

The Sentinel

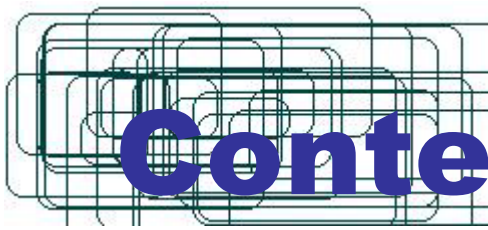
January 2006

Issue One

A publication of Maris Stella High School National Police Cadet Corps



INSIDE: .22 Revolver Shooting Competition, NAPFA Challenge 2005 and many more!



Contents

- 02 Editor's Word
- 03 A History of Maris Stella High School NPCC
- 04 The Newsletter Committee: An Introduction
- 06 2006 : The Year In Preview
- 07 NAPFA Challenge 2005
- 09 Annual Camp 2005
- 11 NPCC Day Parade
- 12 .22 Shooting Competition 2005
- 14 POP 2005
- 16 NPCC Malaysia Educational Trip
- 19 Outward Bound Singapore - Through the Eyes of a Marco Polo Watch Member
- 20 Keluar Baris - Looking Back : The Road Thus Far

Editor's Word

It's the inaugural issue of our newsletter, and as such, we'd like to have your feedback on the way it is now. What can be improved? What do you love and hate about this newsletter? Email your suggestions to

icy_flame@hotmail.com

In this issue, we cover a bumper crop of events since the start of the year, from NAPFA Challenge to the .22 Revolver Shooting Competition. It's not just the big events, either; inside you'll find articles on things that you didn't know about.

Unfortunately, at our deadline, we were unable to put down everything that happened, so this is the best that we could do. Happy Reading!

Editor-in-Chief

Tay Kai Yi Andrew

the.sentinel

mshnpcc90@yahoo.com

Editor-in-Chief

SGT Tay Kai Yi Andrew

Special Thanks to:

CPL Ho Qi Zhi for Title Design

Project Head cum Advisor

P/SGT Chang Wei Jian Nigel

Graphics Designer

SGT Lim Hong Zhou

Photographer

SGT Lim Jing Feng

Contributors

SGT Tan Wei Bin

CPL Ng Bing Wen

SGT Neo Hao Bin

SGT Ng Herng Ngee Raphael

SGT Lim Jing Feng

Layout

SGT Tay Kai Yi Andrew



A History of Maris Stella High NPCC

From when it first began to what it is now, a Gold Unit on a 7-year streak, Maris Stella NPCC had humble beginnings.

Maris Stella NPCC was formed in January, 1967. The first OC was Mr. Wong Kong Wee, who had played a major role in setting up the very first NPCC Unit in Singapore.

On the 15th of February, 1968, Mr. Jean Chow Wong was appointed the Commanding Officer of the school unit. Mr. Lee Sik Hui and Mr. Ng Chye Khoon were the appointed officers of the unit. They worked as a team, carrying out the many duties and activities of the Police Cadet Corps.

Weekly trainings were carried out on Sundays. Apart from the weekly training, the Second Year Cadets were required to attend parade practices. They were selected to attend the Serangoon District Parade on the 18th of May, 1968, and took a keen interest in all the training activities. They attended numerous practices and rehearsals for the various parades.

The Second Year Cadets also participated in the Inter-Unit Annual Revolver Shooting Competition for the Cheam Kim Seang Trophy (Boys) in 1968. Their total score was 444 out of a possible 720, which placed them 16th in position out of the 43 schools taking part.

During the second term holidays, twenty Second Year Cadets and two officers attended the Annual Camp at the Airport Road P.D.F. Camp from the 11th of August, 1968. They took part in activities planned by the Camp Officials. The First Year Cadets went for their revolver shooting, where they were taught how to handle a revolver. They were given dry practices and were told strictly to observe the rules at the Shooting Range.

The Best Unit Cadet for the year 1968 was Corporal Heng Hiang Jin. He received his prize from the then Principal, Rev. Bro. Chanel.

The Unit Today

The present National Police Cadet Corps Unit in Maris Stella is led by OC Unit Mr. Koh Yew Kiat, who took over the reins from Mr. Chia Kok Pin in 2004. The unit is currently holding its 7th Consecutive Gold Award (2004) in the Unit Overall Proficiency Award, given only to the best few NPCC Units each year.

