

armynews

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ISSUE No. 132

JUL/AUG 2006

pulse of the army



"ADvolution" Branding Our Army

3rd Generation Army Showcased at Eurosatory



COL Leong briefing the Thai Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence, General Kasemsak Plookawat

After an impressive showing at the Asian Defence Technology 2006 in Singapore, "Task Force Singapore" (TFS) was in Paris, France in June to showcase Our 3rd Generation Army's capabilities at the EUROSATORY 2006, a premier land defence exhibition.

The TFS demonstrated the fruits of the tri-partite efforts between Our Army and its defence industry partners in developing advanced solutions to overcome the challenges of urban operations. The exhibits demonstrated how unmanned air and ground systems can be networked and integrated with fighting platforms and soldiers to enhance our fighting capabilities. Victory on the future battlefield will depend largely on who can see, decide and act first.



Our Army personnel explaining the exhibits at Eurosatory 2006

Visitors at the exhibition were able to view aerial sensors such as the mini and Vertical Take-Off and Landing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and the Advanced Combat Man System with its integrated weapon, helmet sub-assemblies, protection and round-corner firing features. Other displays include the FIBUA surveillance ball, super lightweight automatic grenade launcher, air bursting munition system and the BRONCO All Terrain Vehicle.

The TFS integrated booth attracted many visitors from the foreign military and defence industries. The team leader, COL Leong Kwok Lung, commented, "This event has helped to brand Our 3rd Generation Army internationally and provided opportunities to initiate future potential collaboration with like-minded agencies."

EX MAJU BERSAMA 2006



Commander RBLF presenting a memento to our COA



Troops using assault boats to reach their mission objective

Under the sweltering heat and humidity of the Temburong jungle, our soldiers from the Army Developmental Force (ADF) and the 1st Battalion from the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF) fought side-by-side to flush out "enemy forces" in a jungle hide-out. Supported by mortar fires and helicopter gunships, they launched a well-coordinated day attack to destroy the aggressor's strong-hold. Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel TC Hj Zainal Ariffin Bin Dato Haji Ahmad, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion from the RBLF, they successfully captured the objective after many hours of intense fighting. This grand finale of Ex Maju Bersama 2006, was the culmination of a week of professional exchange, planning and preparation.

Witnessing the final attack were our Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek, Commander RBLF, COL Pg Hj Rosli Bin Pg Hj Chuchu, and senior officers from both armies. In his end of exercise address, COA reiterated the exercise objectives, which are to enhance defence relations between the two armies, to provide a platform to exchange and gain profes-

sional knowledge and to allow both commanders to develop personal ties and bond friendship.

COA was pleased that all objectives of the exercise had been achieved and thanked the Commanders and men of the RBLF for hosting the exercise. Ex Maju Bersama 2006 was the 12th of the series of army bilateral exercise between the SAF and the RBLF.



Soldiers from Our Army and RBLF boarding a helicopter for the final assault in Ex Maju Bersama

While in Brunei, COA also visited the cadets undergoing their Support Officer Cadet Jungle Orientation Training (SOCJOT) there. In his address, COA explained the common framework to the navigation training that the cadets were about to undertake. He said, "When you set off on your personal journey in the Army, you have to have a direction and intermediate checkpoints along the way in order to realise the goals that you had set out to achieve." COA encouraged the cadets to appreciate the jungle rather than think of it as an obstacle. He explained, "Though the challenges are tough, at the end of it all I reckon this will be the place where you will discover your defining moment."

Top in US Logistics Course!



LTC Chow (second from right) with senior officers from other countries

LTC Chow Wai Yein, a Military Engineering Officer, achieved "top student" at the United States Logistics Executive Development Course (LEDC) held at Fort Lee, Virginia. The five-month course, which ended in May, was attended by senior officers from several countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

The course prepares military and civilian leaders for a wide range of key logistics leadership positions in their national defence communities. Students were exposed to a wide range of topics faced by any modern Army. Students were able to learn about the logistics challenges encountered by the United States in their various international operations.

In our transformation to a 3rd Generation Army, LTC Chow felt that it is important that we continue to engage and learn from the experiences of the US Army. He added, "We could learn from their experience, and benchmark our efforts against them, currently the best military force in the world."

On his success, LTC Chow said, "Our Army has provided me with various training and appointments in the logistics field and these have developed me professionally in many ways. I am confident of contributing more as we transform towards the 3rd Generation Army."

