



[Commanders'/Facilitators' Sharing]:

Facilitators can use this slide to set the context for SAF Day.

- Annually on 1st July, SAF servicemen and women commemorate SAF Day and reaffirm our loyalty and commitment to the SAF and Singapore.
- SAF Day was first celebrated in 1969 to honor the country's servicemen and servicewomen.
- There are 3 key messages in this package:
 1. The need for a long-term view on defence,
 2. MINDEF-SAF's ongoing efforts to strengthen Singapore's position through defence diplomacy efforts and a future-ready defence force; and
 3. The need for NS for Singapore's defence and security, and we appreciate the efforts of our NSmen past and present.

**“The most
dependable
guarantee of our
independence is a
strong SAF.”**

-- Dr Goh Keng Swee in his last major public speech



Source: 154thmedia

2

[Commanders’/Facilitators’ Sharing]:

- Dr Goh Keng Swee said in his last major public speech. He said "The most dependable guarantee of our independence is a strong SAF."
- Whether we were a poor country as a new nation having to spend on defence, or as an up-and-rising country with other needs, and now having to face an ageing society with an uncertain world, at each step, Singapore needs to invest in defence and requires political will.
- Together with the strong commitment of our national servicemen, and the unshakeable resolve of Singaporeans, the SAF stands ready as guardians of the peace and defenders of our way of life.

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Quotation source: 154thmedia

Click to watch: "A Tribute to Dr Goh Keng Swee Pt3/6" (0.41- 1.15 min)

YouTube link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfYNf9GhXaw&t=90s&ab_channel=154thmedia

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IN RECENT TIMES, UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL SITUATION ...

RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE



RISING US-CHINA TENSIONS



RISING PROTECTIONISM



Singaporeans need to realise the gravity of the situation. **We are facing not just one storm, but several... We may be a small island state, but we are not a small people, and neither are our hearts nor our aspirations.**



-- PM Lee Hsien Loong at the Debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President on 19 Apr 2023



Image source: PMO

3

[Commanders'/Facilitators' Sharing]:

- Unprecedented global situation that is graver than what Singapore has experienced for a very long time and the troubled external environment will create new stresses and strains in society.
- “Apart from **remaining united**, it is equally important that **Singaporeans have the go-getting spirit of self-reliance and enterprise**, to create prosperity for the nation and achieve the best they can in a very troubled world”, said PM Lee.

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Quotation source:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/politics/remain-united-be-go-getters-and-uphold-s-pore-s-reputation-amid-grave-global-situation-pm-lee>



Think about it!
How will a strong SAF help to overcome these storms and emerge stronger?

[Commanders'/Facilitators' Sharing]:

Additional pointers to guide participants to reflect on:

- What do you think are the attributes that a strong SAF must have?
- What are these storms internally and externally? (Hint: previous slide showcases some examples of external storms)
- Are there any more incoming storms that you can think of?
- Why do we need a strong SAF?

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We must take a
LONG TERM VIEW
on defence, to ensure our
defence capabilities remain
effective in the face of
evolving threats.
— • • • —

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[Commanders’/Facilitators’ Sharing]:

- Singapore being so reliant on external trade, the city-state will inevitably feel the effects of the current forces impeding globalisation - the increased vulnerability of supply chains, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the China-United States tensions.
- We must never forget that defence is a long-term business. For the SAF, major systems and platforms take 10 to 15 years to conceptualise, build and integrate into our fighting force. That's assuming everything runs smoothly, without chop and change. If a military loses a capability and wants to build it back, it may take twice as long.
- As such, investing steadily in defence is the more prudent and cost-effective strategy.
- It's not just the dollars spent, but the know-how, human capital, culture, and most important of all, the psychology and mental build-up of commanders and soldiers - crucial for the SAF, which is made up of NSmen in the majority.
- As Mr Lee Kuan Yew reminded us even in his later years, "Without a strong SAF, there is no economic future, there is no security". That's a hard truth that remains constant. Are there any more incoming storms that you can think of?

Referenced from DM's COS 2023 speech

https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/mindef/news-and-events/latest-releases/article-detail/2023/February/24feb23_speech

TOWARDS SAF2040

Singapore has taken a long-term approach to defence since independence, planning and investing over time to build up its capabilities and optimise training systems.

As threats evolve, sustained investments allow the SAF to steadily acquire high-end capabilities to guard against conventional as well as emerging non-conventional security challenges in the air, land, sea, and digital domains. These include ramping up the SAF's digital defences and strengthening our ability to respond effectively against a range of potential security threats.

