



- On 1st July each year, we commemorate SAF Day and reaffirm our loyalty and commitment to Singapore and the SAF.
- This SAF Day, we want to recognise the extraordinary effort that goes into making everyday ordinary moments.
- Here in Singapore, we have access to food, access to the internet, we are free to go wherever we want. All these may seem simple, and we are used to having them in our daily life. However, a truly extraordinary amount of effort goes into making them happen.
- We build strong capabilities, we optimise our defence spending, and we build strong partnerships. Together with the support from the community, all these efforts have allowed us to enjoy the peaceful, ordinary moments every day.




This engagement package aims to:

- (1) Highlight how MINDEF/SAF is adapting to evolving threats and a changing global environment by spending on what is necessary to meet Singapore's defence needs.
- (2) & (3) Showcase how MINDEF/SAF is strengthening our capabilities and building key defence partnerships.
- (4) & (5) Underscore the essential role of National Service (NS) in ensuring Singapore's defence and security, and highlight that defence is a whole-of-society effort. Emphasise the importance of a capable, committed, and operationally ready SAF.

Note: Commanders/facilitators are encouraged to watch the SAF Day 2026 video which will be uploaded onto MINDEF's social media channels.

If the engagement session takes place after 1 Jul 2026, please arrange to screen the video at a suitable time or share the link with your audience.

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“... in the time where we come under threat,
no one is going to come to our rescue.”

***We have to depend
on ourselves to
defend Singapore.***

And that’s why we have
**built up the SAF and invested consistently in the
SAF from the very beginning.”**

- Prime Minister Lawrence Wong speaking during a visit to
6th Singapore Division/Headquarters Sense & Strike, 9 Apr 2026

Source: The Straits Times
[Link to video](#)

3

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- Today’s external environment is becoming more uncertain and dangerous, and Singaporeans cannot assume that peace and stability will always continue.
- This is why Singapore has consistently invested in building a strong and capable SAF since our independence.


Link to video featuring Prime Minister Lawrence Wong:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/0aAPPzDUwjM>



Singapore operates in an increasingly volatile global environment and faces growing threats. How Singapore can remain secure, prosperous, and stable is tougher than ever.

- The international rules-based order is eroding.
 - Major powers are more upfront about putting their own national interests first, as seen by their pulling back from agreements that once governed global behaviours.
- There is a rise in geopolitical and security tensions.
 - Singapore faces a complex geopolitical landscape defined by intensifying strategic rivalry among the major powers, regional conflicts and terrorism risks.
- There are now greater maritime and supply chain vulnerabilities.
 - This greatly affects Singapore as we are heavily dependent on the seas for our survival and economic prosperity.
 - The ongoing crisis in the Middle East and the chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz demonstrate how disruptions to maritime shipping routes can have major global consequences that affect even countries far away such as Singapore.
- The nature of conventional conflict is also changing as technology advances.
 - For example, the Russia-Ukraine war and Middle East conflict have shown how low-cost drones can destroy expensive military equipment such as buildings, tanks, and ships.
- There is also a rise in hybrid warfare. State and non-state actors increasingly use grey-zone tactics that fall below the threshold of conventional warfare. Some examples include:
 - UNC3886, a highly sophisticated threat actor, mounted a cyber attack on all four of our major telco operators in 2025.
 - Fake AI-generated videos and disinformation involving Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and other political office holders have surfaced in recent years. These videos were designed to mislead the public and spread false information online.
 - Online content that targeted the Singapore Indian community and attempted to undermine Singapore's social cohesion was also found to be circulating in 2026.
- These developments reinforce why SAF must remain vigilant and prepared.



REFLECTION

Share your thoughts on one of the challenges that Singapore faces. What is one noticeable impact on your way of life, and to the SAF's training and operations?

5

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Image source: MINDEF

[Proposed prompts on challenges facing Singapore for discussion]

- Changing demographics: Singapore faces an ageing population and a smaller manpower pool. With fewer people available for NS, the SAF must rely more on technology such as drones, unmanned systems, and automation.
 - As at June 2025, the non-resident population stood at 1.91 million, an increase of 2.7% from June 2024. This forms about 31% of our total population.
- Hybrid threats: Cyber threats and hybrid warfare are becoming more common today. The SAF must be prepared for a greater spectrum of conflicts, including defending against grey-zone tactics, and not just conventional warfare.
- Social fault lines: Increasing social fault lines and divisions within society. Hostile actors can exploit these divisions through disinformation. This is why the SAF now places greater emphasis on cyber security and psychological defence.

