

ARMY NEWS

ISSUE 214

AUGUST 2013

PULSE OF OUR ARMY

2263

DAYS IN AFGHANISTAN

THE ARMY'S OPERATION BLUE RIDGE JOURNEY

HIGHLIGHTS

A TERREX JOURNEY: INTO A NEW AGE

OUR PRESIDENT VISITS

FLYING HIGH: PEACEKEEPERS OF THE SAF

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Mister Young



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Graphic Designers
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ARMY NEWS (Suggestions and Feedback)

308 Gombak Drive, #04-28
Bukit Panjang Camp, Blk I, Singapore 669646
Tel : 6427 0460/6427 0465 Fax : 6427 0640

the editor speaks



It is heartening and inspiring to know that the bearer of the highest office in Singapore, to whom we pledge true faith and allegiance, willingly walks the very ground that we train on. Our Army was very honoured to receive President Tony Tan as our guest twice so far, in Brunei and in Singapore. Thank you Mr President for taking the time to visit us, interact and engage with our soldiers.

July marked a very significant milestone in our Army's calendar of events. We bring you the full story of our Army in Afghanistan. 2263 days is a long time if you think about it- 1 FIFA World Cup, 2 Olympic Games, 6 Formula 1 seasons, the list can go on. And yet, our Army's contribution to Afghanistan has been successfully concluded without a great fuss or fanfare. Many of us at home probably weren't even aware that our Army had been in theatre for such a period of time. In this issue, we take a moment to think about Ops Blue Ridge- our deployment to Afghanistan, and recognise the brave men and women who represented our country in theatre. I had the honour, privilege and opportunity to visit Afghanistan twice during this time and personally witness our Army's contribution, and it left me feeling proud - as a 'soldier' and Singaporean.

We may be a 'little red dot' but we can stand tall with heads held high.

Mel Ferdinands

PASSING ON THE BATON

APPOINTMENT	INCOMING	OUTGOING
CHIEF ARMY INTEL OFFICER	COL KUAN MENG YIN JAMES ARTHUR	-
COMD SMI-I	SLTC ONG YOKE LAM	COL KUAN MENG YIN JAMES ARTHUR
CO ARMY LOGS TRG CENTRE, ALTI	SLTC OWE KOK BENG	SLTC SNG HOCK LIN
CO ENGR STAFF TRG CENTRE, ETI	LTC LEE MUN CHOON	LTC CHAN WYE KEONG
CO ARTILLERY LDSHIP TRG SCH, AI	LTC KEE KIAN BOON	-
CO ARTILLERY TRG CENTRE, AI	LTC ONG CHEE SIONG	-
CO TACTICAL FIRES CENTRE, AI	LTC HOCK WAI LOONG	-
CO OPERATIONAL FIRES CENTRE AI	LTC KWAN CHIA SHIONG	-
CO 731 SIR	MAJ (NS) LAI CHERN YUAN	LTC (NS) CHONG CHAN PIN
CO 9 SIR	MAJ DARREN LER TEK CHIN	LTC ANG CHOON KIAT
CO 3 AMB	ME5 CHIA THUANG PING	ME6 TAN MU YEN
CO ARTILLERY VOC TRG SCH, AI	SWO LEE CHER PIN	-

* In last month's issue, TNI was listed as Tentara Negara Indonesia. It should be Tentara Nasional Indonesia. We apologise for the error. *

SAF and Other Militaries Conclude the ADMM-Plus HADR/MM Exercise

Story and Photography by www.mindef.gov.sg



Exercise participants briefed His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaullah, the Sultan of Brunei (2nd from right)

The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and Military Medicine (MM) Exercise took place in Brunei from 17 to 20 June 2013. This four-day exercise involved the armed

forces of the ADMM-Plus countries. (The ADMM-Plus is made up of 18 countries, namely the ten ASEAN countries as well as Australia, China, Japan, India, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.) His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaullah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei officiated at the closing ceremony held at the Muara Naval Base, together with the visiting Defence Chiefs (or their representatives) of the participating nations.

Approximately 3200 personnel, 15 helicopters, 7 ships as well as military medical, engineering and search and rescue teams and assets from the 18 nations were deployed during this HADR/MM Exercise. The multinational forces were deployed in various scenarios such as landslides and collapsed buildings, as well as casualty evacuation and aid delivery to the affected.

982 Graduate as SAF Specialists

Story by www.mindef.gov.sg / Photography by Lim Wei Liang



Reviewing Officer celebrating with the CSSCOM graduates

982 Specialist Cadets (SCT) graduated during the 15th Specialist Cadet Graduation Parade at Pasir Laba Camp on 21 June, with Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transport, Associate Professor (A/P) Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim as their reviewing officer.

Speaking to the graduands, A/P Ibrahim stressed the role and responsibilities that these 3rd Generation SAF specialists face in the ever changing climate of operations. "As leaders of small units, you will be equipped with networked systems to call upon the full resources of the rest of the SAF. For you to make tough decisions on the ground, you will require not just your deep expertise in specialised skills but also a good understanding of the big picture and mission imperatives," he said.

After the gruelling 22-week Specialist Cadet Course, where the graduands were put through tough and realistic training to develop leadership and combat skills, the parade marked the successful completion of their course.

SPS visit to Jurong Island

Story by Jotham Yeo / Photography by Matthew Lim



COA explaining to Dr Maliki on how an acoustic device works

On 28 June, Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Parliamentary Secretary (SPS) for Defence and members of the Advisory Council on Community Relations in Defence (ACCORD) visited 3rd Battalion, Singapore Guards (3 GDS) doing Protection Of Installation (POI) duties at Jurong Island. During this visit, SPS and ACCORD members were briefed by Assistant Chief of General Staff (Operations), BG Chan Wing Kai and the Commanding Officer of 3 GDS, LTC Freddie Tan.

SPS expressed his confidence in the SAF ability to handle the haze situation. He said, "We ensure that the health and safety of our soldiers are not compromised, at the same time ensuring that they continue to be able to do their duties. We cannot compromise the operational readiness of the SAF."

The Action Learning Process- In Action!

Story and Photography contributed by MAJ Tay Kwang Leong, Doct Offr CDO, HQTRADOC



Action Learning Process (ALP) is a systematic and disciplined approach to enable optimal learning from military exercises and operations. The ability to learn at the individual, team and organisation levels in peacetime is an essential capability in the 3rd Generation Army, but what is most imperative is incorporating the aforementioned ability into operational use. To achieve these goals, the Army has progressively implemented ALP in our Training Institutes as a key component to develop the Army Learning culture.

There are three stages in ALP, namely the Before-Activity Review (BAR), During-Activity Review (DAR) and Post-Activity Review (PAR). Trainers from Training Institutes are well-versed in the methodologies of applying the ALP skills, tools and practices at the different stages. The focus is to establish a conducive learning environment which allows the trainer and the leader to assume the greater roles of a coach and a facilitator. The key behavioural shift lies in the trainees taking a greater ownership of their training outcomes.

“In the maintenance exercise, we witnessed a bottom-up approach where trainees take ownership of their SAFETY as they shared the subject in the ALP. This itself is already one important achievement!”

