



[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- Introduce the topic and title of the presentation.
- Annually on 1st July, SAF servicemen and women commemorate SAF Day and reaffirm our loyalty and Singapore.
- The aim of this resource package is to:
 - o Highlight the importance of a competent SAF that is committed and stands ready to defend Singapore;
 - o Profile the SAF's full-spectrum capabilities and operational readiness;
 - o Highlight the crucial role of and support for national service (NS) and show recognition for the contributions of national servicemen and women; and,
 - o Highlight Total Defence as an undergirding strength in the defence of Singapore.

[Note: Commanders/ facilitators are encouraged to screen Minister of Defence's SAF Day 2024 video message. If the engagement session takes place after 1st July, please arrange to screen the video at a suitable time or share the link with your audience.]

“IF SINGAPOREANS WILL NOT OR CANNOT DEFEND SINGAPORE, THERE IS NO BACKSTOP... A STRONG SAF ACTS AS A DETERRENT AGAINST AGGRESSION TOWARDS US AND KEEPS ADVENTURISM AT BAY.”

MINISTER FOR DEFENCE, DR NG ENG HEN
At the Committee of Supply Debate, 28 Feb 2024



[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- A strong SAF and a resilient and united Singapore citizenry is important for the defence of Singapore.

The SAF was born out of a critical need...



Did you know?

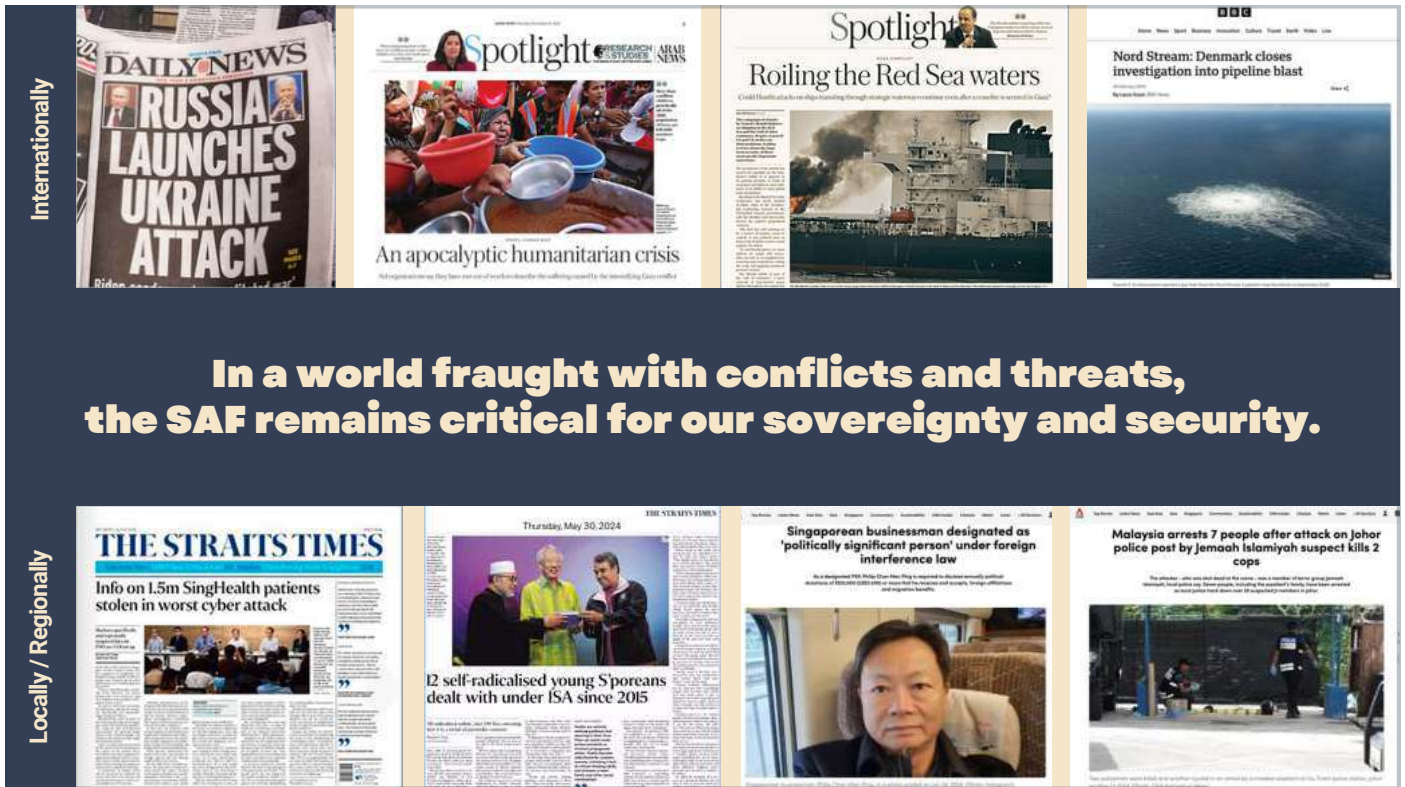
Back then, Mr Lee Kuan Yew and Dr Goh Keng Swee had differing views initially on what was needed for Singapore's defence.



