# Royal Brunei Navy SAILORS SPARK JOY IN THE COMMUNITY



**KDB AS-SIDDIQ ENTERS SERVICE** 

STEAMING TO THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

**SETTING SAIL FOR ASEAN-INDIA MARITIME EXERCISE** 

> AFR & **AMNEX**

THE BAND PLAYS ON!

**ALL HANDS & HEARTS ON DECK** 

REFLECTIONS IN THE ABODE OF PEACE

> CHEERING **HMY BRITANNIA**

FIRST PERSON **VIEW** 



#### **Cover Story:**

The Drum Major 14746 CPO Md Ali Napiah bin Duraman leads the Royal Brunei Navy marching band.

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**KDB AS-SIDDIQ** 

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Ramlee, RBN

**Lead Designer** Lt JG Kiara Esmeralda binti Iscramuon,

**Production** Lt JG Ahmad Mu'aadz bin Hj Abd Razak,

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#### MESSAGE FROM **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**





Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Syukur Alhamdulillah, it is with great pleasure that I present to you my final issue of Aman Samudera as its Editor-In-Chief. In this 5th issue I am proud to bring to the forefront our prestigious Royal Brunei Navy Band. Less than two decades have passed, yet so much growth and development has transformed the RBN Band into a reputable service within the Navy. We pay homage to our unsung heroes behind every successful parade, beating not only our feet but also our hearts into synchronous step. We get a close-up with one of the Navy Band musicians and find out how rewarding his career of pursuing his music passion has been.

The navy is no stranger to the intricacies of defence diplomacy. We will revisit the RBN's escapades to the land of the rising sun with exciting captures of a most impressive International Fleet Review followed by our involvement in the ASEAN arena with her interactions with the Indian Navy and having once again proven our ability to make an impact in the regional maritime domain. Our senior ratings have also once again become ambassadors of peace and friendship in their interactions across the pond with the Republic of Singapore Navy.

In this issue we explore some of the past times of our seasoned sailors who are drone flying enthusiasts. It isn't always about work, so a bit of R&R is almost always a breath of fresh air to balance the intensity of our professional environment.

Our historical section has gathered significant interest amongst our readership so I'm excited to share another installation in our historical section with a blast from the past of our Armed Motor Launches River Patrol Boats form the Boat Section.
We continue to honour our past heroes who shall be remembered for their gallantry and service.

My time as Editor-in-Chief of the Navy's magazine

has come to an end. Farewells are bittersweet but rose to the challenge, and I cannot be more grateful for a capable team of officers who are enthusiastic writers and designers all of whom are self-taught talents. I wish my successor all the best and hope that this publication continues to make an impact for RBN throughout time. We are all made in the Royal Brunei Navy.

Shutdown, fold, re-arm and ready for the next mission. Make Waves at Flank Speed!

Yours Aye,

Commander Pg Mohd Faren Pg Mohd Noor, RBN Editor-In-Chie

# KDB AS-SIDDIQ ENTERS SERVICE





n Tuesday, the 21st of March 2023, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, graced the Commissioning Ceremony of Patrol Vessel KDB AS-SIDDIQ at Jetty Bravo of Muara Naval Base.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Defence II Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Defence Republic

of Singapore and senior leadership of the Ministry of Defence and the RBAF, as well as from the Republic of Singapore Ministry of Defence and Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), Yang Mulia Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander RBAF, Lieutenant General Dato Paduka Seri Melvyn Ong Su Kiat, Chief of Defence Force, SAF, Rear Admiral Sean Wat Jianwen, Chief of the Republic of Singapore Navy, Captain Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudin bin Matserudin, RBN, Acting Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy.

The ceremony began with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the Royal Salute followed by the inspection of the Full Guard comprising of 110 RBN personnel led by Lieutenant Commander Mohamad Husaini bin Hj Mohamad Sofian, RBN.

His Majesty then proceeded to deliver the Commissioning Titah and awarded KDB AS-SIDDIQ with its Commissioning Pennant presented to Lieutenant Commander Haji Mohammad Arnold bin Haji Osman, RBN, Commanding Officer of KDB AS-SIDDIQ. This was followed by the momentous occasion of hoisting the Commissioning Pennant and RBN Ensign, accompanied by the National Anthem.

The commissioning was further blessed with the calling of the Azan, after which His Majesty proceeded for a tour onboard KDB AS-SIDDIQ.











