



**SINGAPORE  
POLICE FORCE**  
SAFEGUARDING EVERY DAY

# TOPSIS

## Security Enhancement Programme

# Scope

- What is TOPSIS?
- TOPSIS Components
- Benefits of TOPSIS
- TOPSIS 3Rs Culture
- Your TOPSIS Journey

# What is TOPSIS?

- **TOPSIS** = Threat-Oriented Person Screening Integrated System
- Security Enhancement Programme
- Conceptualized in 2007 and implemented from 2009 for border checkpoints (**TOPSIS 1.0**)
- Since 2018, TOPSIS has been extended beyond the checkpoints to strengthen Homefront security (**TOPSIS 2.0**)



# TOPSIS Components

Security enhancement programme where high-risk persons are identified and subjected to enhanced checks.



# TOPSIS Components - TTI Detection

What are Tell-Tale Indicators? (TTIs)

➤ Anything that is deemed as:

- **A**bnormal
- **I**rregular
- **S**trange
- **U**nusual

➤ Or a 'hunch', 'premonition', 'gut feeling' that something is not right

# TOPSIS Components - TTI Detection

What are **NOT** TTIs?

- Cultural, religious and ethnic indicators are **not considered** suspicious activities
- Belief systems and types of worship are **not the issue**
- We utilize **behaviour** and **intent** as the barometer to gauge a threat

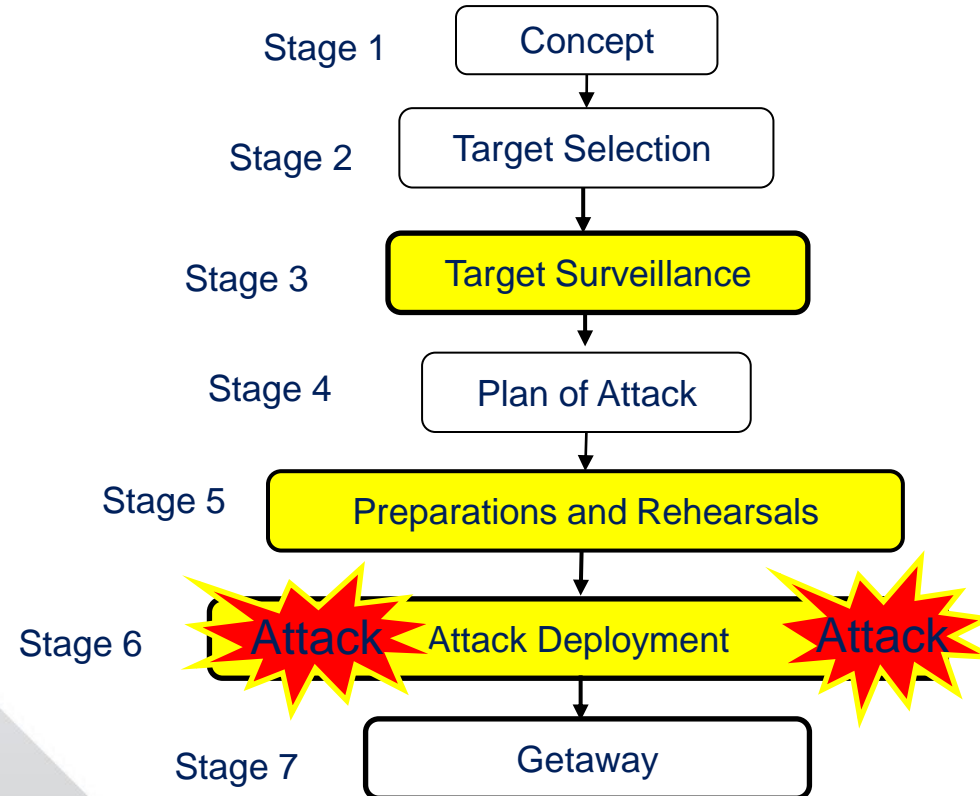
# TOPSIS Components - TTI Detection

## Importance of TTI Detection

- TTIs are behavioural cues that indicate some form of **variation** from an **accepted norm**
- Possibility that a person demonstrating TTIs **may have malicious intent** to carry out an act of terrorism or other criminal activity
- TTI detection is important in **mitigating incidents** (security or criminal) before they take place

# TOPSIS Components - TTI Detection

## 7 Stages of Terror Attack



Note: Stages 3, 5 and 6 are when TTIs can be spotted at the place of attack



# TOPSIS Components - TTI Detection

## Importance of TTI Detection – Case Study

Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral Bombing in Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia (28 Mar 2021) : 2 suicide bombers, a married couple, tried to enter the church on a motorcycle were stopped by church security at the gate before detonating a bomb that killed themselves and injured 19 people.

