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pulse of the army



**REALISTIC
BATTLEFIELD
TRAINING**
The Future Is Here Today

Staying A.C.T.I.V.E



Servicemen doing the TBW

With a loud blast from an air-horn, Chief of Army, MG Desmond Kuek launched the Total Body Workout (TBW) at the Army A.C.T.I.V.E (All Companies Together in Various Exercises) Day on 8 Sep. This was held at the Army Logistics Training Institute parade square on the cool and sunny Friday morning.

The Army A.C.T.I.V.E day is one of the many events organised by HQ Army Medical Services in support of the National Healthy Lifestyle Campaign. The highlight of the morning was the launch of the TBW, which seeks to give the the body a complete workout and improve muscle co-ordination. The TBW was conceptualised as part of the weekly L.I.F.E. (Lifelong Investment in Fitness and Exercise) sessions, serving as a refreshing alternative to L.I.F.E. runs. Exercise Scientist of HQ Army Medical Services, Ms Grace Heng, was part of



Be A.C.T.I.V.E, be fit

the team who was involved in the introduction of the TBW. She said, "We wanted to cater to both combat and non-combat personnel, some of whom may not be medically cleared to run. As such, the TBW will provide them with a fun workout based on sound fitness principles. Furthermore, in line with Our Army's fighting image, we also incorporated elements of kick boxing into the TBW." The TBW will be introduced to all Army units through a workshop conducted for L.I.F.E. officers and physical training instructors.

The effectiveness of the TBW was evident as participants from various formations worked up a healthy sweat in a high tempo session that was fun and interesting. One of the participants, Armour Formation RSM, MWO Tamalingam, said, "This Army A.C.T.I.V.E Day is a fun day that gets everyone out of the office to exercise together and enjoy each other's company. In all, the TBW was a refreshing change from our normal physical training that will keep us fit and healthy."



MWO Tamalingam

Ex Safkar Indopura : Strong Bilat Ties

Across plains of tilled farmland terraced by jagged volcanic rock, Singaporean and Indonesian soldiers fought side by side as TNT exploded in the distance, adding realistic battle sounds. Such scenes were the highlight of the 18th Exercise Safkar Indopura held from 3 to 16 September in Wonosari, Indonesia.



Commanders from both armies putting their minds together during the wargame

3rd Singapore Infantry Brigade (3 SIB) was Our Army's representative in the annual joint bilateral exercise held with the Indonesian National Army's (TNI-AD) 411 and 413 Infantry Battalions.

The two armies forged stronger relations through a series of combined training and activities across all levels. SAF and TNI-AD commanders planned and executed strategies in a Brigade-level Command Post Wargame Exercise.

Medical and engineering teams from Our Army also worked hand in hand with their counterparts from the TNI on a socio-civic mission, to provide medical relief and restore buildings damaged by a recent earthquake.

2SG Vernon Ng from Engineer Training Institute, who was in the engineering team, said, "We had two teams and we restored a mosque and kindergarten. We felt glad putting the skills we have to help others and the villagers were very friendly, always offering us their local delicacies and we learnt a lot about the culture and life in Indonesia."

CSC : Preparing Our Officers for Higher Appointments

"For all middle officers, the Command and Staff Course (CSC) is a gateway to senior command and staff appointments. The course's challenging coursework and overseas experience has equipped me with the knowledge and confidence to take up these responsibilities," said MAJ Siva Balan, one of the participants of the 37th CSC, as he aptly summed up the 36-week course.

The 37th CSC concluded on 7 September, with Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean, presenting certificates of graduation to 112 officers at the Istana. Of these, 56 were officers from Our Army and another eight were international officers from foreign countries including India and China.

In his address, Mr Teo encouraged the graduates to go beyond the course in their pursuit of knowledge, "The CSC is but a step in your learning process, providing you with a foundation in the knowledge and skills for higher command and staff functions. Beyond that, you will have to stay true to the SAF's culture of open-minded learning and explore innovative ideas that work best for the SAF to safeguard Singapore's security and core national interests."

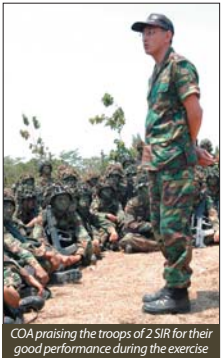
During the 36-week course, the participating officers enhanced their knowledge and command of military strategy and operations through a mentally-demanding range of studies. The officers also visited Indonesia, Malaysia and India for study. In each country, the course participants learnt about its culture and military. During these visits, the course participants gained not only military knowledge but a greater appreciation of each country's military culture. The top Army graduate of the CSC, MAJ Alfred George Fox, an Armour officer, shared, "For me the highlight was the overseas study tour. I was posted to India and visited the Indian Ministry of Defence, war colleges and camps, which proved to be very educational."

The high point of the exercise was no doubt the joint Full Troop Exercise, which saw the 346 soldiers of 2nd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (2 SIR) fight alongside the 411 and 413 Infantry Battalions, in an operational setting to capture an objective. Although the fighting tactics of the two forces were markedly different, they complemented each other effectively, thus creating great learning opportunities for both the Singaporean and Indonesian soldiers.