Army Officers and Warrant Officers Promoted



LTC (NS) Michael DeSilva receiving his Certificate of Promotion

Officers' Promotion Ceremonies

Witnessed by their beaming spouses and loved ones, 174 Army Officers received their Certificates of Promotion at a promotion ceremony on 29 June at the MINDEF Auditorium. Top of the list were three Army Colonels, who were promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. One of them, BG Lawrence Chua, Commander 2nd People's Defence Force, shared his feelings about the challenges ahead, "I am confident that I will be able to handle the new expectations that accompany this promotion and take the increased pressure in good stride."

The contributions of our Operationally-Ready National Service (NS) officers were also recognised that night. LTC (NS) Michael De Silva, Commander 567th Singapore Infantry Regiment said, "It's always good to be recognised, and there's al-

ways the prospect of contributing more." Similar sentiments were expressed by LTC (NS) Mohamad Ismail s/o Abdul Gafour, Second-In-Command 2nd Singapore Infantry Brigade, who viewed his promotion as "a recognition that gives further motivation to excel."

In an earlier ceremony officiated by Chief of Army, MG Desmond Kuek on 23 June, 308 officers also joined the ranks of Major and Captain.

Warrant Officers' Promotion Ceremony

Held at the Chevrons, the Warrant Officers' Promotion Ceremony was officiated by Chief of Defence Force, LG Ng Yat Chung on 21 June. A total of 249 warrant officers from the Army were promoted, including two Master Warrant Officers (MWOs), the highest rank within the Warrant Officer corps.

SWO Joseph Koa, Division Sergeant Major of 9th Singapore Division / Infantry Formation, had some words of wisdom to share. He said, "To the more junior WOSPECs, I would advise them to not be afraid to speak up and contribute ideas. Bear in mind that you get results if you put your message across politely and reasonably. It all boils down to communication skills."

Army News extends our heartiest congratulations to all the promotees!

A Symbol of Courage and Power



BG Chua presenting the commanders with the formation patch

key staff and commanders of 2PDF. Over a thousand servicemen from 2PDF were then presented with the formation patch by their respective commanders.

In his speech after the parade, BG Chua explained the significance of the lion image etched on the patch. He said, "The lion is a symbol of courage and power, renowned for its vigour and energy, and legendary for its strength and agility. It has become an icon for the people who answered the call to arms – the call to defend Singapore."

LTC (VOL) Alex Siow felt that "having our own formation patch is a great way to forge a strong identity amongst soldiers of 2PDF. We will wear the patch proudly as defenders of Singapore."

This was reaffirmed by LTC (NS) Leonard Yeow, Commander of 22nd Singapore Infantry Brigade, who said that "with this new formation patch, we have a renewed responsibility to uphold the image and identity of the formation." For PTE Heng Wee Kuan of 2PDF's Command Human Resource Centre, "understanding the heritage of the Lion logo has built a greater sense of belonging to the formation."

Historical Setting for Weapons Presentation

Something special happened on the evening of 9 July at Kent Ridge Park, when more than 400 recruits from 46th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (46 SAR) converged on this ground for their weapons presentation ceremony. LTC Gerard Koh Keng Swee, CO 46 SAR, said, "The weapons presentation ceremony is a significant event, and it has to take place in a significant place."

Kent Ridge Park, is the significant place in question, having been part of the Pasir Panjang Ridge Line in the Second World War. On 13 February 1942, about a thousand men from the local Malay Regiment bravely held out against 20,000 Japanese troops for 48 hours until they were overrun. This remarkable feat of courage and sacrifice is commemorated with a plaque at Kent Ridge Park.

REC Tan Weng Kian of 46 SAR believes that the weapons presentation ceremony being held at Kent Ridge Park was a "very significant starting point to my army life". Indeed, LTC Koh firmly believes that his recruits 'honour our forefathers today, through their youth, sweat and tears' as they serve National Service.

LTC Koh hopes that 46 SAR has set the precedent for other units and formations to emulate, so as to honour our forefathers who fought against immense odds during the war.



REC Tan Weng Kian at the start of his NS journey

Rededication @ Leaders' Square



Comd 9 Div/CIO putting on the Formation Patch for COL(NS) Andre Koh

The main Parade Square in Pasir Laba Camp has played an important role in the history of leadership in the SAF. For the Officer Corps, it represented the birthplace of the first batch of officers, which included LG(RET) Ng Jui Ping, ex-CDF and BG(RET) Chin Chou Yoon, ex-Commandant SAFTI Military Institute and ex-Chief Infantry Officer. This is the very place that aspiring leaders of the SAF proudly stood tall and took the pledge of loyalty and leadership to the nation and the SAF.

