

RESCUE 995



ISSN NO: 0129-2098

THE SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE MAGAZINE

*Happy
Valentine's
Day!*

LOVE RUNNING?
FIND OUT HOW A
SCDF COUPLE

RAN



LOVE



*Total
Strangers*





SCDF's Emergency Medical Service Response Framework provides faster and enhanced assistance for life-threatening emergencies



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14 COVER STORY

CONTENTS

ISSUE 3 (DEC 2017 - FEB 2018)

5 SCDF Social Media Outreach



10 Snippets of SCDF Events and Activities

12 Think & Do

18 Ran Into Love

22 Heavy Metal Love

26 Not Love At First Sight??

30 Adventurous Love

32 A Life Time Of Chemistry

Happy Valentine's Day!

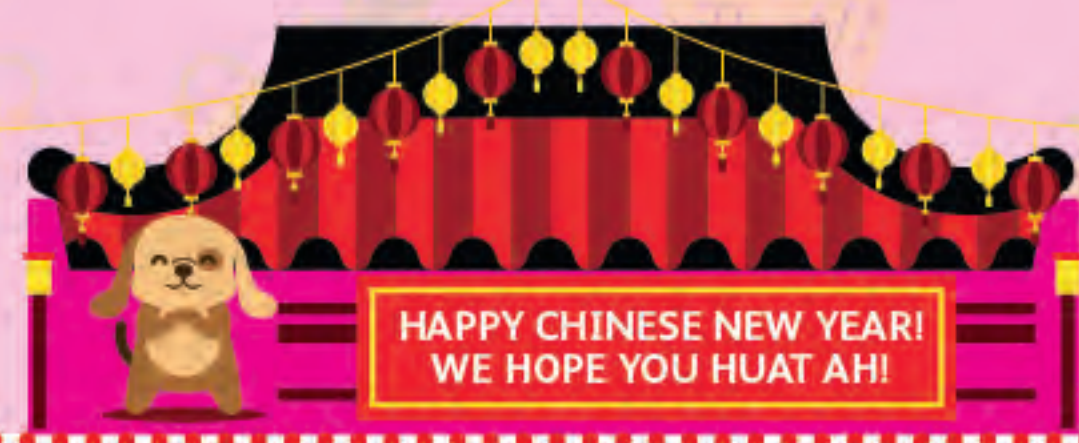


Don't forget to count me in!

READ, FIND & WIN!

Count the number of bears hidden in the pages of this Valentine's Day issue and stand a chance to win a figurine of a SCDF firefighter. Email your answer to michelle_lim@scdf.gov.sg by 14 March 2017. Three lucky winners with the right answers will walk away with this prize.

This contest will close on 14 March 2018.



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Editor's Note

A quick google search shows that it was not until the 14th century that 14 February became associated with romantic love and in the 18th century, evolved into an occasion of gifting for lovers.

The celebration of love is always heart-warming whether if it between romantic couples, friends, family members or even colleagues. Love is love and everyone has a unique story to share. In our very first Valentine's Day themed Rescue 995 edition, we have put together a collection of love stories by our career officers who fell madly in love with each other in the SCDF. These couples, who first started out as colleagues, now share a special bond between them.

SGT Fakhrudin and SSG Ying Ying fell in love with each other because of their common interest in rock and heavy metal music. Before getting married, SGT Fakhrudin would often surprise SSG Ying Ying with concert tickets and such occasions were considered as dates for the seemingly soft-spoken duo. When asked if they play rock or heavy metal music now, SGT Fakhrudin smiled sheepishly and admitted that they still do that but only when the children are asleep and with headphones on, of course.

A common trend which I noticed amongst these life saver couples is that they are always actively communicating to their children about the nature of their work in The Life Saving Force. For example, SSG Said's and WO Gangadevi's daughter innocently exclaimed "the family car is also a fire engine because it is red in colour! Hurry daddy! Someone needs help!" when SSG Said was responding to a myResponder mobile application alert.

To commemorate our first Valentine's Day themed Rescue 995 edition, the editorial team decided to join in the spirit of gifting. As candle lights are considered dangerous in the pun opinion of The Life Saving Force, you would not be expecting any romantic dinner vouchers from us. Instead, we will be giving away three firefighter statues with each measuring about 30cm in height. Flip back to the content page to find out more about how to qualify for this contest.

