the Floating Platform, across Singapore and even overseas, joined in one heart and spirit to recite the Pledge. 3SG Idham reminisced, “It’s so moving that every Singaporean here and around the world is saying the pledge at the same time.”

Truly, the sense of pride in our country could not be felt more palpably than at that moment. BG Tan reflected, “If we look at the calendar of events, you’ll find that every Public Holiday is shared with somebody else. You share New Year with the rest of the world, May Day with all the labour movements. But there is only one day that exclusively belongs to us and if we don’t celebrate it, nobody else is going to celebrate it. It really echoes the first line in the pledge as ‘we pledge ourselves as one united people’, not just here in Singapore, but wherever you are in the world.”

SISPEC Celebrates NDP

Story & Photography by Marcus Ho

While all eyes were on the main NDP celebrations at the Marina Floating Platform, another party was being held at Pasir Laba Camp. The School of Infantry Specialists (SISPEC) marked the occasion by holding a 28-kilometre route march from Kranji War Memorial to its camp for the Specialist Cadets (SCTs) undergoing their Basic Section Leader Course. The significance of the activity was recounted by SCT Nicholas Lau, “Initially, we felt very tired since we had to wake up very early for the route march. However, when I saw the gravestones which bore the names of every soldier who died for Singapore, I felt very emotional. These people died defending us and inevitably, the sense of purpose to protect the country became very apparent.”

At the end of the route march, the trainees were joined by their families who were invited to tour the SISPEC complex. Later, everyone present watched a live telecast of the National Day Parade (NDP). For many of the fathers and uncles present, the event was a nostalgic experience. Mr. Abdul Karim commented, “I feel that the Army has improved a lot since my time. It’s really good that the Army invites the family members to the camp and updates us on what our sons are going through.” Many also found the pledge-taking moment extremely meaningful, as Mr. Karim added, “It was a really unique experience to sing the national anthem and recite the pledge together as one nation. We used to do this during our school days, but somehow that moment felt very emotional and different. My tears were even rolling out!”



SCTs singing the national anthem alongside their family members

Total Defence Awards for Dedicated Employers

Story by Marcus Ho / Photography by Jonathan Ong

“The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.” These famous words by Thomas Jefferson, the third President and one of the most influential Founding Fathers of the United States of America, still ring true today. Indeed, since our independence 44 years ago, our commitment to building a strong defence force has been the bedrock of the peace and security that we enjoy today. However, military defence alone will not suffice; every citizen has a part to play in our nation's defence. This includes employers and civil resource owners, many of whom have contributed significantly. On 29 July, a total of 324 companies were recognised for their contributions at the Total Defence Awards 2009 Presentation Ceremony and Gala Evening held at Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre. Deputy Prime Minster and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen and Minister of State (Defence) Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee graced the event.

In DPM Teo's opening address, he commended the employers and civil resource owners for their commitment and said, “Your readiness and contributions have enabled us to marshal a wider pool of resources so that the SAF is ready to carry out a wider range of operations at home and abroad to meet our expanded

security needs. Thanks to your support, the SAF can effectively conduct international stabilisation and reconstruction missions in places like Iraq, Afghanistan and the Gulf of Aden.”

One outstanding and long time supporter of Total Defence is Lucky Joint Construction Pte Ltd. It was also one of the 10 companies awarded the prestigious Minister for Defence Award this year. Its Managing Director, Mr Yeow Kian Seng firmly believes that Total Defence ensures our peace and prosperity. He said, “Besides contributing our company's resources, we also fully support our NSmen as they play a very important role in our national defence. A strong defence, helps to bring in foreign investors, and it helps our economy to be stable. For example, my company managed to secure three foreign projects last year.”

Mr Yeow's company has introduced many initiatives to support its NSmen employees. For instance, it encourages its NSmen employees to improve their physical fitness by providing a well-equipped gym in the company as well as reimbursing membership fees at selected gyms. It also provides monetary incentives for those who pass their Individual Physical Proficiency Tests. LCP (NS) Khairul Anuar who works as a supervisor in the company, is appreciative of these



initiatives. He shared, “I find working in my company very rewarding. It's a big privilege for us to be given such benefits, and we certainly want to make the best use of the various initiatives provided. The monetary award is a big gesture to motivate us to take our fitness seriously.”

Service Par Excellence

Story by Samuel Cheam / Photography by Jonathan Ong



Nobody enjoys sacrificing their weekends for duty. But for 3SG Kwak Seong Hoon and SSG Lim Han Song, both Fitness Specialists (FSs) at Khatib Fitness Conditioning Centre (FCC), such demands are all in a day's work.