For the WOSPEC Corps, it was used for important parades since the School of Section Leaders (SSL) was established. Through the years, SSL was renamed SAF Infantry Non-Commissioned Officers' School and eventually the present School of Infantry Specialists (SISPEC). After experiencing a tenure at Pulau Tekong, SISPEC returned to this famous Parade Square, now named Leaders' Square at Pasir Laba Camp, once again.



MAJ Lee Soo Peng on Parade as contingent commander of HQ 9 Div/Inf

On 30 June, members of the 9th Singapore Division / Infantry Formation (9 Div/Inf) gathered on Leaders' Square for their SAF Day Rededication Parade. The parade, the first of its magnitude since the move of SISPEC from Pulau Tekong to Pasir Laba Camp, saw the entire Formation coming together for the first time since the merger parade between 9 Div and Inf Fm in 2004. The total parade strength boasted of over 2000 soldiers, a spectacular display of might and discipline. As the SAF pledge remembered throughout Leaders' Square, it stirred up fond memories for many. The contingent commander for HQ 9 Div/Inf, MAJ Lee Soo Peng, said that he felt "a tingling sense of achievement" when he marched on the very parade square that he was commissioned on. 2WO Oliveira Edward, Wing Sergeant Major of SISPEC, used the words 'electrifying' to describe Leaders' Square as it was "considered sacred by tradition". The formation's identity was reaffirmed when Commander 9 Div/Chief Infantry Officer (Comd 9 Div/CIO), BG Winston Toh, presented the Formation Patch to both Active and NS Key Appointment Holders. This marked the official donning of the Formation Patch for all members of 9 Div/Inf.



diverse – those who completed National Service (NS) from the 1960s to the 1980s; people who are still in the NS cycle from the 1980s to the present; and lastly, youths who have yet to enlist or are about to enlist into NS.”

The perception of each group varies, especially for those who have served NS. MAJ Pang elaborated, “For those who have completed NS, their idea of army life is the regimentation and limited use of technology. But for those currently in the NS cycle, they have seen a glimpse of the old and yet they have seen a lot of the new – camps with bet-

branding and recruitment publicity efforts. To achieve synergy in projecting key messages, ARC also works closely with agencies such as the Army Information Centre (AIC) and Performance & Engagement (P&E) Branch in GI-Army.

MAJ Pang explained that these campaigns consist of both ‘above the line’ and ‘below the line’ advertising strategies. ‘Above the line’ is more overt and suitable for a wider audience. It includes the inspiring television commercials, outdoor advertising on buses, bus-shelters and cinemas; augmented by Power 98 radio station broadcasts. In addition, mediums such as print press and internet are explored and leveraged on.

However, limited ‘exposure to audience’ in traditional advertising mediums give rise to the need for ‘below the line’ approaches, which is applied effectively for recruitment. This

includes talks, seminars and direct mailers, which allow more opportunities for ARC to engage and disseminate information to potential recruits.

A Thematic Approach

To sharpen corporate messages and bring the audience on board, Our Army adopts various themes for its corporate branding campaigns. The 2003 campaign ‘Expanded Spectrum of Operations’, was post-September 11. It highlighted the need for counter-terrorism capabilities and promoted increased awareness on the need to protect key installations. The campaign also showcased the Army’s capabilities in conducting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. In 2004, the ‘Values’ campaign featured the SAF’s core values and its application in the Army, with inspirational quotes such as ‘Above Self, Beyond Duty’ and ‘From This Land We Are Made, For This Land We Will Fight’. At the same time, internal messages of ‘Strengthening Our Core’ - Mission, Values, People were seeded in this campaign.

Breaking New Ground

The 2005 campaign ‘Breaking New Ground’ spearheaded the drive to increase awareness on Our Army’s transformation into the 3rd Generation fighting force. As Chief of Army, MG Desmond Kuek said: “‘Breaking New Ground’ was intended to break away old mindsets to find fresh perspectives, break down the organisational silos and functional

lines to create greater integration and stronger networks, break through the hive of activity to discern what is really core and mission-essential, and break into the hearts and minds of our servicemen to win their commitment through a positive and meaningful Army experience.”

