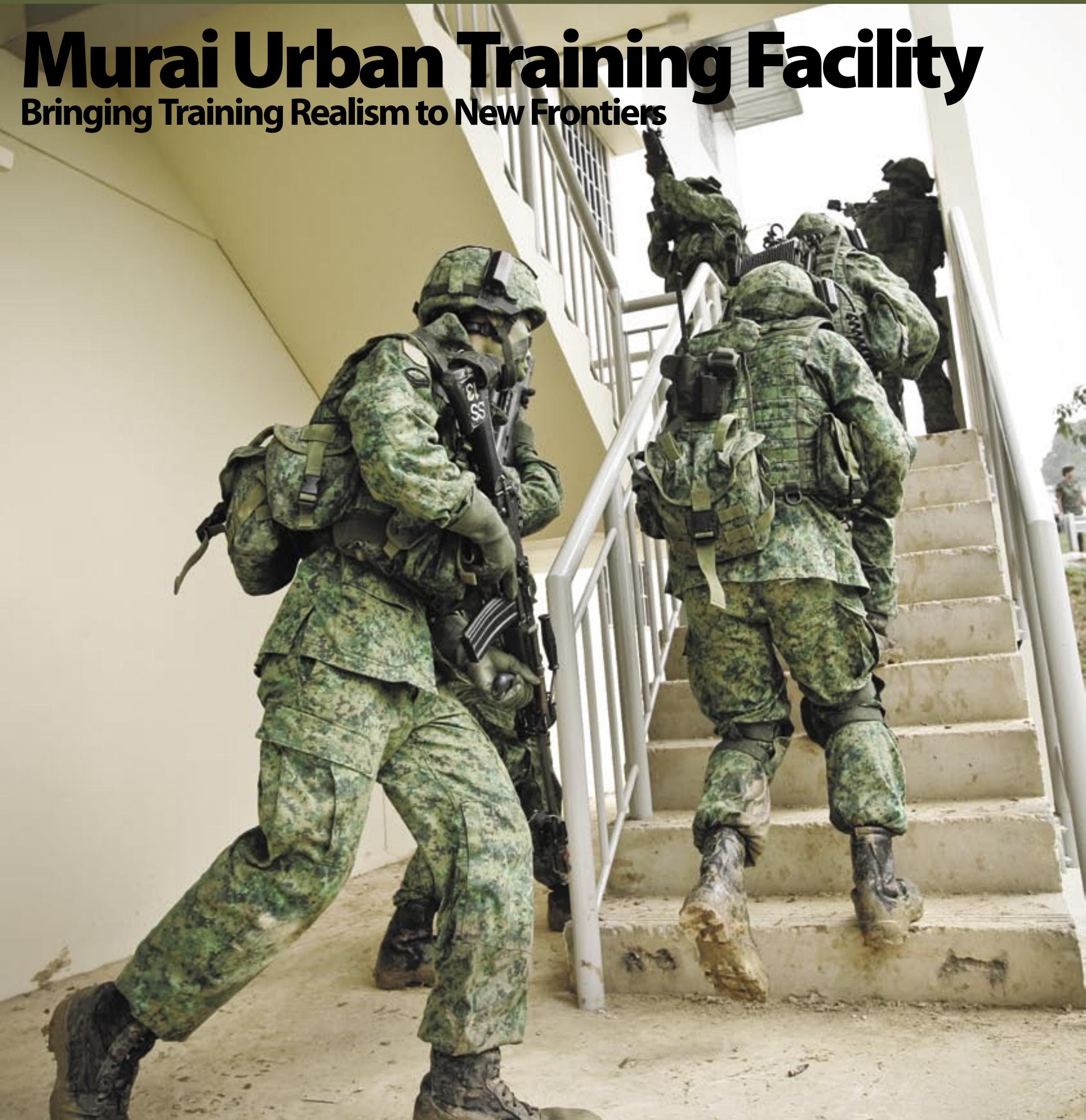


Murai Urban Training Facility

Bringing Training Realism to New Frontiers



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2-Way Communication with Army Leadership

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Michael Thing

Ensuring that our commanders are aware and plugged into our Army's latest developments is vital in creating an Army that is Ready, Relevant and Decisive. Recognising this importance, the Army Commanders' Dialogue was held at the SAFTI Officers' Mess on 14 October to communicate our Army's future plans and key messages to both Regular and NS commanders.

The morning's programme catered to NS commanders. In his address, Chief of Army (COA) MG Neo Kian Hong explained the importance of this communication effort, "The people who validate our Army's systems have been NSmen. We therefore need to educate our key leaders, who will then educate NSmen. As NSmen are part of larger society, they will subsequently carry the message across to the public." This was followed by a presentation on the NS system by Head National Service Affairs Department, COL Nelson Yau. The highlight of the morning programme was a lively panel discussion. The panel members included COA, COS-GS BG Hugh Lim, Sergeant Major of the Army SWO Joseph Koa and other senior commanders. LTC (NS) Lim Chen Chye from the Singapore Combat Engineers found the morning's event highly beneficial. He said, "As NSmen, we don't get to interact with COA very often, I thus value today's session very much. It also serves to remind us of the importance of raising the next generation to sustain the NS System."

Sharing his thoughts on the morning's dialogue, SWO Koa said, "This dialogue helps us understand each other and it is good that our commanders have surfaced the challenges they face on the ground. If we all have the right mindset and dedication, we will be able to make the right executive decision in our own units to overcome the challenges faced. Whether NSmen or Regulars, we must not wait for dialogues to come before being decisive in rectifying any concerns. We must make the executive decision."

Our Army's regular commanders arrived in the afternoon for a dialogue session centred on the theme of "Seeking Balance" as our Army journeys to becoming World Class. This was constantly emphasised during the panel discussion as senior commanders stressed the importance of achieving a work-life balance, which is necessary for easing pressure points in our Army. This balance will ultimately give commanders more space for learning and growth. The session also proved beneficial in communicating future developments for the 3rd Generation Army and reminded commanders that they must start raising the future generation of leaders to sustain our pace of operation. COA emphasised the crucial role future leaders play in developing our Army into an institution that our Nation is proud of. He said, "We are not only here to build capabilities to defend Singapore, we are also here for nation building...We must run at a speed that ensures we are relevant and also able to maintain."



COA communicating the importance of leaders in sustaining our Army's growth

NSmen Recognised for Dedication and Service

Story by Hui Nai Xiang / Photography by Sebastian Ang

NSmen often have to juggle between competing demands in their families, careers and military training. In recognition of the sacrifices made by NS Key Appointment Holders (KAHs), Reservist on Voluntary Extended Reserve Scheme (ROVERS) and Volunteers who have served beyond the statutory age limit,



MSG (VOL) R.S. Chandraajothi is glad that the contributions of NSmen have been well recognised

the Annual Appreciation Dinner was held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel on 30 September. Many present at the dinner were touched by this thoughtful gesture. MSG (VOL) RS Chandraajothi of 434th Battalion Singapore Armoured Regiment (434 SAR) said, "I am delighted to be invited - I feel very proud that the Army has recognised my contributions."

Recognising that balancing work, family and NS commitments is often a challenge for our NSmen, the SAF has also been very understanding and helpful to achieve a win-win outcome. One thankful NSman is LTC (NS) John Lynn, from Singapore Combat Engineers who is now in MINDEF Reserve. As an entrepreneur running his own business, he did not have anyone to cover for him during his In-Camp Training. He shared, "My NS unit had been very understanding towards me. They under-

stand that as an entrepreneur, I have two worlds to juggle. They understand that I may need to answer phone calls from my office while in camp or leave camp temporarily to settle certain matters outside."