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“ In the face of these wide-ranging challenges, how can we continue to defend Singapore and protect our way of life? One thing remains clear – **the world does not owe us a living or our survival. We can rely only on ourselves and not on the security guarantees of anyone else.** ”

... let me highlight our four-pronged approach to tackle the challenges we face:

Capabilities
Commitment
Contributions
Connections

- Defence Minister Chan Chun Sing at Committee of Supply Debate 2026



6

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Image source: CNA

- Singapore cannot rely on others to guarantee our security. To remain secure and relevant, Singapore must continue focusing on four key areas, known as the 4Cs.
 - Strengthening **Capabilities**
 - Engendering **Commitment** to Defence
 - Strengthening **Contributions**
 - Reinforcing our **Connections**
- These four areas form Singapore’s broader approach towards defence and national resilience.







- Building effective defence capabilities takes many years.
- Given that defence programmes have long gestation periods, we need to plan and invest for the long term.
- The SAF continues to invest prudently in next-generation capabilities to remain operationally ready against evolving threats.
- This is done by carefully reviewing and acquiring advanced capabilities, enhancing personnel training, and developing cross-domain capabilities.

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STRENGTHENING OUR CAPABILITIES

1. Next-generation capabilities

<p>Acquisition of next-generation TITAN Infantry Fighting Vehicle</p> <p>Armed with a 30mm cannon as a Remote Weapon System for enhanced firepower. It will also be equipped with capabilities to counter drones.</p> 	<p>Launch of Multi-Role Combat Vessel (MRCV)</p> <p>To serve as both a modern warship and a mothership for unmanned systems.</p> 	<p>Acquisition of three Gulfstream G550 Maritime Surveillance Aircraft</p> <p>To strengthen Singapore's maritime surveillance and protection of our sea lines of communication.</p> 	<p>Set-up of SAF Counter-UAS Development and Operations group</p> <p>Responsible for guarding against unmanned aerial systems, in collaboration with other government agencies.</p> 
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Image source: MINDEF

- These are some of the next-generation capabilities that we are investing in:
 - The second MRCV is expected to be launched in 2026.
 - Following the acquisition of the Boeing P-8A Maritime Patrol Aircraft in 2025, the RSAF will acquire three Gulfstream G550 Maritime Surveillance Aircraft in 2026 to complement existing maritime surveillance assets.
- Beyond individual platforms, we are strengthening how our capabilities operate together.
 - The SAF is operationalising the Counter-UAS Development and Operations Group to better integrate our capabilities and strengthen the SAF's response to combat drones.

STRENGTHENING OUR CAPABILITIES

2. Enhanced training

Building of Multi-Mission Range Complex 2 at Bedok Camp

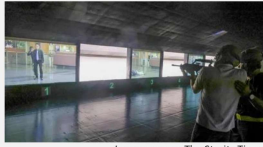


Image source: The Straits Times

For more realistic and precise training across different domains. It will also allow our soldiers to hone their counter-drone techniques.

Repositioning of the Cyber Defence Test and Experimentation Centre (CyTEC)



Image source: DIS

Beyond training cyber defenders, CyTEC will be equipped with cutting-edge technologies to facilitate innovation and strengthen our cybersecurity.

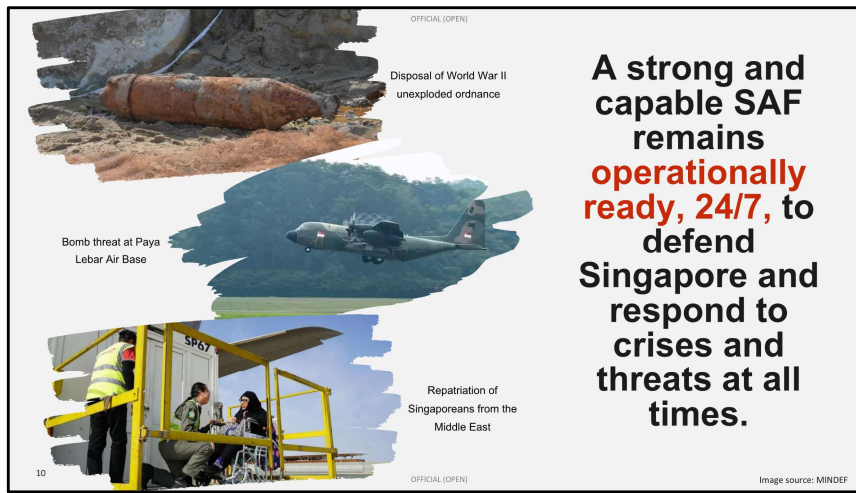
3. Cross-domain capabilities



New battlefields require new strategies. Increasingly, unmanned systems, drones, and AI-enabled systems are reshaping modern warfare


