

CELEBRATING 80 BATCHES OF MO CADETS IN SGSO



The Medical Officer Cadet Course (MOCC) is a pretty “*xiong*” (Singlish for difficult) three-month course that all Singaporean doctors will have to embark on when they return to serve their full-time National Service after attaining their medical degrees. The aim is to equip our medical officers with life-saving skills and instill in them the necessary qualities needed to treat our fallen soldiers and to become future leaders of the SAF.

Having gone through MOCC several years ago and as a Course Commander now, I can sincerely say that MOCC is indeed a very meaningful journey.

Through the three months, I have seen young men push themselves to breaking point and pulling through. Quiet gentlemen stepping up to embrace the torch of leadership, commanding respect from their peers. The miraculous physical transformations of pale and pudgy doctors into lean, tan and muscular soldiers.

I have witnessed the mettle and resilience of young men who refused to stay down after each fall. As dramatic as it may sound, I will never

forget standing at the bedside of a cadet in the hospital's emergency department and asking him if there was anything I could do for him. His only request was to re-join the course as soon as possible.

Moments like these make me realise that MOCC is essentially a course of *self-discovery* where young men discover their limits, understand their strengths and weaknesses, uncover their potential, push their boundaries and develop their leadership skills. MOCC is also one of those rare times where the batch learns about one another — the good, bad and ugly.

I started the course paying more attention to the weaker, slower and quieter ones. However, I was surprised. The slowest runner at the beginning of the course eventually got Gold for his Individual Physical Proficiency Test, so I have come to accept that initial impressions can be deceiving. There is so much an individual can achieve as long as he sets his mind to it, which leads me to my other key observation — motivation being an infectious multiplier. Motivation has a way of infecting everyone with a “can do” spirit that pushes each individual towards personal excellence.

As a course commander, I have learnt about humility, the importance of teamwork, regional and international issues, and how to nurture the next generation of leaders. Most importantly, I have learnt much more about myself — as a doctor, medical officer, senior, junior and as a human being. ♦



PROFILE

TEXT BY

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Legend

1. The 72nd MOCC Vanguards.
2. Recently commissioned medical officers — The 80th MOCC Bravehearts.