Serving NS has also been a highly positive experience for LTC (NS) Lynn as he was able to learn valuable lessons from it. He said, "My unit has very good men who are very motivated and smart. Being a commander has taught me to be open minded and accept that my men may have the insights and massive ground



LTC (NS) John Lynn (right) and his wife received tokens of appreciation from COA

experience which I may not have. As a former NS commander, I have learned how to incorporate the best ideas into our planning and credit my men for their contributions."

Many Volunteers still feel the excitement and challenges in serving NS. MSG (VOL) Chandraajothi, who recently completed his Regimental Sergeant Major course, said, "I am looking forward to working with my men from 434 SAR who had won the best armour unit award during their NSF days. As their RSM, I hope to be able to continue to motivate, check and correct them so that we can do well during our evaluation by the Army Training Evaluation Centre." IWO (VOL) Cheong Kam Thong, also from the Armour Formation said, "Being a Volunteer has helped me maintain my fitness. NS has taught me job commitment and having served the SAF for 27 years, I hope to share my deep knowledge with the next generation of soldiers."

While the occasion was very much a recognition of the contributions by NSmen, the important support provided by employers and family members was not forgotten. Commenting on his employer, Crossecom (Australia) Pte Ltd, MAJ (NS) Koh Boon Check said, "They are not only very understanding but are also tremendously supportive." He is also grateful to his family for their support, "I guess for family, what they would like to know is that we are safe."

Excellence in All Fields

Story and Photography by Chia Han Sheng

Whether he is lying stealthily in wait for the enemy or pursuing his academic studies, 2LT Soong Jun Wei is a Commando who strives for excellence in everything he does. 2LT Soong is one of the first two polytechnic graduates to be recently accepted by the National University of Singapore's (NUS) School of Medicine which traditionally only admits applicants from junior colleges. This achievement is testament to his hard work and steely determination that he exhibits even when the odds are against him.

2LT Soong's Commando training has also played a large part in shaping his character. He said, "I was very honoured when I was first selected to join the Commandos. Through my time there, I've learnt to deal with people and to work and think under pressure. These are qualities which I believe will be useful to me as a future doctor." 2LT Soong also believes that his drive for excellence stems from the desire to live his life to the fullest. He said, "I want to experience whatever there is out there. Not

everyone gets a chance to jump out of a plane and I'm going to maximise my time in the Army to the fullest."

In fact, 2LT Soong believes so strongly in his NS commitments that he chose not to disrupt his training to join medical school this year. Opting to complete his NS first, he said, "There are a lot of life skills for me to learn during NS. I view NS as a preparatory period for working life as I've picked up important values like accountability for what I do." He elaborated that these skills are useful for all young adults to develop, saying "Presenting ideas to my commanders is like presenting in front of my bosses in the future. These are skills that I get to learn from experience and not just from books."

2LT Soong's pioneering achievement in gaining admission to medical school serves as an encouragement for all servicemen to give their best in every aspect of their lives.



2LT Soong is thankful for the many learning opportunities that the Army has given him

Ex SAFKAR Indopura

Story by Lim Wei Zhong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei

The professional friendship between the Tentara Nasional Indonesia – Angkatan Darat (Indonesian Army) and the Singapore Army has grown from strength to strength over the past two decades. Symbolic of this friendship is our annual bilateral exercise, SAFKAR INDOPURA, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

Held in Sumatra, Indonesia from 20 to 31 October, the full-troop manoeuvre exercise involved more than 800 men from HQ 3rd Singapore Infantry Brigade, 2nd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (2 SIR), the Indonesian Army's HQ 13th Infantry Brigade of the Strategic Reserve Command and 100 Raider Infantry Battalion. The exercise also included a sharing session during which both armies demonstrated some of their operational manoeuvres.



COA and KASAD viewing the final assault of the exercise

The closing ceremony was officiated by the Indonesian Army's Chief of Staff (KASAD), General Agustadi Sasongko Purnomo, and our Chief of Army (COA), MG Neo Kian Hong. During an interview at the exercise, COA commented on the strong history of the exercise, "SAFKAR INDOPURA is one of the very good exercises where we can have brigade-level command post exercises and battalion-level full troop exercises. This allows us to train our people at tactical and operational levels." He also commented on the need for regional cooperation, "In a more complex environment where you talk about transnational terrorism, diseases and natural disasters like the tsunami in Aceh, it is important to work together, whether bilaterally or as part of the ASEAN family."



Commander 3 SIR LTC Desmond Tan sharing a memorable occasion with his Indonesian counterpart

Besides professional sharing of tactics and experience, the exercise was also a good opportunity for troops from both sides

Students Fired Up at Visit to 2 SIR

Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei

Amoy Queen Camp was brimming with laughter and excitement on 13 October, as 80 students from Fairfield Methodist Secondary School (FMSS) had the opportunity to visit our soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (2 SIR). For the 15-year-olds, the visit greatly enhanced their



The students were excited to fire a GPMG, a weapon wielded by our soldiers

history and social studies curricula, as it puts into perspective the need for a strong military to safeguard the sovereignty of Singapore.

The coordinating teacher for the visit, Mr Brian Tan explained, "We wanted to give our students a real feel of the Army, and thereby instil in them confidence in our defence capabilities." To show their support for the soldiers, the students wrote postcards with personalised messages of encouragement that were to be given to the soldiers of 2 SIR during their recent overseas exercise in Indonesia. Mr Tan elaborated, "This small gesture can be considered to be part of Social and Psychological Defence. In doing so, we hope to imbue in the students that they too can be involved in Total Defence, even if they are not part of the SAF."

The students were also given a glimpse at life in the Army, through activities such as camouflage face-painting, tasting of

to interact and build bonds. Officer Commanding Bravo Company, 2 SIR, CPT Goh Pei Ming shared, "The exposure has been very beneficial and an eye-opener for me, and I have made many friends among my Indonesian counterparts. I think it has been a wonderful effort to kept the bilateral exercise going for the past 20 years and it represents the level of commitment and trust between our two countries."

His counterpart, Officer Commanding Charlie Company, 100 Raider Infantry Battalion, Captain Horas Stinjak felt likewise. He said, "I'm happy and comfortable with the whole exercise because of the friendship and bonds that have been fostered between the two sides. Between the two countries, there are different tactics and ways of doing things, but after awhile, we have learnt to adapt to each other. And through this adaptation, our bonds became stronger."

Besides enhancing our military collaboration, more than 20 engineering and medical personnel from our Army joined the Indonesian Army in providing basic construction works, medical and dental services to the local community. Commenting on the construction of a water tank and pipelines for the village of Aek Natalou, Officer-in-charge CPT Hong Mook Yong, from Engineer Training Institute, elaborated, "This village of 215 people has been without proper water supply for the past two years. Now, they don't have to travel 400m to the hill to collect water. We also helped out a needy villager by constructing a house for him."

combat rations, simulated war-games and the firing of a General Purpose Machine Gun. Josiah Tan, who eagerly painted his face in black and green commented on his experience, "I have always been interested in the military. After this visit, I now know what to expect and am looking forward to my National Service." For Vanessa Koh and her friend, Koey Wan Xian, the visit "was an experience that they could not have elsewhere." Vanessa said, "It was a real eye-opener as we learnt that being in the Army does not just involve the carrying out of drills and parades, but instead a whole spectrum of other duties."

For our 2 SIR soldiers, the visit by FMSS was a reminder of the need to defend Singapore. CPL Yu Zhiguo, a presenter at the camouflage face-painting station, reflected, "We wanted to showcase to the students what the Army is about, and for the male students, prepare them with an understanding of what life in the Army is like."