Labels in the infographic include: High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, Temex Infantry Carrier Vehicle, TPQ-53 Weapon Locating Radar, F-15SG Fighter Jet, Harbin 1, Aster-30 Missile System, Hunter Armoured Fighting Vehicle, A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport, Formidable-Class Frigate, Independence-Class Littoral Mission Vessel, Next Gen Armoured Truck Carrier, Next Gen Howitzer, Orbiter 4 Close-Range UAV, Helix-Class Submarine, Multi-Role Control Vessel, Offshore Patrol Vessel, Next Gen Infantry Battalion Soldier, F-35 Fighter Jet, Digital Ops-Tech Centre, Next Gen Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), and Landing Ship Tank Replacement.

Image source: MINDEF FB

A more prudent and cost-effective strategy is to invest steadily in defence.

More platforms and capabilities will be added in the next decade as the SAF continues to work towards

SAF2040.

[Commanders'/Facilitators' Sharing]:

- We can have a quiet satisfaction that the SAF today is recognised as one of the most advanced in Asia. The SAF is not large relatively, but for our size, all our Services, we are the most advanced in Asia.
- We operate modern, state-of-the-art platforms. **Together, these Services can prosecute campaigns across a spectrum of security challenges, and augment manpower challenges.**
- This modernisation took two decades, but has been completed successfully, and very few militaries have achieved that.
- *[Facilitators/commanders may relate this slide to the platforms and capabilities the unit can expect to have and how they play a part in SAF 2040]* We operate modern, state-of-the-art platforms.
 - The Army now uses digitalised fighting and support platforms - the Hunter Armoured Fighting Vehicles, HIMARS and the Leopard Tanks.
 - The Air Force's Smart Multi-Role Tanker Transport aircraft and Aster-30 Missile Systems are new additions, together with the F-15s.
 - The Navy has brought on a full fleet of Frigates, and new Littoral Mission Vessels.
 - Establishment of an SAF digital range by 2026 to be used to train our DIS

forces and conduct exercises with other military and commercial partners.

Referenced from DM's COS 2023 speech

https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/mindef/news-and-events/latest-releases/article-detail/2023/February/24feb23_speech

MINDEF and the SAF will continue to strengthen Singapore's position through developing a

FUTURE-READY DEFENCE FORCE

and

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY EFFORTS.

Enhancing Training to Maintain the SAF's Edge

Continuous efforts to make the SAF's training more effective and realistic, so as to produce well-trained soldiers and units for Singapore's defence

BOOSTING REALISM THROUGH TRAINING SIMULATORS

To optimise time, save costs while enhancing realism, the SAF invests in advanced simulators. There are also plans to integrate physical and virtual training areas to improve exercises through hybridising technology.



The integrated sets of multiple simulators of various realistic tasks and scenarios enhance the realism and consistency to improve command and control skills and tactics.

Soldiers train on various realistic and complex tasks, such as the Urban Warfare Year 1 simulator, to improve their operations, leading to the SAF's readiness to respond to various scenarios.

The SAF is also investing in virtual reality (VR) simulators to enhance training on the tactics of weapons and operations of air-land systems.

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SMART TRAINING FACILITIES

The SAF is developing new and advanced training facilities to support training in complex urban environments, and counter emerging security threats like cyber attacks. (Photos below for illustration purposes only)

Phase 1 of SAFTI City – which comprises 80 new training buildings that include bus interchanges and an underground MRT station – is slated to open in 2024. The Moral Urban Battle Circuit, the first of three Instrumented Battle Circuits (iBACs) surrounding SAFTI City, will be ready by end-2023, while the other two iBACs will be ready by early 2024.



The SAF digital range, to be completed in 2025, will be used for the training of the DIS' forces and the conduct of exercises with commercial and other military partners, as well as joint training with other agencies to strengthen the cyber defences of national critical infrastructure.

The use of Shoalwater Bay Training Area allows the Army to undertake training of scale and complexity at the brigade and division levels. Developments such as the Combined Army Air-Land Range (CAALR) and Urban Operations Live Firing Facility (UOLFF) will be completed in 2024, and will allow the Army to conduct combined arms live-firing exercises involving manoeuvre forces, artillery and RSAF assets, which cannot be replicated locally.



