

Royal Brunei Navy

AMAN SAMUDERA

امن وسلامة بحرية

ISSUE 10 | JULY - DECEMBER 2025



FUELLING THE FLEET

The Heart of Readiness at Sea

SAILING BEYOND THE HORIZONS

How KDB DARULAMAN Carried Brunei's Flag Across the Region

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

60 Years of Steadfast Service



CONTENTS

2014 12 6 4

SAILING BEYOND THE HORIZON
How KDB DARULAMAN Carried Brunei's Flag Across the Region

BILATERAL WAVES
Strengthening Maritime Bonds

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS
60 Years of Steadfast Service

FUELING THE FLEET
The Heart of Readiness at Sea

STILLNESS AT THE END OF THE DAY
The History of the Sunset Ceremony



Don't miss out.

Follow us on Instagram:
 @royalbruneinavyofficial

FOREWORD

Editor-in-Chief

Commander Pg Hj Khairul Anwar

Pg Hj Abu Bakar, RBN



السلامة عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

It is my privilege to present the July–December 2025 issue of Aman Samudera, an edition that celebrates not only what the Royal Brunei Navy does, but who we are: a service shaped by duty, tradition, and the people who keep the fleet moving every single day.

At the heart of this issue is our feature story on the cooks who serve onboard RBN vessels. Their work rarely makes headlines, yet every watch, every exercise, and every long day at sea is sustained by their skill, discipline, and care. In telling their stories, we are reminded that operational readiness is built not only in the engine room or on the bridge, but also in the galley – one meal at a time.

This issue also continues our Diamond Jubilee journey, with coverage of the Jasamu Dikenang Appreciation Night and the RBN Roadshow in Temburong. These moments of celebration reflect our gratitude to those who laid the foundations of today's Navy, and our commitment to bringing the RBN closer to the communities we serve.

Operationally, the second half of 2025 has been marked by steady engagement. We highlight deployments to Pulau Pinang for AMNEX 03/25 and to Batam for the 2nd AUMX 2025, as well as bilateral exercises that sharpen interoperability and trust. Complementing these are snapshots of defence diplomacy through visits, dialogues, and conferences that strengthen professional networks and regional understanding.

Beyond formal duties, we also capture the spirit of camaraderie that keeps morale strong; from the Iron Tide Challenge to the end-of-year Stand at Ease mess event. We close on a reflective note with a look at the history behind the sunset ceremony, a tradition that reminds us of the values we inherit and uphold.

The months behind us have shown a Navy that continues to learn, connect, and grow as one team. As we close 2025, may we carry forward the same spirit of readiness, camaraderie, and gratitude that has defined our Diamond Jubilee year.



Editorial Team

Lt Cdr Mohd Nabil bin Jalil, RBN
Executive Editor

Lt JG Kiara Esmeralda binti
Iscramuon, RBN
Creative Editor

Lt Mohd Nabil bin Dr Hj Mohd Yusop,
RBN
Current Affairs Editor

Lt JG Nazurah binti Mohd. Noor, RBN
Features Editor

Lt JG Hjh Nur Najmina binti Hj
Mahadi, RBN
Associate Features Editor

Lt JG Nurul Majidah binti Awang
Zakaria, RBN
Maritime History Editor

Lt Pg Haqqul Matiin bin Pg Anak,
RBN
Sports Editor

Lt Muhammad Mirza bin Abdullah,
RBN
Secretary / Finance

Download and Read Our Previous Issues



SAILING BEYOND THE HORIZON



How KDB DARULAMAN Carried Brunei's Flag Across the Region



Commander RBN at the ASEAN Fleet Review 2025.

In 2025, KDB DARULAMAN charted more than nautical miles. Across regional waters, the ship carried something less tangible but equally important: trust, familiarity, and the quiet confidence of a navy engaging its neighbours with purpose.

Among the year's defining engagements was participation in the ASEAN Multilateral Naval Exercise (AMNEX 3/25) in Pulau Pinang, Malaysia. The exercise opened with a ceremonial fleet review—an image that captured ASEAN's collective resolve and shared responsibility at sea. During the harbour phase, professional exchanges and friendly sports interactions brought

sailors together beyond rank and uniform, fostering camaraderie across cultures and services. At sea, coordinated manoeuvres and communication drills underscored a central lesson of multilateral operations: effective cooperation depends not only on procedures, but on understanding one another.



KDB DARULAMAN's contingent on the march during the AMNEX 03/25 city parade.

From Malaysia, KDB DARULAMAN sailed onward to a milestone in the Royal Brunei Navy's regional engagement—a historic goodwill visit to Cam Ranh Port, Vietnam, marking the Navy's first-ever visit to the Vietnam People's Navy. The significance of the visit extended well beyond protocol. Through courtesy calls and warm interactions, both navies took early steps toward a bilateral relationship grounded in mutual respect and shared maritime interests. What began as a port call signalled the opening of a new chapter in naval engagement.



United in purpose - Heads of Delegation and Commanding Officers pose together during the 2025 ASEAN Fleet Review.



The momentum continued in Indonesia with participation in the ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise (AUMX) 2025. Bringing together ASEAN partners and the United States, the exercise highlighted the value of dialogue paired with practical cooperation in an increasingly interconnected maritime environment. Operating alongside diverse fleets offered invaluable exposure, reinforcing professional bonds and sharpening the ability to work seamlessly across national lines.

Taken together, these engagements illustrated the Royal Brunei Navy's steady regional presence in 2025—measured, confident, and purposeful. Through KDB DARULAMAN, Brunei demonstrated a form of naval diplomacy that relies not on spectacle, but on consistency: showing up, working together, and building relationships one sail at a time.

Beyond the horizons crossed, the year's deployments reflected a broader commitment—one that places cooperation, trust, and shared security at the centre of Brunei's maritime outlook, well beyond its own shores.



PWO KDB DARULAMAN (5th from left) during the closing of the Final Planning Conference (FPC) for the 2nd ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise (AUMX) in Batam, Indonesia.



Building ties at sea and ashore - Commanding Officer KDB DARULAMAN meets host-nation officers on arrival in Cam Ranh Port, Vietnam.