- The SAF is also strengthening its capabilities through enhanced training, to continue evolving ahead of future threats.
- Screen the video showcasing MINDEF/SAF's cross-domain and cross-service capabilities.

Link: <https://youtu.be/Tr8UNep3Ezc?si=98YmkDRd8zXlmNNQ&t=67> (1:07 – 2:03)



A strong and capable SAF remains operationally ready, 24/7, to defend Singapore and respond to crises and threats at all times.

- The SAF remains operationally ready to defend Singapore. Beyond conventional military threats, the SAF must also be prepared to respond to emergencies and crises that may affect Singapore and Singaporeans overseas.
- In February 2026, the SAF responded swiftly to a bomb threat incident at Paya Lebar Air Base.
 - The SAF had worked closely with relevant agencies to ensure the safety and security of the air base and surrounding areas.
- In April 2026, the SAF successfully disposed of a World War II unexploded ordnance discovered along Tanah Merah Coast Road.
 - The operation required close coordination between the SAF and multiple government agencies to ensure public safety while minimising disruption to nearby residents and infrastructure.
- The SAF also conducted repatriation operations involving Singaporeans affected by tensions and instability in the Middle East.
 - RSAF successfully deployed an A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport to bring 81 Singaporeans and their dependents safely back from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in March 2026.



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REFLECTION

The SAF's strength lies not just in its hardware, but in the **people** behind it.

What skills or knowledge are you building now that will make you a more effective fighter in the future?

11

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Image source: MINDEF

[Proposed prompts for discussion]

- Keep an open mind with a growth mindset to adapt faster because modern threats and technology change very quickly.
- Become more comfortable and well-versed with digital systems and evolving technology.
- Become more resilient and strengthen mental preparedness to adapt to changes in military operations which may be physically and mentally demanding.



- It is important to reinforce our connections with our defence partners. This helps the SAF to build strategic trust, prevent conflicts, and secure essential overseas training spaces.



- As a small country with limited land and resources, Singapore cannot operate in isolation. We will continue to work with like-minded countries that share our commitment to an open, stable, rules-based system and contribute to regional stability via practical military cooperation.
- The SAF conducts bilateral and multilateral exercises with many partners around the world.
 - Exercise Cope Tiger:
 - In March 2026, the Republic of Singapore Air Force, Royal Thai Air Force, and United States Air Force took part in the 32nd edition of Exercise Cope Tiger.
 - Multilateral Naval Exercise Komodo:
 - The Republic of Singapore Navy's vessels RSS Valour and RSS Fortitude participated in the multilateral exercise Komodo hosted by the Indonesian navy in 2025.
 - Exercise Panzer Strike:
 - This year (2026) marks the 17th edition of Exercise Panzer Strike, an armour training and live-firing exercise with the German Armed Forces.
 - Exercise Locked Shields (XLS):
 - In Apr 2026, the Digital and Intelligence Service participated in Exercise Locked Shields, an annual multinational live-fire cyber defence exercise conducted by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence.

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REINFORCING OUR CONNECTIONS

2. Defence diplomacy

ASEAN



ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)



In 2027, Singapore will serve as ASEAN chair and host key ASEAN meetings, providing opportunities to strengthen cooperation and address shared regional challenges.

Singapore also plays an active role in ADMM, ASEAN's highest defence consultation and cooperation platform.

Shangri-La Dialogue 2026



This annual summit provides a valuable platform for the exchange of perspectives on defence and security issues and initiatives. It also facilitates opportunities for like-minded countries to come together and cooperate to address new challenges.

3. Technology partnerships

Diversifying defence technology partnerships to strengthen resilience against supply chain disruptions.