Introduction to the Newsletter Committee

Project Head cum Advisor



Name: Chang Wei Jian Nigel

Age: 15

Post: Head of Media and
Publication

I'm around 180cm in height and I weigh about 60kg. I am going to be in Secondary Four in 2006. My post in this Newsletter Committee is Advisor and Project Head and I'm the Head of Media and Publication in the unit. I like playing soccer when I'm free, although I'm still really lousy at it. I also like hanging out with my friends especially with my squadmates and school friends. One of the regrets I have is breaking my leg while crossing the road in 2002, when I was in P6. I had a very hard time then. Anyway, if you want to find out more, you can approach me.

Editor-in-Chief



Name: Tay Kai Yi Andrew

Age: 15

Post: Head of Training
(Development)

My post in the unit, as the Head of Training (Development) is concerned with (what else?) the development of the unit, and as this newsletter falls into that category, I've signed on as Editor-in-Chief, and also double up as the Staff Writer. My job as the Editor is simply to edit every single line that comes into this newsletter. If you read it here, I've written and/ or edited it. Even though I'm the Editor-in-Chief, I'm the only one who does the editing, and since there are no other editors, the "in-Chief" seems pretty redundant. My hobbies are playing soccer, even though I can't say I'm good, playing the Xbox game Halo 2, going out with my friends and reading.

Photographer



Name: Lim Jing Feng

Age: 15

Post: Head of Logistics

My role in the Newsletter Committee is to take photographs for the newsletter. I decided to take up this job in the committee as I felt that I would be able to carry it out fairly well to make the newsletter more lively. I was given the Head of Logistics post this year, and I've been trying to make the logistics department better. I was quite big sized when I was younger, but I've slimmed down since then. I like to play soccer, badminton and floorball, and I used to be a badminton player in primary school.

Graphics Designer

My role in the Newsletter Committee is creating graphics using pictures from websites. Initially I wasn't in the committee, however when the committee people felt they needed someone to take up this job, they asked me to join this committee. I was appointed as the Webmaster in June 2005, and I felt that being appointed as a graphic designer in the Newsletter Committee may aid me in my task as a webmaster. I love sports, however I only excel in a few.

Name: Lim Hong Zhou

Age: 15

Post: Webmaster

Activities for 2006

January	7th January	CCA Maze
	14th January	Newspaper Collection
February	7th February	Area 5 Classification Shoot (Sec 3)
	14th February	K-9 Dog Unit Visit (Sec 1)
	18th February	Campcraft Competition Preliminary
	28th February	Land Division Visit (Sec 3)
March	10th March	NPCC Service Day
	10th - 11th March	Sec 1 Orientation Camp
	25th March	Campcraft Competition Final
April	7th April	Napfa Challenge
	8th April	Sec 4 AIF
	11st April	Police Heritage Centre (Sec 3)
	22nd April	NPCC Day Parade
June	1st June	.22 Revolver Shoot Competition Preliminary
	5th - 7th June	Annual Camp 2006
	9th June	Road Safety Marshalling (Sec 1)
July	14th July	Passing out Parade
	28th July	.22 Revolver Shoot Competition Final
August	15th August	.22 Practice Shoot (Sec 2)
September	22nd September	Area Project Competition

NAPFA Challenge 2005



The NAPFA Challenge 2005
Committee

22nd April 2005. A date to remember, as our unit organised and ran its annual NAPFA Challenge. Maris Stella High NPCC unit had given the opportunity to six secondary 3 squad cadets to organize the annual NAPFA Challenge from in Maris Stella High School. NAPFA Challenge is an annual event organized exclusively by our unit to allow NPCC cadets from all over the nation to gather together and compete with one another over a standard fitness test. The event also gives the chance for cadets to communicate with other cadets from different units.

This year, the committee consisted of six members, OIC Nigel Chang, AIC Tan Wei Bin, Lim Jing Feng, Raphael Ng and Hon Mao Cheng. The event was a boy's only event this year, and used the MOE standards for the 15 years (boys) of age category. Thus, participants of age older than 15 were not allowed.

