

**VOL. 8 - 2024**



# **BOOTS AND SADDLES**



**THE JOURNAL OF**  
**MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH**  
**ARMED FORCES PREPARATORY INSTITUTE**

*Nischay Kar Apni Jeet Karoon*

# ALUMNI MEET - JUNE 2024



## **Message from the Director**

*As the Titans of the Twelfth step out into the world outside, I, on behalf of your Alma Mater, wish you the Very Best in your Careers and Life!*

*The course has a special place in my heart as it joined AFPI just 10 days prior to my taking over as the Director. We both found our paces together and it has been a wonderful association.*

*The Titans were a highly spirited course, with its fair share of achievers and hard-working individuals. However, the course spirit exhibited by them was the best that I have seen in a great many years. Maintain it gentlemen, for it will hold you in good stead. The privileged ones should endeavour to look after their lesser fortunate brethren while those in service should maintain contacts with those in civil street. As true AFPIans do make it a point to return to your Alma Mater and motivate your successors under training. The AFPI staff too would be thrilled to see their trainees' become men of the world.*

*Our primary aim in the AFPI is to make you worthwhile citizens of this great country. We prepare our cadets to become well informed, well read, aware and responsible citizens who have imbibed the right qualities to be called gentlemen. Those fortunate enough to don uniform, we are watching you become true soldiers in the footsteps of the Sher e Punjab, after whom your Alma Mater has been named.*

*Your successors the Tigers of the Thirteenth are now in the midst of preparing for their NDA Written Examination. I wish them the very best and am sanguine that they will prove their worth as true AFPIans. The Fighters of the Fourteenth have stepped into the Institute aiming to emulate their worthwhile seniors. I wish them a successful and fruitful stay at the Institute.*

*To the AFPI officers, trainers and staff my compliments for all the effort you have put in to train the Titans. The nation will reap the benefits of the efforts put in by you! Your trainees will prove their worth to the state and nation. Well done, but you got miles to go before you sleep!*



***NISCHAY KAR APNI JEET KARON***

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ajay Chauhan', written over a horizontal line.

**Ajay H Chauhan, VSM  
Maj Gen  
Director**

**Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> Jul 2024**

## **Message from GTO/Sqn Commander - Bravo**

*Congratulations to the students of the 12<sup>th</sup> Batch passing out from the prestigious Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute (MRSAFPI). You all have been amazing students who have strived hard to become the best version of yourself. I am quite sanguine that you shall excel in your chosen fields and bring laurels to this Institute.*



*Friends, you all gathered here from small villages and towns of Punjab. I want you to know that each individual is unique and has something special to offer to the world. "Be like a flowing river and grab every opportunity that comes your way to make your dreams come true".*

*Initially, the world outside may seem quite challenging but remember that you have been adequately equipped by experienced faculty members. Be assured that your acquired skill set, self-confidence and diligent hard work will bear phenomenal results in the near term.*

*Saying farewell is never an easy task, but remember that change is the only constant. Happy Hunting!*

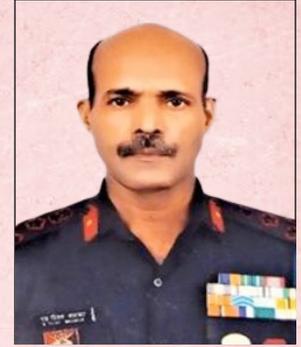
***"NISCHAY KAR APNI JEET KAROON"***

**SK Sharma  
Col.  
Sqn Cdr - Bravo**

**Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> Jul 2024**

## **Message from IO/Sqn Commander - Charlie**

As time continued its relentless run, yet another course, the 12th left the portals of the AFPI, a shade better prepared for the world ahead than when they had joined the AFPI. My best wishes to each and every one of them for a successful and meaningful future. While our hearts swelled with pride that twenty Cadets including ten of the 12<sup>th</sup> passed their SSBs, only eight including five of the 12<sup>th</sup> made the final cut for the NDA/10 + 2 TES Entry. With 39 cadets including a few from senior batches at various stages of their SSB/AFSB for NDA and a few of them also likely to go for the SSBs for the 10+2 TES and Navy 10 + 2 B. Tech Courses, I have no doubts that more of our Cadets will join the Academies soon.



As the 13<sup>th</sup> course got into the grind for the NDA written exams and SSBs, as well as the all-important XII class Boards, the cadets of the 14<sup>th</sup> batch are the latest of those aspiring to join the uniformed forces to don the AFPI uniform. My best wishes to them for a very memorable and fruitful stay in the Institute. I am sanguine they will develop everlasting camaraderie and bonds in the Institute.

The foremost aim of the AFPI remains Personality Development, aimed at preparing its cadets for the future, infusing in them the ability to face the practical world with confidence and determination, while making a positive contribution to the Society, Nation and Humanity, irrespective of the field/profession they peruse.

I have no doubt about the caliber and ability of the AFPI Alumni to spread their infectious never say die spirit and Goodwill wherever they go.

Wishing you all the Best and God Speed.

**“NISCHAY KAR APNI JEET KAROON”**

**S Vijay Bhaskar, Vrc  
Brig.**

**Sqn Cdr - Charlie**

**Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> Jul 2024**

## *What Is In There For You....*

- |                                  |              |
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| <b>1. At the Helm of Affairs</b> | <b>1-3</b>   |
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*At the  
Helm of  
Affairs*

## THE OFFICERS



Maj Gen Ajay H. Chauhan, VSM  
Director

**Major General Ajay H. Chauhan, VSM** of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Mechanised Infantry Regiment (1 SIKH) took over as the **Director** of Maharaja Ranjit Singh AFPI on **11 Jul 2022**.

A highly qualified Officer he has had numerous instructional tenures including as a Battalion Commander in NDA. He is a DIPR trained Interviewing Officer and has an M.Sc in Military Psychology. He has also done his MSc in Defence & Strategic Studies.



Brig S Vijay Bhaskar, VrC  
Interviewing Officer

**Brig S Vijay Bhaskar, VrC** of the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Jammu & Kashmir Rifles Regiment (JAK RIF) took over as the **Interviewing Officer** and **Officer in Charge Cadet Training Wing (CTW)** on **11 Apr 2023**.

A war hero of the Kargil conflict, he is highly qualified with Instructional tenures including as Platoon Commander at IMA.

A DIPR trained Interviewing Officer he is also the **Administrative Officer** of AFPI and **Sqn Cdr 'C' Sqn**



Col S K Sharma  
Group Testing Officer

**Col Sunil Kumar Sharma** of the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment took over as the **Group Testing Officer** of AFPI on **01 Mar 2023**.

He is a silver medalist from OTA Chennai and a highly qualified Counter Insurgency Specialist. He has had an instructional tenure at the Battle School at Rajouri.

A DIPR trained Group Testing Officer he is the **Accounts officer** of AFPI and **Sqn Cdr 'B' Sqn**.

# **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**



**Nb Sub Balwinder Singh  
(Warden)**



**Hav Jatinder Singh  
(Drill Instructor)**



**Sub Ram Krishan  
(Sr PTI)**



**Hav Atma Singh  
(Jr PTI)**



**Hav Avtar Singh  
(Head Clerk)**



**Hony Lt Surinder Singh  
(Library & CTW Clerk)**



**Hony Lt T S Jaggi  
(Accountant)**



**Hav Kuldeep Singh  
(Driver)**



**Hony Nb Sub Tejinder Singh  
(Heavy Vehicle Driver)**



**Hony Nb Sub Avtar Singh  
(Driver)**

## **HONOUR CODE**

**“I WILL BE TRUTHFUL, TRUST WORTHY, HONEST AND FORTH RIGHT UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.**

**I WILL ALWAYS FOLLOW THE RIGHTEOUS PATH AND CONSTANTLY ENCOURAGE MY COMRADES TO DO SO.**

**I UNDERTAKE TO LIVE UP TO THE HIGH VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF THIS GREAT INSTITUTION AND THE SERVICES WHICH I ASPIRE TO JOIN.”**

## **CADETS' PRAYER**

**“DEAR GOD, WE PRAY TO THEE, FOR THY GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT IN OUR ENDEAVOUR TO JOIN THE NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY AND BECOME LEADERS OF MEN IN THE ARMED FORCES OF OUR COUNTRY.**

**WE PRAY FOR PHYSICAL STRENGTH TO FACE THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD OF US AND THE TENACITY TO OVERCOME EVERY HURDLE THAT COMES OUR WAY.**

**IGNITE IN US THE DESIRE TO EXCEL IN OUR ACADEMIC PURSUITS AND THE WISDOM TO APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE ACQUIRE IN THE JOURNEY OF LIFE.**

**AWAKEN IN US THE ADMIRATION FOR HONEST DEALING AND CLEAN THINKING, AND GUIDE US TO CHOOSE THE HARDER RIGHT INSTEAD OF THE EASIER WRONG.**

**GRANT US THE COURAGE WHICH KNOWS NO COMPROMISE OR RETREAT WHEN TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE IN PERIL SO THAT WE MAY NEVER FALTER IN DOING OUR DUTY TO OUR COUNTRY AND TO THE MEN WE COMMAND.”**

## CREST AND COLOUR



THE INSTITUTE CREST SYMBOLISES THE THREE DEFENCE SERVICES I.E. **THE ARMY, THE NAVY & THE AIR FORCE**

IN ADDITION, SINCE THERE IS A LOT OF EMPHASIS ON ACADEMIC TRAINING, THIS IS INDICATED BY AN **OPEN BOOK**.

TRADITIONALLY THE COLOUR OF JOINT MANSHIP IN THE SERVICES IS **MAROON**.

THE COLOUR IS DERIVED FROM A MIX OF THE COLOURS OF **THE ARMY, THE NAVY AND THE AIR FORCE** IN EQUAL PROPORTIONS WITH THE **COLOUR OF BLOOD** TO DEPICT SACRIFICE.

SINCE THE INSTITUTE CATERS FOR ASPIRANTS FOR ALL THREE SERVICES, THE COLOUR OF THE INSTITUTE IS MAROON.

*Going Down  
Memory Lane*

**Historical Records**

**01 AUG 2023 TO 31 JUL 2024**

# **Historical Records**

## **01 AUG 2023 TO 31 JUL 2024**

13<sup>th</sup> Course of AFPI (Tigers of the Thirteenth) reported on 23 Apr 2023. Covid was a thing of the past and AFPI was enthused to continue on its march to excellence.

**Commissioning:** 15 AFPlans were commissioned in this period. Wishing them the very best. We have great hopes of them doing the nation & AFPI proud. Our cadets who got commissioned were :-

### **09 Dec 2023 (IMA)**

1. 349/B/7 Cdt Sarbjot Singh into 43 Armd Regt.
2. 315/A/7 Cdt Divesh Thakur into 75 Armd Regt.
3. 308/B/7 Cdt Govind Gupta into 27 MADRAS.
4. 305/A/7 Cdt Swastik Sharma into 3 KUMAON.
5. Yadwinder Singh, of APS Beas who was trained in the CTW into the Int Corps.

### **25 May 2024 (INA)**

6. 361/A/8 Cdt Jaskirat Singh.
7. 357/A/8 Cdt Saksham Gupta

### **08 Jun 2024 (IMA)**

8. 396/B/8 Cdt Amrinder Singh into 54 Armd Regt.
9. 388/B/8 Cdt Aditya Sharma into 72 Armd Regt.
10. 371/A/8 Cdt Tushant into the Central India Horse.
11. 370/A/8 Cdt Shobhitdeep Singh into 7 ASSAM.
12. 352/B/7 Cdt Abhay Partap Sharma into 16 ASSAM.
13. 317/A/7 Cdt Aaditya Burmi into 12 MARATHALI.

### **15 Jun 2024 (AFA)**

14. 380/B/8 Cdt Kanwarnoor Singh into the IAF (Flying Pilot-Fighters).
15. 390/B/8 Cdt Anish Pandey into the IAF (Flying Pilot-Helicopters).

**Total AFPlans Commissioned:** Thus, the number of AFPlans commissioned into the Defence Forces has risen to **160**. A phenomenal strength for a young institution like ours. Wishing AFPlans the very best in service!

**Joining Service Academies:** A huge number of AFPlans joined various Training Academies during this period. Photographs of the **Achievers** is in the Achievers Section while the summary is as under: -

### **Dec 2023.**

1. One AFPlan of 10<sup>th</sup> Course and four AFPlans of 11<sup>th</sup> Course joined 151 NDA.
2. Two AFPlans of 11<sup>th</sup> Course joined TES 50.

### Jan 2024.

1. One AFPlan of 7<sup>th</sup> Course joined 214 SSC at AFA.
2. One AFPlan of 8<sup>th</sup> Course joined 119 SSC.

### Jun/Jul 2024.

1. Five AFPlans of 12<sup>th</sup> Course and two CTW School students joined 152 NDA.
2. One AFPlan of 11<sup>th</sup> Course joined TES 51.
3. One AFPlan of 10<sup>th</sup> Course joined INA 114.

