

# armynews

[www.mindef.gov.sg/armynews](http://www.mindef.gov.sg/armynews)

JUN / JUL 04 | ISSUE 109

*pulse of the army*



## DAWN OF OUR ARMY

**Our Army today is a fully-fledged fighting force, made up of various Formations working hand-in-hand together. Learn how they all came together in the beginning, in Our Army's Formative Years.**

## Members Of Parliament Visit SCME



Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean and the Members of Parliament viewing the new technology and systems developed by the SAF

On the invitation of Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean, more than 20 Members of Parliament (MPs) and other distinguished guests visited the SAF Centre for Military Experimentation (SCME) on 31 May to gain insights into SAF's Transformation efforts and new capabilities.

The visit was jointly organised by the Defence Science and Technology Agency, Defence Science Organisation National Laboratories and SCME, with the MPs taken to 15 different exhibits and demonstrations where they were given presentations on new technology, systems and innovations introduced into the SAF. This included the Tactical Engagement System (TES), PC Games like Operation Flashpoint and the Battle Lab virtual battle system.

Mr Zainal Abidin Rasheed, MP for Aljunied, said, "The SAF is vigorously preparing itself for future warfare with experimentation in new doctrines. Coming here today, we see a very hi-tech centre which can simulate real-life scenarios of what happens on a battlefield."

Mr Chiam See Tong, MP for Potong Pasir, agreed and noted, "Such technology we usually only see in James Bond films, but now we see it in our own Army. If we have this kind of experimentation on research and weaponry, it can only be good for Singapore."

## Continuous Learning For Warrant Officers And Specialists



Chief of Defence Force, then-MG Ng Yat Chung presenting the CLASS award to 2WO Mohd Hanafi who will be pursuing a Diploma in Nursing at Nanyang Polytechnic

This year, 54 Warrant Officers (WOs) and Specialists (Specs) will be heading back to school under the Continuous Learning Academic Study Scheme (CLASS).

CLASS is a sponsorship scheme that started in 2001 to sponsor WOs and Specs in formal courses of relevance to the SAF. WOs and Specs who are offered this sponsorship scheme have consistent good performance.

The CLASS Award Presentation Ceremony 2004 was held at the Chevrans Auditorium on 30 June. The Guest-of-Honour, Chief of Defence Force (CDF), then-MG Ng Yat Chung presented the CLASS awards to 54 recipients.

Emphasising the importance of continuous learning, CDF said, "As the SAF transforms to a 3rd Generation fighting force, we will need to constantly upgrade the skills of our people, to keep abreast of the latest advances in order to maintain our edge."

2WO Mohd Hanafi Bin Maksom from HQ 10th Singapore Infantry Brigade will be pursuing a Diploma in Nursing at Nanyang Polytechnic under CLASS. He said: "It is a very good opportunity for me to gain knowledge and upgrade my qualifications. The diploma is very related to my work and it is a very good chance for me to look at current practices in the civilian sector."

## The Pen Is As Mighty As The Sword



Commandant of the Singapore Command and Staff College, COL Lim Teck Yin praises the contribution of the writers for their sharing of knowledge, ideas and views

Soldiers in the SAF are always challenged to think, innovate and discuss new ideas in their field of study. This thinking culture will catalyse our transformation into a 3rd Generation SAF, allowing more flexibility in thought and efficiency in execution.

The Chief of Defence Force (CDF) Essay Competition sets out to foster an active thinking culture by gathering ideas, inputs and innovations from Officers across the SAF and providing an avenue for the cream of the ideas to be spread, discussed and implemented. This year, the competition attracted a great number of essays of impressive quality dealing with a wide range of topics.

The CDF Essay Competition 2003 Prize Presentation Ceremony was held on 15 June at SAFTI Military Institute with CDF, then-MG Ng Yat Chung giving out the prizes to the winners.

Commander of Signal Institute, COL Lim Seng Hock, a Merit Award winner, wrote an essay entitled "Network-Centric Warfare and Integrated Command and Control for the SAF". He said, "Signals is one of the key players in the IKC2 (Integrated Knowledge-based Command and Control) transformation of the SAF. Since people are key in the successful application of technologies, I wanted to examine this issue in greater depth."

Another Merit Award winner was CPT Jason Yip from HQ 2nd People's Defence Force who wrote an essay on "The Professional Soldier: Organisational and Occupational Commitment of Regular Officers in the Singapore Army." He explained, "I wanted to bring up the human aspect of the Army. The starting point of my study is what a professional soldier is about, highlighting the difference between organisational commitment and occupational commitment, about how choosing to be a soldier does not mean choosing to serve the SAF."

With so many essays on so many topics, it can only mean our soldiers are thinking and improving on all fronts. The thinking soldier is very much alive and the thinking culture very much vibrant today!