Brunei's Defence Adviser to Indonesia pictured with KDB DARULAMAN's officers and senior rates during the 2nd AUMX FTX.

PARTNERS UNDERWAY

The sea flows freely across horizons without acknowledging the borders nations draw, but navies understand that the strength of those waters depends greatly on the trust shared between neighbours. In 2025, the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) reinforced this trust through two significant bilateral engagements — Exercise PELICAN 43/2025 and Exercise HORNBILL 30/25 — each reflecting a different but complementary dimension of regional cooperation.

Hosted at Muara Naval Base, Exercise PELICAN 43/2025 marked another milestone in the long-standing partnership between the RBN and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). Now in its 43rd iteration, the exercise continues to evolve while preserving its core objective: enhancing interoperability and professional exchange.

At sea, ships executed coordinated manoeuvres and communication drills to strengthen operational alignment. Ashore, serials such as firefighting, damage control, and boarding procedures sharpened practical competencies essential to maritime readiness. The inclusion of diving units in selected serials added fresh depth to the programme, expanding collaboration beyond conventional deck operations.



RBN FC with the RSN Commander, Maritime Security Response Flotilla (CMSRF) during Ex PELICAN 43/25, marking the engagement with an exchange of mementoes and a formal address underscoring close bilateral cooperation.



Friendly rivalry on the sand—RBN and RSN personnel share a spirited volleyball match, strengthening camaraderie beyond the formal programme.



RBN personnel conduct a firefighting serial during Ex PELICAN 43/25, as RSN counterparts look on.

Deepening Partnerships Through Bilateral Exercises

Beyond the tactical value, the Pelican Cup at Muara Beach provided an informal platform for sailors to connect — reinforcing the understanding that operational effectiveness rests on mutual confidence as much as technical skill.

Shortly after hosting Exercise PELICAN, the RBN set course for Kota Kinabalu to participate in Exercise HORNBILL 30/25 with the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN). Reaching its 30th series milestone, Exercise HORNBILL reflects a mature and steady partnership between two neighbouring maritime forces whose

responsibilities frequently intersect.

For this landmark edition, the RBN deployed two of its stalwarts, KDB DARULAMAN and KDB BERKAT. Their participation underscored Brunei's continued commitment to meaningful engagement at sea. Through structured Field Training Exercises, crews conducted manoeuvres, communication drills, and maritime security scenarios that demanded precision and coordination. The familiarity developed over decades of collaboration allowed training to proceed with efficiency and professional ease.

Together, Exercise PELICAN 43/2025 and Exercise HORNBILL 30/25 demonstrate the reciprocal nature of Brunei's maritime diplomacy — hosting, participating, and sustaining partnerships that extend beyond individual exercises. In a region where stability depends on cooperation, such engagements ensure that neighbouring navies remain ready, connected, and aligned.

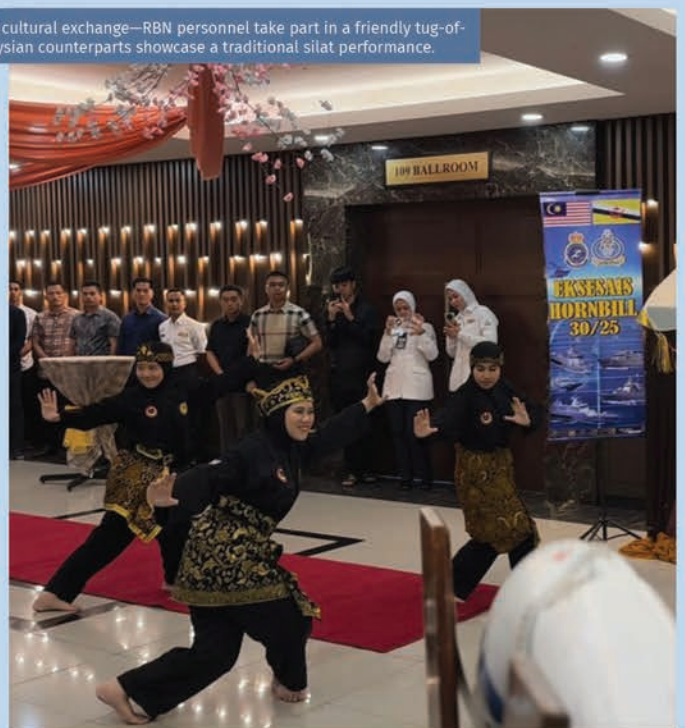
Through steady collaboration and shared purpose, the Royal Brunei Navy continues to strengthen the bonds that safeguard our common waters.



Opening ceremony of Ex HORNBILL 30/25 at Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) Sepanggar Naval Base, Kota Kinabalu. Amongst the attendees were Commanding Officers of KDB DARULAMAN and KDB BERKAT seated in the front row.



Team spirit and cultural exchange—RBN personnel take part in a friendly tug-of-war, while Malaysian counterparts showcase a traditional silat performance.



CO KDB DARULAMAN welcomes the RMN Eastern Fleet Commander during an official visit onboard.

Sustainment in Focus: Second RBN-RSN ELEP 2025



“ [The conduct of] ELEP [highlighted] the critical role of sustainment in naval effectiveness.”

From 23 to 25 September 2025, the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) conducted the 2nd Engineering and Logistics Exchange Programme (ELEP) 2025 in Brunei Darussalam, highlighting the critical role of sustainment in naval effectiveness. Officiated by Commander Haji Ainolnizam bin Haji Ibrahim, Commandant of Support Services RBN during the first iteration, the programme brought together naval engineers, logisticians, fleet officers, and industry partners including ST Engineering and Muara Maritime Services.

Discussions focused on maintenance processes, supply chain management, and lifecycle support for KDB AS-SIDDIQ and KDB AL-FARUQ, with technical visits and onboard engagements enabling practical exchanges at

the operational level.

