



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.



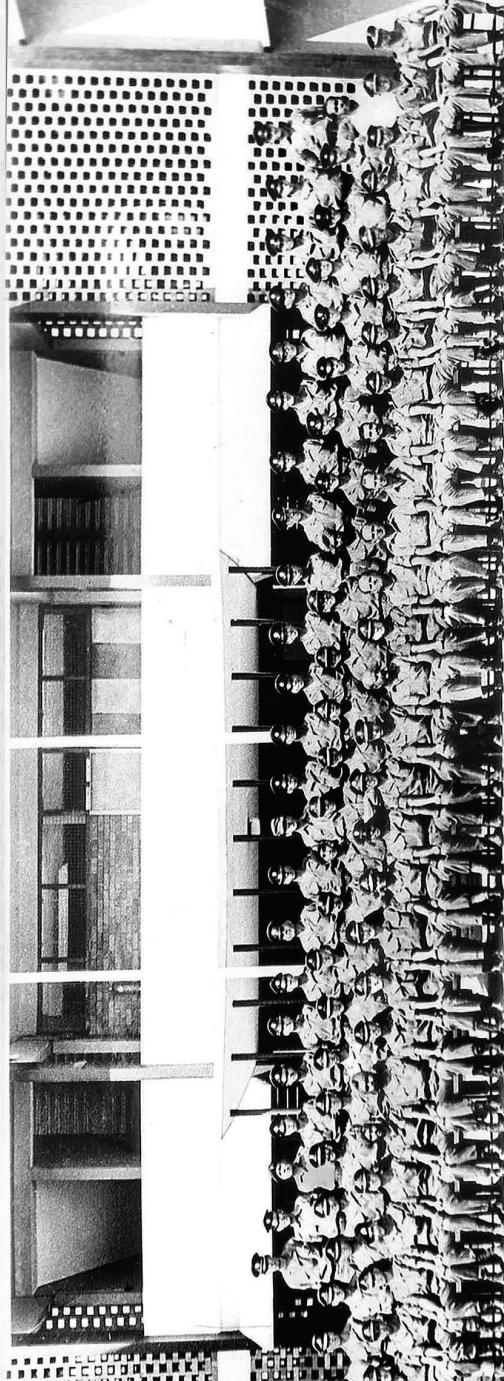
IDF advisors introduced an IQ test for all potential SAFTI instructors prior to the preparatory course.



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

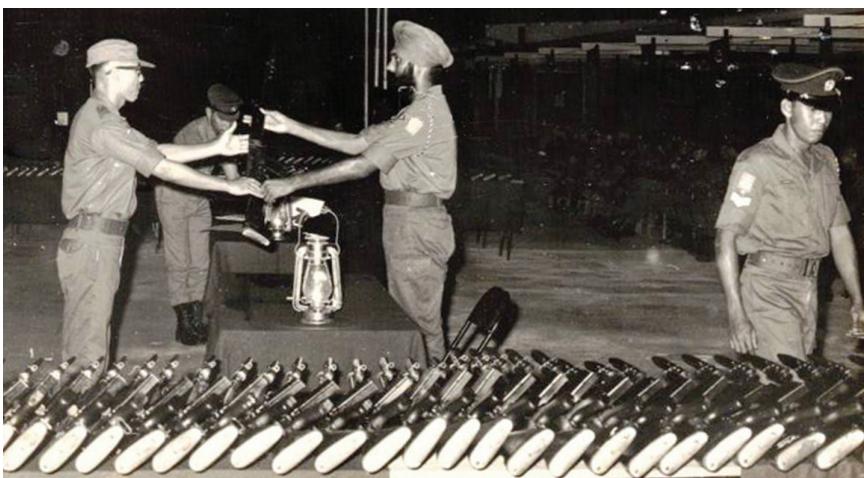
15TH FEBRUARY - 7TH MAY 1966



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.



