

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

HOME TEAM NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCE CEREMONY



The annual Home Team NDOC was held today at Home Team Academy. This year, 105 HT officers, 15 HT volunteers, 11 organisations, four team projects/operations and 49 members of the public received the Minister for Home Affairs National Day Awards. Guest-of-Honour

MIN K Shanmugam highlighted the importance of looking forward and planning for the future. MIN stressed that technology is double-edged and emphasised the need for inclusivity and unity as we stay alert to technological trends and respond accordingly.



“When we talk about moving “Onward as One”, the work that the Home Team does is essential. So, a big thank you to all officers for your service to the Home Team, and for your dedication and commitment to keeping Singapore safe.” – MIN K Shanmugam

[>> Read MIN's speech](#)

[>> View NDOC highlights](#) >> [Awards Video 1](#) >> [Awards Video 2](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

HAPPY NATIONAL DAY!



Home Team National Day Observance Ceremony 2023 was held at Home Team Academy on 4 August. The key takeaways were:

- This year's National Day is themed “Onward as One”. It embodies two key messages – “Onward”, for us as Singaporeans to look forward and prepare for the future; and “As One”, the need for inclusivity and unity.
- Safety and security play a critical role in helping us navigate the uncertainties we face ahead. We must continue to make a conscientious effort to promote racial and religious harmony. Instead of allowing our differences divide us, we must let our differences become our strength.
- “When we talk about moving “Onward as One”, the work that the Home Team does is essential. So, a big thank you to all officers for your service to the Home Team, and for your dedication and commitment to keeping Singapore safe.” – MIN K Shanmugam

On 28 July, Minister K Shanmugam launched the next phase of the SGSecure movement at the SGSecure Community Conference 2023, which saw the participation of Minister Tan See Leng, SMS Heng Chee How, MOS Sun Xueling, MOS Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim and about 400 community stakeholders.



This phase focuses on urging Singaporeans to deepen social cohesion, and to play an active role in safeguarding our society. The fresh tagline, “What’s Your Role?”, aims to inspire Singaporeans to discover the role they can play in countering terrorism. Various personas were introduced to help the public understand how they could tap on their individual personalities and strengths to keep Singapore safe. Under this phase, MHA and our partner agencies will continue to develop and strengthen their programmes to mobilise the community in tackling terrorism. Also, more ground-up initiatives will be rolled out to raise awareness of the SGSecure movement, increase our overall level of preparedness, deepen partnerships within the community and foster social cohesion.



“The cohesion that we have today in Singapore did not occur by chance. It was the work of generations, painstaking work, to really understand that you can build strength and harness diversity to build some core unity. It is the aim of the terrorists to break that. We have to stay prepared, to fight for it, and prevent the terrorists from succeeding.” – MIN K Shanmugam

[>> Read MIN’s Speech](#)
[>> Find Your Persona Here](#)

SINGAPORE IN GLOBAL COALITION TO ADDRESS SYNTHETIC DRUG THREATS



A diplomatic effort to bring global attention and action to address the public health and security threats posed by synthetic drugs was launched on 7 July. The US-led Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats currently has Singapore, 83 other countries and a number of international organisations as its members. The coalition will undertake an approximately 18-month time-bound effort to advance unified action against threats posed by synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine, fentanyl, synthetic cannabinoids and other new and emerging substances.



Coalition members met at a virtual Ministerial Meeting on 7 July. MIN K Shanmugam presented a recorded speech, reaffirming Singapore’s commitment to work alongside “our international partners in our efforts to contribute to this cause”.

Moving forth, Coalition members will be invited to participate in Working Groups. Potential lines of effort include:

1. Preventing illicit manufacture and trafficking of synthetic drugs;
2. Detecting emerging drug threats and use patterns; and
3. Promoting public health interventions and services to prevent and reduce drug use, overdose, and other related harms.

At the upcoming UN General Assembly High-Level Week Side Event in September 2023 and an engagement on the margins of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2024, the coalition will advance policy solutions on the synthetic drugs threat, endorse key outcome documents, and commit to further action.

[>> Read MIN’s Speech](#)

MHA, SPF AND GOOGLE FIGHT SCAMS AND MORE

SPF is working with Google to keep communities safer from online harms and scams. Google announced the initiatives at their first “Safer with Google” event on 7 July. Two measures are focused on tackling scams. Firstly, Google and MHA engaged local creators such as The Smart Local, Geek Culture and Sethisfy Personal Finance to develop content ideas that raise greater awareness of scam prevention. The YouTube creators learnt from SPF’s presentation about scams and how members of the public can ACT against scams to safeguard themselves. The creators are now preparing their anti-scam content for a showcase in August. Secondly, Google has joined Project PRAISE, an initiative by RSVP Singapore and SPF to raise scam awareness among seniors. Google will provide additional training to RSVP Senior Volunteers who are trained PRAISE Advocates. These volunteers will go on to educate 2,000 senior citizens within a year on ways to spot scams better.

As Minister for Communications and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs, Josephine Teo, said in her speech, “To promote digital literacy, one useful initiative is to ensure people are savvy enough to understand, identify and thereby avoid scams.” MOS Sun Xueling, who was also at the event, added that industry and community partners are welcome to co-create solutions to fight scams. To better identify potential phishing websites and malware hosted on Google Cloud, any content that SPF flags to Google Cloud will be prioritised for review.



>> [Read MOS’ Speech](#)

>> [Check out MOS’ FB post](#)

COOPERATING TO FIGHT CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

SPF partnered the United States Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) to organise the inaugural HSI-SPF Crimes Against Children Regional Forum in Singapore from 11 to 13 July. Representatives from the ASEAN region attended the Forum, which aimed to combat the ever-growing risk of sexual abuse and exploitation faced by children in the region through sharing enforcement strategies and investigative practices.