Beyond technical collaboration, ELEP reinforced leadership dialogue and bilateral ties, including a courtesy call on the Commandant of Support Services RBN, and the involvement of RSN Commander of Naval Engineering and Logistics Command for this iteration (Commander NELCOM). The institutionalising of ELEP as an annual programme signalled a long-term commitment to engineering and logistics cooperation. Ultimately, 2nd ELEP 2025 demonstrated that sustained maritime readiness depends not only on ships and sailors, but on the engineers and logisticians who ensure fleets remain mission-ready.

Law at Sea: RBN-ADF Maritime Security Dialogue



Participants of the Maritime Security & Law Dialogue (Indo-Pacific Endeavour 05/2025) pose for a group photo at SHHBIDSS.

September. The closing ceremony was jointly officiated by Fleet Commander Captain Sonny Iskandar Rasani and Commodore Peter Leavy, underscoring the importance both sides place on sustained maritime cooperation amid evolving regional security and legal challenges.

Over two days, the dialogue provided a structured platform to exchange views on maritime governance, security, and the application of law at sea, reinforcing the strong defence relationship between Brunei and Australia. A key highlight was a Table-Top Exercise involving Brunei’s maritime and enforcement agencies, demonstrating the value of interagency coordination in addressing complex maritime threats. More than a concluding event, IPE 05/2025 reaffirmed both nations’ shared commitment to readiness, interoperability, and long-term collaboration in support of a safe, secure, and stable Indo-Pacific maritime domain.

On 13 November 2025, the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN), in collaboration with the Australian Defence Force (ADF), concluded the Maritime Security & Law Dialogue in Brunei Darussalam, marking the completion of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 05/2025. Held at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (SHHBIDSS), the event represented the second and final phase of the 2025 engagement, following an earlier phase in



A participant receives a certificate of participation during the Maritime Security & Law Dialogue.



Commodore Peter Leavy, ADF, delivers his closing remarks, concluding two days of discussions on maritime security and the law of the sea.

Commander RBN, First Admiral Sahibul Bahari bin Haji Zainal Abidin, with his spouse during the Indo-Pacific International Maritime Exposition 2025 in Sydney.



RBN Sergeant Major (centre), shares a moment with fellow senior enlisted leaders during the Indo-Pacific International Maritime Exposition 2025 in Sydney.



Where Sea Power Meets Strategy

The Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) participated in the Indo-Pacific International Maritime Exposition 2025 in Sydney, held at the International Convention Centre Sydney and hosted by the Royal Australian Navy in collaboration with the Australian Maritime Defence Association. Led by Sahibul Bahari bin Haji Zainal Abidin, Commander of the RBN, and accompanied by WO1 Mohammad Nasri bin Ladis, Sergeant Major RBN, the delegation reflected both senior command and enlisted leadership representation. Centred on the theme “Strength at Sea = Security and Prosperity at Home,” the exposition convened global naval leaders, policymakers, and industry representatives to discuss maritime security, innovation, and regional cooperation.

Beyond plenary sessions, the RBN Commander conducted bilateral engagements with counterparts from Australia, Canada, Pakistan, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, and the United States, strengthening professional ties and exploring opportunities in operations, training, and capacity development. Concurrently, the Sergeant Major participated in the Senior Enlisted Leaders Program, underscoring the importance of leadership development across all ranks. Overall, RBN’s participation reaffirmed its commitment to naval diplomacy, interoperability, and sustained regional engagement, recognising that maritime security in the Indo-Pacific is advanced as much through dialogue and partnership ashore as through operational presence at sea.

At the Crossroads of the Blue Economy

From 3–6 November 2025, the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) participated in the 2nd Pakistan International Maritime Expo & Conference (PIMEC) 2025 in Karachi, reinforcing its commitment to international maritime engagement beyond operational waters. Led by Captain Mohammad Faizal Ezam bin Haji Abas, Chief of Staff RBN, the delegation—comprising strategic, capability development, and operational representatives—joined 178 exhibitors and 133 international delegations from 44 countries at the Karachi Expo Centre. Organised by the Pakistan Navy under the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, the event centred on the theme “Navigating the Future of the Blue Economy,” highlighting maritime security, innovation, and sustainable development.



Chief of Staff RBN meets Commander Karachi (COMKAR), Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi PN, on the sidelines of PIMEC 2025 in Karachi.

Alongside the exhibition, discussions at the 11th International Maritime Conference explored the Blue Economy’s role in long-term regional prosperity and maritime cooperation. For the RBN, participation provided an opportunity to strengthen professional networks, exchange strategic perspectives, and stay informed on emerging maritime technologies and concepts. The engagement underscored Brunei Darussalam’s view that maritime security, economic opportunity, and sustainability are interconnected, and reaffirmed the RBN’s commitment to contributing to a stable, innovative, and cooperative Indo-Pacific maritime community.

“Beyond plenary sessions, the RBN Commander... [strengthened] professional ties and [explored] opportunities in operations, training and... development.”

DEFENCE



Two officers from the RBN participated in a multinational ocean-going training voyage hosted by the People's Liberation Army Navy aboard the training ship ZHENG HE (81). The deployment sailed from Port Klang through the Strait of Malacca and the Singapore Strait before arriving in Jakarta, and also included the vessels XIANGQIANJIN-1 (88) and CHANGBAISHAN (989). The voyage brought together naval personnel from several ASEAN countries, as well as Brazil and Saudi Arabia, creating a multinational environment for professional interaction. For the RBN officers, the experience provided valuable exposure to PLA-N shipboard routines, navigation practices, and operational culture through direct observation and engagement. Such deployments support the RBN's broader commitment to defence diplomacy, helping officers gain perspective, strengthen professional understanding, and contribute to confidence-building among regional and international navies.

The RBN hosted the 3rd Navy Staff Talks (NST) with the Russian Federation Navy (RFN), reaffirming both navies' commitment to defence diplomacy, professional dialogue, and continued maritime cooperation. The engagement, led by Captain Mohammad Faizal Ezam bin Haji Abas, RBN, Chief of Staff, and Captain 1st Rank Kirill Moroz of the RFN, provided a platform to review existing collaboration and explore future areas of engagement. Beyond formal discussions, the programme emphasised cultural diplomacy, introducing the RFN delegation to Brunei Darussalam's national philosophy of Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB) through visits to cultural institutions and an official dinner featuring traditional Bruneian cuisine. These activities strengthened mutual understanding, goodwill, and people-to-people ties. The talks reflected the RBN's continued commitment to confidence-building and international engagement, with both sides expressing optimism for future cooperation and the next NST to be hosted in the Russian Federation.