## ANZAC DAY LEST WE FORGET







n Tuesday the 25th of April 2023, the Australian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam led a dawn service at the Brunei-Australia Memorial at Muara Beach to remember the service of Australians and New Zealanders in wars, conflicts, peacekeeping, and humanitarian missions. The event was attended by Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Defence II, Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Halbi Mohd Yussof, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Major General Dato Paduka Seri Muhammad Haszaimi Bol Hassan, Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force, Dato Paduka Seri Haji Mohammad Irwan Hambali, members of the Diplomatic Corps and military officials, as well as Australians and New Zealanders in the Sultanate. The High Commissioner, Luke Arnold, spoke on how Anzac Day is observed in Australia and New Zealand's modern multicultural societies. He also mentioned that in 1945, Australian soldiers landed at Muara Beach and collaborated closely with Bruneians and other allied forces as part of a military campaign that helped liberate Borneo, which included Brunei.









#### 部隊のブルネイ・ダルサマール国ムアラ寄港について JMSDF UNITS VISIT TO MUARA PORT, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM









The Harbour phase was a fanfare of activities consisting of welcoming receptions and cocktails onboard the foreign navy ships, courtesy calls, conferences, a futsal tournament, and the Grand City parade. RBN sailors, all decked out in their crisp whites, marched with their heads held high and arms in full swing through the streets of Yokosuka, the Brunei Flag greeted by an enthusiastic crowd of locals lining up the sidewalk for miles. Bonds were forged between navies, and e-mails exchanged, establishing connections that would span the globe. In between programmes, we mustered any available opportunity to explore the beautiful country of Japan. We navigated around Yokohama, and were engulfed into the city scene, walking the famous Shibuya crossing and seeing towers scraping the sky in Tokyo. The ship's company even managed to do a cultural tour at the Mikasa Memorial in Yokosuka, walking through the vast memorial ship, IJN MIKASA, that historically won the Battle of Tsushima against the Baltic Fleet of Russia. In those short 4 days ashore, Google translate became our best friend!

We embarked on the longawaited sea phase on the 5th of November, and KDB DARULEHSAN slipped off for the big day occurring in less than 24 hours. On the 6th of November, lined up in formation with 38 other submarines and ships between navies, in Sagami Bay, the crew onboard KDB DARULEHSAN saluted in unison to JS IZUMO, reviewed by the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Fumio Kishida, in company with the Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy, among other prestigious defence leaders. Fighter jets rocketed over our heads in the clear blue sky. It was a memorable moment, a story to tell for loved ones who were elated at home being able to see us through the live feeds on screen, yelling "There you are! I've recorded you!"

On the 9th of November, KDB DARULEHSAN prepared to slip off for our journey back home. The seas were much more forgiving this time, as we steamed in company with KD KELANTAN, of the Royal Malaysian Navy. We kept ourselves occupied in the next few days by conducting different evolutions such as Flashing Exercise and Publication Exercise with KD









**Bonds** were forged connections that span the globe"



KELANTAN before parting ways. Onboard, we celebrated the finale of our Virtual Steps competition, rewarding those who had the highest number of steps during the deployment, and we held a Maghrib prayer in congregation as well as a Quran Recitation on the flight deck. The orange glow of the sunset mirrored across the sea. and the atmosphere was imbued with a sense of peace and serenity.

Bruneian waves greeted us on the 17th of November, along with the smiles and excited anticipation of our loved ones on the jetty. Syukur Alhamdulillah. finally after 25 days venturing out into the deep blue sea, we were finally home.



# SETTING SAIL FOR ASEAN-NDIA MARITIME EXERCISE

By Lt JG Pg Md Fadhil bin Pg Hj Ali, RBN

he ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) marks the continuation of ASEAN's maritime exercises with its extra-regional partners to rally mutual trust and understanding, as well as to enhance cooperation and interoperability. Towards this end, KDB DARULEHSAN set sail to Singapore on the 27th of April 2023 and arrived in Changi Naval Base 3 days later with 22 naval ships from 13 nations to first participate in the International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX) Asia 2023 as a prelude to AIME.

The voyage from Brunei to Singapore is a familiar yet still ever-so dynamic as many deployments take our ships to the Singapore Strait. What begins with 3-short blasts of the ship's foghorn to indicate KDB DARULEHSAN going astern as she departs Muara Naval Base, develops into a voyage to remember for the men and women onboard as the scene at sea changes from the homely shoreline to the busy straits of Singapore. The arrival at Changi Naval Base was a sight to see as the many naval ships greet one another as they make their berth and the base full of each navy's pride hoisting their respective national flags and naval ensigns.