Grandslam Awards Scheme: Achieving The Treble

Story by Michael Thing / Photography by Michael Thing & LTA Leslie Lim

Every year, each service within the SAF organises their own signature sports event. While the Army has its Army Half Marathon, the Air Force organises the National Runway Cycling & Skating, and the Navy, the Singapore Biathlon. To foster greater cross-service participation, the Singapore Armed Forces Sports Association (SAFSA) has launched the Grandslam Awards Scheme to reward servicemen who successfully complete all the three signature sports events successively. This year, 14 servicemen had been given the distinction of receiving the first-ever Grandslam Medallion, with 3rd Singapore Division (3 Div) emerging as the proud formation winner of the Grandslam Challenge Shield.

1WO Chua Wah Yong, Ops Warrant Officer and LTA Leslie Lim, Assistant Staff Officer are both members from the winning 3 Div Team as well as individual recipients of the medallion. Revealing that they had no knowledge of the scheme prior to their participation in all the events, 1WO Chua and LTA Lim were motivated solely by the strong support provided by their division for sporting challenges. Having heard about the interesting experience of a biathlon participant, 1WO Chua was fired up. He shared, "All my peers were taking part and therefore I thought it would be a good opportunity to train together and keep the morale high for everyone." LTA Lim, who was the only NSF to



The coveted Grandslam Medallion

receive the award, credited 1WO Chua for getting him started, "1WO Chua approached me and asked me if I wanted to take part. When I agreed, we started training together before work."

LTA Lim attributed his success to the well planned training schedule devised by his colleagues. This had kept him motivated throughout his training. He commented, "We initially went into training for only the Biathlon. By the time we completed it, we were a very close knit group and decided to take on the challenge



1WO Chua (second from right) and LTA Lim (extreme right) at the finishing area of the Singapore Biathlon

of runway cycling together as well."

Each signature event requires immense mental and physical endurance, traits that are essential for an operationally ready fighting force. 1WO Chua explained, "Taking part is good because the preparations leading up to it would indirectly help one to keep fit." MAJ Lee agreed, "From an integrated operations point of view, the different training required for each event ensures a well-rounded soldier."

Deployment in Afghanistan

Touching Lives Beyond Our Shores

Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by the EPT

After a 6-month deployment, LTC James Tan and CPT Quek Chee Tiong received a poignant reception upon their return to Singapore on 31 October. They were members of the two 6-man Engineers Project Teams (EPT) deployed in the Bamiyan province in central Afghanistan. The teams mainly supervised in the construction of the Regional Health Training Centre (RHTC), a one-stop centre for the training of all healthcare workers in the province. They were also involved in other construction projects that helped to develop infrastructure for the province. In addition, they distributed other humanitarian necessities to the Afghans, such as schooling kits and dental packs.

What Singaporeans consider basic everyday items were received with deep gratitude by the Afghans. These include the schooling kit the EPT gave to the children, which was just a simple bag of stationery such as notebooks, pens and pencils. Army News captures a glimpse of the team's 6-month deployment to Bamiyan, Afghanistan.

Humanitarian Efforts

The teams went into Bamiyan with one main goal – to aid in the building of the RHTC and to bring other forms of humanitarian aid to the province. Afghans and Singaporeans, working hand in hand, built the RHTC for the training of some 80 to 100 healthcare workers. CPT Quek commented, "By spending time with them on-site, we fostered a strong mutual understanding. This allowed the swift construction of the RHTC. After the completion of the building, we left behind some construction manuals which the Afghans can refer to in the future."



Afghans and Singaporeans worked hand in hand in their construction efforts

Besides building the RHTC, the EPT also partook in other humanitarian ventures, including the supervision of the construction of a 260-metre security wall around the Bamiyan University dormitory. They also delivered Singapore's contribution of a whopping 160 tonnes of food aid and 6,200 schooling kits to the local populace. LTC Tan reflected, "When we saw how grateful they were, we realised that though this was just a small contribution on our part, they really treasured these items. It was then when we realised how fortunate we are in Singapore."

Living Away from Home

For the team, six months away from home meant that they had to adopt a different lifestyle. The environment in Afghanistan was really a stark contrast to the stability and security of Singapore. The team was constantly alert to potential threats and had to make adaptations to living with the austere conditions. The uncertainty, difference in climate, food and facilities, certainly made life tough for our teams. The members took steps to safeguard themselves as LTC Tan shared, "As a soldier, we always have to assess the environment that we are in. Given the security environment of Afghanistan, we had to stay vigilant and alert at all times. If faced with potential security situations, we were trained to respond swiftly and appropriately."



Issuing schooling kits to the Afghan children

The long duration of deployment inevitably meant that our team members have missed significant events, be it family commitments or otherwise. One such event missed was National Day. LTC Tan recalled, "We hosted a National Day evening at the camp we shared with the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). Our celebrations included whipping up local fare such as fried rice. Such events helped foster the camaraderie between the team and the NZDF."

Friendships Forged

The saying "Friendships forged in fire last a long time" holds true for the team members. Throughout the deployment, our soldiers managed to make many close friends through the daily proceedings. Prior to their deployment, the team underwent a training course together with the NZDF, learning in tandem



Establishing friendships amidst the strife and instability

drills that would aid them in Afghanistan. LTC Tan expounded, "The NZDF has been deployed there since 2003. Thus, they could guide us and acclimatise us into the daily routine very quickly given their vast experience. Through these interactions, we could exchange ideas and refine procedures. This was a positive and meaningful experience as the rapport and chemistry built made our deployment very pleasant."

Friendships were not only made with other armies. Our troops on the ground quickly made friends with the locals themselves, who appreciated the aid given. LTC Tan commented, "Though we did not speak the same language, the spirit of what we were trying to convey was not lost in translation. They were very ready to help us whenever we required." It is heartening to see that amidst the instability and strife in Afghanistan, each person was determined in his effort to play his part in the project.

Personal Journeys

For the team, deployment in Afghanistan was a personal journey with many life lessons learnt. LTC Tan reflected, "Seeing things through the Afghan perspective, we understand why some objects are so precious to them. What struck me most upon arrival at Changi Airport was the safety and stability we have. It made me treasure the life I have in Singapore."

For CPT Quek, deployment in Afghanistan validated his personal motivation as a professional soldier. He mused, "It is every soldier's aspiration to be involved in operations. Though I was away for six months, the deployment in Afghanistan was neither a burden nor a chore. I felt privileged and honoured to be able to contribute my small effort to the international community. If I were given another opportunity, I will definitely volunteer to go again."

Diving Into Success

Red Lions Top Skydiving Championships

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei & the Red Lions



Our Red Lions in action in the clear sky over UAE

Peering out from the CH-47 Chinook, the SAF's Red Lions Parachuting Team from the Commando Formation stare at the ground 13,000 feet below them. Despite having clocked more than 1,000 jumps, preparing for a new jump from a height where buildings look like Lego blocks is still an exhilarating experience. This jump is part and parcel of training Singapore's top skydivers who recently competed in two championships – the 12th Asia Four-way Formation Skydiving Championship and the 1st Fujairah International Open Category Championships.

The Red Lions, known for their skydiving prowess, sent two teams aptly named "Velocity Max" and "High Flyerz" to the championships which were held from 29 October to 7 November in Fujairah, UAE. Both teams performed superbly as Velocity Max clinched first place in the Asia category and 2nd in the Open Category while High Flyerz finished 8th in the Open Category.

"We started 10 years ago with just two people. Back then, we practised during our own free time and out of our own expenses.