New defence industry collaborations in 2026 include:

Singapore-Japan Defence Industry Day



Estonia-Singapore Defence Industry Day



Singapore-Italy Defence Industry Day



14

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Image source: The Straits Times, Defence Pioneer SG


- Singapore continues to strengthen long-standing defence relationships with both regional and international partners. This reinforces Singapore's reputation as a credible, principled, and reliable partner in international defence relations.

Defence diplomacy

- Singapore plays an active role in ASEAN, which promotes regional peace, stability, and prosperity through dialogue, trust, and cooperation among member states.
- ADMM is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN. It aims to promote mutual trust and confidence through greater understanding of defence and security challenges, as well as enhancement of transparency and openness.
- Singapore also provides a valuable, trusted, and neutral platform for meaningful dialogue and defence engagement through the Shangri-La Dialogue.

Technology partnerships

- Diversified defence technology partnerships have become increasingly important as global tensions and conflicts can disrupt access to critical technologies, systems, production processes, and supplies.
- In 2026, we formed new defence industry collaborations including:
 - Singapore-Japan Defence Industry Day, which connected start-ups, SMEs, and defence stakeholders to showcase innovative technologies and to share defence technology solutions to common operational challenges.
 - Estonia-Singapore Defence Industry Day, which brought together technology leaders from both countries to share insights on emerging defence technologies and facilitate defence industry collaborations.
 - Singapore-Italy Defence Industry Day, where we signed a Letter of Intent on Supply Chain Resiliency and Research and Development to strengthen supply chains and collaborate on research and development to enhance defence readiness.
- These partnerships allow Singapore to exchange expertise, strengthen innovation, and explore new technologies in areas such as unmanned systems, cybersecurity, and digital defence. This strengthens Singapore's ability to adapt to future threats while ensuring that the SAF continues to remain capable and operationally ready.



REFLECTION

Defence relations are not built overnight, and require years of consistent, principled engagement.

What qualities do you think an SAF personnel should embody when representing Singapore alongside foreign militaries?

How well do you think you measure up to that standard?

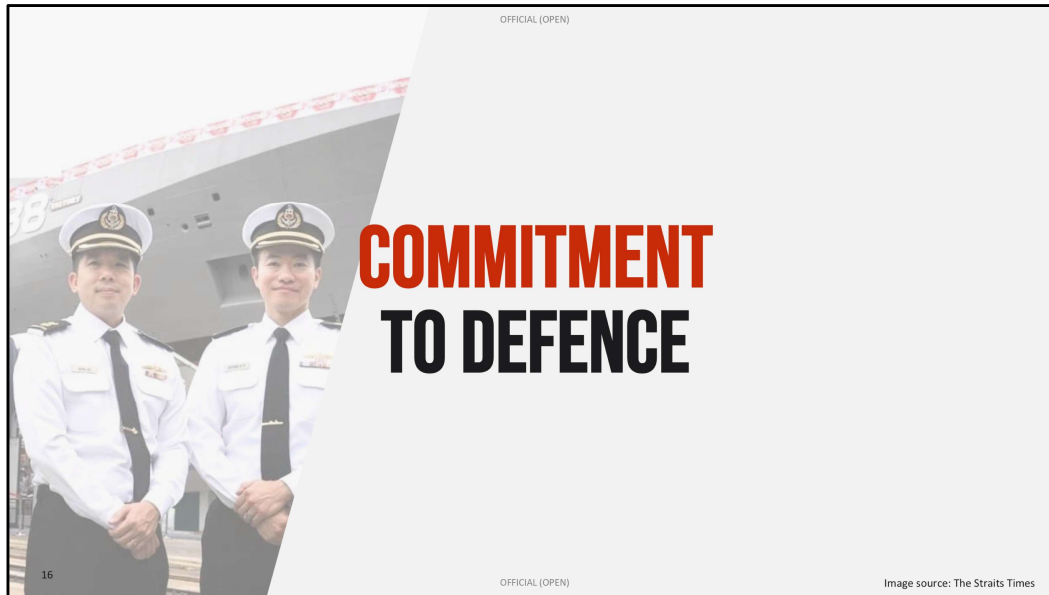
15

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Image source: MINDEF

[Proposed prompts for discussion]

- Loyalty to country - our conduct should reflect commitment and pride in defending Singapore.
- Awareness and understanding of Singapore's foreign/defence policy approach and key partnerships.
- Professionalism - even small things like punctuality and discipline affect how others see the SAF.
- Fighting spirit - we should always give our best during exercises and operations, even when they are tough, especially in a foreign environment.



