SAF Day 2025 – Talking Points



[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 commitment to Singapore.
- The aim of this resource package is to:
 - Highlight the need for a competent SAF that is committed and stands ready to defend Singapore;
 - o Profile the SAF's full-spectrum capabilities and operational readiness;
 - Highlight the crucial role of national service (NS) and emphasise why we need to support NS
 - Encourage public/servicemen to express recognition for the contributions of national servicemen and women; and,
 - Remind everyone that they play a part in Total Defence which is an undergirding strength in the defence of Singapore.

[Note: Commanders/ facilitators are encouraged to screen Minister for Defence's SAF Day 2025 video message. If the engagement session takes place after 1 July 2025, please arrange to screen the video at a suitable time or share the link with your audience.]



[Notes for Commanders / Facilitators]

- Today, our region faces growing uncertainties: geopolitical tensions, hybrid threats, and digital disruptions. Against this backdrop, the SAF's role remains vital.
- The SAF, including our NS system, deters aggression and safeguards our sovereignty.
- Conflicts may seem far away, but as seen in events near our region and online influence operations, Singapore is not immune.
- Our response readiness, strong diplomatic ties, and credible deterrence allow Singapore to uphold peace, stability, and independence.



- 2025 marks 60 years of the SAF, commemorating six decades of commitment and dedication in safeguarding Singapore's sovereignty and security.
- It is a time to reflect on how far we've come and the role each of us plays in keeping Singapore strong and secure.



[Notes for Commanders / Facilitators]

- Commanders/ facilitators are encouraged to screen this video in full.
- We stand ready, supported by the people, and strengthened by innovation and unity.



- Take a look at these headlines. This is our operating context and the reality Singapore faces every single day.
- On 13 June this year, Iran and Israel entered into open armed conflict. On 22 June, the US announced that it has conducted strikes on three key Iran nuclear facilities, with Trump saying that the US could launch more attacks. With this, the US joins Israel in the biggest Western military action against Iran since its 1979 revolution. Tehran has threatened to retaliate, with its parliament approving a move to close the Strait of Hormuz on 23 June. Though this requires higher level approval within the Iranian government, this could lead to a significant increase in global oil prices.

- There has been a unified wave of diplomatic and political pressure urging for restraint and deescalation of the conflict in the Middle East.
- [Note: As the situation is still unfolding, it is recommended that Commanders / Facilitators stay tuned to facts on the latest developments via Singapore mainstream media (e.g. Straits Times / Channel News Asia) as well as any official updates on Singapore's positions via MFA's Newsroom, Nexus' Connect Telegram, or gov.sq sources.]
- Beyond headlines about armed global conflicts, Singapore faces economic headwinds and increased inflationary pressures. As a small country and open economy, global developments will impact us, whether directly or indirectly.
- The battlefield we have to fight in has also changed. Threats today aren't just tanks and jets crossing borders, disruptions to our water supply, or impact to our economic and fiscal sustainability; they may be much more subtle, insidious and harder to spot. A major threat we need to actively lookout for is Foreign Interference and Influence.
- The SAF needs to prepare well to meet the new challenges ahead to protect our sovereignty and way of life. This is only possible with public support for defence and everyone playing their part.



- 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?

[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?



[Notes for Commanders / Facilitators]

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

 On the digital front, the Digital and Intelligence Service (DIS) participated in the fourth edition of Defence Cyber Marvel (DCM4), a multilateral cyber defence exercise conducted by the British Army Cyber Association. This year's exercise, held from 24 to 28 February 2025 in Seoul, South Korea, saw the participation of over 1,000 personnel from 27 nations.

[Read more here: https://www.mindef.gov.sg/news-and-events/latest-releases/1mar25 nr1]

- The SAF's participation in bilateral and multilateral exercises such as Exercise Tiger Balm 2025 and
 Exercise Griffin Cakti further enhanced bilateral coordination and combat readiness,
 interoperability, friendship and mutual understanding amongst participating forces.
 - [Read more here: https://www.mindef.gov.sg/news-and-events/latest-releases/16may25 nr1]
- At the 23rd FPDA Defence Chiefs' Conference, Singapore reaffirmed its commitment to regional defence cooperation and trust-building.
 - [Read more here: https://www.mindef.gov.sg/news-and-events/latest-releases/29may25 nr1]
- These engagements reflect the SAF's integrated approach across services and domains, and its strong partnerships with regional and global militaries.