**Number of Achievers:** Thus, the Achievers on date are **238**. As we go to press, there are a number of AFPlans who having cleared their SSB are in the midst of their medicals post their Second NDA attempt. There is another lot which is proceeding for the TES SSBs. Strength of Achievers is increasing each day!

**Major Postings & Appointments AFPlans.** A great many AFPlans are now middle level decision makers. They all are working hard to make the dream of the Founder Director (to see all service chiefs of AFPI) a reality. Note the following: -

1. Maj Danish Chadha, BCA 1<sup>st</sup> Course AFPI posted as Instructor at NDA in Nov 23.
2. Mr Rishav Bhola, IPS, 1<sup>st</sup> Course AFPI as Asst Supdt of Police in Dec 2023.
3. Capt VPS Bal, 1<sup>st</sup> Course AFPI posted as Instructor in ACC & S in Jan 2024.

**Comings & Goings:** The following staff left/joined the team during the year:

### Departures:

1. Hav Parmjit Singh, Driver in Aug 2023 (Joined in Aug 2020).
2. Hony Capt Rajinder Singh, Senior PTI in Oct 2023. (Joined in Jul 2017).
3. Mr Amandeep Singh, Accountant in Apr 2024 (Joined in Jun 2015).
4. Sub Swaran Singh, Drill cum Firing Instructor in Jun 2024 (Joined in Jul 2013).

### Arrivals:

1. Hav Avtar Singh (14 SIKH), Driver in Sep 2023.
2. Sub Ram Krishan (14 Field Regt), Senior PTI in Nov 2023.
3. Sub Maj (Hony Lt) Trilochan Jaggi (113 Engr Regt), Accountant in May 2024.
4. Hav Jatinder Singh (2 Med Regt), Drill cum Firing Instructor in Jun 2024.

**Cadet Training Wing (CTW):** The brilliant idea of the CTW was of the Founder Director. It functioned very well for a period of a year, but thereafter sanction was withheld by the Govt. A fresh case was mooted for Government sanction which has still not been received, despite numerous requests and meetings. Notwithstanding the same, a decision was taken to continue training students of the CTW Schools for the SSB within own resources. In the last year 06 boys of the CTW Schools, primarily from APS (Beas) and Doon International School (Mohali) attending training at the AFPI for the SSB. Two students trained in Dec 2023, cleared the SSB and are in NDA today. Results of the SSB of the balance three students is awaited. It is sincerely hoped that the Government sanctions the continuation of the CTW in AFPI.

**Training & Motivational Visits:**

1. Selected cadets attended the Kargil Diwas Wreath Laying Ceremony at Sector 3 War Memorial Chandigarh, on 26 Jul 2023.
2. Both courses visited 474 Engineer Brigade, Zirakpur on 23 Sep 2023.
3. 13<sup>th</sup> Course visited 1 Armoured Division, Patiala on 05 Oct 2023.
4. Selected cadets attended the lecture of Sh. Atul Karwal, IPS, DG, NDRF at the Indian School of Business, Mohali on 26 Oct 2023.
5. Selected cadets attended the cycle rally flag off by the Chief Minister at Sector 3 War Memorial Chandigarh on 07 Nov 2023.
6. 12<sup>th</sup> Course attended the Military Literature Festival, Chandigarh on 02 Dec 2023.
7. 13<sup>th</sup> Course attended the Military Literature Festival, Chandigarh on 03 Dec 2023.
8. Selected cadets attended flag day celebrations at the Sector-3 War Memorial Chandigarh on 07 Dec 2023.
9. 13<sup>th</sup> Course attended the Military Literature Festival, Patiala on 03 Feb 2024.
10. Selected cadets of the 14<sup>th</sup> Course accompanied by Brig Vijay Bhaskar, VrC of Kargil fame, attended the Kargil Diwas Wreath Laying Ceremony at Sector 3 War Memorial Chandigarh, on 26 Jul 2024.

**Talks by Institute Staff to Youth in Punjab:**

1. The Director spoke on 'Career Prospects for Boys in the Armed Forces on Facebook Live to all Government Schools in Punjab in Aug 2023.
2. Brig S Vijay Bhaskar, VrC, IO spoke on 'Preparation for NDA/CDS' at Government Senior Secondary Multipurpose School, Patiala on 22 Nov 2023.
3. Brig S Vijay Bhaskar, VrC, IO spoke on the 'Armed Forces' at Punjab School Education Department, Phase-8, Mohali on 13 Dec 2023.

**Visits by Schools in Punjab:** Government Schools organised visits to AFPI in order to motivate their students to join the defence forces. Schools that visited were: -

1. 50 students & 10 teachers of Mata Jaswant Kaur Memorial School, Village-Badal, Bathinda on 10 Oct 2023.
2. 94 students, 06 teachers and Principal of School of Eminence, Phase-3B1, Mohali on 29 Dec 2023.
3. 24 students & 02 teachers of NCC Gp HQs, Chandigarh on 04 Dec 2023.
4. 66 students & 04 teachers of Govt High School, Desumajra, Mohali on 02 Feb 2024.
5. 125 students & 05 teachers of Govt Model Senior Secondary School, Chunagra, Patiala on 06 Feb 2024.

**Visits by Alumni:** Alumni who visited the AFPI to motivate the cadets under training were:-

1. 307/B/7 Lt Sanmay Pandhi and 338/A/7 Lt Kushal Sharma on 18 Nov 2023.
2. 311/B/7 Fly Offr Ishan Bakshi on 30 Jan 2024
3. 139/B/4 Fly Offr Manmeet Singh on 21 Feb 2024.
4. 185/B/4 Capt Jashanpreet Singh on 21 Feb 2024
5. 338/A/7 Lt Kushal Sharma on 26 Mar 2024.
6. 38/A/1 Maj Yashwant Singh Warraich on 21 Apr 2024.
7. 77/B/2 Maj Ankur on 04 Jul 2024.
8. 312/A/7 Lt Sidakpreet Singh on 31 Jul 2024.

**Alumni Meet:** The Alumni meet held on 20 Jun, had 43 alumni including 03 officers of the Pioneer Course attending. In addition, 10 officers who had been commissioned in May-Jun 2024 & 21 alumni under training at the various training academies made it a point to attend the meet. The officers commissioned in Jun 2024, thereafter took the 13th Course cadets out for liberty post lunch as per tradition. The complete function was presided over by our Founder Director Maj Gen BS Grewal, VSM (Retd) who impressed all with his dedication and love for the Institute. The ex-Drill Instructor Hony Capt Harnek Singh and the ex-Warden Ris Birbal Singh also attended the meet.



**Alumni Association.** A proposal was mooted last year for the establishment of an Alumni Association. As a first step the website of the Institute [www.afpipunjab.org](http://www.afpipunjab.org) has been upgraded. All alumni need to access the same. They need to go to ERP MRSAFPI in the drop-down menu of the website and update their data. The Charter of the Association and its mandate has been prepared and forwarded to the Government for approval. Once approved, the Association will be registered as a Society. The AFPI Alumni Association should soon see the light of day.

**Lectures.** In addition to regular guest lectures, other important scholastic events conducted during the year were: -

1. Seminar on the 1999 Kargil Conflict on 26 Jul 2023.
2. Seminar on the Armed Forces by the officers of NCC Group Chandigarh on 27 Sep 2023.
3. Seminar on the role of the Police, its organisation and traffic control on 07 Oct 2023.
4. Talk by Col Vivek Chaudhary (Retd) of the Telecom Skill Development Council of North India on 07 Feb 2024 on earning online qualifications to add to one's resume.

5. Author's Meet of the Book-Military History of the Sikhs: Battle of Bhangani to World War II on 24 May 2024.



6. Talk to the 14<sup>th</sup> Course by Ms Seema Benipal, Principal Sky World School on 17 Jul 2024.



7. Psychological Seminar conducted by Dr (Mrs) Farah Kidwai, Scientist 'G' on 27 Jul 2024.



8. Talk on Eye Care by Dr Aakriti Sharma from Sohana Hospital on 31 Jul 2024.



**Presentations.** As part of the training within the Institute the following studies were presented by the cadets: -

1. **Country Studies.** Detailed studies on Sri Lanka, Nepal & Bhutan, Myanmar, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Israel and Russia were presented.
2. **Leadership Studies.** Detailed studies on Chandragupta Maurya, Maj Shaitan Singh, PVC, Shivaji, 2Lt Arun Khetrupal, PVC, Ashoka the Great, Brig M. Usman, MVC, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Gapt GS Salaria, PVC, Lt Cdr MN Mulla, MVC, Maj Manoj Pandey, PVC, Lachit Borphukan and Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon, PVC were presented.

**Inter Squadron Competitions.** Inter-Squadron competitions are the most exciting of all events in the AFPI. These competitions bring out the best in all the cadets. The die-hard Squadron spirit is rekindled with every competition. The Founder Director was extremely foresighted in raising 'C' Squadron on 19 Mar 2020. Inter Squadron competitions have taken a new meaning since then. The results of the competitions are as under: -

**Sports Banner: -** For the first time ever, the winner was 'C' Squadron. 'B' Squadron was second and 'A' Squadron was third.

S.No.	Sport	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Remarks
(a)	Volleyball	B	C	A	Minor Game
(b)	Basketball	C	B	A	- do -
(c)	Swimming	A	C	B	Whole Sqn
(d)	Hockey	A	B	C	Major Game
(e)	Handball	B	C	A	Minor Game
(f)	Football	A	C	B	Major Game
(g)	Cross Country	B	C	A	Whole Sqn
(h)	PT	C	B	A	- do -

**Academic Banner: -** The winner was 'C' Squadron and they received the banner from the Founder Director during the Alumni Meet. 'B' Squadron finished second & 'A' Squadron third.



**Champion Squadron.** The overall champion Squadron was 'C' Squadron.

**External Events.** The AFPI teams participated in a couple of external events both in the field of sports as also co-curricular. Details are as under: -

1. **All India Inter School Basketball Competition.** The tournament is conducted every year by Sacred Souls School, Gharuan. The AFPI team participated for the first time ever in the competition conducted from 13-15 Oct 2023 and finished a creditable 4<sup>th</sup> amongst almost 20 teams from the best of schools All India. Cdt Udaybir Singh Nanda of the 13<sup>th</sup> Course was adjudged as the “Most Promising Player” of the tournament.



2. **30<sup>th</sup> Col Frank Von Goldstein Memorial Debate 2023.** This debate competition is conducted by YPS Patiala every year. Courtesy our Founder Director being the Director of YPS Patiala, the AFPI got an invite for the competition, which was conducted from 23-25 Aug 2023. Unfortunately, our team was pitted with the final winner right in the very first round and unfortunately had to make its exit.

3. **30<sup>th</sup> Col Frank Von Goldstein Memorial Debate 2024.** This year's edition of the said debate competition was conducted from 10-12 May 202. This time our team finished a creditable 4<sup>th</sup> and Cdt Anhad Singh Khatumria received the 'Judge's Special Award' for his performance.

**Diploma in Soft Skills & Leadership Development.** Cadets of AFPI pass out from the Institute after a rigorous training regimen of two strenuous years. These two years make a man out of the young boy who had joined the AFPI. It was recommended by the Principal Secretary to move a case for getting the said training recognized which would add a qualification to the résumé of those who pass out. Work is in progress with the Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University (JGND-PSOU) Patiala to award a Diploma in Soft Skills and Leadership Development to the cadets who pass out of the Maharaja Ranjit Singh AFPI, notwithstanding whether they get into the Defence Services or not. Hopefully the 14<sup>th</sup> Course AFPI would be the first to get the said Diploma.

**Award Winners of the 12<sup>th</sup> Course.** Award winners of the 12<sup>th</sup> Course were: -

- |                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Overall Best Cadet             | - | CSM Navjot Singh Gill                          |
| 2. Best in Physical Training      | - | Cadet Ojas Gaint                               |
| 3. Best in Games                  | - | Cadet Jobanjeet Singh                          |
| 4. Best in Drill                  | - | SCC Jaspratap Singh                            |
| 5. Best in Discipline             | - | BCC Mankaran Singh Dhillon                     |
| 6. Best in Academics              | - | BCA Aniket Sharma                              |
| 7. Best in Outdoors               | - | Cadet Jobanjeet Singh                          |
| 8. Best in Officer-Like Qualities | - | CSM Navjot Singh Gill                          |
| 9. Winner of Cross Country        | - | Cadet Shivam Sharma of 12 <sup>th</sup> Course |

**Changes in AFPI Infrastructure:**

1. **1.5 Acres of Land.** The land taken over opposite the main gate of the Institute is awaiting the allotment of funds for development. However, a handball court was created in the said piece of land and the Inter Sqn Handball Competition was held on the same. The car parking and the Group Obstacle Course would be shifted here on allotment of funds.



