

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

2021 HTVN HIGHLIGHTS

Goodbye 2021, Welcome 2022!

As the year comes to an end, we look back on all the fond memories we had. Let's take a look at HTVN's #2021wrapped!

We would like to thank everyone for your strong support in making in 2021 a great one, and for helping us grow the HTVN community!

Let us continue to keep Singapore safe and secure for the year ahead.

#OrdinaryPeopleExtraordinaryMission



Highlights:

>> [On HTVN IG](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

SPF COMMUNITY WATCH SCHEME

On 11 December, SPF launched the Community Watch Scheme (CWS). CWS integrates existing watch groups and moves beyond a geographically-based approach to an interest-based approach in how community volunteers can share information with the SPF.

These are the **five interest groups** for CWS:

1. Home (Neighbours on Watch)
2. Work/Learning (Workers on Watch)
3. Cyber (E-shoppers on Watch)
4. Lifestyle (Cyclists on Watch)
5. Transport (Riders on Watch, Vehicles on Watch)

CWS members can sign up for one or more of the interest groups. Upon doing so, they'll receive regular crime-related updates and advisories, as well as opportunities to participate in anti-crime activities, training and workshops.



"The CWS recognises the importance of the community in detecting and preventing crime, and furthers the

vision of having the community as an enabled Police partner. Let us pledge our commitment today to stay vigilant at all times, and stand united as a community to ensure a safer home for us all."

– MOS Desmond Tan

CWS members will also be encouraged to actively share crime information with SPF through platforms such as Police@SG and iWitness.

>> [Click to watch the livestream of the CWS launch](#)

>> [Click for more information on CWS](#)

2021 IN REVIEW

It's been another busy and fulfilling year for our Home Team Guardians. From supporting Singapore's COVID-19 efforts to helping ex-offenders change their lives for the better and combating the threat of drugs, here are some of the Home Team's key moments in 2021.

IN PARLIAMENT

Keeping Singapore Safe and Secure



Our Home Team Guardians worked hard to review, design and implement laws and policies that keep Singapore safe and secure. Here's a recap of the Home Team's legislative highlights for 2021.

Guns, Explosives and Weapons Control Bill | (2R, JAN) | This Bill strengthened the regulatory regime to minimise the safety and security risks posed by guns, weapons and explosives while ensuring a calibrated regulatory and enforcement framework for these items under a new Act.

Review of the Sentencing Framework for Sexual and Hurt Offences | (MAR) | In a Ministerial Statement, MIN K Shanmugam affirmed the Government's tough approach against those who commit sexual and hurt offences. He also explained the outcomes of the review, including increases in the penalties for three sexual offences and other measures.

Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill | (1R, APR) | This Bill introduced amendments to the Road Traffic Act to improve road safety, regulate the use of Power Assisted Bicycles and enhance the Traffic Police's operational efficiency.

Registration of Births and Deaths Bill | (1R, MAY) | This Bill streamlined the birth and death reporting and registration, and enabled digitalisation, to make these processes more convenient for Singaporeans.

Police Force (Amendment) Bill | (1R, JUL) |

This Bill enhanced SPF's operational capabilities and readiness; strengthened SPF's disciplinary, administrative and human resources processes; and strengthened controls over Auxiliary Police Forces.

Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill | (1R, AUG) |

This Bill amended the Penal Code, which is a key part of Singapore's criminal law framework. It increased the penalties for three sexual offences, including outrage of modesty; expanded and clarified the scope of certain offences and defences; and modernised the language of certain terms.

Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Bill | (1R, SEP) |

This Bill strengthened our ability to prevent, detect and disrupt foreign interference in our domestic politics conducted through hostile information campaigns and the use of local proxies.

Sedition (Repeal) Bill | (1R, SEP) | This Bill repealed the Sedition Act and made related amendments to other Acts.

Private Security Industry (Amendment) Bill | (1R, SEP) |

This Bill enhanced the protection of security officers and removed persons who only provide security consultancy services from regulation under the Act.

Prisons (Amendment) Bill | (1R, NOV) | This Bill enhanced community corrections and facilitated SPS' operations and administration so as to improve rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes for inmates and to enable SPS to carry out its functions more effectively.

IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY

Reopening Our Borders |

As the COVID-19 situation evolves, ICA continues to stay on top of the challenge of implementing Singapore's border control policies while taking on the expanded role of safeguarding public health. With the progressive reopening of our borders for air and land travel, ICA has also worked hard to ensure that its systems and processes are robust.



VACCINATED TRAVEL LANES (LAND) | Woodlands Checkpoint was reopened on 29 November for vaccinated residents and Long-Term Pass Holders of Singapore and Malaysia to travel via designated buses. ICA worked round the clock to coordinate with other public agencies, such as MTI, LTA and MOH, as well as with transport operators, to implement ground measures and clearance procedures for a smooth immigration clearance experience. The Vaccinated Travel Lane at Woodlands checkpoint has further restored the connectivity between Singapore and Malaysia, making cross-border travel possible again for Singaporeans and Malaysians who've been separated from their loved ones.



REDESIGNED MANUAL IMMIGRATION COUNTERS | In 2021, ICA implemented a number of initiatives at its checkpoints to provide a safe, more secure and seamless immigration process for travellers. For instance, ICA has been progressively introducing redesigned manual immigration counters at the checkpoints, beginning with Changi Airport Terminal 4 and subsequently to all other Changi Airport terminals and checkpoints from December. The redesigned counters enable the self-scanning of passports, further reducing the need for physical contact between officers and travellers.



DIGITAL AUTHENTICATION OF VACCINATION CERTIFICATES | Proof of vaccination is key to a visitor's eligibility to enter Singapore. ICA has been progressively integrating the verification of digital vaccination certificates issued by other countries and regions into its processes, allowing travellers to upload their digital vaccination certificate when they apply for approval to enter Singapore under the Vaccinated Travel Lane, or when they submit their electronic SG Arrival Card. This also allows travellers to use automated lanes upon arrival, for faster immigration clearance.



E-PASS | Soon, all foreign visitors will no longer have their passports stamped with inked endorsements. Instead, they will be issued with an electronic Visit Pass (e-Pass) via an email notification to the email address declared in their electronic SG Arrival Card submission. This provides for a safer immigration clearance approach, with reduced contact between officers and travellers. The e-Pass is also one of the building blocks of ICA's New Clearance Concept, which aims to make automated clearance the norm from 2023. ICA's Airport Command implemented the e-Pass on 10 October, and it will gradually be rolled out at other checkpoints.



10-YEAR PASSPORT VALIDITY AND FREE OFFSITE COLLECTION | Great news for frequent travellers! In October, the validity period of the Singapore passport issued to applicants aged 16 and above was increased from five to 10 years. This reduces the frequency of passport renewals. As an added convenience, ICA also launched the free collection of Singapore passports and identity cards at various post offices islandwide.





SPS celebrated its 75th anniversary with the tagline “Transforming Lives with You.”

To commemorate SPS75, SPS staff rallied as one to raise funds for SPS Cares. Over \$81,000 was raised for the President’s Challenge 2021, with the cheque presented to President Halimah Yacob at the SPS75 Virtual Commemorative Event on 1 December. A limited-edition, commemorative stamp series was also launched to pay tribute to SPS staff and partners who have been an integral part of SPS’ transformation.



SELARANG PARK COMPLEX: TOWARDS A “PRISON WITHOUT GUARDS” STRATEGY |

In April, MIN K Shanmugam launched

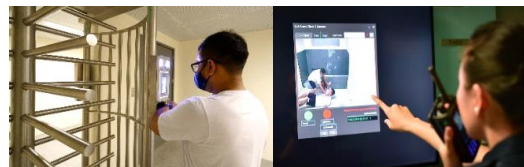
Selarang Park Complex (SPC), an integrated correctional facility that leverages technology for rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. SPC comprises a Drug Rehabilitation Centre at Institution S1, a Work Release Centre at Institution S2, the Selarang Park Community Supervision Centre, a Prison Link Centre, a Quarantine Centre and the Selarang Halfway House. SPS will also be able to provide vocational training opportunities for over 3,000 inmates and supervisees.