On the afternoon of the 22nd April, as there was weekly activity, the entire unit was dismissed to make final preparations for the event. While everything was being carried out, the NAPFA Challenge committee was there to oversee it all. Water points were set up at various parts of the school for the participants. By about 2 pm, the first of the ten participating schools had arrived and half an hour later, almost all the schools had gathered at the grandstand for a briefing. Next, the schools, led by their school I/Cs were dispatched in groups, having to do their pull-up station first. At about 4.30pm, the participants were led by their school I/Cs to the starting point of their 2.4km run, where their stamina would surely be tested.



The prizes

After the run, the cadets were ushered back into the TK Low Hall, where the results of the competition would be announced. Unbeknownst to them, while they were away on their run, the scores were being tabulated and triple-checked, where they would be finally ready for announcement once they had all been seated. Before that however, both OIC Nigel Chang and Mr. Kwok, our Guest-of-Honour, teacher of the school and school special events planner addressed the seated crowd. The results and prize presentation came next, with Mr. Kwok giving out the prizes. Smiles all around from the winners, while looks of gloom from those who did not win anything were abound. This year, Temasek clinched the Team Champion Award, with New Town Secondary coming in second and Monk's Hill Secondary, third.

Although the event was not without hitches, on the whole it still ran rather smoothly and we are pleased to say it was a success in its own right.



The participants waiting for the results, with our own cadets in the background



OIC Nigel Chang, addressing the participants, with AIC Tan Wei Bin



Mr. Kwok, giving out a trophy to one of the winners



That's one happy winner!

Annual Camp 2005

Contributed by SGT Neo Hao Bin

This year's annual camp was held during the June holidays over 3D2N. This time, the camp took a bit of an "out of the box" approach in the sense that we went over to Pulau Ubin Island to have some activities, a campfire and to stay the night, instead of just confining ourselves to the school grounds. The camp was initiated for the cadets to catch up on their proficiency in campcraft and drill, for lectures to be conducted in order that cadets may take their badge tests and for bonding between cadets from different squads.. In the camp, the cadets were formed into six groups, each with its own unique name. Each group had its own flag, which showcased the group's logo and motto. Responsibility went to the cadets to keep the flag safe and prevent it from getting it "stolen" by the instructors, failing to do so they would have a penalty enforced on them.

The camp started with ice breaker games for members of each group to get to know one another. After that, cadets were issued rations in a box for meals for the rest of the camp. In addition, mess tins, stoves, solid fuel and other items were issued to the groups for them to cook their rations. The next activity we had after collecting everything was preparing our campfire item, which was the next night on Pulau Ubin Island.

That night, we had lessons on orienteering to prepare us for the second day orientation over at Pulau Ubin. We learnt the basics of using the Silva compass and map reading. It was an enriching session and at the same time, we got to interact with our groups through the question and answer session which was rather fun. When it was time to sleep, we slept in the school hall and the groups took turns to do sentry duty. It was a new experience as we did the sentry duty in a group and made sure the whole compound was safe and undisturbed. In the morning, we had our morning physical training session which was a lot of fun. We did our exercises and tried new activities which were fun. After breakfast, we boarded a bus to go to the jetty, where we would then board a boat that would take us to Pulau Ubin. There, the first activity we had was orienteering, in which we were supposed to hike to three different places in Pulau Ubin with the aid of only a map and compass. Naturally, each checkpoint was far apart and the session took up most of the day. During the orienteering hike, we learnt how to follow instructions from the leader, and listen to what other group members had to say. Although it was quite tiring, it was still quite fun and enriching. It tested our determination, perseverance and teamwork. We ended the hike over at Noordin Beach, the northernmost part of the island, where we set up camp, pitching our own tents in the sand. It was a new experience for us as it was the first time we pitched tents on the beach using dome tents. After that, we had our lunch by the seaside.

After lunch, the weather turned bad and it started raining. Luckily, we pitched camp just next to the official NPCC Campsite and were able to take shelter from the impending thunderstorm there. We played games in one of the shelters and everybody interacted throughout the games session. The officers also took part in the games and the whole unit had a great time. When the rain stopped, we went back to our campsite to clear up the tents, which had been messed up by the rain. Dinner was next on the agenda. There would be a campfire after that, and the campfire committee went over to do the campfire preparation. During the campfire, the groups were made to sit together to make sure that everyone interacted. We sang campfire songs and enjoyed ourselves, with each group coming up in turn to perform their group item.