[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 remains steadfast in its mission to respond swiftly and effectively whenever Singapore's
 interests or people are at risk. Across all Services, the SAF regularly conducts ops readiness
 exercises, honing our ability to mobilise, respond and protect Singapore at a moment's notice.
- In one example of operational readiness, the RSAF scrambled two F-16s when a Malaysian helicopter flew near Changi Airport—promptly securing our airspace.

 [Read more here: https://www.mindef.gov.sg/news-and-events/latest-releases/18sep23_pq2]
- At sea, the RSN continues to leverage technology to counter both traditional and non-traditional threats, ensuring 24/7 maritime security.
- [Read more here: https://www.mindef.gov.sg/news-and-events/latest-releases/04feb25 fs#:~:text=The%20RSN%20constantly%20enhances%20its%20capabilities%20to,waterways%2C%20alongside%20our%20national%20maritime%20security%20partners]



- The SAF's commitment extends beyond national defence, as we also contribute actively to peace support operations and humanitarian assistance around the world.
- In 2025, the SAF provided airlift support to communities hit by Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) in the Philippines, and supported flood relief efforts in Australia by supplying critical aid and manpower.
- We also delivered humanitarian aid to victims of the Myanmar earthquake, and deployed a Medical Contingent to Egypt, working alongside MOH to care for civilians affected by the Gaza conflict.
- These missions reflect that the SAF seeks to contribute, within our means and in useful ways, towards multinational efforts to maintain international security.



[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 both conventional warfighting and hybrid capabilities across land, air, sea, and digital domains to guard against evolving threats.
- 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 selfloading 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. As of 2025, our Navy ships are equipped with 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 can 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.



[Notes for Commanders / Facilitators]

[For this slide, Commanders / facilitators may profile the SAF's unmanned capabilities using your own examples. You may also like to use the following talking points.]

- The SAF has made sizeable investments in robotic platforms and counter-drone measures. By 2040, we will have a multi-domain unmanned architecture – spanning aerial, maritime, ground, and sub-surface platforms.
- Micro-UAVs and larger ISR drones (e.g. V60, Orbiter-4) provide real-time reconnaissance, while swarming drones and unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs) enable responsive intelligence and precision targeting.
- Unmanned Surface Vessels now patrol the Singapore straits autonomously, issuing warnings and deploying remote weapons.
- The SAF has established a dedicated Counter-UAS group deploying sensors, jammers, and neutralisation tools, complemented by a UAS Warfare & Tactics Centre in RSAF and an Army Drone Accelerator (DARE) to both leverage and defend against drones.



[Notes for Commanders / Facilitators]

- The SAF has also made sizeable investments in building infrastructure to train our servicemen and women.
- SAFTI City Phase 1 was launched in March 2025 at the SAFTI Training Area. SAFTI City provides a
 realistic and challenging urban training facility for the SAF, as its operational needs evolve to include
 a wider range of scenarios from peace to war. This advanced facility will help our soldiers to train
 better to conduct operations in built-up areas, including homeland security, counter-terrorism, and
 disaster relief operations.
- In fact, SAF and the US Army successfully conducted Exercise Tiger Balm (an integrated urban operations exercise) in SAFTI City in May 2025.



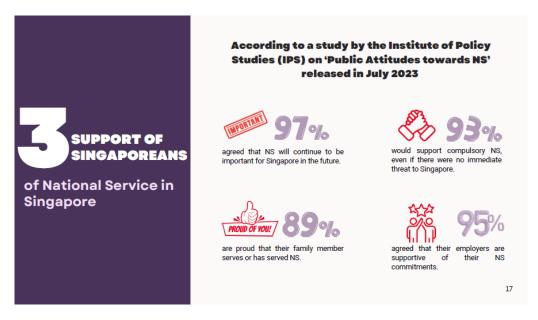
- A strong SAF anchors military defence. It also supports the other pillars of Total Defence by responding to crises, safeguarding critical infrastructure, and partnering with the community to enhance national resilience.
- This year's Exercise SG Ready 2025, co-led by MINDEF and the Energy Market Authority (EMA), focused on strengthening national readiness against power grid disruptions caused by cyber-attacks. Over 1,000 organisations took part in a nationwide simulation of cyberattacks and disruptions to power, water and food systems, including a blackout affecting more than 30 major buildings.