The Skydiving team getting into formation after exiting the Chinook Helicopter

We had a dream to one day form a 4-man skydiving team that would be good enough to represent Singapore. This year, we surpassed that dream when we climbed to the top of the podium" said 2WO Lim Wei Lee, a member of the winning team. Besides being the traditional crowd-pleaser at the annual National Day Parade since 1996, the Red Lions have consistently participated in regional and international competitions. The win at the Asia Championship has been their best performance to date. The competition requires the 4-man parachuting team to complete as many patterns as possible during the first 35 seconds after exiting the aircraft while a cameraman hovers slightly above the team capturing every move. Velocity Max, completed a stunning 29 patterns, a high score that is unprecedented in the Asia Championship. 1WO Lim Wang Sing, a member of the Red Lions since 1990s was especially proud of this record. He shared, "We are tremendously happy that this record now belongs to the SAF's Commandos!"



After Action Reviews are one of the key ways to learn from mistakes and enhance performance

Raising a New Team

Anyone watching the High Flyerz in UAE would never have guessed that the team was competing together for the first time. With calm minds and some dextrous moves, the team surpassed all expectations, surprising both competitors and themselves with their 8th place finish in the Open Category. 2WO Maheswaran elaborated, "None of our competitors believed that we did hundreds of jumps less than them and still managed to pull off an excellent performance." 2WO Lim from Velocity Max jokingly added, "That's because you guys from High Flyerz were trained by my team!"

Relevance to Operations

Excelling in the skydiving championships is not all fun and games. In fact, the skills attained are highly relevant to military



The team practising their manoeuvres on the ground

operations executed by commandos. Commanding Officer, Special Operations Tactical Support Centre, LTC Eric Koh elaborated, "When a military team parachutes down for an operation, they need to keep close during the free fall stage to maintain the integrity of the team when they land. The 4-way sky diving championships reflect our Commandos' skills in close distance body flight. It also enables us to benchmark our military parachuting skills against international parachuting experts. Ultimately, parachuting is a hallmark of special units such as commandos and we are truly proud to have excelled in the competition."



Commandos gearing up for an exhilarating jump

Head Manpower, HQ Commando LTC Chang Seng Hann added, "By doing well in the competition, we have reflected the teamwork and discipline of our commandos. In training for the competition, we not only enhance the skills of our commandos but also demonstrate that the Commando Training Institute is a Centre for excellence in military parachuting."

Army News Experiences the Adrenaline Rush

On 20 November, the Commando Formation arranged for a writer and photographer from Army News to participate in a Tower Jump, the first step in training a parachutist. As an Army News writer, I was given a rare opportunity to go behind the scenes to experience first hand what preparing for a jump feels like. As I jumped from the 34-foot high tower, I was immediately surrounded by the free-falling sensation, before being caught seconds later by the jerk of the safety harness and attached cables. It was indeed a truly adrenaline pumping experience to fall from a 3-storey high platform. I was told that the tower jump is used to build confidence in parachutists and from this experience, I certainly gained a greater respect for the rigorous training of our parachutists.



PTE Chia gaining a first hand experience at free falling

Murai Urban Training Facility

Bringing Training Realism to New Frontiers

Story by Lim Wei Zhong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei and Sebastian Ang

In the heart of the wilderness off Lim Chu Kang Road, near the western end of Singapore, lie row after row of uninhabited houses and factories. This 'ghost town' is actually our Army's new Murai Urban Training Facility (MUTF), which was launched on 5 September by Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean. The facility consists of about 200 pre-fabricated and pre-cast buildings and resembles a typical urban settlement, with residential, commercial and industrial districts. It will support the development of our Urban Operations capabilities by offering realistic training for Combined Arms forces.

The MUTF will be fitted with a comprehensive set of simulators which will make training look and sound like the real thing. Blast simulators will recreate the effects of an explosion, including the pressure wave and flash effect. Noise Effect Simulators will represent artillery bombardment and air strikes, and the PA system will add in other sounds like helicopter flight, wind, thunderstorms and tank tread movements. The ability to track and review the actions of every soldier adds to training effectiveness.



The new MUTF will realistically simulate urban conditions to prepare our soldiers for the new dimension in warfare

Additionally, the facility incorporates special 'building vulnerability controls' which allow us to simulate the effect of our weapons on the buildings and the soldiers inside. LTC Yoges, a Senior Project Officer at HQ 9th Singapore Division / Infantry and one of the facility's main architects, explained, "A SAR 21 assault rifle won't have much effect on a concrete wall, while a General Purpose Machine Gun will achieve greater penetration. A large calibre weapon like the 155mm Primus Self-Propelled Howitzer could destroy the whole wall, and any soldiers sheltering behind!"

Infrastructure for Multiple Scenarios

To cater to a variety of battle scenarios in different urban environments, the MUTF is divided into the New Town, Old Town, Industrial Area and Live-Firing Facility. Each zone is differentiated by road widths, building types, town features, building density and landscaping. There are shop houses, semi-detached houses and even a shopping centre! The Live Firing Facility will allow the conduct of live-firing by Company-sized forces.

Timeline of Completion



Nov2008
Building
Infrastructure

Mar2009
Basic
Instrumentation

Sep2009
Complete
Instrumentation

Nov2010
Live-Firing
Facility



In the urban landscape, our soldiers take cover in various man-made features such as this large drain

The New Town features modern infrastructure with overhead bridges and elevators inside some of the buildings. There are bus stops, traffic lights, and drainage systems which can be used as cover. Small details like doors, tables, sofas and ceiling lights have been installed to simulate realistic training. There is also a 100-metre underground tunnel connecting the petrol station to the hotel, which allows the capture of critical buildings from an unexpected direction. It will condition soldiers to total darkness and cramped spaces.



The Old Town is a great chance for 'Topo Kings' (soldiers who are good at navigation) to use their sense of direction



There is an underground tunnel linking the petrol station (above), hotel and other buildings, allowing soldiers to attack from unexpected directions

The Old Town has little houses crammed together in a haphazard fashion, reflecting the low emphasis on town planning in older neighbourhoods. The back alleys twist and turn to make navigation more challenging. On the other hand, the Industrial Area is characterised by large factories and warehouses. It is more open than the other zones.

LTA Fariezan Abas, a Platoon Commander in the 3rd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment, was amongst the first troops to train in the MUTF. He was impressed with the realism of the facility and the tactical options available, "It has drainage systems that link from one building to the other, abandoned vehicles on roads as another option for cover and even roof access. The urban obstacles like drains and locked window grills definitely pose challenges, and that is exactly what we need to take training realism to a whole new level." LTA Abas felt that the different types of buildings in the facility also added realism. He said, "For example, you will wonder if you can use the petrol kiosk for cover, as it might be blown up in a real life scenario."



An aerial view of the training facility with the different zones marked out

Large Scale Combined Arms Exercises

The size of the MUTF is able to accommodate the training of large Combined Arms forces. This September, our Army conducted a 500-man urban operations exercise at the MUTF, which featured networked integration between various forces including the Motorised Infantry, Engineers and Air Support. (see Army News Issue 157 for story)

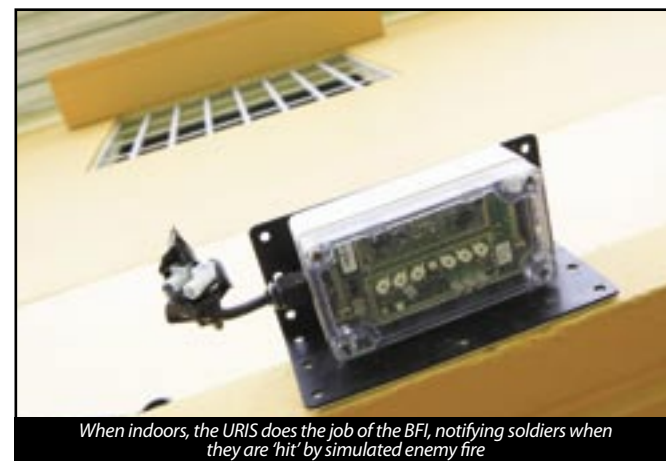


At the large-scale urban operations exercise in September, M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers rumble through the MUTF to support our infantry

Besides Combined Arms training, our Army will also be able to conduct 2-sided exercises in both day and night. When the MUTF is fully completed in 2010, active units, NS units, cadets and trainees from Officer Cadet School, the School of Infantry Specialists, and other Training Institutes will be able to utilise it.

