

Issue 04/ 2018 Oct - Dec

# FLASH

SPEED THROUGH SKILL



Highlights: Nostalgia Night, Appreciation Function & Community Service Events



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# FOREWORD

"When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you'll never get back. Your time is your life. That is why the greatest gift you can give someone is your time," wise words by Rick Warren. By giving our time, we demonstrate our appreciation to the tribe members who had gone before us and tirelessly contributed to build up our formation. This is the theme of our current FLASH magazine - Signals Giving Back.

In the spirit of giving, we also worked alongside the Central Community Development Council in delivering food and cleaning up the homes of the elderly. Our time was spent meaningfully doing our part in contributing to society.

In terms of Safety, we have also enlisted our Senior Formation Officer, LTC (NS) Cassidy Goh and our Formation Safety Officer, Mr Arthur to share with the tribe on their personal perspectives on Safety.

The formation was proud to have brought together two key events, Nostalgia Night and Signals Appreciation function. It serves as a platform for our signal alumni to share and inspire our young Signal officers and WOSpec with their stories as well as to appreciate the contributions of our retirees.

As you read my foreword, you would realised that our Flash magazine has gone digital. The editorial team have also promised refinement of the contents and layout in the subsequent releases in order to improve the readers' experience. I hope all tribe members continue to give them your support and suggestions to improve our Flash magazine.

As we wrap up 2018, I would like to thank everyone in the formation for your dedication and to continue to enforce safety in ourselves. May you have a fulfilling 2019 ahead.

**Speed Through Skill, Signals!**



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Have something to you wish to share with us? If you have any article to contribute or suggestions about FLASH magazine, do feel free to contact any of the Editorial Board members. (AFPN 1193, 312 Stagmont Road, Singapore 688794)

# CHANGE OF COMMAND

## BSM ACSG COAP

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018, ACSG witnessed the Change of Appointment between MWO Lum Kok Kin and MWO Jerry Soh. The Formation would like to thank MWO Lum Kok Kin for his invaluable guidance to ACSG over the years, as well as to welcome MWO Jerry Soh as the ACSG Bde SM. The Formation would also like to thank MWO Song Kok Kai, Acting Bde SM, for his contributions.



**Ready at the Sharpest!**

## 17C4I CO COC



On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018, the Tiger family gathered at Jurong Camp 1 to witness the Change of Command from LTC Chew Heng Hwa to MAJ Phang Soon Foo. The Witnessing Officer for the parade was Commander 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, BG David Neo. The Formation would like to thank LTC Chew for numerous contributions, as well as welcome MAJ Phang Soon Foo. The Formation wishes them both the best in their new appointments and future endeavours.

**Honour, Unity, Always There!**

## 12C4I CO COC

On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 12C4I Battalion witnessed the Change of Command for their Commanding Officer. The Knights of the Battalion gathered at Sungei Gedong Camp to bid farewell to LTC Tan Sheng Yang and to welcome MAJ Wong Wai Keat. The Witnessing Officer for the ceremony was Commander 4<sup>th</sup> Singapore Armoured Brigade, COL Lim Han Yong.

The Formation would like to thank LTC Tan Sheng Yang for his exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication and relentless contribution to the battalion as well as to welcome MAJ Wong Wai Keat as CO 12C4I Battalion. The Formation wishes him a safe, effective and enjoyable command ahead.

**Strength and Honour! Knights of Terror!**





# NOSTALGIA NIGHT



On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018, members of the Signal tribe gathered in a strong turnout for Nostalgia Night 2018. The Formation had come a long way, from a small village of 2 leaders and 56 men, to the bustling tribe today. This would not have been possible without our Pioneers so we must always remember our past as we continue to stride forward. The Formation would like to express our appreciation to our Signal Alumni for sharing and inspiring our younger generation with their “war stories”.

# APPRECIATION FUNCTION



On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018, at Home of Signals, the Signal Tribe gathered together to celebrate and expressed our appreciation to the successful completion of service of the 15 retirees of 2018. These 15 individuals have contributed enormously to the Formation. The Formation wishes these 15 retirees of 2018 all the best for their future endeavours and welcome them to the Signal Alumni network!

Special thanks to the retirees; SLTC(RET) Andy Ong Kian Woei, LTC(RET) Ong Leng Hong, MAJ(RET) Wong Shin Yong, MAJ(RET) Bobby Tan Chee Kee, MAJ(RET) Justus Ong Jie Yang, MAJ(RET) Lye Sai Cheong, ME3(RET) Ong Teck Leong, MWO(RET) Pereira Edmund, 1WO(RET) Arriola Phillip Erasmus, 1WO(RET) Retnam Sivaraja, 1WO(RET) Russell Lee Siow Chuan, 1WO(RET) Sheperdson Philomena, 1WO(RET) Wong Pang Yong, 2WO(RET) Lee Swee Hien, 2WO(RET) Selva Kumar.