2WO Ng Meng Tong of 3 SIB observed, "The Indonesians are used to fighting in very wide open spaces so their tactics involve fanning out to cover more land area. In contrast, our leaner force has been trained to fight in more constrained space. Our soldiers thus move more closely together."

Commanding Officer of 2 SIR, MAJ Charles Ong expressed his thoughts on the exercise, "The aim of this exercise is to continue strengthening the good bilateral relations between our two armies, and share professional knowledge. It is hard to come by for NSFs to experience a bilateral exercise and I hope this was a bright positive experience for them to remember. They saw what they are capable of, not feeling any inferior working alongside a regular army."

The Full Troop Exercise was observed by Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek and Chief of Staff of the TNI-AD, General Djoko Santoso. The leaders of both armies also viewed the efforts of the socio-civic team and officiated the closing ceremony of the exercise. There, General Djoko Santoso handed over the symbolic torch to COA, symbolising the completion of this year's exercise and SAF's turn to host the next Exercise Safkar Indopura the coming year.



COA praising the troops of 2 SIR for their good performance during the exercise

The course participants went through three phases for the CSC. The first was the Joint Term, which focused on war campaign studies and conventional warfare through historical case studies on conflicts including World War One and the more recent Iraq War. The second phase was the War-fighting Term, where the participants practised conducting battle procedures in times of crisis. In the final phase, Joint Term Two, conventional warfare and Operations Other Than War were covered in greater depth.



MAJ Fox receiving the award for top Army graduate from Mr Teo Chee Hean

MAJ Fox concluded, "In all, the course has given me confidence and has prepared all of us well on dealing with an increasingly complex operational environment. I would have only two pieces of advice for future course participants – One, come to enjoy yourself and second, make a lot of friends, everything else will follow naturally from there. The most important thing about this course was the friendships we forged, and the networks we established, both in the SAF and with the foreign armies. These will be the people we can call upon when help is needed."

He smiled and cited one benefit of friendship, "We were on a late night Army exercise. An Air force student popped by and bought us, more than 50 army guys, pizza!"

Army HR Exchange II : With Our People, For Our People

Suppose you are on block leave and Chinese New Year is just three days away. You are looking forward to a sumptuous reunion dinner and spending time with loved ones. Suddenly, you receive a call requiring you to report back for an urgent operation. How would you react? This happened to the men of 3rd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (3 SIR) and their response was an emphatic one. They all reported back immediately! Back at the unit, they swiftly commenced the mission they were activated for. Upon successful completion of their assigned task, they were released for their well-deserved festive break.



LTC Simon Chang, Commanding Officer of 3 SIR shared this story of exemplary commitment and professionalism when he spoke at the Army HR Exchange II at Khatib Camp on 18 August. For this well-drilled recall system and the many improvements made in HR practices, he commended CPT Lim Shuen (left) and IWO Chong Pau Mei (3 SIR's former S1 and Chief Clerk respectively) for their hard work that had enabled 3 SIR to achieve the highest score in last year's HR Audit. Both servicemen received the Distinguished Award for helping 3 SIR to top the HR Audit. Sharing the top honour with the same score was 6th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (6 SIR), whose S1, CPT Daryl Hoo, and Chief Clerk, 2WO Chua Bee Lan, also received the Distinguished Award from Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek.

Indeed, people make the critical difference between failure and success in our Army's transformation journey. At the HR Exchange, the importance of developing our human capital was reiterated by the guest speakers. In his opening address, Assistant Chief of General Staff (Personnel) [ACGS (Pers)], COL Lim Jit Chek called on the HR community to be "true blue HR champions to serve the interests of our people effectively and efficiently". He added, "Beyond technology, structures and systems, ultimately it is people that make the difference especially for an organisation like ours. Our various initiatives and efforts to renew our structures, systems and processes will not reap any tangible benefits if there is no corresponding shift in our work ethos and having the right attitude towards achieving excellence."

8th Signal Battalion : Providing Crucial C4 Support

The 8th Signal Battalion (8 Sig Bn) has come a long way since it was set up in September last year. Speaking at 8 Sig Bn's Inauguration Parade on 30 Aug, Chief of Army, MG Desmond Kuek commended the battalion, "8 Sig Bn is crucial to the development of Our 3rd Generation Army. In one short year, it has surpassed expectations, demonstrating its capabilities by providing C4 (Command and Control, Communications and Computers) Support for events such as the Asian Aerospace, International Institute of Strategic Studies' 5th Shangri-La Dialogue and NDP 2006."

Veritably, 8 Sig Bn serves as Our Army's system managers, providing C4 facilities to enable command and control of high readiness forces, and co-operate with external agencies for major events. Commanding Officer 8 Sig Bn, LTC Ng Chad-Son said, "Not only do we man the key ops centres and deploy tactical command posts on-site, we also provide a variety of command systems, such as command and control information systems, tactical radios and high bandwidth communications systems." 8 Sig Bn was also involved in the recent International Monetary Fund/ World Bank (IMF/WB) Conference. LTC Ng elaborated, "As the scale of the IMF/WB Conference was larger and stretched over a longer period of time, more of our forces were deployed. For the event, we used some of the latest communication and computer systems that we have just operationalised."