After the campfire, we had a powder bath before retiring to our tents for the night. The groups were once again awakened at different intervals for sentry duty. The next morning, we had our morning physical training session followed by our breakfast. After breakfast, we unpitched the tents and prepared to go back to the mainland. We made our way back to the jetty before going back to mainland Singapore. After we returned to school, we had a session on structure building. We had a telematch between the groups after that, as part of ending the camp on a high note. For the telematch, we had to do tasks like employing the commando crawl past a certain point and lighting a hurricane lamp. The station tested our physical and mental endurance, as well as our proficiency and skills learnt in our time in NPCC. We had a wash-up after that, before packing up and having our final debrief session, where the best camper and best group awards were given out.

We had a great time at the camp.

NPCC Day Parade 2005

Contributed by SGT Ng Herng Ngee Raphael and SGT Lim Jing Feng

The 46th Annual NPCC Day Parade was held on Saturday, 23rd April 2005. 7 Gold Award Winners for the Unit Overall Proficiency Award 2004, along with all the other NPCC units nationwide would field the marching contingents for this parade, with only the Gold Award winning schools, namely Maris Stella High School, Hwo Chong Institution, Victoria School, New Town Secondary School, Marsiling Secondary School, St. Joseph's Institution and Cedar Girls' School forming the Guard of Honour. Our school, which received its 6th consecutive gold award sent 15 representatives to the parade and one of them, Station Inspector Ong Yan Han, was our school prize recipient. It was a rare opportunity to attend this National Police Cadet Corps Day Parade, wearing the Number 1 ceremonial uniform and armed with a M16 Assault Rifle.

In the GOH contingent, there is no difference in age, school, rank and even races, everyone is equal. Everybody has a part to play, which is to take good care of one another and to take note of each other's mistakes.

Training started about two months before the actual day. Every Friday, the fifteen GOH members from Maris Stella High would go down to the Police Academy at Thomson Road for our parade training. Trainings would begin at around 3pm and end at 5pm. We got to use the M-16 assault rifles with bayonets attached for rifle drills. A lot of marching and rifle drills were practiced. In the event of rain, we would still train in the shelter. Just about a month before the parade, we got our number 1 ceremonial uniforms loaned from the academy. The instructors were very enthusiastic in perfecting our drills. Parade training was not exactly tough but carried out over a long period; it certainly required us to manage our time well. During the trainings, we got to know cadets from other schools and got to get closer to our seniors and friends.



Come the actual day, we got into our No.1 uniforms at around 3pm. All of us looked smart and impressive in it. Our boots were all polished to the maximum shine. At 5pm, we collected our rifles and marched down the hill to get ready for the parade commencement. The parade started at about 5.30pm. The parade saluted and awaited the guard of honor contingents to march in. We marched in to the tune of "son of the brave". Both contingents put in effort to keep the precision and dressing of the march. After the halt, we had to stand for a long time and give salutes to the arriving VIPs which included the NPCC Commandant and Commissioner of Police. After that was the presentation of the awards. Our unit Station Inspector Ong Yan Han marched up to collect our 6th consecutive UOPA Gold Award. It was a proud moment for our unit. The national anthem was sung loudly with proud and in cohesion. Following this was the march past and the advance in review order. The spectators were certainly impressed with the standard of the parade. Finally, the march off was executed. We gave our best till the



After, we congratulated each other and also took photos at the reception. Our gold award was also displayed for photographing. Our OC, a few officers and cadets were there to watch the parade as well. Till today, this major parade is still remembered by us as a once in a lifetime event. All our efforts put in were worth it, and I'm sure that if there's another chance the 15 of us would want to go for this parade again!

