



NEWS RELEASE

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Update on Deaths of SAF Regular Serviceman and Foreign Serviceman

14 Jul 2005



1SG Shiva s/o Mohan from the SAF Commando, and a foreign serviceman were undergoing the Rappelling Instructor Course when they fell while rappelling from the helicopter. The incident happened at 9.11 pm yesterday. The helicopter was hovering about 20 metres above ground. No other serviceman was injured.

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The two servicemen were evacuated to the Sembawang Air Base medical centre at 9.23 pm. The doctors stabilised both servicemen in preparation for evacuation to the Singapore General Hospital. The medical evacuation helicopter departed the air base at 10.27 pm and reached the hospital in 7 minutes. The two servicemen were pronounced dead at about 11 pm.

Heli-rappelling training has been suspended, pending the conclusion of the investigation. All other training activities proceed as normal. The SAF is conducting a 2-day safety review of its processes and procedures.

MINDEF and the SAF extend their deepest condolences to the family of the late 1SG Shiva and will be assisting the family in their time of loss. MINDEF is conducting an investigation.

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