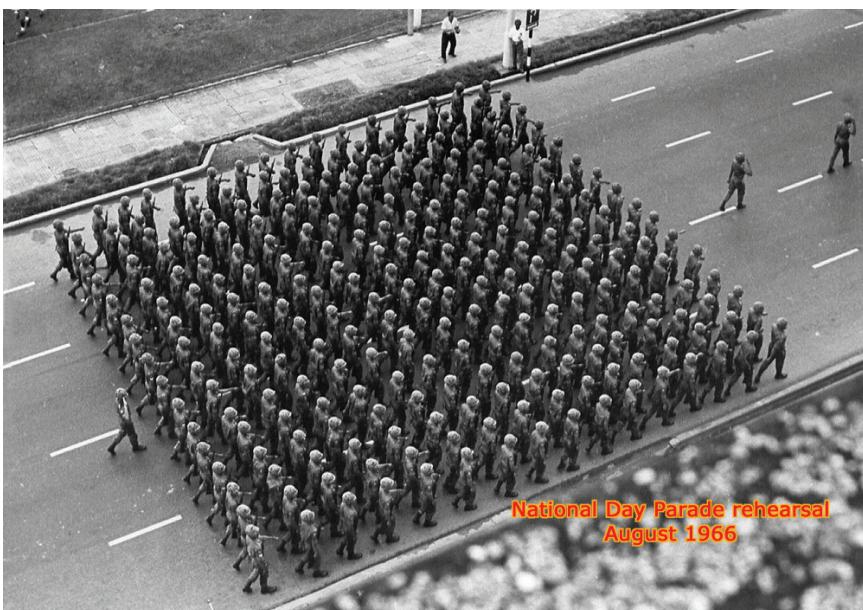
Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew, with Dr Goh Keng Swee and Minister for Education Mr Ong Pang Boon, observing a live-firing demonstration on 18 June 1966 for the official launch of SAFTI's first intake.



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.



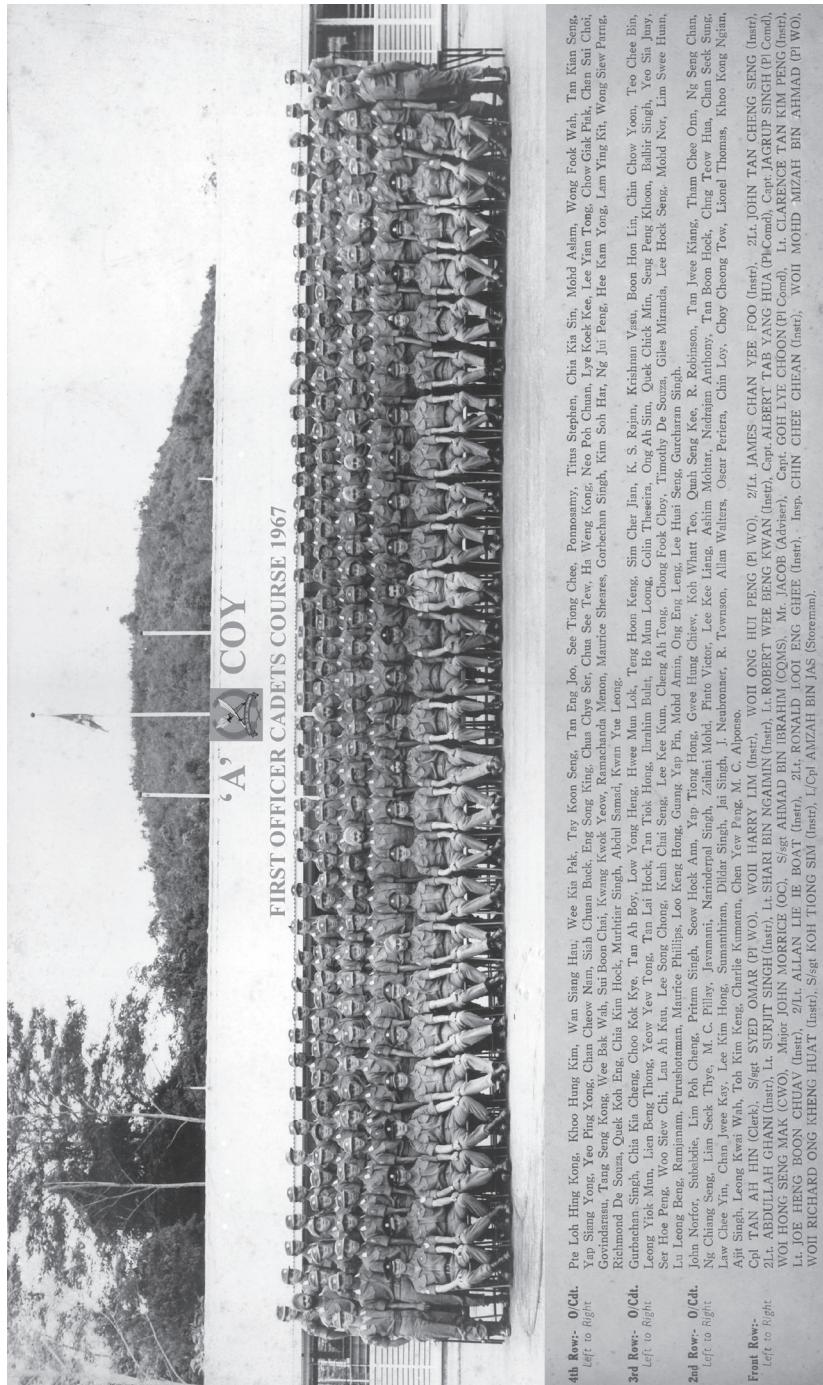
August 1966: Singapore's first National Day Parade rehearsal. SAFTI contingent fields the Macedonian Phalanx (16 x 16), as proposed by Dr Goh.



