

## **Committee to Strengthen National Service Holds Its Fourth Meeting**

**MINDEF**, 8 October 2013

The Committee to Strengthen National Service (CSNS) met at the Home Team Academy earlier this morning for their fourth meeting. The meeting was chaired by Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen. The CSNS members also witnessed recruits from Training Command (TRACOM) undergoing a scenario-based assessment as part of the Police Officer Basic Course and had lunch with full-time Police National Service officers.

During the meeting, the CSNS was briefed by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) on findings of an independent survey conducted by IPS to gauge public attitudes to National Service (NS) in Singapore. Commissioned by the CSNS, the survey findings indicate that NS continues to enjoy strong public support, and is a national institution which is deeply rooted in our Singaporean identity.

The meeting discussed ways to expand opportunities for full-time National Servicemen (NSFs) to continue to contribute meaningfully such as having more NSFs take up leadership positions. The meeting explored expanding the pool of vocations available to service-fit NSFs to include operational domains. The meeting also discussed proposals to enhance recognition and support for NS, such as measures to increase societal awareness of national servicemen's contributions to our peace and security.

The CSNS is in the midst of the second phase of public consultations, which commenced in August 2013. In this phase, participants have contributed ideas to address the key themes that emerged from the first phase of public consultations. The third phase of public consultations, which will discuss possible proposals in more detail, will begin in end October 2013 with town hall meetings. Members of the public who are interested in participating are invited to sign up at [www.strengthenNS.sg](http://www.strengthenNS.sg).