ACGS (Pers) delivering the opening address at HR Exchange II

To tap the experiences and expertise of the private sector, Ms Stephanie Gault from Accenture, a global management consulting company, was invited to share on the various HR best practices. She urged the HR community to build the capacity for change and coach our people to be "preferred leaders" – people who can effectively engage and connect to others.

The event culminated in a Question-and-Answer session chaired by COA and ACGS (Pers). In his opening remarks, COA explained how HR can play an important role in each component of the L.I.V.E framework. For example, under Leadership and Learning, the business of developing leaders is very much a HR function. The panel later answered a wide range of pertinent questions raised by participants, including some on the career development of our servicemen.



The event attracted participants from various HR communities in Our Army

At the HR Exchange, Merit Awards were also presented to 2nd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment, 23th Battalion Singapore Artillery and 9th Army Maintenance Base for outstanding performance in their HR Audits. 36th Battalion Singapore Combat Engineer attained a Commendation Award for demonstrating exceptional improvement in its HR Audit results.



COA presenting the 8th Signal Battalion Inauguration Plaque to LTC Ng Chad-Son

Looking ahead, LTC Ng is confident that his battalion will constantly improve its ability to support the high readiness core. He explained, "This means enhancing our responsiveness and upgrading the range of options and capabilities for the operational users in term of command and control. We have been and will continue to be involved in overseas exercises to field new C4 systems that enable new warfighting concepts."

Ex Bold Sabre '06: On Track with Ties

The strong bilateral relationship Our Army enjoys with the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF) was well demonstrated at the bilateral Exercise Bold Sabre, held from 15 to 19 September.

Held in Singapore, the exercise saw Cougar Company of 40th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (40 SAR) hosting the Armour Reconnaissance Squadron of Support Battalion from the RBLF. The five-day exercise fostered the exchange of professional knowledge and enhanced the inter-operability of commanders and men between the two forces. Above all, friendships were forged and strong bonds formed.



A Bruneian soldier firing the machine gun on the BIONIX

The exercise included an exchange on the organisational structures and standard operating procedures of both units. In addition, the Bruneian soldiers familiarised themselves with Our Army's armoured vehicles and weapons. They learnt to operate our M113 ULTRAs and SM1 tanks through our soldiers' hands-on sharing and practices on the Armour Gunnery Tactical Simulator.

The four days of preparation culminated in a live-firing on the final day. During the closing ceremony, Commander 8th Singapore Armoured Brigade, COL Woo Yew Chung commented, "Exercise Bold Sabre 2006 reflects the excellent defence relations between Brunei and Singapore that date back to the 1970s. Since those days, the SAF and RBLF have forged increasingly closer ties through such bilateral exercises and exchange programmes."



LTC Dominic Ow, Commanding Officer of 40 SAR (left) handing the Armour Reconnaissance Squadron's colours back to Major Kharil to signify the closing of the exercise

Major Kharil Bin Haji Ismail, Officer Commanding the Armour Reconnaissance Squadron, Support Battalion complimented our soldiers on their hospitality, "The Singaporean instructors guided my men very well and clearly in the use of the weapons. They were professional."

REALISTIC BATTLEFIELD TRAINING

THE FUTURE IS HERE TODAY

Remember the now-legendary “Bang Bang Bang Bang!” shouting to mimic rifle fire during training, or umpires announcing “You are dead!” during evaluations? These would soon be a thing of the past, with the introduction of the new and highly sophisticated Battlefield Instrumentation (BFI) system.

Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen commissioned the BFI system at Pasir Laba Camp on 27 September. During the doorstep interview, Dr Ng remarked, “This BFI system fills a gap that was existing in our training systems, and with this ability to make it realistic, makes our training more effective.”

Jointly developed by the SAF and Defence Science and Technology Agency, this new system tracks our soldiers’ actions and engagements in two-sided exercise settings, providing a more realistic setting for the training and evaluation of our units. The BFI system replaces the previously-used Multiple-Integrated Laser Engagement (MILES) System.



Dr Ng being briefed by LTC Tan on the BFI system. Looking on is BG Hugh Lim (2nd from left)

Using modern laser and info-comms technology to network soldiers, weapon systems and fighting platforms, the BFI system supports field exercises of up to 1,100 soldiers and vehicles over an area of more than 400 square km. Global Positioning System, computer simulation and data communication capture, transmit and record details of battlefield engagement between opposing forces for review and analysis.

BG Hugh Lim, Commander TRADOC, explained the evolution of Our Army’s training system. He said, “We started off with blanks, and in the 90s introduced the MILES system for force-on-force training, so that when people shot each other, they received feedback. Now, with this generation of training system, we are able to bring in the effects of artillery fire and support, which our ground forces are expected to work closely with, and able to integrate tank fire.