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.



FIRST OFFICER CADETS COURSE 1967

‘A’ COY

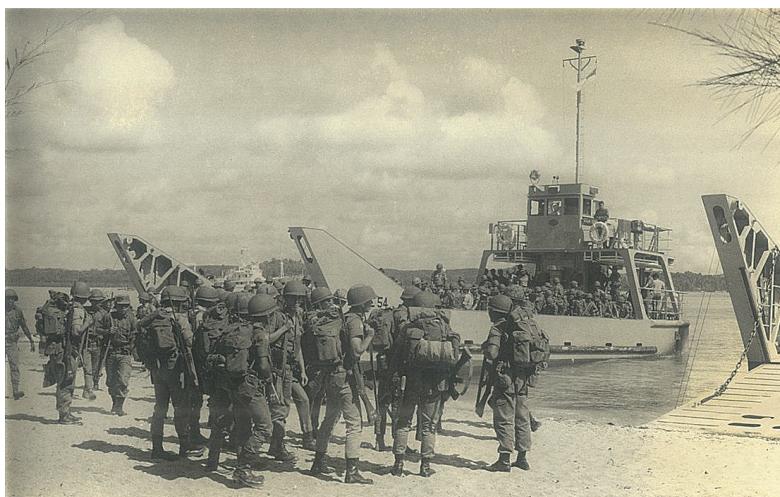


4th Row:	0 Cdt.	Pte Loh Hing Kong, Khoi Hung Kim, Wan Siang Hau, Wee Kian Pak, Tay Koon Seng, Tan Eng Joo, See Tiong Chee, Pomeasamy, Chin Kian Sin, Mold Aslam, Wong Fook Wah, Tan Kian Seng, Yap Siang Yng, Yeo Ping Zong, Chan Cleow Nam, Siah Chanu Bak, Eng Song King, Chua Clew Ser, Chua See Tew, Kwang Kwee, Neo Poch Chan, Lye Rock Kee, Lee Yian Tong, Chow Giat Piah, Chan Sui Choi, Govindaraju, Tang Seng Kong, Wee Bak Wah, Sun Boon Chai, Kwang Kwee Yeoov, Ramachanda Menon, Maurice Sheares, Gorachand Singh, Kim Suh Hui, Ne Jui Peng, Lee Kam Yong, Lam Ying Kit, Wong Siew Pang, Richmond De Souza, Quek Koh Eng, Chia Kin Hock, Marthiak Singh, Abidil Samad, Kwan Yue Long.
3rd Row:	0 Cdt.	Gurbachan Singh, Chia Kian Chong, Choo Kok Kye, Tan Ah Boy, Low Yung Heng, Fikwee Mun Lok, Teng Hoon Keng, Sim Cher Jian, K. S. Rajan, Krishnan Yauu, Boon Hon Lin, Chin Chow Yoon, Teo Cleee Bin, Leong Yew Tong, Tan Lai Hock, Tan Tioe Hong, Idrakhan Baiti, Muin Mu Long, Colin Theesara, One Ngai Sim, Oscar Chick Min, Sung Peng Kheon, Balbir Singh, Yeo Sia Juiy, Ser Hae Pong, Woo Shaw Chit, Lan Ah Kau, Lee Sang Chong, Kuan Chai Seong, Lee Kee Kun, Cheng Ah Tong, Chong Fook Choy, Timothy De Souza, Giles Miranda, Lee Hock Seng, Mohd Nor, Lim Sween Huan, Lu Leng Beng, Ranjitham, Maurice Phillips, Loo Keng Hong, Giamng Yap Pin, Mohd Amin, One Ean Leng, Lee Hain Seng, Gurcharan Singh, John Norford Shobakie, Lim Poh Cheng, Pratim Singh, Sow Hock, Am, Yap Tiong Hiong, Gwee Hung Chiew, Koh Whatt Teo, Quah Seng Kee, R. Robinson, Tan Jeeve Kiang, Than Chooi Kiang, Tan Boon Heek, Chng Teow Hua, Chan Sock Sung, Ng Chang Seng, Lian Sack Thye, M. C. Pillai, Zaili Mohd, Pinto Vieira, Lee Kee Ling, Askin Mohen, Nadeem Anthony, Tan Boon Heek, Chng Teow Hua, Chan Sock Sung, Law Chee Yin, Chin Jwee Koy, Lee Kim Hong, Summarathin, Dildar Singh, Irfi Singh, Irfi Nisharomone, R. Townsend, Allan Walters, Oscar Periera, Chin Los, Choy Cheong Tew, Lionel Thomas, Khoi Kong Nijam, Ajit Singh, Leong Kwan Wah, Toh Kim Keng, Charlie Kumarat, Chen Tew Fung, M. C. Alpsozo, Cpl TAN AH HIN (Inst), Sigt SVED OMAR (Pl WO), WOII HARRY LIM (Inst), WOII WONG HUI PENG (Pl WO), 2Lt JAMES CHAN YEE FOO (Inst), 2Lt JOHN TAN GHENG SENG (Inst), 2Lt. ABDULLAH GHANI (Inst), Lt. SHARI BIN NAIMIN (Inst), Lt. ROBERT YEW BEING KWAN (Inst), Capt. ALBERT TAB YANG HUA (Pl Comd), Capt. GOH LYE CHOOH (Pl Comd), Lt. CLARENCE TAN KIM PENG (Inst), WOII HONG SENG MAK (Pl WO), Major JOHN MORRICE (OC), Sige AHMAD BIN IBRAHIM (COMS), Mr. JACOB (Adviser), Capt. GOH LYE CHOOH (Pl WO), Lt. JOE HENG BOON CHUAU (Inst), 2Lt. ALLAN LIE JE BOAT (Inst), 2Lt. RONALD LOO ENG GHEE (Inst), Insp. CHIN CHEE JAS (Storeman), WOII RICHARD ONG KHENG HUAT (Inst), Ssgt KOH TIONG SIM (Inst), L/Cpl. AMZAH BIN JAS (Storeman).
2nd Row:	0 Cdt.	Left to Right: John Norford Shobakie, Lim Poh Cheng, Pratim Singh, Sow Hock, Am, Yap Tiong Hiong, Gwee Hung Chiew, Koh Whatt Teo, Quah Seng Kee, R. Robinson, Tan Jeeve Kiang, Than Chooi Kiang, Tan Boon Heek, Chng Teow Hua, Chan Sock Sung, Ng Chang Seng, Lian Sack Thye, M. C. Pillai, Zaili Mohd, Pinto Vieira, Lee Kee Ling, Askin Mohen, Nadeem Anthony, Tan Boon Heek, Chng Teow Hua, Chan Sock Sung, Law Chee Yin, Chin Jwee Koy, Lee Kim Hong, Summarathin, Dildar Singh, Irfi Singh, Irfi Nisharomone, R. Townsend, Allan Walters, Oscar Periera, Chin Los, Choy Cheong Tew, Lionel Thomas, Khoi Kong Nijam, Ajit Singh, Leong Kwan Wah, Toh Kim Keng, Charlie Kumarat, Chen Tew Fung, M. C. Alpsozo, Cpl TAN AH HIN (Inst), Sigt SVED OMAR (Pl WO), WOII HARRY LIM (Inst), WOII WONG HUI PENG (Pl WO), 2Lt JAMES CHAN YEE FOO (Inst), 2Lt JOHN TAN GHENG SENG (Inst), 2Lt. ABDULLAH GHANI (Inst), Lt. SHARI BIN NAIMIN (Inst), Lt. ROBERT YEW BEING KWAN (Inst), Capt. ALBERT TAB YANG HUA (Pl Comd), Capt. GOH LYE CHOOH (Pl Comd), Lt. CLARENCE TAN KIM PENG (Inst), WOII HONG SENG MAK (Pl WO), Major JOHN MORRICE (OC), Sige AHMAD BIN IBRAHIM (COMS), Mr. JACOB (Adviser), Capt. GOH LYE CHOOH (Pl WO), Lt. JOE HENG BOON CHUAU (Inst), 2Lt. ALLAN LIE JE BOAT (Inst), 2Lt. RONALD LOO ENG GHEE (Inst), Insp. CHIN CHEE JAS (Storeman), WOII RICHARD ONG KHENG HUAT (Inst), Ssgt KOH TIONG SIM (Inst), L/Cpl. AMZAH BIN JAS (Storeman).
Front Row:		Left to Right: WOII ABDULLAH GHANI (Inst), Lt. SHARI BIN NAIMIN (Inst), Sige AHMAD BIN IBRAHIM (COMS), Mr. JACOB (Adviser), Capt. GOH LYE CHOOH (Pl Comd), Lt. CLARENCE TAN KIM PENG (Inst), WOII HONG SENG MAK (Pl WO), Major JOHN MORRICE (OC), Sige AHMAD BIN IBRAHIM (COMS), Mr. JACOB (Adviser), Capt. GOH LYE CHOOH (Pl WO), Lt. JOE HENG BOON CHUAU (Inst), 2Lt. ALLAN LIE JE BOAT (Inst), 2Lt. RONALD LOO ENG GHEE (Inst), Insp. CHIN CHEE JAS (Storeman), WOII RICHARD ONG KHENG HUAT (Inst), Ssgt KOH TIONG SIM (Inst), L/Cpl. AMZAH BIN JAS (Storeman).