2. **Construction of New Library.** The erstwhile library did not have a proper concrete roof, which led to a lot of leakage in the monsoons and books being spoilt. A spacious and airy library has been now established. Cdr AJB Singh (Retd) of the Indian Navy has presented 225 books to the Institute. In addition, Capt. Karnail Singh, IAS ex Additional Secretary of the Employment Generation and Training presented 12 books to the Institute.



3. **Table Tennis Room.** A table tennis table has been placed in the old library room. The cyber-café is being further expanded and additional computers are being procured shortly, which will be placed in the old library room, in the place where the concrete roof exists.



4. **Staff Room.** There was no place for the staff not on duty to rest during the day. A staff room was thus created adjacent to the new library.

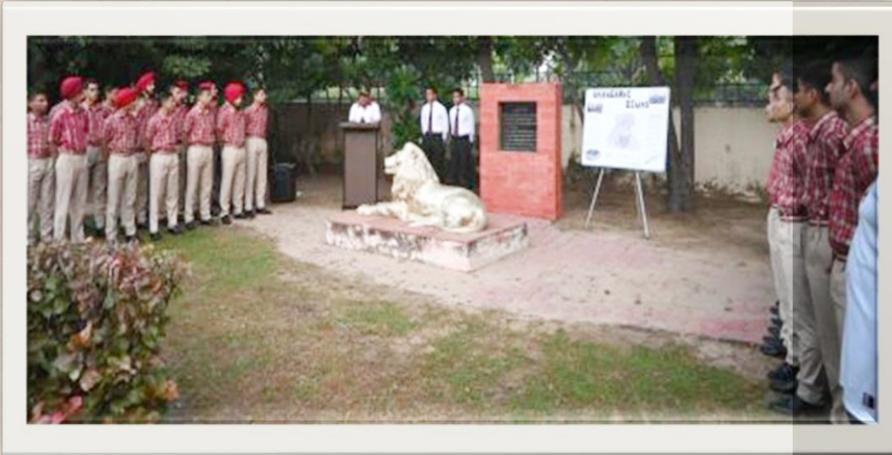


5. **Expansion of the Manekshaw Mess.** The present Cadets' Mess could not seat and serve the complete strength of cadets as also the staff together. To this end the expansion of the Mess was sanctioned and presently work is in progress.



## **Celebrations**

1. **Saragarhi Day:** Saragarhi Day is a Sikh Military commemoration day celebrated on 12 Sep every year to commemorate the Battle of Saragarhi. Sikh Military personnel and civilians, commemorate the battle around the world every year on 12 Sep paying their respects to the martyrs of Saragarhi. The day was celebrated at Saragarhi Park within the Institute premises on 12 Sep 2023.



2. **Lohri:** The festival to celebrate the end of winters was celebrated on 13 Jan 2024.



3. **Sukhmani Sahib Path:** The Institute conducted a Sukhmani Sahib Path on 16 Jan 2024. Other than the main Granthi, the cadets conducted everything.



# Achievers Gallery

# ACHIEVERS

## 238 AND COUNTING...

### DEC 2023



491/C/10  
Cdt Moksh Saini  
NDA 151



542/A/11  
Cdt Tajinderpal Singh  
NDA 151



511/A/11  
Cdt Ashmit  
NDA 151



537/A/11  
Cdt Lakshya Kumar Sharma  
NDA 151



526/C/11  
Cdt Vishwas Mittal  
NDA 151



536/B/11  
Cdt Saksham Malik  
50 TES

### JAN 2024



506/A/11  
Cdt Mehtab Singh Sidhu  
50 TES



334/A/7  
Cdt Gursher Singh Cheema  
119-SSTNT



395/B/8  
Cdt Madhav Sharma  
119-SSTNT

**JUN / JUL 2024**



551/C/12  
Cdt Navjot Singh Gill  
NDA-152



591/A/12  
Cdt Vivaan Sooden  
NDA-152



556/B/12  
Cdt Mankaran Singh Dhillon  
NDA-152



592/B/12  
Cdt Pranav Thakur  
NDA-152



565/C/12  
Cdt Karanveer Singh Gill  
NDA-152



540/A/11  
Cdt Prathyush Singh Bedi  
TES-51



Cdt Sai Vedansh  
Doon International School Mohali  
NDA-152



Cdt Anmol Banka  
APS Beas  
NDA-152



Cdt Harshit Chaudhary  
492/C/10  
INA-114

*Pioneers  
Corner*

## **“THE PIONEERS”**

Today the AFPI is a well-known Institution with an enviable history and an unparalleled success rate for a young institute like ours.

Since the day I took over and stepped into the large shoes of Maj Gen BS Grewal, VSM, the Founder Director, I have been constantly interacting with all members of the staff to understand the Institute. I should admit that my handing taking over with the officer in interim charge was cursory to say the least! Hav Kuldip Singh, the driver of the Director's staff car gave me a picture of the trials and tribulations faced by the Founder Director and his team in establishing the Institute.

Over the last year or so, I have spoken or chatted with a great many cadets of the initial courses and understood how this Institute evolved. Chatting to the cadets of the First Course, who have now reached decision making levels, gave me the idea of dedicating a corner of this edition of Boots & Saddles to the Pioneer Course.

This was the course that faced all the hardships of inception. I requested the Founder Director, Shemrock School authorities, some Instructors and cadets of the Pioneer Course to send me articles which could be put together for posterity. I did succeed in getting a few articles, though not as many as I would have liked. I do have to say, that Gen Grewal knows his boys very well. He was accurate in saying who would send articles and who would not! All articles have been published and I sincerely hope that it would make this edition of the Boots and Saddles a collector's piece.

Happy Reading!

***“NISCHAY KAR APNI JEET KAROON”***

Maj Gen Ajay  
H. Chauhan,  
VSM, Director



## **“A TRIBUTE TO THE PIONEERS”**

There are some memories that do not dim with time. They remain etched in the mind forever because of the challenges faced and overcome; because of the strong foundation laid in the years of infancy; because of the fun days after hard work and above all because of the success achieved in the years that followed.

I assumed the appointment of Director AFPI on 18 Oct 2010. At that time construction work had just commenced. The area was completely bare and devoid of trees except for a few tall mango trees located immediately behind where the hostel is now located. Life was hard. There was no staff appointed to assist me so I used to be a one-man army – doing my clerical work on my computer at home in Patiala and then go around dispatching the mail personally from office to office. Supervision of construction, planning the training curriculum, and getting the government officials to share the urgency of the task in hand was a 24/7 effort.

In Nov 2010 the Chief Minister Sardar Parkash Singh Badal visited the construction site and asked me as to when we would be ready to commence training. I explained to the Chief Minister that we had no choice but to commence the first course in April 2011 because if we did not do so we would have to wait for one whole year due to the timings of the academic session. He seemed a bit concerned by the ambitious time frame but agreed that time was critical. His visit gave a major impetus to the ongoing work.

In order to finalise the school which would undertake the academic training of cadets I carried out a recce of several schools in Chandigarh and Mohali. At that time Shemrock was a young school and the Principal there was Air Cmde SK Sharma who had been my instructor in NDA when I was a cadet. He knew and understood the requirements of NDA training and the school management was enthusiastic about the plans for AFPI. Government approved our selection of Shemrock as the school for AFPI cadets.

I got the entrance test paper for the First Course prepared by Shemrock faculty and the printing of the paper was done in the premises of Punjab School Education Board. Since I had no office, I carried the question papers home in a sealed box late at night after the printing was completed. As the institute was new and not well known at that time, we had only 470 candidates for the examination. The interviews were conducted in the campus of Olive Green Institute in Mani Majra because our own building was not yet ready and medical was done through Civil Hospital in Mohali.

Till Mar 2011 I had no staff and no money and no pay. I really do not know how things moved but they did. On 10 Mar 2011 I got my first staff member when Ris Baljit Singh was appointed as the Warden. Ris Baljit Singh was a handpicked JCO from my regiment. I knew him well as a person who could deliver results in the face of all odds. He lived up to this reputation in every way in the years that he served as Warden. Soon thereafter we got a GTO (Col GS Baidwan) and Psychologist (Col JS Dhiman) and the team started working round the clock to meet the deadline of commencement of operations in April.

The first course commenced arriving on 21 April. They were an extremely keen and motivated lot. My first impression of them was that most of them already looked like NDA cadets. We made them look even more like cadets by giving them regulation haircuts and a bit of the NDA welcome treatment. This possibly shocked them a bit but they took it in their stride and adapted well to the busy routine charted out for them. For the first one year they did not have any juniors to trample over so they were able to focus better on studies and did well in Class 11.

Their first day at school was on 25 April. We had a brief ceremony in the morning in which the AFPI flag was hoisted and I addressed the cadets. Since uniforms had not been made the cadets were dressed in white shirts and black trousers.

When the Pioneers arrived, we did not have our furniture so they used to sleep on the floor on hired mattresses. The reason for this delay was that we had ordered furniture with a local firm but the Chief Minister insisted that we cancel that order and go in for the best available furniture through Godrej. Even curtains were not in place and I remember the excitement among the cadets on the day that we got a TV for the ante room. To their credit the enthusiasm of the cadets was never dimmed because of the absence of such creature comforts – they continued to work hard for the achievement of their goals.

On 5 Aug 2011 the Chief Minister paid us a surprise visit. He was delighted to meet the cadets and had an impromptu lunch with them. He then invited all cadets and the staff for dinner in Punjab Bhavan on the following day. After dinner one cadet was tasked to make a thank you speech. His oratory was greatly applauded by the Chief Minister.

The training programme was not something that was decided in advance. Rather it evolved over a period of time and we had a plethora of guest lectures by distinguished speakers to keep the cadet's interest alive. As the days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months our series of lectures and seminars fell into place. It was as much a learning process for the faculty as it was for the cadets. I believe that the final programme as it crystallised was ideally suited for preparing the cadets for the NDA.

I think it would be inappropriate to single out any one or more cadets for mention by name because the Pioneers were all extraordinary in some way or the other. Their physical standards were exceptional and they managed to score good marks in class even though they specialised in sleeping through boring lectures. They were a happy go lucky lot with more than their share of mischief. Some of them, who now hold important posts in uniform, were frequent visitors to my office to receive punishments for mischief done. Interestingly, those who were more often at the receiving end of my wrath are now most frequently in touch with me!!

The Pioneers appeared in the NDA entrance exam on 19 Aug 2012. Of the 41 cadets who wrote the exam we had 21 successes. Being our first year we were quite happy with the result. Eventually 10 cadets cleared the SSB and seven joined the NDA in the first go. What is more heartening however is the fact that many cadets who did not make it in the first attempt continued to persist in their efforts and joined NDA/ other service academies later. I am in touch with a number of cadets to this day and I take great delight in sharing their success stories. Cadets who for any reason did not join the armed forces are also doing extremely well in their chosen field. Every one of them is a winner.

For me the First Course will always be special. I learnt from them more than they learnt from me. I have no doubt whatsoever that in the years ahead they will all be holding flag ranks in the armed forces and those who have not donned uniform will rise to the pinnacle in their own fields.

I believe that an institute is only as good or as bad as its product. If the cadets succeed the Institute is a winner. The first Course has shown the way and the courses that have followed have tried to emulate them and keep the flag flying high. So a big Thank You to the Pioneers for laying such a strong foundation for AFPI. It is upon the strength of this foundation that subsequent successes have followed.

May God Bless you all!

***“NISCHAY KAR APNI JEET KAROON”***

**Maj Gen B S Grewal,  
VSM (Retd)  
Founder Director**



## **“A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER”**

As I flip the pages of school history one chapter stands out bold - is the tale of our first course of cadets at the threshold of a new journey at Shemrock. The memories of these trailblazers resonate with nostalgia and pride which shaped the school's identity.

The joint venture of Shemrock-AFPI was a successful attempt made conceptualized by founder principal, Shemrock, Air Commodore Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd) and Director Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute (MRSAFPI) Maj Gen BS Grewal (Retd), VSM with the inception of first course in 2011.

The hallway buzzed with excitement as the first course of 50 cadets stepped in - tall, handsome, military aspirants breathed life into the corridors filling them with chatter and youthful exuberance. Each face was a canvas of dreams, aspirations and untapped potential waiting to be unleashed.