The ‘Breaking New Ground’ campaign showcased how Our Army leveraged on new concepts and platforms in unmanned systems, sensors and precision fire in our transformation process. It also portrayed how advanced communication networks and concepts of network-centric warfare were being used by Our Army to create a more potent and decisive fighting force.

L.I.V.E.ing Our Best!

The latest campaign in 2006 exhorts all Army personnel to L.I.V.E. their best. The L.I.V.E. (Leadership & Learning, Image and Identity, Values, Experience) framework was developed in 2004 as part of the Army Culture & Experience Movement and it continues to be the foundation of our Army’s emphasis on Our People, the key to realising our vision for the next generation fighting force. MAJ Pang explained, “While ‘Breaking New Ground’ showcased the innovation and evolution of Army operations and technology, the ‘L.I.V.E. to be your best’ campaign is intended to draw focus to the ‘heartware’ of the organisation, a continuation of communication efforts which started from key messages articulated at the first ever Army Commanders Forum in July 2005 with the theme, ‘Making the Connection - Its time for Action’. At this year’s Workplan Seminar, COA explained, “Some of our people did not yet feel as fully engaged nor personally responsible for the change efforts, not believing that they could play a meaningful part, not knowing what, when or how.” As such, the people-oriented campaigns of ‘L.I.V.E. to be your best’ and ‘Making the Connection’ sought to engage commanders and men alike in the transformation into a 3rd Generation Army.”

More Than Just Advertising!

Advertising campaigns constitute just one of the key instruments in the corporate branding and recruitment publicity efforts of Our Army. While they are largely responsible for the professional Army image projected to the public, MAJ Pang believes that they must be augmented with tangible policies and positive Army experiences to holistically represent

the Army corporate branding. He explained, “The greatest challenge is not the technology. The key to realising the 3rd Generation Army lies with our people. If we can recruit the right people, develop and employ them optimally, engage and gain their commitment through positive touchpoints, we will succeed. Employer branding cannot be understated - it determines who we attract, the confidence of those who are employed and hence, the success of the organisation in building goodwill with other agencies.”

The themes in the campaigns of the past few years were summed up aptly by COA at this year’s Workplan seminar. He said, “Wanting to live our best is what motivates us to break new ground. It is what compels us to strengthen our core areas of mission, values and people. It is what makes us reach out to energize and empower our people, to make the connection with the vision of what our Army should be and what we should now do. The attitude of living our best is what inspires us to lead and learn, forge strong bonds of cohesion and identity in our hubs and units, uphold the values that define who we are as leaders and soldiers, and ensure that the experience we share is worthy of our pride and our profession as an Army, as a 3rd Generation Army.”



"ADvolution" Branding Our Army

Armour vehicles racing across the land, supported by artillery and aerial assets. Soldiers executing their mission with precision, connected by high speed communication links and receiving key information and directions from the central command center. Many of you would probably remember these images from the ‘Breaking New Ground’ television commercial and advertisement campaign efforts of 2005, which showcased the evolution and advancement of Our 3rd Generation Army operations and the technologies that were deployed. What may not be so apparent to viewers is that this campaign is a continuation of a concerted corporate branding effort by the Army Recruitment Centre (ARC) to project the professional image of Our Army to the public and internal audiences. To have a better understanding of this area of work, Army News spoke to MAJ David Pang, Head ARC, who was recently featured in the July issue of HRM (Human Resources Management) magazine, on Our Army’s corporate branding campaigns over the past few years.

Engaging Our People

One of the key challenges is to produce a corporate branding campaign that will engage and resonate with a diverse audience. The campaign is designed to reinforce core messages to internal audiences, especially on Our Army’s culture and experience; while showcasing the advancement of Our Army to both internal and external stakeholders. MAJ Pang said, “The Army’s target audience is

ter facilities, less regimentation, more focus on learning and outcome-based training. The younger generation, on the other hand, is even more exposed. They are seeing the Army in a different light: the promulgation of integrated operations, mechanised warfare, wireless networks and the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Apache Helicopters and Light Strike Vehicles.”

Leveraging on All Mediums

To ensure that the campaign is of high quality and leading commercial standards, Our Army engages the services of an established advertising agency, MANDATE Advertising, to conceptualise and execute our corporate



The New Army ‘L.I.V.E.’ TV commercial will be launched on 21 August. It will be screened on Channel 5 during the ‘TV Movie’ (7.30pm) and News (9.30pm). It will also be telecast on Channel 8 during ‘Singapore Today’ (6.30pm).