## Transformation In Motion For Logisticians



ACGS (Logs) COL Philip Lim Feng highlights the importance of transformation for Logisticians at the Army Logistics Seminar

The Army Logistics Seminar was held on 6 July at Kranji Camp. The theme of the seminar was "Transformation In Motion - Forging Ahead". Organised by Army Logistics Training Institute, the seminar gave regular logisticians as well as National Service commanders a better understanding of the transformation processes initiated by Army Logistics towards the 3rd Generation SAF.

Participants of the seminar heard a series of presentations by Assistant Chief of General Staff (Logistics), COL Philip

Lim Feng; Commander Army Logistics Training Institute, COL Wong Wai Mun; Chief Supply and Transport Officer, COL Toh Boh Kwee; and Chief Maintenance Engineering Officer, COL Ng Tiong Lee. They also viewed exhibits of newly-introduced logistics equipment and vehicles.

In his presentation, COL Philip Lim said, "Transformation is a journey. The constant need to re-invent ourselves, to benchmark against the best in class and to harness technologies to make our systems more efficient and robust, remains."

Speaking to the audience, COL Lim added, "As logisticians, you are part of the entire logistics service chain, and are an important link in ensuring that the supply, maintenance and transport services provided are nothing short of excellent."

A participant of the seminar, MAJ (NS) Michael Chua said, "It's a fruitful seminar. There is a very dramatic change in landscape in the manoeuvre units as well as the logistics structure, and it is important to keep us updated. We cannot rely on what we used to know. We have to pick up new knowledge. A seminar like this gives us a good overview of the changes that are happening."

## A New Chapter For WOSE Corps



RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean being briefed on the layout and design of the new SISPEC which will be part of the SWI

On 10 July the groundbreaking ceremony for the new School of Infantry Specialists (SISPEC) was held at Pasir Laba Camp. Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean, officiated at the ceremony.

The new SISPEC will be completed in late 2005, and it will mark a new beginning for the Warrant Officer (WO) and Specialist (Spec) Corps. SISPEC will be co-located with the SAF Warrant Officers' School in Pasir Laba Camp, paving the way for the formation of the Specialist and Warrant Officer Institute (SWI).

The SWI will be dedicated to the development of the WO and

Spec Corps to support our transformation to the 3rd Generation SAF. It will form a cornerstone in the transmission of knowledge and experience from WOs to junior commanders. Other than providing a conducive



RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean signs the commemorative plaque at the SISPEC groundbreaking ceremony

environment for learning, the SWI will also be the home where our WOs and Specs can revisit their values, culture and heritage.

RADM (NS) Teo said, "No matter how much technology may change the way we do things and the way we fight, it is ultimately the soldier who makes the difference. The leadership, motivation and professionalism of our commanders at all levels will make the difference in battle."

He added, "Any successful fighting army depends on its first-line commanders to lead their men in battle, to motivate them, to rejuvenate their spirits and lead them onto final victory. So SISPEC has a critical role, for it is here that the SAF's first-line commanders are moulded and developed."

## Foreign Delegates Visit Our Army

Underlining the strong bilateral ties and goodwill between Our Army and other armies, Our Army regularly hosts visits for our foreign counterparts. The exchange of ideas and establishment of friendships during these visits are positive reflections of the relationships that Our Army has with other armies.

### New Zealand Minister Of Defence Visits CBRE Defence Group



Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean and New Zealand Minister of Defence, Mark Burton meets the soldiers from the CBRE Defence Group

On 8 June, the New Zealand Minister of Defence, the Honourable Mark Burton, accompanied by Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean, visited the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosives (CBRE) Defence Group at Nee Soon Camp. The two Ministers viewed a demonstration of the capabilities and equipment of the CBRE Defence Group.

Commenting on the visit, Mr Burton said, "This has been an outstanding visit. What we have seen here this afternoon I think is a great example of the high degree of skill and expertise that is developing in the Singapore defence force." 📌

### New Zealand Army RSM Visits Tekong



New Zealand Army RSM, WO1 Barclay takes the opportunity to learn about the heritage of SISPEC

New Zealand Army Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), 1st Warrant Officer (WO1) John Barclay, visited Pulau Tekong on 6 July. He was hosted on a tour by our own Army RSM, SWO Gungadaran, around the Basic Military Training Centre (BMT) and School of Infantry Specialists (SISPEC).

WO1 Barclay said, "I am very impressed with the level of training that has to do with leadership. I see a lot of similarities in both armies' training, and it has been very rewarding talking and sharing ideas with SWO Gungadaran. The visit has shown me where Singapore and New Zealand are going in the future." 📌

### French Delegates At BMT



Commander BMT, COL Cheang Kai Hien bringing the French delegation around to view the facilities and training at BMT

A French delegation visited the Basic Military Training Centre (BMT) at Pulau Tekong on 7 July. The delegates included Directeur de la fonction militaire et du personnel civil, Monsieur Jean-Michel Palagos; Administrateur civil hors classe, Madame Veronique Peaucelle-Delelis; Defence Attaché, CPT (Navy) Frank Somon; and Attaché for Defence Equipment, COL (Engineer) Sarma Gadjendra. Commander BMT, COL Cheang Kai Hien hosted the visit.