From the early days of orientation to the final moments of adieu, we witnessed the birth of traditions, forging of bonds and laying of foundations that would endure the test of time. In the classrooms they were not just students but trail blazers of knowledge eager to imbibe the wisdom imparted by the mentors. They engaged in spirited discussions and embraced the pursuit of intellectual curiosity with zeal and enthusiasm. They showcased their passion, talent and creativity in inter-school competitions, leaving an indelible mark of their achievements, which always left the audience in awe and admiration. On the sports field they were champions in their own right- embodying the values of resilience and sportsmanship whether it was scoring or cheering from sidelines they exemplified the spirit of healthy competition and camaraderie that defines a school community. Together we sculpted a mosaic of experiences that shaped not just academic pursuits but also their character and values. They emerged as confident, compassionate and responsible individuals ready to take challenges in their stride.

I take a pause to extend my deepest gratitude and admiration for the memories shared, the challenges overcome and milestones achieved for they left a legacy to be followed. We can proudly pat our backs as this partnership has successfully inducted a great many cadets to NDA and other military academies with many commissioned as officers since inception.

As you step into the next chapter of your lives, may the lessons learnt at school and memories made be cherished by you forever. The pages may turn but the memories of our first batch will forever be etched in the annals of our school history, a beacon of inspiration for all who follow in their footsteps. Wherever your life may take you, know that you will always have a home here at school- a place where you are celebrated, supported and welcomed with open arms.

I would like to congratulate the Director AFPI, Maj Gen Ajay H Chauhan, VSM, for dedicating the journal to the trail blazers who made their footprints for many to follow. May the academy continue to shape many more lives in future.

**Mrs Seema Benipal,  
Coordinator,  
Shemrock School**



**Mrs Seema Benipal is now the Principal of Sky World School at Panchkula, Haryana. She makes it a point to keep in touch with AFPI Mohali and motivate the cadets under training.**

## SUB MAJ (HONY CAPT) HARNEK SINGH "DRILL INSTRUCTOR"

ਮੈਂ ਸੂਬੇਦਾਰ ਮੇਜਰ (ਔਨਰੇਰੀ ਕੈਪਟਨ) ਹਰਨੇਕ ਸਿੰਘ 2011 ਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਹਾਰਾਜਾ ਰਣਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਕੈਡਮੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਭਰਤੀ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੀ, ਉਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਜਰਨਲ ਗਰੇਵਾਲ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਕਮਾਂਡਰ ਸਨ। ਸਾਨੂੰ ਕੈਡਿਟਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਕਿਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਰਤਾਉ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੈ, ਉਸ ਵਾਰੇ ਸਮਝਾਇਆ। ਮੈਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਢਾਈ ਸਾਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਡਿਊਟੀ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਿਲ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਮਣਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰਨਾ ਪਿਆ ਅਤੇ ਬਹੁਤ ਹੀ ਵਧੀਆ ਸਮਾਂ ਬਤੀਤ ਕੀਤਾ। ਸਾਰੇ ਕੈਡਿਟਾਂ ਦਾ ਡਿਸਪਲਿਨ ਬਹੁਤ ਹੀ ਵਧੀਆ ਸੀ। ਸਾਡੀ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਚੰਗੇ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀ ਬਣਨ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਦੇਸ਼ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਰੌਸ਼ਨ ਕਰਨ।

" ਜੈ ਹਿੰਦ "

Hony Capt  
Harnek Singh  
ex Drill Instructor



Hony Capt Harnek Singh has settled all his children and is now leading a retired life at Mundi Kharar. He visits the AFPI whenever he has comes this side.



Maj Snehpal Singh Toor

## **“AFPIANS FLYING AFPIANS”**

On a sunny winter morning of January, I was tasked to fly GOC-IN-C, South Western Command from Jaipur cantonment to Jaipur airport. It was the first time when I was going to fly an Army Commander. As the General officer came out of his shining black Ciaz, following him to the helicopter was a smartly turned-out ADC. He was our Capt Simranjeet Singh, 4<sup>th</sup> course, AFPI. Now I was going to fly an Army Commander as well as an AFPIAN for the first time. Undoubtedly, I was now more thrilled about flying a fellow AFPIAN. Soon after taking off, I realised that this was the first instance when any AFPIAN officer was flying another officer from AFPI. As we landed at Jaipur airport, I see another young officer in his tidy overalls and Rayban standing beside his Avro aircraft, waiting to receive the army commander and ADC to fly them further to Delhi. He was our Flt Lt Manmeet Singh, 4<sup>th</sup> course AFPI, the second one, interestingly on the same day, to fly another AFPIAN officer. Meeting three young officers from the same alma mater within a span of thirty minutes, who had been tasked to either fly or fly along one of the highest appointments in the Indian Army, the Army Commander could not hold back his praises for our Institute.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forced Preparatory Institute, a name which had to be introduced by us to others during the first two or three years of our service, is now known for its esteemed reputation for producing chivalrous and gallant officers serving the nation from Siachen Glacier till the depths of Indian ocean. Two years in AFPI fly by quickly like the ILs and the Globe masters roaring above the AFPIAN sky before fading away at distance, but the mindset that it leaves its cadets with after they pass out from there, is what makes an AFPIAN a cut above the rest in all walks of life.

Once an AFPIAN, forever an AFPIAN!

***“NISCHAY KAR APNI JEET KAROON”***

Maj Snehalpal Singh  
Toor,  
1<sup>st</sup> Course



Capt Snehal Pal Singh Toor is having the time of his life flying somewhere in Central India.

## **“MY JOURNEY”**

As I reflect on my journey, I can't help but acknowledge the profound impact that AFPI has had on shaping both my personality and career trajectory. Stepping through its doors as a boy of the 11<sup>th</sup> class in 2011, from a small town marked the beginning of an incredible transformation. A transformation that not only equipped me with valuable knowledge, but also instilled in me qualities essential for success in both professional and personal spheres.

From the moment I enrolled at AFPI I was immersed in an environment that fostered growth and encouraged exploration. The diverse array of training courses and extracurricular activities provided me with opportunities to discover my passions, challenge my limitations, and expand my horizons. Whether it was through engaging lectures by eminent personalities such as war veterans, hands-on projects in especially designed SSB training area, or physical training being imparted at the institute, every experience at AFPI contributed to my intellectual as well as physical development. It broadened my perspective, which eventually becomes the bed rock of my career.

However, beyond academic enrichment, it was the supportive Faculty of AFPI and Shemrock Senior Secondary School that truly set the stage for my personal and professional growth. Surrounded by peers and mentors who shared my ambition and commitment to excellence, I found myself constantly inspired to push beyond my comfort zone and strive for greatness. The collaborative spirit that permeated the halls of AFPI not only fuelled my academic pursuits but also nurtured my interpersonal skills, teaching me the value of teamwork, communication, and empathy.

Moreover, the guidance and mentorship I received from AFPI played a pivotal role in shaping my career path. Through a strict schedule, dedicated coaching for written and the SSB Interview and one-on-one counselling sessions, I gained invaluable insights into various intricacies of the challenging selection procedure of Armed Forces and learned how to navigate the complexities of the professional world with confidence and poise. The mentorship I received at AFPI not only helped me to secure AIR 19 but also provided me with the guidance and support needed to excel in my field.

Beyond the tangible skills and knowledge, I acquired at AFPI, it was the intangible lessons-values, principles, and character traits-that truly transformed me. The emphasis on integrity, resilience, and perseverance ingrained in me a sense of purpose and determination that continues to drive me forward, even in the face of adversity. The culture of hard work and creativity nurtured at AFPI instilled in me a sense of curiosity and a willingness to embrace change, essential qualities for success in today's dynamic world of Armed Forces.

As I am in my next phase of my journey, I carry with me the invaluable lessons and experiences gained at AFPI. It has not only equipped me with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in my career but has also shaped me into a resilient, adaptable, and compassionate individual capable of making a positive impact on my troops and their lives. For that, I will forever be grateful to AFPI, the institution that shaped my personality and career in ways beyond measure.

“Now a word about my career”.

I have completed almost 7 years of service in Army. I was commissioned in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Wahlajabad Light Infantry) the Madras Regiment at the Line of Control under the URI Brigade, where I served for a 2½ years at CAT-1 forward post in the capacity of Company Second in Command. Thereafter our unit moved to Jammu.

In Jammu we were part of the holding formation and responsible for the guarding the International Border with our western adversary. I was simultaneously appointed as Gathak Platoon Commander in the Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorist area. After serving for 2½ years we moved to Arunachal Pradesh at Tezu under Operation SNOW LEOPARD.

At Arunachal, I served for a year at various regimental appointments such as Adjutant, Quarter Master and Company Commander. In between I got the opportunity to do my mandatory courses such as Young Officers Course, the Commando Course and the Battalion Support Weapons course and obtained the topmost gradings.

On my personal front I married Mrs Pooja Mishra in 2019. My parents live at Kapurthala and my father is serving in the Rail Coach Factory. I am writing this article with lots of nostalgia and pride, that I belong to such a great Institution, which has enabled me to be part of the most Noble profession. Though I have not visited the AFPI since long but I am always in touch with the latest achievements of this great Institute. In the 14 years since its inception, the AFPI has set the highest standards of professionalism in the country.

“**May God bless AFPI and its fraternity always**”

“**NISCHAY KAR APNI JEET KAROON**”

Maj Abhay Singh  
Rana,  
1<sup>st</sup> Course



Maj Abhay Singh Rana is now posted somewhere along the Line of Actual Control at an altitude of 18000ft.

## “MY JOURNEY AT THE ARMED FORCES PREPARATORY INSTITUTE MOHALI”

In the pursuit of serving my nation and donning the prestigious uniform of the Indian Armed Forces, I embarked on a transformative journey at the Armed Forces Preparatory Institute (AFPI) in Mohali. Under the guidance and leadership of Maj Gen B S Grewal, VSM, the institution became the crucible where my aspirations met rigorous training, shaping me into a disciplined and resilient individual prepared for the challenges of the National Defence Academy (NDA) examination.

Located in the serene surroundings of Mohali, AFPI stands as a beacon of excellence in grooming young minds for a career in the armed forces. The institute's holistic approach towards education, coupled with its unwavering commitment to instil core values of integrity, discipline, and leadership, sets it apart as a premier training ground for aspiring cadets. It is more than just an educational institution; it became a second home where I imbibed invaluable lessons that transcended textbooks.

The rigorous training regimen at AFPI was designed to hone both physical and mental faculties, preparing us for the demanding challenges that lie ahead. From gruelling physical exercises to intensive academic sessions, every aspect of the curriculum was meticulously crafted to simulate real-life scenarios encountered in the armed forces. Moreover, the emphasis on character development and ethical values laid a strong foundation for us to become not only proficient soldiers but also responsible citizens.

Beyond the confines of the classroom, AFPI fostered a culture of camaraderie and teamwork, where fellow cadets became comrades in arms, supporting and motivating each other through every obstacle. The bonds forged during our time at the institute are enduring, serving as a testament to the sense of brotherhood and unity that epitomizes the armed forces.

Despite clearing NDA, my dream of joining the Indian Air Force as a pilot was thwarted by a minor medical issue. Despite this setback, the training, education, and discipline instilled in me paved the way for success in other avenues. Drawing upon the skills and values learned, I persevered and ultimately cleared the UPSC exam, securing a position in the IPS cadre. While my uniform may have changed from Army to that of the Police, my dedication in serving the nation remains unwavering. As I reflect on my journey at AFPI, I am filled with gratitude for invaluable experiences and lessons that have shaped me into the individual I am today.

In conclusion, I should admit that my time at Armed Forces Preparatory Institute, Mohali, has been nothing short of transformative. It has instilled in me the value of courage, integrity, and selflessness, equipping me with the skills and mindset necessary to serve my nation with honour and distinction. As I embark on the next chapter of my journey, I carry with me the indelible lessons and memories of AFPI.

Mr Rishabh Bhola,  
1<sup>st</sup> Course



**Mr. Rishabh Bhola is presently posted as the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Tarn Taran and is a really busy individual.**

## **“CAPT VARINDERPAL SINGH BAL: 52 ARMoured REGIMENT”**

Capt Varinderpal Singh Bal hails from village Butala in Amritsar District and is an honoured member of the “Pioneers” family of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Institute, Mohali. The officer pursued his B.Sc (Information Technology) from Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar followed by M.A (History) from Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar. The AFPI being the guiding & motivating force ensured the development of his personality and ignited the 'spark' in the young mind to choose the Armed Forces as a way of life. The efforts yielded results and the young boy was selected for pre-commissioning training at Officers Training Academy, Chennai in the SS-106 course. On 08 Sep 2018 he was commissioned into 52 Armoured Regiment and got ready to serve the motherland.