[Commanders'/Facilitators' Sharing]:

- Future-ready defence force (Enhancing Training to Maintain the SAF's Edge):
 - There is one more vital ingredient for the SAF – our people. We can have the best platforms and systems in the world, but as the Ukrainian spirit shows, **it is the spirit and know-how that will determine if the SAF can defend Singapore and its interests successfully.** The resolve of the Ukrainian people to protect their country against Russia's invasion shows that, while weaponry and fighting platforms are important, it is ultimately the fighting spirit of the people that will decide if they end up subjugated or sovereign.
 - To produce well-trained soldiers, SAFTI City is being built. Surrounding SAFTI City will be three new Instrumented Battle Circuits (iBACs), which will simulate enemy fires such as artillery bombardment and air strikes to test operational instincts and tactical fundamentals.
 - We have also invested large sums into overseas training facilities. In the Shoalwater Bay Training Area, some new facilities like the Urban Operations Live Firing Facility and the Combined Arms Air-Land Range will be ready for use from next year.
- Defence Diplomacy Efforts:

- Aside from building a capable armed forces that can serve as deterrence and defend us against threats, MINDEF works hard on defence diplomacy and cooperation – both bilateral and multilateral - to build defence ties and address common security challenges.
- An example is that of the Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD). After a two-year hiatus, the SLD resumed last year in a physical format. The SLD remains the premier defence and security conference in Asia and provides a venue to affirm mutually beneficial principles and to allow for dialogue, if not to build trust.

Referenced from DM's COS 2023 speech:

https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/mindef/news-and-events/latest-releases/article-detail/2023/February/24feb23_speech

and

SMS Heng's COS 2023 speech

https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/mindef/news-and-events/latest-releases/article-detail/2023/February/27feb23_speech

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To meet growing threats in the digital domain,
MINDEF-SAF set up the fourth Service, the
DIGITAL AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (DIS).



This marks a key milestone in the transformation of the
Next Generation SAF.

8

[Commanders’/Facilitators’ Sharing]:

- As the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has demonstrated — through the innovative use of technology — warfare today has become even more fluid.
- Real threats in the digital domain are constantly evolving.
- This is why the recent establishment of the Digital and Intelligence Service in October last year is a crucial and timely shoring up of Singapore’s cyber defences through the growth of our digital capabilities.
- The addition of DIS will also allow the SAF to **better train and fight as a networked, integrated and expanded force.**
- This approach ensures that the SAF is equipped to guard against both conventional and emerging threats over the next few decades.
- This is part of fulfilling our vision of the **“Next Gen SAF”**.

*For more information on the DIS,
https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/mindef/news-and-events/latest-releases/article-detail/2023/February/24feb23_fs*

There have been
**CLEAR EXAMPLES OF
ATTACKS IN THE
DIGITAL REALM**

which have led to the disruption of essential services, data theft, and damage to critical infrastructure.

THE STRAITS TIMES

Personal info of 1.5m SingHealth patients, including PM Lee, stolen in Singapore's worst cyber attack

THE STRAITS TIMES

Data of some 129,000 Singtel customers, including NRIC details, stolen in hack of third-party system

THE STRAITS TIMES

S'pore organisations among most targeted in the world by ransomware attacks, study finds

The DIS allows the SAF to operate better as an integrated force to **deal with a wider spectrum of external threats** to **enhance and safeguard Singapore's peace and sovereignty.**

9

[Commanders'/Facilitators' Sharing]:

- We now face new challenges from the digital domain that have no physical boundaries or battlefields.
- Cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, fake news and extremist ideologies online are some of the ways that can now be used to divide and weaken us.
- The DIS will allow us to consolidate and integrate military intelligence, digital, and cyber capabilities.

NS is the
CORNERSTONE
of our national security.

We recognise the efforts
of our NSmen both past
and present.