Target	Observation and TTIs spotted
Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral	Account from Father Wilhelmus Tulak, a priest at the cathedral: “Two people on a motorcycle wanted to enter (the church compound), but security officers held them (at the gate) and the explosion occurred,” he said, adding that the security officers has earlier observed the two “suspicious” persons.

Note: Attacks can be prevented/mitigated if TTIs are spotted early.

# TOPSIS Components - Involves All Communities

## ➤ Entire community involvement

- Involves both **security** and **non-security** communities in the premises

## ➤ Rationale:

- More “**eyes & ears**” on the ground
- Leverage on **local knowledge** to detect TTIs
- Empowers these communities

## ➤ Creates **multiple layers** of TTI detection opportunities

Everyone has a part to play



# TOPSIS Components - Effective Use of Technologies

- TOPSIS works with existing structure in place and does not dictate/specify any technological requirements
- For TOPSIS 1.0 (at the border checkpoints), a set of enhanced screening protocols are deployed to detect threats
- For TOPSIS 2.0, available security technologies such as CCTV can be effectively used to sense-make reported sightings

# Benefits of TOPSIS

➤ **Risk management tool**, especially for **crowded facility** with many people and **limited security resources**

➤ Therefore, beneficial for:

- **Checkpoints**
- **High-level security events**
- **Public transport domain**
- **Hotels / Shopping malls**
- **Schools / Religious organisations**

# Benefits of TOPSIS

- **Low cost:** training 'soft-skills' vs 'hardware' measures
- **Do not cause inconvenience** to visitors
- **Detect reconnaissance & project deterrence**
- Effective for **both terrorist** and **crime** detection



**60% MORE CRIME  
DETECTED AT  
CHANGI AIRPORT  
SINCE TOPSIS WAS  
IMPLEMENTED in  
2009**

# TOPSIS 3Rs Culture

How to have a successful TOPSIS programme?

- The environment has to be made **conducive** for TTI detection/resolution strategy to be effective
- You cannot achieve the same effect by just informing people to look out for TTIs
- You have to plant the “**Three Rs**” or the “**Three Roots**” to cultivate a culture that recognises, reports and resolves



# TOPSIS 3Rs Culture - Recognise

What is it?

- The ability to sieve out what is abnormal, irregular, strange or unusual in one's environment
- TTI detection is a skill which is honed by experience
- It can be taught via training (useful for new officers/staff)
- Can be operationalized as effective tools to: deter & detect criminal or terrorist activities



# TOPSIS 3Rs Culture - Report

What is it?

- The willingness, ability and motivation of the non-security communities to report suspicious activity/people/behaviour
- They know **who** to report to as there is a proper channel for reporting
- They know **what** vital information and details to convey to the security personnel
- Communication has to be effective and efficient to ensure timely response by the security community