- Commitment to defence encompasses the following expressions of commitment:
 - Commitment to a steady, consistent, and disciplined way of approaching our defence expenditure.
 - Commitment to NS.
 - Commitment to the share of talent that MINDEF/SAF receives.
- Our defence spending is always primarily guided by operational needs, so that we can build a strong SAF and equip our warfighters with the best systems available against today's and tomorrow's challenges.

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COMMITMENT TO DEFENCE

Around the world, countries are introducing or expanding military service due to rising security concerns.

They recognise the importance of having a ready and sizeable defence force.

German parliament backs controversial military service law amid Russian threat

18-year-olds will have the choice to join a military service programme, in Germany's attempt to bolster its national defence.

France launches recruitment campaign for new voluntary military service

[Jordan parliament passes law reinstating conscription](#)

Jordan's parliament has voted in favour of a law reinstating conscription for men from early next year, decades after compulsory military service ended.

For Singapore, National Service remains the bedrock of our defence.

17

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Image source: The Straits Times

- Around the world, rising security concerns are causing countries to introduce or expand military service. This reflects a growing recognition that national defence cannot be taken for granted.
 - In Europe, countries such as Germany and France introduced voluntary military service initiatives in 2025, amid growing security concerns following the Russia-Ukraine war.
 - In 2026, Jordan reactivated its military conscription more than 30 years after it was suspended in 1991, due to rising regional tensions and instability in the Middle East.
- These developments show that many countries increasingly recognise the importance of having a ready, resilient, and sizeable defence force.



- NS is the bedrock of our defence. By being committed to NS, you ensure that Singapore possesses a credible and deterrent force to safeguard our sovereignty.
- As our operational environment evolves, the SAF is also adapting the NS system to better maximise the strengths, skills, and potential of every serviceman.
 - Under the refreshed Medical Classification System (MCS), servicemen are deployed more meaningfully and effectively based on their abilities and strengths.
 - SAF has introduced Work-Learn Schemes (WLS) and Early Enlistment Schemes to help servicemen develop relevant skills and qualifications during NS.
 - MINDEF/SAF is also redesigning more than 2,000 roles across the SAF. This enables more NSFs to be deployed in a wider range of operational roles that they were previously ineligible for.
 - The SAF-School Partnership Programme is expanding beyond post-secondary education institutions to include secondary and primary schools, allowing us to engage Singaporeans earlier in their defence journey.
 - Partnership with SAFRA to create meaningful sessions for former NSmen or “NS alumni” to form stronger networks and provide more opportunities to get them involved in MINDEF/SAF events.



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REFLECTION

How else can we strengthen our NS system and how can you play a part?

Show your appreciation to NSMen using the online resources below

Dear _____
Thank you for keeping Singapore safe!
From _____



WE NS
#WeSupportNS

Photo: @Wahneema Lubiano on 11/02/21


19

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Image source: The Straits Times

[Proposed prompts for discussion]

- The SAF can look into more ways of recognising NS skills outside of NS, especially for future careers.
- Training can become more customised so servicemen can contribute based on their strengths and abilities.
- More realistic and meaningful training can help servicemen feel more motivated and engaged.



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STRENGTHENING CONTRIBUTIONS

1 Total Defence and community resilience

2 Volunteer contributions

20

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Image source: MINDEF

STRENGTHENING CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Total Defence and community resilience

Singapore's security depends on the preparedness, resilience, and commitment of the whole nation.

Exercise SG Ready

- Held from 1 to 15 Feb 2026, organisations, schools and units from educational, community, business, and government sectors carried out different **disruption or preparedness activities**.
- **3,000 Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen)** from the 9th Singapore Division were activated for a mobilisation exercise.
- A peacetime civil resource mobilisation requisition exercise was conducted on 17 Jan 2026 to exercise **Singapore's readiness**.



