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pulse of the army



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Singapore, The Little Country That Can

Story by: Hui Nai Xiang / Photography by: Wan Zhong Wei



Minister Teo Chee Hean interacting with students during the reception

“The Little Country That Can” was the theme of the 18th Temasek Seminar held at the SAFTI Military Institute on 25 July. About 340 students from various tertiary institutes attended the seminar. They discussed the many challenges facing Singapore and its “can do” spirit in overcoming obstacles.

In his keynote address, Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean said that Singapore’s “can do” attitude has enabled us to turn many of our constraints into advantages. Some of the challenges included ensuring adequate water resources, finding a common working language, defending Singapore which lacks strategic depth and sustaining a large standing military force.

Minister Teo noted how the introduction of National Service and development of early warning systems have enabled us to overcome the limitations of a small population in defence and lack of strategic depth respectively. He said, “Our lack of training space has forced us to be creative. The SAF conducts exercises with many other Armed forces, both locally and overseas.” He elaborated, “Besides building friendships, engaging in bilateral and multilateral exercises allows us to benchmark ourselves against the best of foreign militaries and learn from their expertise. This has sharpened the SAF’s operational capabilities and readiness.” Minister Teo also explained how National Service has united Singaporeans from all walks of life in a common experience.

Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Information Communications and the Arts, RADM (NS) Lui Tuck Yew also spoke about the importance of defence by citing the example of Kuwait’s failure to invest in its defence despite its wealth. This led to the Iraqi invasion in 1990. He said, “It is a useful reminder that small, wealthy countries cannot take their security for granted.”

The seminar was a success as reflected in the positive feedback received. Fathiyah Diyana bte Osman, a student from Victoria Junior College, shared, “Youths ought to play a greater role in the defence of Singapore as it concerns us. We should be more

proactive in getting to know about the defence issues that Singapore is faced with.” Ms Fauzana bte Abdullah, a teacher from Meridian Junior College felt that the seminar was useful for the students. She said, “This seminar helps to give students a more balanced point of view about defence as they get to understand the pragmatic reasons regarding the need for defence.”

The seminar ended with a tour in the Army Museum where they learnt about the evolution of our Army from its humble beginnings to the integrated and networked 3rd Generation Army it is today. Mylene Lim from National Junior College said, “The museum tour was engaging. The visual presentations on Army life show that it can be quite an enjoyable experience.”



RADM (NS) Lui Tuck Yew engaging the students

Engaging Army Students on Vacation Attachment

Story by: Hui Nai Xiang / Photography: Wan Zhong Wei



COA emphasising the importance for leaders in the Army to take responsibility and be accountable for their actions

The Army Student Network (ASN) was established with the key objective of helping Army personnel who are away from active service due to their study commitments stay informed and engaged. To further achieve this, a Vacation Attachment Camp was organised by the Army Officers Management Centre

(AOMC) from 28 July to 30 July. Commanding Officer AOMC, LTC Clifford Keong, said, “This camp brings the junior officers together so that they are kept abreast of all the initiatives in the Army. It will also enable the participants to foster friendships so that they can keep each other informed since they will be away for full time studies.”

The camp included various dialogue sessions with senior officers during which participants learnt about the many challenges facing them as junior officers. In his dialogue, BG (NS) Winston Toh highlighted the need for junior commanders to understand the NS system so that they can better manage NSmen who have to balance their NS commitments with that of their families and civilian careers. He also advised participants to leverage on the talents and abilities of the Warrant Officers and Specialists for greater outcomes.

To effectively understand their men and their challenges, BG (NS) Toh advised, “You must be an all-weather commander.

You have to be there in the good and bad times.” BG Tan Chuan Jin, Commander 3rd Division, who was instrumental in formulating various leadership courses, also shared his experiences in the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami relief operation so that they can realise the purpose of their training for real-life operations.

To promote teamwork and encourage the officers to think about key issues in the SAF, such as professional development and military leadership, the camp also required the participants to undertake group research projects.

The camp had been a great learning opportunity for the participants. LTA Fadilah bte Abdul Rajak, a student at Singapore Management University said, “The camp was insightful. I get to hear from many distinguished speakers that provided me a good insight on what is happening within the Army. It also enabled me to know the other students in the ASN better and this networking will be useful when I am back in full time service and need assistance.”

OCS Connects with JC Students

Story by: Chia Han Sheng / Photography by: Chia Han Sheng & Michael Thing

“Beyond Limits, Towards Excellence. The Journey of an Officer Cadet” was the theme that greeted visitors from five junior colleges to the Officer Cadet School (OCS) on 23 July. The students from Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), Yis-



ACS (Independent) student Weichang putting on an FBO to get a glimpse of the rigours of NS

hun JC, Innova JC, Anderson JC and Hwa Chong Institution learnt about our Army’s journey of excellence as they gained an insight into an officer cadet’s way of life. Delta Wing Platoon Commander, CPT Gareth Wong said, “This visit aimed to expose students to the kind of training that our officer cadets go through. We want to get them thinking about what they want out of NS and inspire them to become future leaders.”

Lu Weichang from ACS (Independent) felt that the visit was an useful eye opener. Despite initial reservations, he sportingly donned the Full Battle Order (FBO) and even got his face painted with camouflage paint. Weichang reflected, “At first I thought OCS would be intimidating. However after the visit, I realised that the community is close knit and very cohesive. It has been quite an eye opener.” The students also made their way around various stations in SAFTI Military Institute, interacting with the warm and friendly OCT guides along the way. Tour highlights included firing the SAR 21, rations tasting and a fashion show which featured the various attires of an officer.

The values which OCS instils in its cadets were clearly observed by Ariel Lim who highlighted, “I have seen how OCS makes a big impact in the lives of the OCTs. I have a female senior who went through it and she has been very positive. The visit has been quite inspiring, and if guys can go through it, I am sure girls can too!” Such a response was indeed the outcome that organisers NEXUS and OCS had hoped to achieve. CPT

Wong elaborated, “We wanted to give them insight into the ethos and values which OCS stands for. Being a leader requires physical, emotional and mental preparation. This early engagement is therefore very important for pre enlistees.”

After the students’ departure, OCT David Cheong reflected, “By giving the students a better understanding of OCS, we build their confidence in the SAF, thus contributing to National Education efforts. For ourselves, it is also heartening to know that our training is validated and affirmed by the public. This gives us confidence and motivation to continue giving our best.”