LTA Abas commented, "The MUTF will help us to stay relevant, with new warfighting concepts being introduced. Our Army's infantry is being motorised, and the MUTF allows units to be more familiar with mounted assaults. Such tactics let us close in on the enemy without exposing ourselves much, thus reducing casualty rate."

Tracking Their Every Move



When indoors, the URIS does the job of the BFI, notifying soldiers when they are 'hit' by simulated enemy fire

The MUTF will be equipped with a full suite of sensors, which can track troop movements and actions. For outdoor areas, it will use our existing Battlefield Instrumentation (BFI) system, which registers an injury every time a soldier 'fires' his gun accurately at another soldier. The system will also register hits from other weapon systems involved in the exercise. For indoor areas, the MUTF features an equivalent Urban Instrumentation System (URIS) which will take over once the soldier moves inside a building. The transition between the BFI and URIS will be automatic and seamless.

Besides the tracking and monitoring capabilities, the training instrumentation system simulates the collateral effects of area weapon such as artillery fire on buildings and soldiers within. All battlefield injuries, video and audio recordings, and force tracking within and outside the buildings are monitored and recorded real-time in the Murai Exercise Control Centre (MEXCON) for post-exercise After-Action Review. The After Action Review facility in the MEXCON building allows up to 120 soldiers to watch the exercise in 2D and 3D views, as well as high fidelity video & audio streaming of the battlefield.

To provide even more effective unit evaluation, many of the buildings will be fitted with video monitoring systems. This will allow the Conducting Officer to observe the exercise in real-time and enable our soldiers to subsequently learn from their performance. A six-storey observation tower in the centre of the facility gives a 360-degree view of the exercise proceedings.

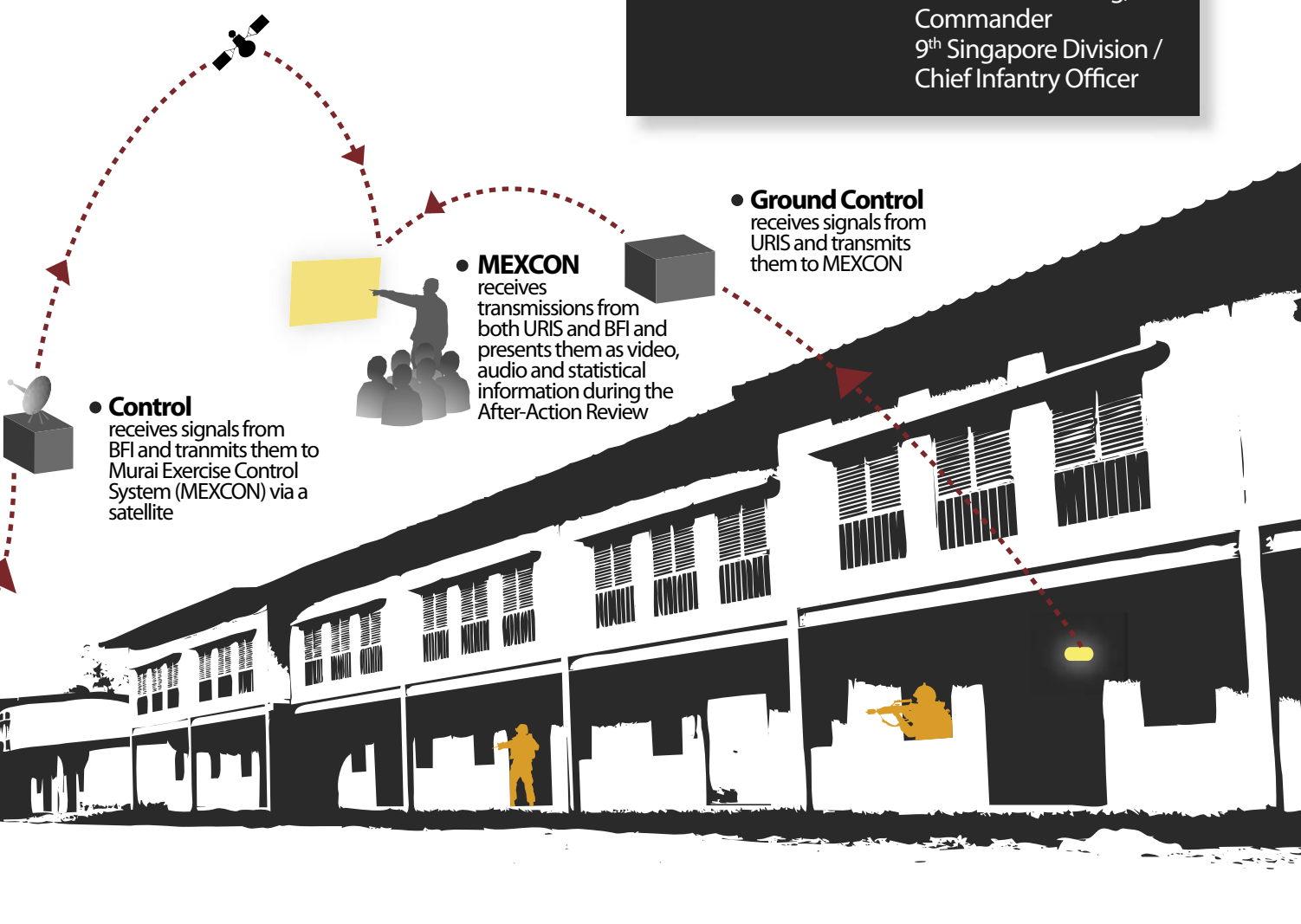
Did You Know?

Hitherto, our Army's urban operations training has been conducted at small facilities in Pulau Tekong, Neo Tiew and Lim Chu Kang. As these facilities have only a few buildings, they cannot cater to large-scale training for Battalion-sized forces. They also lack the technology for registering 'hits' on target. The new MUTF thus represents a quantum jump in our training capability.



"Urban terrain has become part of our conventional terrain, so our soldiers must be as proficient with urban operations as with non-urban operations. The MUTF is a demonstration of our Army's commitment to provide the best training facility for our soldiers. It will have the necessary instrumentations to provide responsive feedback to our soldiers and for us to rapidly evolve our fighting techniques and doctrines."

BG Chan Chun Sing,
Commander
9th Singapore Division /
Chief Infantry Officer



Winching Their Way to Success!



Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei

“Always remember that we can still do small things to make a big difference in many ways.” These words from Mr Choo Cheow Heng from 6th Army Maintenance Base (6 AMB) illustrate the innovative spirit which allowed the common winch to be adapted for the Automated Cleaning Kit for Gun Barrels. This device is a cleaning kit that enables our Artillery guns to be cleaned faster and more efficiently.



The unassuming winch is a mechanical device used to pull in or let out a wire rope that can drag heavy machinery as diverse as tow trucks, boats or elevators. When adapted for use in the Automated Cleaning Kit, cleaning a 155mm gun such as the Pegasus Singapore Light Weight Howitzer becomes much easier. Previously, a 5-piece rod is used to pull through the internal barrel bore manually. This required a large work area and the individual bore wire brushes and the bore brushes were separate cleaning tools. The former was made from copper wires to remove the dirt inside the barrel. When this was done, the softer plastic bore brushes were then used to finish up the job. It was a tedious process which took 45 minutes, as the four men cleaning the gun barrel had to re-attach the bore wire brush and bore brush many times.