03

[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- The SAF was born out of a critical and urgent need for the defence of Singapore.
 - o The memory of World War II (WWII) was still fresh in the minds of Singaporeans. Domestically, we faced communist and communalist-based threats and Konfrontasi.
 - o Withdrawal of British troops from Singapore meant we have to rely on ourselves.
- Dr Goh Keng Swee favoured an entirely volunteer (i.e. professional) Armed Forces while Mr Lee Kuan Yew insisted on a citizen's army of conscripts coupled with a standing regular Army.
 - o In the wake of being "abandoned" by the colonial administration and "separated" from Malaysia, the citizen-army creates social cohesion and trust within the society, and between the government and society.



In a world fraught with conflicts and threats, the SAF remains critical for our sovereignty and security.

[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- Separation, Konfrontasi, British Withdrawal happened more than 50 years ago. So do we need the SAF today?
- Yes, we do. The world and region is fraught with conflicts and threats, which can affect us too. While it might be hard to imagine (as many had thought of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine), we are not immune. 50 years on, there are threats near and far. Just on 17 May, a terror attack took place at Ulu Tiram police station in Johor Bahru, which led to the death of two police officers and injured another. This is a grim reminder that the threat of terrorism remains high in our region.
- Beyond war, new and unconventional security threats have emerged that can impinge on our sovereignty and security. Examples include terrorism, supply chain blockages and sabotage and massive cyber attacks that can cripple critical infrastructure.
- The SAF needs to prepare well to meet the new challenges ahead to protect our sovereignty and way of life.

REFLECTION



- **What do you know about these major crises or security threats?**
- **How do they affect Singapore or our way of life?**
- **What do you think are the key roles that the SAF plays in keeping Singapore safe and secure?**
- **How does our unit play a role?**

05

[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- (Give the audience some time to reflect upon the questions and invite them to share their views.)
- Before proceeding to the next slide, emphasise that a credible and strong SAF gives Singapore the ability to deter potential aggressors and manage external pressures using diplomacy.
- Reiterate the role that the unit and the servicemen and women play.
- Take the chance to thank them for their contributions.



[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- How does the SAF stay competent and operationally ready to defend Singapore?

1

Through realistic and effective training & strengthening diplomatic ties

Some examples of exercises and fora:

Exercise Tiger Balm 2024



Brigade-level command post exercise to collaborate and share tactics, techniques and procedures between the SAF and the US military.

Exercise Wallaby 2023



Largest overseas unilateral exercise that enables the SAF to train at a scale, level and complexity that cannot be replicated in Singapore.

Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA)



Defence Ministers pledge to build trust and interoperability among the militaries of member countries.

Exercise Super Garuda Shield 2023



Large-scale multilateral and multi-service exercise to enhance mutual understanding, cooperation and friendship with participating forces.

07

[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

[Commanders/ facilitators may use your own examples to showcase how the SAF stays competent and operationally ready to defend Singapore.]

- The SAF participates in large-scale unilateral exercises such as Exercise Wallaby to train more effectively and realistically as an integrated fighting force. The scale, level and complexity allows different units from various Services to operate jointly at a high fidelity in a common space.
- The SAF's participation in bilateral and multilateral exercises such as Exercise Tiger Balm and Exercise Super Garuda Shield strengthens integration across services within the SAF, and promotes collaboration, interoperability, friendship and mutual understanding amongst participating forces.