The port visit of FNS PRAIRIAL to Brunei Darussalam highlighted the continued commitment of the French Navy and the RBN to strengthen professional ties through dialogue, engagement, and cooperation. Commanded by Commander Wallerand Faivre d'Arcier, the visit included professional exchanges between crews, a courtesy call on the RBN Fleet Commander, and a reception onboard that showcased French naval traditions and cuisine, promoting cultural diplomacy and mutual understanding. Informal engagements, including friendly sports activities at Muara Beach, further strengthened camaraderie and people-to-people connections between both navies. The visit underscored the role of port visits in fostering maritime cooperation and trust, with FNS PRAIRIAL departing Brunei Darussalam on 25 November 2025 after reinforcing goodwill and professional links between the two services.

DIPLMACY

Deputy Fleet Commander RBN welcomes the RMN Eastern Fleet Commander upon arrival at Rimba Air Force Base during the goodwill visit by KD KEDAH and KD SUNDANG to Brunei.



From 18–21 November 2025, ships of the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN)—KD KEDAH and KD SUNDANG—conducted a four-day goodwill visit to Brunei Darussalam, reinforcing long-standing maritime ties with the RBN. The programme included courtesy calls between commanding officers and senior leadership, professional exchanges such as ship visits and subject matter discussions, and engagements at the Naval Training Centre. Informal activities, including community interactions, sports at Muara Beach, and social gatherings, strengthened camaraderie and people-to-people connections between both navies. The visit culminated in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) at sea between KD KEDAH, KD SUNDANG, and KDB DARULEHSAN, symbolising the strong operational cooperation and enduring partnership between the neighbouring maritime forces.

On 13 November 2025, the RBN and the RMN concluded the 11th Navy-to-Navy Talks (N2NT) at KD SRI GOMBAK, reaffirming their commitment to sustained bilateral maritime cooperation. Co-chaired by First Admiral Harisundar Rajoo and Captain Mohammad Faizal Ezam bin Haji Abas, the talks served as a key platform to review ongoing cooperation, exchange operational perspectives, and discuss future collaboration in areas such as joint exercises, training, and information sharing. The dialogue also explored ways to elevate engagement from the tactical to the strategic level, reflecting the maturity of the relationship between the two neighbouring navies. The meeting concluded with the signing of the Minutes of Meeting, symbolising a shared commitment to strengthening defence ties and maintaining maritime security through partnership, trust, and regular dialogue.



Co-chaired by First Admiral Harisundar Rajoo, RMN, and the RBN Chief of Staff, the 11th Navy-to-Navy Talks concluded at KD SRI GOMBAK on 13 November 2025.

From 21 to 23 September 2025, the Republic of Korea Navy destroyer ROKS MUNMU THE GREAT conducted a logistical stop in Brunei Darussalam, strengthening professional ties with the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN). Commanded by Captain Taeung Im, the visit combined operational sustainment with defence diplomacy and professional engagement. During the stay, Captain Taeung Im paid a courtesy call on Commander RBN, reinforcing mutual respect and dialogue between the two navies. The programme also included reciprocal ship visits and professional exchanges. ROKN personnel embarked on KDB DARULAMAN to observe RBN shipboard routines, while RBN personnel, including the Deputy Commander, visited ROKS MUNMU THE GREAT to gain insights into its operational capabilities and shipboard practices. These direct engagements fostered professional understanding, camaraderie, and trust between both navies. Although brief, the visit highlighted the importance of port calls in strengthening defence diplomacy and sustaining maritime cooperation between Brunei and the Republic of Korea.

Deputy Commander RBN and RBN personnel onboard ROKS MUNMU THE GREAT during the Republic of Korea Navy's logistical stop in Brunei.



Welcome Aboard! ROKS Munmu The Great
23th SEP 2025





1965-2025

جوبلي اينتن تنتر لاوت دراج بروني

JUBLI INTAN TENTERA LAUT DIRAJA BRUNEI
ROYAL BRUNEI NAVY DIAMOND JUBILEE

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

In commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN), a carefully planned programme of commemorative events was conducted from June 2025 until January 2026. These events intended to reflect the six decades of steadfast service, professionalism and unwavering dedication in safeguarding the maritime sovereignty of Brunei Darussalam.

The commemorative programme commenced in June 2025 with key regimental and religious observances that set a solemn and dignified tone for the anniversary. These included the Yasin and Tahlil Recitation at the Royal Mausoleum, Doa Kesyukuran and the Khatam Al-Qur'an ceremonies. The official highlight of the month was the RBN 60th Anniversary Parade, followed by a Regimental Dinner.

In the following month, July 2025, RBN reflected its societal outreach through the 1st series of Blood Donation Campaign, reaffirming its commitment to public welfare and social responsibility.

The commemorative momentum continued in August 2025 with religious and community-based initiatives, including both the Cemetery and Mosque Cleaning Campaigns conducted at multiple locations nationwide, reflecting respect for faith, heritage and communal responsibility.

Furthermore, September 2025 marked a significant phase of institutional development and reflection. Activities during this period included the 2nd series of blood donation campaign and a motivational talk aimed at strengthening unity and resilience among personnel.

The main anniversary highlights were held in November 2025, featuring the "Jasamu Dikenang" Appreciation Night, dedicated to honouring service and contributions to the Royal Brunei Navy. Other key events included Iron Tide, the Royal Brunei Navy Carnival and performances by the RBN Band, D'Anchorage.



RBN personnel give back during their supporting community and religious and maintenance activities as part of...

Public outreach continued in December 2025 with the Temburong Roadshow highlighted on strengthening engagement with the local community. The commemorative programme was concluded in January 2026 with a Golf Tournament involving former RBN Commanders, the final series of Blood Donation Campaign and Kuala Belait Roadshow, bringing out RBN assets and live band performances to the public.