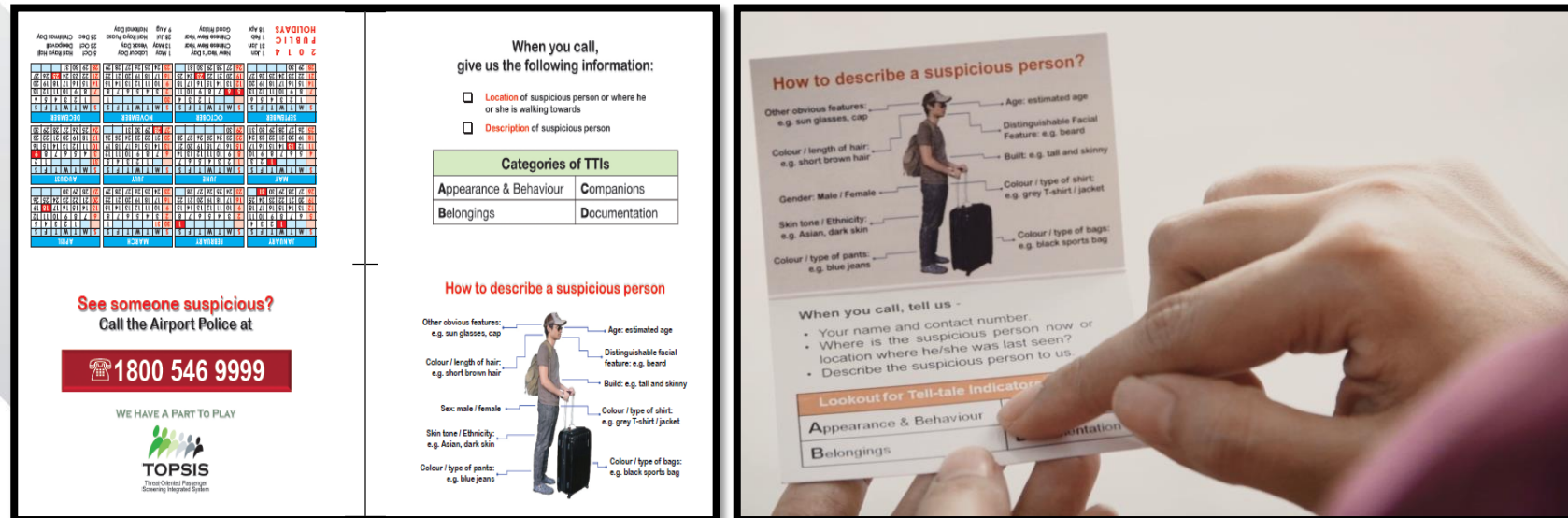




# TOPSIS 3Rs Culture - Report

## Example - Use of Cue Cards:

- Distributed to everyone in the community
- A pocket sized guide that fits easily into wallet/pass
- Contains a **dedicated hotline number** to report suspicious person

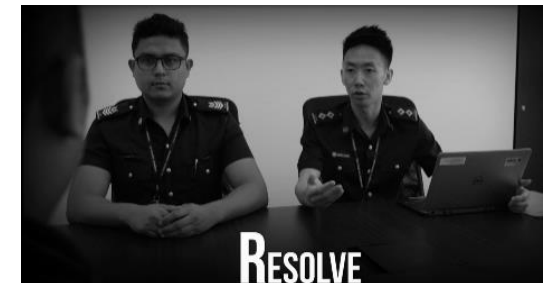


# TOPSIS 3Rs Culture - Resolve

What is it?