2 Through enhancing our capabilities



[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- [For this slide, Commanders/ facilitators may profile the SAF’s deterrence edge and full-spectrum capabilities using your own examples. You may also like to use the following talking points.]
- As the threat landscape evolves, the SAF continues to make long-term investments in high-end capabilities to guard against conventional as well as emerging non-conventional security challenges, in the land, air, sea and digital domains.
- The SAF is not relatively large but it operates modern, state-of-the-art platforms to address a spectrum of security challenges. This was made possible through steady defence investments over the years.
- To meet future challenges head-on, the SAF must continue to evolve which includes the use of digitalised fighting and support platforms, and a shift towards a greater use of unmanned vehicles and training simulators.
- By 2040, the Army will be more manoeuvrable, able to strike faster and harder, with Next Gen Infantry Battalions and new Armoured Tracked Carriers (ATC) and Howitzers. The Howitzers are self-loading to shoot faster, and require 60% less manpower. Our Army soldiers can use their own micro-UAVs for last-mile surveillance.
- The Navy, with Multi-Role Combat Vessels, Invincible-class submarines and Unmanned Surface

Vessels (USVs), will be able to see and strike further at sea and in the depths to better protect our waters. The USV is fully unmanned and automated. It will patrol the Singapore Strait alongside our Littoral Mission Vessels and patrol vessels. In the second half of 2024, our Navy ships will have Close-Range Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to extend their range for surveillance.

- The Next Gen Air Force, with F-35As, F-35Bs, F-15SGs, and Next Gen UAVs, will be more lethal, versatile and effective to better protect Singapore's skies. The F-35As are designed for greater endurance and have the ability to carry payloads of higher capacity. They complement the F-35Bs which have short take-off and vertical landing capability.
- Threats from the digital domain are also rising in sophistication and numbers. DIS is building a digital range to replicate key infrastructure, e.g., power, water, and 5G telecommunications systems, and simulating attacks and exploring ways to defend against these attacks. The digital range will be completed in 2026. It will allow us to scale, add complexity and realism in this digital domain.

2 Through enhancing our capabilities

Investments in the SAF's Training Infrastructure

SAFTI City [Phase 1]

to open progressively from 2024

- Realistic and challenging urban training environment.
- Features include:
 - High-rise, interconnected buildings
 - Multi-storey carpark
 - Bus interchange
 - MRT station
 - Urban rubble for disaster relief training



DIVERSE URBAN BUILDING TYPES
Multifunctional training for Homeland Security, Counter Terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief



INNOVATIVE CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES
A dense and realistic urban environment through cost-effective design solutions



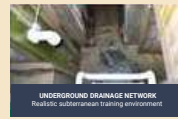
LINK BRIDGES
Elevated corridors in a realistic interconnected urban environment



CONFIGURABLE TRAINING ENVIRONMENT
To allow reconfiguration of the urban road network based on training requirements



WIDENED ROADS AND REINFORCED BRIDGES
Enabling integrated training between platforms and troops



UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE NETWORK
Realistic subterranean training environment

Shoalwater bay training area

expansion on track for 2024 completion



Total training area of expanded SWBTA = 5x



INCREASED TRAINING SCALE

- Supports the SAF's growing requirements for integrated live-firing training.
- Facilitates urban training across Services.
- Larger land space allows the SAF to hone operational capabilities and endurance across more complex mission profiles.

NEW, ADVANCED TRAINING FACILITIES IN SWBTA

Combined arms air-land ranges

- Enables large-scale integrated live-firing up to a battalion, supported by a wider range of assets such as rocket artillery and fighter jets.

Urban operations live-firing facility

- 33 urbanised buildings support up to battalion-level training.
- Enables realistic urban live-firing exercises at a scale which cannot be performed in Singapore.



ENHANCED ADMINISTRATIVE, COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDICAL FACILITIES

- Improved administrative, medical and accommodation infrastructure to support increased training volume.

[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- The SAF has also made sizeable investments in building infrastructure to train our servicemen and women. Starting from this year, soldiers will be able to train more realistically and effectively as SAFTI City and three new Instrumented Battle Circuits including Murai Urban Battle Circuit progressively open up.

3

Through contributing value during peace

Some examples of MINDEF/SAF operations:

Internationally

Ops Prosperity Guardian



Participating in multinational effort to ensure maritime security and protect free flow of commerce in the Red Sea.

Providing humanitarian aid to Gaza



Delivered via airdrop over 20 tonnes of food supplies, equivalent to 59,000 meals into Gaza.