Update on NS Initiatives

An update on the new and ongoing initiatives introduced by the National Service Review Committee that concluded its review in 2022

Maximise Servicemen's Contributions

JOB REDESIGN & FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR NSFS

- Redesigned 1,300 jobs since 2021; another 500 by 2023, to open them up to more NSFs
- Implemented functional assessment for selected pre-enlistees
- 75 of 100 tested can take on wider range of ops roles

WORK-LEARN SCHEME (WLS)

- Latest WLS is for Naval Warfare System Specialists (Marine Systems/ Electrical and Control Systems), where NSFs can earn part-time diploma in Engineering (Mechanical Technology)
- 450 NSFs enrolled in five WLSes so far

EXPERTISE-BASED REDEPLOYMENT DURING OPS

- In 2022, 200 NSmen re-deployed to expertise-based roles; up from 500/year from 2014-2020
- NSmen re-deployed for 1st time to domains like Digital & Intelligence, Logistics and Engineering

Improve NS Experience

AUTOMATED MAKE-UP PAY (MUP) CLAIMS SYSTEM

- Since Sep 2022, automated MUP claims using CPF and IRAS data
- 82% of claims processed without needing further input from employers/NSmen
- 90% of claims paid out within 10 working days
- >266,000 man-hours in time savings by employers, NSmen, MINDEF and MHA yearly

RELAXATION IN EXIT PERMIT (EP) REQUIREMENTS FOR NSMEN

- From Apr 2023, only need to apply for EP if travelling overseas for a 12 months, up from current + 6 months

DIGITAL DISBURSEMENT OF CREDITS FOR NSFS RECOGNITION PACKAGE

- 70% of national servicemen have used credits 7 months after launch; 11 months faster than for NSSO
- 59% redeemed credits through LifeSG app; 1% opted for physical vouchers

ONENS PLATFORM

- First phase rolled out in Dec 2022 to select NS units. Centralised ICT essential services such as call-ups and in/out-processing

Enhance Recognition and Support for National Servicemen

BASE NS PAY OF \$1600/ MONTH FOR NSMEN ATTENDING ICT

- Provides support for NSmen who are unemployed, studying, or in freelance jobs

NEW NSRCC SOCIAL & RECREATION HUB IN CHANGI

OPENING OF NEW SAFRA CHOA CHU KANG CLUBHOUSE IN MAY 2023



Image source: MINDEF

[Commanders'/Facilitators' Sharing]:

- Updates on new and ongoing NS initiatives include: Maximising Servicemen's Contributions; Improving the NS Experience and Enhancing Recognition and Support for National Servicemen.
- Maximising Servicemen's Contributions: Given low fertility rates and shrinking cohort sizes, the SAF needs to optimise contributions of every soldier, in two ways:
 1. The first concerns medical fitness and job requirements. To complement our existing medical screening process, we introduced functional assessments for pre-enlistees with selected orthopaedic conditions. This approach allows us to accurately match more servicemen to operational roles, as compared to the traditional approach of matching servicemen based only on their medical diagnosis.
 2. The second way is to maximise contributions that concern knowledge and skills:
 - Under the Work-Learn Schemes, NSFs attain a diploma or partial university credits from Institutes of Higher Learning, while performing a period of full-time national service followed by Regular service. They are trained in domains such as artificial intelligence, supply chain management, and engineering, which

allows them then to be deployed as digital specialists, supply supervisors, and technicians respectively.

- Some of our NSmen have skills that the SAF needs, which they have acquired in their civilian careers. The SAF has stepped up efforts to identify and redeploy these NSmen to make better use of their civilian expertise and skills.
- Improving the NS Experience: A major administrative burden for employers and NSmen had been the filling up of Make-Up Pay claims for In-Camp Training (ICT). In September last year, we introduced an automated system that draws income-related information from CPF Board and IRAS to calculate Make-Up Pay amounts. Alongside this automated system, we also introduced a base NS pay of \$1,600 per month, whenever NSmen attend ICT or other operationally-ready NS (ORNS) activities. No more physical vouchers from MINDEF and MHA; since 2021, we have replaced cash and voucher-based NS recognition benefits with digital credits disbursed through the LifeSG mobile app.
- Enhancing Recognition and Support for National Servicemen: Last year, we conducted a year-long NS55 campaign themed "Generations of Strength." Besides giving the NS55 Recognition Package to eligible national servicemen, MINDEF and MHA organised a series of commemorative initiatives that was well-received. As an example, the showcase at the Army Open House on the evolution of NS attracted 140,000 visitors. The NS55 theme song "Back in the Day" accumulated over 6 million views online.

Referenced from SMS Heng's COS 2023 speech:

https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/mindef/news-and-events/latest-releases/article-detail/2023/February/27feb23_speech

and

https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/mindef/news-and-events/latest-releases/article-detail/2023/February/27feb23_infographic

The
**SUPPORT OF ALL
SINGAPOREANS
FOR NS**
is crucial.

It keeps our
servicemen going
when the going gets
tough, and reminds
them why they serve.