On behalf of the Rescue 995 editorial team, we would like to wish you a Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Chinese New Year! We hope to inspire you through our life saving stories. 🚒

With love,
Michelle Lim
Rescue 995, Editor



TECH BITES

Instagram #ANATIONOFLIFESAVERS



TECH BITES



Island-Wide PWS Sounding

On **Thursday, 15 February 2018 at 6.20 pm**, in support of **Total Defence Day**, the SCDF will be sounding the "Important Message" signal through the island-wide Public Warning System (PWS) sirens.

When you hear the signal, tune in immediately to any local radio station for a brief message on the PWS.

To know more about the PWS, visit www.scdf.gov.sg



TOGETHER
A NATION OF LIFESAVERS



MAILROOM VOICES FROM THE HEARTS



SGT Ho Kwan Loong, WO Low Pey Yun and LCP Abdul Qayyum from Central fire station

I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to SGT Ho Kwan Loong, WO Low Pey Yun and LCP Abdul Qayyum for attending to my brother at the aftermath of a road traffic accident that occurred along Clemenceau Ave North. They were very patient and professional when treating his wounds.

Their reassuring attitude also made the journey to the hospital a comfortable one. Thank you!

♥ NASIRUDDIN GHAFFOR



Aziz Bin Karim, Mubd Syafiq Bin Zainal, Ammani Hatim Bin Heryadi and Siti Nurhajjah Binte Azman from Clementi fire station

I dialled for 995 when I noticed that my wife was trembling furiously and for the fear that she was having a seizure attack. The ambulance crew, which arrived at my house promptly after the call, assessed my wife's condition and informed the family that she was suffering from high fever.

The ambulance crew from Seng Kang fire station attended to my mother and eventually, conveyed her to the hospital on the SCDF ambulance. The crew was very professional and most importantly, they were also very caring towards my mum.

I deeply appreciate the good work and sincerity. You have a great team! Thank you!

♥ MR LEE SU HAI



PTE Lu Junhao Dexter Daryl, SGT2 Chung Kum Heng, WO Lim Kuan Yew and SGT Low Sixing Wendy from Seng Kang fire station

My wife opted to stay home to recuperate from the fever. However, at no time did we feel any displeasure from them. In fact, they were still prompt, professional, patient and helpful.

While no lives were saved in this episode, to know that help is just minutes away gives a peace of mind to our citizens and this simple assurance allows us to sleep soundly at night. This psychological re-assurance that SCDF provides also reflects its mission as The Life Saving Force. Thank you.

♥ STANLEY

SNIPPETS OF SCDF events and activities



SCDF HEAVY FIRE VESSEL KEEL-LAYING CEREMONY

The keel for the Heavy Fire Vessel, built for the SCDF, was laid on 13 December 2017 at the Benoi's Yard Workshop of Singapore Technologies Marine Limited. The event was graced by distinguished guests and representatives from SCDF, Singapore Technologies Marine Limited and Defence Science Technology Agency.

Upon the activation of the mechanism, the first keel block that weighed 40 tons was lowered into the cradle. The ceremony signifies the formal recognition of the beginning of a heavy fire vessel's construction.

The steel used in the construction of the heavy fire vessel was cut on 21 August 2017. With the keel being laid, it will now be undergoing block erection as well as the joining of all pre-outfitted blocks.

The next key milestone is expected to take place by mid-2018 will be launch of the Heavy Fire Vessel.

The Heavy Fire Vessel will comprise a suite of modern decontamination facilities which will allow it to handle a wider array of fire and rescue operations including those which involves chemical, biological and radiological agents.

▲ Distinguished guests and representatives from SCDF, Singapore Technologies Marine Limited and Defence Science Technology Agency at the SCDF Heavy Fire Vessel Keel-Laying Ceremony



YOUNG IN AGE, BIG IN SPIRIT

Mike Tze Tan (Home Team News)

When a young boy was trapped under a car during a traffic accident, six selfless individuals – including four Secondary One students – stepped forward to lend a hand. Here's a lesson in public spiritedness and how we can all make a difference.

On 17 January 2018, a traffic accident took place along Geylang East Avenue 1 that left a young boy trapped under a car. Several people in the vicinity immediately came forward to rescue him. Among them were four childhood friends: Megan Seow, Lin Yu Jie and Jose Antonio Alexander of Geylang Methodist Secondary School, and Branson Ong of Maris Stella High School. Here's their story.

Branson: The four of us had met for lunch and were walking to the MRT to go home.

Jose: We saw people crowding around a car, and could see a hand coming out from under it.

Megan: I felt shocked, because I'd never seen an accident before. We put our bags down and ran to the car.

The four friends weren't the only ones to step forward that afternoon. At the scene were also Mr Huang Han Xiang, 29, and Mr Govindan Meyyappan, 49, both technicians.

