



As Colonel of the Singapore Volunteer Artillery (later the People's Defence Force), Dr Goh Keng Swee, then Minister for the Interior and Defence, presents a newly commissioned PDF Officer Cadet his officers' sword.



Jurong Town Primary School commandeered by MID as the base camp for the training of instructors for SAFTI in 1966.



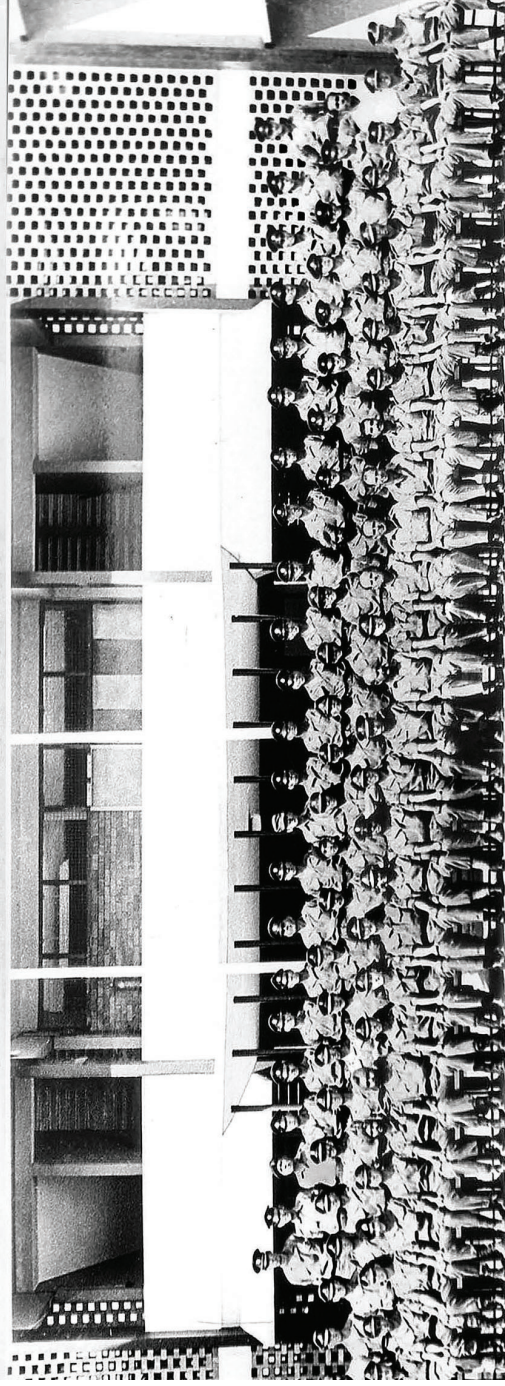
IDF advisors introduced an IQ test for all potential SAFTI instructors prior to the preparatory course.



Dr Goh Keng Swee made a point of personally checking progress on the ground when SAFTI was being set up in Pasir Laba. Here also present are IDF Chief Advisor Colonel Jak Elazari, Permanent Secretary MID Mr George Bogaars, Permanent Secretary Home Affairs Mr Howe Yoon Chong and (then) Lieutenant Colonel Kirpa Ram Vij.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 1ST INSTRUCTORS' PREP - COURSE

15TH FEBRUARY - 7TH MAY 1966



Course photograph of all the Officers and NCOs who underwent the first Instructors' Preparatory Course in Jurong Town Primary School for deployment in SAFTI.



Lieutenant Colonel Kirpa Ram Vij (Director Designate, SAFTI), and IDF Chief Advisor Colonel Jak Elazari assessing the ground on which SAFTI would be set up.



A recruit from the first SAFTI intake is presented with his rifle in a night ceremony in June 1966 by Captain Daljeet Singh, 2 I/C 'A' Company.



Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew, with Dr Goh Keng Swee and Minister for Education Mr Ong Pang Boon, observing a live-firing demonstration on 18 June 1966 for the official launch of SAFTI's first intake.



18 June 1966: Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew gives the keynote address for the first intake of SAFTI in SAFTI main auditorium. SAFTI's coat of arms, the torch and scimitar emblem, is unveiled for the first time behind Mr Lee.



Dr Goh Keng Swee in a hilarious mood at the celebratory lunch at the newly opened SAFTI Officers' Mess following the official opening of SAFTI on 18 June 1966.



National Day Parade rehearsal
August 1966

August 1966: Singapore's first National Day Parade rehearsal. SAFTI contingent fields the Macedonian Phalanx (16 x 16), as proposed by Dr Goh.