One hundred and forty successful section leaders were selected as Officer Cadets and posted to ‘A’ Company in November 1966 to begin officer cadet training, which would end on 16 July 1967.



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.



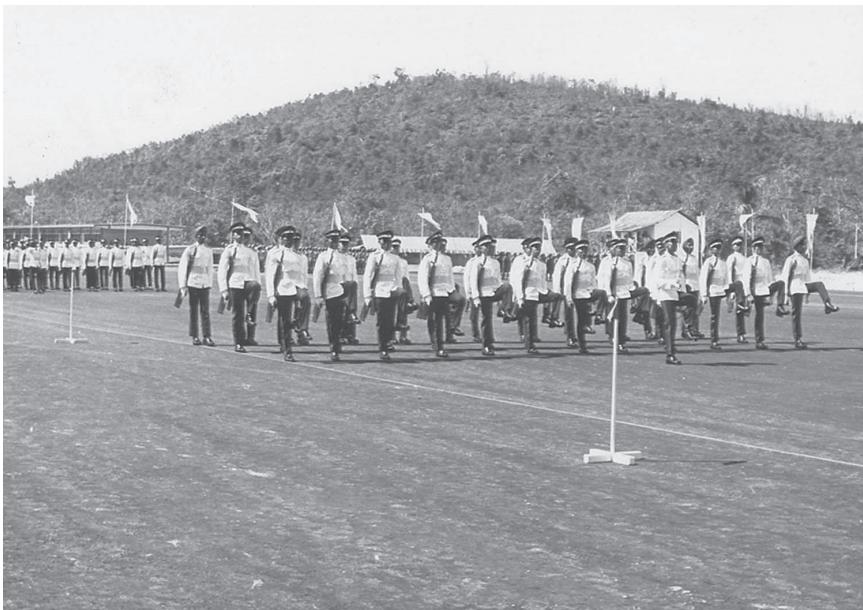
Commissioning Parade, 16 July 1967. 'A' Company Officers and supporting contingent commanders on standby to take up positions on parade.



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*).



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.



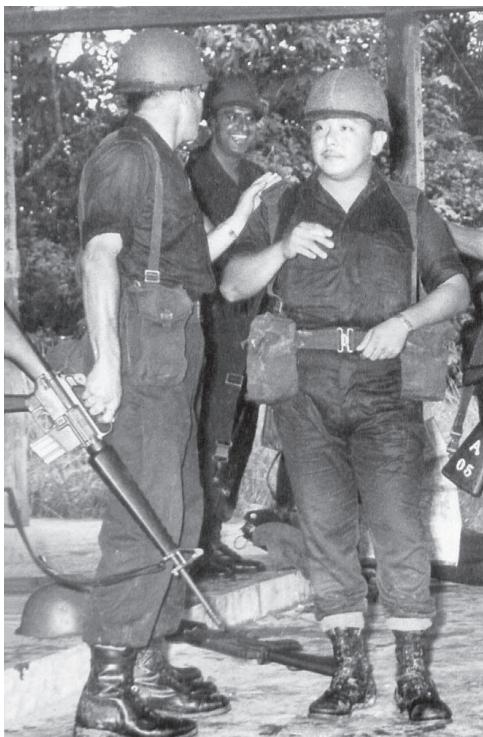
With the momentous first officers' commissioning parade over in SAFTI, Lieutenant Colonel Kirpa Ram Vij launches a familiarization course to expose senior SAF officers to IDF doctrine. He participates as a student.