The visitors getting a taste of our Army’s field rations

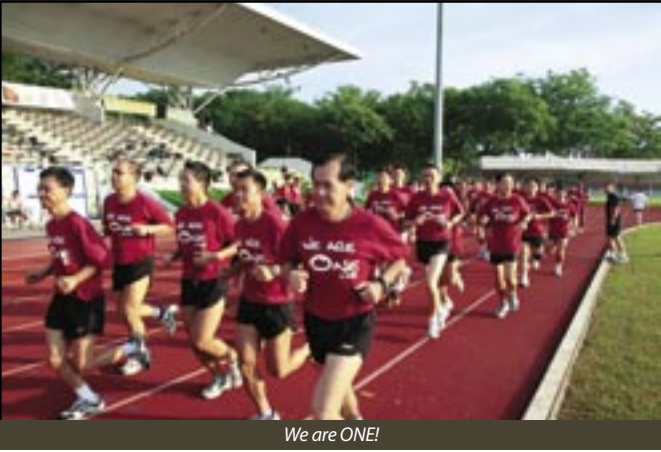
Being ONE at SAF Commanders’ Sports Day

Story by: Hui Nai Xiang / Photography by: Sebastian Ang



The Tug-of-War event requires strong teamwork

“ONE SAF run, Our hearts, Our hope, Our run is ONE” expresses clearly the importance and significance of the first Commanders’ Sports Day held on 27 June at SAFTI MI. For the first time, members from all the Services in the SAF met in friendly competition over various games.



We are ONE!

Although the competitive spirit was there, the main focus was not on winning but the experience that has enabled various members of the SAF to bond together. The event theme, “We Are ONE”, featured prominently on the T-shirts of the participants and helpers clearly underlined this spirit. 2WO Tok Kian Leong from the Ordnance Engineering Training Institute commented, “The most important thing is participation in this Sports Day which will help improve cohesiveness. It is not about winning or losing. In the SAF, we often have busy schedules. Therefore, this event serves as a way for people to get together to enjoy themselves, playing the games under the morning sun. I hope that this event would allow me to bond better with all my colleagues.”

The Sports Day also serves as a way to facilitate cohesion. Chief of Defence Force, LG Desmond Kuek said in his closing speech, “The SAF Commanders’ Sports Day fits in very nicely with our theme of ONE SAF. Sports is a way for us to have healthy fun as it gives us an opportunity to foster cohesion, a sense of teamwork and inspiration. People learn to work a bit

closer together as well as get to know people from other parts of the SAF that you might not meet daily. Sports is also a vehicle to help us promote values such as discipline and fighting spirit.”



Our Army COC relay team powering towards the finish line

Two Army teams did us proud by coming in first and third in the 4x200m and 6x400m Chain-of-Command relay race. MAJ Tan Tong Leng of HQ Commandos, a member of the winning team, commented, “This Sports Day helps promotes fitness because all of us came together as a formation to compete. It provides us with new focus and motivation when we do our physical training everyday, as we have something to train towards.”

At the end of the event, the combined team from 9 Div/Infantry and SAFTI MI emerged as the overall champion.

Army Interaction Games

Story by: Lim Wei Zhong / Photography by: Wan Zhong Wei



Firing the P226 pistol during the friendly shooting competition

The strong bonds of friendship between our Army and Tentara Nasional Indonesia – Angkatan Darat (TNI-AD) were reinforced at the annual Army Interaction Games (AIG) held from 24 to 25 July. Into its third year, the initiative has already contributed significantly in strengthening personal ties and enhancing mutual understanding between the senior commanders of both armies. In a friendly shooting competition at Nee Soon Range, senior commanders from both armies fired our locally developed SAR 21 assault rifle. Other activities included a golf game and an official dinner which further allowed the commanders to forge and renew friendships.

Commenting on the importance of the AIG, TNI-AD Chief of Staff, KASAD GEN TNI Agustadi Sasongko Purnomo said, “Through the programme and get together, we are able to meet our counterparts, exchange information and open new channels of communications for a variety of interconnected is-

sues between our two armed forces. I hope the Army Interaction Games will continue and in time be elevated in stature as this will benefit the personnel involved.”

Our Chief of Army, MG Neo Kian Hong shared KASAD’s positive sentiments on the AIG and its role in building strong bilateral ties. He said, “I am convinced that the SAF and TNI are ideal defence partners and have much to offer each other. It is important for both armies to maintain the current interactions that anchor the existing close relationship, and to seek to develop new activities that will enhance our meaningful friendships.”

Events like the AIG boost mutual understanding, which is crucial to maintaining close defence cooperation in the face of regional challenges. In October, our Army will be training alongside TNI-AD at Exercise SAFKAR Indopura, further building on our bilateral relationship.



Singing ‘Top of the World’ together at the dinner

Good Evening, Mr President Sir!

Story by: Chia Han Sheng / Photography by: Michael Thing



President Nathan spent some time interacting with this year’s NSmen of the year

Under the warm glow of the evening sun, President S R Nathan hosted more than 800 personnel from the Ministry of Defence, SAF and Defence Science Technology Agency to a garden reception at the Istana. Held on 13 July, the occasion recognised and honoured their contributions to Singapore’s peace and security. It was a memorable evening for many of the guests as they shared with President Nathan their experiences in serving the nation. Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean and Second Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen also attended the reception.

SMA's Share Their Thoughts

Story by: Chia Han Sheng



SWO Koa (left) will continue to build on the strong legacy left by SWO Chung

On 25 July, SWO Jeffrey Chung completed his 2-year tenure as the Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA). During his time as SMA, SWO Chung strengthened and built upon the initiatives of his predecessors and introduced new initiatives to lead the Army Warrant Officer and Specialist (WOSpecs) Corps to achieve greater heights. As our Army's number one WOSpec, he feels that his best times in the Army came from interacting with soldiers on the ground. His successor, SWO Joseph Koa, is already looking forward to building on SWO Chung's initiatives and continuing the strong engagement with the WOSpec Corps. SWO Koa's previous appointment as Sergeant Major of 9th Division/Infantry and leadership role in various Urban Operations initiatives have certainly put him in good stead to take on the challenges as the new SMA. SWO Chung and SWO Koa shared with Army News their thoughts and aspirations.

SWO Chung:

What has been most memorable about your time as SMA?

I have many good memories, but the best memories I have are from the time I've spent with the soldiers on the ground, sharing and learning from them. It is a joy to see them being positive and giving their best during events and operations even during tiring periods.

How do you balance between the need to maintain a high standard of discipline and being approachable so as to better know your men?

There is no contradiction between maintaining discipline and being friendly with the soldiers. In fact, it is often easier to maintain soldiers' discipline when we have built a relationship with them. Soldiers look to us, and they respond better if they find that we are approachable.

What did you hope to achieve when you first took up the appointment of SMA?

When I came into office, my aim was to educate not just our WOSpecs but also our Officers on the roles and responsibilities of the WOSpec Corps. This is to ensure our WOSpecs know their roles and responsibilities and carry them out well. This also ensures that our Officers can empower them and allow them to perform to the standards required. I also wanted to document WOSpec related issues. This is to capture the tacit knowledge residing in the senior WOSpecs, allowing for the shortening of the learning curve for younger WOSpecs and more importantly to ease the processes related to such issues. This frees our WOSpecs from routine and mundane tasks, allowing them to take on expanded roles without unnecessarily compromising their work life balance.

Congratulations on your appointment as the Sergeant Major of the SAF. Can you share with us your vision in this new role?

I have to continue what I have done for the Army except that I have to now include the RSAF, RSN and Joint. I will have to continue the good work of my predecessors by bringing our people closer so that we can achieve our vision of ONE SAF.

On a lighter note, what are your leisure activities?