If we did it with live ammunition, we would probably have to use half of Singapore as a training ground. The system allows us to bring all these elements in play realistically and safely, and provides good feedback, creating a winning combination for Our Army.”



2LT Long Jia Wei (left), BFI Project Officer, HQ TRADOC added, “In the past, the ATEC umpires would make decisions as to who were ‘dead’, resulting in many arguments. The BFI system de-conflicts everything, solving the problem we had with the old MILES system.”

The BFI System

Tactical Engagement System (TES)

The TES is the key component of the BFI system. Each soldier wears a three-kg harness fitted with laser detectors and a Universal Player Unit (UPU). These transmit the trajectory of the bullets he fires, track his status and location and even



The harness is fitted with laser detectors and the UPU

simulate area effects like aerial and artillery barrages. Besides simulating direct weapon effects and evaluating the outcome of each engagement, the TES also provides realistic audio and visual feedback to the soldiers.



Vehicles, like soldiers are also equipped with the TES

Vehicles can also be equipped with the TES to simulate involvement in battle. For vehicles, the system not only assesses the damage sustained in a hit but also the impact on passengers within them, providing greater realism.

The use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags provides added simulation capabilities to train and evaluate medics and vehicle technicians. These servicemen’s competence in addressing injuries and vehicle damages respectively can be practised and tested. To deal with an injury or damage, the servicemen have to pick the right tag representing the correct solution for the specific problem within the time limit.

BFI Control Centre

The control centre comprises the BFI Exercise Control (BEC) and After-Action-Review (AAR) facility. The BEC



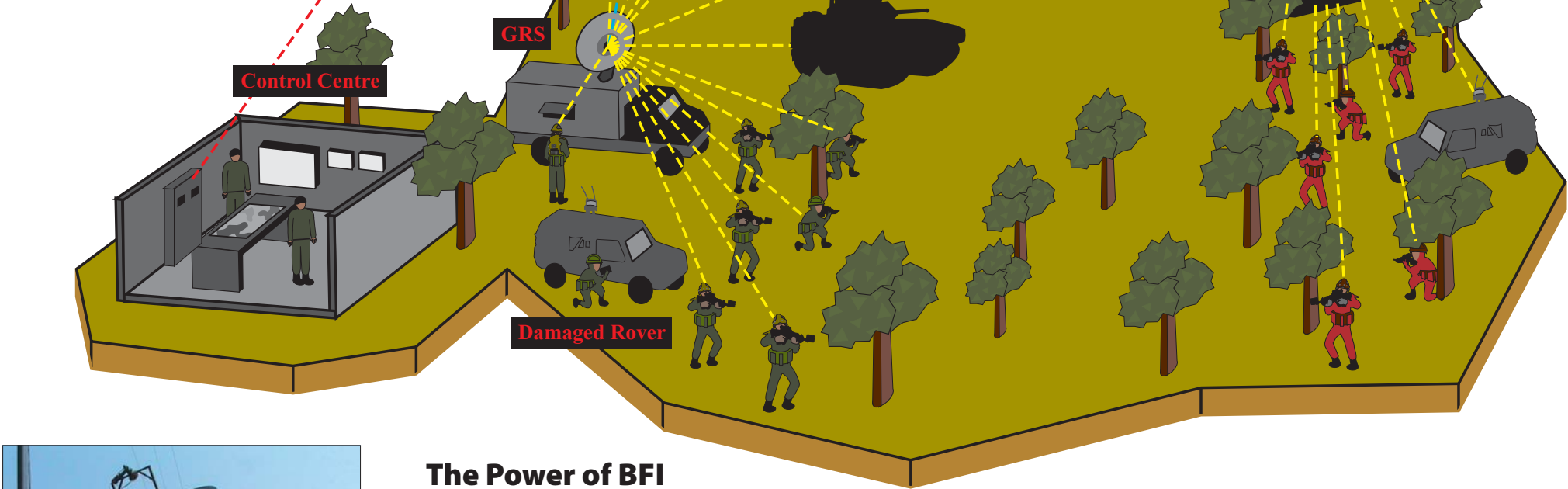
BFI Control Centre - brains of the BFI system

monitors, controls and updates the exercise data in real-time, displaying all events and soldier locations on a 2D map screen. The BEC also records and monitors tactical voice communications and transmits the simulation of artillery and air support to the soldiers on the ground.

The AAR is for the review and analysis of the exercise. Commanders can select a 2D or 3D replay of the battlefield scenarios for their observation and analysis.

Ground Relay Station

Ground Relay Stations (GRS) are required to facilitate and bridge the communication links between the soldiers, vehicles



The Power of BFI

Experiential Learning and Prompt Feedback

The BFI allows soldiers and commanders to promptly review all events that occurred during the exercise. As key points recorded are highlighted in the AAR, all the participants understand how their actions aided or undermined the outcome of an engagement. With these features, the system is now able to more accurately assess a unit’s combat proficiency.