Though events such as these may seem to be the perfect opportunity to make new acquaintances from across the sea, surprisingly these events almost always become the best opportunity to meet up with familiar friends who were once course buddies, or even those who have been deployed to the same events





previously and reminisce the good old days.



The Opening Ceremony brought representatives from the Indian Navy and all ASEAN Navies to initiate the inaugural ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise leading to the many interactive learning opportunities. The platform opened up the avenue for attending personnel to learn through a seminar and subject matter expert exchanges in the field of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). Coordinating exercises with foreign navies allows for the identification of best practices and facilitates mutual understanding inside the meeting rooms and beyond. Thus, further fostering friendship across all levels.







#### **SEA PHASE**

With the plans set, each ship makes ready to set sail once again for the Sea Phase of AIME 2023. Engines roar, lines are taken aboard and the foghorns sound as 10 ships sail together towards the South China Sea. KDB DARULEHSAN from the Royal Brunei Navy, INS DELHI and INS SATPURA from the Indian Navy, RSS SUPREME from the Republic of Singapore Navy, HTMS PATTANI of the Royal Thai Navy, KD LEKIU from the Royal Malaysian Navy, TRAN HUNG DAO from the Viet Nam People's Navy. BRP ANOTNIO LUNA from the Philippine Navy and KRI GUSTI NGURAH RAI from the Indonesian Navy.



This is the foundation of naval cooperation between ASEAN Navies and the Indian Navy"





Two action-packed days at sea brought about immersive learning opportunities as they realise commonalities despite the differences in language, standard operating procedures, and capabilities. This is the foundation of naval cooperation between ASEAN Navies and the Indian Navy, setting the stage for future cooperation.

Towards the end of the exercise, the 10 ships parted ways with a Sail Pass as the ships form up in Formation 1 and INS DELHI along with INS SATPURA passes on the starboard side to the pipes of the ships bidding farewell.

KDB DARULEHSAN proceeded to sail back home to Brunei whereas the other ships sailed to their next port of call, some to home, and some to the next exercise. Fair winds and following seas.







By Lt JG Hi Abdul Wadud bin DP Hi Md Yussop, RBN

n the 8th of May 2023, KDB DARUTTAQWA and KDB AFIAT embarked on a 12-day deployment to the Republic of Philippines to participate the ASEAN FLEET REVIEW (AFR) 2023 and ASEAN MULTILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISES (AMNEX) 2/2023. A total of nine ships from ASEAN member states were involved - which were KDB DARUTTAQWA and KDB AFIAT from Royal Brunei Navy, BRP ANTONIO LUNA and BRP ANDRES BONIFACIO from Philippine Navy, RSS SUPREME from Republic of Singapore Navy, KRI GUSTI NGURAH RAI from the Indonesian Navy, KD LEKIU from the Royal Malaysian Navy, HTMS PATTANI from the Royal Thai Navy and VPNS TRAN HUNG DAO from the Viet Nam People's Navy whereas Cambodia and Laos sent observers

for the occasion. The exercise aimed to further strengthen the relations between navies of the ASEAN countries and contributed in the successful conduct of AMNEX 2/2023. With this success, the professional relationship between the Navies was enhanced in unison to a high degree of cooperation and interoperability between the participating surface vessels. With RBN participating in these exercises, it highlights Brunei's continued commitment to regional security and stability, as well as its readiness to work with other navies in the region towards achieving common goals.







#### **WO2 MOHD ZAMRI BIN HJ ABAS, RBN CHIEF WEAPON ENGINEER KDB AFIAT**

I had the chance to exchange knowledge with other sailors from the participating ASEAN Navies. We shared on our experiences on why we enter the Armed Forces, as well as our experience on local exercises that we had participated in. We also compared on how it was different during this multilateral exercise, and we also share the difference on length of service in the organisation.

I also had the chance to lead and manage the RBN Team during the sports interaction during the AMNEX Sports Events. The Royal Brunei Navy was teamed up with the Republic of Singapore Navy where we were coded as Yellow Team. Alhamdulillah, we teamed up well and performed to the best of our abilities and skill and managed to get 3rd place during this sports meet.