.22 Revolver Shooting Competition 2005



On the 12th of July 2005, 10 cadets from Maris Stella High School NPCC were nervously gathered at NPCC HQ. After months of training, which included meeting up every day during recess to train the cadets' arm power and technique, the day of reckoning had arrived; today was the date for the .22 Revolver Shooting Competition preliminary round. The success of the unit rested in the hands of these 10 cadets, and they knew it. The time came for our teams to shoot, and the cadets went back after that, waiting in trepidation for the results to be tabulated and sent. Would MSHNPCC get into the finals of the competition this year? Nobody knew.

The results arrived a few weeks later. Maris Stella had secured places for both teams in the finals! In addition, one cadet had even managed to attain an individual 8th award in the preliminary shoot. The teams were, of course happy, but they knew that complacency would be their downfall. As such, they trained even harder.

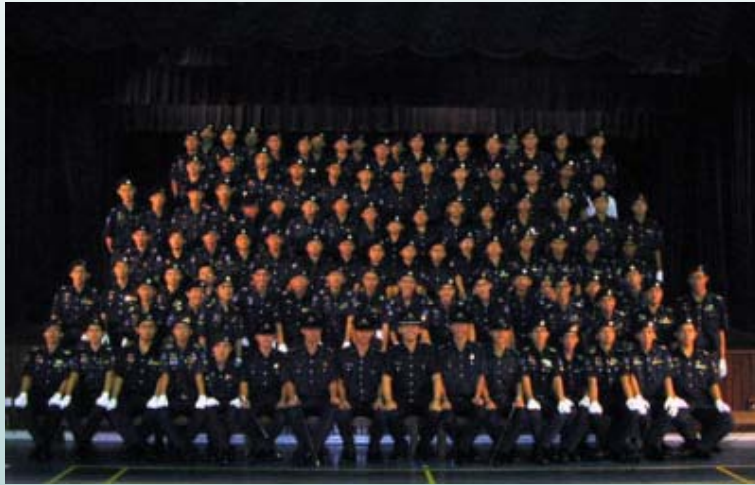
Time flew past and soon, the day of the finals loomed. Then, just a few days before the finals, one of the teams, led by the then SI Ong Yan Han, was hit by disaster. One of the team members, Nigel Yap, came down with dengue and had to be hospitalised. The team, originally with five members, now only had four. The scoring system for the competition is such that five shooters do the shooting and the best four scores are taken. Now, with only four members left, the team had to rely on every single member to turn out a good score if they wanted to clinch any position higher than 10th. When it seemed that nothing else could go wrong, just one day before the finals, another member, Neo Hao Bin caught a fever. The chances of the team even being able to shoot looked bleak; there were now only three fit members, and without at least four members present, the team would be disqualified. Furthermore, the team was not allowed to use the reserve member, Gabriel Lee, as he did not shoot during the preliminary round. The night before competition, Hao Bin agreed to come for the competition the next day even though he was sick, so that the team would still be allowed to shoot and not be disqualified.

On the 12th of August, the day of the .22 Revolver Shooting Competition Finals, the teams, minus Hao Bin as he was still sick and would be coming later, met at the porch for one last warm-up training session before proceeding to take a bus to the old Police Academy at Thomson Road. When it was the teams' turn, they went over to the back of the shooting range to take target boards and wait. The shoot itself passed quickly and after a short wait, all the participants were called over to the range for the prize presentation, with the winning individuals and teams already lined up beforehand. The Team 3rd Award was presented to the team consisting of the-then Staff Sergeant and Team Captain Daniel Tan, SI Tan Kheng Ming, S/SGT Clement Teo, CPL Lim Jing Feng and CPL Tan Wee Han. The Individual 8th Award was also presented to the then CPL Tay Kai Yi Andrew. As for the other team, consisting of the-then Team Captain SI Ong Yan Han, CPL Tan Wei Bin, CPL Andrew Tay and the sick CPL Neo Hao Bin, they managed to get a very respectable Team 9th position, even though all the odds were against them.

The .22 Revolver Shooting Competition was quite a success for Maris Stella NPCC this year, and it was all thanks to the cadets' utmost dedication that it was so.

POP 2005

Contributed by CPL Ng Bing Wen



On 15th July, 2005, Maris Stella National Police Cadet Corps held its Passing-Out-Parade cum concert in the premises of Maris Stella High School.

Though it rained just before the parade, it never did dampened the cadets' spirits, and definitely not the spirits of the passing out secondary fours either. The morale was very high.