- ME6 Koh Hwai Tong, CO, SCHOETI



On 29 May 2013, Commander TRADOC, BG Lim Hock Yu visited the trainees of 36th Maintenance Section Commander Course (MSCC), who were undergoing the DAR in a maintenance exercise. BG Lim observed the respective exercise section commanders' presentations, which encompassed lessons identified, key learning points and areas requiring immediate action. Contrary to presumptions of a solemn sharing session, the DAR was surprisingly open-minded. Trainees were comfortable and upfront in highlighting their shortcomings from their drills, including safety "near-misses".

After the DAR session, BG Lim emphasised the importance of learning to first take place at the individual level before scaffolding it to the team and organisation levels. He commented that as section commanders and as future leaders, they play crucial roles in harnessing the strength and learning from every individual so that collectively, they can share and gain experiences from the other sections and beyond. BG Lim further stressed that learning while in action, the principal idea behind ALP, is fundamental in our 3rd Generation Army. To conclude the session, Commander TRADOC encouraged the trainees of MSCC to continue their enthusiasm in the ALP learning journey.



FORGING STRONGER TIES

STORY BY EDMUND HENG /
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOEY JUN WEI AND MATTHEW LIM

Impressive! Professional! Futuristic!

These were just a few of the words used by the students and staff of the Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College (MAFSC) to describe our Army. They were introduced to several platforms such as the Terrex Infantry Carrier Vehicle (ICV), Primus, Leopard Main Battle Tank (MBT), Bronco variant: The Mortar Tracked Carrier (MTC) and the Advanced Combat Man System (ACMS). It was an eye opener for several of the students from the MAFSC as they have never seen equipment like these before. All of the platforms were presented to the visiting officers by our NSFs who were praised for their know-how on the equipment.

The commandant of MAFSC, BG Ismet Bin Nayan, and the students spent the day getting a hands-on experience with our platforms, lining up eagerly to have a look inside a Terrex ICV, the MTC and the Leopard MBT as well as trying out the ACMS and the Primus.

Being in the Royal Malaysian Navy, Lt. Cdr Normah bt. Amir Hussien, said the platforms on display were impressive and she was fascinated by the displays and the presentations. LTC Clark Smith, a Directing Staff from MAFSC, echoed her sentiments. He said, "It is a good learning experience for the MAFSC to see these capabilities of the Singapore Army."

"I am very impressed at how modern the Singapore Army is," CPT David Wilkinson of the U.S. Army, student at MAFSC said of our equipment, "also the NSFs are very knowledgeable despite their young age."

Admiring the Leopard MBT



Hands on with our SAR 21



Our NSF presenter explaining the workings of The MTC



A TERREX JOURNEY: INTO A NEW AGE



The Terrex ICV marks one more accomplishment with the opening of the Motorised Infantry Training Hub

Story by Bjorn Teo / Photography by Lim Wei Liang

In 2007, our Army started developing its Motorised Infantry capabilities. It was in the same year that talks of introducing the Terrex Infantry Carrier Vehicle (ICV), headed by HQ 9th Division / Infantry (9 DIV/INF) were carried out. Naturally, proposals were also made to set up the necessary infrastructure to house, maintain and train with these platforms under one giant roof. Six years later, they celebrated the fruits of their labour with the official opening on 4 June of the Motorised Infantry Training Hub, at the new simulation building in Kranji Camp II.

Some new features of the facility include a control room that is fully equipped and built so that a single person can control the entire operation and functions of the compound; a Controlled Humidity Environment (CHE) area for the preservation of the vehicles, a simulation building that will facilitate future Terrex ICV training, and

an autowash bay that is able to fully clean the Terrex within 10 minutes.

CPT Prathap Latchmanan, Staff Officer, HQ 9 DIV/INF, was delighted to have all the necessary facilities in close proximity with each other. He said, “Now that we have the key facilities required for motorisation training and maintenance close together, our operations can now be smoother. With the introduction of the CHE area, our vehicles will also be better maintained and preserved.

Enhanced Motorised Infantry Training Capabilities

This opening ceremony was definitely a day to remember for Mr Oh Beng Soon, Senior Project Officer at HQ INF/9 DIV. Mr Oh, who headed the development of Motorised Infantry capabilities in the Army, including the Terrex ICV, was present from the conception of the Terrex ICV, in 2007, to the final product in 2009, after just 28 months. Since then, the Motorised Infantry troopers have achieved various milestones, such as 2nd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (2 SIR), the first of two existing Motorised Infantry battalions, achieving operational status in 2011, and 5



SIR achieving operational status the following year.

For Mr Oh, the opening of the training hub marks a significant milestone in the 6-year-long project to enhance the Army’s Motorised Infantry. The “father” of the Terrex said, “The ultimate aim of the Terrex ICV is to deliver soldiers to the location of the decisive battle. To achieve a high level of networking capability, the vehicle was also designed to allow for smooth communication among soldiers, so that they can fight effectively in a motorised force.”

Mr Oh also commented on the evolving mindsets of soldiers in this generation. He said, “A key point to note in our 3rd generation soldiers is their way of thinking. They have become more attuned to the mindset of an integrated ecosystem and an integrated networking fighting force. In the past, our platforms operated individually, but now, it is more accurate to think of the Motorised Infantry troopers as a force that utilises platform fighting as a closely connected system.”

The Bright Future of the Motorised Infantry

With the advent of the new Training Hub for the Motorised Infantry troopers, their path towards newer and greater heights looks very promising. Then - Chief Infantry Officer / Commander 9th Division, BG Chia Choon Hoong said, “I think it is very amazing that we have come this far in our development of the Motorised Infantry’s role in the Army. With these new infrastructures and facilities coming up, I am confident that in the next one to two years, we will become an even more operational fighting force that can be activated and operationalized at the press of a button.”

And Mr Oh will certainly look forward to that. He said, “Since the beginning of the project six years ago, we have definitely come a long way in how we think of and utilise our Motorised Infantry soldiers. It is my greatest hope for this new ecosystem to keep evolving further, and last forever.”



"It is very important to look after the safety and well-being of our national serviceman as they are performing an essential service for Singapore...and a strong SAF is necessary for the continued survival, success and prosperity of our country and the safety of our people."

- President Tony Tan Keng Yam



Our President visits

Story by Andrew Tan / Photography by Boey Jun Wei, Sim Chun You and Lim Wei Liang

Our Army had a very special visitor at two of our training facilities.