Mr Huang: I was riding home on my motorcycle when I saw the accident happen right in front of me. I immediately stopped my bike and went to check on the boy. He was calling for help.

Mr Govin: I was going to work and was walking on the opposite side of the road when I heard a commotion behind me. I could hear someone crying, and turned back to see what had happened. There were about 10 people who rushed to push the car.

Jose: We all took up position on one side of the car and got ready to push.

Mr Huang: The car's front left tyre was on the boy's bag, so he wasn't able to move. We called for those around to help. Together, we lifted the front of the car and pushed it back slightly, so that the boy could come out.

Next-generation public spiritedness in action.

PHOTO: Home Team News



▲ Ready to help also were fellow rescuers Mr Huang Han Xiang (left) and Mr Govindan Meyyappan (second from left). PHOTO: Home Team News

In the rush to rescue the boy, it wasn't clear if someone had called for an ambulance. Though Megan had never been in such a situation before, she knew what to do.

Megan: An aunty beside me passed me her handphone and asked if I knew the number of the boy's parents, so that I could call them. I said, "No," but told her I could call for an ambulance. So I called 995 and said that there had been an accident in front of Geylang East Public Library. It took about five minutes for the ambulance to arrive.

For her quick thinking and calmness under pressure, Megan received the Community First Responder Award from the Singapore Civil Defence Force while Yu Jie, Jose, Branson, Mr Huang and Mr Govin received the Community Lifesaver Award. According to them, taking action that afternoon was simply the right thing to do.

Mr Huang: When you see an accident happen, you'll want to help. It's not every day that you can save a life.

Mr Govin: I was happy to help. If I have a chance to do so, I will.

Yu Jie: I feel proud to receive this award, and to save a life.

Branson: There's a Chinese saying that goes 助人为快乐之本 (zhu ren wei kuai le zhi ben). It means that it's a joy to help others. I really believe that.

BRAVO!



The students threw their school bags on the ground....



...and joined other community life savers in lifting the car to free the boy who was trapped underneath.



Think & Do

◀ One of the activities in the “Think & Do” workshop require participants to design a playground from scratch. This activity is designed for the participants to explore the relationship between space and infrastructure.



opportunities for emergency responders to think and react on their feet.

“Participants were given the opportunity to delve into how the SCDF conducts its training and understand the constraints our firefighters face daily. There were also plenty of hands-on, light-hearted games and no holds-barred discussions which made the entire experience more insightful.”, says Mr Gary Ng, a NCS Hub participant.



“The process of preparing for our first ever SCDF Think & Do workshop took on a life of its own soon after I first pitched it to my team. What they had put together in this short span of time was simply breath-taking. A fellow officer once shared with me to “never underestimate the ingenuity of our folks when we empower them”. Looking back, I am extremely proud of what we have achieved from the inaugural run.”

LTC Eric Chua
Commander, 3rd SCDF Division

This Think & Do workshop is carefully curated and designed around a five ‘P’ principles model. It involves bringing together phenomenal Participants (primarily practitioners, academia, and industry) to collectively answer Provocative questions that are designed to promote the exploration of innovative approaches to resolve problem statements. Conducted in a carefully curated Place, the participants will undergo a carefully designed Process which is generously peppered with plenty of Play.

The 3rd SCDF Division Team is penning down other Provocative questions (e.g. evolving our community outreach approach) for subsequent Think & Do workshops. They are also on the lookout for likeminded fellow Life Savers to join them in this journey of Thinking and Doing for a more innovative SCDF.

The invitation has been issued, are you game enough to join them? Email Lee_Soon_Huat@scdf.gov.sg if you interested to join the team!

irst seeded at the University of Southern California’s (USC) Annenberg Innovation Lab (AIL), the Think & Do process was designed to foster an open space for people of varied disciplines and backgrounds to come together, effectively learn from each other, and more importantly, create together. Based on a generic five ‘P’ principles model, every Think & Do workshop is unique.

LTC Eric Chua, Commander of 3rd SCDF Division and USC alumni, was part of the AIL Think & Do team as he was completing a Master’s degree programme at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. After LTC Eric bounced off the idea of initiating the Think & Do process with officers in 3rd SCDF Division, they soon formed a team of likeminded individuals who were not just passionate about innovation projects, but also committed to the idea of growing the spirit of innovation in the SCDF. Riding on the waves of promoting a stronger culture of innovation within The Life Saving Force, the 3rd SCDF Division pioneered the first run of such Think & Do sessions in the SCDF.

