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Grenade Incident During NS Training

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At 10.45am today, two Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) full-time National Servicemen (NSFs), Safety Officer Second Lieutenant (2LT) Kamalasisvam S/O Shanmuganathan and Recruit (REC) Abdul Hamid Bin Abdul Smad were injured while participating in a live hand grenade training at Pulau Tekong. The practice throw earlier the same morning had proceeded without incident. But for the actual throw, REC Abdul Hamid accidentally released the hand grenade lever while pulling out the safety pin. 2LT Kamalasisvam, the Safety Officer, immediately instructed REC Abdul Hamid to throw the grenade towards

the designated impact area. 2LT Kamalasisvam then pulled REC Abdul Hamid down to take cover in the grenade throwing bay and shielded him. The grenade detonated in mid-air away from the bay.

REC Abdul Hamid sustained an injury to a finger on his right hand while 2LT Kamalasisvam was injured on his left shoulder. Both servicemen were treated on site and subsequently sent to Changi General Hospital (CGH) at 11.45am. Both are stable and conscious, and currently under observation in the general ward in CGH.

Live hand grenade training has been suspended until investigations are completed. The alertness and quick action of 2LT Kamalasisvam averted more serious injury to both the recruit and himself.

National Archives of Singapore