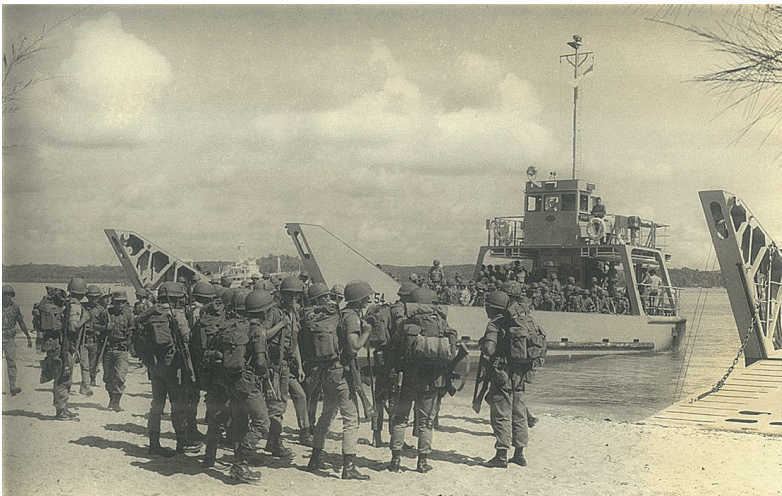
SAFTI's first recruit training passing out parade (POP) on Saturday, 13 August 1966, with Dr Goh as the Reviewing Officer.



SAFTI's first Section Leader passing out parade on Friday, 18 November 1966. Once again, Dr Goh was the Reviewing Officer.



In a bid to instil fighting spirit, boxing was part of the officer cadet training. No. 3 Platoon ended up as the champion platoon under then Captain (later Colonel) Goh Lye Choon.



During Officer Cadet Training, two subjects were deemed especially important: internal security operations and amphibious operations. As the SAF was part of the Ministry of Interior and Defence, internal security operations—essentially a police specialty—was considered a key field, whereas given the likely area of operations of the army, amphibious operations were considered critical.



“Disperse or you will be dispersed by force”. SAF’s origins in the Ministry of Interior and Defence included a major role in police operations.



Internal security operations played a major role in the SAF in the 1960s as part of the Ministry of Interior and Defence. Permanent Secretary MID, Mr George Bogaars, and Director SAFTI, Lieutenant Colonel Kirpa Ram Vij, on a training visit.



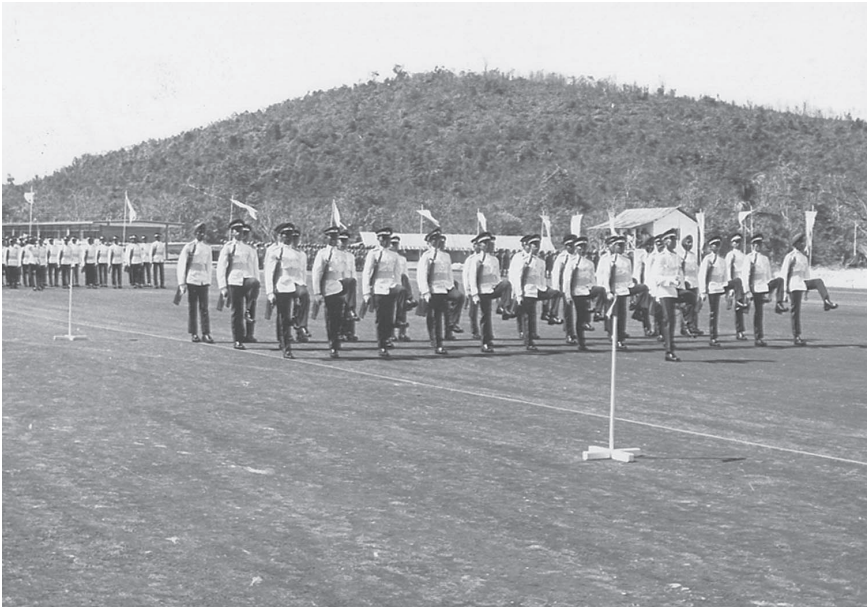
Commissioning Parade, 16 July 1967. 'A' Company Officers and supporting contingent commanders on standby to take up positions on parade.



Commissioning Parade, 16 July 1967: Reviewing Officer Dr Goh Keng Swee inspects every graduating officer contingent.



SAFTI's first Sword of Honour winner: Officer Cadet Kwan Yue Yeong receives his prize from Dr Goh.