The officer served his initial years at the Western Borders at Ferozpur where he performed exceptionally well in both professional fields as also sports competitions. He was the Formation Champion in the Formation's Inter Regiment SA Firing. Academically the officer did outstandingly and obtained an 'AXI' grading in the Armament Instructors Course at Armoured Corps Centre & School, Ahmednagar. For his professional excellency and sheer competitiveness, he was awarded with the GOC-in-C Western Command Commendation Card in April 2022. The officer participated in the selection trials for the Sniper Frontier Competition of the International Army Games at The Infantry School, Mhow and was adjudged overall 3<sup>rd</sup>, thereby making it into the Army Red Team to represent Indian Army at International Events.

He has served in the inhospitable high-altitude terrain of Eastern Ladakh and ensured the battle worthiness and operational readiness for all challenges of the world's highest armoured squadron at an altitude of 17,800 feet. The officer was instrumental in keeping his troops motivated and ensured zero casualties in the harsh weather and sub-zero temperatures. Capt Varinderpal is an avid shooter and participates in equestrian activities. Extremely fond of creative arts he is an excellent photographer and sketch artist.

***“NISCHAY KAR APNI JEET KAROON”***

Capt Varinderpal Singh  
Bal,  
1<sup>st</sup> Course



The officer is presently posted at the Armoured Corps Centre & School, Ahmednagar as an Instructor in the Armament Wing. He is a regular visitor to his Alma Mater.

## **“BELIEVING IN YOURSELF HONEST EFFORTS TOWARDS YOUR DREAMS”**

I vividly, remember the first day that I landed in AFPI for joining an unforgettable journey of the most precious two years of my life. A fat kid, weighing 126kgs who had just passed the 10<sup>th</sup> standard, entered the gates of AFPI in 2011 absolutely unaware of the difference between NDA & IMA. I hardly no knowledge of the Defence world. My family was very sure that I would soon quit and return due to the arduous training regime and me being the most unfit person on the planet to join the Services.

Our journey in AFPI started with interview of Maj Gen B S Grewal, VSM, the Director. The memory is still fresh and that interaction, in particular, was the first step in this incredible journey.

Wherever the 'Pioneer' course stands today, we all owe it to AFPI and to the firm belief in the vision of Gen Grewal. We all derived our inspiration from him. We were perennially in a race to match the pace of hard work and dedication of Gen Grewal but we always fell short. Yet that's what made us better versions of ourselves each day, every day. I owe my physical and mental transformation to AFPI and its staff, who trained us, gave us exposure, shaped our personalities and changed our outlook eternally.

We will never forget our beloved Warden Baljit Sir, the man who always motivated us, kicked us and took care of us like a Parent. I can never forget the way the Pioneer Course helped me in my physical training. I owe a lot to them because we learnt from each other. The applause from the Pioneers, when I passed my first 2.4 kms run after a year's training, and when I climbed 3 steps of the vertical rope, is unforgettable. I remember how closely Gen Grewal monitored my boiled diet, which was made only for me. There was no looking back after that. With God's Grace & AFPI's support, I cleared my written examination. When I entered the SSB I weighed 78 kgs. That 40+ kgs of weight which I lost, surely must have condensed into the stars on my shoulders.

For me the journey in AFPI has all been about **“Believing in yourself and making honest efforts towards your dreams”**. The AFPIan community in the three services is better and stronger than ever and will continue to be stronger in the coming years. I was commissioned in Jun 2017 into 17 RAJ RIF (SAWAIMAN) and served with the unit in Arunachal and Tibri. In 2019 I volunteered for 9 PARA (SF), cleared my probation and got Marooned for life. I have since been serving in the best unit of India, in J&K and want to continue to do so for my entire service.

“Stay Humble & Work Hard in silence.

DID YOU EVER HEARD A TREE GROW??”

“LONG LIVE AFPI”

**“NISCHAY KAR APNI JEET KAROON”**

Maj Vishavdeep Singh,  
SM,  
1<sup>st</sup> Course



**The officer is the recipient of Sena Medal (Gallantry) and is the first gallantry awardee of AFPI.**

## **“MY SCHOLASTIC LIFE”**

When I look back at my scholastic life, I, sometimes wonder what made a small-town boy from an agrarian family background of middle-class financial status turn into someone who is now trusted by the President of India to take decisions of life and death of the men he commands. And whenever this thought strikes, it comes down to one name – AFPI. Being from the 1st Course and getting into services along with the 5th Course (got recommended in my last attempt of SSB), I have had a mixed civilian and fauji lifestyle post leaving AFPI.

With this experience, I can say with conviction that the AFPI is not just a Feeder Institute for the Armed Forces but an Institute which teaches one the way of life. The bedrock of establishing anything is a strong foundation, I am glad that the AFPI laid the foundation of military etiquette, bearing & lifestyle in me. It was for me, like it was for many of my course-mates, the first exposure to the military way of life. I consider the 1st Course and AFPI as twins since we both grew up together right from inception. From this I get the motivation that nothing is too big to achieve. After-all, who could guess prior to 2013 that a state institution and a pilot project would emerge as the flag bearer of making prestigious officers out of small-town boys.

The AFPI has always been a second home to me even when I was working in the IT industry. I used to visit the academy before joining army and it has always welcomed me with open arms. Like we say in the forces “leave no man behind”. I have imbibed this very trait of the armed forces from my alma mater as it has always been there for us. AFPI has taught me the sense of brotherhood and selflessness while performing my duties via the exemplary staff leading us when I was a cadet there. I have seen the Director, Maj Gen B S Grewal, VSM and the staff putting in their selfless efforts, day & night, to make us achieve our dreams. AFPI wouldn't have been what it is today had they not given their blood, sweat and tears. I still remember the advice given to me by Sentry Ajmer Singh “Kaake mann laa k pdhai kr lae, affsar to bnega pr kismat teria 7 pushtaan di badal jani ae” (Boy! Study religiously, it will be you who'll be becoming officer but fate of your 7 generations will change for good. These not so little efforts by people in the AFPI made me what I am today, working for the betterment of my men and their families to the best of my ability.

Apart from various entry types, place types, school types, I take pride in saying that “AFPI types” is the new tag that has emerged in the training academies and units. Till date whether in the glacier or desert, the core values that I got from AFPI have always helped me to be righteous to my duty. When the topic is AFPI I can talk day and night, but I would conclude by saying that AFPI is the reason I am today. I always pray that it keeps on scaling new heights of success.

***“Long Live AFPI, Long Live AFPIANS”***

**Capt Barjot Singh**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Course**



**The officer is of the Army Service Corps and is presently posted in the deserts.**

## **“NURTURING PATH TO SERVICE”**

From the hallowed halls of AFPI to the battlegrounds of the world! The journey towards a career in the defence forces is one fraught with challenges and triumphs. In a quick span of seven years of service in Indian Army, I have served in bone chilling North-East (Lungrula Sector), faced our Northern Adversary in Galwan and am now sanitising the Valley as part of the Rashtriya Rifles.

I am profoundly grateful to the AFPI for the pivotal role it has played in shaping my aspirations, instilling discipline and nurturing my sense of duty in serving the nation.

Various co-curricular activities in AFPI exposed me to the ethos of service and sacrifice. This not only fuelled my admiration for the Indian Army, but also provided me with a platform to develop essential leadership skills, teamwork and resilience. The academic and physical standards, ethos of discipline, the insistence of ethical conduct, sense of integrity and moral rectitude that would serve as my compass in the face of adversity.

Furthermore, the unwavering support and mentorship provided by Maj Gen BS Grewal, VSM and his team in forging my character was instrumental in shaping my career. Whether, it was guiding me through the intricacies of the selection process of NDA or progressing in the next chapter of my journey as a commissioned officer.

As I embark on this noble path, I am indebted to Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute for laying the foundation, upon which I shall build my future in the service to my nation.

**Maj Rajat Sarangal**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Course**



***“NISCHAY KAR APNI JEET KAROON”***

**The officer was commissioned into 6 Grenadiers and is presently serving in the Rashtriya Rifles.**

# *Creative Corner*

## THE END OF AN ERA – THE TITANS OF TWELFTH

The End of an Era as many call it, but I believe it's just the beginning of a new chapter and the closure of one, one chapter which would be the foundation for our lives ahead, one chapter which has shaped our character like no other, one which would be remembered when people remember us.

Entering the gates of this institute on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022, we didn't know what laid ahead of us. Being one of the Post-Covid Batches, our training had started late and many a few traditions of the institute forgotten.

Our batch was almost entering a whole new institute with a completely new Director, GTO, IO & Warden. It laid upon us to build a new legacy, a legacy to be remembered for ages by courses ahead. 46 cadets with one ultimate aim, The Defence Forces.

It wasn't easy but 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going'.

Two Years of Training, two years of Ragda, two years of classes, two years of games. These two years were more than just two years. They gave us memories, gave us brothers for life and made us what we are today, more than just a normal person - a man, a gentleman.

Our course made new records, broke old traditions (Bravo lost its championship streak!), and hopefully built an example to be looked upon. Not many of us may have got into the National Defence Academy YET, but I am damn sure, that with the determination within our minds, we might just as well set a new highest count of officers.

Most importantly, these two years built an unbreakable kinship, we became partners in crime, mentors to each other when needed and brothers forever. This bond was forged of love and trust in its purest form. This bond is something that money can't buy; it is priceless.

Today, the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2024, we leave this institute bidding our goodbye. But this goodbye wasn't easy. We always counted the days left to go home but now we counted the days left to leave this home. And the Day Zero came too early, too fast. Time is unforgiving and so ended our time at this institute.

We, The Titans of Twelfth may have passed out of the Institute but our heart stays within campus, in the rooms we spent our beautiful two years in, in the Lecture Halls where we attended our classes, in the grounds we played together and track we spent time running and rolling in.

Wishing luck to all my coursemates for the paths that lie ahead of each one of us and to the future courses, may you produce even better results and keep the flag of the institute flying high.



Cdt Keshav Signla  
557/A/12

## “RESULT DAY, RECORD DAY”

The whole 12<sup>th</sup> course woke up at 0500 hours on the morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023, which was no ordinary Sunday for us. For the Titans, it was the D-day. With an ardas we got to our busses and went to give our NDA 152 written examination. It was expected that this course would perform well. We returned in the evening and as already told, took our leave slips and proceeded for our short break. I called my coursemates in the next few days and most of them were sure to get through it.

Seeing the earlier pattern the result was expected to be released on 18 September 2023 but it did not. It was then that days of impatient waiting began. Each of us used to go to MVH many times a day to see if we'd gotten the results. I still remember one evening when someone shouted in the Sqn line that the result was out. We all went out of the room, and then discovered that it was a joke.

On 26 September 2023, we had inter squadron basketball final match between Bravo and Charlie. The Cheetahs were victorious and began to celebrate their triumph. The rest of us went for our snacks. Then suddenly someone shouted 'Result Aagya'. I rushed to see it. I entered MVH and requested one of those sitting on the computers to check my roll number. I cleared it. When I came out of MVH, my coursemates were running with joy, hugging each other and shaking hands. But there were a few downcast faces that didn't make it. I've seen them, and I've felt the feelings in their hearts at once. But on that day, I can't help but remember the way they showed their character. It was accepted by all of them, and they decided to work on their shortcomings for the next attempt. The whole course showed great camaraderie.

Out of 46, 35 of us were able to pass the test. AFPI was the best performing institute in India with a passing rate of 76.08%. We were recognized in the papers, on the internet and many news channels visited AFPI. But believe you me, this would not have been possible without the bonhomie the course had, something director sir always used to stress upon. I still remember the days of written exam preparation, when we used to have Impact classes. The way we used to prevent each other from being late in classes, keep each other awake while studying, clearing doubts and most importantly making each other believe that we had the potential. I would also like to mention that **Director Sir's** statement “I want to see all 46 of you at NDA” which he used to repeat several times was a great motivation. Even we used to repeat it among ourselves. The AFPI staff also played a crucial role by helping us in keeping our morale up.



Cdt Aniket Sharma  
550/A/12

## “A DAY IN AFPI” [JUNIOR TERM]

A normal day here begins before dawn with a siren. If you don't wake up with that there is no problem, because P.T.I sir is there to bless you with front rolls.

Then comes the best part of the day, when your legs would be dying to reach the gate of academy after 3km running. It has not ended yet because push-ups and crunches are still waiting for you. After you are done with your breakfast and dressed up for school you leave to reach Shemrock. Everyday your school-day will start by seeing Sherry Sir with a gripper in his hand. If you are new then school would be the place to complete your sleep. Remember afternoons are not for rest it is either for study or the PVH would be waiting for you for some lecture.

If you are burned up till now then relax it is the time for games period and after which you will get the most tempting meal of the whole day with chilled milk as snacks. After the evening fall-in you will get some 45 mins to turn pages of your school books.

Later comes the fall-in after dinner in which seniors will request for stay back. Don't you know why? It is because they want some entertainment by interacting with you. You will soon know to what extent that interaction can go. However, I assure you it is the time when there will be a smile on your lips and one will create everlasting memories. The day will finally end at 11 after you are done with your studies.