Four Firsts for the SAF's 41st Birthday!

This year's SAF Day Parade, organised by the 9th Singapore Division/ Infantry Formation, celebrated the 41st birthday of our force by aptly introducing four 'firsts'.

The increased role of the WOSPEC in Our Army was showcased in this year's parade. WOSPECs assumed more roles in the various sub-committees including taking on the chairmanship for two of them for the first time. Parade and Ceremony was headed by then-Institute Sergeant Major of Specialists and Warrant Officers Institute, SWO Jeffrey Chung, while Reception, Food and Beverage was led by Institute Sergeant Major of Infantry Training Institute, MWO Errol.

This year's parade featured a pre-parade performance that whipped up the crowd's enthusiasm. This 20-minute combined performance by the SAF Central band and the SAF Provost Unit's Silent Precision Drill Squad was unique - not only for the skill of the per-

band for a more ethnic feel."

CPL Shaun added, "Last year I was in the marching contingents. This time, I was the coordinator for the combined drill squad rehearsals and this was a great experience for me, because it was the first time this pre-parade segment had ever been done. To prepare, we trained every day from morning to evening and also went over to Nee Soon to practise with the band a few days a week."

'Steps', the official SAF Day Parade 12-page newsletter, was the first such publication in the history of the parade. Full of behind-the-scenes interviews and pictures, Steps told the story of the parade and credited the unsung people who made it happen.

In line with our transformation, the Guard of Honour contingents were also



The parade emphasised the discipline and pride of the SAF

formers, but also their blending of traditional ethnic songs with creative drill routines. The never-before performance showcased the professionalism, discipline and diverse ethnicity of our SAF.

equipped with the SAR 21 assault rifle for the first time in the history of the parade. In addition, the marching contingents this year have done away with the old Skeletal Battle Order and suited up with the new Load Bearing Vest.

But in introducing the new, tradition was not neglected. Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean officiated the parade and inspected the Guard-of-Honour contingents. Chief of Defence Force, LG Ng Yat Chung, led the three Service Chiefs and the 1500 soldiers present, in reciting the SAF pledge, reaffirming their allegiance to the nation and committing to the defence of Singapore.

Professionalism on Parade: The Men Did Not Move

What does it say when an accident turns out to be the brightest spot in an event? Joel, an NSman who served in HQ 9 Div/Inf volunteered as an emcee for the SAF Day Parade. Joel witnessed a special moment during the parade, which so impressed him that he wrote about it.

It happened as the parade commander was preparing to order the contingents for the march-past. Facing the spectators, with his back to his parade, he bellowed the order for the Colours to be raised, as he had done so countless times during the rehearsals over the past month. But nothing happened. The men did not move. It took him three seconds to realise that they were not in the correct posture for that command to be given: they were in the 'at ease' position instead of the prerequisite "at attention" for them to properly execute the order. Recovering with a remarkably confident 'Semulá!' (an appended nullifying command), he then went on to call his



The discipline and intelligence of our soldiers shone that day

Those of us who have participated in our fair share of parades know that when a wrong command is given, it is inevitable that

men to attention and reissued his order for the Colours to be raised. That turned out to be a shining moment, showcasing the regimental skill and discipline of the SAF's finest for that one reason: the men did not move.

the less alert amongst the contingents' members would react to it by attempting to execute it even when they are in an inappropriate posture to do so. It is a given, even amongst the most seasoned parade sergeant majors that some men, somewhere would perpetrate this; even though it would not be entirely their fault, as they were ironically, just following orders.

But not this time. The men did not move. Of the thousand men on the parade square, not a twitch was observed when the wrong orders came. The silence and stillness that enveloped the square in what could have been cynically interpreted as a disobedience of orders spoke volumes about the alertness and mental fortitude of each individual soldier who represented the SAF on the parade square that day (as the Sergeant Major of the SAF, SWO Jeffrey Chung later remarked, they were truly "thinking soldiers"). Beyond that, it spoke volumes about the effort and conscientiousness the men had put into the countless rehearsals that marked the month before. It spoke volumes about the quality and ethic of the SAF.