# SI COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018, Signal Institute (SI) collaborated with Silver Homes and Central Community Development Council (CDC) for SI Community Service Day. Team SI gathered at Jalan Bukit Merah to assist in the cleaning of houses, painting of walls, and the replacement of mattresses and bedframes. Through their efforts, the soldiers have benefited a total of 12 households, leaving small but a positive impact on the lives of these residents. It was a heartening experience for our soldiers to break away from the normal routine and come together to aid the community.



## SIGNALS GIVES BACK



On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, nearly 400 soldiers from the Formation brightened up the homes of seniors in the Jalan Kukoh area. Our soldiers, together with the Central CDC as well as Silver Homes, were able to improve the homes for the elderly and provide them with a healthy, safe and clean living environment. The Formation would like to thank the organising committee from 10 C4I Battalion and all participants for their hard work in bringing smiles to the residents.



# 16C4I BATTALION



On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 16C4I Battalion held their Turn Ops parade at Mandai Hill Camp. The Eagle-Owls underwent evaluation from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November, comprising various competency tests as part of their Company Mission Exercise. The soldiers demonstrated wit and valour as they put months of rigorous training to the test and emerged as operational soldiers of the Singapore Armed Forces. Commander 2<sup>nd</sup> Singapore Infantry Brigade, COL Koh Leong Kar was present to witness the occasion and congratulate the battalion for this significant milestone. Parents and loved ones were also invited to present the hard-earned Company Patch to the soldiers.

**Wit and Valour!**



# 11C4I BATTALION

On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 11C4I Battalion completed their evaluation exercise. Lasting 4 days and 3 nights, this exercise tested the Battalion on the proficiency in planning and execution of C4I operations. The Battalion showcased their abilities throughout this exercise, overcoming terrain challenges as well as successfully completing numerous missions. This marked the Battalion achieving operational readiness for their transition in NS.

**Swift and Vigilant!**



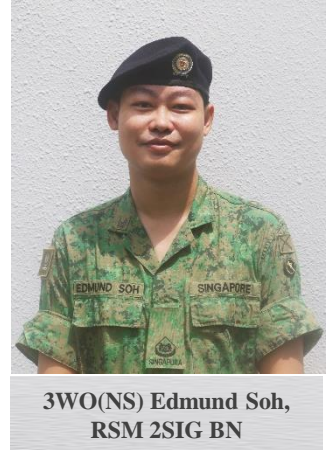
# NATIONAL DAY AWARD

## How do you feel about receiving this award?

I am deeply honoured to be awarded with the Efficiency Medal (Military). I would like to thank the Formation leadership and 2<sup>nd</sup> Signal Battalion Command Team for considering me to be worthy of this accolade. The Award is also a recognition of the effort from our NSmen that bring out the best in training safety, operational efficiency, and support one another to fulfil our NS duty with devotion.

## How is your appointment as a RSM thus far? Any defining moments?

Being a NS RSM in one of the most diversified and ever evolving NS Battalions is both challenging and demanding. The Battalion Exercise in 2017 to validate our transformation was challenging but also a fulfilling one where the mission was achieved with grit and resilience. The Mobilization in 2016 was the first time the whole Battalion came together as a family with great camaraderie within the team. Another first is a NS RSM being appointed as Parade commander for the ACSG Change of Appointment Parade which was an exciting experience.



## What have you learned from being the RSM of the 2nd Signal Battalion?

It is truly an eye-opening experience. Vital lessons I have learned are the importance of trust and empathy. Having mutual trust will allow speed in daily operations. One way to build trust is the early dissemination of ICT objectives and program. This caters for the NSmen to better plan and manage their routine in their civilian life i.e. making alternative for sending children to school in the morning etc. It is also of extreme importance to put ourselves in their shoes, taking into account the concerns of the NSmen. This allows us to find mutually beneficial solutions without compromising the training objectives so they can be fully committed during the 2 weeks ICT which will lead to a safer and more fruitful NS experience.

## Do you have any words of advice/encouragement for the young WOSPECs of Signal Formation?

I would like to encourage the young WOSPECs to continue to be passionate, inquisitive and pioneering. To not be afraid to step up as a key appointment holder, to volunteer service should circumstances allow so and to pass on the knowledge gained to younger generations, creating a positive NS experience for all.

# SAFETY

On 24th January 2019, as part of the army-wide safety timeout, units within Stagmont of HQ Signals & Command Sys, Signal Institute and 10C4I Battalion were tasked to engage all their respective individual soldiers so as to emphasize the intent of the safety timeout and gather feedback on safety issues from them. Commanders consolidated the feedback and did a thorough review on past incidents and near misses as well as to propose initiatives to improve the existing safety system. Ample time was given to commanders to that all individual's comments were addressed appropriately.