Monsieur Palagos remarked, "I am very impressed by the professionalism of the staff. The system here is really based on very good principles and ethics, such as the principle that everybody counts." He noted, "I find the idea of having different coloured flags to indicate the temperature very interesting. It is important to have simple things like this that pay attention to risks so as to take care of the men." 📌

## 746 Officers and Warrant Officers Get Promoted



Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean presenting the Certificate of Promotion to Chief of Army, MG Desmond Kuek who was promoted in grade

In recognition of their efforts and valuable contributions, the SAF promoted a total of 746 Officers and Warrant Officers, in two separate promotion ceremonies held at the Ministry of Defence.

### Officers' Promotion Ceremony

At the Officers' Promotion Ceremony held on 28 June,

579 regulars and Operationally-Ready National Servicemen received their Certificates of Promotion. Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean presented the certificates to Officers ranked LTC and higher.

Heading the officers being promoted was Chief of Defence Force, MG Ng Yat Chung, who moved up a rank to Lieutenant-General. Chief of Army, MG Desmond Kuek, was promoted in grade, as were six Brigadier-Generals.

National Service Officers were not left out either. Brigade Commander of the 27th Singapore Infantry Brigade, LTC (NS) Kang Choon Boon was promoted to the rank of Colonel. A managing director, LTC (NS) Kang noted that his service in the Army helped greatly in his civilian job, saying, "What you learn in the Army, you can put it into practice outside, and vice versa."

### Warrant Officers' Promotion Ceremony

The SAF Warrant Officers' Promotion Ceremony held on 18 June saw 167 Warrant Officers receiving their Certificates of Promotion from Minister of State for Defence, Mr Cedric Foo.

Warrant Officers form the backbone of the SAF and play an important role in upholding operational readiness in the organisation. The career responsibilities of Warrant Officers have expanded beyond the traditional scope of regimentation and discipline. The Warrant Officer today is instrumental in implementing MINDEF and SAF policies and is involved in areas previously managed by commissioned Officers.

2WO Dora Lim Keng Hua has been with the Army for 25 years and has seen the roles of Warrant Officers change over the years. The Chief Administration Supervisor from the 2nd Singapore Infantry Brigade, she said, "The SAF has empowered Warrant Officers and given us more responsibility. Now the Warrant Officers are being consulted in the many areas that we specialise in." Commenting on the changing and expanding roles of the Warrant Officer, 2WO Lim said, "We have to change with the times. The SAF is becoming more high-tech and we have been sent for more courses. I find it very challenging. We need to keep learning and work more efficiently."

Our congratulations to all the promotees! 📌

## President Visits Lakiun Camp

Contributed by Lakiun Camp



The President being briefed on the types of jungle training that the SAF conducted in Brunei

On 18 March, President S R Nathan visited Lakiun Camp, located in Temburong District, Negara Brunei Darussalam. This was the first-ever visit by a Singaporean President to Lakiun Camp.

The Presidential delegation comprised Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Lee Yock Suan; Minister of State for Defence, Mr Cedric Foo; and Member of Parliament (Sembawang GRC), Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman.

The President was briefed on the roles and functions of Lakiun Camp and the types of jungle training that the SAF conducted in Brunei. After the briefing, the President was given a guided tour of Lakiun Camp's training, support and administrative facilities.

The President also visited 'A' Company and the Scout Platoon of the 1st Battalion Singapore Infantry Regiment (1SIR) who were undergoing river crossing training. The President witnessed 'A' Company infantry troops using a single rope bridge to cross a 20 metre-wide river, as well as scout troopers performing a combat swim using lifejackets and field-packs as improvised flotation.

As part of his visit, the President and his delegation were hosted to lunch at the cookhouse. The President also interacted with the permanent staff of Lakiun Camp, their families, and commanders and men of 1SIR. At the end of the visit, the President presented the President's Plaque to Commander Lakiun Camp, LTC Tan Eng Ann to commemorate his visit. 📌

# OUR ARMY: THE FORMATIVE YEARS

Story by Ivan Chan  
Photos by Nicky Loh & Centre For Heritage Services

To commemorate SAF Day this year, Army News rolls back the years and presents to you the early days of the Army and its Formations. It is the story of how our fledgling Army took shape even before Singapore's independence, and gradually developed the different Formations to become the integrated fighting force of today.

## PRE-INDEPENDENCE

After World War II, Singapore destabilised due to Communist activity. The Singapore Volunteer Corps, disbanded after World War II, was revived in 1949 to boost the British forces in keeping the peace.