LOWEST RECIDIVISM RATES IN DECADES |

In 2021, SPS reported a recidivism rate of 22.1% for the 2018 release cohort, the lowest rate in decades. This was achieved by providing rehabilitation programmes that mitigate the risks of re-offending; address the rehabilitation and reintegration needs of inmates; and prepare them to become individuals who can contribute to society. Together with its community partners, SPS also supports and supervises inmates when they are released from prison or emplaced on Community-based Programmes.



SPC is the first SPS facility that leverages facial recognition technology to allow inmates and supervisees to have unescorted access within specific and secured zones. The smart cameras are equipped with video analytics to aid in detecting irregular behaviour such as fights, to facilitate a swift response. The cameras can also verify the identities of inmates, allowing headcount checks to be conducted remotely as a complement to physical headcount checks.



HIGH EMPLACEMENT IN COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMES |

In 2021, about 3,500 inmates served the tail-end of their sentences in the community, a 42% increase compared to 2020. Supervised community corrections and step-down aftercare support help to smoothen the reintegration of inmates into society after their release. This approach further reduces their risk of re-offending.

INTERNAL SECURITY DEPARTMENT

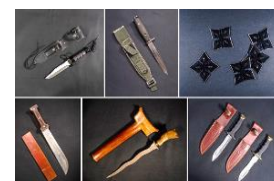


ISD marked the 20th anniversary of its operations against the JI network in

Singapore in December. Twenty years after 9/11, JI and its well-developed attack plots remain Singapore’s closest shave with transnational Islamist terrorism. Had JI succeeded in its plans, there would have been catastrophic consequences in terms of the loss of lives and damage to

ISD’s operations didn’t cease with the two phases of local arrests in 2001 and 2002. Over the next decade, ISD officers

strove tirelessly to track down Singaporean JI fugitives who had fled overseas. At the same time, ISD worked with its community partners on a holistic rehabilitation approach for JI detainees and their families (comprising religious, psychological and social rehabilitation), to ease their reintegration into society.



Singapore's communal harmony and social fabric.

While the Singapore JI network has been effectively dismantled by ISD, the regional JI network is still active, and will continue to present a serious, long-term security threat to Singapore. ISD continues to keep a close watch on developments that could heighten the threat posed by JI and other terrorist groups.

CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of CNB. As part of the Bureau's celebrations, CNB



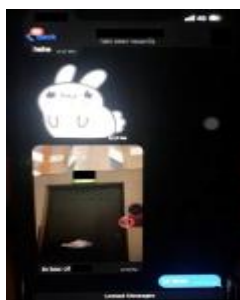
Headquarters was illuminated with a celebratory banner as part of the DrugFreeSG Light-Up event in June. At the CNB50 Anniversary Event in December, PM Lee Hsien Loong launched a commemorative CNB50 coffee-table book and CNB50 stamp set. Thanking CNB officers for their dedication, PM Lee called for the public to support Singapore's zero-tolerance approach towards drugs.

STRENGTHENING REGULATION | CNB listed 13 New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) as Class A controlled drugs in the First Schedule to the Misuse of Drugs Act, with effect from 1 May. This will empower CNB to take decisive action against the abuse and trafficking of NPS.



CNB ON THE MOVE | In April, CNB officers seized more than 40kg of illicit drugs and arrested one Malaysian male for suspected drug trafficking offences. Over 24kg of cannabis and more than

15kg of heroin were seized. This was the largest cannabis seizure since 1996 and the largest heroin seizure since 2001. The drugs are estimated to be worth over \$2.3 million.



SENDING A MESSAGE TO DRUG OFFENDERS | Since 2019, CNB has arrested over 200 drug offenders who use Telegram for their illegal activities. In November, 50 suspected drug offenders were arrested in an islandwide

operation that targeted drug transactions conducted on Telegram.

RALLYING THE COMMUNITY | In June, 71 mosques across Singapore displayed Dadah Itu Haram



banners and standees in conjunction with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. To reinforce the anti-drug message, MUIS also prepared a sermon that emphasised the importance of staying away from drugs. Such collaborations have further strengthened CNB's engagement with the Malay-Muslim community.