In July, an NSman, Mr David Lee, was struck by an allergic attack during his Individual Physical Proficiency Test. 3SG

Kwak brought Mr Lee to the hospital and accompanied him as he recovered. It being a Saturday night 3SG Kwak had plans, in this case, a dinner with his girlfriend and her parents. However, duty called and 3SG Kwak stayed on to accompany Mr Lee until his eventual discharge that same night. When interviewed by Army News on his exemplary service, a modest 3SG Kwak said, “Everyone has a role to play and I was just doing my job.”

Mr Lee's problems did not end with his discharge from hospital. Having left his car in camp, he had to return to Khatib Camp to retrieve it. Unfortunately, both he and 3SG Kwak had insufficient funds to return by taxi. SSG Lim then

voluntarily came down by taxi just to fetch Mr Lee back to camp. Reflecting on the incident, SSG Lim felt that his deed was nothing extraordinary. He said, “Doing this was actually nothing much. As FSs, we always strive to provide a positive experience for our NSmen during their visits to the fitness centres. It just so happens that I was highlighted.”

Grateful for the actions of SSG Lim and 3SG Kwak, Mr Lee wrote a letter to the Straits Times praising them, “What amazed me was not only the acts of responsibility by the two FSs but also their positive attitude the whole time.” Take a bow, 3SG Kwak and SSG Lim!

NSF Goes Extra Mile for Quality Service!

Story by Marcus Ho / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei

Not many people enjoy a front-line job at a customer service help desk. As a customer service associate, one sometimes has to deal with the adversities of unfair complaints and expletives. For CPL Leong Yaowen, an Adminstrative Support Assistant from Frontdesk, Complex Adminstration Centre (CAC), these are just part of his job's challenges. The 22-year-old who handles the customer service hotline for NSmen, relishes the challenges that his vocation has to offer. “As you know, NSmen could be put on Summary Trials (ST) for defaulting their Remedial Training or Individual Physical Proficiency Test. However, sometimes they call in sounding very upset and refusing to accept the charges! These can be very difficult to handle.”

His response? “You have to remain calm,” CPL Leong answered with much composure. “You cannot portray any twinge of anger nor can you show that you are affected by it at all.”

In fact, CPL Leong's abilities and diligence have much impressed his superiors. Miss Sharon Tan, the Branch In-Charge of Frontdesk, CAC commented, “When I first

got posted in five months ago, CPL Leong was almost like my upper-study. He gave me a lot of guidance on our work processes. It's very good to have people like him who are so committed to their work. Very often, he would even stay back late at night just to help me, even when the others have already gone home!”



As a firm believer in delivering excellent service, CPL Leong often goes beyond his call of duty, even to the extent of working

during the weekends. In one particular incident, he worked over the weekend to issue indented uniform accessories to NSmen who were too busy to collect them during the weekdays. “A job worth doing, is a job worth doing right,” he quipped. “NSmen have their private lives as well. To serve them better, we have to take a step forward to reach out to them.”

Nonetheless, CPL Leong was also quick to credit his peers and colleagues for inculcating the right values and habits within the unit. He recollected, “When I first joined, my former colleagues and I frequently worked overtime together. Slowly, I was influenced by their dedication and commitment to their work. Now, I try to do the same with my juniors as well.”

As CPL Leong looks forward to completing his full-time service, he is appreciative of the many invaluable skills learnt in the Army. He shared, “One of the things I've learned is to have good human-to-human interactions. Having gone through so many experiences, I've learnt to be more vocal, which can really give me an edge in the future. I've also learnt to be more tolerant. After all, you can't have everything your way.”

Countdown to AARM 09

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei



The 19th ASEAN Armies Rifles Meet (AARM) will be held right here in Singapore from 5 to 23 October. The meet will be organised by the 9th Singapore Division/Infantry (9 DIV/INF) with the Infantry Training Institute (ITI) as the leading agency. This will be the third time that our Army is

hosting the competition, having hosted it in 1996 and 2002.

The AARM is an annual meet aimed at bringing together the armies of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in a spirit of friendship and competition. The event, which is into its 19th year, is also an opportunity for each army to demonstrate its small arms weapons proficiency. The first AARM held in 1991 at Terendak Camp, Malacca saw just six ASEAN countries participating. This has since grown to 10 and the hosting is rotated among the member countries. This year, some 580 participants are expected and they will be housed at the Games Village in ITI. They will be competing in various categories including Pistol, Ladies' Pistol, Rifle, Carbine and Machine Guns. At the opening ceremony on



5 October at the Nee Soon 500 metres range, the SAF Red Lions will freefall into the range, each bearing the flag of a participating country. In addition, there will also be a performance by the combined SAF/NCC Band and a paraglider display by the Naval Diving Unit. This will certainly be a rousing start to a memorable event!