During my free time, we had the chance to visit places in Subic Bay, Philippines such as the Spanish Gate. It was a fun and memorable experience which I shall cherish for the rest of my life.

These exercises were an eye opener as this was my first experience in participating in an overseas deployment and it gave me many avenues to learn. The main challenge that I faced was leaving my family behind. As our ship did not have a Weapons Electrical Engineering Officer (WEO), I was tasked to lead my department in making sure ship's systems were running well and maintained a high level of combat and exercise readiness.



#### MMUNICATION RADIO SUPERVISOR **KDB DARUTTAQWA**

I gained a wealth of experience during this exercise where we had the chance to do work on plenty of Communication Based exercises with other participating ships. KDB DARUTTAQWA was allocated in the Merlin Task Group along with the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, and Viet Nam. Our Captain was tasked as the Officer Conducting Serials (OCS) for the Maritime Search and Rescue Exercises. It was a good experience as I was the CRS and my mission was to keep my team in check, as well as to anticipate the execution of the evolutions ensuring that every signal despatched from our ship was timely and precise.

Aside from the exercise, I had the chance to talk and socialise with our fellow sailors from the ASEAN region and I was delighted to meet peers from my previous course in Malaysia. We caught up on our career progress and recalled our best moments on the course together. It was nice to catch up with some old friends again.

Basic language and the command



of English was always going to be a challenge between all participants. It was obvious that everyone was at different levels, therefore communication was heavily affected, especially during coordination meetings. However, with perseverance and good teamwork between all the sailors, we managed to overcome this challenge and we had the opportunity to further enhance our experience through this.

As the CRS of the Communications Department, I believe the most challenging part is to keep my team focused on their task. We are the foremost to receive signals and information, and my team needed to be on their toes the whole two days of the exercise to make sure there were no misinformation. Overall, I had a good time learning through this experience and am now more confident for future challenges.

10

# PERFORM FOR THE WORLD TO SEE

Find yourself performing at National and International events, major sporting events and prestigious concert venues and when called upon set your instruments aside and undertake operational support roles alongside the rest of the Royal Brunei Navy. Members of the Royal Brunei Navy Band are highly trained, skilled individuals who demonstrate their proficiency and professionalism on the world stage.









# THE BAND PLAYS ON!

By Lt Nurul Hairani binti Hj Abdul Hamid, RBN

n the 18th to 19th centuries, the beat of the drum would be heard in the battlefield, passing on signals and orders for formations to keep a regular step whilst inspiring the troops to march bravely forwards into battle or beat the sailors to quarters. As technology began to evolve, the role of military music began to change with modern warfare. As it is today, military music still plays a significant role in raising morale and fervour.

The Royal Brunei Navy had reached 43 years of service when the Royal Brunei Navy Band was formed on 24 January 2008. Today, the RBN Band has shaped and nurtured 39 military musicians that are proficient in the use of various musical instruments such as the flute, piccolo, clarinet, saxophone, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion instruments such as the bass drum, side drum, and cymbal.

The RBN Band made its debut on 16 May 2008, during the RBN Commander's Handover Parade. A few years later, the RBN Band performed its first Live Band performance as 'The Anchorage' live band during Exercise CARAT or 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training' in May 2010. Exercise CARAT has become a useful avenue for improving and developing operational coordination between the RBN and the USN. These Navy Bands engagement in this annual bilateral exercise has promoted knowledge sharing via music through workshops, demonstration classes, and live performances.

The RBN Band continued to make history by performing at prestigious events such as at the Brunei Darussalam International Tattoo (BIT) on the occasion of the RBAF's Golden Jubilee Anniversary in 2011 with an extraordinarily spectacular performance at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex. Since then, the Navy Band has pursued numerous international advancements, developments, and invitations, including participation in the Tattoo performance in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) in 2014, as well as participating in long-distance deployments with the goal of showcasing Traditional Malay Culture, such as at the LIMA Exercises in Langkawi (Malaysia), and deployments to Qingdao (China), Busan (Korea) and Changi (Singapore).

The RBN Band, in addition to performing in international Tattoo's, has five core ensembles namely the Ceremonial Band, Live Band, Cultural Troupe, Concert Band, and Public Address System (PA System) unit. The Live Band Group and the Cultural Troupe are often organised into smaller detachments to carry out their assigned tasks. The Ceremonial Band performs in various annual parade ceremonies such as at national events held at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien. Other annual national events include the Full Guard and Band being paraded in conjunction with the National Day Anniversary

Celebrations of Brunei Darussalam and during the Ceremonial Parade for the Royal Birthday celebrations of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Also, the RBN Band regularly performs as a Symphonic Band to invigorate Royal Banquets, State Dinners, Mess Ceremonial Dinners, and Fanfare.