Outside the SAF, I love playing games, painting and playing musical instruments. Hopefully I will be able to take part in musical performances when I retire.

SWO Koa:

How do you feel about your appointment as SMA?

I feel grateful that the Army Leadership has entrusted me with this appointment of SMA. I will do my best and I hope to touch the lives of our soldiers.

How do you balance between the need to maintain a high standard of discipline and being approachable so as to better know your men?

I want to come from the angle of being approachable. If soldiers avoid me, that's not good. As SMA, I need people to talk to me and be frank so that I can understand the ground issues. As SMA, I want to help soldiers understand why certain policies are made. When soldiers understand policies, they will fall in line faster and get the job done.

As the new SMA, what are your three priorities in moving the WOSpec Corps forward?

The first thing on my mind is to emphasise the role of WOSpecs in training. During training, we mould civilians into soldiers and junior leaders into senior leaders. This is the niche area of the WOSpecs Corps. Secondly, we must look at our internal leadership of the corps, as senior WOSpecs play a key role in nurturing the younger generation. This will build a sense of ownership to the corps. Thirdly, we want to ensure that individual WOSpecs see themselves as a Subject Matter Expert through deep specialisation.

As the new SMA, what is the main challenge facing you?

The Army is very big, and WOSpecs do different things across the various formations. My challenge is to find and establish the common ground and purpose for WOSpecs across the Army.

On a lighter note, what are your leisure activities?

I like to chill out at the golf course as I feel most relaxed there. I also run a lot and make it a point to run with WOSpecs and men often.

Our Army Wishes both SWO Chung and SWO Koa all the best in their endeavours.

Army Advertisement Recognised for Creativity

Story by: Hui Nai Xiang



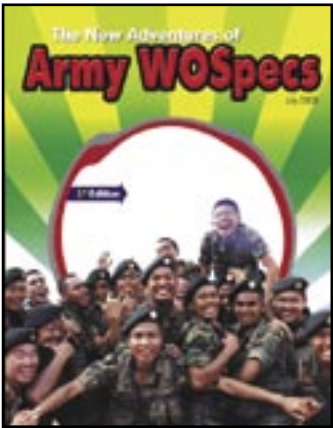
"Unzipping" to reveal our potential Army leaders

so that they are attracted to find out more about us and our capabilities."

The "Leadership. Our Edge" advertisement was recently identified as one of the "Winning Advertisements of the Month" in Advine, a quarterly publication of the Singapore Press Holdings (SPH) Marketing Division. Winning advertisements are picked for their creativity and communication effectiveness. A pleased MAJ Pang said, "In this advertisement, we focused on leveraging our Army's strong leadership culture and practice to attract potential regulars. The creative process included brainstorming sessions which resulted in the concept of 'unzipping' the media platform to reveal the Army leaders behind the advertisement. Recognition from agencies like SPH provide the motivation for us to continually improve our creative capabilities and it shows that we are on par with the best advertisers in the nation."

Army WOSpec Guidebook Launched

Story by: Chia Han Sheng



Warrant Officers and Specialists (WOSpecs) form the backbone of the SAF. On 25 July, our Army launched the Army WOSpec Guidebook which underscores this importance. The launch is also timely as it documents the evolution of the WOSpec Corps and crystallises their core responsibilities as our Army transforms into a 3rd Generation Fighting Force.

With a rich content that includes topics such as "WOSpec Roles and Responsibilities, and Training & Educational Roadmap", the guidebook is a trove of information that will help enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. Explaining the handbook's importance, Sergeant Major of the Army SWO Joseph Koa said, "In the military, we need to maintain high standards. Be it in training or discipline, the guidebook serves to establish these standards which all WOSpecs subscribe to. The handbook articulates these standards clearly for all of us to adhere and maintain." All WOSpecs and officers have been mailed a copy of the WOSpec Guidebook.

Celebrating NDP 08

National Day is a time to be proud of who we are and what we have achieved as a nation. Army News was there to bring you some of these special moments.

It is a time where our joy and energy are expressed through various displays which bring out the qualities of our people - discipline, professionalism, teamwork, creativity, pride, and organisational skills.



The nation stands at attention during the state flag fly past



"The most memorable part of NDP 08 was the SAF's march-in. They looked so united and cohesive. For someone who doesn't get much exposure to the Army, the parade certainly gave me much confidence that Singapore is safe and secure."

- Madam Hanimah (above), with her daughter Nurul Ain



Taking a break during the rehearsal



Guards Formation Sergeant Major SWO Thalapati s/o K Veeraiyan has a chat with some kids before one of the Combined Rehearsals



The Black Knights wow the audience with a starburst formation



In perfect step - our Commandos showcase their discipline and precision



Give me a five!

NDP 08

Celebrating the Spirit of Our People

Story by: Lim Wei Zhong / Photography by: Lim Wei Zhong, Michael Thng, Wan Zhong Wei, Sebastian Ang, Chia Han Sheng & Choo Chee Chong

Every year, National Day Parade (NDP) organisers rack their brains to come up with items and concepts never seen before – such as the ‘Merlion Dance’ by 40th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (40 SAR) which made its debut at this year’s show segment. Innovation was not the only challenge. The 7,300

participants had to be trained, fed, rehearsed and most importantly motivated – even inspired. Publicity had to be coordinated, logistic support prepared...the to-do list was endless.

Yet every year, we manage to combine everything to create a

dynamic and exciting performance. Without a doubt, the success of each NDP can be attributed to the spirit of our people – their commitment, teamwork, discipline, creativity, professional pride and organisational skills. Army News goes behind the scenes with several participating units to profile these qualities.

One for All, All for One!

Ever seen a caterpillar move? Every pair of legs closely follows the pair ahead, creating a flawless ripple of movement that takes the little creature across terrain and up vertical surfaces. 40 SAR’s ‘Merlion Dance’ item was something like that – for the Merlion to undulate smoothly, the nine men supporting it had to move in perfect tandem.

Close coordination was a critical factor during the corkscrew spins performed by the Merlion as the men had to hop over the moving body. One of the ‘handlers’, CPL Julian Siew said, “The first few times we rehearsed, we didn’t meet the required timing. However we decided to work hard for one another and our unit, and eventually succeeded.”

Unlike the traditional Chinese dragon dance, where the dragon is made of bamboo and cloth, 40 SAR’s Merlions were constructed with metal and fibreglass. This made it possible to mount a flamethrower in its mouth, which was activated during the performance for show-stopping effect. However, it also meant the Merlion was much heavier – the head alone weighed eight kilograms when filled with fuel, compared to under three kilograms for a conventional dragon head.



Carrying one of the Merlion heads was Team Leader 3SG Marc Wong, who came up with interesting observations from the many practice sessions. He said, “Actually it’s not critical to be absolutely correct in following the choreography steps. Rather, you have to follow the flow, imagining the movement of a snake. As long as everyone follows the guy in front of him, the Merlion still moves smoothly and looks good.”