Thinking Out Of The Bracket

Text by Samuel Cheam / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei

The Transceiver Portable Quantiser 36 (TPQ36) is an important radar system which enables artillery units to trace the trajectory of artillery shells and determine the accuracy of their firing. Part of this system involves a frequency passing through a flexible wave guide to the antenna array which then transmits information to a computer.

During maintenance, the flexible wave guide is unhooked from its normal position and fitted with a dummy load. This prevents emission of dangerous radiation and instead converts it to heat energy.

However, the heavy weight of the dummy load causes the flexible wave guide to bend. This exerts great stress on the bent portion and wears out the flexible wave guide. Consequently, time-consuming and costly replacements are required.



The attached dummy load causes excessive stress on the flexible wave guide



“We came up with this improvement after the problem kept arising during maintenance. It was a system of trial and error that led us to this innovation,” quipped SSG Joey Chiew, the leader of a Work Improvement Team from the 6th Army Maintenance Base. The solution by SSG Chiew and his team is a simple one. They devised a set of brackets to support the weight of the dummy load attachment when the TPQ 36 is being serviced, thus protecting the flexible wave guide. 2SG Jerry Goh, a team member explained, “Basically we just found the exact position at which we could relieve the stress from the flexible wave guide and built a support there.”

This innovative solution has reduced the need for frequent replacement of the flexible wave guides, resulting in an estimated annual saving of about \$6,800. There is also another benefit, as 2SG Goh elaborated, “The brackets have definitely saved us a



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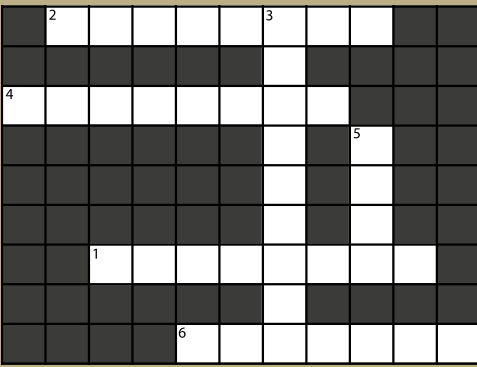
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Quiz Of The Month - JUL / AUG

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

Q: Closing Date : 9 October 2009



Across

1. This year's National Day Parade was held at the Marina _____ Platform.
2. The _____ for the TPQ 36 won Gold at this year's NIOCC.
4. The Army Half _____ was held on 16 August.
6. 340 students participated in this year's _____ Seminar.

Down

3. The Army Technology Symposium was a gathering of individuals from our defence technology _____.
5. The 296 servicemen deployed to the Gulf of _____ received the Overseas Service Medal from DPM Teo.

Rank / Name:

Unit:

NRIC:

E-mail:

Contact No.:

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

JUN / JUL Quiz

- A: 1. Northstar
2. Institute
3. Swimmer

4. West

5. Learning

6. Support

JUN / JUL Winners

- 1) 2SG VINCENT MOK
- 2) REC MUHAMMAD NUR HIDAYATULLAH
- 3) OCT SETH TING
- 4) CPT GAN TECK WEE
- 5) 1SG (NS) LIM CHEE BOON

NRIC: Sxxxx484H
NRIC: Sxxxx037C
NRIC: Sxxxx714I
NRIC: Sxxxx582J
NRIC: Sxxxx390E

Winners are to contact Army News at 6427 0642 for collection of prizes.

SAFSA Dragon Boat Team Wins Gold

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Photography by Chia Han Sheng

20 pairs of arms paddle in mechanical unison as our SAF Sports Association (SAFSA) Dragon Boat Men's team races forward, leaving 31 other teams in their wake. As lactic acid and fatigue burn at their muscles, these highly trained athletes press on, ultimately clinching first place at the Singapore Dragon Boat Festival held on 27 and 28 June. The Singapore Dragon Boat Festival is the first of two main races held in Singapore and has traditionally been dominated by tertiary education institutes. The win is therefore highly significant for the SAFSA team.