Band is actively The RBN implementing its plans for the establishment of a String Orchestra, in which five navy musicians have been selected to attend this year's RBAF Band Training Branch String Orchestra Basic Course. The RBN Band frequently sends its musicians to basic and advanced training courses delivered by the RBAF Band Training Branch to generate professional navy musicians and further develop RBN Band players. These initiatives aim to uphold and elevate the musicians' high standards and musical quality. The RBN Band's guiding principle is not only to obtain knowledge, experience, skills, performances, and training opportunities, but it is also aspiring to be the cornerstone in the providing of moral support and instil 'esprit de corps' within the RBN.

Apart from honing their musical talents, RBN Band members always maintain their fundamental military skills such physical fitness and weapon proficiency and to ensure that the RBN Band runs more effectively, the band's members are also capable of managing the band's administration, including as the quartermaster, drivers, and providing audio support.

The RBN Band is committed to providing high-quality musical services to support the RBN, the RBAF and Brunei Darussalam as a whole. Without a doubt, the musicians have also built a reputation internationally. The RBN Band's participation in the Tattoo in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), breaching the international arena, was a significant testament to their talents, proficiency, and level of professionalism. The RBN Band has proven itself on the battlefield and has earned the nation's respect and admiration. The RBN Band shall continue to increase its tempo to achieve their vision of becoming professional music Class-A ensemble and become a legacy of music in Brunei Darussalam.











#### WIRA SAMUDERA COMP MESAR (B) HS MANAF ARR PW1 BM ANUAR DECEMBER 2005 Sentosa Wira seiahtera selamat samudera Pembela nusa 6. Kini membesar perkasa 21 K lahir sebagai sanggamara neaara Didasar lautar dan badai Bendera megah <u>ombe</u> tegak berdiri Mandir semangat bertekad Waja Mempertahankan Brunei tercinta ‡ Usah pahlawan raqu bangsaku nekad Teruskan perjuanganmu I Hidupmu beriasa gugurmu bernama tercinta Demi membela nusa tercinta nusc sanjungan\_ hanasa Setia wasnada menaharunai samudera Berbekal tawakal\_ kami D.S. AL FINE didada lindunai semua





#### INTERVIEW WITH A BANDPLAYER

PO Al-Husaini bin Pandin

hroughout my career in the Royal Brunei
Navy Band, I had the opportunity to learn
and get to know the essence of music,
beginning with the fundamentals and
progressing to becoming a skilled musician
capable of reading and understanding
musical notes written on the music sheets.
I have also been able to communicate with
band members from other countries all over
the world and exchange information and
expertise in the sphere of music. Of course I
cannot forget to mention that marching while
playing music in the band is a skill in itself.

In 2011, I was granted the opportunity to attend the Bugler Course at the Kuala Lumpur Army Music Training Centre to expand my musical skills and expand my musical talents.

What distinguishes the Royal Brunei Navy band from other bands locally as well as globally is the ability to communicate with other bands through a musical language that only band members understand, such as the ability to read musical notes, understand marching instructions by only using a stick or mace handled by the Drum Major, and understand Music Conductor language to play the song being played.

Alhamdulillah, l was granted opportunity to learn to play the Trumpet and to perform professionally while pursuing my chosen profession. With dedication, passion, a professional work spirit and the support of loved ones and colleagues to keep going forward. My wife and children are very supportive of my work choices. The children also have had many opportunities to learn about and try out the musical instruments that I play. My family is incredibly supportive of me, pushing me to stay in this profession I'm in and understanding the working hours that sometimes need me to work after hours or on public holidays.

My advice to aspiring musicians and those who wish to join the Royal Navy Band family is to constantly improve the quality of music and always find ways to improve and expand your horizons. Being in the Band service provides a great avenue to tap into your creative self. Join us and be the next generation of musicians representing or nation in the international arena.