Locally

Critical Infrastructure Defence Exercise (CiDeX) 2023



Strengthened inter-agency collaboration in tackling cyber threats to critical infrastructure.

SAF EOD team diffused WWII bomb



The SAF Explosive Ordnance Disposal team detonated a 100kg World War II bomb found in Upper Bukit Timah.

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[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- The SAF also contributes to value during peace as a responsible member of international community.

- o For maritime security missions, SAF deployed personnel to the on-going Operation Prosperity Guardian (OPG), an operation focusing on efforts to protect shipping vessels against security threats in the Red Sea;

- o For Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR missions, SAF deployed a RSAF aircraft to deliver supplies for civilians in Gaza (Nov 2023);

- o In the Cyber domain, DIS co-led the Critical Infrastructure Defence Exercise (CiDeX) 2023 with Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA) to strengthen inter-agency collaboration in tackling cyber threats to critical infrastructure.

- o The SAF Ordnance Disposal team destroyed a 100kg World War II bomb found in Upper Bukit Timah in Sep 2023, involving more than 40 SAF personnel. This was also the largest evacuation exercise involving the disposal of a WWII-era bomb, affecting some 1,000 residential units in the area.

4 Through Total Defence (TD)

A strong SAF contributes towards Military Defence.

The SAF also supports other pillars of TD to keep Singapore strong.



1,500 SAF personnel packed 5.5 million masks in a 48-hour operation at SAFTI Military Institute



SAF and the Home Team conducted a joint counter-terrorism exercise on 30 Apr and 1 May 2024 to test Singapore's preparedness in the event of a terror attack

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[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- This year, Singapore commemorates 40 years of Total Defence. A strong SAF contributes towards military defence. SAF also supports other pillars of TD to keep Singapore strong.
- The Johor police station attack in May 2024 is a grim reminder that terrorism threat remains high in the region. Just on 30 Apr and 1 May, SAF and the Home Team conducted a joint counter-terrorism exercise to test our preparedness in the event of a terror attack.
- The SAF has also shown its capabilities and contributions in coming together with the community to tackle civilian crises such as SARS and more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

4 Through Total Defence (TD)

STRONG PARTICIPATION FROM THE SAF IN EXERCISE SG READY



WATER DISRUPTIONS



CONNECTIVITY DISRUPTIONS



FOOD DISRUPTIONS



MIXED DISRUPTIONS

This year, Singapore commemorates 40 years of Total Defence.

The SAF participated in the inaugural Exercise SG Ready where units tested their business continuity plans, clarified their roles and responsibilities, and identified areas of improvement.

The exercise enabled participants to understand their roles in keeping Singapore and the SAF strong and ready in times of disruptions and crises.



[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- This year, Singapore commemorates 40 years of Total Defence.
- In Feb 2024, the SAF participated in the island-wide inaugural Exercise SG Ready which allowed various stakeholders to test their respective plans, clarify roles and responsibilities, and on areas to improve on.
- The reflections and discussions at the end of the exercise enabled units and participants to understand their individual roles in keeping Singapore and the SAF strong.

5

Through strengthening National Service (NS)

According to a study by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) on 'Public Attitudes towards NS' released in Jul 2023



98%

of respondents agreed NS is necessary for the defence of Singapore.



88%

of respondents would encourage their friends and loved ones to serve NS even if NS was not compulsory.



96%

of respondents who had served NS agreed that their family is supportive of their NS commitments.



95%

of respondents who had served NS agreed that their employer is supportive of their NS commitments.

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[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- Today, support for NS is strong.
- Our servicemen and women are strongly committed to and supportive of NS (play the video at this point).
- A study by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) on Public Attitudes towards NS released in Jul 2023 showed that public support is strong across a host of domains. For example,
 - o Strong recognition for the necessity of NS;
 - o Strong support for compulsory NS;
 - o Strong support among families and employers for NSmen commitments; and
 - o Encouragement from friends and family to serve NS, even if it is not compulsory.