We then had our first in-door parade at the Shaw Hall. Silent drill was executed to prevent damage to the floorboards. The Secondary Fours, clad in their full uniforms complete with gloves were proud and flawless as the Guard-of-Honour. The parade had began. We looked on, awed by their perfection. As it was an indoor parade, no drill weapons were used. However, the parade markers did a great job all the same. After the inspection was over, the promotion exercise started.

We watched on during the promotion as our ex-NCOs marched out proudly to receive their ranks and clapped for them. They really deserved it, after spending four years of their time in Maris Stella High National Police Cadet Corps, one and a half of it which was devoted to taking us under their wings and nurturing us. We were really indebted to them and thus wanted to show our gratitude, through this special day.

When the promotion exercise concluded, the parade commander then sought permission to dismiss the parade. Photo taking came next. We used the hall platform for the photo taking so we could accommodate more people with lesser benches and tables. The hall backdrops were a good choice of background and everyone looked smart in their full uniform even after the parade.

After the photo-taking session, everyone went to change into their concert attire and got ready for dinner. The secondary threes had a very brief dinner before heading to the hall to help with the preparations. The backstage crew helped set up the props and backstage décor while the P.A crew busied themselves with the P.A arrangements and settings. The Manpower management crew took their posts and got ready to usher the crowd in.

After dinner, the officers entered first while the rest gathered outside and entered orderly. Last preparations and checks were made and the concert soon started. This year's POP Concert theme was "The Matrix". The first scene started with a opening by some of the cast. After that short opening, the secondary one squad came up to perform their item, a song. It was a sincere effort by the secondary one squad.

wanting to thank the secondary fours for their hard work, time and effort spent in MSHS NPCC. After that heart-rending performance, the emcees continued. The first fighting scene took place. The secondary two squad's performance came next, a clearly memorable experience. Afterwards, we were greeted with a surprise. Apparently, one of the secondary twos, Augustine wanted to share some of his heart-felt sentiments. So he shared with us some of his feelings on the passing-out secondary fours, how grateful he was. It really was very touching and the secondary fours were visibly moved.

The Matrix show then carried on, with another wave of fight scenes and humor. Apparently, Morpheous was captured and a ransom was demanded.

Then came the secondary three squad's turn to perform. They sang a Chinese song, dedicated to the passing-out secondary fours. Though their vocals weren't that impressive, it was also a sincere effort on their part.

As tradition dictates, the secondary four squad performance was the best. It was the most well received by the audience. Everybody cheered for them and it was obvious they had spent much time and effort preparing for this performance. They deserved the fruits of their labour. After another cutscene by the emcees, it was the officers' turn to perform. The officers then started a series of performances that would take their audience's breath away. As usual, the officers delivered a splendid performance, which was greeted with an enthusiastic response.

And thus, after a final word from the OC, the concert ended. I admit there were glitches that occurred now and then throughout the course of the concert, I must say it was a good effort.



NPCC Malaysia Educational Trip

Contributed by SGT Tan Wei Bin



1st Day

31 cadets from all over Singapore woke up in the early morning on the 21st of November 2005 and gathered at NPCC HQ at the Police Academy. It was only the 2nd time we had met each other and we starting talking and discussing about the activities coming up for us. Our means of travel for the trip, soon we found out, would be a bus. We departed from HQ at 7.30 am, after we took a group photo together. All of us were ready for a good long ride straight to Kuala Lumpur!

We crossed Customs feeling excited as this was the first time we had visited another country with a group of people whom we did not know, who would soon become our friends. There was a stop for breakfast after we passed Customs. Some of us stocked up on chewing gum at the provision store nearby. After breakfast, we got back into the coach and started towards Kuala Lumpur. Stopping after that only for lunch, which was Chinese food, we reached our hotel not long after lunch. At the hotel, we checked into the room we would be staying in for the next 4 days. which had a splendid view of the Petronas Twin Towers of Malaysia.

It was around 4 pm when we went for our next activity, which was shopping for the rest of the day! The Radius International Hotel was built very near the many shopping mall districts in the area, so it only a 5 – 10 minutes walk to all the well known shopping malls in KL. Shopping was fun as we walked around discussing and converting the prices to Singapore dollars, bargaining and picking clothes that we thought would look good on us. Time passed quickly, and before we knew it, we were already on the coach taking us for dinner. We went to a local restaurant and tried out the Malay Cuisine.

