

Defending the nation

What is Total Defence?

What: Introduced in 1984, Total Defence has five components – psychological defence, social defence, economic defence, civil defence and military defence.

When: Total Defence Day is commemorated every year on Feb 15, the day Singapore fell to the Japanese in 1942.

This year: An interactive exhibition will be open to the public at Suntec City on Feb 15. On display are:

- Ten shortlisted animation clips that were submitted for the N.E.mation contest
- Five short films produced by students and based on the five components of Total Defence
- A 30-minute musical revue entitled Five Pillars, One Roof
- Games and quizzes
- A Total Defence montage wall showcasing about 500 responses from members of the public to the question “What you will defend?”

One of the chosen faces, Madam Yang Chek Salikin (fourth from left), with others involved in this year's Total Defence campaign. They are holding placards with answers to the question “What will you defend?”



Twelve people were chosen to front this year's Total Defence campaign, which has the tagline “What will you defend?” Here is what three of them say they will defend:

Who	What will you defend	Why?	How?
 <p>Matthew Ong, 28 Teacher, Anglo-Chinese Junior School</p>	Children's opportunity to have a quality education	Because children are the future of our nation	Provide quality education, make learning fun, interesting and engaging for students.
 <p>Quentin Pereira, 36 Chef, Quentin's Eurasian Restaurant</p>	My traditions and family's recipes	Because my Eurasian culture is a fast disappearing one. With more and more Eurasians leaving Singapore, our numbers are getting smaller.	I started a restaurant to keep my Eurasian traditions alive and build awareness of my culture through food.
 <p>S. Lakshmanan, 50 Indian-born businessman and grassroots volunteer</p>	The Singapore community	Since I arrived in Singapore when I was five years old, the community has given me the opportunity to lead a good life because of its meritocratic system.	I am involved in various community projects, and am part of the North East Community Development Council, to help Singaporeans look for jobs and render financial assistance where necessary. I was also a commander of the Volunteer Special Constabulary of the Singapore Police Force.