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.

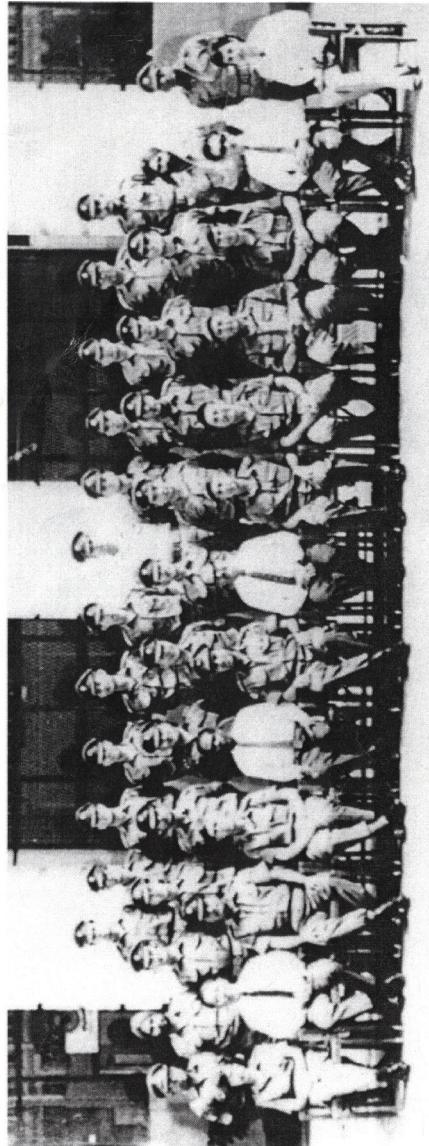


Three students of the Senior Officers' familiarization course take a break during the proceedings: then Major Mancharan Singh Gill; Lieutenant Colonel Kirpa Ram Vij; and then Major Winston Choo.

1ST COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE



17 FEBRUARY 1970 - 9 JULY 1970



Back row 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 Yeo Cheng Bok, CPT Teoh Jin Hong, LTA Banong Shungkar, (Staff),

2nd row MAJ G Arumugam (GSO), MAJ Jagrup Singh, MAJ H N Sethi, 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 Mahinder Singh, MAJ A T Moorthy

1st row CPT Ng Sood Hong (Librarian), MR Tan Boon Seng (Police), LTC D R Jambu, LTC M Sheffy (DS), LTC A Neeman (DS), MR D S Samuel (GEO), COL Kirpa Ram Vij (Director), MR George Edwin Rogars (PS (D)), LTC A Goren (CI), LTC Ben-Ari (DS), LTC I Zeld (DS), 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.



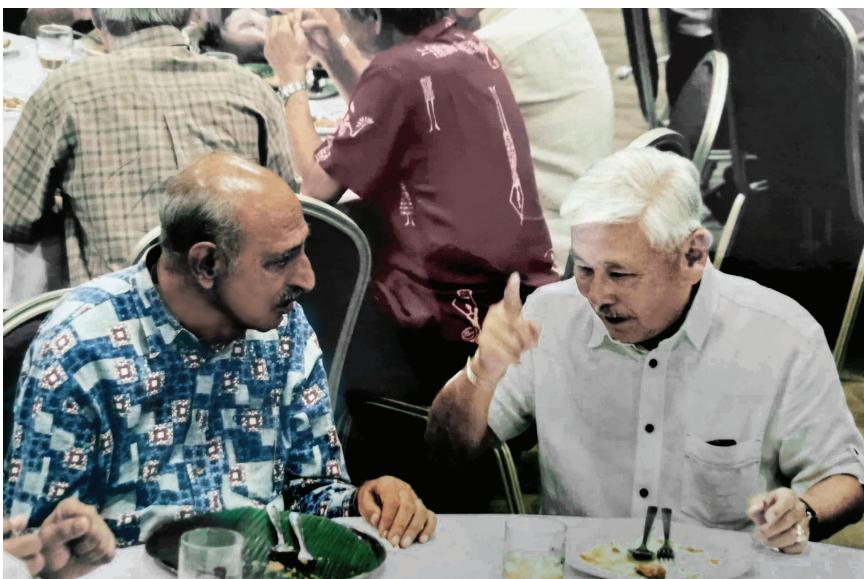
Having decided to quit government service for Neptune Orient Lines, Kirpa Ram becomes a high-flyer in international shipping operations.



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).