President Tony Tan Keng Yam visited soldiers training in Brunei as part of his State Visit on 30 June. During the visit, President Tan toured a showcase demonstration of how soldiers improvised to survive the Jungle Confidence Course (JCC); a course where soldiers go through a gruelling 9 day course in the jungle wilderness of Brunei. For the visit, President Tan was accompanied by Mrs Tan, Bruneian Minister of Education Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Singaporean Minister for Health Mr Gan Kim Yong, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Manpower Hawazi Daipi, Members of Parliament Mr Ong Teng Koon and Mr Alex Yam, Chief of Defence Force (CDF), LG Ng Chee Meng, hosted the visit; also present were Senior Parliament Secretary (SPS) for Defence, Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, COA, SMA and senior SAF Officers. President Tan visited the cadets from Lima Company, Specialist

On SAF Day, 1 July, President Tan visited Infantry Specialist Cadets at the



outfield training grounds of Specialist Cadet School, Pasir Laba Camp. Chief of Defence Force (CDF), LG Ng Chee Meng, hosted the visit; also present were Senior Parliament Secretary (SPS) for Defence, Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, COA, SMA and senior SAF Officers. President Tan visited the cadets from Lima Company, Specialist

Cadet School III, who were having a breaching of obstacles exercise, using the Bangalore Torpedo. This was in preparation for their live-firing exercise. Currently two and a half months into their training, the cadets also had the opportunity to interact with President Tan after the completion of their exercise.

WELCOME
TO
KANDAHAR
AIRFIELD

2263 DAYS

5221 KM FROM HOME

Story by Muhammad Helmi /
Photography by Kent Ju and Hairul Hafidz

THE THREAT OF TERRORISM TOUCHES HOME

The global security landscape changed significantly with the 9/11 attacks. Claiming over 3,000 lives from 85 countries, the attacks underscored the violent and catastrophic nature of transnational terrorism. In our South East Asian region, the Bali bombings in 2002 and 2005 served as a reminder that the world we live in was one of troubled peace. Closer to home, the Internal Security Department uncovered and foiled a plot by Jemaah Islamiyah operatives and its affiliates to bomb several key locations.

Al-Qaeda, who were responsible for the 9/11 attacks on the United States of America, used Afghanistan as a safe haven to train their operatives, launch terror attacks and spawn a network of affiliated terrorist groups across

the world. A videotape detailing the reconnaissance of targets such as Yishun MRT and Changi Airport was found in Afghanistan. In a world with greying boundaries, even events in Afghanistan have repercussions back home.

In 2001, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was created under the mandate of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1386 with the mission of reinstating Afghanistan's infrastructure, engage in the ongoing war against the insurgents and training the Afghan National Security Forces. As a responsible member of the international community, Singapore made the decision to deploy SAF troops in support of the peace and reconstruction effort in Afghanistan under the mandate of ISAF.

Al-Qaeda planned and executed the 9/11 attacks on World Trade Organisation towers in New York City

A videotape was discovered in Kandahar, Afghanistan detailing the reconnaissance of Yishun MRT and Changi Airport

202 people were killed and 240 injured when terrorists bombed the United States consulate in Denpasar and nightclubs in Kuta Beach, Bali
2002

Bombing of Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. 9 killed, 150 injured
2004

The country made the decision to deploy the SAF to support the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) as part of peace and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.
2007

2001

Internal Security Department detained 20 Jemaah Islamiyah operatives suspected of plotting to bomb various targets in Singapore

2003

12 people were killed and 150 injured during the J. W. Marriott Hotel bombing in Jakarta, Indonesia. Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) claimed responsibility for the event

2005

JI claimed responsibility for another series of bombings in Bali

On 17 May 2007, the SAF deployed a 5-man Dental Project Team to Bamiyan province. Our first set of boots on the ground

DAY 1 THE BEGINNING OF OUR JOURNEY IN AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN

BY NUMBERS

MEDICAL TEAMS



85 CASES OPERATED ON

2552 PATIENTS TREATED

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE TASK GROUP



112 MISSION SORTIES (450 HOURS)

68 IMAGERY ANALYSIS AND SUPPORT MISSIONS CARRIED OUT

IMAGERY ANALYSIS TEAMS



204 ANALYSIS MISSIONS CARRIED OUT

MILITARY INSTITUTIONAL TRAINERS (MIT-U)



211 GRADUATES

WEAPON LOCATING RADAR TEAMS



27 (INDIRECT FIRE) ATTACKS TRACKED SUCCESSFULLY

100% TRACKING SUCCESS RATE

MILITARY INSTITUTIONAL TRAINERS (MIT-K)

1634 GRADUATES
28 LIVE-FIRINGS CONDUCTED

22 ARTILLERY COURSES COMPLETED



492 SAF SERVICEMEN WERE DEPLOYED

DENTAL PROJECT TEAM



993 PATIENTS TREATED

1306 DENTAL PROCEDURES PERFORMED

6500 DENTAL PACKS DISTRIBUTED

WINTER DEPLOYMENT TEAMS



900 WARM KITS TO NEEDY FAMILIES

160,000 KGS OF HUMANITARIAN FOOD AID DELIVERED TO PEOPLE

303,000 KGS OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING TEAMS

450

VILLAGERS BENEFITED FROM THE BUILDING OF MONARA AND CHAPDARA BRIDGE

20,500

STUDENTS AND PATIENTS NOW HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

800

SCHOOL PACKS DISTRIBUTED

160,000

KG OF FOOD AID DISTRIBUTED

MANY TEAMS, ONE MISSION

THE THEATRE. WHERE WE WERE DEPLOYED.

WINTER DEPLOYMENT TEAMS

Facilitated the delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid donated by the SA.



DENTAL PROJECT TEAM

Established a dental clinic and provided dental services to the local Afghan population.



UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE TASK GROUP

Provided intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support to enhance the security of Afghan locals and the ISAF troops.



WEAPON LOCATING RADAR DETACHMENTS

Detected and provided early warning of indirect fire attacks at Multinational Base Tarin Kowt.



CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING TEAM

Improved healthcare and education infrastructure by overseeing construction projects such as regional health training centre, a pediatric and women's ward extension, a clinic, security wall and bridges.



NATIONAL SUPPORT ELEMENT

Provided logistical support critical to SAF deployments throughout Afghanistan.



NATIONAL COMMAND ELEMENT

Exercised command and control over all SAF troops in-theatre.



MILITARY INSTITUTIONAL TRAINERS - KABUL

Advised the Afghan National Army (ANA) on artillery training, doctrine development and the design of programmes for the train-the-trainers courses.

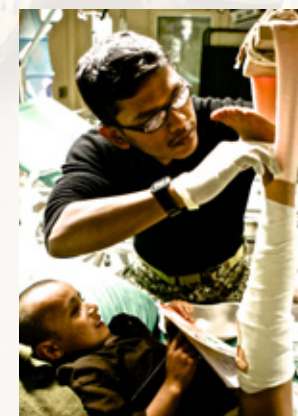


STAFF SUPPORT



Staff officers were deployed in various command HQs in Afghanistan.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL TEAMS



Provided medical support and healthcare for ISAF personnel and Afghans.

IMAGERY ANALYSIS TEAMS

Provided imagery interpretation and analysis support for multinational troops operating in Oruzgan.



MILITARY INSTITUTIONAL TRAINERS - ORUZGAN

Worked with coalition forces to train ANA commanders in the detection and identification of improvised explosive devices.





Making a Difference

in AFGHANISTAN



5,221 KM FROM HOME

Every SAF serviceman returned home a stronger soldier, spouse and parent. Their experiences in Afghanistan made them appreciate the simple things in life; the importance of family, loved ones and the peace and prosperity in Singapore that we often took for granted.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

MAJ (NS) Dr Lee Chee Wee shared how the Afghan patients were prepared to walk almost a whole day just to reach his dental clinic, a service they never had access to in the past. He also shared a touching story of an elderly patient he treated, who shed tears of appreciation when he fixed her front teeth which she lost *eight* years ago.