Held in November last year at the SCDF Innoventure Land, the inaugural SCDF Think & Do workshop saw the participation of 50 SCDF emergency responders, and representatives from NCS Hub, Motorola, Singapore Technologies Engineering Limited, Riverwood Private Limited, Outward Bound Singapore, Airport Emergency Services, A*Star and CERTIS Cisco. Collectively, participants played and brainstormed on how training within the fire stations could be revolutionised. Through customised activities, participants mused over the relationship between space and human activity and how innovative solutions could be superimposed upon physical spaces to achieve training objectives.

At the end of the workshop, the participants saw the birth of a handful of innovative ideas such as the use of a training scale model during the table-top exercise stage to assist emergency responders in visualising the strategies available and challenges. The idea was further supplemented by another participant who posited the possibility of using augmented reality training to effect immediate and radical last-minute changes (such as “injects” but with immediate graphics) into the drills for the purpose of creating

INCIDENT WATCH



On 18 January 2018, a fire broke out at a residential unit located at Serangoon North Avenue 1. SCDF and police officers evacuated 16 residents from the second to fifth storeys as their units were in close proximity and directly above the affected unit. Two casualties were conveyed to the hospital by SCDF after suffering from breathlessness. The fire was extinguished using compressed air foam and one water jet.

Total Strangers

SGT(V) Chen Hong Hui and SGT(V) Salmon Law were total strangers. If not for their common interest to save lives, they would have never crossed paths with each other.

SGT(V) Hong Hui, a leveraged foreign exchange dealer by profession, decided to put his physical fitness to test by enrolling to the Civil Defence Auxiliary Unit's (CDAU) Volunteer Firefighter Course in 2016. He aspired to be deployed alongside the SCDF emergency responders to incidents as he was driven by the passion to help others during critical times.

“While office wear empowers me with confidence in the foreign exchange market, the bunker gear gives me a sense of physical security when I am being deployed for operations.”, says SGT(V) Hong Hui.

SGT(V) Hong Hui revealed that SGT(V) Salmon caught his eye when they were undergoing the



VOLUNTEER (AND
MAYBE FIND LOVE)
HERE!

◀ SGT(V) Salmon and SGT(V) Hong Hui met at the 2nd CDAU Volunteer Firefighter Course.

2nd CDAU Volunteer Firefighter Course.

“It was towards the end of the course that I began to notice Salmon. Before that, I heard from my other course mates that she was actually enrolled in the inaugural course but had to re-course in the 2nd run.”, says SGT(V) Hong Hui.

SGT(V) Salmon fractured her wrist at a futsal game during the period when she was undergoing the 1st CDAU Volunteer Firefighter Course. For medical reasons, she was advised to enrol to the 2nd run for re-course instead. When asked if she was disappointed, SGT(V) Salmon said she saw it as a “blessing in disguise” for the mishap paved the way for her to meet her prince charming.

SGT(V) Salmon, a nurse at the Accident and Emergency department by profession, joined the CDAU Volunteer Emergency Medical Service vocation in 2014. Two years into her volunteering journey, she decided to expand her horizons by joining the firefighting fraternity.

When the daredevil decided to toughen up and step up her game by training to become a firefighter, she was not expecting herself to fall in love.

SGT(V) Hong Hui wooed SGT(V) Salmon towards the end of the course. Apart from the training sessions conducted on week nights and some weekends, the lovebirds also started going on dates together on their free time.



▲ SGT(V) Salmon is currently serving in two CDAU vocations as a volunteer medic and volunteer firefighter.

◀ They tied the knot after about two years of courtship.



LOVE QUOTE

“Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity.”
~ Henry Van Dyke

After about two years of courtship, SGT(V) Hong Hui popped the question.

He went down on one knee during one of their regular dog-walking sessions in the park and asked “would you marry me?”.

While SGT(V) Salmon accepted his proposal with joy, SGT(V) Hong Hui is still of the view that her dog seemed displeased throughout the entire romantic experience under the stars.

“Perhaps the dog is aware that I am ‘snatching’ Salmon away from him!”, says SGT(V) Hong Hui.

SGT(V) Salmon and SGT(V) Hong Hui are currently awaiting for the birth of their first child in February 2018. 🐶



▶ CPT Zhiming and LTA Chen Yen fell in love with each other during their ROTA Commander Course.



Ran into Love

LTA Lim Chen Yen, a team leader at the Fire Certificates and Permits branch, Central Enforcement Department, is an advocate of keeping Singapore fire safe. On a regular basis, LTA Chen Yen and her team will conduct inspections at industrial, residential and commercial buildings to ensure that the respective fire provision systems in place are kept in good working order. These systems include the fire sprinkler systems and fire alarms installed in buildings including condominiums, shopping centres and factories.

