



NATIONAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Youth Forum on Total Defence Cum Stories from Our Grandparents Book Launch

The NYAA, in support of our Total Defence programme, organized many youth programmes to raise awareness on issues related to national security, counter-terrorism measures, vigilance programmes on public safety, Singapore United Leadership Forum, dialogue sessions with Minister for Defence and Minister for Home Affairs on security and defence-related matters, SAF Open House and NYAA-Nexus National Day website design competition and many security-related activities and projects.

NYAA is very proud that many of our NYAA Gold Award holders are currently serving key positions in government ministries and agencies related to national security.



Minister Heng Chee How addressing the audience on the importance of total defence.

“Looking at what is happening in the world today, we must not only keep our military strong, but must also gear up to face threats that will seriously test our economic, social, psychological, civil and digital defences.”

Heng Chee How
Senior Minister of State for Defence



Minister Heng launching the Stories from Our Grandparents Book.

NYAA, with the support of Nexus, Ministry of Defence, organized a very successful Youth Forum on Total Defence to commemorate Total Defence Day 2019 on 16 February 2019 at the Enterprise Development Centre, ITE College Central. The forum was attended by more than 200 youth leaders.

At the same event, the Stories from Our Grandparents Book was officially launched by Mr Heng Chee How, Senior Minister of State for Defence.



Capt (NS) Desmond Chong, NYAA Gold Award holder moderating the dialogue session.

Dhaniya Atikah Bte Mohamed Ali from ITE College Central brought her grandmother, Mdm Maah Binti Mohamad Nadir (age 85) to the event. In the book, Mdm Maah expressed that she is thankful of what Singapore has achieved so far and states that the young generation also need to value family as a bedrock of Singapore's success.



Minister having a chat with Mdm Maah Binti Mohamad Nadir at the book launch.

Eliot Yong, an NCC (Land) cadet from Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) brought his grandfather, Mr Edward Yong Men Win (age 79) to the event. Mr Edward Yong has served in the Singapore Armed Forces for 35 years and was deployed as an intelligence officer during the Konfrontasi in October 1964.

“Being out in the field during an actual war was a tense and stressful experience, especially when I knew that the security of our country was at stake. Yet, it was exhilarating as I finally got to put what I learnt in training to use. We are fortunate that Singapore today is not in a constant state of war and has increased its preparedness for any external threat.”

***Mr Edward Yong Men Win, 79 years old
Grandfather of Yong Yi Tze Elliot
NCC Anglo Chinese School (Independent)***



An interactive dialogue during the lively Question & Answer session.

Many important issues were raised and discussed at the closed-door dialogue with Minister and panellists on Youth Response to Security Threats: How Together We Can Keep Singapore Strong, Safe and Secure.



Minister addressing an issue with panellists at the dialogue session.

The NYAA and MINDEF are very encouraged by youth leaders’ engagement as they voiced their concerns and proposed possible solutions for the potential threats that we face as a community and nation. The takeaway from the youth leaders is very clear - it is everyone’s responsibility to be vigilant at all times, and everyone can play a part in keeping our community and nation safe from internal or external threats.



Minister Heng visiting the NTU students’ project on phishing threats.



Minister with Mrs Grace Chua, Principal of Pasir Ris Secondary School, teacher and students.



A student story contributor from Temasek Polytechnic receiving her certificate and book from the Minister. With Minister is Mr James Soh, Executive Director, NYAA Council.



Mr Terence Chia, Senior Director, National Security Coordination Centre sharing his insights on security.



Minister Heng with the Principal of Ping Yi Secondary School, Mr Ang Chee Seng, teachers and students.