Cultural performances add colour to the "Jasamu Dikenang" Appreciation Night, an evening held in conjunction with the Royal Brunei Navy's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.



Roadshow participants with Commander RBN outside the Temburong Roadshow venue, marking a successful weekend of public outreach and engagement.

The Diamond Jubilee programme, focused on outreach through cleaning activities at the Temburong Roadshow.



Commander RBN with another former Commander, Pehin Datu Juragan Laila Diraja Colonel (Rtd.) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Kefli, during the "Jasamu Dikenang" Appreciation Night.

Connecting with the community at the Temburong Roadshow—an RBN officer shares the Navy's roles and career pathways, while NAVSAG engages families and children through interactive displays and photo opportunities.



In conjunction with its Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) conducted the Temburong Roadshow 2025 from 20–21 December at the Bumiputra Complex. The two-day programme promoted public awareness of the Navy's roles, maritime

responsibilities, and career opportunities through interactive exhibitions and family-friendly activities. The Fleet Commander also paid a courtesy call on the Acting District Officer of Temburong, followed by a reception dinner in Pekan Bangar, reinforcing civil-military relations.

In support of community service, RBN personnel carried out a cleaning campaign and religious activities at Masjid Utama Mohammad Salleh and Masjid Kampung Belais. The programme also included friendly football matches at the Temburong District Sports Complex, fostering camaraderie with the local community. Overall, the roadshow reflected the RBN's people-centric approach and its continued commitment to national service as it marked 60 years of dedicated contribution.



Able Rate Abd Wafi bin Suhardi (left) and Petty Officer Md Amiruddin bin Ramani (right) plate up the day's meal in the ship's galley, quietly keeping the crew fuelled, morale steady, and the mission moving.



FUELLING THE FLEET

Onboard a vessel of the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN), every department contributes to mission success. Marine Engineering sustains propulsion, Weapon Engineering ensures combat capability, communications and sensor operators maintain situational awareness, administrators support shipboard management, and navigators chart safe passage. Yet among these visible roles stands a team whose contribution is constant but often unseen—the ship's cooks. Though they may not stand on the bridge or operate complex systems, their work is central to morale, endurance, and operational readiness at sea.

For sailors, food is more than sustenance. It provides comfort during long patrols, reassurance in heavy seas, and unity amid demanding routines. Whether alongside in harbour or deployed overseas, the galley remains where energy is restored and spirits strengthened.

The galley operates under disciplined leadership. The Chief Cook oversees meal standards, hygiene compliance, and ration management, while the Chief Steward and stewards ensure efficient service and clean dining areas. Together, they sustain a system requiring precision, planning, and teamwork—especially during extended patrols when replenishment is limited. Once at sea, ships rely entirely on embarked provisions. During overseas deployments, ingredients may not arrive exactly as requested. Adaptability and creativity are therefore essential to preserve nutritional balance, taste, and variety.

“When we sail, we rely on what we've prepared and loaded onboard to sustain our sailors. And when overseas, it's not always exactly what you request that you receive — so we adapt and make the best of what we have.”

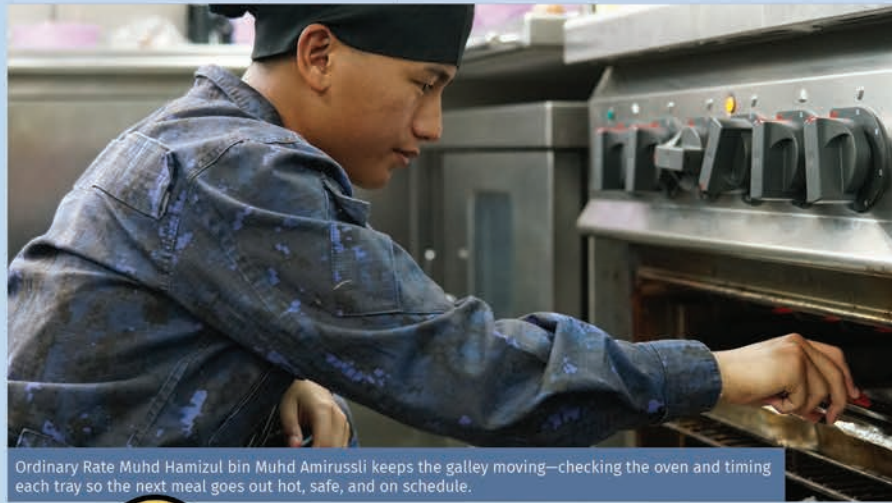


Ordinary Rate Mohammad Saiful Rizal bin Haji Yul Kobli in the galley line—focused on the details that matter: clean prep, steady portions, and plates ready to serve, on time, every time.

During foreign port visits, the galley also becomes a platform of maritime diplomacy. Cooks prepare traditional Bruneian dishes for official receptions and visiting counterparts, serving as quiet culinary ambassadors of Brunei Darussalam and strengthening goodwill through hospitality.

Despite constraints, the team remains committed to quality. Petty Officer Md Khairul Anuar bin Haji Alias, Cook and Steward Instructor at the Maritime Operations School, Naval Training Centre, reflects:

“When the crew enjoy their meals and take the time to show their appreciation, it reminds us why we do what we do. That encouragement keeps us motivated.”



Ordinary Rate Muhd Hamizul bin Muhd Amirussli keeps the galley moving—checking the oven and timing each tray so the next meal goes out hot, safe, and on schedule.

Similarly, Warrant Officer 2 Mohammad Runizal bin Haji Wahab, Chief Cook and Steward Instructor and member of the pioneer crew of KDB DARULEHSAN, underscores accountability:

“We know how important a good meal is, especially at sea. If we were in their place, we would want the same care and effort. That’s why we take our responsibility seriously — because if not us, then who?”

Leading Hand Md Ariffshahdan bin Matzainin, recipient of the 2022 Bintang Harapan award and Cook 1 onboard KDB DARULEHSAN, notes that creativity, resilience, and teamwork continue to define the profession across all ranks.