The Automated Cleaning Kit for Gun Barrels utilises a winch which pulls both the bore wire brush and the bore brush through

the barrel in one movement. At the muzzle, the brushes are then removed and the retracting cable attached to the last brush is then used to pull the winch cable back to the breech for another round of cleaning. Pulling both brushes simultaneously speeds up the whole process. Substantial savings are achieved as only one person is required for the job which can be completed in 15 minutes. The cleaning can also be performed in confined space as the long cleaning rod is no longer used. 1SG Desmond Tay, a user of the Automated Cleaning Kit for Gun Barrels commented on these improvements, “With this system, we can clean the gun barrels in any situation, any position or at any angle. Furthermore, the entire kit is portable and can be powered by a 12-volt battery or even a DC/AC connection.”



This portability has greatly enhanced the deployability of the cleaning kit. Mr Choo explained, “As this kit can be packed into a small suitcase, we can even bring it overseas. For overseas usage, we also have a remote that controls the rate of the pulling in and letting out of the brush.” The potential for using the cleaning kit for other weapon platforms has not been lost as Armour, other vocations and even the other two services are already looking into adopting it for their use. Plans are in place to adapt this innovation for the Leopard 2A4 Main Battle Tank (MBT) and the guns on board the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) ships. The Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) is also looking at similar usage.

It therefore came as no surprise that this innovation has won numerous accolades, such as the Gold awards at the Formation PRIDE Day, Army PRIDE Day, MINDEF PRIDE Day and the National Innovation and Quality Circles Convention (NIQCC). Certainly, Mr. Choo's belief in making a “big difference” has been fully realised in this innovation. This simple but powerful adaptation has resulted in enhancing our operational readiness not just in our Army, but throughout the SAF as well. Despite his success, Mr Choo is not resting on his laurels, and is keeping a watchful eye out for other potential innovations and has the following parting words, “Never be constrained by your current situation. You must believe in what you are doing and dare to experiment. This way, anything you set out to do can be achieved.”



Army News congratulates the Spartans of 6th Battalion Singapore Infantry Regiment for clinching the Excellent Award at the International Convention on Quality Control Circle held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in October. The award was in recognition of their innovative Versatile Trolley which was featured in Army News Issue 157. This trolley makes light work of carrying heavy loads over uneven terrain and even up staircases.

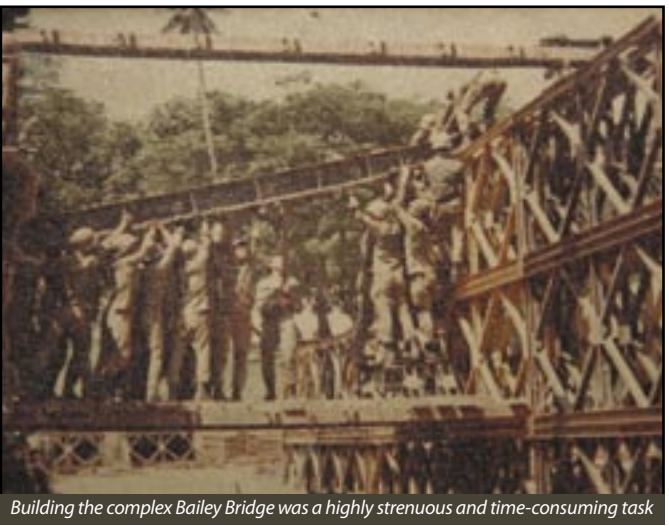
Recollections of a Combat Engineer

Story by Michael Thing / Photography provided by Mr Wong

Over the years, the SAF has evolved to become a World-Class fighting force. What it lacks in number, is more than made up for by the quality of its people. Mr Wong Yuen Kwang held the rank of CPT when serving as a combat engineer during his national service days. Having fully completed his NS liability, he can now reflect on and appreciate the full scale of the transformation that our Army is currently undergoing. Having experienced the early formative years of the Combat Engineers, Mr Wong was able to share his insights on the changes in this important support arm.



After being commissioned as an officer in 1977, Mr Wong attended the 5th Junior Officer Engineer Course (JOEC) the following year and has not looked back since. In fact, the group of 30 odd engineers that he trained with in this course recently had a gathering to reminisce the good old times. He fondly recalled the training then, “One of the most rewarding aspects of training was building the Bailey Bridge, a bridge built solely with steel girders. It took us two nights to build it and we had to persevere to complete the



bridge. We were also the first batch to start with a more modern bridge – the Medium Girder Bridge (MGB).” The MGB was a much lighter and simpler bridge than its predecessor, the Bailey Bridge. It then represented a significant increase in capability as the combat engineers were able to build a sturdy means to cross obstacles in the battlefield within a shorter time.

Through his various In-Camp Trainings as a NSman, Mr Wong further witnessed the evolution of the Combat Engineers' capabilities. “With the heavy focus on a tri-service force which had an expanding scope of operations, there were new demands required upon us. To support these new operational scenarios, we had to think outside of the traditional platforms used by the combat engineers and rework them.” Mr Wong credited this factor as the main catalyst that triggered the transformation of

the combat engineers, resulting in a force that is greatly different from that of his days.

As the President (Asia) & Managing Director of Rochling Group, an engineering plastics company, Mr Wong often has to interview NSmen seeking employment in his company. He shared with Army News that one of his first interview questions would relate to their Army experience. He said, “It is important for every male in Singapore to go through it and if they have, I respect it, particularly if they are combat engineers – I know the training they have gone through and how it shapes the character of a person.”

For Mr Wong, being able to serve National Service was a very rewarding experience. He noted the camaraderie and life-long friendships as key factors responsible for making his NS experience memorable. But above all, it is the honour of serving the country that made him appreciate the importance of his role in our nation's defence.



Energising with Fresh Perspectives

Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei

“I now recognise that with every situation that comes by, there is a need to approach it from different angles and adopt different perspectives,” said COL Ang Heng, Commander, 3rd Division Artillery (3 DIV ARTY). This recognition of the need for different perspectives is one of the invaluable take-aways that COL Ang reaped from his time in Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. The time that he spent away gave him the opportunity to look back at the changes he has been involved in during the Army's transformation.

He reflected, “Like any big corporation, change is necessary, and thus, it is important that the SAF changes to meet the times as well. However, it is also important to distinguish the true value that each change adds.” This change, COL Ang recognised, needs to first take place in our people. As Commander 3 DIV ARTY, COL Ang aims to adopt a nurturing approach in the way he manages and leads his people. He elaborated, “As a



commander, I must provide the platform for people's strengths to surface. Ultimately, we have to guide our people by providing enough direction and yet be cautious about dousing their energy and enthusiasm.”

In his operational duties, COL Ang aims to align the outlook of his people for them to approach training holistically, balance

ing between furthering new transformations and maintaining the basics. COL Ang said, “There are some operational requirements that just do not change. We still need to train in these areas no matter how much the Army transforms. However, with each transformation, current procedures would have to be reviewed and improved.”

One challenge COL Ang foresees is in the training proficiency of artillery units in the future, especially the NS battalions under his command. He expounded, “With the numerous platforms, it is vital that we keep up to speed in the tactical and technical aspects of our weapons. Therefore, regardless of the circumstance, we have to practise active decision-making. This way, we can be sure that our thinking processes are continually updated.”

Certainly, with COL Ang's forward-looking philosophy, we can be sure that 3 DIV ARTY will continue to shine brightly.

M-UAV Extends its Wings

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Photography by Wan Zhong Wei and Chia Han Sheng

Imagine being watched silently and stealthily, from eight kilometres away. You hear a soft drone in the distance but wonder if it's just your mind playing tricks on you. Soon, opposition forces appear from over the hill, flanking you from the left and right, out-manoeuvring you in every way. The soft drone heard previously was no trick on the mind. It was the hum of the Birdeye Mini Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (M-UAV) gliding 1500 feet overhead, gathering tactical reconnaissance information necessary for the upcoming land assault.