In 2021, four new partner organisations also came onboard the United Against



Drugs Coalition (UADC). They include the Singapore Turf Club and the Singapore After-Care Association. A total of 28 UADC partners, including seven community partners participating for the first time, illuminated their buildings in either green or white during the DrugFreeSG Light-Up on 26 June.

YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS

| In 2021, CNB also collaborated with various



Institutes of Higher Learning on six anti-drug advocacy projects. They include the Virtual Reality mobile game app "Man in the Mirror" with Nanyang Polytechnic and the Monomania art installation with Singapore Polytechnic. Monomania is CNB's first student collaboration that employs projection mapping technology to offer an immersive, audio-visual experience showing the effects of drug abuse on the body.

YELLOW RIBBON SINGAPORE

STEERING A NATION BEYOND SECOND CHANCES |

Following YRSG's rebranding last year, YRSG reviewed its Vision, Mission and Values in early 2021 to align with the agency's new aspirations and plans:

Vision: An inclusive society, a nation beyond second chances.

Mission: We galvanise society to uplift ex-offenders through skills and career development, co-creating opportunities for their successful reintegration and contribution back to society.

HOPE Values: Honour, Oneness, People-Oriented, Enterprising

The Vision, Mission and Value statements articulate YRSG's long-term objective to uplift ex-offenders and bring the Yellow Ribbon cause to the next level.



DEEPENING PARTNERSHIPS, UPLIFTING LIVES | In August, YRSG and the Singapore Logistics Association (SLA)

signed a MOU to enhance the career prospects of inmates and ex-offenders in the logistics industry. Under the MOU, YRSG and SLA will set up a logistics training centre, implement industry-accredited logistics training courses and facilitate employment opportunities with SLA's member companies

SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

In commemoration of the Police Bicentennial in 2020, all Police officers – regulars, Full-time National Servicemen, Operationally Ready National Servicemen and Volunteer Special Constabulary – who were in service between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020 will be awarded the Singapore Police Bicentennial 2020 Medal. Medallions will be given to civilian officers who were in service in 2020, as well as former Police officers who'd retired or completed their National Service liabilities before 1 January 2020, and to the families of SPF officers who died in the line of duty.



Addressing Parliament on 3 August, MIN K Shanmugam thanked SPF for its contributions and paid tribute to Police officers who'd given their lives to keep Singapore safe. In attendance at Parliament on this special occasion were family members of officers who'd died in the line of duty, retired officers, SPF representatives and Commissioner of Police Hoong Wee Teck.

A YEAR OF FIRSTS...

Inaugural Media Graduation Ceremony | In



October, a graduation ceremony was held at Changi Prison Complex to mark the completion of media training for 28 inmates. The graduation was made possible through a collaboration with Mediacorp. Under the partnership, a media training academy was set up within prison to enhance the skills and career prospects of inmates and ex-offenders in the media industry.

Yellow Ribbon Virtual Run | The well-loved Run returned in 2021 in virtual form. It



offered an opportunity for the public to run, walk or hike at their preferred location and time, throughout the month of September.



Yellow Ribbon Awards 2021 |

A new award ceremony consolidating various Yellow-

Ribbon-related events was held in December. A total of 577 individuals and organisations were recognised for their dedication to the Yellow Ribbon cause and for helping to shape a more compassionate society.

[>> Read MIN K Shanmugam's speech on commemorating 200 years of SPF](#)

SCDF is leveraging technology to transform how lives and properties are protected. Here are some of the innovations that SCDF announced in 2021.

THE FIRST SMART FIRE STATION | Punggol Fire Station, which is operational from 30 December, is SCDF's first smart fire station. Officers will be "hooked up" to the Station through a smart-watch, which they can use to register attendance, calculate meal allowances and access certain locations without a key or card. Officers in the Station will also be activated for incidents via the smart-watch.