Offenders leverage the latest technologies such as social media, live-streaming applications, video-sharing sites and the dark web to operate across borders. To successfully identify and locate child victims and to bring perpetrators to justice greatly depends on our close international cooperation with foreign law enforcement agencies.

At the opening ceremony on 11 July, graced by Guests-of-Honour MOS Sun Xueling and His Excellency Mr Jonathan Kaplan, the Ambassador of the United States of America to Singapore, MOS Sun gave an opening address highlighting Singapore’s comprehensive approach to enforce, investigate and rehabilitate to deal with the threat of online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Besides international cooperation, our approach includes strengthening legislative levers to criminalise offending behaviours and block access to child sexual abuse material, as well as strengthening enforcement efforts and implementing effective rehabilitation.



>> [Read MOS’ Speech](#)

SCDF WORKPLACE SEMINAR 2023

The SCDF Workplan Seminar 2023 was held on 31 July at the Civil Defence Academy (CDA). Guest-of-Honour Minister K Shanmugam said that SCDF has made significant progress towards becoming a world-leading life-saving force. In terms of facilities and technology, SCDF continues to invest in world-class facilities to better prepare officers for the challenges at the frontline. For the Phase Two redevelopment of CDA, SCDF has set up three new facilities:

- Mixed-use training set-up, with mock-ups of our urban environment, including a bus interchange and a shopping mall;
- National Emergency Medical Services Training Centre (NETC); and
- Fire Research Centre (FRC).

He shared that SCDF will continue to strengthen its partnership with the community, towards its vision of A Nation of Lifesavers. The Community Emergency Preparedness Programme will be streamlined from a three-part to two-part programme called the Responders Plus Programme (RPP), helping participants to get the key lifesaving skills in a shorter period of time. SCDF will also redesign its fire posts to introduce Lifesavers' Connect Zones, for people to pick up or refresh their lifesaving skills, such as CPR and First Aid. Aside from new developments in CDA, Commissioner Eric Yap also shared about upcoming technological initiatives such as the Tier 2 firefighting robots.



The NETC is SCDF's brand new pre-hospital emergency medical training centre. It replicates the operational environment of the SCDF EMS crew, by tapping on technology for theoretical learning, individual skill training, and realism in scenario-based assessments and certification tests.



The FRC is a fire science and research facility designed to facilitate the formulation of evidence-based fire safety standards, code requirements, and fire safety solutions.

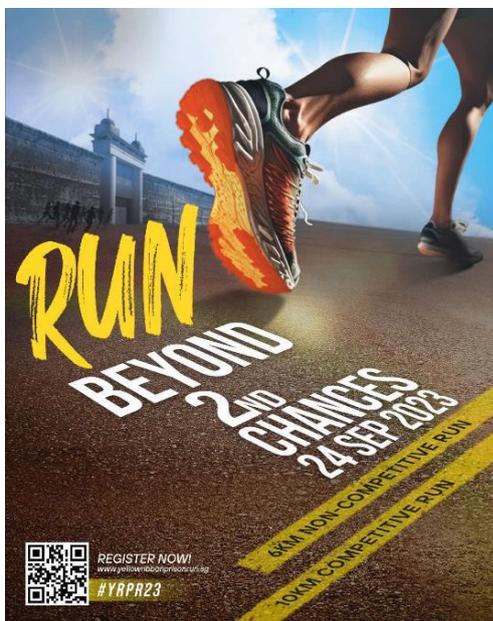


The Flash Point is a four-storey integrated training complex that incorporates fire, rescue, and shelter training facilities within the settings of a mixed-use development. Equipped with an extensive network of 'live' fire simulators, the Flash Point allows for the simulation of both progressive and more complex fire and rescue scenarios.

- >> [Read MIN's speech](#)
- >> [View the Workplan Seminar 2023 Video](#)

HOME TEAM INSIGHTS

YELLOW RIBBON PRISON RUN 2023





24 SEPTEMBER 2023 (SUNDAY)

DISTANCE	STUDENT RATES	*EARLY BIRD RATES	NORMAL RATES
6KM	\$25	\$34	\$38
10KM	\$35	\$50	\$55

*Limited tickets available

RUN ENTITLEMENTS

 RUNNING T-SHIRT	 DRAWSTRING BAG	 FINISHER MEDAL <small>(TO BE COLLECTED AT THE FINISHING POINT)</small>	 WRISTBAND
---	---	---	---



ON DUTY: CNB



Follow CNB officers on an island-wide enforcement operation targeting people who purchased drugs on Telegram:

>> [Click to watch the video](#)

EXERCISE CHEMBRIDGE



Check out how SCDF, ICA and other agencies responded to a chemical spillage incident at the Tuas Second Link in this bilateral exercise.

>> [Click to watch the video](#)

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

GOT A MINUTE?

Thank you for reading our HT Connects newsletter! 😊

Any feedback on this month's HT Connects issue? Let us know by scanning the QR Code or email us at MHA_HTVOLUNTEERS@mha.gov.sg



Have a story to share? Connect with Us



One Home, One Team – Together We Keep Our Home Safe and Secure



WARNING: "Privileged/Confidential Information may be contained in this message. If you are not the intended addressee, you must not copy, distribute or take any action in reliance thereon. Communication of any information in this email to any unauthorized person is an offence under the Official Secrets Act (Cap 213). Please notify the sender immediately if you receive this in error."