After we had filled up our stomachs, it was time for bed. Many of us went to the 7 – 11 just opposite the hotel and bought snacks back to the hotel. The Hotel was indeed positioned very well.



2nd Day

Today would be the real stuff as we would be visiting the Malaysian Police Training School. Breakfast was at the hotel and we left straight after that. Upon arrival at the school, we met the officer in charge. By then, it was already 9 in the morning. He started off with telling us about the history of the Malaysian Police and we listened attentively. Many of us had the opportunity to take a photo with him. Next, it was time for a lecture. We learned about the history of the Training School, how it was built and all that. The hierarchy and ranks of the Royal Malaysian Police were also covered during the lecture. We also visited the facilities they had in the Training School.

Time flew past and soon, it was already afternoon. We walked over to the next area of the Training School and had our lunch there. After lunch, the tour around the Training School continued and we were showed how their police force works to solve cases using chemical means like UV light and finding finger prints. There are also recreational rooms for relaxation and gyms in the Training School. We chatted enthusiastically throughout the whole tour of the Training School. We were even lucky enough to see the Malaysian Police rehearsing for their Passing Out Parade. Personally, I was quite impressed by them. When the time came, we boarded the bus and went back to the hotel to rest for the day. Some of us decided to go shopping again as we had not visited some of the shopping centres yet. It had been a tiring day and we enjoyed the dinner provided for us. Every night, we would have dinner at a different restaurant. Night in Malaysia was also a new experience for us as there were stores out in the street selling all kind of things (Something like our Pasar Malams). Back at the hotel, we would gather in a room and play cards till midnight before going back to our own to rest for the day.

3rd Day

Everyone was looking forward to today as would be visiting the Petronas Twin Towers. However, before the real fun would begin, we had to visit the Malaysia Police Museum first. Breakfast was again at the hotel. We proceeded immediately to the Museum after breakfast. At the Museum, we saw the artifacts that the Malaysian Police used in the past, such as old swords and drums. There was also a display room for weapons like rifles, swords and batons. What was most interesting was the different kinds of uniforms that the policemen wear. There were numerous uniforms which showed similarities to our own.



Lunch was at a local restaurant near the Twin Towers. The Twin Towers could be seen directly from the windows of the restaurant. After lunch, we went to a clearing where we could get a good shot of the towers, before proceeding into the towers themselves. In the lecture room of one of the towers, a video was shown to us explaining how the Twin Towers were built at an impressive height of 452m and ranking as the world's highest twin towers. After learning about the Twin Towers, we went up the tower. The lift brought us up to level 41, where there the linkway between the two towers was. The lift was so fast that it took less than a second for us to pass one level! Up there, the view was exhilarating; We could see as far as Genting.



After that panoramic view, we went to the famous Sunway Lagoon for a bout shopping. It was a big place and we almost got lost just walking around it. The main attraction of the Sunway Lagoon was ice skating, however, due to time constraint, we did not have the time to have a go. There were also recreational facilities like a bowling alley and pool tables there. After shopping, we had dinner at a restaurant only 5 minutes' away from Sunway Lagoon. When we got back into the hotel, many of us were so tired that we went to bed immediately.

4th Day

Today we would be learning about Malaysia's culture. After breakfast at the hotel, we went to Doraini Village, where we spent the rest of the day. The mango plantation was the first place in the village that we visited. The place was well known for the fertility of its soil. There, I had the sweetest mango I had ever tasted. There was a kampong near the plantation, where the family who owns the plantation lives. The kampong man there explained to us why the soil was so fertile.

Next, we went to a place that produces banana chips and black sugar. We could see the whole production and packaging process. Many of us bought a few packets of chips back to Singapore. It was a good learning experience. Lunch was at a restaurant in the kampong. We tried out traditional Malay Food and tea. Fish and prawn crackers were also sold at the restaurant.