Relating his experience as a member of the Medical Team deployed in Oruzgan, ME3 Mazlan Bin Mohd Khalid said, "What was most satisfying was the joy in the eyes and the faces of the people when they walked out of the hospital alive; you know you have made a difference."

LTC Andrew Chan, who led one of the Winter Deployment teams, recalled how Bamiyan natives returned from exile after the Taliban were driven off, only to be confronted by the reality of destroyed homes. The Afghans were forced to live in the caves, through the sub-zero winters, without basic necessities - potable water, sanitation and even clothes. The Winter Deployment Teams delivered blankets to these Afghans; though modest, these provided some comfort amidst the hardship.

Clean water was also a rare commodity. Only the very rich could afford to dig wells. Rivers, which were the main source of water, was often used for bathing and washing, which led to the spread of water-borne illnesses. With the construction of the water wells the SAF built, the local community will have access to clean water for up to ten years.

"When we finally completed the wells, we could see the elation of the Afghans. It was amazing how just a small team of six could make such a huge difference in the lives of thousands," said COL Desmond Yeo (then-LTC), team leader of the Construction Engineering Team.

THE PEACE WE TAKE FOR GRANTED

Many of our servicemen had the opportunity to work closely with the Afghan people and forged strong bonds with them. MAJ Robin Lee was part of the Military Institutional Trainers who provided artillery training in Kabul. He recalled his close relationship with CPT Hazrat, a manpower officer he mentored, who was killed by a suicide bomber on a bus. CPT Hazrat sustained a loss of limbs and suffered abdomen wounds and eventually passed away due to severe haemorrhaging. CPT Hazrat once told MAJ Robin, "There is nothing we can do but stay brave for our family. We are accustomed to conflict, but it does not mean we are not peace loving. Family is my top priority". CPT Hazrat's death had a deep impact on MAJ Robin and his appreciation for family.

CPT Ranon Li Zhiren also shared his interaction with one of his students, whose brother had been killed by the Taliban and whose family was then forced to work and repair weapons against their will. His student joined the Army because he wanted to take charge of his life. In his mind, the defence of his country and loved ones was his responsibility, not anyone else's.

RESPECTED BY ALL

Throughout the SAF's many deployments, coalition partners held the SAF in high regard for our professionalism and our ability to deliver mission success.

2WO Chu Cheng Chwee recounted how the guns were manufactured in Russia and the low literacy rates of the Afghan soldiers made it challenging to conduct any qualification theory test. However, the team never gave up. The students gradually improved and successfully graduated.

In Oruzgan, insurgents would often launch indirect fire attacks on ISAF troops. In theatre, a few seconds of early warning could mean the difference between life and death. Throughout their deployment, the Weapon Locating Radar team were able to detect all indirect fire attacks, which is why the Armed Forces of the Netherlands call them the 'Shield of Safety'.

A WEALTH OF OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE

UAV Task Group commander, LTC Chan I-Harn, shared the challenges the UAV task group faced operating in Oruzgan. It was back to basics for them. He said, "It was tough learning to operate seamlessly with the Imagery Analysis Team. We had to return to our fundamentals as Combat Intelligence analysts to understand mission and ground demands. Despite the challenging weather conditions, every UAV team member gained a wealth of operational experience."

PILLAR OF STRENGTH

It was family that kept MAJ (NS) Dr Matthew Cheng going throughout his deployment. When the surgeon first received his call-up, his wife had only just given birth and his baby was only four months old then. With his wife's blessings, he was able to bring his expertise and skills to good use and contribute meaningfully as part of the Surgical Team deployed in Oruzgan.

"Although I missed my wife and daughter terribly and was homesick at times, I knew that I was making a difference in my own small way".

CPT Nicholas Liu, who was part of the Imagery Analysis Team, found it very tough emotionally when he could not be there for his four year old daughter on her birthday. Keeping a picture of his daughter by his bedside always, he shared how fortunate he was to have his wife and family as his pillar of support throughout his deployment.

FORWARD LEADERSHIP IN THEATRE

COL Kenneth Liow had the arduous task of managing the morale of the SAF servicemen deployed in theatre. He also shared the importance of cultivating relationships with coalition partners.

"It was important to know who I can trust when an emergency happens, who I can get information from, resources from and who can help rescue our soldiers when something happens."

Through their experiences, it is clear that every single servicemen deployed had made a difference in the lives of Afghans and left a long lasting impression on our coalition partners. Our soldiers have once again kept our Singapore flag flying high.



DAY 2263

THE FINAL CHAPTER IN OUR OBR JOURNEY Story by Chua Jin Kiat/ Photography by Kent Ju

On 22 June 2013, Chief of Army (COA), Major General Ravinder Singh visited Afghanistan to mark the successful completion of SAF's operations in Afghanistan. COA called on General Joseph Dunford, Commander ISAF in Kabul, Afghanistan. General Dunford shared that the peace process was on track and the security transition was going according to plan. Kabul looked peaceful and surreal compared to the pictures I had seen of it many years ago. A lot of construction was taking place, a sign that the economy was recovering.

COA then journeyed to Multinational Base Tarin Kowt (MBTK) in Oruzgan Province where he called on Commander Regional Command (South) Major General Robert Abrams and Commander Joint Task Force 633, Major General Michael Peter Crane. A simple ceremony was then held in MBTK to signify the end of the SAF's completion of operations in Afghanistan. We watched the last group of deployed SAF personnel, the Imagery Analysis Team members receive their ISAF medals. As the national anthem, 'Majulah Singapura' was played, it was a solemn moment for all. At that moment, it made me feel very proud to be a Singaporean, to wear the same uniform as the many others who have served in theater. The national anthem always sounds better when I hear it overseas, and I must admit, it moved me tremendously.



Every member of the coalition had only good things to share about our time here in Afghanistan; that we are a small armed force that brought niche capabilities to the table, and contributed so much to the stabilization of Afghanistan. I looked into their eyes, and heard it from the emotion in their voices. The gratitude, appreciation, friendship and camaraderie are all real. The sadness at seeing their Singaporean comrades depart for home is real. I think Singapore, and Singaporeans, made a difference in Afghanistan. **Small nation, valued contribution, equal partner.**

I have listened to my friends talk about their deployments over the years. Nobody talks about how glorious the work is, or the last mortar attack, or how important they felt. Every single SAF personnel who has ever deployed talks about how humbling it has been, how much they have learnt, and how honoured they have been, to play a small role in the peace process. We truly have good people, who rise to the occasion, and make that strategic difference for the nation. **Small nation, huge heart, strong will.**

Let us not forget our Regulars and their families. Men and women who put their loved ones aside, to deploy for that strategic outcome which is so important for Singapore. The wives and kids who try to lead normal lives, while their husbands and fathers are operating in a warzone 5221km away from home. The 492 SAF personnel who deployed, walked it, breathed it, lived it, and paid their price for it, them and their families. **Small country, big sacrifices, immeasurable respect.**

This is the SAF that I am proud to be a part of. We may not all see and know what happened in Afghanistan, but for the last 6 years, we owe a debt of gratitude to these men and women, for their sacrifices and hard work, and for flying our flag high.