“NSmen have a number of qualities and skillsets that apply extremely well in our work environment. **NSmen have discipline, focus, leadership, they are dependable and work well with others.** In fact, quite a number of our NSmen are in leadership positions in True Group and they have contributed to our growth in significant ways.”



-- Mr Sean Tan,
Director at True Group, a local gym

“Now that he’s in NS, **I find myself having a role so important. Especially in supporting him emotionally.** Somehow, that makes me feel like I’m doing NS as well.”



-- Ms Susan Tan,
Mother of an NSF

[Commanders’/Facilitators’ Sharing]:

- The **support of all Singaporeans for NS** reminds our NSFs and NSmen about why they serve, and keeps them going when the going gets tough.
- It is important to **appreciate the dedication, service and contributions of our national servicemen**, and to thank them for their efforts.

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“ ... the strength of the SAF lies not just in its capabilities alone. Because in the end, it's really about the spirit of our people – it's about our collective will to defend our country and protect our way of life. ”



-- Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Lawrence Wong at the Officer Cadet Commissioning Parade on 10 Jun 2023



Think about it!

How do you think you and others around you can play a part to support NS?

Image source: DPM Wong's FB and BMT C FB

12

[Commanders'/Facilitators' Sharing]:

- NS has remained a key national institution over the years, and part of our way of life.
- It brings people from **diverse racial, religious, language, and educational backgrounds** to train, live and serve the country together.
- NS has since become a **rite of passage**, where boys grow to become men and life-long bonds are forged. Such common life-shaping experiences have helped to foster greater cohesiveness and national identity among our people.

Facilitators could ask participants to reflect on:

- How do you think the future of NS looks like in Singapore?

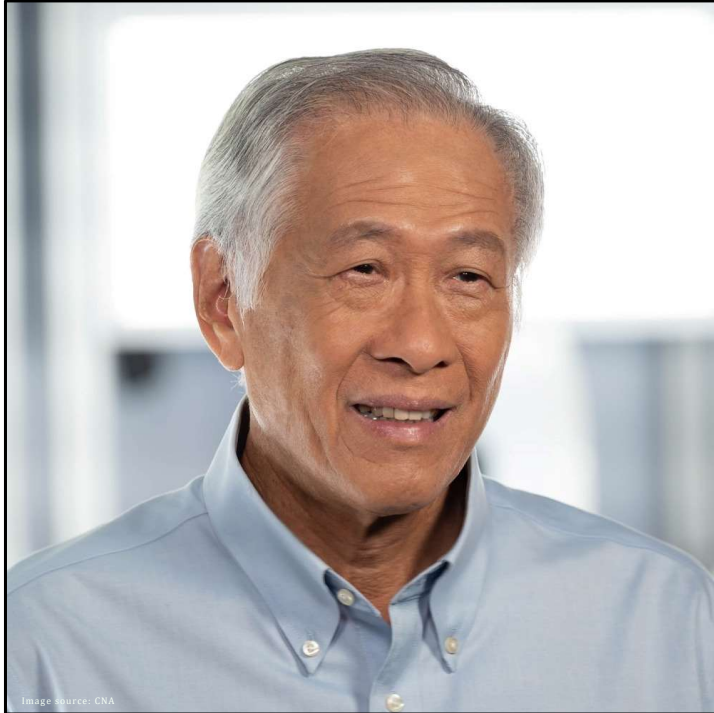


Image source: CNA

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“A strong SAF did not come about by chance. The **capability and commitment of men and women in the SAF, together with the support of Singaporeans over the years, ensured that the SAF remained strong and able to defend Singapore and Singaporeans.”**

*-- Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen
at MINDEF Committee of Supply Debate
on 27 Feb 2023*

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WATCH THE
(1) Official SAF Day Video on 30 June; and the
(2) SAF Day Parade Video Livestream
on 1 July on MINDEF FB!

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**TO HELP US PRODUCE BETTER
PRODUCTS FOR YOU,
WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**PLEASE TAKE SOME TIME TO PROVIDE
YOUR FEEDBACK THROUGH THE QR CODE
OR FOLLOWING LINK:
[HTTPS://GO.GOV.SG/SAFDAYPACKAGE2023](https://go.gov.sg/safdaypackage2023)**

THANK YOU!



Thank you to the SICs, SAF IG, MCO and MSD for your inputs towards this package.

Facilitators could remind the audience to provide their feedback on the package via the QR code or the URL linked provided on the slide.