# ALL HANDS & HEARTS ON DECK!

By Lt Razid bin Hj Awang Lakim, RBN



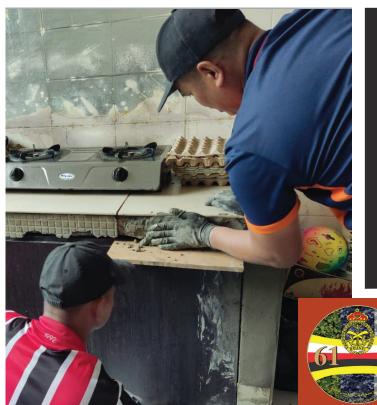
he Titian Amal or Charity Pathway is a collaborative project between the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) under the initiatives of the RBAF 61st Anniversary and the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports (MCYS) which began on the 24th of January and was completed on the 20th of March 2023 in a total of 1 month and 24 days. Thirteen sailors from the RBN led by Lt Razid bin Hj Awang Lakim, RBN were involved in the maintenance works of Dayang Zaiton's house and which have been carefully selected by the Department of Community Development (JAPEM) through site visits to identify the source of the damages and determine the resources needed to rectify them. Dayang Zaiton, who is bed ridden from a stroke and her household was identified to be given assistance by the authorities.











Alhamdulillah, we are grateful, that this year we will be able to celebrate Hari Raya Aidil Fitri. God alone can reward all of us for all our good deeds. May we all be blessed with never ending sustenance, good health, and longevity. Amin"

### "WHOEVER COMES WITH A GOOD DEED WILL BE REWARDED TENFOLD"

- (Surah Al-An'am - Ayat 160)

After all the resources were allocated by JAPEM and preparations were set in place, it was time for the sailors to put some elbow grease into the project. They began with roofing repairs and followed on with fixing damages in the interior and finished off the project with a fresh coat of paint. Upon completion of the repair works, a handover ceremony took place on the 22nd of March 2023 with RBAF being represented by Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Saifulrizal bin Abdul Latif, TDDB, Commander of the RBLF, the Permanent Secretary of MCYS, Hajah Nor Ashikin binti Haji Johari, the Acting Commander of the RBN, Captain Haji Sarif Pudin bin Hj Matserudin, RBN as well several members of JAPEM. The project completion was signified by the presentation of a plaque to the residents by the Commander of the RBLF.

In a show of appreciation and in recognition for the hard work and contribution by the RBN sailors and RBAF, the Minister of Culture Youth and Sports, Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad himself, on the 18th of May 2023, presented them with certificates of appreciation for the charity works carried out. Bravo Zulu to team Navy!





## SENIOR RATES TAKE THE WHEEL

By W01 Roslan bin Duraman, RBN

he Senior Warrant Officers Exchange Program (SWEP) was attended by a delegation of five Senior and Junior rates from the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN). This program was held in Singapore, hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) from the 15th to the 19th of November 2022.

exchange program designed to foster a friendly relationship through the exchange of ideas and by paying several work visits to various installations in the RSN. This program's objective is to identify possible opportunities for the RBN to plan and strategise, as well as to optimise existing planning methodologies for upcoming courses offered by the Naval Training Centre. It was also an opportunity to expose the participants to study the approaches of managing exchange visits and interactions with other military nations in the future.

The Brunei delegation included the Navy Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer 1 Roslan bin Duraman, RBN, Chief Diver, Warrant Officer 1 Mohd Alinordin bin Hj Abd Razak, RBN, Engineering Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer 1 Aliuddin bin Hj Serbini, RBN, the Coxswain of KDB DARUSSALAM, Warrant Officer 2 Mohd Izam bin Hj Othman, RBN, and Engineering Instructor, Petty Officer Mohd Basri bin Hj Md Mansor.

The RBN delegates were received by their RSN counterparts and later







treated to a welcoming dinner at the Mariner Garden Satay by the Bay. Work visits to Benoi Shipyard (where the PV Fearless Class resides, one of which is now known as KDB AS-SIDDIQ), and to Savannah. This followed with a Courtesy Call with the Master Chief Navy RSN at The Chevrons. In the afternoon, the RBN delegations were exposed to the Naval Diving Unit's training grounds and galleries at Sembawang Camp.

On the third day of the program, the delegates made a call to Col Anthony Lee, the Commander of Maritime and Doctrine Command (MTDC), RSN. Appreciation plaques were exchanged between the Navies and discussions of courses offered by the RBN, and more on the PV Fearless Class vessels. Later that day, the RBN delegations visited the Maritime Training and Doctrine Command (MTDC) and Naval Military Expert Institute (NMI), where they visited 3 simulators including the Full Mission Ship Simulator (FMSS), Platform System Emulation Centre (PSEC) where group trainings were held before crews' appointment on ships and the Fire Fighting and Damage Control (FFDC) Trainer Simulator, where firefighting and damage control training exercises were conducted. Their day concluded with a visit to the Maritime Security and Rescue Vessel (MSRV) Guardian vessel.