This M-UAV is the latest addition to our Army's tactical reconnaissance capabilities and was first put into operation by the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (1 MI Bn) in mid 2007. Since then, 1 MI Bn has been training more units to operate the M-UAV, including several from the Infantry and Armour. The benefits of this training are highly significant, as more units will be able to leverage on the over-the-hill surveillance and added tactical advantage the vehicle provides. As the M-UAV flies over its target, it beams back real-time images to the operator on the ground. This allows our ground forces to observe enemy positions from a safe distance, thus increasing their survivability.



In June this year, 1 MI Bn conducted its second batch of training for external units. To be certified for the operation of the M-UAV, trainees must undergo one week of training by 1 MI Bn, one week of training with the UAV Command and another two weeks of overseas training. During the first phase, trainees learn the theory of how to set-up, control and land the vehicle safely before practising it on dummy vehicles. Their training is then further enhanced at the UAV Command where they learn more about air traffic control specifications and weather flight scenarios. Finally, they enter the overseas training phase where their skills in operating the actual vehicle are tested.

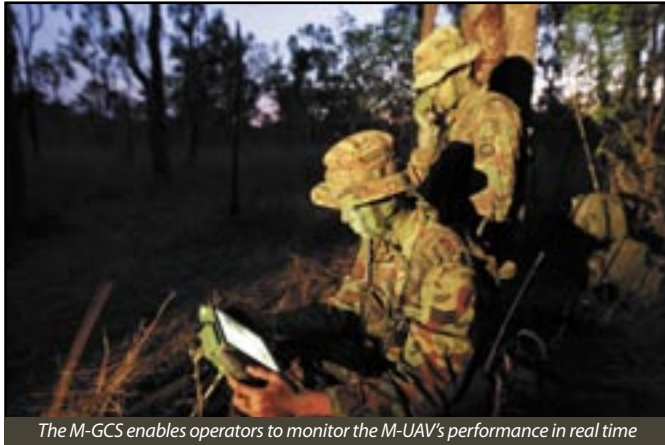
Reflecting on the importance of the course, Course Conducting Officers 2LT Yong Jenn Haur said, “The course is vital because instructors from 1 MI Bn are able to impart our knowledge to the trainees and share our personal experiences with them. This means that the trainees save time trouble-shooting back at their units and can effectively utilise the vehicle's capabilities.”




By the end of the course, a 2-man team is expected to be able to deploy the vehicle within 20-30 minutes. The flight operator is also required to master the vehicle's Mini-Ground Control System (M-GCS) to collect, process and disseminate information from the M-UAV. CPL Ngian Zhi Wei from the Guards Formation explained, “We have to learn the characteristics and ability of the vehicle. For example, we must be familiar with the many types of cameras used and when to use each one. Depending on the objective and whether it's day or night, we will need to alter the payload accordingly.” Despite the challenges faced, the trainees remained positive throughout. Reconnaissance trooper, CPL Andre Yeo from HQ 2 SIB commented, “The six of us

are the first from 2 SIB to be trained in operating the M-UAV and I feel proud to be part of the pioneer batch. The instructors from the MI Bn have also been very clear and helpful in their training.”

Having already been certified to operate the M-UAV, 2 SIB was able to validate their M-UAV training in a different terrain during October's Exercise Wallaby. S2, 2 SIB MAJ Lim Kwang Eng elaborated, “The M-UAV complements our human ground observers. By utilising the M-UAV, many lives can potentially be saved as the troops can deploy at a safe location while tracking the targets at a further distance away.”



COA Wishes All a Happy New Year



"Amidst the year-end festivities, our Army must remain vigilant and operationally ready. It is this continued vigilance that ensures the peace and security of our nation and protects our way of life. I thank all of you, regulars, NSFs and NSmen, for your vital contributions to the security and defence of Singapore."

I wish you all a Happy New Year."

MG Neo Kian Hong

SAF Welfare and You

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Diagram by Arthur Koh

Did you know that the SAF has a multitude of welfare schemes that are catered to meeting your needs? Whether these needs are about education awards, financial assistance or family support, we have them! This is because, as stated in the SAF Personal Management Philosophy,

“The SAF is concerned with the well-being of its people and their families; The SAF values its people, looks after them & their families so that they can give whole-hearted attention to their assigned duties.”

The SAF Welfare Council is chaired by the Chief of Defence Force. This demonstrates the strong command emphasis that the SAF places on our personnel’s welfare. The SAF Welfare Council formulates policies and oversees implementation of welfare schemes and programmes.

Each service has its own welfare committees. This further breaks down the implementation and overseeing of welfare schemes to the various services.

The Unit Welfare Committee assists the unit commander to implement and administer welfare activities in the unit.

The SAF Welfare Schemes can be split into three broad categories. They are the Individual, Family and and Group Based Schemes.

Individual-Based Schemes

These are welfare benefits directly benefiting the individual personnel. This includes financial assistance schemes, long service awards, grants and subsidies.

Family-Based Schemes

These are welfare benefits aimed to promote and enhance the family and social loves of servicemen and their families. They include wedding and newborn gifts, child care services education bursaries etc.

Group-Based Schemes

These are mainly welfare benefits dispensed by unit Commanding Officers with the Unite Welfare Expenses vote. This is aimed at enhancing staff commitment and group commitment and cohesion. Other schemes include chalets, consumer services, tours etc..

Customs and Traditions

Combat Service Support Services

Story by Tham Wei Yang / Photography by Chia Han Sheng

The foundation of a skyscraper is a major reason why the building remains standing through the years. Despite its importance, it is not visible to many and is a frequently overlooked part of the structure. Likewise, the support services are, by their very nature, in the background of most Army operations. Yet they are at the same time indispensable to mission success. In this article, we briefly explain the history and development of the various Combat Service Support Arms.

Medical Corps
It is hard to imagine an army without a medical corps. Yet until the sixteenth-century, military units were not typically accompanied by doctors. The sick and wounded had to rely on their own devices or the compassion of other persons, usually monks who were the only people with extensive medical knowledge. It was only later that barber-surgeons were attached to companies to perform procedures such as bloodletting and amputation (surgery came under the purview of barbers and not physicians).

The beginning of the SAF Medical Corps itself can be traced to the Senior Medical Officer’s Department established in 1967. Although it was a small setup initially, it rapidly grew in size and scope to cater to an expanding SAF. Over its relatively short history, the capability of the SAF Medical Corps has been tested on numerous occasions. Under trying conditions such as post-tsunami Indonesia and East Timor immediately after self-determination, it has shown that it has the ability to deliver world-class medical support regardless of the obstacles faced.

Logistics
The word ‘logistics’ is derived from the Greek word ‘logistikos’, which means skilled in calculating. This accurately describes the science of logistics, which employs quantitative and statistical analysis to provide the best support possible to an army.

Ultimately, welfare schemes provide a systematic framework which helps servicemen ease the burden faced at home or work. These schemes aim to improve the morale and commitment of staff and are geared towards benefiting the majority. They are implemented with strong command emphasis and units work closely with the various relevant bodies to ensure that reasonable needs of our servicemen are met.

Without supplies, even an army with the most advanced weapons will fall before long. The job of getting supplies to the right place at the right time is not only crucial but highly demanding. On top of being proficient in the study of logistics, the military logistician must be able to exercise judgment based on other military considerations such as strategy and intelligence. And yet, though he handles one of the hardest tasks in an organisation, the mark of an accomplished military logistician is in making things look easy.