EARNING RESPECT



"The Australian Defence Force knows the soldiers of the SAF very well. We know them to be thoroughly professional, very efficient and highly effective."

MG Michael Peter Crane
Comd JTF 633

"What I truly want to do is to thank the people of Singapore for their sacrifice and commitment to Afghanistan. Your contributions have allowed the Afghans to take the lead and the stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan we see today is something that the people of Singapore should be proud of."

General Joseph Dunford
Comd ISAF

"We will never forget your contribution. So thank you very much, thank you for your service."

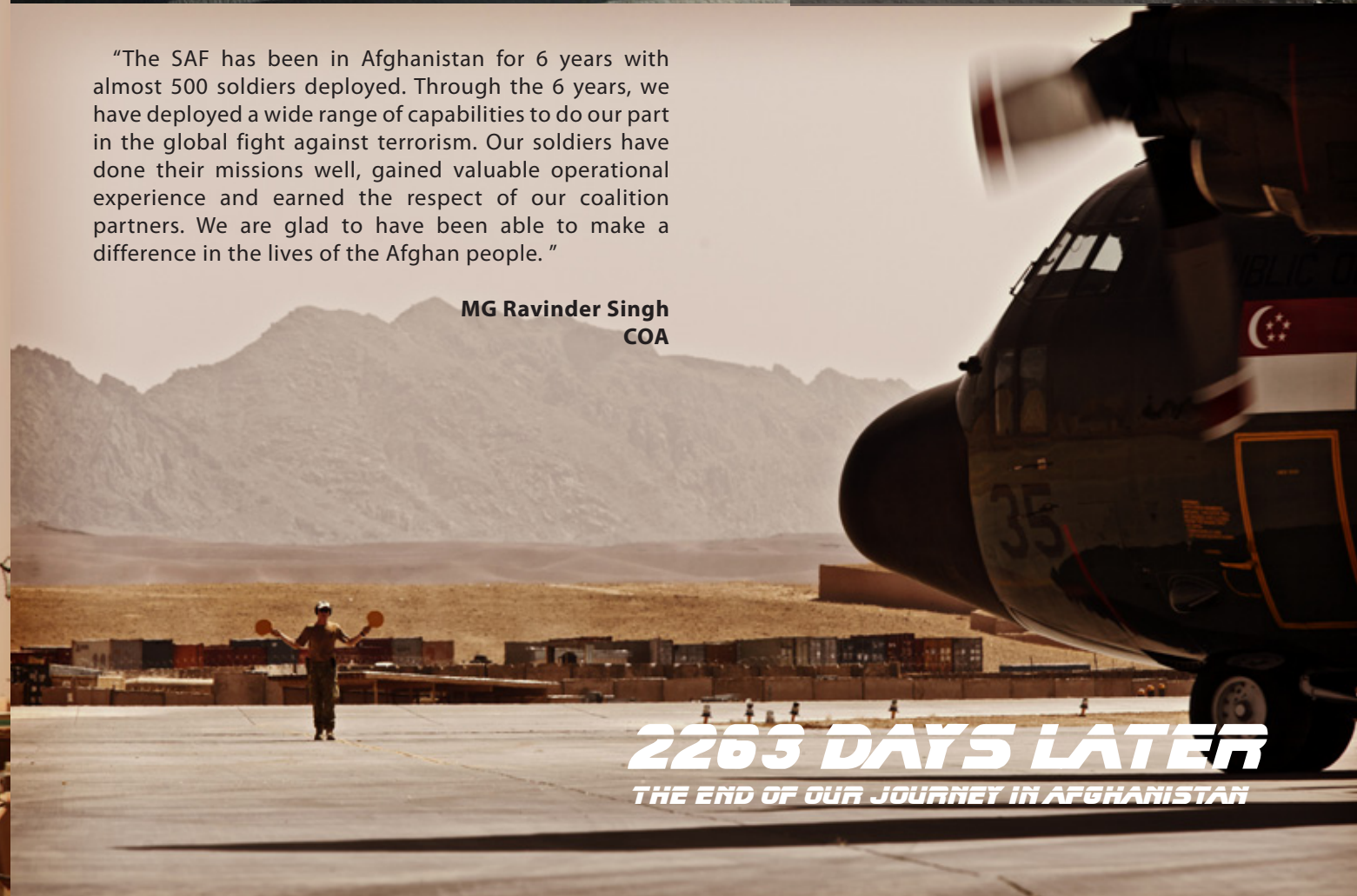
MG Robert Abrams
Comd RC(South)

"I've been fortunate to work with the Singapore Armed Forces before in Timor Leste, and I can say that my very high impression of them has been maintained during this service alongside Singapore Armed Forces here in southern Afghanistan. They've been superb team-mates, extremely professional, and are real masters of their trades."

COL Simon Stuart
Comd CTU

"The SAF has been in Afghanistan for 6 years with almost 500 soldiers deployed. Through the 6 years, we have deployed a wide range of capabilities to do our part in the global fight against terrorism. Our soldiers have done their missions well, gained valuable operational experience and earned the respect of our coalition partners. We are glad to have been able to make a difference in the lives of the Afghan people."

MG Ravinder Singh
COA



2263 DAYS LATER
THE END OF OUR JOURNEY IN AFGHANISTAN

flying high

Story by Bjorn Teo and Jotham Yeo / Photography by Matthew Lim, Boey Jun Wei, Lim Wei Liang and contributed by 48 SAR

Peacekeepers of the SAF



SAF Military Police Command Officially Recognised with Regimental Colours

On 1 July, the SAF celebrated SAF Day by presenting awards to the winners of the Best Unit Competition from the Army, Air Force and Navy. But for the soldiers of SAF Military Police Command (SAF MP Comd), this year's SAF Day represented a more significant step in the formation's progress.

From a humble force of two officers and 54 MPs in 1966, what was then known as SAF Provost Unit (SAFPU) has since been maintaining discipline and regimentation in the SAF for four decades. In September 2006, SAFPU was transformed into SAF MP Comd, a move which reflected the expansion of roles and responsibilities played by the Military Police in the SAF.

Growing from Strength to Strength

Since then, SAF MP Comd has established itself through many operations and developments in support of the SAF. 2LT Stefan Yong, Presidential Guard Platoon Commander, Military Police Enforcement Unit (MPEU), said, "As a formation, we cover a wide spectrum of operations and also hold many different roles and responsibilities. A lot of us are also cross-trained, which enables us to cover each other whenever required."

Despite the large number of soldiers in the formation, however, "SAF MP Comd works very well," said 2SG Goh Jian Sheng, a Platoon Sergeant from 8th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (8 SIR). He said, "We are a big family, but despite the difference in job scopes, we make it a point to ensure that we fully understand the significance of each other's roles."