The program was wrapped up with cultural visits to Kampong Glam and the Istana Kampong Glam, followed by a congregational Friday Prayers at the Masjid Hajjah Fatimah. The delegates were also brought onboard the RSS

Independence, 2nd Flotilla Littoral Merchant Vessel in the afternoon, and an evening dinner with an exchange of plaques.

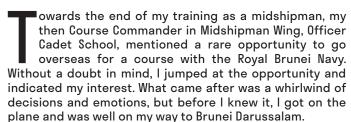
The RBN and RSN have continued to strengthen their relationship through these various dialogues and professional interactions. Col Anthony Lee, Commander of MTDC and ME6 Richard Goh, Master Chief RSN both recommended that these interactions were a platform for defence diplomacy and encouraged it to flourish as it showed much relevance for the future.

The two
navies aimed to
foster a positive
and healthy
relationship
through dialogues,
exchanging of
ideas and visits"



# REFLECTIONS IN THE ABODE OF PEACE

By LTA Vivian Toh Hui Sze of the Republic of Singapore Navy



The Sub-Lieutenant Course was held from 16 January 2023 to 19 April 2023 by the Royal Brunei Navy in conjunction with the Royal Brunei Technical Services. The aim of the course is to equip young Naval Officers with the necessary skills to navigate ships safely in preparing them to hold Officer Of the Watch (00W) appointments onboard ships. The topics covered during the course include General, Ocean and Celestial Navigation, Fire Fighting and Damage Control, Berthing, Basic Warfare and Communication. Personally, the course provided me a chance to solidify my understanding of various theories, building on the foundation that I've learnt from my training as a midshipman. Furthermore, experiential learning through the simulators and sea sorties helped sharpened my navigation skills in Pilotage and Coastal Navigation, while topics such as Basic Warfare and Communication provided early exposure in becoming a well-rounded Naval Officer.

Apart from attending the course, I had many opportunities to travel around Brunei with my course mates - from visiting the Billionth Barrel Monument, to Kampong Ayer and Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque, to Jerudong Park, to Ulu Temburong National Park, to Royal Regalia Museum









amongst many other places. It was one thing to visit the attractions that makes Brunei unique, but what was more memorable for me was viewing Brunei through the eyes of the locals, eating the local delicacies and immersing myself in the Bruneian culture.

Coincidentally, the course duration overlapped with Ramadhan and Hari Raya Adilfitri, of which I had the pleasure to go on numerous Sahur and Sungkai outings. To top it off with the full Bruneian experience, I was really honoured to be extended an invitation for Raya visiting to the houses of the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Commander of the Royal Brunei Air Force, and Acting Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy. This was one for the books, and I am truly humbled to be able to call this experience my own.

As a young Naval Officer, I not only had the opportunity to represent the Republic of Singapore Navy in attending the Sub-Lieutenant Course with the Royal Brunei Navy, I also had the opportunity to witness and experience first-hand the importance of defence relations and how they aid in deepening the strong ties especially the ones between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. This was my first time in Brunei and I came here knowing close to nothing about this place. Fast forward to 4 months later, I am now leaving this place rich with knowledge and friendships. Friendships formed in arms that I know will last a lifetime. A huge thank you to the Royal Brunei Navy for accommodating me for the past 4 months, and to all who were a part of my unforgettable experience here in Brunei, thank you for your hospitality.

Till we meet again, Fair Winds and Following Seas.