“ Yet the galley is ... one of the few places where the ship feels like home. It is where a tired watchkeeper finds something warm after heavy weather. . . and where familiar flavours soften the edges of a long patrol.”

DID YOU KNOW?



A ship's kitchen is called the galley because it traces back to the age of galleys: oar-powered vessels where food was cooked in a small, tightly controlled space to reduce fire risk. That tradition carried forward into modern navies. Even today, galleys are built for safety and efficiency: equipment is “gimballed” or secured to cope with rolling seas. hot surfaces are guarded, and everything is designed so meals can still be served when the ship is pitching and heaving.

“In the Navy, you don't ‘go to the kitchen’—you head to the galley.”



Life in the galley carries risk. Hot surfaces, sharp tools, heavy equipment, and slippery decks demand strict food safety and hygiene discipline, supported by cooperation from the crew.

Beyond culinary duties, cooks are sailors first. They hold Emergency Action Stations and are trained in firefighting, damage control, rope handling, boarding support, and flight deck duties. In crises, they assist with first aid and casualty response.

Their careers follow structured progression—from Basic to Intermediate and Advanced Cook and Steward Courses—ensuring leadership, technical competence, and readiness for extended deployments.

In the days leading up to sailing, the galley team works through a tight cycle of menu planning, ration forecasting, and stowage—balancing nutrition, variety, halal compliance, and storage life. Fresh produce must be used early; frozen stores must be portioned carefully; dry goods become the backbone when the sea state

turns and replenishment is no longer an option. Every item has a place, and every place has a reason—because at sea, a missing ingredient is not an inconvenience; it is a planning problem that must be solved immediately.

Once deployed, timing becomes its own kind of seamanship. Breakfast must match the ship's watch routine. Hot drinks need to be ready when the night shift comes off. Meals must be prepared around evolutions—upper deck serials, boarding training, flight operations, or manoeuvres—when hands are needed elsewhere and the ship's movement can turn a simple task into a careful one. Even washing up carries its own discipline: limited water, strict hygiene, and constant motion demand efficiency without compromise.

Yet the galley is also one of the few places where the ship feels like home. It is where a tired watchkeeper finds something warm after heavy weather, where a birthday is marked quietly with a slice of cake, and where familiar flavours soften the edges of a long patrol. On special occasions—Hari Raya, National Day, or a ship's milestone—the cooks do more than feed the crew; they lift the spirit of the entire messdeck.

Ask any sailor what they remember from a deployment, and many will recall a meal as clearly as a port visit: the “comfort dish” that disappeared fastest, the late-night noodles during a long serial, or the effort the cooks put in when stores were running low. These moments are not luxuries. They are part of endurance.

In the RBN, the cooks' work is a quiet form of leadership—steady, practical, and felt daily. Because when the sea tests the ship, morale matters—and morale, more often than not, starts in the galley.

Wardroom standards, set to starboard: a typical RBN ship wardroom setting - forks to the left, knife and spoon to the right, and the water glass positioned above.



MENU: NASI AYAM

Resipi:

1. Nasi: Beras digoreng bersama Planta dan bawang putih. Selepas itu, masukkan air rebusan ayam yang telah direbus, kemudian masak sehingga nasi sempurna.
2. Sambal Nasi Ayam: Lada hidup, halia dan bawang putih dikisar halus. Kemudian campurkan cuka serta sedikit air rebusan ayam.
3. Kicap Nasi Ayam: Campurkan kicap manis dengan air rebusan ayam, kemudian kacau sehati.
4. Ayam Kukus: Ayam dikukus bersama halia sehingga masak sempurna.
5. Ayam Panggang: Ayam diperap dengan sos tiram selama 10 minit, kemudian dipanggang sehingga garing dan berwarna keemasan.

Siap untuk dihidangkan!



Cooks and stewards sharpen their craft at the Naval Training centre, building the skills and standards that keep the fleet fed, safe, and mission ready.



Service with standards: an instructor demonstrates proper table setting and formal service, as cook-and-steward trainees practise the details that make shipboard hospitality run smoothly.



STAND AT EASE!

A grin-and-handshake moment as Commander RBN hands over a prize to the Fleet Commander at Stand at Ease!—a well-earned break for the Mess family.



The Royal Brunei Navy Mess Committee brought officers together for an enjoyable and high-spirited afternoon during the Stand at Ease! Event, held on Friday, 31 October 2025 at the Squad Hut, RBN Futsal Court.

The event was graced by the presence of the Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy, Sahibul Bahari Bin Haji Zainal Abidin, alongside other senior officers, adding significance and prestige to the gathering. Designed as a well-deserved respite from demanding operational and administrative duties, the

programme featured a lively mix of BBQ, karaoke sessions, futsal and netball matches, with attractive prizes further energising the atmosphere and encouraging enthusiastic participation.

The friendly competitions, informal interactions, and shared laughter created a relaxed environment that fostered stronger bonds, open communication, and mutual support among officers across different branches and appointments. Beyond recreation, the event served as a meaningful platform to enhance morale, nurture teamwork, and reinforce esprit de corps — strengthening the shared sense of pride, unity, and professional solidarity within the Service.



From office to open fire: two officers take their turn at the grill, adding flavour to the afternoon.

The Honourable Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd.) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof stands with the Defence Executive Committee, RBAF Service Commanders and the Study Day team as RIMPAC reflections were shared across the Services.



REFLECTIONS FROM RIMPAC

Every year, RBAF Study Day offers officers a rare pause from routine—space to step back, reflect, and speak candidly about experiences drawn from operations, research, and professional practice. On 16 December 2025, that pause became a moment of collective reflection as the RBN hosted RBAF Study Day 2025, centred on a presentation titled “Royal Brunei Navy: A Triumphant Endeavour.”

The focus was the Navy’s participation in Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024, which concluded in August. Yet the session was never intended as a victory lap. Instead, it explored what the deployment truly demanded of those involved—moving beyond outcomes and milestones to examine the experience itself.