Setting the Standard of Discipline for the SAF

For any Singaporean, either from the SAF or not, the SAF MP Comd is the one formation that serves as the role model of discipline and regimentation in the SAF. MPs are always smartly attired and have proper professional mannerisms, whether they are in camps or on the streets. 2SG Goh said, "Everyone in the formation has a uniform standard of discipline. They know how to hold themselves professionally and are trained to present themselves as soldiers that the rest of the SAF can look up to in terms of discipline and regimentation."

MSG (NS) Tay Choon Teck, Company Sergeant Major, 1st Provost Battalion was an ex-regular in the SAF MP Comd, and was "very proud to have served in the formation." He said, "The SAF MP Comd has headed in a very positive direction since the time when it was still called the 'SAF Provost Unit'. Our key role in the SAF is to enforce a high standard of discipline and regiment, and I think we have done a great job so far."

Looking Forward

With the wide array of capabilities and operations across the soldiers of the SAF MP Comd, it is inevitable that many of them will work far apart from each other. 2LT Yong hopes to see the formation bonding in spite of these challenges. He said, "It would be great if the MPs, despite operating in various camps and bases, are able to forge a strong identity amongst themselves."

For LCP Joel Lee, Protection of Installation (POI) Trooper, 9 SIR, maintaining their current standard will help to further enhance the image of the SAF MP Comd as the peacekeepers of the SAF. He said, "I feel that we, as a formation, are currently on the right track now. In the future, I would like to see the SAF MP Comd working closely together to stay vigilant and maintain deterrence efforts, and thus uphold the stellar image of the formation."



Roar of the Leopards



"Rapid Dominance" is a motto befitting 48th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment (48 SAR), a special unit that raises and trains the new Leopard 2SG Main Battle Tanks' (MBTs) companies. Equipped with Leopard 2SG MBTs, these companies have the speed, firepower and protection to dominate its opponents physically and psychologically, living up to its motto.

On 26 June 2009, 48 SAR was inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister and then Minister for Defence Mr Teo Chee Hean. Then on 1 July 2013 at the SAF Day Parade, Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen presented 48 SAR with their new Regimental Colours. These 2 dates are significant milestones for 48 SAR, the inauguration marked their operational readiness and the presentation of regimental colours marked the recognition by the SAF for their operational capabilities. It was a proud moment for 3SG Ernest Huang, 1st Company HQ Specialist. 3SG Huang said, "It is a combination of all the efforts from the 48 warriors past and present. It is a good feeling that the SAF and the rest of the nation symbolically recognise us as a combat operational unit."

48 SAR operates on a unique "Evergreen System". 48 SAR has an intake of new soldiers every 6 months, thus there will always be a mix of seasoned soldiers and fresh soldiers. The Regimental Colours also serve as a source of motivation and pride for the new members of the 48 SAR family. PTE Chin Chan Kai, 3rd Company Platoon 1 Crew Loader expressed, "To me, being in a battalion that just received the Regimental Colours gives me the assurance that our battalion, after years of hard work and perseverance, actually proved that we are deserving of. This shows that we are operationally ready and capable, seasoned and proficient with the tanks." PTE Chin also shared that they are motivated to overcome the benchmarks set by the previous batches.



One significant moment for 48 SAR, was the Army Half Marathon (AHM) 2012. AHM 2012 was the first major event, where the whole battalion was activated. 48 SAR covered various roles such as the start and end point management and management of bags, to ensure that the AHM ran smoothly. 3WO Fong Chee Hoong, HQ Company Sergeant Major felt that this was an excellent bonding session for 48 SAR. He said, "It was one of the moments that the battalion could complete the tasking together as one. Until now, it was my most memorable moment."

Our Soldiers from Combat Service Support Command (CSSCOM)

The People we can Count On

Story by Pao Pai Tse / Photography by Lim Wei Liang

On 22 June, approximately 200 soldiers were mobilised and reported to Kranji Camp III. They had one mission – To distribute 1 million N95 masks to 88 Peoples’ Association (PA) and various constituencies in 6 hours. This was a large scale operation which required meticulous planning, coordination and load testing to ensure that 44 Multi-role Utility Vehicles (MUVs) and three 5-tonners could be dispatched island-wide without a hitch. Army News followed our Combat Service Support guys behind-the-scenes and they have won us over with their “can do” spirit and professionalism. What was meant to be a single day mission was eventually extended to a second mission at night due to additional demands for more masks. There were no complaints but rather what shone through was the show of our soldiers’ fullest commitment. This photo essay captures the sequence of activities in the day mission of our Army’s support to the Ministry of Health in a nation-wide effort to distribute N95 masks to needy and vulnerable Singaporeans affected by the haze.

21 June: 1800 hrs

Early warning issued to 153 NSF’s and 44 Regulars and they were put on stand-by.

21 June: 1200 hrs

PSI reading: 401



21 June: 2200 hrs

Stand-by force activated. Planners commenced operations planning, performed load testing to calculate and derive the optimal configuration of vehicles. Convoy and route management was also charted to ensure safe execution while meeting the given time for mission completion.

22 June: 1000 to 1030 hrs

100% reported. Ready to receive their mission orders.

“As one of the SAF’s most experienced and capable force, Transport Formation will always respond and offer our assistance as the first line of support. Your role (those in the mission) is very important... always be on your full alert and take care of your personal health and safety.”

– COL Lim Siong Tiong, Chief Transport Officer

Mission Brief

“The operation is far and decentralised....I will cover the concept, timings, safety and recovery plan. These have been planned in detail to ensure that we can deliver 4762 boxes of N95 masks to all corners of Singapore on time and safely....Each of you will be issued with a N95 mask which should be used when the haze condition falls into the unhealthy zone.”

– MAJ Alex Wang, Head Operations and Planning, HQ Transport



22 June: 1100 hrs

Final Preparation

Soldiers taking their lunch. At the same time, they will perform a final check of their vehicles and study their route cards issued to them.

The fleet of 44 MUVs and three 5-tonners, ready to move out. They will go to Army Logistics Base where boxes of N95 are prepared for loading.



▲ Army Engineers from MES performing inspection on the 5-tonners for the mission.

22 June: 1230 hrs

Loading of N95 masks at the Army Logistics Base

The three 5-tonners which will be going to Peoples’ Association Central HQ after loading of N95 stores at Army Logistics Base while each MUV will go to 2 locations and deliver 48 boxes at each stop. This means each community club will be stocked with 10,000 N95 masks.



22 June: 1730 hrs

A Job Well Done

Commander, Combat Service Support Command HQ, BG Tan Peng Kuan (then-COL), giving Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, an update on the progress of the operation. As at 1730 hrs, all 86 locations have received their stocks and the last 2 locations would be receiving them by 1800hrs.



Dr Ng commends and shows his appreciation to the group of soldiers who delivered the N95 stocks to Toa Payoh Central Community Club.

22 June: 1600 hrs

Working together hand-in-hand.

Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong, observing the efforts of both SAF soldiers and Peoples’ Association (PA) staff as they work swiftly to unload the boxes of N95 delivered to PA Central HQ.