In 1954, Part-time National Service was introduced, with 400 men called up by public ballot. However, it was unpopular, with riots breaking out against the policy.



Photo by Mary Anne Schooling

## BIRTH OF THE INFANTRY, 1957

The Government felt it was essential for Singapore to develop a regular force. The 1st Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (1 SIR) was raised in 1957, followed by the 2nd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (2 SIR) in 1962.



## INDEPENDENCE OF SINGAPORE, 1965

When Singapore separated from Malaysia and became independent on 9 August, there were still only 1 SIR and 2 SIR with the most basic of support units. Minister and Permanent Secretary for the Interior and Defence, Dr Goh Keng Swee and George Bogaars, respectively, were tasked with building up a defence force. It was decided that the only way was to have a citizen conscript army, relying on reserve forces to join the regulars in forming a credible military force.



## SETTING UP OF SAF TRAINING INSTITUTE, 1966

In February 1966, the SAF Training Institute (SAFTI) was set up at Jurong Primary School while more permanent facilities were being built, to quickly train officer cadets to handle the recruits that would come in for National Service. A Command and Staff College was also planned to be set up by 1968 to prepare officers for higher command appointments.



## WIRING UP OF SIGNALS, 1966



The 1st SAF Signals Corps came into being on March 1966. Originally part of the 4th Malaysian Infantry Brigade, the Corps was established at Beach Road Camp with only very old British equipment. It eventually formed the nucleus of the 1st Signal Battalion that was set up in February 1967.

## CLEARING THE WAY FOR THE ENGINEERS, 1967

In May 1967, a training wing at SAFTI was set up to train combat engineers. The first graduates of the school formed the backbone of the first Engineers battalion, the 30th Singapore Combat Engineers (30 SCE). The Bomb Disposal Unit was formed the following year.



## START OF NATIONAL SERVICE, 1967

After much public debate and publicity, Full-time National Service began. The first intake of recruits, dubbed the "Nine Hundred", took place in August 1967, forming two separate infantry regiments: 3 SIR and 4 SIR.



## GUNNING FOR THE ARTILLERY, 1967

The 20th Battalion Singapore Artillery of SAF was set up in 1967. It had its roots in the 1st Singapore Regiment Royal Artillery that was formed after World War II. Volunteer gunners from this regiment became the instructors of the first batch of Artillery trainees in 20 People's Defence Force (Artillery) which would later become the 20th Battalion Singapore Artillery.



## IN COMES THE ARMOUR, 1968

November 1968 saw the formation of the first Armour unit, the Commando Vehicle Unit. Armour was first unveiled to the public when 36 officers on 18 tanks led the drive-past during the 1969 National Day Parade, wearing their distinctive black berets.



## ENTER THE COMMANDOS, 1969

The Commando Formation in its earliest form was when a group of 30 men formed the SAF Regular Battalion in December 1969. In early 1971, the battalion, then known as the SAF Commando Unit, was renamed the 1st Commando Battalion (1 Cdo Bn), which moved to Changi Camp from its original location at Pasir Laba.



## EMERGENCE OF THE GUARDS, 1975

To raise the overall level of the infantry, it was decided that two ordinary Infantry battalions would be converted into Guards battalions by channelling Commando officers and non-commissioned officers into them. 7th Singapore Infantry Brigade (7 SIB) was thus formed in 1975, comprising 1 Cdo Bn and two Guards battalions that were taken from the former SAF Guards Unit which trained men for guard duties.



## 1975 UNTIL TODAY

Since their humble beginnings, Our Army's different Formations have grown from strength to strength, adding new units, training manpower and utilising new technology. Coupled with the addition of three new support Formations - Supply & Transport, Maintenance & Engineering Support and Army Medical Services - Our Army's fighting capabilities have expanded tremendously.

Having come a long way since the early days, Our Army will continue to move forward as it prepares to face the challenges of transforming into a 3rd Generation Army.



## OUR ARMY'S FORMATIONS



### Infantry

1957: 1 SIR formed.  
1962: 2 SIR formed.  
1967: National Service introduced, 3 SIR and 4 SIR formed.  
1980: Inauguration of HQ Infantry.



### Armour

1968: Commando Vehicle Unit formed.  
1969: Commando Vehicle Unit split to form the 40th Singapore Armoured Brigade and the 41st Battalion Singapore Armoured Regiment  
1979: Inauguration of HQ Armour.



### Artillery

1948: Formation of 1st Singapore Regiment Royal Artillery.  
1965: 20 PDF (Artillery) formed.  
1967: 20 PDF becomes 20 SAB (now 20 SA).  
1974: HQ Artillery formed.



### Commandos

1969: SAF Regular Battalion formed.  
1971: Group renamed the SAF Commando Unit.  
1981: Inception of the HQ School of Commando Training. The Siletto, a double-edged killing knife, now presented along with the Red Beret.  
1989: HQ Commando formed.