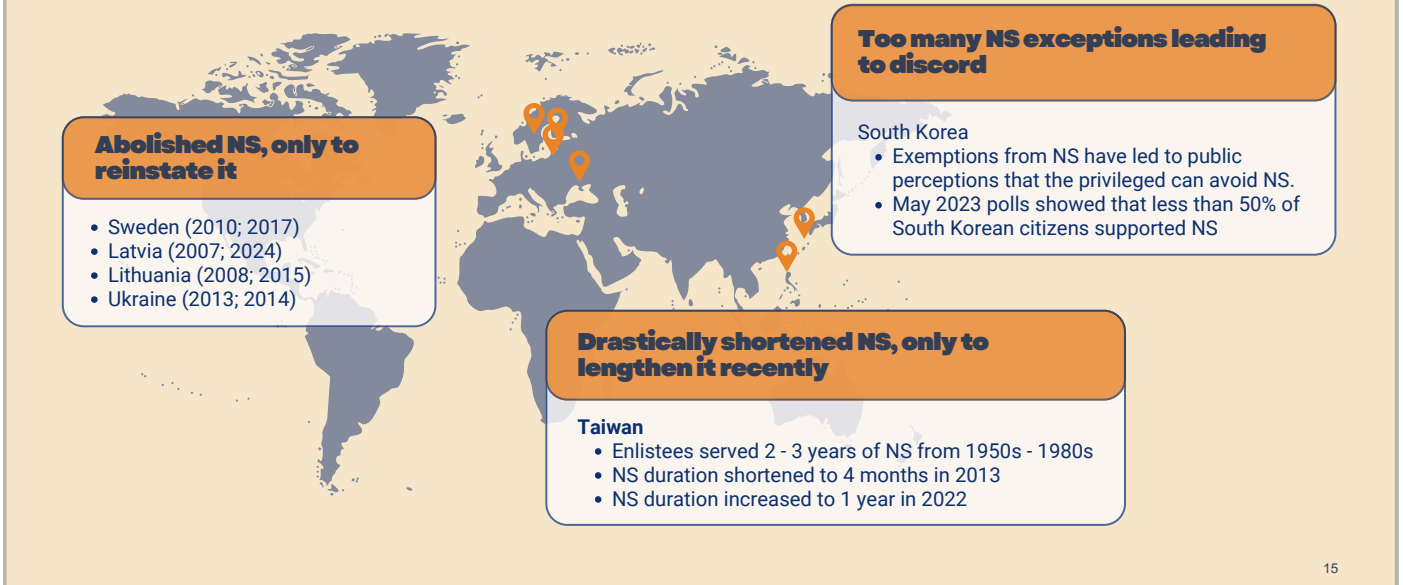
NS has been gaining salience around the world



[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- National Service is gaining salience around the world as can be seen by the fact that there are more countries which are trying to reinstate or extend NS.

NS is like Humpty Dumpty. Once broken, hard to put together again



[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- Our strong commitment to and support for the SAF and NS contrast with the situation elsewhere.
- While many recognise the value of a NS system, they are struggling to implement NS effectively because public support is lacking.
- Most places which diluted their conscription systems have come to regret their decisions and tried to reverse course, many unsuccessfully.
 - o Those which abolished NS, only to struggle to reinstate it (e.g., Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine)
 - o Those which gave too many exceptions saw social unrest/discord (e.g., South Korea);
 - o Those which drastically shortened NS, only to lengthen it recently (e.g., Taiwan);
 - o Those with conscription were not able to mobilise all troops in war (Russia-Ukraine war where soldiers fled).
- It is good that we introduced NS in our early days of independence, and have maintained it consistently over the decades. We must continue to work at it.
- Or else, once fallen, it is nearly impossible to 'put NS together again'.

We should not take strong public support for granted



Fertility rate at **0.97**¹
Less than one birth per female in 2023



14% increase
in number of overseas Singaporeans since 2021²



62% of Singaporean youths are concerned about the **affordability of life in Singapore**³

¹ <https://www.singstat.gov.sg/modules/infographics/population>
² <https://www.population.gov.sg/files/media-centre/publications/population-in-brief-2023.pdf>
³ <https://www.nyc.gov.sg/research-engagement/national-youth-survey>

[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- That said, we should not take the strong public support for NS for granted.
- There are structural challenges that we are grappling with.
 - o Last year, TFR fell to a record low of 0.97. So our birth cohorts, and hence each NS cohort, is shrinking.
 - o More in our population are residing overseas, making it more challenging for them to do In-Camp Training (ICTs).
 - o There are also increased economic and job uncertainties, as well as increased perception of economic opportunity costs of serving NS.

Hence, we must continue to strengthen NS...

