

SAF ACRONYMS AND VERBIAGE TRANSLATIONS

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This guide helps SAF career regulars translate military acronyms and terminology into plain language for civilian resumes, interviews, and LinkedIn profiles. The left column shows the term as used in service; the right column shows the equivalent civilian phrasing.

SAF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Term	Civilian Translation
2IC	Second-in-Command	Deputy Director / Deputy Manager
AOAS	Army Officers' Advanced School	Senior leadership and professional development institution (Army)
AFAS	Air Force Advanced School	Senior leadership and professional development institution (Air Force)
ATEC	Army Training and Evaluation Centre	Independent performance audit / assessment body
BMT	Basic Military Training	Foundation training programme
CO	Commanding Officer	Head of Organisation / Department Head
CDF	Chief of Defence Force	Chief Executive / Director-General (Defence)
CMPB	Central Manpower Base	Personnel and manpower management office
DIAS	Digital and Intelligence Advanced School	Senior leadership and professional development institution (DIS)
DIS	Digital and Intelligence Service	Cyber and intelligence service arm
GSOC	Global Security Operations Centre	Security Operations Centre (SOC) / Command Centre
GKSCSC	Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff College	Senior leadership and strategic studies institution
HADR	Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief	Emergency and disaster response operations
HQ	Headquarters	Corporate / Regional Head Office
IPPT	Individual Physical Proficiency Test	Physical fitness / performance assessment
MDES	Military Domain Experts Scheme	Technical and specialist professional career scheme
MDEC	Military Domain Experts Course	Professional development course for technical specialists
ME	Military Expert	Technical / domain specialist professional (MDES scheme)
MINDEF	Ministry of Defence	Ministry of Defence
NAS	Naval Advanced School	Senior leadership and professional development institution (Navy)

NSMEN	National Servicemen	Reservist personnel / former conscript employees
NSF	Full-Time National Serviceman	Conscript / mandatory service employee
OC	Officer Commanding	Department Head / Section Head
OCS	Officer Cadet School	Officer leadership training institution
OIC	Officer-in-Charge	Person in Charge / Supervisor
ORD	Operationally Ready Date	Date of transition from full-time to reservist service
PME	Professional Military Education	Professional development and leadership training
RSM	Regimental Sergeant Major	Senior Operations Manager / Chief of Staff (Operations)
S1	Personnel Staff	Human Resources
S2	Intelligence Staff	Research / Intelligence / Risk Analysis
S3	Operations Staff	Operations Manager / Planning Manager
S4	Logistics Staff	Logistics / Supply Chain / Asset Management
S6	Signals / Communications Staff	IT / Communications Manager
SAF	Singapore Armed Forces	Singapore Armed Forces
SAFOS	SAF Overseas Scholarship	Organisation-sponsored scholarship programme
SAFTI MI	SAFTI Military Institute	National military leadership training institution
SCS	Specialist Cadet School	Specialist leadership training institution
SAFWOS	SAF Warrant Officer School	Warrant Officer leadership training institution
SOI	Standard Operating Instructions	Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
XO	Executive Officer	Deputy Director / Chief of Staff

SAF VERBIAGE

SAF / Service Verbiage	Civilian Translation
Appointment	Role / position / job title
Area of Responsibility (AOR)	Area of operations / coverage area / territory
Chain of Command	Organisational hierarchy / reporting structure
Commander's Estimate	Management assessment / situational analysis
Commanding Officer	Head of organisation / CEO / Director
Encik / Ma'am	Warrant Officer or ME1–ME3 mode of address (omit from resume)
Establishment	Authorised headcount / organisational structure
Formation	Division / large organisational unit
G1 / S1	Human Resources
G3 / S3	Operations
G4 / S4	Logistics / Supply Chain
Manning	Staffing / headcount management
Mission	Task / assignment / project
Operationally Ready (OR)	Reservist-status / part-time capacity
Order of Battle (ORBAT)	Organisational structure / reporting hierarchy
Posting	Job assignment / placement / secondment
Rank	Seniority / grade level
Regular	Career / permanent / full-time professional
SAF Regular	Career professional / full-time employee
Sign-on	Career enlistment / permanent employment contract with SAF
Sir / Ma'am	Standard address for commissioned officers and ME4 and above (omit from resume)
Sitrep (Situation Report)	Status update / progress report
Soldiers under command	Team members / direct reports
Unit	Department / team / organisation
Vocation	Career specialty / professional track
Warrant Officer (WO)	Senior technical specialist / senior operations supervisor