### Engineers

1967: Setting up of Combat Engineer training wing (now known as School of Combat Engineers) at SAFTI.  
1968: 30 SCE formed.  
1969: Bomb Disposal Unit formed.  
1970: HQ Singapore Combat Engineers formed.



### Signals

1966: 1st SAF Signal Corps founded. Communications and Electronics Department set up in Ministry of Interior and Defence.  
1967: 1st Signal Battalion formed.  
1970: Communications and Electronics Department becomes Formation HQ



### Guards

1975: Formation of 7 SIB.  
1976: Addition of SAF Guards Unit to 7 SIB.  
1977: Official opening of 7 SIB. SAF Guards Unit renamed 1st Battalion Singapore Guards (1 Guards).  
1994: Guards Formation formalised and honoured with the Khaki beret.



### Maintenance & Engineering Support

1965: 1st SAF Workshop established.  
1970: SAF Ordnance Maintenance Base formed.  
1978: General Support Maintenance Battalion formed.  
1994: Maintenance and Engineering Support established as an independent Formation.



### Supply & Transport

1965: SAF Transport Base established.  
1967: Ammo Company formed as part of the Weapons, Ammo and Optical Base.  
1990: Separate supply and transport units integrated to form the Supply & Transport Formation.



### Army Medical Services

1972: First Field Hospital set up.  
1988: Senior Medical Officer (SMO) Office for the Army formed.  
1996: Inauguration of HQ Army Medical Services.

## Then And Now

### The Rationale For Our Rations

*Photos from the Centre For Heritage Services*

They have been called "Operations Rations", "Combat Rations" or "Field Rations", but all three terms would conjure up the same image to our veterans of the past - green packets of hard biscuits, stout cans of beans and a plain brown box labelled "jam". These were the food supplies for soldiers when they went for outfield training, food that could be eaten quickly while still providing the energy needed for a soldier hungry after a gruelling day's work.

#### 1968: WHEN RATIONING BEGAN

Rations were first introduced into the Army in 1968, consisting of dehydrated meals and enough to last a soldier a day. It is not documented what exactly the rations were at that time, but reports showed that the soldiers did not generally find the food palatable. Improvements were steadily made and when the revised rations were introduced in 1970, they were reported to receive better acceptance.



*Rations of the past consisted largely of hardtack biscuits and canned food*

#### 1975: THE WEALTH OF RATIONS

Rations had to be eaten fast while soldiers were on the move, and they soon earned the nickname of "fast food". There were two different types of rations: conventional type 'C' rations and lightweight type 'L' rations meant to be eaten on the go. Furthermore, there were different menus to cater to Muslim and vegetarian diets.

For all the ration types, the staple was twelve packs of hardtack biscuits that provided 65% of the total energy yield for a soldier. Soldiers found various ways to eat the biscuits - with pineapple jam, or broken into pieces, soaked in lemonade and eaten as porridge. Canned food was the main source of protein, with baked beans, sardines, pork cubes, braised chicken and vegetarian food on the menu. The meals were supplemented by chocolate, sweets and vitamin tablets to round off the nutrition a soldier needed.

#### 1994: ACQUIRING A LOCAL FLAVOUR

1993 saw more research and studies done for a review of combat rations, with the rapid advancement in technology and the changing needs of soldiers on the modern battlefield. Feedback from soldiers was also taken into consideration.



*Rations today offer a varied menu to satisfy both the palate and nutritional requirements of the soldier*

The main issue was having hardtack biscuits as the staple food, with complaints about the dryness of the biscuits as well as the need to consume a large quantity of biscuits to meet a soldier's dietary requirement. Also with the food mostly having to be eaten cold, food items like sardines and baked beans proved unpopular. Added to this was the need to provide a greater quantity and variety of food, based on feedback from soldiers that the daily food supply was insufficient and the menus repetitive.

The new rations were thus adjusted, and while still small, light and portable, they offered improved nutrition, variety and taste to satisfy soldiers. The menus now catered to an Asian palate with rice as the staple, and also included drinks and a dessert to round off the meal. There was even a supply of solid fuel, matches and tissue paper.

Today, soldiers can enjoy dishes such as Nonya curry rice and seafood pasta, with red bean or soya peanut dessert, supplemented by energy food bars and instant drink mixes. To continually improve on the variety, Singapore Food Industries and HQ Supply & Transport are coming up with new dishes every year while still ensuring adequate taste and nutritional value of the food. Currently in the works are dhal rice with chicken, oriental seafood noodles and chilli flake glutinous rice. Our appetites are whetted! 🍴

## Defining Moments

### Out Of The Training Gauntlet



*He signed on with the Army as a recruit in 1974, impressed with the black berets he saw servicemen wearing at that time. After thirty years of service, Armour Regimental Sergeant Major, SWO Tan Keng Choon has amassed an impressive wealth of experience in the Army. For him, there is no one single defining moment, but little gems of knowledge picked up from his training days which impact his own leadership style. He shares some of these with Army News.*

#### TRAINEE AND COMMANDER

"I had my fair share of tough times in the Army. Midway through my Basic Military Training, we had a new platoon commander who had been trained in India. We had a real hard time with him! The expectations he had of us were very different from the previous platoon commander's. He gave us a lot of demanding training he had learnt from India!

