Throbbing headache, deaths from heatstrokes among soldiers

There have been no recorded deaths from heatstrokes among soldiers in the past nine years, due to measures put in place. ST PHOTO

Heatstroke death

Medical panel to review SAF strategy for heat injuries

External panel will comprise docs from the public healthcare sector

An external review panel comprising doctors in the public healthcare sector will be convened to independently review the existing strategy for heat injury prevention and response in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) following recent deaths. This is a separate task from the Committee of Inquiry (COI) that has been convened and police investigation, that could lead to a coroner’s inquiry.

In a letter to The Straits Times, Minister for Defence General Kenneth Lim, Commander of the Armed Forces and Defence Command, said: “Based on these COI findings, the SAF will take appropriate measures to improve our current heat injury prevention and response to achieve better outcomes.”

There have been no recorded deaths from heatstrokes among soldiers in the past nine years, but the SAF has recorded numerous heat-related casualties and, due to the nature of soldiers being in close proximity to extreme heat, the risk of heat casualties are high. The COI has been convened and police investigation, that could lead to a coroner’s inquiry.

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