Wide Range of Battlefield Scenarios

Beyond realism, the BFI system can even add effects that would not have been possible in normal training, such as natural obstacles and real artillery fire. These increase the range and possibilities of battlefield scenarios for more effective training.

Safety Monitoring

As the BFI system can track the exact positions of exercise troops, it can also be used as a monitoring tool to improve Commanders’ training safety management. For example, if

the unit strays into an out-of-bound area, it can be warned and recalled straightaway. Previously unnoticeable actions that may violate safety doctrines will also now be recorded by the BFI system for review.

The Way Ahead

The launch of the BFI system is the beginning of a new age in training as we push towards an instrumented synthetic battlefield with focus on land, air and sea operations. Our Army’s BFI system will eventually be integrated with equivalent systems in the Air Force and Navy. The Operations, Simulation and Resource Group (OSRG) from HQ TRADOC is already exploring how our Army’s BFI System can be integrated with the Air Force’s simulation systems

By July 2007, all umpires will be equipped with Personal

Digital Assistants (PDA) that will receive all exercise outcomes and data instantly. The umpires will be able to give prompt feedback to the soldiers in the field as well as the commanders in the control centre. In addition, trials are now being carried out to improve the harness worn by the soldiers, to minimise the weight and wiring required.

The impact of the BFI on our training transformation is succinctly summed up by LTC Tan Cheow Hock, Head Training System & Curriculum Development Branch, HQ TRADOC, “The BFI has taken the training and learning of the soldiers and units to a new height. We want to train thinking soldiers who can develop local solutions to complex situations they are operating in. With a high training realism and the ability to facilitate after action review, our soldiers and units will be able to learn from each action and do self-correction. This creates a power inner motivation to change.”

SAFOS : Grooming Our Future Leaders



OCT Chua and OCT Wu envision a bright future for Our Army

They are the best and brightest of their cohort. They excelled both in the academic and co-curricular fields in school, and in their officer cadet course. As such, it is no surprise that these five officer cadets were awarded the Singapore Armed Forces Overseas Scholarship (SAFOS), the second most prestigious after the President's Scholarship. They received their Certificates of Award and Ceremonial Swords from Minister for Defence, Mr Teo Chee Hean at an award ceremony held at Temasek Club on 12 Aug.

Three of the SAFOS recipients, OCT Hong Wenxian, OCT Wu Jianmin and OCT Edwin Chua Yu En, are from Our Army. Army News spoke to OCT Wu and OCT Chua on their

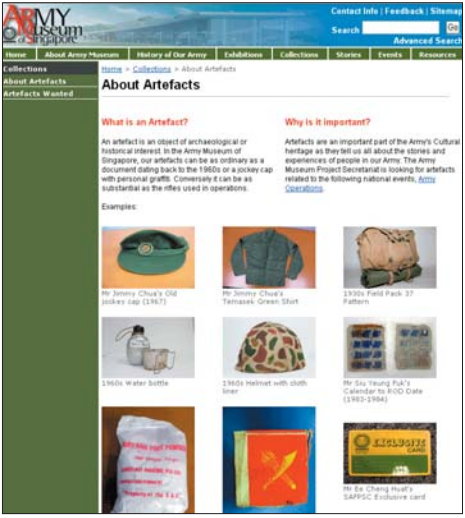
award. Both cited the Army's bright future and the challenges of working with men on the ground as reasons for taking up the SAFOS. OCT Chua, who has chosen to study Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering at the Imperial College in UK, described himself as an idealist. He said, "As amazing as it seems, I enjoy being outfield as there is a real sense of brotherhood. I am drawn towards the romanticism of being in the armed forces, which allows me to serve my nation, an ideal I firmly cherish." OCT Wu, who has opted to study Chemical Engineering at Cornell University in the USA, feels that being in Our Army would give him a fulfilling career. He said, "Our Army has undergone a lot of changes recently, and I felt it would be exciting to be part of that change."

ARMS Online



The first batch of NS enlistees began their army experiences on 17 Aug 1967. Exactly 39 years later, the Army Museum of Singapore's (ARMS) website was launched on 17 Aug. While the ARMS will not be opened till end 2007, the ARMS website now readily allows the public to preview what the museum has to offer.

The website contains interesting contents such as the history of Our Army. This section documents Our Army's milestones and evolution over the years. It is supplemented with interesting snippets, such as the phasing out of Hokkien as a medium of instruction. The Resources Section contains audio and video clips for the public's listening and viewing pleasure. These include a collection that is humorously referred to as the SAF's 'greatest hits' - songs that have been ingrained into Our



Army's culture and experience. The ARMS website also offers a weekly pictorial update of the progress of the museum's construction . The ARMS website openly invites Singaporeans to contribute their personal Army-related artefacts and stories, so that the Army's heritage may be preserved and the contributions of our servicemen honoured.