Those days the commanders could ask us to do anything. Our cookhouse was 700 metres or so from our company line. To march to our cookhouse to eat our lunch we would have to march for half an hour. Just before we reached the cookhouse our section commander would often turn us around back to our parade square, march around it a few times before going back to the cookhouse, where we would only have about ten minutes left to eat.

Despite the tough training that often stretched me to the limit, I still gritted my teeth and endured. This strengthened my mind and made me realise how much I could take.

#### OVERSEAS CHALLENGES

I had interesting experiences during an overseas training exercise. I must say the conditions were really bad! Our bed was a wooden double-decker, with an extremely thin mattress and a starch pillow. Our toilets had maggots crawling up the wall and leaving a trail behind. Coming on to the end of the training, our whole sanitary system was choked. We were to dig another hole and we had to scoop our business from the choked toilet to the new hole we dug!

During the training, we had to bathe ourselves in the open with just a row of zinc sheets protecting our decency. We used water taken from a pond in the training area. The pond was on one side of the road, the village on the other. The villagers on the second floor probably had a good view of us! The water was practically ice water, we would dip ourselves in for three seconds, soap and rinse ourselves and run back. It was so bad that some people even excused themselves from bathing!

#### I WAS YOUNG ONCE!

Since I became a platoon sergeant in 1977, I no longer had to be a trainee for courses, but became a commander myself. Over the years, people have come to regard me as a mentor, someone whom they can talk to. I am able to talk to them and understand their situation as I have been through their path before, and can give them constructive advice. Today I am more appreciative of what the SAF has provided for our servicemen and I treasure what I have. When I have dialogues with my Specialists, I share with them my story, of what I have been through and how I learnt the meaning of endurance.

Sometimes in public people whom I do not recognise will come up and talk to me. These people may be my ex-colleagues or former soldiers. It gives me a sense of satisfaction that these people still remember me even after so many years. At these times I would feel that I must have done something good to influence their lives in order for them to remember me. When I am faced with challenges, these encounters serve as my motivation to persevere. At the end of the day I know that I am making a difference." 🍴

*Defining Moments are the unforgettable experiences of time in Our Army. So what is your defining moment? Share your story with us and receive a gift for your efforts! Contact us at [armynews@starnet.gov.sg](mailto:armynews@starnet.gov.sg).*

## Passing On The Baton

### INCOMING

BG Neo Kian Hong  
BG Goh Kee Nguan  
COL Cheang Kai Hien  
COL Ong Yu Lin  
LTC Tan Kan Whye  
LTC Lee Kim Hung  
LTC Cheong Jin Ee Eugene

Comd TRADOC  
Chief Guards Offr  
Comd BMTC  
Comd OCS, SAFTI MI  
CO 9 DSMB  
CO 42 SAR  
Comd ATC

### OUTGOING

BG Leong Yue Kheong  
BG Chua Chwee Koh  
COL Lo Yong Poo  
COL Png Bee Hin  
LTC Ng Chan Cheok  
LTC Lim Kok Liang Jason  
LTC Andrew De Silva

## Quiz Of The Month

Send us the correct answer and win a new SAF Duffel Bag. There will be 2 winners!

### SEND YOUR ANSWERS TO

**THE EDITOR,  
ARMY NEWS**

303 Gombak Drive  
#02-14, MINDEF Building,  
Singapore 669645  
or Fax : 6 768 4460  
or E-mail:  
armynews@starnet.gov.sg

### ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

**Army Safety Website**

### OUR LUCKY WINNERS

1. CPL Raymond Cai NRIC : S 8433252 F
2. LCP Loh Huan Kang NRIC : S 8327538 C

Contest rules: This contest is open to all Army personnel except the executive staff of Army News Section. Photocopies of the entry form are acceptable. Each person is allowed one entry. Prizes are not exchangeable for cash. The results will be published in the next issue and winners will be notified by E-mail. The judges' decision is final.

All entries must reach us by **25th August 2004**.

**What were the first  
two National  
Service regiments?**

**Answer :**  
**Rank / Name :**  
**Unit :**  
**E-mail :**  
**NRIC :**  
**Contact No. :**

Closing Date : 25th August 2004

## GET INTO OUR BOOTS FOR A DAY!

Your favourite Army Open House is here again this September. Come and experience the first ever Live Firing Safari! Find out more about the transformation of the 3G Army and join our operation in the dark of the night.

So get out of that sofa, and get into our boots for a day. Bring your friends and family too, it's going to be a real adventure!