In her line of work, LTA Chen Yen has shut down the power of numerous buildings for the purpose of testing these systems in place. LTA Chen Yen said that there had been several instances when the occupiers of the buildings will express their concerns over the power shut down as it affected their daily activities even though it was only for a short period of time.

"It is an inevitable outcome. To me, the safety of the masses will always be the priority. Having attended to numerous fire incidents myself when I was a ROTA

Commander at Ang Mo Kio fire station, I have witnessed first-hand the wrath of fire. I wish for nobody to go through it and this is what makes my work at the SCDF Central Enforcement Department meaningful. "As the old saying goes, 'prevention is better than cure.'", says LTA Chen Yen.

The Sports Science graduate from Nanyang Technological University plays tennis, netball and handball competitively on her free time. In addition, she is also part of a dragon boat team. When asked if her active lifestyle benefitted her ROTA Commander Course training, LTA Chen Yen laughed and joked that it was only during the course that she had covered such long running distances.

In fact, she even ran into love.

During her days as a cadet, LTA Chen Yen would meet up with her fellow course mate CPT Chiew Zhiming for casual runs outside their training hours. What they were unaware of at the start of this blossoming relationship is that they would eventually fall for each other.



▶ After getting married, they adopted two rabbits named Twinkle and Star.



LOVE QUOTE

"True love is eternal, infinite, and always like itself. It is equal and pure, without violent demonstrations: it is seen with white hairs and is always young in the heart."

~ Honore de Balzac



♥ *CPT Zhiming proposed to LTA Chen Yen two years ago.*

After dating for about two years ago, CPT Zhiming asked for her hand in marriage.

The couple tied the knot and in celebration of their union, the duo adopted two rabbits named Twinkle and Star.

CPT Zhiming, a Biomedical Science graduate from the University of Queensland, adopted his first lab test rabbit after completing a module.

His tough and sculpted physique of a fit firefighter makes it difficult for anyone to believe that he is a rabbit lover.

The stern persona from first impression of CPT Zhiming, currently a senior instructing officer at the Civil Defence Academy's Advanced Firefighting Branch, was immediately dissolved as soon as he lovingly wrapped Twinkle and Star in his arms.

Unlike the preventive nature of LTA Chen Yen's work, CPT Zhiming trains others in fighting fires. His work includes conducting courses for Company Emergency Response Teams and flashover training and scenario exercises for career officers and national servicemen. Together with the rest of the team, he also oversees the Breathing Apparatus Physical Test – a mandatory test which is taken twice a year by all SCDF operational firefighters, commanders and members of the SCDF's elite Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team.

While LTA Chen Yen shake hands with external stakeholders, CPT Zhiming is tasked with the overall responsibility of ensuring that the operational SCDF officers and external stakeholders are well trained and prepared to handle any emergencies. 🐰

HEAVY METAL LOVE



LOVE QUOTE

“Love doesn’t make the world go round, Love is what makes the ride worthwhile.”

~ Elizabeth Bowen



◀ SGT Fakhruddin assisted to mid wife to deliver Noor Khalifah Bin Fakhruddin, his first child.

SGT Fakhruddin Bin Md Hanapi served his National Service (NS) with the SCDF Transport vocation where he drove the SCDF Command Vehicles to respond to major incidents including several cases of large fires which involved multiple casualties.

Upon completing NS, he took up the offer of a Senior Ambulance Medical Orderly position in the SCDF.

Little did he know that this career move would help him find the love of his life.

SGT Fakhruddin met SSG Chan Ying Ying for the first time at Changi Hospital. He was completing a report when he saw her from afar. At that golden moment, he turned to a fellow paramedic to ask if she knew SSG Ying Ying.

While they were subsequently aquatinted at the hospital, they did not see or speak to each other again until months later when SSG Ying Ying was posted to Paya Lebar fire station, where SGT Fakhruddin was serving at then.

“Our love for rock and heavy metal music brought us together.”, says SGT Fakhruddin who won SSG Ying Ying’s heart by surprising her with different rock and heavy metal concert tickets when they were dating.

“I always joke about how I cannot remember our first encounter at Changi Hospital. Anyway, I was as delighted to find out that he is also a fan of bands like Muse and Iron Maiden. I remember singing the lyrics out loud together

with Fakhruddin when we hung out together as friends. After some time, nature took its course and we got together as a couple.”, says SSG Ying Ying.

They got married after three years of courtship.

As caregivers to casualties at emergencies, SGT Fakhruddin and SSG Ying Ying are trained to always remain calm and composed when dealing with the unexpected as well as worried family members.