The task of setting up the ARMS website fell primarily on the shoulders of CPT Grace Wang Jia En and her webmaster, REC Andrew Wee. CPT Wang, who is the officer in charge of the ARMS Internet Portal said, "While the physical doors of the museum have yet to open, the virtual doors have already been opened, sustaining the passion and enthusiasm of our ARMS team. Furthermore, it is particularly meaningful for the NSFs, who have the chance to put their academic skills to



CPT Wang and REC Wee admiring the fruits of their labour online

good use." This is especially true for REC Wee, who expressed his pleasure at being able to work on the ARMS website. He said, "I feel quite fortunate to have the chance to work on this project, because I was able to put what I learnt in school to use. Furthermore, it's doing something for Our Army, which I find extremely meaningful."



The building of ARMS in progress; piling and extraction have just been completed

Army News encourages its readers to check out the ARMS website at www.armymuseum.gov.sg

LTA Shawn Low: Dare to be Different

"I don't think there are enough idealists in Our Army." These strong words from LTA Shawn Low of the 35th Singapore Combat Engineers (35 SCE) reflect his firm belief in doing things differently: "There is a need for more people who are willing to change the way things are being done - to believe that things can be done to improve the lives of other people, and not be jaded by the system."

This attitude has been seen in many facets of his Army life. This ranges from making physical training fun by incorporating races, to organising the first ever vertical marathon conducted by a SAF unit. This unique event was part of 35 SCE's 36th anniversary celebrations on 3 Aug, an event made a memorable experience with LTA Low's refreshing idea. Furthermore, instead of getting in-house personnel to give speeches at 35 SCE, LTA

Low has external speakers such as the CEO of Fish & Co . He explained the rationale behind these activities: "These are things that every unit will have, but it is how you put in the extra effort to make a real difference to the lives of the people around you."

LTA Low's spirit of doing things differently was recognised when he was recently awarded the HSBC Youth Excellence Award. Beyond his academic achievements, LTA Low demonstrated a consistent and steadfast commitment to community service. In 2003, LTA Low his friends rallied about 600 student volunteers to join a community initiative named Liquorice - The Festival, which raised over \$25,000 for Very Special Arts (VSA) Singapore. VSA is a local non-profit organisation that helps to integrate individuals with disabilities into mainstream society through

the Arts. LTA Low also set up Ygnite.org, an online youth portal that empowers other youths to initiate community outreach projects. Ygnite.org's success is reflected in its status as a recipient of the Youth Development Fund (YDF) grant from the National Youth Council. These funds have been used to spur it to greater heights. In spite of his hectic army life, LTA Low continues to be actively involved in community service. This includes giving twice-weekly tuition in the evening to a 13-year old hearing-impaired



LTA Shawn Low believes in doing things differently

student from the Singapore School for the Deaf.

In sum, LTA Low's exemplary conduct has been described aptly in his HSBC Award citation, which reads: "Shawn has shown himself to be a proactive and energetic young changemaker and a catalyst for youth excellence. For his tireless community spirit and outstanding leadership, Shawn Low is the 2006 HSBC Youth Excellence Award Winner for Leadership Excellence and Community Service."

LTA Low will be pursuing his further studies at Harvard University after completing his full-time NS. Army News wishes him all the best!

Army Half Marathon
Fitness, Fun and Family Togetherness!



2nd People's Defence Force took the top spot in the Inter-Formation Challenge

The 15th SAFRA Sheares Bridge Run and Army Half Marathon gathered thousands of our servicemen on 26 August, reflecting Our Army's emphasis on physical fitness and togetherness as one family. The months prior to the run spent training, fund-raising and organising the event as one Army certainly became defining memories for all our soldiers involved.



Our soldiers blazed across the finish line, epitomising Our Army's rich fitness culture

Also dubbed the 'Singapore Run', the event attracted more than 65,000 participants. Of these, 16,000 took on the challenge of the full 21-km run which was flagged off by Chief of Army (COA), MG Desmond Kuek. To make this year's event more interesting, the running route allowed the participants to take in the sights of prominent landmarks such as the Merlion, Singapore Indoor Stadium, the Grand Fullerton Hotel and the Sri Mariam-

man temple in Chinatown.

2LT Goh Weeping (right) from Engineer Training Institute was all pumped up after his 21 km. He exclaimed, "Shiok ar! It was tiring of course but the sense of achievement after the 21 km is totally amazing. I love the AHM!"



C P L (N S) James Pang (right), formerly from General Staff (Operations) - "I have already ORDED but the AHM is a good chance for me to link up with my ex-colleagues and relive the good old days."



Yue (right) of HQ Maintenance and Engineering Support added that the run helped her in terms of fitness and mental strength. "To complete the AHM with a decent timing, we trained progressively starting from two months back. It was tough but this certainly has built up our mental strength."



LTC Ho Kian Soon (left), team leader of the victorious 2 PDF team, beamed, "We 2 PDF are always behind our team. We won because of good support from everyone, great participation from our NS men, regulars and NSFs. The real effort came in the months of preparation before the race. Everyone dedicated a lot of time and effort to the training in spite of their busy schedules so during the race, we just trusted the team and gave them our full support. And of course the team did 2 PDF proud!"