Highlights of **ARMY OPEN HOUSE 2004** :

- The Army Experience
- Army Transformation
- Live Firing Safari
- Military Rides
- Army Interactive World
- Kiddy Land
- Main Street Parade
- Military Shows and Performances - Army Rites
- Military Equipment Display

Bring along this card and look out for this patch when you visit **Army Open House 2004** for treat and surprises!

**Venue: SAFTI Military Institute**  
**Website: www.ArmyOpenHouse.com**

# ARMY EXPERIENCE TVSHOW

Catch 2 exciting episodes to capture the Army Experience!

English Version (Channel 5)

Episode 1 - 17 Aug, 7.30pm

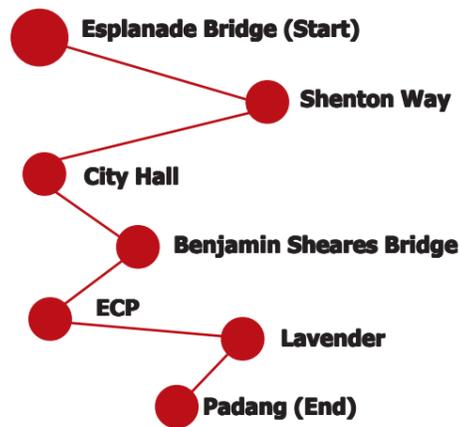
Episode 2 - 24 Aug, 7.30pm

Mandarin Version (Channel 8)

Episode 1 - 31 Aug, 8pm

Episode 2 - 7 Sep, 8pm

## A New Twist To An Old Formula



The Sheares Bridge Run & Army Half Marathon (SBR & AHM) is back for the 7th year running!

This year, there will be a fresh new route to entice you and your buddies to keep up Singapore's running tradition. For the first time, the start and end points will be at the Esplanade Bridge and the Padang respectively. Apart from the scenic views that you will see, cheerleading street performances and other surprises also await you along the route.

Registration for the SBR & AHM 04 has already begun. In-service personnel can register via their Formation Representatives, while other interested runners can log on to [www.safra.org.sg](http://www.safra.org.sg)! So, what are you waiting for? 📌

## Editorial Board

**Chairman**  
COL Lawrence Chua

**Members**  
COL Chiang Hock Tew  
COL Tan Yih San  
COL Lim Hock Yu  
COL Bernard Lim  
LTC Ng Soh Eng  
LTC Adam B Haji Hamzah  
LTC (NS) Fong Choon Khin  
LTC (Ret) Gerard Ong  
LTA (NS) Chan Kay Min  
LTA (NS) Chia Ming Chien  
LTA (NS) Terence Tan  
SWO Gungadaran T U

## News Crew

**Editor**  
Hoo Mei Lee

**Assistant Editor**  
Jeremy Kang

**Staff Writers**  
Poon Shou Yi  
Ivan Chan  
Gary Yeo

**Photographers**  
Nicky Loh  
Terence Ng  
Wong Chong Hung

**Graphic Designer**  
Charles Lim

**Circulation Clerk**  
Justin Ee

**Web Designer**  
Ignatius Ong

**Webmaster**  
Jimmy Chan

**ARMY NEWS** is a monthly publication of the Singapore Army. The opinions and views in this newsletter are those expressed by the writers and do not reflect the official views of the Ministry of Defence. All rights reserved. Subjected to the provisions of the Copyright Act, 1986, no part of this publication may in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, microcopying, photocopying, recording or otherwise) be reproduced or transmitted without prior written permission from the publisher.



Army News thanks Justin Ee for his dedicated contribution as our staff writer and circulation clerk over the past 21 issues. We wish him the very best in his future endeavours.

## Thinking Soldiers

### Are You A Thinking Soldier?

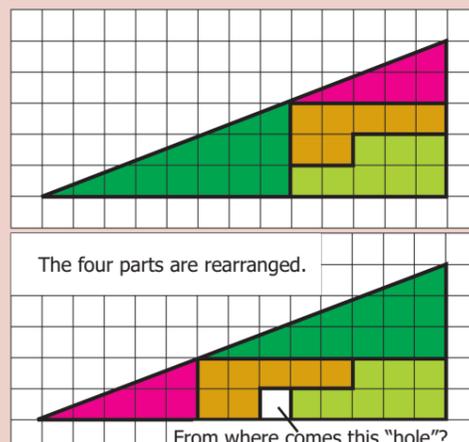
Let's take a break from management philosophies and theories, learning models and methodologies.

Let's have some fun!

Perhaps the most tried and tested way to develop the thinker in you is simply to solve thinking puzzles. These puzzles make you break out of familiar thought patterns and come up with new associations and possibilities.