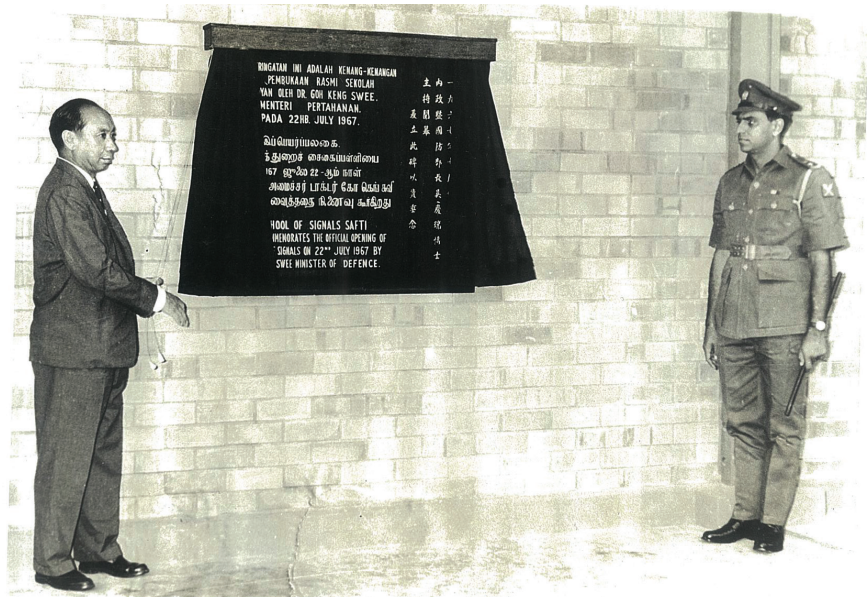


March past of the graduating cadets: switching from slow march to normal (*Tuka Langkah Chepat*).



**2Lt Timothy James De Souza
is congratulated by the
President Inche Yusof Ishak**

The Commissioning Parade on 16 July 1967 was followed by the Commissioning Ceremony at the Istana on 18 July where each new First Batch Officer was personally presented his officer's sword by President Yusof Ishak. Here, newly minted Second Lieutenant Timothy James De Souza receives his ceremonial sword from the President.



The very first supporting arms/service spin-off from SAFTI was the School of Signals one week after SAFTI's first commissioning parade. Many others followed in quick succession.



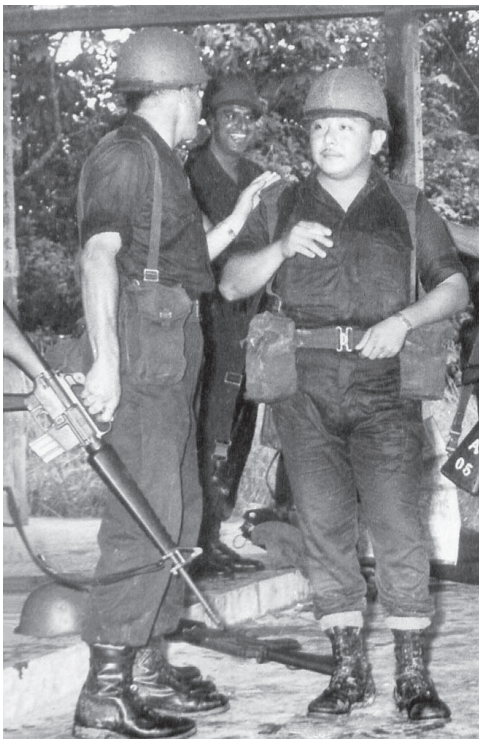
With the momentous first officers' commissioning parade over in SAFTI, Lieutenant Colonel Kirpa Ram Vij launches a familiarization course to expose senior SAF officers to IDF doctrine. He participates as a student.



Appointed Director, General Staff in 1968, Kirpa Ram reverts voluntarily to field duties to oversee and participate in the first School of Advance Training for Officers (SATO) course.



Lieutenant Colonel Kirpa Ram Vij collects his Senior Officer Familiarization Course certificate from Permanent Secretary MID, Mr George Bogaars, after descending from the tower in the obstacle course using an omega.



Three students of the Senior Officers' familiarization course take a break during the proceedings: then Major Mancharan Singh Gill; Lieutenant Colonel Kirpa Ram Vij; and then Major Winston Choo.