The role of logistics can be represented by the allegory of the duck serenely gliding over the water. In actuality, the duck’s feet are paddling furiously beneath the surface to keep up this appearance of effortless. The ability of Our Army to run seamlessly and efficiently is, in truth, highly dependent on the endless efforts of our logisticians.



The Forward Support Group at Wallaby 08 illustrates the importance of logistical support in a major exercise

Essentially, the SAF Welfare System aims to systematically address the welfare needs of our staff and servicemen, focussing on meeting needs and not wants. For more enquiries, refer to the SAF Welfare Circular at http://dmg.mindef/manpower/safpsc/publications/welfare_circulars/index.htm

Life After Work

Rugby

Story by Ian Cheong / Photography by Michael Thing



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

The rugby ball clutched tightly in his hand, the player looks to the touchline. He surges forward, only to be halted by an immovable wall of bodies. His teammates join the fray, and a battle of wills ensues. Finally, someone emerges from the thick of the action and charges forward, only to be halted by yet another defensive wall. You are witnessing the “gentlemen’s game” unfurling before your eyes. The nickname, “gentlemen’s game” is given because every player on the pitch would never dream of questioning the decision of the referee, and instead, follows the stipulated rules.

Recognising Your Employers

Story by Chia Han Sheng / Photography by Michael Thing

Does your employer support your NS commitment? Does he encourage physical fitness in the workplace, or give incentives for good NS performance? If he does, you may express your appreciation by nominating them for the Total Defence Award.

Introduced in 1986, this award is presented annually to employers who support NS. Divided into three categories, it consists of the Minister for Defence Award, the Meritorious Defence Partner Award and the Distinguished Defence Partner Award.

You can nominate your employers today at <http://www.mindef.gov.sg/tda>



Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean recognising employers for their commitment to defence at the SAF Day Rededication Ceremony

Army News Readership Survey

Army News is conducting a readership survey to understand how we can better meet your needs. Please help us by giving us your feedback today. You can either complete and return the survey form enclosed or log on to <http://www.mindef.gov.sg/army> on the Internet and click on the “Survey” button on the left of the homepage. For in-service readers, the survey will also be available on the Army Intranet homepage.

We are giving away 30 pairs of movie tickets as a token of appreciation for your participation. Survey will close on 30 January 2009. Submit now and win!

Passing On The Baton

APPOINTMENT	INCOMING	OUTGOING
CO SOTC	LTC CHOOI WAI CHEONG	LTC FOO TEE JONG
CO 39 SCE	MAJ PAUL CHAN KWONG CHEE	LTC TAN CHENG HOCK JASON
CO 35 SCE	MAJ LEE MUN CHOON	MAJ FRANCIS KEE ENG CHYE
CO BCTC	MAJ KOH CHONG PENG	LTC YEO SIK CHEW
BDE SM 56 SAB	MWO TAN POH KOK JOSEPH	MWO G MEENACHIE SUNDARAM
BDE SM 10 SIB	1WO CHUA WAH YONG	SWO ESTROP RONALD PETER HUGH

Furthermore in a highly physical game such as rugby, it is imperative that players play like gentlemen.

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

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

For LCP Zulhimie, the lessons learnt on the pitch has rubbed off into his daily life. There are often many instances in which he had to apply what rugby has taught him, especially in the aspect of teamwork. He reflected, “From my training in rugby, I now understand that each team member has an integral role to play in any situation, and some circumstances I even have to trust them without any reservations.”

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

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

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

Quiz Of The Month - OCT / NOV

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

Q: Which building in the MUTF allows observers to watch high fidelity video streaming of the battlefield?
Closing Date : 31 December 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@starnet.gov.sg.
5. Prizes not collected within a month of notification will be forfeited.

SEP / OCT Quiz

Q: How far away can our Leopard 2A4 MBT accurately engage enemy targets?
A: Up to four kilometres

SEP / OCT Winners

- 1) 3SG WILSON WEE NRIC: 5000x432B
- 2) MSG (NS) YEO BENG KEAT NRIC: 5000x290H
- 3) CPT (NS) TAN ENG HOE NRIC: 5000x645G
- 4) PTE SHAKTHI VIKRAM NRIC: 5000x227C
- 5) LTA (NS) WONG LIANG ERN NRIC: 5000x615A

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

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Army's Latest TV Commercial

Feel The Steel Within



Story by Chia Han Sheng / Photography by Chia Han Sheng and Sebastian Ang

Demonstrating their fighting prowess, two ancient spear-wielding warriors leap across the screen as they battle hard for the upper hand. The smaller of the two warriors is highly agile, twists and turns as he dodges the heavier but slower blows of his adversary. With some special effects, the scene shifts to morph into our Army's urban fighters equipped with the Advanced Combat Man System as they successfully execute an Urban Operation. This is the opening scene of our Army's latest Television Commercial.

The Creative Concept



The new uniform is just one of our Army's latest developments featured in the commercial

This opening contrast between the old and new demonstrates the essence that the soldiers or people remain pivotal despite the evolution of war fighting technology. This essence, aptly captured in the tagline "The Steel Within" reflects our soldiers' inner strength and agility which enable them to remain relevant through time. Elaborating on how the concept was conceived, Creative Director Mr Paul Hume from Mandate Advertising International said, "We realised that though technology may change, a soldier must always have inner mental and physical strength to stand his ground and accomplish his mission. This was highlighted by the Chief of Army and I thus proposed the theme of 'The Steel Within' to the Army Recruitment Centre (ARC)." The commercial's story line features our soldiers demonstrating "The Steel Within" in a wide spectrum of operations ranging from high intensity battles to humanitarian aid.

Behind the Scenes

It was with this vision that the production crew started its five days of filming which took them from the deserts of an overseas location (where the opening scene was shot) to our very own Murai Urban Training Facility. Over the five days, the crew worked closely with our soldiers, capturing the human spirit and emotions faced in everyday training. Filming the many facets of our Army was no simple task, with the crew constantly searching for



The film crew worked closely with Army personnel to coordinate the precise manoeuvres of our fighting platforms

fresh camera angles to shoot from. This saw them filming from the heights of a hovering Super Puma Helicopter to the stabilised turret of the Leopard Main Battle Tank on the ground.



The film crew got up close and personal with both soldiers and fighting platforms

Director Carlos Alberto Sama Perez shared, "In my other productions, I've had to transform actors into Army personnel. This time I got to transform soldiers into actors. Ultimately, the camera needs truth to tell a story and when you watch the commercial, you will see in the soldiers' eyes that there is a real depth to what they do. You will be able to see true conviction within." Chuckling over the challenges faced during the production, Mr Perez said, "They were always so concerned about my safety! As a director, I wanted the Apaches to fly lower and push the safety limits to achieve a more dramatic effect." This, they eventually did and viewers will be thrilled to see that the Apaches did indeed fly close to the ground forces, kicking up the dust and creating a dramatic entrance for our armoured platforms.

This latest commercial, "The Steel Within" plays an important part in our continual effort to instil pride and confidence in both our fighting force and the public. It is also another timely reminder that though technology plays an critical role in our 3rd Generation Transformation, our people will always remain our edge.



"In moving beyond just showcasing our latest technology, we wanted the public to appreciate the strength of character in our people. Good leadership is the key to unleashing our people's potential and we want to show that we look for leaders who have the mettle of steel, are steadfast in their values and possess determination to carry out their mission resolutely. Ultimately, we wanted a fresh approach to the commercial which still ensured that the character of our Army continues to be displayed to the public."

COL Tan Chong Lee, ACGS (Pers)

Our new Army logo



Our Army logo reflects our vision to be a World Class Army. Therefore we see the words "Ready Relevant Decisive" replacing the previous "The Decisive Force". The new logo will be featured in the upcoming Army Television Commercial.