Precision Through Discipline



As the evening sunlight glints off row upon row of polished white helmets, 40 rifle butts descend and hit the ground in unison. Spinning their rifles and turning their bodies as one, the Military Police (MP) Command’s Silent Precision Drill Squad



(SPDS) draws loud cheers of appreciation for the results of their weeks of hard work. Their inspiring performance on the Marina Bay floating platform involved much team coordination and training discipline.

Learning the precision drill has been a fulfilling experience for NSFs like LCP Goh Kai Lun of the Ceremonial Guards. He shared, “I’m glad to have had this chance to learn a new skill. Discipline has been crucial to our training – even if we were tired, we had to give our 100% and stay focused to learn the drills.” Fellow squad member LCP Leng Jian Long added, “From this NDP, I have learnt that everything is achievable as long as you have heart and effort.”

Also thrilling the crowds at the NDP were the Gymkhana bikers, of which three were from MP Command. The Gymkhana is a special stunt where many riders balance on a single motorcycle. This year, the bikers broke their previous record of ten, by balancing eleven riders on the tiny vehicle. Just like the SPDS, the MP bikers agreed on the value of training discipline. Traffic Outrider LCP Izzat Rusydi said, “Maintaining that level of discipline and punctuality helps us to use our training time efficiently to achieve a high standard, so that we can give our best for the actual performance.”



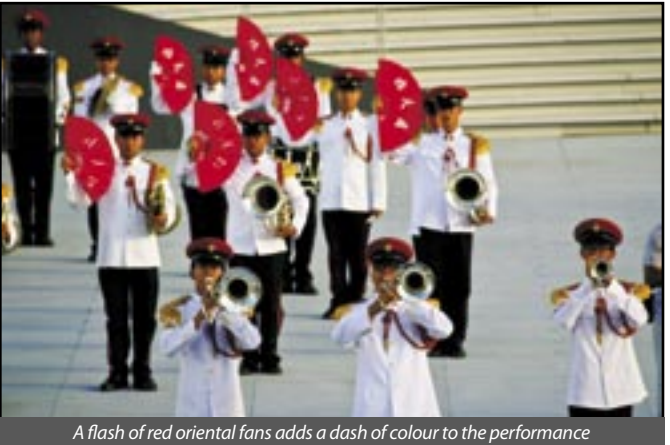
tell us your activities!
email: armynews@starmet.gov.sg call: 6768 2206

Tradition Meets Creativity

This year, the SAF Band marks 50 years of musical excellence, and what better way to celebrate than with a grand performance at our nation’s birthday? The Central Band revived a time-honoured military tradition by marching in at the head of the parade contingents – a display not seen by NDP audiences for the last 20 years. They played tunes like ‘Standing Victorious’ and ‘Tentera Singapura’ which enlivened the parade and reflected Singapore’s rich musical heritage. CPL Nicholas Lee, who plays the clarinet (a wind instrument) commented, “The band adds to the colour and excitement of the parade. Just like a café without music, a parade without the band would be boring!”



While the Central Band’s pomp and ceremony reminded us of our glorious traditions, Parade Bands A and B put on a dazzling display of colour during the pre-parade segment. Together with the SPDS, they made a series of formations created specially for the occasion by resident choreographer 1SG Jax Ang. One of his ideas was to incorporate red Chinese fans into the show. He said, “They add colour and movement. From the front, the audience sees a flash of red.”



The parade bands strutted their stuff to the tune of ‘A Singaporean Rhapsody’, based on the well-loved ‘Count On Me Singapore’ and composed by Director of Music, CPT Steven Tan. He explained that every section of music conveys a message, “For example, the final section motivates people to face new challenges, scale new heights and believe in themselves, just as past generations of Singaporeans have done. Amidst our busy lives, the song tells us not to forget to have fun and laughter with our loved ones everyday, in this beautiful country that we call home.”

All Fired Up With Pride

The full-time National Servicemen of the 23rd Battalion, Singapore Artillery’s (23 SA’s) Charlie Battery are usually accustomed to launching their rain of fire from the ultra-modern Pegasus Singapore Light Weight Howitzer. However for NDP, they turned to their trusty 25-pounders which were meticulously prepared for the big occasion. These colonial-era cannons are a far cry from the hydraulic machinery, self propulsion systems and heli-borne capabilities of the 155mm Pegasus. Yet the unwieldy relics hold a special significance as symbols of pride and power. Their service in World War II reminds us never to take peace for granted.



A Blast From the Past
The 25-pounders were deployed in Singapore against the Japanese in the 1940s, and some are still preserved on-site at Fort Siloso. Manufactured by the British, these venerable cannons are known to many veterans as the best guns used in World War II. Their chassis was designed to fire at both low and high trajectories, and their weight of only 1.8 tonnes made them very maneuverable (compared to other guns of the era). Furthermore, a circular metal platform below allowed the gun to rotate quickly to face approaching armoured vehicles.

For LCP Razmy, a Rammer in 23 SA, learning to fire the 25-pounders had a subtle national educational value. He said, “While the guns themselves are quite simple to operate, it is the history behind them which is interesting. This type of gun has defended Singapore in the past.”

Also agreeing on the guns’ historical importance was 2LT Leow Zi Xiang, the Gun Positioning Officer (GPO). He said, “The guns remind me of Singapore’s resilience and how much

we had fought for independence. There’s definitely much pride among the men when we fire the guns to salute the President.” As GPO, 2LT Leow had to shout the command to fire each gun – certainly a pressurising appointment as they had to be timed perfectly to synchronise with the President’s inspection of the contingents. A highly satisfied 2LT Leow quipped, “I’ve always watched NDP from young and thought it was quite cool to fire these guns. Now, I’m lucky enough to get this chance!”

Bringing It All Together

A massive and complex event like NDP requires an extremely high level of organisation and coordination. Besides ensuring that the show proper runs like clockwork, there were also various ground operations relating to crowd management, security, medical coverage and logistics. This year, the heavy responsibility fell to HQ Guards, who proved their mettle in running the Command and Control Centre, consisting of the Show Centre and Operations Centre.

The Show Centre directed all the action on the floating platform, ensuring that each show segment flowed seamlessly into another. About 50 cue-controllers from various organisations triggered the different show elements and controlled multimedia, pyrotechnics, lighting effects and even the Black Knights flypast with great precision.

While the Show Centre focused on the immediate action in front of the audience, the Operations Centre took care of all behind-the-scenes requirements like movement of participants, rations, medical coverage and security. An example of the challenge involved was managing the arrival and dispersal of 27,000 spectators at the floating platform located in the heart of the city.

MWO K Chandran, Operations Warrant for Contingency





Heaven! Unlike our Pegasus and Primus Howitzers, the old 25-pounders have no self-propulsion capabilities



One of the Red Lions blasting across the sky in a blaze of glory



Enciks - the guardians of our drills and traditions



"The parade sums up Singapore - always changing, always improving. It reflects Singapore's diversity and inclusiveness. Over the years, the Army segment has become integrated into our society through National Service."