22 June: 1200 hrs

First wave of vehicles move out from Kranji Camp III. The MUVs are despatched in 6 waves while the despatch of the three 5-tonners is managed separately. Every vehicle is installed with a transponder which allows the Operations room personnel to track its location. The days of reporting via report lines are over. Thanks to the Integrated Transport Management System.

787 SIR, Strength in Unison!

Story by Jotham Yeo / Photography by Matthew Lim and contributed by 787 SIR

Strength in Unison: the slogan of 787th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (787 SIR). This year, the soldiers of 787 SIR came together for their In-Camp Training (ICT).

Returning for ICTs can be a challenge for National Servicemen (NSmen), as it may disrupt their work or studies. However, their employers are very supportive of them serving their ICTs. CPL (NS) Koh Yong Ming Terence, Platoon Commander's Runner said, "Even in my internship, my boss supports my coming back for ICT. This motivates and encourages me to do my best in ICT without worries."

After spending years together, the bond that the NSmen of 787 SIR share is "one of a kind". Even after their active days, they still keep in contact with each other through Facebook and Whatsapp Chat Groups. CPL (NS) Muhamad Mubeen, Section 2IC shared, "We have known each other for 7 years. As the years go by, we get to know each other better and we become closer."

Even amongst the commanders and non-commanders, they have gotten much closer. CPL (NS) Koh pointed out that the commanders have earned the respect from the men, because of their leadership skills and not because of their rank. He said, "Although we have gotten closer, we are still mission-focused. During missions, we know what is required of us and we will give our best."

For CPT (NS) Brian Cheung, Officer Commanding Bravo Company, he believes that it is important to live beyond oneself. He said, "There are always sacrifices to be made, as a Singaporean myself, I feel that I should make sacrifices for Singapore. Thus I am always willing to come back for ICT."

COA Marches with 746 SIR

Story by Bjorn Teo / Photography by Matthew Lim

On 25 June, Chief of Army, MG Ravinder Singh, put on his Integrated Load Bearing Vest (iLBV) and helmet and joined the soldiers of 746th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (746 SIR) in a 4km route march. The route march, which started at the Infantry Training Institute (ITI) at Jurong Camp II and ended at Pasir Laba Camp, gave COA the opportunity to march alongside the NSmen and gain some insights on their views.

NS: Our Only Form of Defence

After the route march, COA spoke with the NSmen and highlighted how National Service is an integral element in maintaining Singapore's defence. He said, "Singapore is a very small country, and anything that happens within our region will inevitably affect us. That is why NS is so important to upholding our sovereignty."

Commanding Officer, 746 SIR, LTC Foo Siang Yean, was grateful for COA's presence during the route march. He said, "The battalion is honoured to have COA join us for the route march, and it shows that our leadership is willing to come down to the ground to interact directly with the NSmen."

LTC Foo, who also holds the appointment of Commanding Officer, Specialist Cadet School III, continued, "As civilians with work and personal commitments, I am very sure that the soldiers of 746 SIR have sacrificed a lot to turn up for the In-Camp Training (ICT). The fact that we have such a high attendance for our ICT only goes to show that we are aware of the necessity of NS and how important it is to serve our nation."

LCP Raoul Samuel Mathew, the S3 Signaller in 746 SIR, had just completed an exam the day before he booked in. In spite of that, he felt that "it is important to get all Singaporeans, soldiers and civilians alike, to see the importance of NS." "After all," he said, "we are the only fighting force that is responsible for our nation's defence."

A World-Class NS System

COA also spoke on the standard of Singapore's NS system, and said, "Our foreign counterparts from around the region are always impressed with our system of NS. They are amazed that we can maintain a two-year mandatory NS programme, with soldiers coming back for ICT every year. It is testament to the fact that we are a ready and deterrent force."

"With My Life!"

Story by Bjorn Teo and Oon Ming Shen / Photography by Sim Chun You, Boey Jun Wei and Matthew Lim

Two rededication ceremonies held around Singapore to re-strengthen the significance of NS

On 1 July, the SAF celebrated SAF Day at SAFTI Military Institute (SAFTI MI). However, the celebrations were not limited to the parade ground at SAFTI MI, as two other SAF rededication ceremonies were held at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel and Temasek Polytechnic on the same day.

In line with the recent Committee to Strengthen National Service (CSNS) movement, the two ceremonies served to recognise the contributions and sacrifices by Operationally Ready National Servicemen (ORNSmen) in their service to the nation after full time NS, and saw a generous attendance of around 600 at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel and around 300 at Temasek Polytechnic. Let us look at what some of these attendees have to say in support of our servicemen!

Temasek Polytechnic

Employers

Ryan Foo, eLC Pte Ltd:

"Our company has a very strong culture of support for NS as our management comprises many senior commanders. The defence of our nation is very imperative as it ensures that we can safely do business with the assurance of safety, which depends on a strong SAF."

Mr. Ramesh Kumar, LOGIS Consolidators (S) Pte Ltd:

"Businesses and investments need protection. Our employees and we serve to protect the nation. Ensuring the peace of our nation makes overseas customers feel safe, and it is this confidence in Singapore that ensures that our business scene can thrive."

NSmen

CPT (NS) Goh Jinyil, eLC Pte Ltd:

"NS is the key pillar of the defence of our nation and the security we enjoy. I am proud to be able to protect my loved ones and defend my country. These are the key factors that make serving the nation more purposeful to me. My employer is very supportive of national service and this brings everyone in the company closer together."

Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel

Employers

Eugene Seah, 38, Deputy Chairman, Langdon & Seah Singapore Pte Ltd

"This ceremony serves as a reminder for all NSmen of the need to contribute back to society, and reaffirm our commitment to the nation. As Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen mentioned, military strength is important to maintaining economic growth, so as part of the NSmen corps, it is our responsibility to ensure that we are a force to be reckoned with."

NSmen

LCP (NS) Abdul Barish, 29, Safety Coordinator, Lian Beng Group

"The ceremony is a good way to recognise the NSmen, and for me, it feels very good to be honoured like this. NS remains a very important element to our defence, and it is essential for us to be called back, in order to stay ready to serve whenever required."

CPT (NS) Khoo Sze Boon, 41, Executive Director, Langdon & Seah Singapore Pte Ltd

"The SAF's core strength comes from the ORNSmen, and it remains important for us to recognise their efforts. It is our company policy to provide support to NSmen, I hope that the NSmen corps will get the backing of everyone."

2SG Baljit Singh, Section Commander, 3 GDS

"The NSmen corps is important to our defence because they are the ones with the experience and are operationally ready. They are the ones who can truly keep Singapore safe. Thus, I feel that L&S Singapore Ptd Ltd is making a good effort to increase the awareness of the NSmen corps."

WHAT'S HOT! WHAT'S TRENDING! WHAT'S GOING VIRAL!



Soldiering is never easy. So to all Soldiers, this is a video to recognise what you have done and to thank you for your hardwork in keeping Singapore safe, as we count down towards SAF Day :) This Video will bring you from Overseas Operations, Exercises, homeland Security and to our Army's many events. It will showcase the men and women of The Singapore Army, who are "Ready in Peace, Decisive in War & Respected by All". As we count down to SAF Day tomorrow (1 July), let us look back, remember our Army's achievements for the past year and thank all our Soldiers:)

(Posted 02/06/2013)



Watch this video to get a glimpse of the recent batch of 15/13 Specialist Cadets' journey to leadership. To our new Sergeants, you now form the backbone of the SAF.

