The Singapore Armed Forces has made long-term investments in conventional war-fighting capabilities and hybrid capabilities for the modern digital battlefield. Here are some developments over the years.

**Unmanned surface vessels (USVs)**
- **2021:** A USV successfully neutralises a simulated underwater threat off the Southern Islands.
- **2024:** USVs are fully operational, alongside littoral mission vessels.

**Close-range unmanned aerial vehicles**
- **Second half of 2024:** Navy ships will have close-range unmanned aerial vehicles to extend surveillance range.

**Invincible-class submarines**
- **Late 2000s:** Singapore embarks on its submarine modernisation programme.
- **2013:** Singapore orders two Type 218SG submarines from Germany’s thyssenKrupp Marine Systems.
- **2019:** Invincible, the first of the Type 218SG submarines, is launched in Kiel, Germany.
- **2023:** The second and third of the four Invincible-class submarines – Impeccable and Illustrious – are launched in Kiel.
- **2024:** The fourth submarine, Inimitable, will be launched in April.
- **Around 2028:** All four submarines will be operational.

**Next-generation howitzer**
- **1995:** The Field Howitzer 2000 (FH2000), the world’s first 52-calibre howitzer that can be self-propelled, is introduced.
- **2003:** The Singapore Self-Propelled Howitzer (SSPH) Primus, which takes less than a minute to deploy from the move or change its zone of fire, is one of the most advanced howitzers of its class in South-east Asia at the time.
- **2025:** The new howitzer will be brought into service. It is self-loading to shoot faster and requires 60 per cent less manpower than the FH2000. This will progressively replace the fleet of SSPH Primus and FH2000 guns.

**Expansion on track for 2024 completion**
- Total training area of expanded SWBTA is five times the size of Singapore.

**Other updates**
- **2022:** The fourth service of the SAF is established to defend its digital domain.
- **2023:** The Critical Infrastructure Defence Exercise is organised in November, with the participation of over 200 front-line cyber defenders from 25 other national agencies.
- **2026:** A bigger SAF digital range, which builds upon and transforms the existing Cyber Test and Evaluation Centre, is slated for completion. It will be capable of simulating a wider set of sophisticated scenarios and environments to enable realistic training for a growing digital workforce.

**F-35s**
- **2019:** Singapore selects the F-35 as the next-generation fighter jet, and announces the acquisition of an initial four F-35B Joint Strike Fighters.
- **2023:** Eight more F-35Bs are to be purchased.
- **2024:** Eight F-35As are to be acquired.
- **2026:** RSAF will receive the first four F-35Bs.
- **2028:** The remaining eight F-35Bs will be delivered to RSAF.

**Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA) in Australia**
- **1990:** The first Exercise Wallaby takes place, with about 4,300 personnel and 450 platforms from the army, navy and air force.
- **2020:** Singapore and Australia sign a treaty to jointly develop military training areas and facilities in an expanded SWBTA and the new Greenvale Training Area (GVTA) in Queensland. Together, SWBTA and GVTA will provide a military training area 10 times the size of Singapore.
- **2023:** The largest Exercise Wallaby takes place, with about 4,300 personnel and 450 platforms from the army, navy and air force.
- **Second half of 2024:** Navy ships will have close-range unmanned aerial vehicles to extend surveillance range.