Best Combat Unit Competition

Mr Teo Chee Hean presented the State Colours to this year's Best Combat Unit, the 1st



The Commandos cheering on with pride

Commando Battalion (1 Cdo Bn) and other Best Unit and Best National Service (NS) Unit awards to 22 SAF units. Commanding Officer 1 Cdo Bn, LTC Luis Phay believes his unit's victory was not due to luck. "The more we prepare, the 'luckier' we get; there is no such thing as just being lucky. We prepared ourselves to the best we can."

Army News spoke to two of the units, which received these prestigious awards.

5 SIR: Greatness through Teamwork and Bonding

5th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (5 SIR), led by LTC Mohamad Fadzulz bin Abas, clinched the Best Infantry Unit award for the sixth time. Their strong performance during operational evaluation was attributed to the teamwork and determination of everyone in the unit. As LTC Fadzulz proudly said, "The success boiled down to three qualities: Fighting spirit, professionalism and determination by both soldiers and commanders. Our unit, 5 SIR, won because of the strong willingness shown by every individual to do everything well. A defining moment for me was the Battalion Proficiency Test held overseas back in March. My men put in their best efforts, under the blazing sun, to complete the mission, helping each other along the way and never giving up. The body language and facial expressions I saw in my men, showed pure determination and comradeship. That image will stay with me for the rest of my life."

CPL Tay Hong Kuan, a mortar man, added, "We have had really tough training but through encouragement by the commanders, we endured it and came out better. The strong bonding between commanders and men is what 5 SIR's all about. My platoon mate had a leg injury and the commander carried him all the way, more than half a kilometre, to the medic station. 5 SIR is a truly a great place to be!"

6 DS Med Bn: Supporting the Fighting Forces with Excellence

The 6th Direct Support Medical Battalion (6 DS Med Bn) received the Best NS Combat Service Support Unit award for the tenth time. The medical arm of the 6th Singapore Division's Support Command, the unit provides triage and resuscitative treatment of casualties in the field before evacuating them to higher level facilities.



MAJ (NS) (Dr) Yap (centre) and his team

Commanded by MAJ (NS) (Dr) Jason Yap, who is also the Director for Healthcare Services at the Singapore Tourism Board in his civilian life, 6 DS Med Bn has shown professionalism and dedication, excelling at their role of linking up the front fighting line with the hospitals at the rear.

MAJ (NS) (Dr) Yap shared their recipe for excellence, "We here at 6 DS Med Bn have an ingrained hardworking culture that is built upon year after year. I'm proud of everyone here, who have shown terrific performance during in-camp training. Our deferment rates are also very low thanks to a strong sense of camaraderie. My soldiers were actually disappointed when told that there was no need for a night stay-in. They actually wanted to stay-in overnight, this is how much this unit means to them."

Hiro the 'Army Boy' who stood out as a Hero

On the night of 24 June, along Balmoral Road, PTE Ochi Hiroyuki encountered a snatch thief preying on a tourist couple, promptly gave chase and apprehended the suspect.

The victims of the robbery, a former Russian Army captain, Mr Samsonov Portrovski and his wife were so touched and impressed by the young man's bravery and decisiveness that they sent a letter to Our Army full of praise for PTE Ochi.

In his letter, Mr Samsonov described the situation, "The robber came from behind and snatched my wife's bag when we were taking a leisurely walk along Balmoral Road. Surprised by the situation I was unable to catch up with the robber. Suddenly from behind, this young National Serviceman ran past me in pursuit of the bandit. He continued the chase till Anderson Road where the robber jumped down into the deep drainage and tried to hide.

After a struggle, the 'army boy' apprehended the robber but had taken a few punches when he tried to escape. My wife was about to call the police when this robber, who was a Bangladeshi National, pleaded with us to let him off the hook. He claimed to have not eaten for days. The army lad took pity on him and gave him all his cash before letting him go."

Mr Samsonov expressed much gratitude in his letter as well, "I did not get a chance to properly thank this outstanding soldier who helped my wife and I in our time of crisis. As such, I want to commend the commanders from SISPEC and especially 'C' Company for taking great focus in training its recruits.

Through this experience, I have seen the strength and courage of the soldiers of the Singapore Army, always ready to help protect everyone, even non-citizens. I was in the Russian Army before migrating to Brunei and I'm proud to say that Singapore is training its young soldiers well to become strong and up-

right individuals."

Army News met up with PTE Ochi at SISPEC's Charlie Company and he shared his side of the story.

Army News (AN): Hey PTE Ochi! PTE Ochi: You can call me Hiro. All my friends call me Hiro.