Cdt Eknor Singh  
673/B/14



## “HOMESICKNESS”

**HOMESICKNESS.** What does this word homesickness mean? It has a deep impact on some, but there are others who do not pay any attention to this word. They think that to achieve their aim in life, it is mandatory for them to leave home and search the route to their aim, as it is said that the small chicks of sparrows will not always remain with their parents, same is that if one wants to fulfill his dream then he has to leave his parents not for his whole life but for a specific period.

When I came to this academy as a Cadet of the 14<sup>th</sup> Course, everyone talked about homesickness. I too was made aware of that on the second day. My first day in the academy passed while taking basic instructions from the instructors. But on the second day I was sad, I was missing my parents.

But after I questioned myself **“Would I be able to fulfill my dream by thinking about my parents and being sad?”** the answer which came from inside was **“NO”**. After that I pushed myself beyond my comfort zone and fixed this in my mind that if I have to live in the Academy, I would have to have a strong mindset. I am proud to say, that I succeeded in that.

Most of the seniors and officials when came in contact with us juniors, considered that only some cadets were homesick but the truth is that all of us were homesick, all were missing their parents, but in order to transform themselves from **Boys to Men and to Soldiers** they had to stay away from their parents. It was this strong mindset and willpower which pushes them and make them realize that this word is not meant for us AFPIans.

**“We”** are the **“future of the nation”!** **“We”** are the **“future officers”!** and in future we will have to deal with toughest conditions in our lives for serving our country. Thus, the word should be removed from our minds. Only then will we be able to focus on our goals by stretching ourselves beyond our comfort zone while staying in the Academy and in future life. The feeling of homesickness should be kept aside.



## “WHO REALLY KNOWS”

Who really knows?  
 Who truly knows and who can swear.  
 How creation came, when and where.  
 Even the God became God after creation's day.  
 Who really knows and who can truly say.  
 I don't know how, but I know,  
 Feeling lonely, God gave creation a blow.  
 He made world and people, by his very own craft.  
 He then joined the worlds with a long-invisible shaft  
 He then made man and gave him powers of not running away,  
 Who really knows and who can truly say.  
 He made mysteries to solve, and made the first start,  
 He gave man the power to fight, and made him smart.  
 At last, he said, “When all mysteries will be solved, it will be the last day”.  
 Who really knows and who can truly say?



## “BRAVE SOLDIER”

If I die in a war zone, box me up and send me home.  
 Put my gun on my chest and tell my mom I did my best,  
 And tell my dad not to bow, He will never get tension from me now.  
 Tell my brother study perfectly, Keys of my bike will be his permanently.  
 Tell my sister don't be upset, Her brother will not rise after this sunset.  
 Don't tell my friends they are hearties? And start to ask for parities.  
 Tell my love not to cry .....

Because I am soldier born to die.



## ਨਵੇਂ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੀ ਪੁਰਾਣੀ ਯਾਦ

ਲੱਤਾਂ ਰਹਿ ਗਈਆਂ ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ, ਤੇ ਸਿਰ ਦੇ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹਰਿਆਣੇ ਨੂੰ ।  
ਨਕਸ਼ੇ ਉੱਤੇ ਵੇਖ ਕੇ ਰੋ ਪਿਆ, ਉਏ ਮੈਂ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪੁਰਾਣੇ ਨੂੰ ।  
ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਤੇ ਲਹੋਰ ਵਿੱਚਕਾਰ, ਐਸੀ ਲਕੀਰ ਖਿੱਚ ਦਿੱਤੀ ।  
ਕੰਡਿਆਂ ਵਾਲੀ ਤਾਰ ਲਗਾ ਕੇ, ਉਏ ਹਿੱਕ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੀ ਚੀਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ।  
ਲਹੋਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਬੈਠੇ ਹੋਣ ਚੌਧਰੀ, ਆਉਂਣ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਲੁਧਿਆਣੇ ਨੂੰ ।  
ਨਕਸ਼ੇ ਉੱਤੇ ਵੇਖ ਕੇ ਰੋ ਪਿਆ, ਉਏ ਮੈਂ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪੁਰਾਣੇ ਨੂੰ ।  
ਵੰਡ ਲੈਂਦੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਸਭ ਕੁੱਝ ਭਾਵੇਂ, ਸਾਨੂੰ ਤਾਂ ਇਕੱਠਿਆਂ ਰਹਿਣ ਦਿੰਦੇ ।  
ਲੜਦੇ ਓ ਲੜੋ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਦੁਸਰਿਆਂ ਖਾਤਿਰ, ਪਰ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਤਾਂ ਟਿੱਕ ਕੇ ਬਹਿਣ ਦਿੰਦੇ ।  
ਚਲਦੀ-ਚਲਦੀ ਕਸਮ ਵੀ ਰੁੱਕ ਗਈ, ਤੇ ਇਕੱਲਾ ਬੈਠਾ ਸੋਚਣ ਲੱਗਾ, ਰੱਖ ਅੱਖਾਂ ਅੱਗੇ ਸਰਾਣੇ ਨੂੰ ।  
ਨਕਸ਼ੇ ਉੱਤੇ ਵੇਖ ਕੇ ਰੋ ਪਿਆ, ਉਏ ਮੈਂ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪੁਰਾਣੇ ਨੂੰ ।

### ਮਾਂ

ਸਦਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਇਹ ਬਚਪਨ ਰਹਿੰਦਾ, ਸਦਾ ਨਾ ਲਾਡ ਲਡਾਉਂਦੀ ਮਾਂ ।  
ਸਦਾ ਨਾ ਗੋਦੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਿੱਠਾ ਕੇ, ਮਿੱਠਾ ਦੁੱਧ ਪਿਲਾਉਂਦੀ ਮਾਂ ।  
ਡਿੱਗ ਪਵੇ ਜੇ ਬੱਚਾ ਕਿਧਰੇ, ਘੁੱਟ ਕਲੇਜੇ ਲਾਉਂਦੀ ਮਾਂ ।  
ਮਿੱਠੀਆਂ-ਮਿੱਠੀਆਂ ਝਿੜਕਾਂ ਤੇ ਕੇ, ਮੇਰੀ ਸਮਝ ਨਾ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਮਾਂ ।  
ਉੱਠ ਜਾਵੇ ਜੇ ਸਿਰ ਤੋਂ ਸਾਇਆ, ਫਿਰ ਨਾ ਮੁੜ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਮਾਂ ।  
ਦੁੱਖ ਹੋਵੇ ਜਾਂ ਬਣੇ ਮੁਸੀਬਤ, ਯਾਦ ਹੈ ਫਿਰ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਮਾਂ ।  
ਯਾਦ ਹੈ ਫਿਰ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਮਾਂ ।



### ਬਚਪਨ

ਬੇਫਿਕਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਭੁੱਲ ਗਏ ਆਂ, ਹੁਣ ਫਿਕਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਯਾਰੀ ਏ,  
ਕੰਮ ਤੋਂ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਘਰ ਤੱਕ ਦੀ, ਹੁਣ ਟੈਨਸ਼ਨ ਸਿਰ ਤੇ ਸਾਰੀ ਏ, ਕਿ ਕੀ ਬਣੂਗਾ ਅੱਗੇ ਦਾ,  
ਬੱਸ ਸੋਚ-2 ਕੇ ਜੀਅ ਡਰੇ, ਕਿ ਕਿੰਨੇ ਜੱਬ ਨੇ ਜਿੰਦਗੀ ਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ, ਕੱਲਾ ਬੰਦਾ ਕਾ ਕਰੇ,  
ਤੇ ਸਾਰਾ ਦਿਨ ਈ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਆ, ਹੁੰਦੇ ਫਿਰ ਵੀ ਮਸਲੇ ਹੱਲ ਨਹੀਂ,  
ਉੱਤੇ ਯਾਰ ਵੀ ਕਹਿੰਦੇ ਤੂੰ ਬਦਲ ਗਿਆ, ਤੇਰੀ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਆਲੀ ਗੱਲ ਨਹੀਂ,  
ਪਰ ਭੁੱਲਿਆ ਨਈਓਂ ਕੁੱਝ ਵੀ ਮੈਂ, ਵੱਸਦਾ ਅੱਜ ਵੀ ਯਾਰ ਆ ਮੇਰੇ ਸੀਨੇ ਚ,  
ਤੇ ਮੁੱਕਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕੀ ਦੱਸਾਂ, ਦਿਨ ਚਾਰ ਈ ਮਿਲਣ ਮਹੀਨੇ ਚ,  
ਤੇ ਕਾਹਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਜਵਾਨ ਆ ਜਿੰਦਗੀ ਫਿਕਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੈ ਗਈ,  
ਤੇ ਐਖੇ ਸੈਖੇ ਲੰਘ ਗਈ ਜਿੰਨੀ ਬਾਕੀ ਕੱਟਣੀ ਰਹਿ ਗਈ, ਤੇ ਯਾਦ ਆਵੇ ਬੜਾ ਵਕਤ ਬੀਤਿਆ,  
ਮੇਰੇ ਹੌਲ ਕਾਲਜੇ ਬਣਦਾ ਏ, ਜੱਦ ਮੁੜ ਕੇ ਦੇਖਾਂ ਪਿੱਛੇ ਨੂੰ ਬੜਾ ਬਚਪਨ ਚੇਤੇ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਏ,  
ਜੱਦ ਮੁੜ ਕੇ ਦੇਖਾਂ ਪਿੱਛੇ ਨੂੰ ਬੜਾ ਬਚਪਨ ਚੇਤੇ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਏ ।



## “DAYS SEEM LONG”

Often nights felt short  
 I'm sitting under lamp  
 And thinking of mom  
 Midnight's silence  
 Often show me some love  
 My mind starts working  
 While monty disturbs  
 Sleep in my eyes  
 Looking for dreams  
 I've just slept  
 And the siren rings  
 Warden on the Pedastel  
 Telling we the best  
 He's shouting loud  
 With a crescent overhead  
 All these days  
 Reminds me of my dad  
 Who is working hard  
 For his young lad



Cdt Raghav Sharma  
596/A/12

## “A PART OF ME”

You were so sweet, You got me beat  
 Every time, On a rhyme  
 Cause of mine, You were so fine  
 Simplest true, And my favourite too  
 A part of me? Loved to call us "we".  
 Prettiest friend, And sharpest end  
 Were so rude, But still too cute  
 Hard to resist, Would never miss.  
 Your eyes too deep, Never made me weep  
 Lost in them, I longed for them.  
 The moment when, Our sights would meet  
 Was the one, Where I skipped a beat.  
 Lost in your eyes, like I would flung  
 A mere "stare" of yours, Just choked my lungs  
 You long me the same, Do you truly dear?  
 Should I call you mine? That's what I fear  
 The way I look at you, Isn't unhealthy  
 To ruin everything, Is what's so filthy  
 A part of me, Is what you've become  
 A habit so worse, Till the day I succumb.