Rather than rehearsed success stories or statistics, officers from KDB DARULAMAN and KDB DARUSSALAM spoke plainly about the realities of operating within one of the world’s largest multinational naval exercises. They described long transits across the Pacific, sustained operational tempo, and the complexity of coordinating

alongside dozens of navies with different procedures, cultures, and expectations. Above all, they spoke about the quiet pressure of representing the Royal Brunei Navy on a global stage—far from home, under constant scrutiny, and with little margin for error.

What gave the presentations their weight was honesty. The speakers did not shy away from challenges: moments of uncertainty, fatigue, and adjustment; lessons learned not from success alone, but from friction and adaptation. In doing so, they transformed RIMPAC from an abstract exercise name into something more tangible—a lived experience shaped by endurance, teamwork, and professionalism.

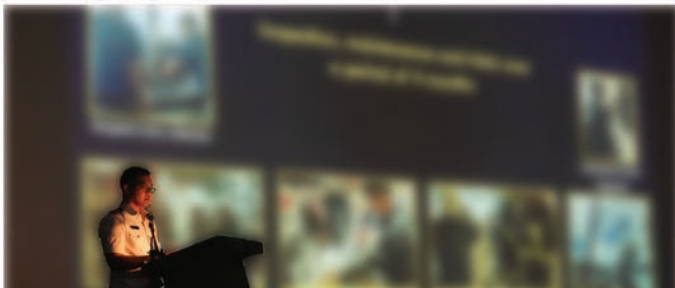
Through these accounts, RIMPAC emerged not merely as a test of

platforms and procedures, but as a proving ground for people. The discussion that followed reflected a shared understanding among the audience: that deployments of this scale test character as much as capability, and that growth often occurs in conditions far removed from comfort or familiarity.

By the end of the day, the Study Day had achieved its purpose quietly and effectively. Through open discussion, experience was unpacked, examined, and shared—allowing lessons from the Pacific crossing to settle into understanding rather than remain as memory alone. In doing so, it reinforced a simple but enduring truth: the value of such exercises lies not only in what is achieved, but in what is learned by those who sail the distance.



A fitting finale: the Defence Executive Committee, RBAF Service Commanders and the Study Day team “cross the gangway” together — closing a day of lessons drawn from the Pacific.



An officer briefs the systems upgrades that helped the ship sail farther, steadier, and smarter across the Pacific.

In November 2025, the shoreline of Muara became the proving ground for the Royal Brunei Navy's Iron Tide Challenge, a signature event of the RBN Diamond Jubilee Carnival that brought together twelve teams in a demanding test of endurance, strength, and teamwork. Designed as a military-inspired fitness challenge, the course pushed participants through sand-bound carries, weighted runs, and coordinated obstacle stations that reflected the resilience and unity required in naval operations. What unfolded was not merely a race against the clock, but a shared trial of discipline and collective determination under pressure.

After an intense contest along Muara Beach and back to the Naval Training Centre, the results were officially declared. 1st Place was claimed by Team "Dream Team", crossing the finish line with an impressive time of 55 minutes 17 seconds. 2nd Place went to Team "Fearless Fellas", completing the course in 1 hour 1 minute 21 seconds, followed closely by Team "Tim Rojak", who secured 3rd Place with a time of 1 hour 3 minutes 15 seconds. While the timings reflected competitive excellence, the true achievement lay in the teamwork displayed at every station, where no member was left behind and every obstacle was overcome together.

The Iron Tide Challenge stood as more than a competition; it was a reflection of the Royal Brunei Navy's enduring values of resilience, camaraderie, and commitment. In just over an hour, lessons normally learned over years of service, were felt in every stride across the sand.

FORGED BY SAND AND SEA



Where Brotherhood Meets the Ocean



Not just a win – a statement: Iron Tide's champions stand tall with Commander RBN, medals on and mission accomplished.



When the station gets heavy, leadership gets visible – Fleet Commander RBN carries the weight with his team.



Against the clock and the coastline, teams push through one of Iron Tide's toughest obstacles.