AN: Hero Hiro eh? Anyway, your name sounds rather Japanese?

Hiro: Yes, I have a Japanese father and a Singaporean Mum.

AN: Ok, let's talk about your act of heroism. Did your NS training play a part in your actions that day?

Hiro: If it were the old me, I'll be too unfit and have taken too long to think before deciding to give chase. NS has taught me to be more alert, sharper and more decisive.

AN: How did you apprehend the snatch thief?

Hiro: When I cornered him in the drain, he started hitting me. I'm not a violent person so I did not want to hurt him. Instead, I caught hold of his right hand and did a "police man" on him.

AN: Looks like your training came in useful! But didn't you consider the fact that he might have had a weapon?

Hiro: Yeah some people have told me that he could have been holding a weapon or something. Thinking about it now, maybe it was something dangerous to do but I feel if you are in need of help, wouldn't you want people to help you? In school and Basic Military Training, I was very blur and always needed a lot of help, from my teachers and commanders. So I just wanted to help the couple when they needed it.

AN: It's great to see a soldier extending the core value 'Care for Soldiers' to non-military personnel as well. Hiro, what made you decide to lift the thief go?

Hiro: I felt sorry for the foreign worker because I do volunteer work, through which I understand the despair of the poor. Besides pleading on his behalf for the couple to give him a chance, I also gave him fifty dollars. Most of my friends told me that I shouldn't



"I feel the true heroes are the people like my instructors, who help others everyday educating and training them to become better soldiers."

have let him off though since he may just repeat the same crime again.

AN: Nevertheless, the couple was very grateful and even wrote a letter of gratitude to your unit.

Hiro: Yes I was quite surprised. I did not leave my name because to me it wasn't anything worth bragging about. I was then awarded a Commendation Coin by Chief Infantry Officer, BG Winston Toh. Honestly, the first few days were quite pressurising. Everyone treated me like a hero but I didn't think I deserved it. I feel the true heroes are the people like my instructors, who help others everyday, educating and training them to become better soldiers. What I did was just a one-off, so I'm actually quite embarrassed to have received this much attention. Personally, I feel most of my SISPEC friends would have done the same as me in chasing the robber down. Everyone here in SISPEC is imbued with a strong sense of moral values and are equipped physically to do so.

AN: Thank you Hiro for sharing your thoughts! Take care and train hard to become a great sergeant!

Passing On The Baton

APPOINTMENT	INCOMING	OUTGOING
CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER	COL LOW JIN PHANG	COL LEE SHANG LONG
COMD SIGNAL INSTITUTE	COL TEE SEW MONG	COL LOW JIN PHANG
COMD 4 th SINGAPORE ARMOURER BRIGADE	LTC TAN KIAN HEONG	COL LAI CHIN KWANG
COMD 281 SA	MAJ (NS) TING KHENG SIONG	LTC CHIO WEE TIONG
RSM MES COMD	MWO LIM SENG HIN	MWO THUM CHOW WAH
SSM BMTIC SCH 1	MWO PUNNINYA MOORTHY S/O VADIVELU	MWO TAN MEOW SENG RAYMOND
RSM TPT HUB (WEST)	TWO SUHAIMI BIN SAPARI	—



Corrigendum

In the Jun/Jul 06 issue cover story 'LIVE SAFE: Supply and Transport Centre was accidentally omitted as one of the winners of the COA Safety Awards under the Logistics Unit category. In the feature story on 425 SAR - The Final Tribute, the name for Commander 6th Division should be spelt as 'BG Ravinder Singh; We apologise for the errors and any inconvenience caused.

Send us the correct answer and win a \$20 Takashimaya Gift Voucher. There will be 2 winners!

Quiz Of The Month - JUL / AUG

Q: What was the theme of the 2004 Army advertising campaign?
Closing Date: 31 August

Answer: Rank / Name: Email: NRIC: Contact No:

- This contest is open to all Army personnel except the executive staff of Army News Section.
- Each person is allowed one entry.
- Winners will be notified by Email. Prizes are not exchangeable for cash.
- The judge's decision is final. Please send us your entries via mail or Email (see bottom-right corner of page).
- Prizes not collected within 3 months of notification will be forfeited.
- All entries must reach us by 31 August.

