

Ministry of Home Affairs – Singapore Civil Defence Force

As a child, CPT Anthony Toh dreamt about saving lives.

Today at 27, the PSC scholar is living out his childhood ambition as a Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) officer.

After graduating from the National University of Singapore, Anthony completed a nine-month Basic Officer Course at the Civil Defence Academy before becoming a Rota Commander at Woodlands Fire Station.

For two years, Anthony was involved in the adrenaline-pumping front line action – responding to fire, rescue and other emergency operations.

His job scope changed earlier this year when he was posted to the Operations Department. There, he learnt how to plan and conceptualise operational policies to be carried out during emergencies and rescue plans.

As in Anthony's case, SCDF officers are given opportunities to try their hand at different postings every few years.

"This not only prevents stagnation at any one single position but also allows room for growth and development as officers take on new challenges in their new posting," explained Anthony.

Having experienced the front line operations previously, he let on that his current posting is a "refreshing challenge".

"Now that I'm involved in the overall process of planning and conceptualisation of concepts and policies, I get to see both sides of the equation - the action and how certain policy decisions are arrived at."

Despite the demanding challenges, Anthony said that his passion for his job, strong support and "an open and honest two-way communication" between the departments and senior management are what keep him going.

The experience he gains in the Operations Department will be invaluable because he aspires to become a Division Commander in the near future who will "manage and lead men in responding to major emergency threats and incidents" and "make a difference in the lives of Singaporeans".