Video by:
SWI Media Team
3SG Frank Tey Bi Wen
PTE Bertrand Chi

(Posted 23/06/2013)



Here are the long-awaited pictures of The Singapore Army's Best Unit Competition winners receiving their awards. Congratulations, everyone :)

(Posted 02/07/2013)



030713
Gaming on with NEGC and 9 SIR!

Janny Cheong - Kudos to your boys! The students were engaged and enjoyed themselves. Good job n thank you

010713
President Tony Tan Keng Yam visits Infantry Specialist Cadets

Alfred Tan - HAPPY SAF DAY CHEER! SALUTE TO OUR NATION DEFENDERS

300613
Unit Feature: 23rd Battalion, Singapore Artillery

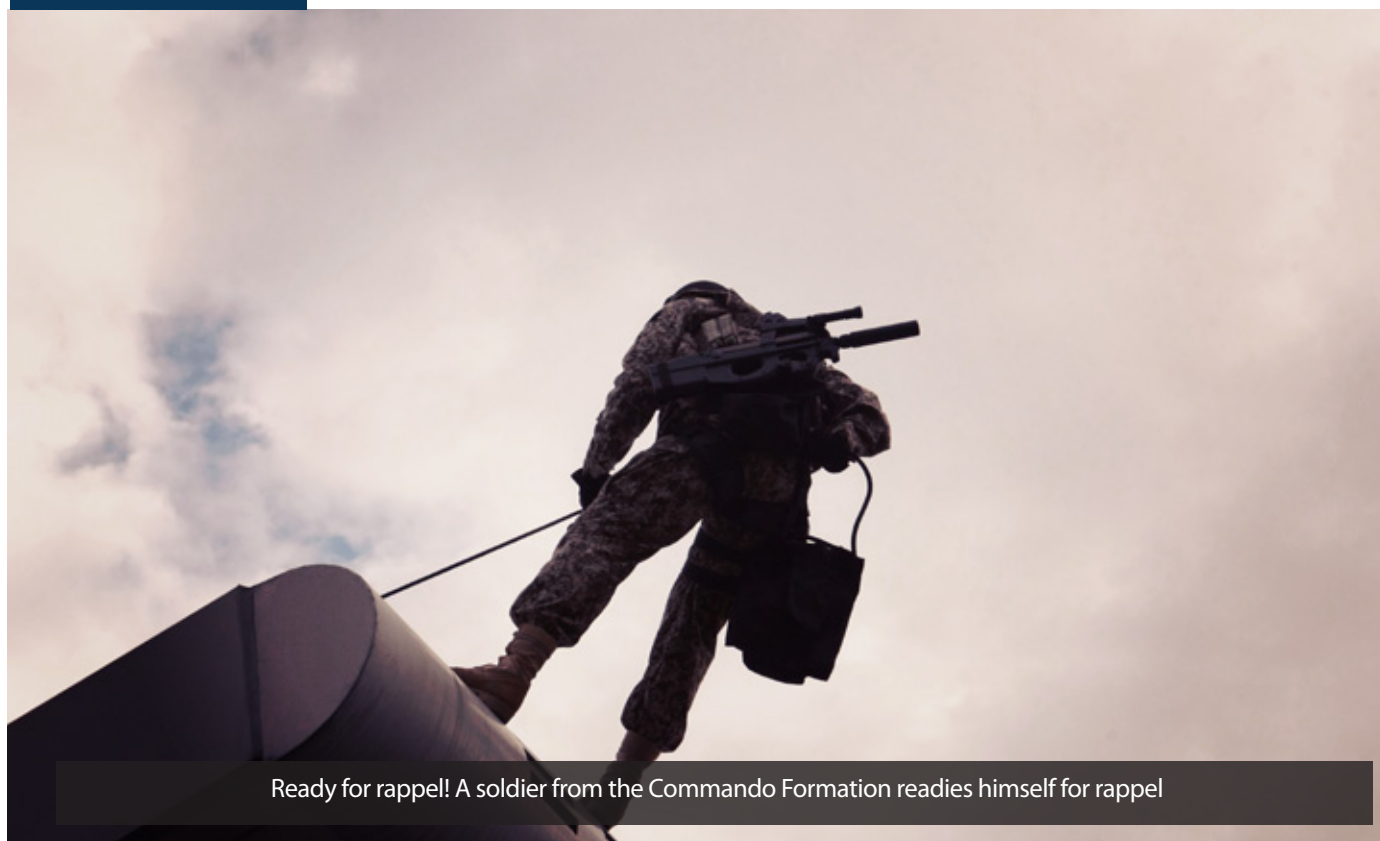
Leisure Fly - Well Done. Reminds me of my ARTY Days. Once Gunner Always A Gunner.

270613
Security Troopers Prevent Soldier from going AWOL

David Yeo - We must bear in mind that Regardless of Race, Language and Religion. That's what made us proud of being Singaporeans. The SAF have only Soldiers. They are the Protectors of Singapore. Their very Existence gave us the environment for what we have today and many more years to go. Our NSF and NS soldiers. They are the bedrock of our Nation. Let us salute them.

250613
SAF concluded 6 years of its deployments in Afghanistan

Tedd Jong Wei - Salute and many thanks to the men and women who served, do come home safe



Ready for rappel! A soldier from the Commando Formation readies himself for rappel

Army Safety Hotline

REPORT: • Hazards • Near-misses
• Safety breaches • At-risk behaviour

Call or SMS
24/7 Army Safety Hotline:
9-SAFETY-1 (9-723389-1)

OA Email:
Army Safety Reporting, GSI

Internet Email:
ARMY_SAFETY@starnet.gov.sg

For more details, please refer to the
Army Safety Website

Army Safety Hotline

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9-SAFETY-1 (9-723389-1)

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Army Safety Reporting, GSI

Internet Email:
ARMY_SAFETY@starnet.gov.sg

Do's

- Report any safety breaches
- Absence of, or poor risk control measures taken
- Any hazard that requires immediate action
- Any near-misses

Don'ts

- Issues that are not related to safety (For financial or personal matters, please call the SAF Hotline)

For more details, please refer to the
Army Safety Website

- Constant Updates
- Be Connected
- See Your Friends in Training
- Share Your Stories

THE SINGAPORE ARMY

www.facebook.com/oursingaporearmy

OUR ARMY
READY DECISIVE RESPECTED



WHEN CALLED INTO ACTION

WE RISE TO THE CHALLENGE



Our Army is the foundation of our nation's security. Capable of performing a wide spectrum of operations at home and abroad, we constantly push our limits and stand ready to act swiftly and decisively when called upon. As a competent and respected force, we are committed to protect our country, our loved ones and our way of life. For this is our home we are defending, Our Army always rises to the challenge.



OUR **ARMY**
READY DECISIVE RESPECTED