1ST COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE

17 FEBRUARY 1970 - 9 JULY 1970



Back row
Standing (L-R)
Supporting Staff, LTA Leong Hui Lim (Staff), CPT Kwan Yue Yong, CPT Zee Chee Kiong, MAJ Richard Tan Chin Poh, MAJ Jimmy Yap, MAJ Peter Law Shau Ping, MAJ Edward Chan, MAJ Clarence Tan Kim Peng, MAJ Yeoh Cheng Bok, CPT Tech Jin Hong, LTA Banong Shungkar (Staff),

2nd row
Standing (L-R)
MAJ G Arunugan (GSO), MAJ Jagrup Singh, MAJ H N Selth, MAJ Kwek Boon Yong, LTC G E Mitchell, LTC Winston Choo, LTC April Wee, LTC Peter Lim Poh Weng, LTC Seah Peng Yong, LTC MS Gill, LTC Charles Chew, MAJ Patrick Sim, MAJ Mohinder Singh, MAJ A T Moorthy

1st row
Seated (L-R)
CPT Ng Soot Hong (Librarian), MR Tan Boon Seng (Police), LTC D R Jambu, LTC M Shaffi (DS), MR D S Samuel (GEO), COL Kirpa Ram Vij (Director), MR George Edwin Bogaars (PS (D)), LTC A Goren (CI), LTC Ben-Ari (DS), LTC I Zeld (DS), LTC A Neeman (DS), MR Lim Chye Heng (Police), CPT Marian Fredericks (Editor)

Promoted Colonel and posted to MID in 1968, Kirpa Ram Vij undertakes to conduct the first School of Advanced Training for Officers and the first Command and Staff Course and later assume the role of Commander, 3rd Singapore Infantry Brigade.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on a ceremonial visit to Singapore on 21 February 1972. Guard Commander Lukeman Harith escorts the Queen. In attendance are Singapore President Mr Benjamin Sheares and Colonel Kirpa Ram Vij (who has been reinstated as Director, General Staff).



Official visit by Kirpa Ram Vij, now Brigadier and Director, General Staff, to India. Here, he makes a courtesy call on Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, Chief of the Indian Armed Forces.



During the official tour of India by Brigadier Kirpa Ram Vij, he has a brief conversation with Singapore cadets training at the Indian National Military Academy in Dehradun.



In 1974, having attained the then highest rank in the SAF, Kirpa Ram reverts to his civilian status and is posted to the Ministry of Culture under Minister E. W. Barker. Appointed Secretary General of the Colombo Plan Foreign Ministers' Conference, Singapore's Foreign Minister, Mr S. Rajaratnam, talent-spots him as Singapore's Ambassador to Egypt.



Kirpa Ram Vij presents his credentials to President Anwar Sadat as Singapore's Ambassador to Egypt.



As Singapore's Ambassador to Egypt in 1975, Kirpa Ram has to persuade the Egyptian foreign ministry that Mr Lee Kuan Yew is now the Prime Minister of independent Singapore and qualifies for appropriate protocol. Here, no less than Egyptian Prime Minister Mamdouh Salem receives Mr and Mrs Lee on their arrival.



Mr S. Rajaratnam and Mr Goh Chok Tong on an official visit to Cairo in 1976, hosted by Singapore Ambassador Kirpa Ram Vij.



Cairo was an epicentre of African diplomacy, and Kirpa Ram and Nirmal had a hectic schedule of socialization throughout the whole course of their stay there.



Having decided to quit government service for Neptune Orient Lines, Kirpa Ram becomes a high-flyer in international shipping operations.



The brains behind Gateway Distriparks Limited.



As CEO of Gateway Distriparks, Kirpa Ram escorts potential customers on a tour of the Navi Mumbai container freight station.



Two old top soldiers hold a tete-a-tete. Kirpa Ram and Winston Choo exchange exhilarating experiences.



Fifty years of SAF. Celebrating the SAF's 50th anniversary in 2017 at the Temasek Club. Present are Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs Lee, and Minister of Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen.



One for the album: the core of 'A' Company, November 1966.

Left to right: Company Sergeant Major, then Warrant Officer, later Captain, "Tiger" Hong Seng Mak; Company 2 I/C then Captain, later Lieutenant Colonel Daljeet Singh Randhawa; Platoon Commander, No. 2 Platoon, then Captain, later Lieutenant Colonel Albert Tan Yang Hua; then Director SAFTI, later Director, General Staff, Brigadier Kirpa Ram Vij; then Officer Commanding 'A' Company Major, later Colonel, John Morrice; Platoon Commander No. 3 Platoon, then Captain, later Colonel Goh Lye Choon; Platoon Commander No. 1 Platoon, then Captain, later Colonel Jagrup Singh Dhot.



The disciplinary core of SAFTI, June 1966 to July 1967.

Left to right: WO1 Hong Seng Mak (CSM 'A' Company); then WO2, later WO1, Baba Zainal (RSM of Engineers and Demolition Expert); WO1 Sng Cheng Chye (RSM SAFTI, later RSM, Army).