MAY / JUN Quiz

Q: How many new additions have been made to the Army No. 4 dress?
A: 3

JUN / JUL Quiz

Q: Name the unit that won the COA Safety Awards 'Most Improved' category.
A: Basic Military Training Centre, School 2

MAY / JUN Winners

1) Miss Elsie Lim NRIC: S13309372
2) SSG Samuel Choo NRIC: S85390301

JUN / JUL Winners

1) CPT (NS) Edwin Law NRIC: S7642364D
2) SSG Ho Chee Seng NRIC: S759041961

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Army News warmly thanks CPT Daniel Foo (Graphic Designer, left), CPT Gabriel Tan (Web Designer, center) and CPT Wong Chung Hang (Photographer, right) for their contributions to Army News over the past 24, 24 and 25 issues respectively. We wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

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ARMS: *Preserving Our Past, Inspiring the Future*



Mr. Yong with his Company Best Shot Award and after training.

Today, Mr Yong Shao Chong, 57, and his family lead a relatively comfortable life. However, things were very different when Mr. Yong first enlisted for National Service (NS) in 1967.

Against a backdrop of the Separation from Malaysia, the Vietnam War and the impending British Withdrawal, Mr Yong and 91 other

able-bodied Singaporeans enlisted on 17 Aug 1967 as the first batch of National Servicemen. Mr Yong recalled that day vividly, "I was really excited to be going into the army. When I boarded the truck leaving for Taman Jurong, my parents weren't crying. In fact, they felt good that I was going into NS and that I was in the pioneer batch. I felt very enthusiastic myself."

Mr Yong reported to the 3rd Singapore Infantry Regiment (3 SIR) at Taman Jurong Camp and enjoyed his Basic Military Training (BMT), especially marksmanship. He emerged as the company's best marksman and was presented with a Company Best Shot plaque at his BMT Passing-Out Parade in 1968 by the then-Minister for Defence, the late Mr Lim Kim San. His modest wooden plaque, now faded and chipped, still proudly states, "PTE Yong Shao Chong - Company Best Shot" and embodies much of Mr Yong's fond memories of his time in the Army.

Mr. Yong's story is just one of many which celebrate NS as a uniquely Singaporean experience. Soon, Mr Yong's son will also be entering NS. To pay tribute to servicemen like Mr Yong, and to capture their stories and experiences for succeeding generations of Singaporeans, the Army will be opening the Army Museum of Singapore (ARMS) in 2007. At the recent Groundbreaking Ceremony, Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean emphasised that, "The Army Museum is a meaningful initiative to capture the rich

heritage and development of our Army since we became an independent nation."

Many individuals like Mr. Yong have come forward with their personal artefacts. To date, ARMS has received almost 200 contributions from the public. These include an old postcard written by a father to his son whilst on overseas deployment, a face mask used by an NSman during Operation Flying Eagle, and a jockey cap scribbled to the seams with well wishes for ROD. Even common, everyday items carry rich stories of our Army experience. ARMS will be the focal point of these stories, celebrating them and bringing them to light for all Singaporeans.

If you have a story or artefact to contribute, please call 6799-7277 or email armymuseumresearch@gmail.com, or fax at 6799-7074.

Your story deserves to be heard.

THE SIX GALLERIES

The Army Museum of Singapore will strive to deliver three key messages to its visitors: "Our Army is ready and capable", "We are an Army of the people" and "NS is a uniquely Singaporean experience".

To achieve this, three storeys of six galleries will chronicle the memories of the past 40 years from the formation of Our Army to the current 3G Transformation. These galleries will also showcase our current operational readiness and even the future evolution of Our Army.



Orientation

This will introduce Our Army's Mission and a preview of the different galleries in the museum.



Our Early Years

The security challenges our nation faced during the post-independence years will be depicted here.



Making of a Soldier

This will feature the transformation of a civilian to a citizen soldier through Basic Military Training and other aspects of NS. This will be particularly interesting for pre-enlistees and nostalgic for those who have gone through NS.



Our Army Today

The mission ready and capable Army will be showcased here. Exciting multi-media shows and static displays of Army assets like the SM-1 tank, coupled with sounds and smells of the battlefield, will make this an action-filled gallery.



Our Army in the Future

Future evolutions of Our Army will be depicted in this gallery. Visitors will be able to try their hand at virtual battle simulators and view experimental weaponry and platforms.



Our People

This tribute gallery appreciates the efforts made by units and individuals over the years. The archives will display photographs, stories and experiences of the generations of men and women who have served in the Army.