

## TP's men in black

The Traffic Police's month-old "stealth bike" team has been clamping down on road offenders – particularly errant motorcyclists. In their first month of operation, TP's stealth motorcycle officers detected more than 700 violations – including offences such as using a mobile phone while driving and reckless riding. In a video released on Monday, a few cases were highlighted.



### DRIVING WHILE USING A MOBILE PHONE

Covert officers spot a driver using his phone.

**Penalty:** First-time offenders are fined up to \$1,000 or jailed for up to six months, or both. Repeat offenders are fined up to \$2,000 or jailed for up to 12 months, or both.



### DANGEROUS/RECKLESS RIDING

A motorcyclist on the right lane cuts across all the way to an exit on the left. In another incident, a motorcyclist does a U-turn within the same road.

**Penalty:** First offence incurs a fine of up to \$3,000 or imprisonment up to 12 months, or both. Repeat offence incurs a fine of up to \$5,000 or imprisonment up to two years, or both.



### SPEEDING

A truck is seen speeding and failing to keep left.

**Penalty:** Speeding warrants a fine of up to \$200 and up to 24 demerit points.

PHOTOS: LAU FOOK KONG, SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

# 'Stealth bikers' clamping down on traffic offenders

## Online video shows new Traffic Police team going after errant drivers and motorcyclists

Lee Min Kok

Motorists using mobile phones while driving, lorry drivers breaking speed limits and failing to keep left, and motorcyclists weaving across lanes recklessly – the Traffic Police's (TP) latest enforcers have been catching them all.

A video posted on the Use Your RoadSense Facebook page on Monday shows the TP's Special Operations Team (SOT) on black "stealth bikes" as they clamped down on errant drivers, like a speeding motorcyclist going against the traffic flow.

The two-minute clip has drawn over 300,000 views and more than 7,200 shares.

"These 'men in black' look out for common traffic offences, such as driving while using the mobile phone, and ensure that motorists are ever-alert on the roads – a timely reminder not to #PokemonGo and drive," the post said, referring to the popular Pokemon Go mobile game in which players catch virtual creatures using mobile devices.

The Singapore Police Force, which shared the video on its Facebook page, said the traffic situation continues to show improvements in various areas, but a minority of road

users endanger the lives of others.

It added: "The TP will continue to take strict enforcement against such errant motorists even as we focus on education and enforcement efforts, reminding them that all road users have a role to play in keeping our roads safe."

Also called covert officers, the TP's stealth bikers have been on the roads since June. Clad in black jackets, the officers ride black 900cc motorcycles that are more manoeuvrable and have proven effective in curbing errant motorcyclists.

TP commander Sam Tee told The Straits Times that it was not easy for officers to go after motorcyclists in unmarked cars as they can lose sight of them in heavy traffic. In contrast, the "stealth bikes" are much more manoeuvrable.

TP statistics show that last year, 4,875 motorcyclists and pillion riders were injured, a 5 per cent rise from 2014. This group also accounted for almost half of all road deaths last year – 72 out of a total of 152.

In their first month of operations, TP's stealth officers detected more than 700 violations.

The SOT's officer commanding, Assistant Superintendent Firdous Haniff, 30, said the unmarked motorbikes have proven effective and that foreign police forces, such as those in Australia, employ similar tactics.

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