Cdt Angadbir Singh  
697/C/14

**Octate Symmetry**



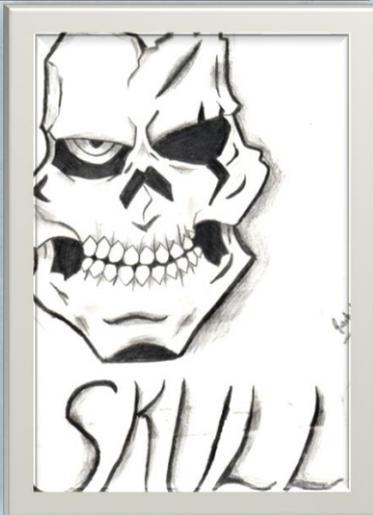
Cdt Himanshu Rishi  
559/C/12



**Story of Dawn**



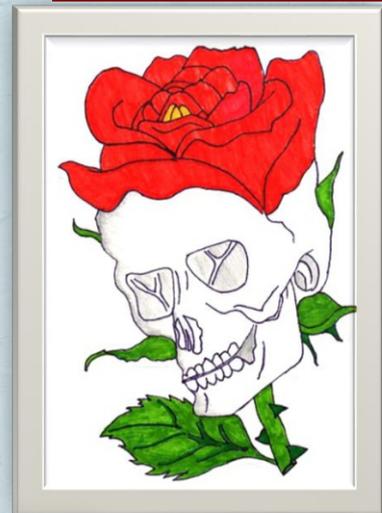
**Pirate Skull**



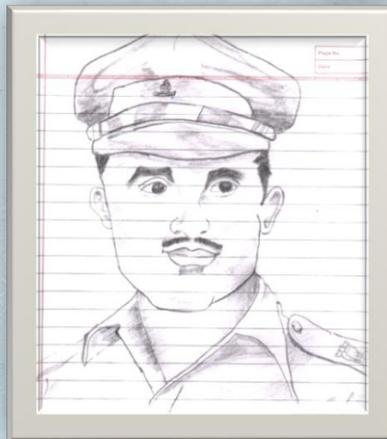
Cdt Gursahibjot Singh  
629/A/13



**Beauty of Life**



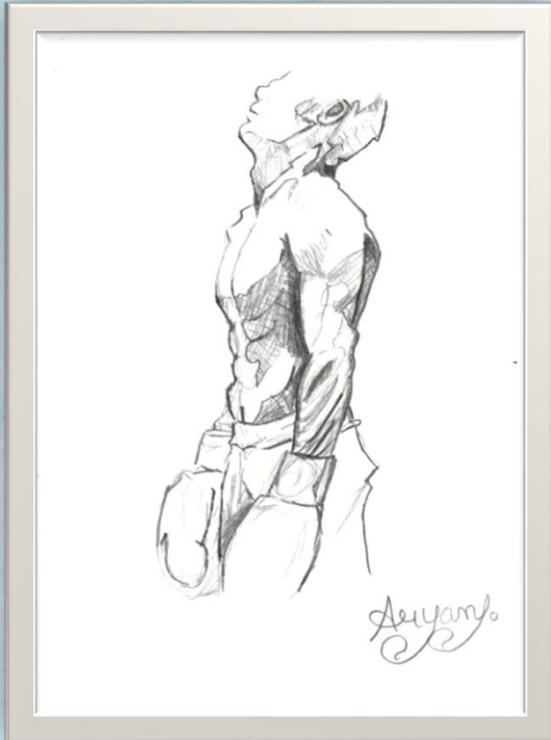
**Major Somnath Sharma**



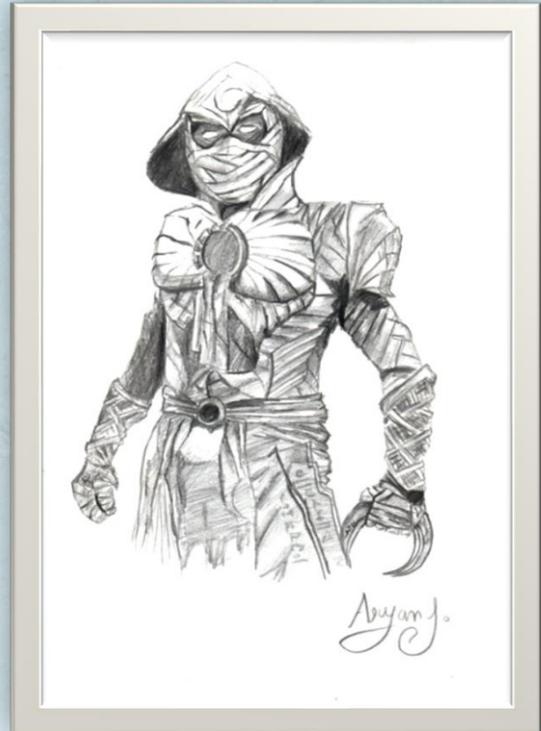
Cdt Rajpal Singh  
687/C/14



**Fighter of the 14<sup>th</sup>**



**The Fearless Fighter**



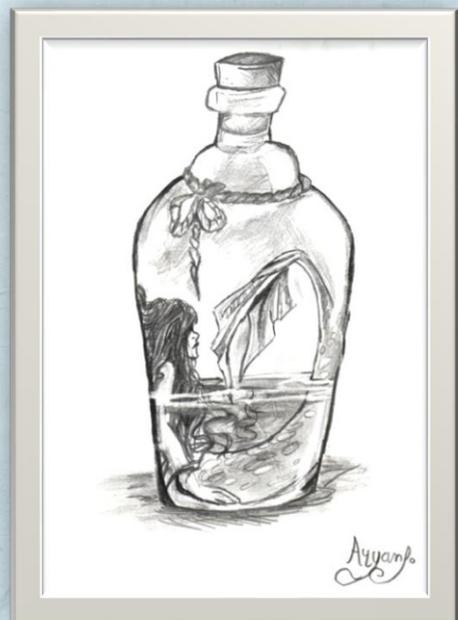
Cdt Aryan  
671/B/14



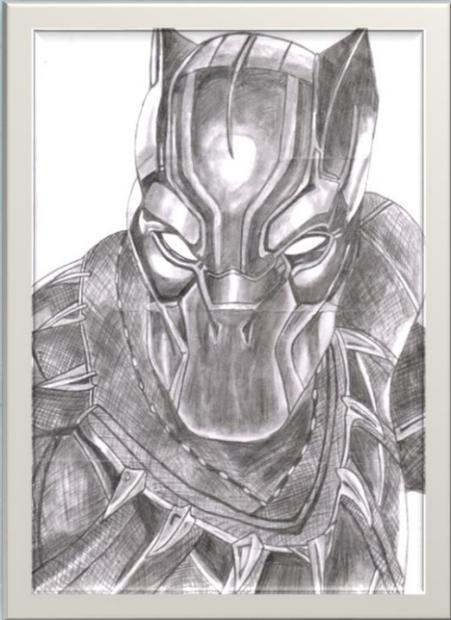
**The Poorah of Egypt**



**The Bottle Beauty**



**Black Panther**



**Captain Jack Sparrow**



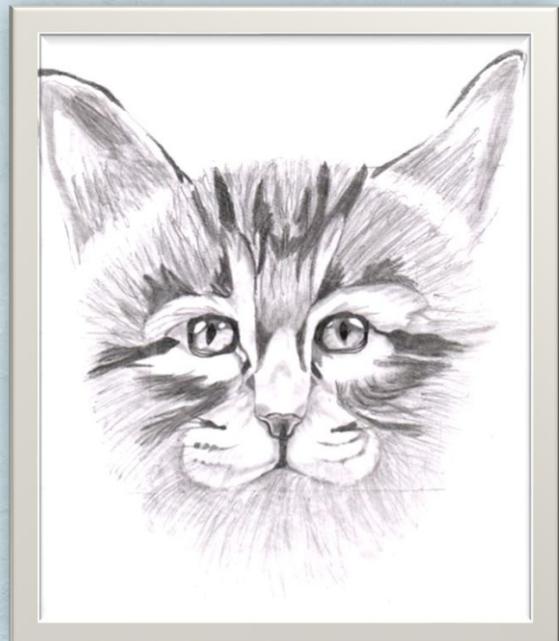
BCA Aryan  
Sofeth  
627/C/13



**Assassin**



**The Cat**



**Hut of Colours! A Landscape**



**The Glass Jar**



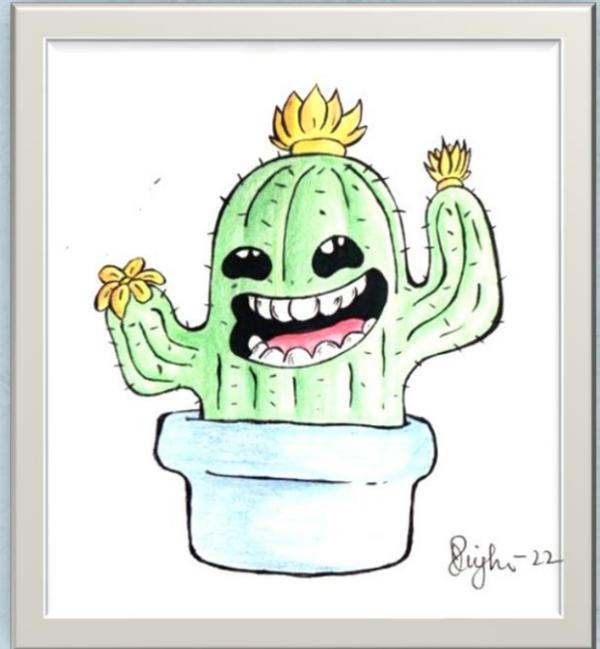
Cdt Divanshu Sandhu  
633/C/13



**Ganesh Ji**



**Pricks & Thorns**



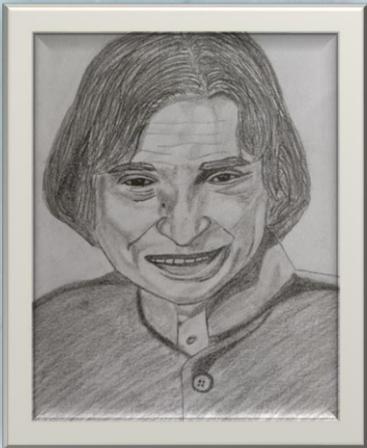
**Red The Savage**



**Cdt Paramdeep Singh  
617/A/13**



**Dr APJ Abdul Kalam**



**Lt. Nimaljit Singh  
Sekhon, Flg Offr**



Cdt Harkanwaljeet  
Singh  
692/C/14

A small photograph of Cdt Harkanwaljeet Singh, a man with a beard wearing a red turban and a white polo shirt.

**The Stream**



**Mother-Seraphina**



Cdt Ritvik  
Mahajan  
655/A/14

A small photograph of Cdt Ritvik Mahajan, a man in a military uniform wearing a maroon beret.

*Inter Sqn Football Championship 07-09 Aug 2023  
(Winner Sqn – Alpha)*



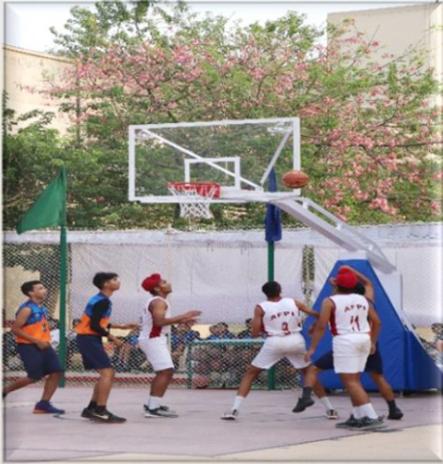
*Inter Sqn Basketball Championship 25-27 Sep 2023  
(Winner Sqn – Charlie)*



*Inter Sqn Hockey Championship 26 May, 28-29 Sep 2023  
(Winner Sqn – Alpha)*



*Inter School Basketball Competition (Thakur Memorial Trophy)  
13-15 Oct 2023*



*Inter Sqn Volleyball Championship 25-27 Oct 2023  
(Winner Sqn – Bravo)*



*Tennis Competition: 13-15 Mar 2024*



*Inter Sqn Handball Competition 27-28 Mar 2024  
(Winner Sqn – Bravo)*



*Inter Sqn Cross Country 30 Mar 2024  
(Winner Sqn – Bravo)*



## *Appointments and Academic Torches*



*12<sup>TH</sup> Course Closing Address – April 2024*



*Alumni Meet – June 2024*



*Visit to HQ 474 Engr Bde*



*Visit to Armd Div*



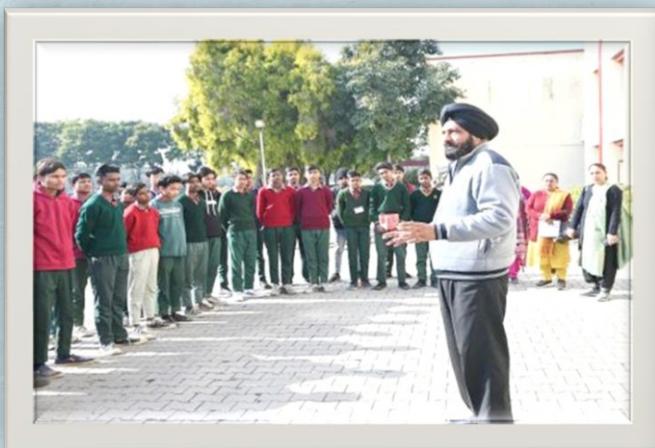
*Visit to Sukhna Lake*



*Visit of Students of Schools of Eminence 3B1*



*Visit of Students of Govt High School, Desumajra (Mohali)*



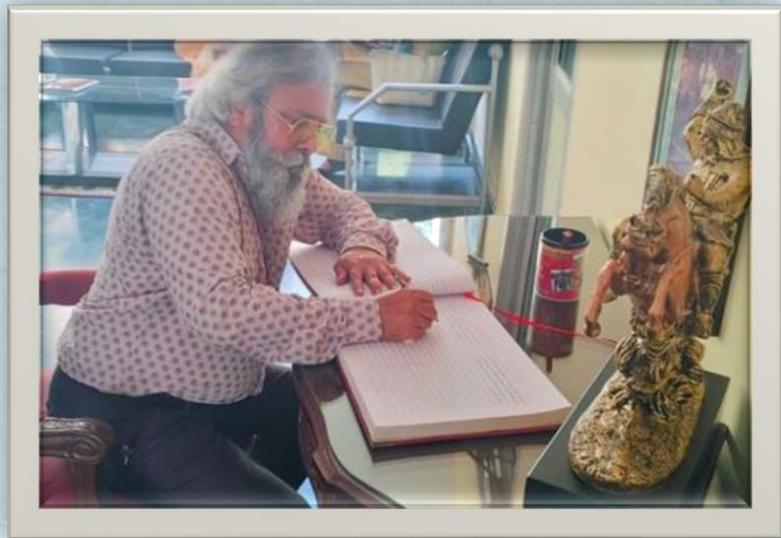
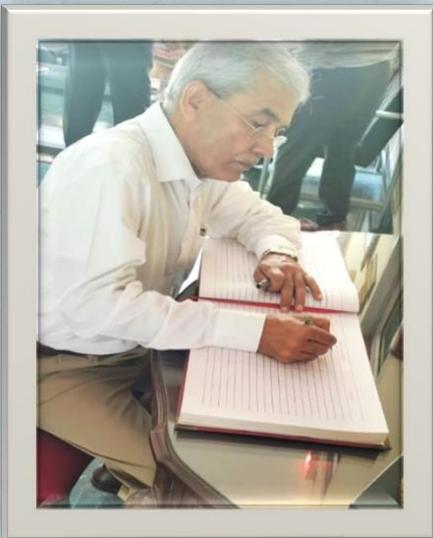
*Visit of Students of Govt Model Senior Secondary School, Chunagra (Patiala)*