- The SAF's operational strength does not stop at active units. It is reinforced by NSmen, supported by families and employers, and ultimately strengthened by the resilience and unity of the whole society.
- This reflects the concept of Total Defence, where Singapore's security depends not only on military strength, but also on the preparedness, resilience, and commitment of the whole society. In this way, Total Defence ensures that Singapore remains resilient not just militarily, but also socially, economically, psychologically and digitally during crises and disruptions.
- Exercise SG Ready (ESR) demonstrates how government agencies, businesses, schools, community organisations, and individuals work together with the SAF to strengthen national resilience.
 - Through realistic scenarios and crisis simulations, ESR helps Singaporeans better understand their roles during emergencies and disruptions.
 - It also strengthens coordination between agencies and communities so that Singapore can respond more effectively during crises.
- A strong SAF is important, but a resilient and united population gives Singapore its true strength during times of uncertainty.

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STRENGTHENING CONTRIBUTIONS

2. Volunteer contributions

Singapore Defence Volunteer Network (SG Defence)

- A total of 10 civilian volunteer schemes in the network, creating capacity for almost 400 new volunteers.
- In today's increasingly complex security environment, Singapore faces evolving threats that require a whole-of-society response.

Discover more at <https://go.gov.sg/sqdefence>





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Image source: The Straits Times

22

- Singapore's defence is strengthened not only by the SAF and NSmen, but also by volunteers and the wider community who choose to contribute to our security and resilience. These volunteer efforts reflect a shared sense of ownership and commitment towards defending Singapore and our way of life.
- In 2026, the Singapore Defence Volunteer Network (SG Defence) was launched to bring together volunteers from across MINDEF, the SAF, and related organisations under a common identity.
 - SG Defence brings together people from all walks of life who want to contribute meaningfully to Singapore's defence.
 - These volunteer efforts help strengthen public understanding of defence and reinforce Total Defence across society.
- The SAF Volunteer Corps, or SAFVC, continues to provide opportunities for Singaporean women, Permanent Residents, and new citizens to contribute directly to Singapore's defence.
 - Since its formation in 2014, more than 1,500 SAFVC volunteers have trained and served alongside the SAF in various operational and support roles.
 - SAFVC volunteers have also participated more closely alongside SAF units in training and operational activities, including Exercise Wallaby in Australia.



REFLECTION

The SAF Volunteer Corps (SAFVC) and SG Defence Volunteer Network show the collective will and effort of Singaporeans stepping up to defend our way of life.

What does it mean to you that civilians are choosing to step forward, and how does that shape your own sense of commitment?

23

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Image source: Defence Pioneer SG

[Proposed prompts for discussion]

- It reflects that people still care about Singapore and want to contribute in their own ways.
- Seeing civilians volunteer highlights that NS is something meaningful and valued by society.
- It reminds us that Total Defence is a whole-of-society effort.

MINDEF/SAF will continue to be credible, capable, and operationally ready to defend Singapore.

At the same time, **national defence involves every Singaporean playing our part. Next year, we commemorate 60 years of NS**, an important milestone for Singapore as we recognise all generations of NSmen for their commitment and contributions.

The SAF is strong because of the commitment of all Singaporeans.

On this SAF Day, let us continue to pledge and rededicate ourselves to **defend Singapore and our way of life.**

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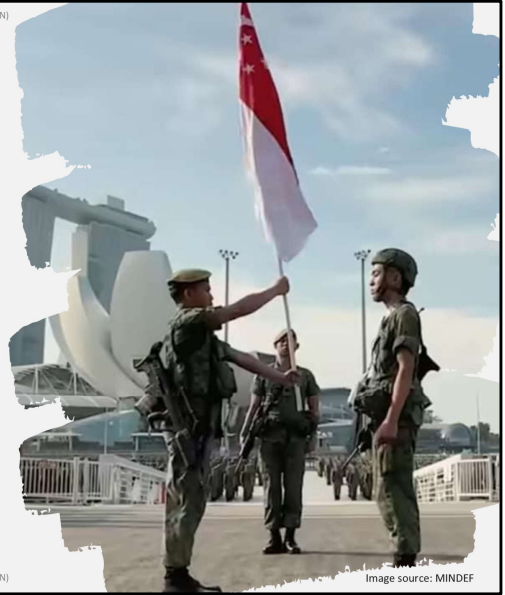



Image source: MINDEF

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Any feedback? Share it with us at this link:





<https://go.gov.sg/feedback-safday2026>

Learn more about Singapore's defence and Total Defence efforts at:

SG101

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- Invite the audience to provide feedback via the FormSG link.
- Encourage participants to continue learning more about Singapore's defence and Total Defence efforts through official MINDEF and Nexus platforms (e.g., ConnexionSG).