- Goh Han Sern (left), Head of Department at Yuhua Primary School, with some of his students



A member of the 23 SA laying communication cables in preparation for the presidential gun salute



The colours party doing their final checks just before the parade

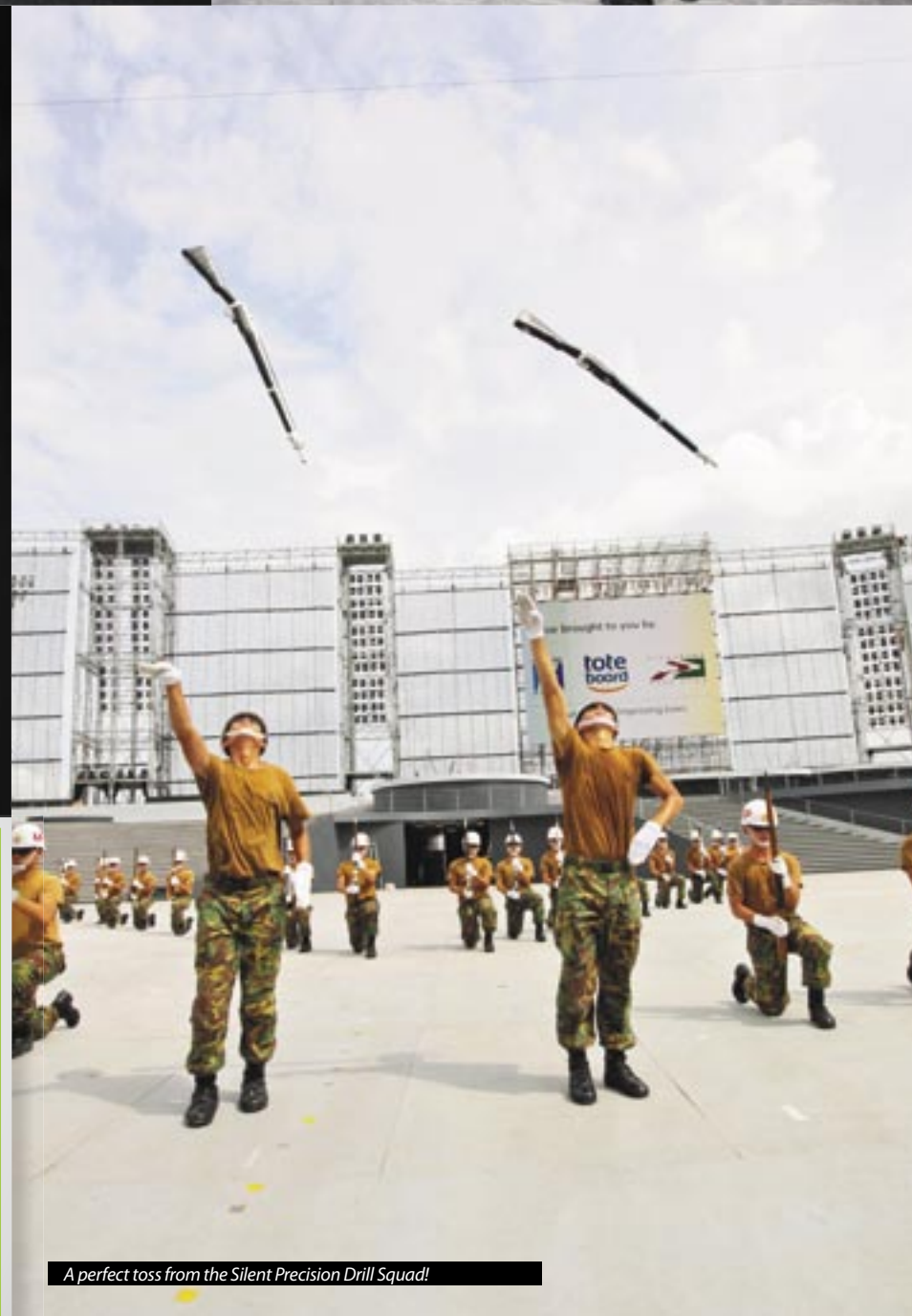


Uncasing the colours at Suntec City



"NDP 08 was very exciting, and we especially enjoyed the Red Lions' display. The Parade definitely showcased the readiness of the SAF."

- Ee Chew Poh (left) and Siow Wee Teck



A perfect toss from the Silent Precision Drill Squad!

tell us your activities!
email: armynews@starnews.gov.sg call: 6788 2206

LTC Paul Cheak

The Power of the Scout Promise

Story by: Tan Wee Meng / Photography by: Wan Zhong Wei

As a boy scout in school, LTC Paul Cheak learnt many important life skills. But none was more life-changing than the simple scout oath of "On my honour, I will do my best". This promise was a driving force in his recent outstanding performance at the United States Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) Intermediate Level Education Programme, the US equivalent of our Singapore Command and Staff Course. In a cohort of 750 US officers and 50 international officers, he did Singapore proud by being awarded the prestigious GEN Dwight D Eisenhower Award, a Masters of Military Arts and Science degree, and was designated as "Master Logistician" - a first for an international student.

When he arrived in June 2007 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, LTC Cheak discovered that five Singaporeans, including our previous Chief of Defence Force, LG Ng Yat Chung, Chief Armour Officer, BG Philip Lim and Assistant Chief of Staff (Personnel), COL Tan Chong Lee were already on the GEN Dwight D Eisenhower Award honour roll. His course mates from the US and other countries were equally if not more capable. LTC Cheak was thus pleasantly surprised by the awards which were announced on graduation day. He shared, "As the only Singaporean at that course, I naturally want to do well to prove that a small and young Army like ours is equally capable. I was also greatly encouraged by the presence of my wife Joyce who took no pay leave from work and my daughter, Eleanor. While I worked very hard during the course, we also spent the holidays and weekends travelling to maximise our stay there."

Commissioned as an Artillery Officer, LTC Cheak is well grounded in military technology. Besides a First Class Honours degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Manchester, he also has a Master of Science from the National University of Singapore and a Master of Science in Combat System Technol-



LTC Cheak (left) aims to use his sensor expertise to further raise the operational capabilities of our mini UAVs

ogy (Sensors) from the US Naval Postgraduate School (NPS). These had enabled him to effectively contribute as a Weapon Staff Officer in HQ Artillery and the System Integration Office, during which he gained a multi-discipline exposure. He explained, "An artillery system is a very broad one. It is a system of systems, involving not only the sensors but also the weaponry as well. Besides managing the armament, we operate vehicles, computer systems and everything must fuse together to operate as one."

The Pegasus artillery gun was the most challenging project that LTC Cheak was involved in as a Weapon Staff Officer. He elaborated, "The operational demands on this system are very high and no other similar weapon system in the world has ever matched its capability. Despite having limited experience, resources and time, we succeeded in designing a weapon system

that not only delivers the fire power but excels in heli-transportability and self-propelled mobility. I had to analysis the various trade-offs and advise our commanders appropriately. It was highly satisfying when we won early sceptics over with our positive results and developments."

Now as Commanding Officer 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, LTC Cheak is looking forward to further improving its operational capabilities. He said, "With my sensor expertise, I can value add to this very special unit doing very new, cutting edge kind of operations. While this unit has done very well, it is still young compared to more established formations. We need to further develop our training methodology and anchor our good practices. We are also building up a strong safety culture as we begin to operationalise these equipment and introduce them to the units."