On 30th January 2019, these inputs were consolidated and deliberated at the Formation level. This was chaired by Chief Signal Officer personally. The session aimed to leverage on the collective experience and knowledge of all commanders and also to create awareness across the different entities. Each individual issue was discussed at length to ensure that the right lessons were arrived at and purposeful measures were taken. Nothing was left to chance.

The session also mapped out the list of clear actions that need to be followed through with timelines and leads. On 11th February 2019, there was a Signal Formation Safety Call where the C4I Battalion, Signal Battalion, Training Institute C4 trainers and Signal Platoon Battalion Signal Officers were invited. In this Safety Call, the key safety follow-ups were presented. C4I Battalion and Signal Battalions were invited to share their ground issues, lessons learnt and safety reviews that they have taken. Training Institute C4 trainers and Signal Platoon Battalion Signal Officers were also encouraged to use the opportunity to share their ground concerns.



# ARMY CYBER DEFENCE EXERCISE



From 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018, HQ Signals, aided by SAF Cyber Defence School and Signal Institute, conducted the inaugural Army Cyber Defence Exercise. The Army Leadership visited the exercise and had a glimpse of the Army Cyber Defenders in action as they responded to various cyber scenarios. The successful execution of the exercise further honed the skills of our Army Cyber Defenders in protecting our networks in support of Army Operations. In tandem with the conduct of the exercise, a Cyber Interaction Zone was set up to provide opportunities for experiential cyber learning as well as demonstrations to the Army Leadership and visitors. This raised awareness of the cyber threats and vulnerabilities our Army could possibly face in cyberspace. In addition, useful best practices on individual cyber hygiene were shared.

Former Chief of Army, Brigadier-General (BG) Goh Si Hou expressed his appreciation to the Signal Formation for spearheading the cyber defence efforts of our Army.

# SAF CYBER SCHOOL ASSUMPTION PARADE

On 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the Signal Tribe and the SAF cyber community gathered to observe the Assumption of Command of Commanding Officer, SAF Cyber Defence School. This was witnessed by Witnessing Officer, COL Chua Eng Khim, Commander Signal Institute and Guest of Honour, COL Rajagopal, Chief Signal Officer.

The ceremony commenced with an opening address by COL Chua Eng Khim, highlighting the importance of allocating the right resources for our people to learn and grow their expertise, and most importantly the SAF Cyber Defence School being the place to ensure the sustenance of our cyber defence ecosystem.

LTC Liew Wee Teck was then presented with the Command Symbol and the Letter of Appointment. The ceremony ended with the oath taking by LTC Liew.

The Formation wishes him all the best in leading the school.





# LTC (NS) CASSIDY GOH & MR ARTHUR WONG ON SAFETY



**Q: Is there a trade-off between safety and mission success?**

LTC (NS) Cassidy: It is not beneficial to a military organization if its espoused ideal is the sacrifice of life and limb of its soldiers in the name of mission success. There is no dichotomy between mission success and safety; they go hand in hand.

FMSO: Yes. In order to achieve success, our commanders and soldiers must understand both the operational plan as well as the risk management plan. They need to be clear on the risk management plan to be able to execute the mission safely and successfully. Any soldier that does not understand his role in either of the two plans jeopardises both mission success as well as him and his buddies' life.

LTC (NS) Cassidy: However, the emphasis on safety must not be confused with the aversion to risk. In times of operations, it is sometimes necessary to take risks but the planning process must whittle down the risks to their bare unavoidable minimum. In peacetime training, the rigor of the planning process to eliminate risks must be even more sustained. Training safely does not necessarily send the message of a weak military; it sends the message that the organization is professional enough to ensure its combatants are preserved and taken care of so that its maximum lethality can be put to bear on the adversary.

**Q: Who should be responsible for safety?**

FMSO: Safety is everyone's responsibility, and by doing so, we can eliminate risks to achieve safety in our training. There should be an ownership of safety at individual/team/detachment and management levels. Should any fault line occur in any of these connections, the army would be beset with catastrophic outcomes. Each and every level plays a great part in ensuring that safety is in place. Nevertheless, it is always the individual's responsibility to ensure the safety of one's surroundings.

LTC (NS) Cassidy: I agree. Safety is both a command and personal responsibility. If you are a commander, your men under your charge is your responsibility. While the paperwork like generating safety guidelines can be delegated to the staff, the execution and ensuring of those guidelines must ultimately be done by the command. Yet, safety is also a personal responsibility. The person next to you is your friend, your buddy, your men. In war, he will fight alongside you, share your blood, sweat and tears. So in peace, should you not look out for him too? There had been countless examples of how an observant buddy saved the life of a overzealous soldier who had failed to realise his own vulnerabilities.