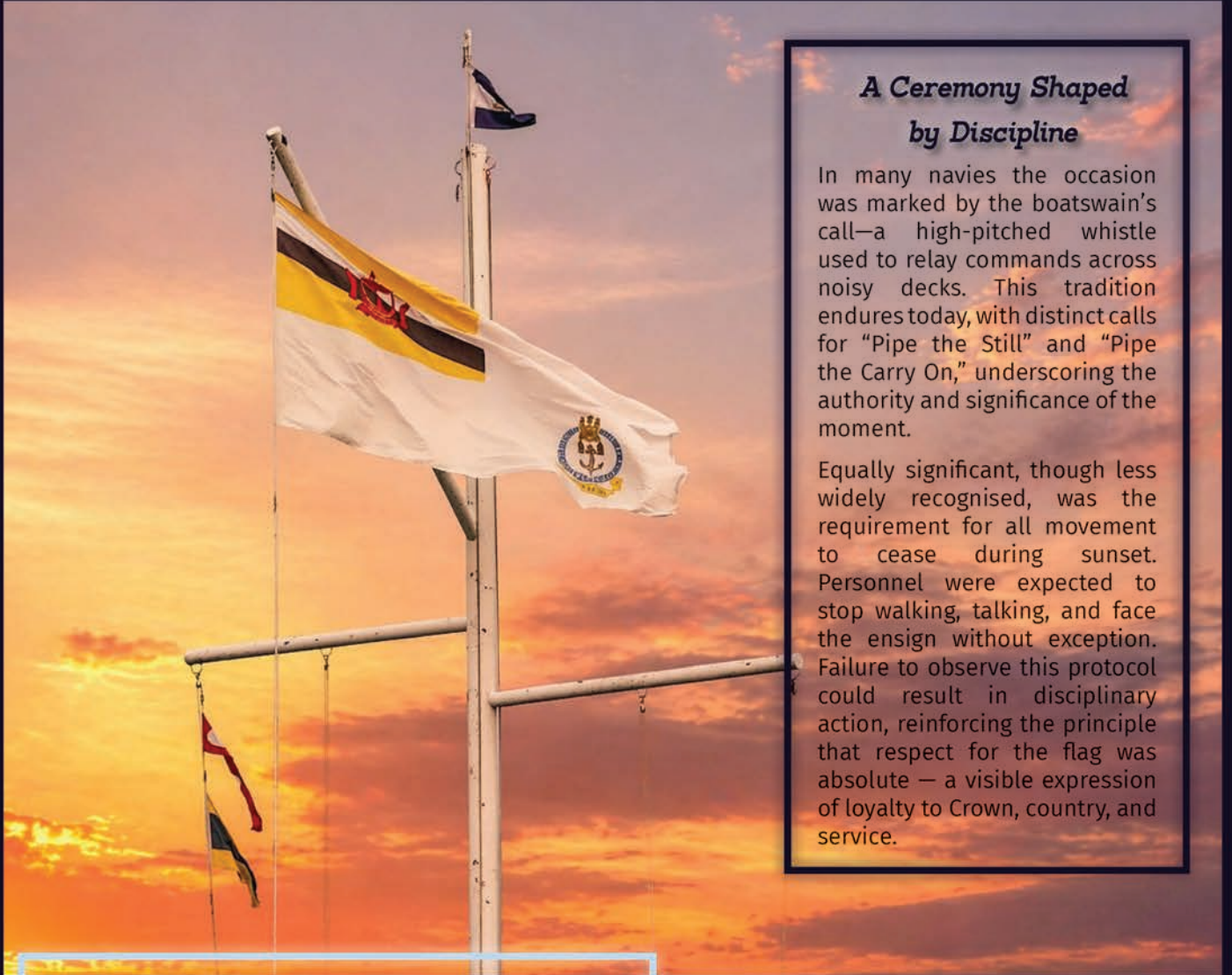


A diamond Jubilee highlight - Iron Tide Challenge 2025 participants pictured with Commander RBN and the RBN Executive Body, reflecting the Navy's spirit of resilience and teamwork.

“...In just over an hour, lessons normally learned over years of service, were felt in every stride across the sand.”

STILLNESS AT THE FALL OF DAY

As the sun dips below the horizon and the day's light fades from the sea, a moment of deliberate stillness takes hold on naval decks across the world. Commands are given, movement pauses, and the national ensign is slowly lowered. The naval sunset ceremony may last only a few minutes, but it carries with it centuries of maritime history, discipline, and symbolism—far deeper than many realise.



A Ceremony Shaped by Discipline

In many navies the occasion was marked by the boatswain's call—a high-pitched whistle used to relay commands across noisy decks. This tradition endures today, with distinct calls for "Pipe the Still" and "Pipe the Carry On," underscoring the authority and significance of the moment.

Equally significant, though less widely recognised, was the requirement for all movement to cease during sunset. Personnel were expected to stop walking, talking, and face the ensign without exception. Failure to observe this protocol could result in disciplinary action, reinforcing the principle that respect for the flag was absolute — a visible expression of loyalty to Crown, country, and service.

Origins in the Age of Sail

The practice of lowering the ensign at sunset traces back to 17th-century European sailing navies, particularly the Royal Navy, whose customs shaped naval traditions worldwide. In the Age of Sail, flags were vital instruments of command, identification, and sovereignty. A warship's ensign declared ownership of the seas she sailed and authority over those aboard.

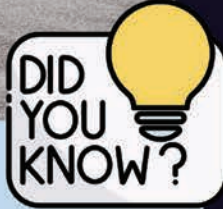
Lowering the ensign served practical and symbolic purposes: protecting the flag from unnecessary wear in darkness and foul weather, and marking the formal end of the ship's day—signalling the transition to night watches, when vigilance, discipline, and trust between watchkeepers became critical. Watchkeepers became even more critical.



The Sound of Sunset - the pipe party forms up, with the boatswain's call ready to signal the key moments of Sunset.



Sunset details in motion - sailors march into position, forming up at the flagstaff ahead of the Navy's Sunset ceremony.



Have you heard of the expression 'Putting The Queen To Bed'?

In the Royal Navy, the sunset ceremony goes by a nickname that has endured for generations among sailors – an informal term of quiet affection passed down through the lower decks rather than written into any official manual.

“Putting the Queen to Bed”

The phrase captures something the formal ceremony does not – the sense that lowering the ensign at dusk is less an ending, and more of an act of care: a fleet standing watch over its sovereign until the next day's light.



Why the Tradition Endured

As navies transitioned into the steam and steel era, the practical need for lowering the ensign diminished. Ships continued their missions beyond sunset, no longer bound by the limits of daylight. Yet the sunset ceremony did not disappear. Instead, it evolved from necessity into intentional tradition.

Navies retained the ceremony because it served a deeper function: it cultivated shared identity and discipline. In an environment where sailors come from diverse backgrounds and perform highly specialised roles, sunset provides a daily reminder of common purpose. For a brief moment, hierarchy pauses and the entire ship acknowledges the same symbol.

The Ceremony in Modern Navies



Securing the ensign - the duty sailor hauls down the ensign while the flag bearer receives and secures it immediately after it is lowered.

Today, sunset ceremonies are conducted with precision on warships, naval bases, and ports worldwide. While procedures vary slightly between navies, the essence remains unchanged.

Sunset ceremonies are also observed during multinational exercises, where each navy respects the host nation's customs. This quiet mutual observance underscores an unspoken truth of maritime history: despite differences in language or uniform, navies share a common heritage shaped by the sea.

In today's era of advanced warfare systems and digital networks, lowering the ensign may seem symbolic, yet it remains deeply significant as a reminder that technology cannot replace core values like discipline, respect, and loyalty. The naval sunset ceremony endures because it connects modern sailors to their heritage, reaffirming identity, professionalism, and the enduring bond between sailor, ship, and nation.



For more information,
visit our website: www.mindef.gov.bn
or call us: +673 2385272
or scroll into our  @royalbruneinavyofficial




BE ONE OF US

KEEP THE WATCH. TAKE YOUR PLACE.

For more information,
visit our website: www.mindef.gov.bn

or call us: +673 2385272

or scroll into our  [@royalbruneinavyofficial](https://www.instagram.com/royalbruneinavyofficial)