A proud moment for then-MAJ Cheak, wife Joyce and daughter Eleanor as they posed with the Commandant of the US Army Command and General Staff College, LTG William Caldwell (centre)

Army DXO Conquers Mongolian Ultramarathon

Story by: Lim Wei Zhong / Photography by: Kenneth Koh and Edwin Lee

Known to some as the 'world's most beautiful 100-km run', the Mongolian Sunrise to Sunset is an annual ultramarathon which takes runners through verdant forests and past the serene Lake Khovsgol. While the scenery is exquisite, the terrain and weather can be unforgiving, with participants having to bash through dense vegetation, endure hailstones and run at altitudes of up to

2300m. Taking on this challenge in July was Ms Jasmine Wong, Head Physiotherapist of Soldier Performance Centre, who came in second for the women's category with a timing of 18 hours and 40 minutes. She is the first Singaporean female to complete the race, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.



Ms Wong (right) breezing past the spectacular Mongolian scenery during her race preparation

Earning second place came as a surprise to Ms Wong, who participated to "just enjoy herself". However, her regular fitness routine definitely played a part in her stellar performance - she usually clocks at least 40 km a week, and a month prior to the race, she was running up to 100 km weekly. In fact, Ms Wong believes that "training is a lot harder than the actual race, as it takes much dedication. Once they flag off, I don't really need to think - just run and enjoy the scenery," she added with a smile.



Our national flag worn proudly on her sleeve during the race

While not a mega-publicity event like the Olympics, a race like this is also a chance for Singaporeans to represent their country, according to Ms Wong. She said, "For the race, my sleeve had the national flag sewn on it. Some of the other runners would notice and ask, hey, you're from Singapore?"

Ms Wong also pointed out that the Mongolia Sunrise to Sunset is special because it is a non-profit event. Unlike the many other commercialised ultramarathons out there, race proceeds are used to preserve the local nature and culture. She explained, "The Lake Khovsgol area is very beautiful, with hilly alpine terrain that is still very pristine. A group of trekkers wanted to maintain it, so they organised the race and used the money to start a series of campaigns to promote environmental sustainability. For example, they hire park rangers to carry out an anti-littering campaign."

Back home, Ms Wong tries hard to encourage her colleagues at HQ Army Medical Services to keep fit. Three of the four ladies in her department ran the Army Half Marathon this year, with one of them taking part for the first time. Ms Wong's final words of encouragement? "Make it a personal achievement for yourself. Believe you can do anything you set out to do!"

Bonding In The Tiger Family

Story by: Chia Han Sheng / Photography by: Michael Thing



DY G2 (Ops Hub) HQ 3 Div, MAJ (NS) Alan Teo explaining the role of a sniper to his son

Experiential rides on Army vehicles, weapons displays and archery stations - these were just some of the many fun activities which greeted servicemen and their families at the HQ 3rd Division (3 Div) Family Day held on 26 July. The event aimed to engage both active servicemen and NSmen together with their families in a fun-filled, free and easy Saturday morning. It was also an especially meaningful time for many NSmen, as the oc-

casion coincided with HQ 3 Div's last day of In-Camp Training (ICT). This allowed their family members to better appreciate the commitments and responsibilities of the NSmen.

Commander 3 Div, BG Tan Chuan-Jin emphasised the importance of such a family day in his opening address. He said, "Family day is important because it gives family members a sense

of what their loved ones do in the Army and ICT. It reaffirms that what they do is meaningful, and so wives, sisters, parents and children can all support what our servicemen do."

The rides on the Lighter, Amphibious, Resupply, Cargo V (LARC V), and BRONCO All Terrain Tracked Carrier certainly served to introduce family members to what our servicemen do. Smiles of anticipation broke out on children's faces as they buckled in for the exciting ride around Jurong Camp. Sergeant Major of 8th Singapore Armour Brigade (8 SAB), MWO Lim Siang Yam said, "My wife always accompanies me to such events. Through such interactions, she understands what I do. As for my son, it's a bit early to tell if he is looking forward to NS but he likes it so far!"

Family day was also a time for servicemen to get to know each other's families, thus strengthening the bonds of camaraderie and support for each other. 2SG (NS) Low Soon Leong from the Division Air Participation Centre said, "My buddies and I are very close. However, we do not usually get to see each other's families and so such an occasion is a great opportunity for all of us to interact. I'm glad that I can involve my family today!"



2SG (NS) Low (left) was glad that the servicemen and their families were able to interact in a fun-filled environment

APEX
Recognising Excellence and Dedication

Story by: Hui Nai Xiang / Photography by: Michael Thing

Expectations of the quality of NS administrators have risen over time. Today, simply being efficient is not good enough. Our staff are expected to deliver a certain degree of good customer service in all their interactions. A set of strategies has been introduced, focusing on NS practitioners and helping them to unlock their potential to meet new challenges. One of these is to accord recognition to boost the morale and sustain the energy of NS practitioners. The NS APEX (NS Administrators and Practitioners Excellence) Awards were introduced in 2006 to recognise Formation NS centres and individuals who displayed exemplary performance in providing excellent administration support to our NSmen.



Mr Koo Gek Seah adopts the 'Kaizen' process which continually seeks areas for improvement

Different types of awards are given out annually. In the individual awards category, Letters of Commendation are given to the Formation's top 10% of "STAR" performers, with the Best-of-the-Best from each Formation being further recognised

at a Service-level event. At the Formation level, Gold, Silver or Bronze awards are given out based on assessment criteria that include timeliness in the notification and payment to NSmen, ability to handle HR issues and the performance of the staff in the NS Practitioners Knowledge Test (NSPKT).

This year, 6th Singapore Division (6 Div), 9th Singapore Division, HQ Armour and HQ Singapore Artillery won Gold awards. Commenting on 6 Div's success, Mr Koo Gek Seah, its DY G1, Succession Plan, said, "We have adopted the famous 'Kaizen' process used by many successful Japanese car manufacturers, that is, to recognise that things are never perfect and to continually identify areas for improvement."



Thong Fong Mui believes in the need to adapt to the ever-changing environment and be more open-minded to changes around her

The mandatory NSPKT was introduced to ensure that all NS Practitioners maintain their currency in NS knowledge so that they can effectively manage NS administration. Trophies are awarded to top scorers in NSPKT. One of the recent winners, Thong Fong Mui, Section Head, Succession Planning (NS) of HQ Guards, commented, "Being actively involved in NS administration, both active and NS, for almost 30 years has definitely enriched my knowledge in this area. Most importantly, my superiors provided me with tremendous support and did their best to ensure that we were sufficiently prepared for the test. I wouldn't have been able to clinch this award without the help of my colleagues."