1 MAXIMISING CONTRIBUTIONS

For example,

- Redesigning jobs, leveraging technology and revamping the Physical Employment Standards (PES) system
- On-the-job training such as Work-Learn Schemes



2 IMPROVING NS EXPERIENCE

Leveraging data and technology to reduce administrative load and better support our servicemen through their NS journey

New Central Manpower Base as one stop integrated service hub for pre-enlistees and NSmen.

OneNS Platform as one-stop access to relevant information and services.



3 STRENGTHENING RECOGNITION

Recognising the contributions and sacrifices of our servicemen and their families, and supporting them in their lifecycle needs

"We Support NS" Exclusive discounts and promotions for servicemen

\$200 in LifeSG cash credits Digital credits that can be used at over 100,000 online/physical stores



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[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- Today, NS is a key national institution and a part of our way of life.
- Our national servicemen form the backbone of the four services that keep Singapore safe and strong.
- We recognise the efforts and contributions of our servicemen and women both present and past. We want to thank and show our appreciation by continuing to make efforts to strengthen the NS system, improve our servicemen's NS experience and better support them. There are three main key thrusts:
 - o First, to maximise contributions, the SAF is redesigning jobs, leveraging technology and revamping the Physical Employment Standards (PES) system to better deploy servicemen and women to a wider range of operational roles; for those who are keen to take up on-the-job-training, we provide e.g. Work-Learn schemes in areas such as cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence, that allow selected servicemen to attain a ITE or Polytechnic diploma, or partial university credits, while undergoing military training and applying their skills to NS and Regular service;
 - o Second, to improve the NS experience, the SAF is leveraging data and technology to reduce administrative load for national servicemen and women; For example, a new Central Manpower Base (CMPB) has been built as a one-stop integrated service hub that consolidates services for pre-enlistees and NSmen to buy training items, attend medical screening or IPPT training; now

we have a new OneNS Platform which provides a one-stop access to relevant information and services such as acknowledgement of ICT call-ups and make-up pay notifications.

o Third, we recognise the contributions and sacrifices of our servicemen and women. Hence, we are providing them with some credits and discounts to help with their lifecycle needs such as the \$200 LifeSG cash credits. There is also the We Support NS campaign where merchants across Singapore offers exclusive discounts and promotions for our servicemen.

- You can check out the We Support NS webpage (<https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/nsmen/home/promotions>) for the latest discounts and promotion details.

...from one generation to another.



How would you contribute to the defence of Singapore? Make your pledge now by scanning the QR code above!

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[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- Play the video to show how our servicemen feel about NS.
- Encourage the audience to take time to reflect and think about how they, as individuals, can contribute or are contributing to the defence of Singapore?
- Get them to do their pledge by scanning the QR code.

“TO COMPLEMENT A STRONG SAF, SINGAPORE NEEDS A UNITED AND RESILIENT POPULATION... AS WE MOVE FORWARD, LET US REMEMBER THAT KEEPING SINGAPORE STRONG IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY – NOT JUST DURING CRISES AND DISRUPTIONS BUT ALSO DURING PEACETIME. TOGETHER, LET US KEEP SINGAPORE STRONG FOR MANY GENERATIONS TO COME.”

**SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE,
MR ZAQY MOHAMAD,**
At the Committee of Supply Debate, 29 Feb 2024



[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- We determine our own fate and are ourselves responsible for our defence and future.
- A strong SAF will continue to be the most effective deterrence against potential aggressors.
- We must remember to never take our peace for granted.
- While the SAF provides Singapore’s core defence capabilities, Singaporeans can also play a part in the Total Defence of Singapore.
- Each and every one of us can help Singapore stay strong, prepared and resilient for any crisis or disruption.

A strong SAF stands operationally ready to defend Singapore through...



Engaging in realistic and effective training & strengthening diplomatic ties



Enhancing our capabilities



Contributing to value during peace



Supporting Total Defence



Strengthening NS

[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- Conclude the presentation by going through the five points in brief with the audience.



#hormatSAF

**WATCH 2024
SAF DAY PARADE**
LIVE ON 1 JULY
ON MINDEF FB!

**MORE INFO ON THE SAF DAY
VIDEO AND THE SAF DAY
MESSAGE WILL BE
RELEASED SOON.**

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[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- Screen the video(s) for the audience.

THANK YOU!



**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/SAFDAYPACKAGE2024](https://go.gov.sg/safdaypackage2024)**

[Notes for Commanders/ facilitators]

- Invite the audience to provide their feedback for the presentation.