SSG Ying Ying, currently serving as a Senior Operations Centre Specialist, handles 995 calls at the SCDF Operations Centre. On a daily basis, her job requires her to deal with callers who are anxious about the deteriorating conditions of their love ones and as such, it is not uncommon for her to speak to callers who would weep or yell over the phone.

On one occasion, she received a 995 call from a frantic woman whose husband had collapsed.

“She was weeping grievously over the phone. I reassured her multiple times before being able to calm her down and convince her to perform CPR on her husband. It is only natural for love ones to be taken over by their emotions and it is our role to help them and the patient in every way that we can...even if it is over the telephone...as every second matters when it comes to saving lives.”, says SSG Ying Ying.

Fortunately, with the early intervention, the paramedics managed to revive the man’s pulse when they were on the way to the hospital.

Tables were turned when SSG Ying Ying required medical attention for herself.



Fortunately, her other half, who is also trained in handling difficult patients, was there to mitigate with the situation.

That faithful day happened when she was delivering her first child.

Each time SSG Ying Ying felt the birth contractions, she pulled her husband’s hair and scratched his face furiously.

“Well, the contractions were causing the both us so much pain that I volunteered my services to the midwife! I immediately put on a pair of gloves and helped administer painkillers to my wife.”, says SGT Fakhruddin.

After Noor Khalifah Bin Fakhruddin (Zeng De Hui) was born, SGT Fakhruddin showed SSG Ying Ying his battle scars to which she responded with “did I really scratch and pull your hair during the delivery? I don’t recall!”.

SGT Fakhruddin also accompanied SSG Ying Ying when she was delivering their second child, Nur Fatehah Bte Fakhruddin (Zeng Hui En). He jovially exclaimed that he survived the second birth without any injury.

Today, Khalifah is four years old and Fatehah two.

As SGT Fakhruddin and SSG Ying Ying work shifts, they make it a point to explain to their children the nature of their work and the reason for having to stay the night out. As a result of these sharing sessions, Khalifah and Fatehah also picked up some technical jargon along the way. Fatehah would respond to her parents by saying “Roger, roger. Ambulance is enroute!” when responding to her parents’ instructions.

Each time when they see an ambulance on the road, Khalifah would swell with pride and exclaim “that is my daddy’s ambulance!”.

I may have chosen the fire boots over glass slippers but you underestimated my beauty!

*Ganga!
My Cinderella!*

They met for the first time at the 23th Emergency Responder Specialist Course (now known as the Section Commander Course) orientation. SSG Mohamed Said Bin Ismail did not leave the perfect first impression on WO Gangadevi D/O Rountan then.

Months later, they met up for dinner with some mutual colleagues and SSG Said had his eyes on WO Gangadevi ever since.

“Ganga was always in her physical training attire during the course. Firefighting and rescue training left her drenched in sweat. She was like Cinderella when I met her at a dinner outside training hours...I underestimated her beauty!”, says SSG Said cheekily.

“We used to be at loggerheads but I have learned to appreciate Said’s contrasting perspectives. It is always good to have a differing opinion as it keeps you on track. That’s life! As an instructor, I receive countless of differing points of view from my trainees too.”, reveals WO Gangadevi, a Senior Instructor at the Civil Defence Academy’s HazMat Specialist Branch.

Love At First Sight??

WO Gangadevi acquired more than a decade of operational working experience during her stints at Tuas fire station and Yishun fire station before becoming an instructor. Be it fire, rescue, suicide or hazardous materials incidents, WO Gangadevi has seen it all.

Today, she shares her vast experience with trainees that range from career officers, full-time national servicemen and even emergency first responders from foreign civil defence services. Her specialisation includes topics on handling toxic industrial chemical spillages as well as terrorist attacks which may involve the use of chemical, biological, radiological, or explosive materials.

When asked about how it feels to be robed in the HazMat suit when mitigating with an incident, WO Ganga highlighted that the safety coverage provided by the suit for the user should be prioritised above anything else.

Unlike WO Ganga, SSG Said, now serving as a HazMat Specialist, spent most of his career at Alexandra fire station – a place which he calls his second home.

He revealed that they have never responded to an incident together. The closest encounter they had was at Chemical Plant fire that occurred in Tuas in 2013. WO Gangadevi's team took over from SSG Said's.

"I was covering my colleague who was on leave. I would describe it as mitigating the incident together in spirit as we did not meet each other during the handover. Nevertheless, it still remains special to us.", says WO Gangadevi.

