

# ★ NATIONAL SECURITY: ★ MEASURES AND STRATEGIES



**NATIONAL SECURITY** is defined as ‘the safety of a nation against threats such as terrorism, war and espionage’.<sup>1</sup> Countries around the world put in considerable efforts and budget to safeguard their national security against political, social and economic threats as it is critical for their survival and safety.

**SECURITY** may be understood as having a sense of safety and a positive quality of life which is a common interest for people. This can be seen at these levels:<sup>2</sup>

## NATIONALLY,

security signifies territorial integrity, flourishing of the society, as well as self-sufficiency in defence strategies and economic, energy and resource matters.



## PERSONALLY,

security encompasses a safe and healthy social environment, well-being, a decent standard of living, employment, adequate housing, freedom of expression, and a sense of belonging and recognition.



## FOR CHILDREN,

security would mean being loved, looked after, and provided with opportunities for education.



A **TERROR ATTACK** - via cyber or physical violence - will have an impact on national security. An attack often leads to deaths and causes fear in ordinary masses that arise from the perception that no one is safe, and that large crowds can be targeted at anytime, anywhere.<sup>3</sup>

## Examples of Attacks and Violence



### GERMANY<sup>4</sup>

On 22nd December 2016, a man ploughed a truck into a crowd of shoppers at a market in Berlin. **12 innocent people were killed and 48 others injured.**



**ACTS OF TERRORISM**

### NORTHERN IRELAND<sup>5</sup>

The period from **1960 to 1998** in Ireland was known as '**The Troubles**', when the Irish Republican Army and various Unionist paramilitary groups engaged in **horrific acts of violence against one another and ordinary people.**



### SRI LANKA<sup>6</sup>



The **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)**, sought independence from the government using tactics such as **bombings, suicide missions, and assassinations that terrorised the population.**



## UKRAINE POWER GRID<sup>7</sup>

Ukraine has seen **strikes on its power and financial centres** - the latest occurred in December 2016 when the power distribution station was shut down.



## BANGLADESH BANK HEIST<sup>8</sup>

Hackers used Bangladesh Bank's official computer to **siphon/steal about US\$81 million** in February 2016.



## PAYPAL HACKING<sup>9</sup>

The **PayPal website** was hacked in an **attack by the Anonymous 'hacktivists'**, causing the company to lose **£3.5 million**.



Here are some examples of strategies adopted by countries to safeguard national security:

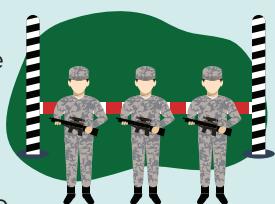


## ON ATTACKS BY TERRORISTS



### PREVENTIVE CONTROL<sup>10</sup>

★ **Cross border control** is Singapore's first line of defence against terror attacks.



Singapore's position as regional transport hub makes it critical to strengthen border control at checkpoints

★ The **Protective, Analytical and Assessment Facility (PAAF)** will improve capability at checkpoints to detect chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive (CBRNE) substances used in attacks



### PROTECTIVE MEASURES<sup>11</sup>



★ Equipment to verify identity including **thumbprint, iris, and full body scanners** at checkpoints

★ **Public education** to remind the public to be vigilant and alert of possible terror attacks



### RESPONSIVE MEASURES<sup>12</sup>

**Crisis preparedness exercises** held to prepare the respective agencies and the public. Examples include simulated attacks at the Esplanade during Exercise Heartbeat 2016

# ON CYBER ATTACKS

The Cyber Security Agency's (CSA) proposed strategies for cyber-attacks such as:<sup>13</sup>

## HARDENING SECURITY



- ★ Implement a new legislation, the **'Cybersecurity Act'**, which mandates that operators strengthen critical information infrastructure and systems
- ★ Government to roll out plans to better **protect agencies and critical infrastructure operators**
- ★ Dedicated computers for government staff to **prevent leaks from work e-mails and shared computers**



## CREATING JOBS

- ★ Prioritise developing local companies with **home-grown cybersecurity capabilities and intellectual property**
- ★ Career pathways for cybersecurity professionals through **certification and skills upgrading**
- ★ **Adjust course curriculum** at tertiary institutions to meet industry needs
- ★ **Support research and development** in this area



## EDUCATING PEOPLE

- ★ Promote greater awareness of cyber scams and good online practices
- ★ Organisations to make **data protection a priority**
- ★ Increase police's **cybercrime fighting capability** and testing of coordination amongst government agencies



## COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES



- ★ **Fight cyber threats and cybercrime** by partnering with ASEAN and the world



- ★ **Organise events** such as the Singapore International Cyber Week



# INFORMATION LITERACY TIPS:



## COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

The National Library provides access to collection on a wide range of topics in both **database and physical formats**. To facilitate access to collections in the physical formats, resources are arranged according to the Library Congress Subject headings and the Dewey Decimal Classification numbers.

For the collection in the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities, they are classed under the 300s of the Dewey Decimal Classification system. Under this class, there are a wide range of sub-topics mainly sociology and anthropology, social interaction, communication, social interaction within groups, social processes, social change, social behaviour, statistics, political science, economics, law, public administration, social problems and services, education, commerce, communications, transport, and customs.<sup>14</sup>

To locate the resources on the themes featured in this edition of the cheat sheet in the National Library collection, you may refer to the collection that is shelved in the following class:

303.625	303.66	307.76	327.172
Terrorism	Peace	Cities and towns	National security

*This production is for education purposes.*

### References

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