



**Commemorate Total Defence's 40th Anniversary with us! This year's theme, "Together We Keep Singapore Strong", is a reminder of the civic responsibility we share in upholding the resilience and security of our nation.**

**MINDEF's Exercise SG Ready will host island-wide activities and simulated disruptions to prepare us to face any crisis or challenge that may come our way. Let's fortify our resolve to keep Singapore strong!**

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## SPOTLIGHT

In light of Total Defence's 40th Anniversary, we sat down with Mr Zaqy Mohamad, Senior Minister of State for Defence & Manpower, to delve into the role that initiatives like Total Defence and SGSecure@Workplaces play in safeguarding our nation and its people.



**Q: As we commemorate 40 years of Total Defence, could you share with us your thoughts on the significance of Total Defence in the context of Singapore's national security and resilience?**

**A:** As we commemorate 40 years of Total Defence, we must recognise the evolving security landscape that Singapore faces today. We must be prepared for crises and disruptions, as conflicts can arise unexpectedly in these uncertain times, e.g. Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Hamas wars, and Red Sea attacks. These conflicts have reverberated across the global economy, impacting Singapore as well.

The security challenges we confront extend beyond conventional warfare, encompassing domains such as cybersecurity, information, and supply chain. The rise of hybrid threats poses significant challenges – disrupting our supply chain and digital connectivity to the world. In light of these challenges, it is imperative that every citizen realises they have a role to play in Total Defence.

Like the generations of Singaporeans before us, we contribute to building a strong and resilient nation capable of adapting to evolving threats. It is through our collective efforts that we defend our sovereignty and our freedom, for now and for generations to come.

**Q: SGSecure plays a crucial role in enhancing Singapore's resilience against security threats. How do you think SGSecure@Workplaces complements the pillars of Total Defence?**

**A:** SGSecure@Workplaces plays a pivotal role in reinforcing Total Defence, by raising awareness of the vital contribution that businesses and workplaces make in bolstering vigilance against potential terrorist threats. It has also helped to build up the capabilities of workplaces to respond and recover from crises, through training and resources for businesses.

This in turn helps to contribute to a more prepared response from Singapore against threats to its national security. This alignment with the pillars of Total Defence underscores the integral role that every sector, including businesses and workplaces, plays in fortifying Singapore's resilience and security.

**Q: What role do you think workplaces have in helping to bolster Singapore's resilience in preparing for possible crises and disruptions that may arise?**

**A:** Workplaces could potentially be targets of terror attacks. It is important in peacetime to be prepared and strengthen business continuity plans and response protocols through exercises. The way organisations and their employees respond during the critical moments of an attack is crucial to saving lives, facilitating business recovery, and accelerating the return of normalcy to life.

Workplaces are also where we spend much of our waking hours. They have a role to play in strengthening our social fabric by promoting cohesiveness and inclusivity. Our collective resilience to stand united is the key to overcoming threats and adversity, allowing Singaporeans to emerge stronger together.

**Q: As we mark this significant milestone of 40 years of Total Defence, are there any reflections you would like to convey to our readers on their ongoing efforts in contributing to SGSecure@Workplaces?**

**A:** As we step into 40 years of Total Defence, it is timely for us to reflect on the evolution of this national concept, which was first introduced on 22 January 1984 as "the national defence concept", rallying all Singaporeans behind the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) in the event of a military threat in a conventional war scenario. The date of 15 February was selected as a sombre reminder of the fall of Singapore in World War 2, and it serves as an important marker of the consequences of a failure in defence.

As a young nation, we have progressively built up our identity and independence as something that we cherish and will rise to defend, if challenged. Over the years, we have witnessed the transformation of Total Defence into a comprehensive national response to the evolving environment we live in. Its relevance is more crucial than ever, particularly in the face of the escalating threats of terrorism.

The growth of SGSecure@Workplaces over the years adds to this broad arc of total defence. Employers, employees, stakeholders, and partners, all have a role to play in fostering a resilient business and workplace environment, contributing to a stable and peaceful Singapore.

Phase 3 of the SGSecure@Workplaces movement has a tagline 'What's your role?'. This question is an important one for all of us to answer, as we consider our role in strengthening security and resilience at the workplaces, and continue our collective efforts for SGSecure@Workplaces, and Total Defence. It is through these sustained efforts that we continue to uphold the spirit of Total Defence, ensuring that Singapore remains strong and united in the face of diverse challenges.

## SGSecure@Workplaces Webinar

**"Harnessing TOPSIS for Security at Workplaces"**

21 February 2024

As part of TD40 celebrations, join us on **21 February** for this webinar led by Mr Peter Tan from the Security Industry Institute and Associate Professor Razwana Begum from the Singapore University of Social Sciences. Discover how TOPSIS (Threat-Oriented Person Screening Integrated System) can enhance threat identification, public safety, and resilience in your workplace.

[Sign up now](#)



✓ PREPARE YOUR WORKFORCE ✓ PROTECT YOUR WORKPLACE ✓ PARTNER YOUR COMMUNITY

- SGSecure@Workplaces Bulletin -

**STAY ALERT, STAY UNITED AND STAY STRONG  
BE PART OF THE SGSECURE MOVEMENT**

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