When WO Gangadevi was still working in the fire stations, the couple only had the chance to meet each other ten times a month during the span of ten years. This was due to their working rotation shifts. SSG Said said that "absence



makes the heart grow fonder" and love is also about supporting your other half in his or her career.

"Being in The Life Saving Force is what makes my wife happy and for this reason, she has my support in her career. Our children are also very proud of our work as emergency responders.", says SSG Said.

Mysha Rizqin Bte Md Said, 7 years old, and Mavisha Rizqin Bte Md Said, 5 years old, would often share with their classmates their parents' profession. On one occasion, Mavisha's teacher informed WO Gangadevi that her daughter attempted an act of rolling fire hoses with several improvised materials at a show and tell session.

When responding to a myResponder mobile application alert on a separate occasion, Mysha innocently exclaimed "the family car is also a fire engine because it is red in colour! Hurry daddy! Someone needs help!".

Mummy and daddy are protecting Singapore to keep all of us Safe and Secure.

These days, when SSG Said or WO Gangadevi use their phones in the living room, their daughters would also casually ask if they are monitoring the myResponder mobile application.

When asked if Mysha and Mavisha are accustomed to their working shifts, WO Gangadevi and SSG Said said that they are always under the impression that "mummy and daddy are protecting Singapore to keep all of us Safe and Secure."

"I make it a point to share with our children what we do at work. For example, we will always visit the annual Singapore-Global Firefighters and Paramedics Challenge as it is an excellent platform for them to learn more about our latest appliances and technology embraced by the SCDF. Today, they are die-hard fans of our multi-generation red rhinos. Not only do such outings help them gain a deeper understanding of what we do, it is also very educational.", says SSG Said. 🚒



LOVE QUOTE

"Love withers with predictability; its very essence is surprise and amazement. To make love a prisoner of the mundane is to take its passion and lose it forever."
~ Leo Buscaglia



▲ The day SSG Said had dinner with WO Gangadevi and was "mesmerised by her 'Cinderella transformation'".



▲ WO Gangadevi and SSG Said met for the first time during the 23th Emergency Responder Specialist Course orientation.



▶ WO Nadiah, WO Sharif and their two children.



▶ WO Nadiah has been working out religiously to rebuild her physical fitness since returning to work from her maternity leave.



LOVE QUOTE

“Love is the emblem of eternity: it confounds all notion of time: effaces all memory of a beginning, all fear of an end.”
~ Germaine De Stael

Adventurous Love



WO Nur Nadiah Bte Norman, a HazMat Specialist at Jurong Island fire station, has always been addicted to the spikes of adrenaline from adventure races. Years ago, she had the opportunity to meet WO Mohamad Sharif Bin Mohamad Saleh because of one of these races that she actively signs up for on a regular basis.

“My team and I wanted to take part in an adventure race but we were short of one candidate then. A colleague told Sharif about it and he agreed to fill up that slot. That was how it all began.”, says WO Nadiah.

This adventure race, which had similar elements of a triathlon, paved the way for WO Sharif and WO Nadiah to meet frequently for training sessions during their off-days.

Over time, love blossomed between the both of them.

“I was deployed for a major oil tank fire incident when she was four months pregnant with our second child. My wife is not just physically strong but mentally and emotionally stronger. She is the pillar of support to my career and it helps that we are in the same line of work.”, says WO Sharif, who is currently a HazMat

Deputy ROTA Commander at Tuas View fire station.

WO Nadiah revealed that there had been numerous instances when WO Sharif becomes uncontactable during working hours. As an emergency first responder herself, she is always prepared for long hours of no response from Sharif.

“The mass media is the best avenue for me to stay abreast of his whereabouts and I would usually share with our eldest child about Sharif’s involvement at such operations. It helps in my explanation to

him whenever Sharif is coming home later than usual”, says WO Nadiah who has been married for 5 years.

Six months ago, WO Nadiah gave birth to Nasha Nur Syafirah Bte Mohamad Sharif, their second child. Towards the end of her maternity leave, she had already started to plan out her exercise regime to rebuild her fitness. It includes running long distances in her bunker gear and climbing up flights of stairs in her HazMat suit. Of course, she also trains to perfect

her push-ups and sit-ups to enable her to be IPPT-ready in no time.

When asked if it was difficult for her to resume an active lifestyle, WO Nadiah advised that it is definitely a mind over matter challenge. The secret to regain fitness is to “stop thinking and start running”. To be able to chase after her children or even outrun them during their frequent play sessions becomes a bonus.

While she enjoys taking part in adrenaline pumping activities with them, WO Nadiah is also known as the ‘disciplinarian’ to her children.