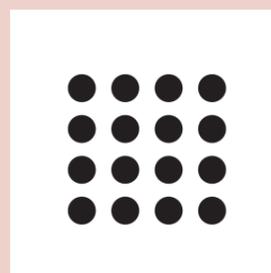
Can you figure out the solutions to the following puzzles?

#### How can this be true?



#### The 16 Dots Problem

Connect the 16 dots using six straight lines without lifting the pencil from the paper.



Solutions to the puzzles in our next issue. 📌

## Give Us Your Feedback

If you have any suggestions or feedback about our newsletter, we want to know!

Do not hesitate to write in to us at :

**ARMY NEWS**  
**Suggestions and Feedback**

**303 Gombak Drive,  
#02-14, MINDEF Building,  
Singapore 669645**

**Fax : 6 768 4460**

You can also contact us at :

**armynews@starnet.gov.sg**

# SAF DAY 2004

Story by Poon Shou Yi, Photos by Nicky Loh

The 3rd Generation SAF will be a leaner and more effective fighting force which uses technology as a force multiplier. However, the ultimate measure of the SAF's strength still lies in the spirit and commitment of our people - the soldiers who serve our nation in the regular service and in National Service (NS). On SAF Day 2004, the outstanding units and soldiers who have excelled in their duties were acknowledged.

## Rediscovering The Winning Formula



Commanding Officer MAJ Ang Soon Leong and the men of 1st Commando are proud to win the Best Combat Unit Award

1st Commando Battalion (1 Cdo Bn) has once again shown its mettle, winning the Best Combat Unit Competition for a record 18th time. The annual competition grades SAF units in areas such as battle readiness, physical fitness, marksmanship, manpower issues, logistical readiness and safety.

Courage, tenacity, stealth and determination to overcome adversity are hallmarks of the Commandos. Commanding Officer of 1 Cdo Bn, MAJ Ang Soon Leong shares his battalion's winning formula, "One of the key things that we believe in is leadership by example. When we tell the men to march a certain distance, as leaders we will march with them. If we tell the men to do a certain task when we do not do it ourselves, it actually erodes the value that we believe in."

Battalion Signals Officer, 2WO Sundram describes the morale of the men as being at an all-time high. 2WO Sundram says, "We want to show people that when the going gets tough, the tough gets going. We are proud to have won the Best Unit Award and look forward to marching at the National Day Parade."

Winning the Best Combat Unit award for the 18th time is testament to the high level of professionalism and the effort of the men at 1 Cdo Bn. A Boat Man cum Demo Man at 1 Cdo Bn, CPL Tan Ni Chin says, "Training can be tough, but when you set your mind to a task, no challenge is too great. We get a great sense of achievement after overcoming each obstacle and we grow stronger."



"Singaporeans go about their daily lives confident and secure in the knowledge that the SAF is ready and able to defend Singapore's sovereignty and territorial integrity should the need arise."  
- RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean

## Engineering Their Way To Success

This year, 328 Singapore Combat Engineers (328 SCE) is the winner of the SAF Best NS Combat Engineers Unit award. 328 SCE is a field engineer battalion that has the capabilities to overcome man-made and natural obstacles for the manoeuvring of combat forces.



The close bonds amongst the men of 328 SCE have proven to be a winning formula

At 328 SCE, teamwork is the key to engineering success. Officer Commanding of 328 SCE, CPT (NS) Lee Chee Kian says, "We recognise the need to have cohesion training. So before the In-Camp Training (ICT), we discuss and try to incorporate cohesion-building activities such as games or a get-together session so that everyone gets to know one another better. This builds up teamwork and results in better understanding amongst the men, helping to prevent accidents and achieving better operations timings."

Emphasising the importance of bonding amongst the men, Commanding Officer of 328 SCE, MAJ Vernon Teo says, "I try to meet up with the NSmen regularly to talk about other things beyond ICT. That is when the bonding happens. I try to make them feel that the unit is an extension of their families. When this happens, proficiency naturally goes up."

## Reaffirming Their Allegiance To The Nation

On 1 July, the SAF celebrated SAF Day 2004 with a parade and five rededication ceremonies around Singapore. Servicemen both in the regular service and NS pledged their commitment to the Nation at these events.

Held at the SAFTI Military Institute, the SAF Day Parade was officiated by President S R Nathan. About 1100 SAF active servicemen and NSmen attended the parade. 1200 Operationally-Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) from 110 civilian companies also participated in five separate rededication ceremonies held at Suntec City, Temasek Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic, Novotel Apollo Singapore and Jurong Country Club.



NSmen reaffirm their commitment to the defence of Singapore as they recite the SAF Pledge



President Nathan presenting the State Colours to this year's Best Combat Unit, 1st Commando Battalion



Chief of Defence Force, LG Ng Yat Chung (left) leading the Service Chiefs and all servicemen in the SAF pledge



Employers of the NSmen demonstrate support for National Service by signing the Declarations of Support



The Trooping of Colours and March Past during SAF Day Parade 2004