[Notes for Commanders / Facilitators]

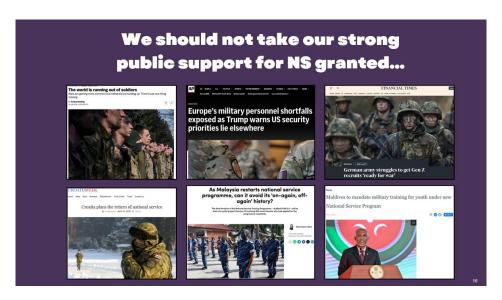
[Commanders / facilitators may reflect and recap on what your own unit did to support ESR 2025, and add in your own examples. You may also like to use the following talking points.]

- Exercise SG Ready also saw strong participation from MINDEF/SAF.
- At MINDEF HQ, staff responded to simulated cyberattacks and civil emergencies, including power outages and fire drills.
- The SAF C4 Command ran a phishing drill to strengthen cyber vigilance and guard against social engineering threats.
- Mobilisation exercises at Selarang and Murai Camps tested our operational readiness on the ground.
- Across the SAF, units rehearsed business continuity plans, clarified roles, and identified gaps, reinforcing our ability to stay mission-ready under stress.
- Such efforts are only effective with strong support from everyone, whose trust and cooperation underpin our nation's resilience.



[Notes for Commanders / Facilitators]

- A 2023 study by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) revealed that 97% Singaporeans believed NS will remain vital for our nation's future, and 93% supported keeping it compulsory.
- 89% said they felt proud when a family member serves or has served NS, reminding us that every serviceman represents more than himself.
- 95% shared that their employers supported their NS commitments, reflecting the broad societal recognition of NS as a national duty, not a personal burden.
- These numbers reflect a strong mandate but also a quiet responsibility: to serve with pride, knowing the nation stands behind us.



[Notes for Commanders / Facilitators]

 Our strong commitment to and support for the SAF and NS contrast with the situation around the world.

- While many countries recognise the value of a NS system, they are struggling to implement and/or sustain a NS system 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.
- That said, we should not take the strong public support for NS for granted. Because behind every soldier, there is a nation's trust, and with every generation, that trust must be earned anew.
- 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', and by then, it may be too late.



- Today, NS is a key national institution and a part of our way of life.
- Our national servicemen across the SAF form the backbone that keeps 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:
- 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;
- Second, to improve the NS experience, the SAF is leveraging data and technology to reduce administrative load for national servicemen and women. For example, the enhanced oneNS app, continually enhanced based on servicemen's feedback, now offers smoother access to NS services, including ICT deferment, real-time mobilisation updates for all SAF units, and easier use of NS credits on the go. Opening progressively from mid-2025, the new CMPB will be a one-stop centre

- streamlining NS administrative and medical processes, including fitness, screenings, and specialist care, while also serving the community with public exercise facilities, childcare, and dining options.
- 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.
- Apart from relying on organisational and policy interventions, some questions to think about:
 - How can you, your friends or family, express appreciation for your fellow servicemen/women?
 - O How have you supported someone else in their NS journey? How can this effort be scaled or extended to benefit more individuals or to strengthen the NS system?



- 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...







Enhancing our capabilities



peace

Contributing to Total Defence value during





[Notes for Commanders / Facilitators]

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

Don't forget to catch the SAF60 Exhibition Showcase!



- Launched at Singapore Discovery Centre on 2 Apr, the exhibition showcases the SAF's transformation journey in the past six decades, and highlights the experiences of servicemen and women who contributed to Singapore's defence.
- · In the following months, it will be displayed at over various locations around Singapore. Visit defencecollectivesg.com/saf60-sdc-2025 for the latest on exhibition dates and venues!

22

- The SAF60 exhibition showcase, themed "Defending Our Home, Securing our Future", traces the SAF's transformation journey and features a collection of human-interest stories and experiences of past and present servicemen and women.
- Encourage the audience to head down to the SAF60 roving exhibitions at various public locations.
- It is currently at SAFRA Choa Chu Kang until 27 Jun 2025. The next one would be at SAFRA Punggol from 1-7 Sep 2025.



[Notes for Commanders / facilitators]

• Screen the video(s) for the audience.



[Notes for Commanders / facilitators]

Invite the audience to provide their feedback for the presentation.