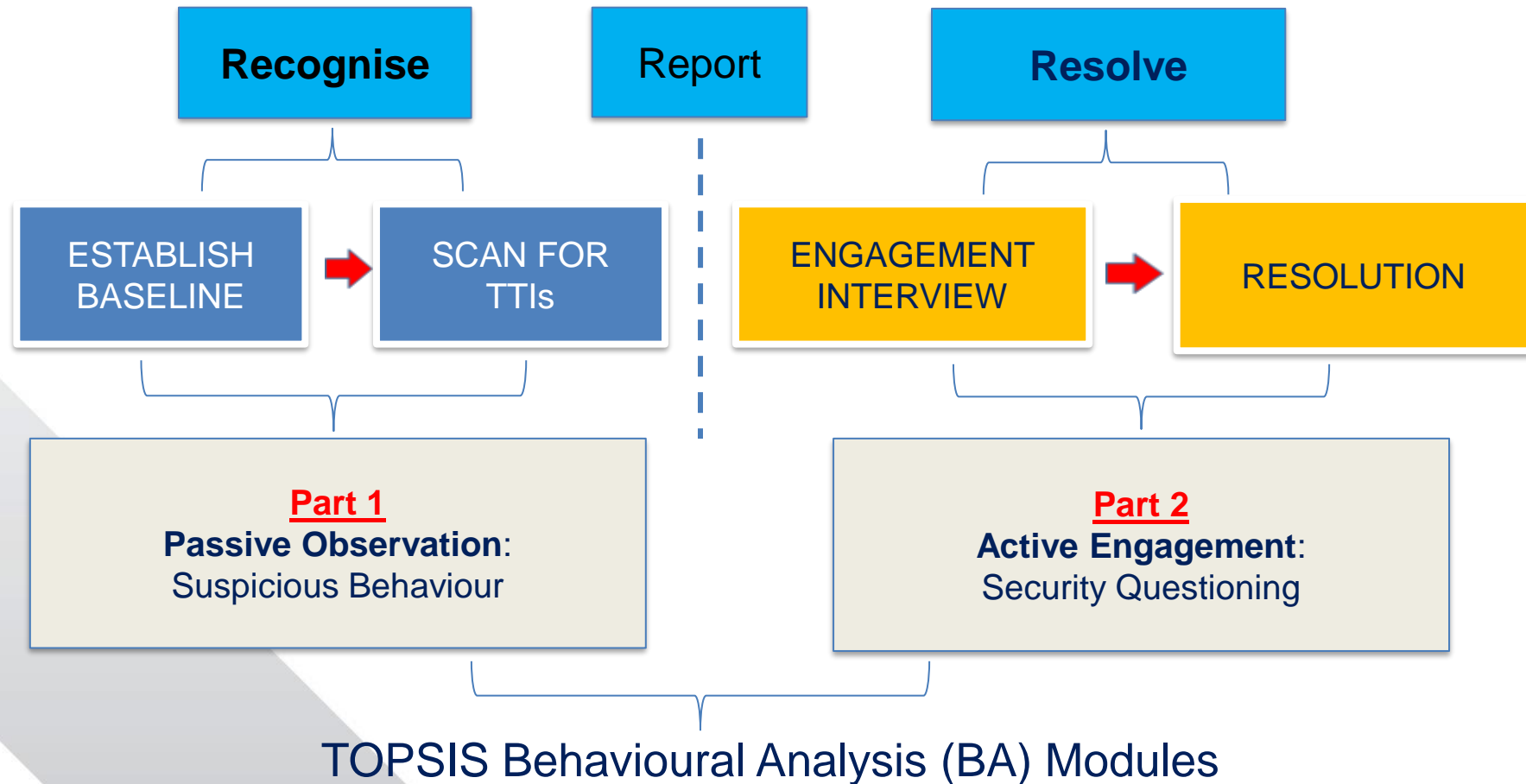


- The ability to resolve suspicion using questioning techniques and screening technologies
- This is the responsibility of the **security community** to confirm or resolve the suspicion reported. If required, escalate to authorities
- This skill can be enhanced through training on the latest methods of interview/screening techniques



# TOPSIS 3Rs Culture

Skillset Training on how to Recognise and Resolve TTIs



# Your TOPSIS Journey

Four phases roadmap to guide our TOPSIS partners

## Exploratory

- Getting to know about TOPSIS
- Initial engagement with CPS TOPSIS Core Group
- Assessment of suitability

## Planning

- Identify a Core Team to drive TOPSIS
- Build capability of the Core Team
- Identify your community and engagement plans

## Implementation

- Customise TOPSIS programme
- Finalise TOPSIS programme
- Commencement of training
- Launch of TOPSIS

## Sustainment

- Monitor effectiveness and recognise contributions
- Conduct quality assurance (e.g. Red Teaming)
- Maintain education and outreach effort

# Conclusion



Threat Oriented Person  
Screening Integrated System

- TOPSIS is a **security enhancement** programme
- TOPSIS can be **adapted** to suit your environment
- Risk Management approach to achieve **greater situational awareness** for the Security Communities through the involvement of the Non-Security Communities in reporting suspicious persons, activities and items
- Security Communities **project deterrence** through their response to reports of suspicious sightings
- Important to build the **TOPSIS 3Rs culture**
- Becoming TOPSIS-ready is a long-term journey
- Organisations who wish to implement TOPSIS may contact CPS at **SPF\_CPS@spf.gov.sg** for more details



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# Thank You