And for the first time in AHM history, 12 teams from the armed forces of nine different countries including the United Kingdom, India, Malaysia and Thailand were invited to take part in the Foreign Army category. The Indian Army won first place.

Colonel Nulsman Kosadi (right), coach of the Indonesian Armed Forces team, the 2nd runner up in the Foreign Army Category said, "Competing is not the most important for us. Participating as a team, building up our team's solidarity and giving our best are what is most important to us. We are honoured to be invited for the AHM and we'll surely come next year too."



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TURN OUT TURN OUT AND WIN CASH!
This festive season, you can rest assured that Our Army will be on guard to keep us safe and you can do your part too by staying vigilant. Together with Our Army, Power98 is driving home this message by giving you a chance to win cold hard cash!

Tune in now to Power98 and stay vigilant for your 'mobilisation' message! Listen out for the code words in the message and call through at 6691 1980 to win \$50 cash each time!

Turn Out Turn Out happens only on Own Time Own Target with your DJ-in-Command Sebastian, Mondays to Fridays from 8pm! Log on to www.power98.com.sg for more details. Nobody rocks your world like Red Hot Radio Power 98!

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If you have any articles to contribute or suggestions about our newsletter, contact us at: armynews@starmet.gov.sg

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Passing On The Baton		
APPOINTMENT	INCOMING	OUTGOING
Chief Transport Officer	COL LIM SAU SIONG	—
Chief Supply Officer	LTC TAY EE LEARN	—
2 SIB BDE SM	MWO WAN ENG BEE	MWO TAN SIAK HWA
5 SIR RSM	1WO ROBIN YEO LIM THIAM SENG	1WO CHUA SONG CHIANG
3 SIR RSM	2WO FELIX SURESH	1WO NEO CHEE WEE

Bouquet

"This issue (Army News No. 133) has interesting coverage of what's current in the army. I enjoyed, in particular, the main story on urban warfare. I can relate too, to the article on 'Bonding the Commando Way'; my son served his National Service with the Red Berets."

Derek Yeo Yong Chun

Quiz Of The Month - SEP / OCT

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

Q: What does TES stand for?

Closing Date : 10 November

Answer: _____

Unit: _____

NRIC: _____

Rank / Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Contact No.: _____

1. This contest is open to all Army personnel except the executive staff of Army News Section.

2. Each person is allowed one entry.

3. Winners will be notified by Email. Prizes are not exchangeable for cash.

4. The judges' decision is final. Please send us your entries via mail or Email (see bottom-right corner of page).

5. Prizes not collected within a month of notification will be forfeited.

All entries must reach us by 30 September.

AUG / SEP Quiz

Q: Name our Army's first urban-capable battalion.
A: 3rd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (3 SIR)

AUG / SEP Winners

1) CPT (NS) EDWIN YEO
2) CPT (DR) (NS) LEONG SUN CHEE
NRIC: SX00X669F
NRIC: SX00X300J

Driving Up the Standards



Cruising along in a rover during a water-fording practice

“The Army drivers of today are highly different from the past. They are now more educated, eager to learn, skilled, versatile across several types of vehicles, and operate vehicles equipped with advanced technologies,” mused LTA Steven Liau, Deputy Fleet Manager at Pasir Laba Camp’s Transport Node (formerly known as MT Lines). Indeed, our Army’s drivers have come a long way from their counterparts of yesteryear. Army News visited Pasir Laba Camp to bring you the latest on our new breed of drivers.



LTA Liau feels that the drivers of today are more versatile and better equipped

Driven by Technological Advancements

“The Army 5-tonner is a vehicle which can think for itself,” said PTE S. Gnanasegar, a driver at Pasir Laba Camp. He explained, “Not only is it an automatic-transmission vehicle, it



From left: LCP Lee, CPL Hafriz and PTE Gnanasegar

also automatically reduces the tyre pressure when it goes off-road. Furthermore, it has an electronic dashboard that monitors the vehicle’s critical functions such as the battery and engine temperature. This is extremely useful when a problem arises with the vehicle, as it allows us to identify and rectify any problems immediately. With older three-tonner vehicles, we have to manually examine the vehicle.” The importance of safety was evident in the inclusion of an electronic speed-limiter in the 5-tonner, ensuring that our drivers do not speed on the road, keeping them and fellow road users safe. The 5-tonner is a fine example of a technologically equipped vehicle that has improved the efficiency and safety of our drivers.



A PDA is used as a trial stand in for the MDT

Another example that illustrates our use of technology for improvement is the Integrated Transport Management System (ITMS). Do not be surprised when you see an Army driver referring to a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) before setting off on a journey. PDAs are currently used in the ITMS as a trial stand in for the Mobile Display Terminal (MDT), which is mounted on the vehicle’s dashboard. The ITMS, which is currently on trial at Pasir Laba Camp and Jurong Camp, uses the PDA as an electronic logbook to capture the driver’s mileage and jour-

neys. It also has a Global Positioning System (GPS) function, which assists the driver to map out the best route for his journey. LCP Lee Kian Peng Elvis, a driver at Pasir Laba Camp, was full of praises for the ITMS. He said, “Use of the ITMS means that I no longer have to manually record down my mileage and travel routes. Also, with the GPS system, I’m able to find the destination with little difficulty!”