NSFs who have to deal with NS administration in the course of their work are also expected to sit for the NSPKT. CPL Tan Di Wei, a Deferment Administrative Support Assistant from the NS Services Centre sat for the NSPKT and achieved a good score. He attributed this to the help and support he received from the senior staff. He said, "Before the NSPKT, my superior officer initiated a study group with a few of my colleagues with the aim of allowing new members to the SAF like me to gain adequate knowledge about the various General Orders of MINDEF (GOM) so as to equip ourselves for the test. Senior staffs also provided me with helpful tips and experiences about the test." Commenting on his new confidence and ability to better handle queries from NSmen on their deferment, he said "I can provide the best possible alternative for the NSmen should they be unable to obtain a full deferment. I am also able to properly explain to the NSmen the reasons for their unsuccessful application."

The last category of awards is given out within the National Servicemen Service Centre (NSSC) to encourage and promote service excellence among its staff.

To face future challenges and further raise the NS administration standard, the NS community will embark on four key thrusts to promote a culture of NS Service Excellence. They are formalised training, ISO certification, accreditation with the Singapore Human Resource Institute (SHRI) and more transparency in Formations performance through monthly performance and statistical and trends reports. Collectively, they will develop service skills, knowledge and mindset to ensure an integrated and consistent approach in the development of HR administrators.

Customs and Traditions
21-Gun Salute

Story by: Tham Wei Yang / Photography by: Lim Wei Zhong

The 21-gun salute is one of the highlights of the National Day Parade, often wowing the crowd with the grandeur it brings to the occasion. Its history is equally fascinating.

Like the sword salute, the intent behind the 21-gun salute is to demonstrate peaceful intentions. The early firearms could only hold one projectile at a time and had longer reloading times. Warships approaching land would therefore fire a seven-gun salute to indicate that their cannons were free of ammunition; the number 'seven' had biblical and astrological significance.

For every shot fired by a ship, shore batteries fired three, giving us the 21-gun salute. There were two reasons for this practice. Firstly, gunpowder, originally made from sodium nitrate, was easier to keep dry on land than at sea, hence shore batteries could afford to fire more shots than the ships. Ships only adopted the 21-gun salute when gunpowder quality was improved with the use of potassium nitrate. Secondly, the multiple of three was probably adopted because of its mystical significance in many ancient civil-



Our soldiers demonstrating dedication and professionalism in executing the 21-gun salute to perfection

izations.

The 21-gun salute is one of the highlights of the National Day Parade in Singapore. It is

fired using six 25-pounder cannons inherited from the British forces. Each shot is timed perfectly with the President's progress along the ranks of soldiers.

NS In-Camp Training

Photography by: Wan Zhong Wei

ICT Notification

NSmen will not be called up for any NS activities during the first six months after the completion of their full-time NS. Every NS work year (1 April to 31 March of following year), NSmen may be called up for up to 40 days of Operationally Ready National Service (NS). If the call-up is for more than 40 days, the NSman and his employer must first agree to the extended service, and sign an undertaking to indicate acceptance.

NSmen may be called up for Low-Key Training (less than six days) or High-Key Training (seven days or more).

To minimise disruption to NSmen's schedule, they will be notified of their NS training six months in advance. NSmen who do not attend their scheduled NS training will be tagged as Absent Without Official Leave (AWOL) from their place of duty and subject to disciplinary action.

Phases of In-Camp Training

While there may be slight variations in the conduct of the ICT in different formations, it is generally carried out in four phases.

Phase 1: The advance party is called up before the training begins. Their tasks include checking and taking over the accommodation

and stores and preparing for the arrival of the main body.

Phase 2: Arrival of the unit commanders and essential service vocationalists such as drivers. The commanders will undergo preparatory training while the service vocationalists provide the necessary support.

Phase 3: Those manning crew-operated weapons and essential vocationalists arrive for their refresher training.



Phase 4: Arrival of main body. During this phase, there is revision on individual skills, IPPT, sub-unit training and unit level exercises.

Types of Call-Up

NSmen may be called up for various NS activities such as In-Camp Training (ICT), Flexi-ICT / Multiple ICT (for Air Force NSmen or doctors), Upgrading courses, Mobilisation, Medical Reviews, Seminar / Workplan briefing, Make-Up Training, Re-Training and IPPT.

MyCall-Up (MCU) : Notifying NSmen of their Call-Up

NSmen are expected to update their personal particulars e.g. contact numbers, email address etc via the eSelf-Update module in the NS

Passing On The Baton		
APPOINTMENT	INCOMING	OUTGOING
COMD TRADOC	BG LIM TECK YIN	BG GOH KEE NGUAN
COMD 6 DIV	COL ISHAK BIN ISMAIL	BG LIM TECK YIN
COMB 4 SAB	LTC LIM TIEN HOCK	COL TAN KIAN HEONG
CO 5 SIR	LTC MARTIN KOH KWANG HAW	LTC ANDREW LIM HENG TIEW
SAF SM	SWO JEFFREY CHUNG	SWO FRANCIS NG
SMA	SWO KOA KENG SUN JOSEPH	SWO JEFFREY CHUNG
BDE SM 29 SIB	MWO KRSHNAN S/O VEERASAMY	MWO VADIVELU RAJAGOPALAN
		
	BG LIM TECK YIN	COL ISHAK BIN ISMAIL

Quiz Of The Month - JUL / AUG

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

Q: Which gun was used for the 21-gun salute at NDP?

Closing Date : 25 September 2008

Answer: Rank / Name: Unit: E-mail: NRIC: 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@starmet.gov.sg
5. Prizes not collected within a month of notification will be forfeited.

MAY / JUN Quiz

Q: Who conducts Safety Management System audits on our Army units?

A: The General Staff Inspectorate (GSI)

MAY / JUN Winners

1) 2SG (NS) JAGATHESAN S/O SELVANATHAN NRIC: S000x555F
2) MAJ (NS) TAN SWEE HENG NRIC: S000x000D
3) CPT GAN TECK WEE NRIC: S000x582J
4) CPL (NS) CHANG WAI KIT NRIC: S000x924H
5) 3SG (NS) WU ZHI WEI NRIC: S000x007F

JUN / JUL Quiz

Q: Which new command centre speeds up sensor-shooter coordination by compiling multiple information feeds into a real-time picture of the battlefield?

A: The Division Strike System

JUN / JUL Winners

1) 3SG CHIN LOKE PING NRIC: S000x241B
2) 3SG (NS) JASPER SNG HAI GUAN NRIC: S000x856E
3) CPT (NS) TAN ENG HOE NRIC: S000x645G
4) TWO TAN CHWEE HOON EMILY NRIC: S000x277G
5) 3SG CHUA CHOR HWA NRIC: S000x287A

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



NSmen may be called up for up to 40 days for Operationally Ready National Service (NS) for every NS work year which lasts from 1 April to 31 March

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Army News thank COL Bernard Lim (far left) for his strong guidance as Head Army Information Centre from Feb 2004 to Jul 2008. Although he has assumed the appointment of Head Applied Behavioural Sciences Department, COL Lim will continue to serve on the Editorial Board, given his vast knowledge and rich experience. COL Lawrence Teh has taken over as Head Army Information Centre with effect from Jul 2008.