“As a HazMat Deputy ROTA Commander, I am required to play the role of a disciplinarian at work. So I would prefer to relay this responsibility to my wife when it comes to family matters.”, says WO Sharif.

A Life Time Of Chemistry

CPT Lau Ee Ling was tasked to assess the performance of the trainees from the 9th Emergency Response Specialist Course at their final exercise training. She recounted that she was only informed of this responsibility a few days before the assessment as the person in-charge was on urgent leave.

This fateful day also resulted in a lifetime of chemistry for CPT Ee Ling and SWO Durai Raj.

“I found her very cute at first sight.”, says SWO Raj. 😍

“To be honest, I was just very focused on the assessment that day.”, says CPT Ee Ling and in response to SWO Raj. 😊

After the assessment, CPT Ee Ling was approached by a course instructor who asked if she was open to accepting SWO Raj as a Section Commander in Alexandra fire station where she served as a Rota Commander then. With the knowledge that there were two vacancies available in her fire station, CPT Ee Ling spontaneously agreed to the proposal. 😊

While SWO Raj clearly had his eyes on her from day one, he did not wear his heart on his sleeve

for the fear of rejection. It was not until months after when they have worked together that he finally decided to show his cards. 🧸

SWO Raj arranged for a teddy bear and greeting card to be delivered to CPT Ee Ling’s house on her birthday. 🎂

“Well, a few weeks before my birthday, he held on to my hand when we were caught in the rain. I had the inkling that he might be interested in me then.”, says CPT Ee Ling who is currently serving as a Readiness Senior Staff Officer at the SCDF HazMat Department.

Their romantic chemistry is also deepened as a result for their common interest for the subject, Chemistry. 🧪

CPT Ee Ling joined the SCDF upon graduating with a Chemistry Degree from the National University of Singapore. Since then, she has taken on different postings in the SCDF which requires her to handle policies pertaining to HazMat related operations and exercises.

Like CPT Ee Ling, SWO Raj has completed postings which require similar expertise.

In fact, SWO Raj was constantly on a lookout for





▲ CPT Ee Ling and SWO Raj celebrated their union with both the traditional Indian and Chinese customary weddings.

CPT Ee Ling and SWO Raj



LOVE QUOTE

“Love is not a matter of counting the years... But making the years count.”

~ Michelle St. Amand



the latest detection equipment that the SCDF can acquire for its operations in mitigating HazMat incidents such as equipment for ‘dirty bomb’ incidents when he was a HazMat Field Specialist at the HazMat Department.



When asked for the motivation to join the SCDF upon graduation, CPT Ee Ling revealed that she wanted to put her knowledge into good use and there is no better calling than to be a Life Saver. Apart from being able to introduce preventive measures on the policy level for industries that deal with chemicals and hazardous materials, CPT Ee Ling also had the opportunity to personally mitigate emergency cases involving hazardous materials.

“We work closely with HazMat Specialists from the fire stations all the time.”, says CPT Ee Ling.

When asked about the most admirable attribute that SWO Raj sees in CPT Ee Ling, he said that he is thankful that CPT Ee Ling has always been there for him even at the lowest point of his life.

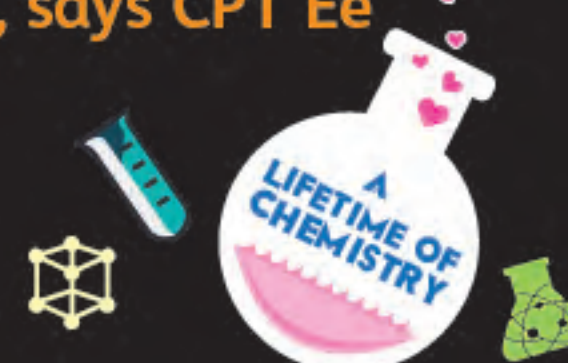
“In our seven years of courtship, she has always been extremely encouraging and she will never fail to be there for me when I am in need.”, SWO Raj reveals.

When asked if SWO Raj staged a fanciful proposal, CPT Ee Ling burst out laughing as she recalls him proposing to her spontaneously near a bus stop along Bukit Timah road.

“Well, you would have least expected that ulu place for a wedding proposal venue and that is what makes it a surprise!”, says SWO Raj.

SWO Raj and CPT Ee Ling celebrated their union with both the Chinese and Indian customary weddings.

“I will always remember the thali ceremony. The thali, which essentially is a gold thread, was blessed by everyone before Raj placed it around my neck and tied three knots to symbolise our marriage.”, says CPT Ee Ling.





TOGETHER 
A NATION OF LIFESAVERS