***Lecture on Traffic Rules by ASI Janak Raj***



***Visit Brig Rangi, 15 JAK LI & Col Bakshi of 4 MECH INF***



***MOTIVATIONAL LECTURE BY CHANDIGARH GROUP NCC OFFICERS***



*Author's Meet on "Military History of Sikhs"*



*LECTURE BY COL VIVEK CHAUDHARY, SM*



*Visit of Prof Manjit Singh, JGND-PSOU*



*Visit of Capt Karnail Singh, IAS, Additional Secretary*



***Cycle Rally Flag off by the Minister of Information and Public Relation & Horticulture, Defence Services Welfare, Freedom Fighters at Sector-3, War Memorial Chandigarh***



***Cdt Amarjit Malik (493/A/10) won Gold Medal in Kerala State Shooting***



*Visit of Ex-AFPIANS*



*Flg Offr Manmeet Singh  
Capt Jashandeep Singh  
Lt Kushal Sharma*



*International Yoga Day*



*Founder's Day Tea Party at MRS AFPI*



*Diwali Celebration at MRS AFPI*



*Farewell Parties at MRS AFPI*



*Hav Paramjit Singh,  
Driver*

*Hony Capt Rajinder Singh,  
PTI*



*Mr Amandeep Singh,  
Account Clerk*



*Sub Swaran Singh,  
Drill Instructor*



# *Who's Who?*

*12<sup>th</sup> Course*

*Titans Of The Twelfth*



**1<sup>st</sup> Sitting Row Left to Right** - Sh Tejinder Singh, Heavy Vehicle Driver, Sh. Avtar Singh, Driver, Sh Kuldeep Singh, Driver, Sh Avtar Singh, Superintendent, Col S K Sharma, GTO, BCA Aniket Sharma, Maj Gen Ajay H. Chauhan, VSM, Director General, BCC Mankaran Singh Dhillon, Brig S Vijay Bhaskar, VrC, IO & Adm Officer, Sh Swaran Singh, Drill Instructor, Sh Balwinder Singh, Warden, Sh Surinder Singh, Library Clerk, Sh Ram Krishan, Senior PTI, Sh Atma Singh, Junior PTI.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Row Left to Right** – Sh Kunal, Peon, Cdt Narayana Pujara, Cdt Kartik Gautam, Cdt Rajanpreet Singh Sekhon, CSM Navjot Singh Gill, Cdt Anmol Thakur, Cdt Aditya Gulati, Cdt Jaivardhan Singh Rana, Cdt Ridam Thakur, SCC Jaspratap Singh, SCC Bhavik Kansal, SCC Armaanpreet Singh, Cdt Sant Singh Gill, Cdt Karman Singh Talwar, Cdt Vatsaank Singh, Cdt Karanveer Singh Gill, Cdt Fatehvir Singh Dhillon, Cdt Pranav Thakur, Cdt Dhruv Singh, Cdt Ojas Gaint, Cdt Himanshu Rishi, Sh Vishal Kumar, Peon

**3<sup>rd</sup> Row Left to Right** - Cdt Gagandeep Singh, Cdt Yuvraj Singh Maan, Cdt Husanpreet Singh, Cdt Shubhkarman Singh, Cdt Tushar, Cdt Vivaan Sooden, Cdt Shivam Sharma, Cdt Shiven Tayal, CSM Keshav Singla, CSM Lovish Chhabra, Cdt Mannan Akash, Cdt Raghav Sharma, Cdt Madhav Sharma

**4<sup>th</sup> Row Left to Right** – Cdt Jobanjeet Singh, Cdt Divanshu Shamra, Cdt Yuval Shabla, Cdt Varinder Singh, Cdt Harjot Singh, Cdt Bhavtej Veer Singh, Cdt Ranvir Pratap, Cdt Gurvanshbir Singh, Cdt Jaskirat Singh Dhillon, Cdt Sahil Sharma, Cdt Sachkirat Singh

## ALPHA SQN

<u>Sr. No.</u>	<u>CADET NAME</u>	<u>NICK NAME</u>
1.	BCA ANIKET SHARMA	ISSAC NEUTRON
2.	CDT MANNAN AKASH	FANNY MAGNET
3.	CSM KESHAV SINGLA	ASLI CSM
4.	CDT DHRUV SINGH	BATMAN
5.	CDT BHAVTEJ VEER SINGH	OYE! BH**CHOODDD....
6.	CDT SHIVEN TAYAL	JALPARRA
7.	CDT JAIVARDHAN SINGH RANA	CHARMELEON
8.	CDT RANVIR PRATAP	BAGHDADI
9.	SCC JASPRATAP SINGH	EAGLE
10.	CDT VATSAANK SINGH	GARLIC
11.	CDT RIDAM THAKUR	SHAKESPEARE OF AFPI
12.	CDT KARTHIK GAUTAM	KAPPA
13.	CDT VIVAAN SOODEN	1 <sup>ST</sup> TITAN
14.	CDT GURVANSHBIR SINGH	UNSEEN SHADOW
15.	CDT RAGHAV SHARMA	MATERIALISTICS SAINT
16.	CDT SHIVAM SHARMA	UNDIE LOVER

## **BRAVO SQN**

<u><b>Sr. No.</b></u>	<u><b>CADET NAME</b></u>	<u><b>NICK NAME</b></u>
1.	SCC BHAVIK KANSAL	GYMRAT
2.	CDT HARJOT SINGH	MESS HAVILDAR
3.	BCC MANKARAN SINGH DHILLON	GOAT
4.	CDT DIVANSHU SHARMA	CASANOVA
5.	CDT TUSHAR	HARYANVI JAAT
6.	CSM LOVISH CHHABRA	MILKHA
7.	CDT NARAYANA PUJARA	CHOCOLATE BOY
8.	CDT KARMAN SINGH TALWAR	PRANKSTER
9.	CDT SACHKIRAT SINGH	SNORLAX
10.	CDT SANT SINGH GILL	THOR-ODIN'S SON
11.	CDT HUSANPREET SINGH	CHUPPARUSTUM
12.	CDT ADITYA GULATI	POPEYE
13.	CDT YUVAL SHABLA	KATANA SWEETS
14.	CDT MADHAV SHARMA	INDIAN NAVAL SHIP
15.	CDT GAGANDEEP SINGH	MOTIVATOR
16.	CDT PRANAV THAKUR	DARK HORSE

## CHARLIE SQN

<u>Sr. No.</u>	<u>CADET NAME</u>	<u>NICK NAME</u>
1.	SCC ARMAANPREET SINGH	KEDA HAI PENCHO?
2.	CSM NAVJOT SINGH GILL	MR. AFPI
3.	CDT HIMANSHU RISHI	JORDI EL NINO
4.	CDT JOBANJEET SINGH	OO KANJAR!!
5.	CDT KARANVEER SINGH GILL	ACE OF SPADE
6.	CDT JASKIRAT SINGH DHILLON	BHORU
7.	CDT OJAS GAINT	OG
8.	CDT SAHIL SHARMA	KHAAMBA
9.	CDT SHUBHKARMAN SINGH	'MAU' SINGH CHARLIE
10.	CDT FATEHVIR SINGH DHILLON	PANDA
11.	CDT RAJANPREET SINGH SEKHON	KABOOTAR
12.	CDT YUVRAJ SINGH MAAN	OGGY
13.	CDT ANMOL THAKUR	OUTFIT PLANNER
14.	CDT VARINDER SINGH	KIRMADA

## **THE AFPIANS' SONG**

*We are proud young men from the land of five rivers,  
At the thought of us the enemy is bound to get the shivers.*

*We train hard; we train tough,  
We get going when the going gets rough.*

*Play games, do PT every day,  
That is what our PTIs say.*

*We stamp our feet with all our might,  
Swing our arms and Drill is alright.*

*Chest out; chin in; no movement at all;  
Stand tall and erect, steady as a wall.*

*Study hard in school and in our cabins too,  
Not enough time there is home work to do.*

*Avoid the 'weak list' at all cost,  
And if you get there all happiness is lost.*

*Front rolls and back rolls in the scorching sun,  
Punishments galore for mischief done.*

*Late for muster - you are in trouble  
Happiness is a fragile bubble!!*

*No matter the hard ship, no matter the pain  
AFPIANS have fun, we dance in the rain.*

*Chase our dreams with our heart and soul.  
Determined to achieve our cherished goal.*

*We will serve our country with all our might  
Leaders of men, we are ready for the fight*

*We are proud young men from the land of five rivers  
At the thought of us the enemy is bound to get the shivers.*

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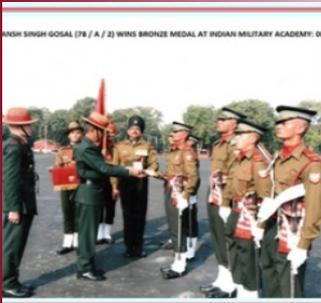
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# ACHIEVEMENTS

- This Institute has the highest success rate in the Country.
- 160 AFPIANS commissioned as Officers.
- 238 Cadets inducted to NDA/Other Defence Academies.
- SUO Gurvansh Singh Gosal, 2<sup>nd</sup> Course, secured 1<sup>st</sup> rank in All India Merit of NDA 133 Course in Jan 2015.
- Cadet Shashank Sharma, 5<sup>th</sup> Course, secured 1<sup>st</sup> rank in All India Merit of NDA 138 Course in Jul 2017.
- SUO Gurvansh Singh Gosal, 2<sup>nd</sup> Course, awarded Bronze Medal at IMA 142 POP in Dec 2018.
- Cadet Harpreet Singh, 1<sup>st</sup> Course secured 1<sup>st</sup> position in All India NCC Special Entry Scheme for induction to OTA 45 Course on 07 Feb 2019.
- Cadet Prabhdeep Singh, 1<sup>st</sup> Course, secured 4<sup>th</sup> rank in All India JAG Entry in Apr 2019.
- Cadet Harpreet Singh, 1<sup>st</sup> Course, won the Sword of Honour and Gold Medal, for being the Best All Round Cadet and Standing 1<sup>st</sup> in Order of Merit at OTA Chennai on 07 Mar 2020.
- Cadet Vishavdeep Singh, 1<sup>st</sup> Course, now Capt in 9 PARA SF was awarded Sena Medal (Gallantry) on Republic Day Jan 2021.
- Cadet Jasmeet Singh Bamrah, 3<sup>rd</sup> Course, now Lt in 14 JAK, was awarded CDS Commendation Card for Ops in the Galwan Valley, Ladakh in Jan 2021.
- Cadet Loveneet Singh, 5<sup>th</sup> Course, awarded Bronze Medal at IMA 148 POP on 12 Jun 2021.
- Cadet Raghav Arora, 6<sup>th</sup> Course, won the Sword of Honour and stood 1<sup>st</sup> in Order of Merit at the Air Force Academy POP in Jun 2022.
- Cadet Subhdeep Singh Aulakh finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Order of Merit at the Air Force Academy POP in Jun 2022.
- Cadet Harsdhdeep Sohi, now Capt was the Contingent Commander of the Mechanised Infantry Marching Contingent on Republic Day Parade 2023.
- 35 out of 46 cadets of the 12<sup>th</sup> Course cleared the NDA Written Examination of Sep 2023.
- Cdt Amarjit Malik of 10<sup>th</sup> Course won Gold Medal in Kerala State Shooting.



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