

# Crisis Volunteer Workshop 2008

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Dr Kenneth Koh (right), from the Institute of Mental Health, giving a talk on "Psychological Reactions in Stressful and Crisis Situations"; (below) Crisis Volunteers attending the workshop.



The Crisis Volunteer Scheme was launched on 21 September 2007. Its purpose is to engage former NSmen and NSwomen as support personnel during emergencies. Three hundred and four personnel have signed up as Crisis Volunteers till 1 July.

A Crisis Volunteer Workshop was organised on 9 July at the HQ SCDF Auditorium. More than 160 volunteers participated in the event. The chief guest was Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Home Affairs.

After registration and dinner, the workshop commenced at 8pm with an address by Mr Masagos.

The Internal Security Department's Mr Terence Song then made a presentation on the "Current Terrorism Threat". It focused on how Home Team agencies and the community are engaged in ensuring a safe and secure Singapore.

LTA Ngoh Kuok Yong from the CARE Team at the Manpower Department, HQ SCDF followed that with a presentation on

"Handling Grief, Death and Bereavement". It had details on handling the next of kin during an emergency and how the Family Assistance Centre operates.

The last presentation was from Dr Kenneth Koh of the Institute of Mental Health. He touched on the "Psychological Reactions in Stressful and Crisis Situations" — the mental resilience required in a critical situation.

The presentations were meant to arm the Crisis Volunteers with additional knowledge. The volunteers will be valuable assets in handling civil-defence-related incidents in their neighbourhood.

The participants found the presentations beneficial and relevant. Some suggested regular updates on SCDF's activities, like overseas rescue missions, and Home Team agencies' fight against terrorism.

The SCDF will continue to equip these volunteers with the necessary skills so they can render assistance during a crisis.