After lunch, we took a walk around the whole village, including the market. Small goats could be seen and we ate coconut by the street. During dinner that night, we chatted happily throughout as all of us knew that it was the last dinner that we would be having together. We had a seafood dinner that night. Unlike the other days where it was bedtime after dinner, tonight was different. We still had one activity left; stopping at a swamp to view fireflies. It was arguably the most beautiful night that we had. Photographs of the fireflies were not allowed as fireflies are scared away by the light and sound. We sang songs all the way back to the hotel. No one felt tired that night and so, we chatted in the hotel rooms until we slowly fell a sleep one by one.

5th Day

Breakfast was as usual in the hotel. After breakfast, we visited the village in Kuala Lumpur famous for the spinning Top and Malay Dances. We had fun trying out the spinning top and only a few of us managed to spin it without it flying off the table. The villagers there gave demonstrations on how to spin the tops as though it were as easy as ABC.

Our last lunch was held in the village. After that, we proceeded back to Singapore. It was a long journey and all of us talked about everything that happened throughout. When we arrived at NPCC HQ, we said our goodbyes to everyone and left the HQ with new friends made.

It was a memorable trip and I learned a lot .

Outward Bound: From the Eyes of a Marco Polo Watch Member

From the 12th- 16 December 2005, 8 cadets from the Secondary Three Squad went for an Outward Bound Course, held at Outward Bound Singapore on Pulau Ubin Island. Our course was a mobile course, and not the residential one of which we were previously informed, which meant that we were staying in the great outdoors in pitched-up tents. The 8 people from my squad, namely Hao Bin, Wei Bin, Jing Feng, Chor Theng, Nigel, Marcus, Zi Xian and myself were separated into groups of 14-16 people called “watches”. Hao Bin, Wei Bin, Jing Feng and myself were to be in Marco Polo watch.

The first activity of the day was getting to know one another. My watch was an all-boys one, and consisted of 9 people from Maris Stella High and 5 people from Jurong West Secondary. We were introduced to our instructor, and were brought over to the old rock wall to take a watch photograph. Unfortunately, that photograph was never used, as we had 3 changes of instructors.

Well to cut everything extremely short, we had activities such as kayaking and a sea expedition, a land expedition, rock climbing etc. But what I'd like to mention is that Marco Polo Watch was special for three main reasons:

- 1) We were an all-boys watch. 9 of us from Maris Stella High and 5 from Jurong West Secondary.
- 2) For the first time ever in Outward Bound Singapore history, a watch, namely ours, managed to finish *all* the food rations given. That's saying a lot, since all the other groups had tons of food left at the end of the camp.
- 3) Again, for the first time in Outward Bound history, this time not just Outward Bound Singapore, we had three instructors for our watch. Not together, as one watch is supposed to only have one, but one after another, due to a magnitude of reasons. Our first instructor, Serene, took us for half of the first day, before coming over to tell us that we were going to change instructors, as there had been a glitch with the management. So, along came Angela. Well, everything went fine till the second evening, when Angela came over and told us we were going to change instructors again. Apparently, she had aggravated her old back injury earlier and had to see a doctor. So, from the third day onwards, we had Wilfred. It's been a good experience, having not one, but three different instructors, as we got to have a taste of three different leadership styles. All of them were great, I'm happy to say.

Outward Bound was a great experience, and I would definitely recommend it to any one who has the opportunity to go for such a course.

Looking Back...the Road Thus Far



Looking back, my three years in NPCC have been meaningful and fruitful. From a young naïve boy when I was a Secondary One, I matured slowly into an adult over the past three years with some unforgettable experiences. In Secondary One, like most other Secondary Ones who joined NPCC, I was fascinated by the rifles and guns and the interesting array of cool stuff, as well as the opportunity of getting maximum CCA points. My whole squad didn't know each other then and we were all very disorganized and disunited. However, as the year passed and we became Secondary Twos, gradually the friendships formed. We began showing signs that we could work together and co-operated well with each other. To me, my Secondary Two period in my NPCC life was the most fun and interesting period. Then came Secondary Three. It was quite a hectic time as we took over the unit. We had difficulty settling the administration and planning the trainings. However, gradually we picked up the necessary skills in running activities from the officers. The road thus far has been quite a challenging one for us one which has left us with memories worth remembering.

Project Head cum Advisor

P/SGT Chang Wei Jian Nigel