UNMANNED FIREFIGHTING MACHINE | About 50 more robots will be added to support SCDF in its frontline

operations over the next two years. This will allow for the number of firefighters deployed at high-risk areas to be halved, enabling them to focus on other critical aspects of operations. The use of such technologies is part of SCDF's 10-year roadmap to fully integrate robotics technology into its operations. The goal? A seamless ecosystem of lifesaving robots that can interact with one another and which are fully autonomous, self-diagnosing and remotely operable.



7TH GENERATION AMBULANCE AND NEW COMMAND VEHICLES | SCDF's 7th-gen

ambulance has an in-built system that sprays a mist of disinfectant and allows paramedics to decontaminate the vehicle within 20 minutes. It also comes with a modular storage system that allows medical equipment to be rearranged or carried around easily. To assist the ambulance driver are new safety features such as a 360-degree vehicle camera and parking assistance.

OPERATIONAL MEDICAL NETWORKS INFORMATICS INTEGRATOR (OMNII) | In

August, SCDF launched OMNII, a collaborative platform that links the SCDF Operations Centre, SCDF EMS and hospital emergency departments, allowing these stakeholders to view, share and document relevant patient data seamlessly to improve patient care management. SCDF Paramedics can view the medical history of the patient on a mobile device before receiving the patient (if the NRIC is provided at the time of the 995 call). In the ambulance, the patient's vital signs can be sent to the hospital to prep the emergency department before arrival, saving invaluable time.



SCDF's new Forward Command Vehicle features Individual workstations and forward-facing seats designed to reduce motion sickness. It also has ample storage compartments and an alternate entry point at the back of the vehicle to facilitate discussions, as well as a video wall to allow for more effective sensemaking at an incident site.



ENHANCING THE PROFESSIONALISM OF PARAMEDICS | In May, SCDF signed an MOU with the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) to offer a 12-month Diploma (Conversion) in Paramedic Science and 1,200 hours of On-The-Job Training Programme to boost the professional standards of Paramedics. The Diploma gives participants the opportunity to put into action their classroom learning under the supervision of Paramedic practitioners from SCDF and



SCDF's Command Vehicle has also received an upgrade. It features an X-shaped

conference table and tech resources that allow Joint Planning Staff to review and plan for operations on the ground.

SAF. This allows participants to gain essential hands-on experience in ambulance operations under the supervision of senior Paramedics. The OTP also includes tactical training conducted by SAF on paramedic care during conflicts and major civil emergency scenarios.

HOME TEAM ACADEMY



Change of Command |
On 26 July 2021, HTA held a virtual change of command ceremony with Mr Anwar Abdullah appointed as Chief Executive of HTA, taking over from Mr Clarence Yeo.

Under Mr Yeo's leadership, HTA developed key Home Team Training and Learning initiatives such as the Home Team Civilian Training School to provide holistic and structured development for civilian officers. Mr Yeo was also instrumental in rolling out the Home Team Training Curriculum Masterplan to strengthen curriculum design and development capabilities across the Home Team. During Mr Yeo's service, HTA also received awards and accolades in recognition of its organisational excellence, future-readiness and global leadership. Mr Anwar Abdullah, was formerly SCDF Deputy Commissioner (Operations & Resilience) and served with the Force for 27 years. As Chief Executive of HTA, he will steer HTA's transformation, oversee the training and development of Home Team officers and strive towards excellence in training for the Home Team.



INAUGURAL LEADERS IN ENFORCEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME | Jointly curated by HTA and the Civil Service College, the inaugural Leaders in Enforcement Management Programme was launched in February and saw 30 participants from 22 public agencies taking part. The nine-day programme allowed leaders from across the Public Service to gain a deeper understanding of the current enforcement landscape and how they can effectively manage their enforcement and regulatory functions.



Participants also visited HTA's Home Team Simulation Centre, ICA's Air Cargo Command and HTX to get a glimpse into how the Home Team leverages technology to enable effective training and operations. The second run of the Programme was held in November and brought together 16 participants from 14 public agencies.



HOME TEAM SIMULATION SYSTEM SATELLITE CENTRE AT TANGLIN POLICE DIVISION |

Building on the success of the Home Team Simulation System (HTS2), HTA partnered SPF and HTX to launch the first HTS2 Satellite Centre at Tanglin Police Division in April. The Satellite Centre enables SPF officers to conduct independent, smaller-scale simulation exercises as well as take part in joint exercises with other Home Team units and agencies at HTA's Home Team Simulation Centre.