Sharing on the team's strategy for success, CPT Wee Eng Peow, Honorary Secretary of the team said, "We did a year-long plan to identify former rowers from schools who were enlisting and called them up for selection. These athletes eventually formed the SAFSA all-star team." The team included servicemen hailing from various SAF organisations such as the Officer Cadet School and the



The SAFSA Dragon Boat Team trains hard each weekend

Naval Diving Unit. They began training for the competition in January this year.

Balancing the commitments of a top athlete and an operational soldier is no simple feat. CPT Wee shared, "We always have to balance military training and commitment to the sport. For many of our rowers like the Officer and Specialist Cadets, it's harder for them to come down for dragon boat training as they have a hectic soldiering schedule. As such, the rowers sacrificed their time off on the weekends to come down and train." This commitment stems from a deep passion for the sport. PTE Jonathan Gan from the Military Police shared, "I have a very strong passion for dragon boating. I enjoy almost everything about this sport, be it the tough training sessions or the thrill and excitement of competition. Also, dragon boating requires good teamwork and the process of building up this teamwork makes it enjoyable."

In fact, the sport's emphasis on teamwork has made it a popular cohesion and team building activity for SAF units. CPT Ong Suat Lin, Team Manager of the Ladies' Team shared, "Dragon boating emphasises a lot on team spirit. You need all twenty rowers to row in sync. During training and races we also build many of the SAF Core Values such as fighting spirit and discipline." CPT Ong was also part of the team which won 3rd place in the 20-Mixed Category of the competition. Looking ahead, the teams hope to perform well at the year end River Regatta and possibly participate in overseas competitions. CPT Wee elaborated, "If we can do well at the River Regatta, we will try to explore overseas races for further exposure and to benchmark ourselves against overseas teams."

If you are interested in this exciting sport for competitive or leisure purposes, please contact SAFSA at 6410 5767 for details.



The SAFSA Dragon Boat Men's team celebrating their win (Picture courtesy of SAFSA)

Honours for Top Athletes

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Photography by Chia Han Sheng & Jonathan Ong

"Sport ignites passion, builds character, and bonds people — everyone should be active in sports for health, for vigour and for life. And the SAF will support our national aim of creating a vibrant and sporting Singapore" said LG Desmond Kuek, Chief of Defence Force (CDF) and Chairman of the SAF Sports Association (SAFSA). CDF was speaking at the SAFSA Awards Ceremony 2009 held at the Chevrons on 3 August. During the Ceremony, 112 awards were given out to recognise those who have contributed to SAFSA's sporting success.

Taking home this year's Best Sportsman Award for the fourth time was MSG Kasmijan from the 9th Army



MSG Kasmijan in action with his rifle

Maintenance Base. As a member of the Singapore National Shooting Team, MSG Kasmijan's achievement is evident in two gold medals and one silver medal won over the past year in both national and international competitions. Reflecting on his awards, MSG Kasmijan said, "I just did my best and did not think about winning any awards. I've spent 13 years shooting and I do it because of a burning desire to excel and a sense of pride."

With many years of experience under his belt, MSG Kasmijan is well poised to pass these lessons on to the next generation. He elaborated, "I do coaching and mentoring now as well. I demand equally high standards from the people I coach and myself in terms of skill and knowledge of the sport." Besides coaching, MSG Kasmijan also plans to gun for the stars at the coming South East Asian Games.

Awards were also given to formations which topped the Inter-Formation Competition and to those which have shown marked improvement in their performance over the last few years. Finishing second place this year was 9th Singapore Division/HQ Infantry (9 DIV/INF). 9 DIV/INF finished 4th position in 2007, before finishing 3rd in 2008 and 2nd this year. Despite this commendable improvement, Formation Sports Officer LTC Andrew Lim said, "I don't want to create any expectations as the motivation is not winning this overall SAFSA competition. The motivation is to have people coming together with the common aim of wanting to do well for the division in areas that they can contribute. Sport is one of these avenues where they can contribute."



LTC Lim (left) receiving the First Runner Up trophy from CDF

Elaborating on how 9 DIV/INF has managed to perform so consistently, LTC Lim said, "When looking for convenors for each sport, we took the approach of finding the best man for the job. The person who is the convenor of the division has got to be interested in the game and he will carry it through because he believes in it." This belief in giving as many servicemen as possible the opportunity to passionately compete in sports can be seen in the inter-unit games which 9 DIV/INF has organised. LTC Lim elaborated, "When you conduct inter-unit competitions, you are able to have greater participation by servicemen and a wider coverage of the sport. It creates opportunities for a lot of servicemen in the battalion to experience that kind of success."