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Sustaining the 3rd Generation Army

Story by: Chia Han Sheng / Photography by: Michael Thng

The famous quote “An army marches on its stomach” by Napoleon Bonaparte aptly reflects the importance of ensuring that our soldiers are well fed and supplied to maintain their morale and fighting capabilities. The Supply Formation, as part of our transformation to a 3rd Generation Army, has risen to this challenge, embarking on several new initiatives to strengthen the quality of its people to provide better services. These initiatives to improve the skills, image and identity of the supply community include the Enhanced Catering Course, Field Rations Production Course, Nutrition & Food Safety Course and new uniform for Food and Beverage (F&B) Managers.

Boosting Image and Identity

Our Army's F&B Managers, formerly known as Messing Supervisors, take charge of the day-to-day running of the camp cookhouses. Besides having a change in job title, the F&B Managers are also upgrading their image and skills. The launch of the new uniform has given them a fresh and more professional look. The new uniform identifies them to the customers and facilitates customer feedback. It is part of a larger package which includes sending them for courses to improve their skills.

Enhanced Catering Course

Jointly organised by our Army and NTUC Foodfare Catering, the Enhanced Catering Course (ECC) focuses strongly on bulk cooking, where F&B Managers learn to accurately and efficiently cater quality food for large numbers of people. The course is also accredited by the Institute of Technical Education, promoting a spirit of continuous learning. The participants were pleased with their progress, as LCP Nasrah reflected, “I have become more confident in the planning of bulk cooking and feel a sense of satisfaction when people try my food. The experience I gained at the course will be useful as I plan to take up a cooking diploma after I ORD. I want to keep learning!”



Mr Christopher Lim (left) has enjoyed working with our Army personnel

Mr Christopher Lim, the Executive Sous Chef for NTUC Foodfare Catering was pleased at how the working relationship with our Army's servicemen has grown. He said, “As we share with them our expertise, we have also learnt from their personal cooking experience, thus making the course a two-way learning process. I remember the participants surprising me with their own secret recipes from home. Through such open exchanges, we have been able to synthesise our ideas and come up with better dishes!”

Nutrition & Food Safety Course

Besides the ECC, our F&B Managers have also been sent for the Nutrition & Food Safety Course in Temasek Polytechnic that emphasises heavily on healthy cooking. During the course, participants were given a chance to cook both healthy and unhealthy food. They then compared the taste and nutritional value of each dish to determine how best to achieve a well balanced healthy and tasty meal. F&B Manager Mr Tan Yew Hock said, “It's an exciting challenge getting to come up with new dishes. Cooking food that tastes good and has high nutritional value is our responsibility.”



Our F&B Managers listening attentively to instructions on healthy cooking

Field Rations Production Programme

Singapore Food Industries (SFI) is an essential firm which works closely with our Army to ensure that our soldiers are well fed. One of their roles is to cook and package the field rations which are reputed to have a shelf life of two years. As part of HQ Supply's emphasis on skills upgrading, NSmen have been sent for the Field Rations Packaging Course, which will enable field rations production to increase when more rations are demanded during operations.



Precise measurements ensure that high quality rations are produced with consistency

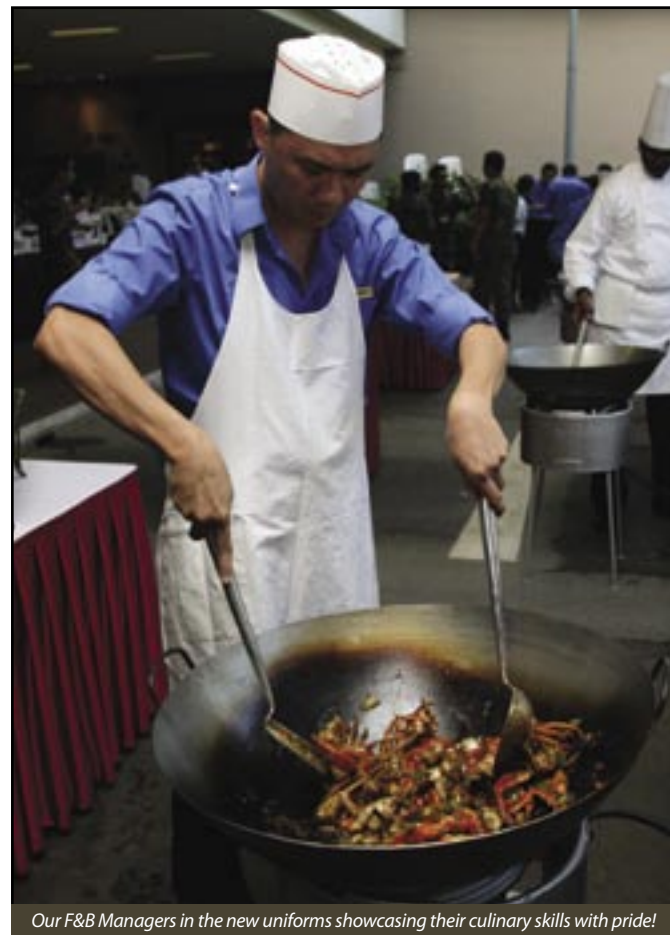
Army News visited SFI Field Rations Production Plant to observe the food production process. SFI Manufacturing manager Mr Goh Kian Pin was pleased with the trainees' good performance. Explaining the stringent quality control standards adopted, he said, “We have many scientific methods to ensure the consistency of the rations. These include pH measures to ascertain the acidity of the food, use of titration to measure and ensure that the saltiness of the ration is kept in check and sensitive metal detectors that pick out any contamination in our food.”



Mr Goh (centre) demonstrating the heating process which kills all harmful micro-organisms in the rations

CPL (NS) Lim Kok Keong was happy to attend the course. He said “I have learnt a lot from the course and am glad to contribute to the consistent high standards of production here. Just like for international brands, our products need to be of high quality and fulfil international standards of quality control.”

Iron Chef & Army Cook Book



Our F&B Managers in the new uniforms showcasing their culinary skills with pride!

In May, HQ Supply held the exciting Iron Chef Competition where F&B Managers from various units pit their culinary skills against one another. The competition was memorable for the sweet scents of fish head curry, claypot rice and other local delights which wafted through Sembawang Camp. The gastronomic delights left an indelible impression on the judges and all present for the feast. If you missed this occasion, all is not lost as the Army Cook Book launched on that day, contains stories of Army Catering and recipes from our own F&B Managers. The Iron Chef Competition and Army Cook Book reflect the pride and passion that our F&B Managers have in their work.

Mobile Field Kitchen

To boost the morale of our soldiers performing duties in prolonged out-field missions, the Mobile Field Kitchen (MFK) along with Army Chefs can be deployed to conjure up freshly cooked food and hot drinks. The simple yet robust mobile system deploys within 30 minutes and is able to steam, stew, fry, boil or bake, catering five meals for up to 250 persons a day.



The MFK provides our troops with freshly cooked meals

Integrated Cookhouse Management

Since Oct 06, all Army cookhouses have come under the management of the Supply Formation to achieve greater synergy. In addition, F&B managers are now able to share the best practices in cookhouse management through the Community of Practices (COPs) sessions and thus establish a more efficient and rigorous system. Furthermore, it relieves units of their management roles and allows them to continue enjoying quality catering support.