The Satellite Centre was set up to in response to the positive feedback from Home Team officers who've used HTS2. HTA will review operations at the Satellite Centre with the aim of developing similar facilities with other Home Team Departments to further support training on the frontline and island-wide joint command post exercises.

CASINO REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Following its inaugural virtual Workplace Seminar held via Workplace Live in 2020, CRA took to another virtual platform, Zoom, for 2021's Workplace Seminar on 22 April.



Teo noted the need for CRA to reinforce its risk management processes, build a future-ready workforce and create a smart Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA), which will be tasked to regulate Singapore's gambling landscape.



In their addresses to staff, CRA Chairman Mr Tan Tee How and CRA Chief Executive Mr Teo Chun Ching expressed

their appreciation for the officers' tireless contributions in 2020, as well as their efforts in implementing CRA's transformation plans for FY2021. In particular, Mr



Besides updating officers on CRA's transformation priorities, the Workplace Seminar also

involved the co-creation of GRA's new corporate identity. One of the highlights of the Seminar was discussions with officers on GRA's new Mission, Vision, Values and corporate logo. The sessions drew on the collective wisdom of officers and provided them with a sense of ownership in driving CRA's transformation to GRA.

HOME TEAM VOLUNTEER NETWORK

Standing with the Home Team |

In 2021, the Home Team Volunteer Network (HTVN) celebrated its 10th anniversary on 28 October with MIN K Shanmugam as the Guest of Honour and HTVN Co-Chairmen MOS Desmond Tan and Assoc Prof Ho Peng Kee in attendance. Over 700 volunteers came together to celebrate the spirit of volunteering!



At the event, MIN K Shanmugam launched the inaugural Outstanding Volunteer Award to recognise volunteers who have taken up leadership roles and demonstrated strong commitment and active participation. Four volunteers clinched the Outstanding Volunteer Award while 16 volunteers received the Commendation Award for their exemplary service.

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH OUR VOLUNTEERS |

In partnership with various Home Team Departments and policy units in MHQ, HTVN also organised six HTVN Webinars and Dialogue Sessions to engage volunteers by sharing the work of our Home Team Departments and updating them on Home-Team-related issues



It has been a fruitful year in spite of the challenges posed by COVID-19, and we thank our volunteers for their dedication and continued support for the Home Team!

Innovation is par for the course at HTX! Here are three cool tools that the tech whizzes at HTX rolled out in 2021.



E-COMMERCE SURVEILLANCE TOOL | COVID-19 has brought about an increase in the number of

transactions on e-commerce platforms. But how can we be sure that what we've bought online is legitimate, or safe? Enter the E-Commerce Surveillance Tool. Designed by teams from HTX's Data Science & AI and Q Team Centres of Expertise, this AI bot enables enforcement officers to sift through online listings of contraband using Robotic Process Automation and AI technology.

ONLINE CYBERSQUAT HUNTER

| Malicious websites that pose the real deal trick people into divulging personal information such as passwords, credit card data and bank account details. To weed out such fake websites, HTX's Q Team Centre of Expertise created the Online Cybersquat Hunter. Using AI with image and text analytics, this tool can crawl through up to 500,000 websites daily on the public domain to identify dodgy websites.



eNOSE | There's something in the air tonight...

SCDF periodically receives calls from the public alerting them to the smell of unknown substances. However, such odours may have dissipated before SCDF personnel arrive on the scene, and much time and resources may be required to map affected areas and conduct the necessary tracing.



eNose is an intelligent chemical sensor developed by HTX's CBRNE Centre of Expertise to detect anomalies present in the air. The sensor mimics the human nose by sniffing out strange scents, but is also capable of detecting odourless gases that the human olfactory system can't pick up.

Have a story to share? Connect with Us



One Home, One Team – Together We Keep Our Home Safe and Secure

One Home. One Team - Together We Keep Our Home Safe and Secure