Versatility to Handle Different Vehicles

“Before I enlisted into Our Army, I had already received my civilian driving license. As such, when I was chosen to be a driver, I thought there was little to be learnt.” These were the words of CPL Muhammad Hafriz, who has since learnt how to drive over ten types of vehicles, including a very unique one – the assault boat. Some drivers are trained because of the need to provide safety coverage for river crossing training. Before he spent one year deployed in such a role in overseas exercises, CPL Hafriz had to undergo a five-week course in July 2005 at Seletar Camp, and it was after some challenging training that he became adept at handling the assault boat. He relates, “The assault boat is very different from the land-based vehicles that I was used to. When steering the outboard motor has to be pushed in the direction opposed to the intended path. Furthermore, I had to be alert, constantly keeping an eye on the water conditions.”



Safety checks were done before setting off on a water-fording exercise

While assault boat-trained drivers like CPL Hafriz are a minority, the rest of our Army’s drivers are no less versatile. Most of them are trained to drive at least six types of vehicles, and are able to deal with different driving conditions. In their basic ten-week driving course alone, they are given instruction in defensive driving, skid-pan driving, cross-country driving, driving through wet conditions, night driving, convoy movement, and water fording. During this challenging training period, safety is always kept in mind. For example, in the water-fording practices, the water level must be no more than 0.6 meters, while both the instructor and trainee have to wear lifejackets. This emphasis on safety continues in their daily operations. In weekly training sessions, drivers are reminded to drive safely through the use of videos, talks and performing accident analysis.

Our drivers are trained not only to drive but also to maintain their vehicles. For this, they attend a nine-day Maintenance Skill Enhancing Training course, where they pick up basic maintenance skills for the vehicles they operate. Indeed, Our Army produces all-rounded and adept drivers. CPL Hafriz echoed these sentiments, “After going through driving

qualifications in Our Army, I have become a more skilled and versatile driver who is also able to perform basic maintenance and problem diagnosis.”

“Driving Tests”

In recent years, the ability of our drivers have been tested through their involvement in Army operations and events. They have cut their teeth in various operations such as Operation Flying Eagle in Aceh, Indonesia. They also play an invaluable role in our public relation efforts. LTA Liau explained, “Public relations is definitely a new dimension in the job of a driver. They constantly meet people and hence, projecting a positive image is very important.”

PTE Gnanasegar is one of a few drivers qualified to drive the Staff Car Grade II – a car that fetches dignitaries and high-ranking military personnel. He shared with Army News his experience in ferrying the Cambodian delegation for the recent Army Half Marathon. He said, “It was very different from my normal duties. Prior to it, the first thing that came to mind were the communication difficulties we might face. True enough, my fears were realised when only the two senior officers, both Lieutenant Colonels, could converse well in English. Also, when we brought them out, we had to be sensitive to their cultural preferences, such as their tastes in food. They also tended to ask us questions about places we passed by, and so we became their tour guides as well!”

In spite of the difficulties that PTE Gnanasegar faced, his efforts did not go unrecognised. The Cambodians were extremely pleased with their drivers, according to the Cambodians’ liaison officer, CPT Terence Ho (right). He said, “The Cambodians thought our drivers were excellent. On top of fulfilling their vocational duties, they also carried themselves well as ambassadors of our country. They also rendered assistance whenever needed, such as sending one of them to hospital in the wee hours of the night.”



‘Moving Our Army’

From the daily duties of transporting people and stores around, to special assignments supporting Our Army’s events, our drivers have indeed lived up to their motto of ‘Moving Our Army’.

In tandem with the improvement of our drivers’ skills and expertise, the Transport Command has also been transformed for greater efficiency. Although the vehicles and drivers are still dispersed to the various units, the Transport Command is now re-organised into 3 zones ie North, East and West. Each zone is under the command of a Transport Hub, managing all the drivers and vehicles collectively so that they can be optimised. Head Transport Hub West, LTC Leow Poh Meng (right) explains, “With a dedicated Command HQ overseeing all MT matters, the improved resource visibility allows us to standardise training, spread our talents, hone our junior leadership, share best practices and provide meaningful training to our drivers across multi vehicular platforms. Furthermore, this cross-sharing of assets encourages efficiency in resource allocation.



LTC Dominic Ow was full of praises for our Army’s drivers

Indeed, the high level of professionalism and operational readiness achieved by our Army’s drivers is evident from the praises received. One of them was from LTC Dominic Ow, outgoing Commanding Officer, 40th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment. He said, “During my unit’s Army Training and Evaluation Centre stage two evaluation, the drivers performed credibly in the field, exercised good discipline and maintained strong operational and training safety readiness. Certainly, the accident-free outcome and the good Combat Service Support grading that our battalion received is a reflection of our drivers’ dedication and professionalism.”