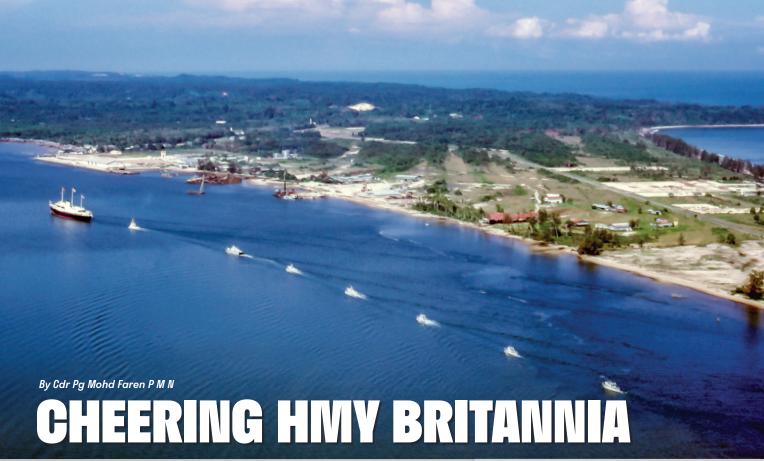








I am now leaving this place rich with knowledge and friendships. Friendships formed in arms that I know will last a lifetime"



he year 1972 was a vitally memorable and eventful one for Brunei . In a series of Royal visits to Southeast Asian countries, the 29th of February marked the Royal visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to this country.

The Queen's visit marked a significant event in the relationship between Brunei and Britain and strengthened the bond of friendship between the two countries.

His Highness the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan described the Royal visit as the highest honour ever paid to Brunei.

The Queen was accompanied by Her Husband His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Her daughter Her Royal Highness Princess Anne.

The Queen and the Royal party were received with full Brunei Royal tradition, a show of rich and colourful hereditary culture.

The Queen and the Royal Party were taken to various historical places and other places of interest, such as the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque, the Brunei Museum and Churchill Memorial Centre.

The arrival of the Monarch onboard Her Majesty's Yacht (HMY) Britannia was an auspicious day as the First Flotilla, Royal Brunei Malay Regiment (RBMR) was called upon to provide an escort for Her Majesty's Yacht as she enters for the first

time from the Brunei Bay to come alongside a yet to be completed International Muara Port.

These set of photographs were taken on the day by Master Pilot Alexander 'Alec' Riddoch, Royal Air Force, (pictured below) who

had later on the same day, been honoured with the "Air Force Cross" by Her Majesty the Queen. He served as a Wessex Helicopter pilot for the RBMR until 1973.

These spectacular aerial photographs show six boats from the First Flotilla, RBMR formed up in single standardised column transiting through the Muara Channel lead by KDB PAHLAWAN followed by KDB SALEHA, KDB MASNA then by KDB BENDAHARA, KDB MAHARAJALELA and KDB KERMAINDERA. Also pictured is the initial construction phase of Muara Marine Base, expected to be

completed 1973.



Images Source: Flickr photos, Chasing the Royal Yacht by f0rbe5







#### IN THE WAKE OF THE NAVY BENDAHARA CLASS 1966-1980

BY CDR PG MOHD FAREN P M N

he Bendahara Class which was ordered in 1965 arrived on the shores of Brunei in 1966. British Loan Officers and a local Officer of Askar Melayu Diraja Brunei (AMDB) Captain Awangku Ibnu bin Pengiran Haji Apong (now known as Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Mejar Jeneral (B) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith bin Pengiran Datu Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong) traversed the South China Sea from Singapore to bring home three Coastal Patrol boats namely KDB BENDAHARA, KDB MAHARAJALELA and KDB KERMAINDERA to be placed under the RBMR boat section (formed on the 14th of June 1965). The Bendahara Class boats had undergone several conversions during their service to suit the changing needs of the State. The boats served to patrol the complex network of rivers and internal waterways as well as the coastline of Brunei. The acquisition of these boats was timely to stem the tide against any current and future confrontations against the State. The boats served their purpose well for over fourteen years until their eventual decomissioning in 1980.

PELITA BRUNEI, Hari Rabu 22 Januari, 1969.

#### Lawatan penuntut2 John ka-khemah AMDB



BERAKAS. – Satu rombongan penuntut Tingkatan Tiga, Sekolah St. John, Kuala Belait telah membuat lawatan ka-Khemah Askar Melayu Di-Raja Brunei di-Berakas.

Melayu Di-Raja Brunei di-Berakas.
Ketibaan rombongan tersebut telah di-sambut oleh Pegawai
Pemerentah regiment itu, Lt. Col. Dato H.F. Burrows.
Sa-telah di-beri penerangan rengkas mengenai tanggong-jawab
dan pentadbiran regiment itu oleh Dato Burrows, rombongan
tersebut telah di-bawa melawat ka-beberapa bahagian dalam

Antara yang di-lawati mereka ia-lah rumah sakit, pasokan helikopter, sekolah dan mess pegawai Mereka kemudian-nya di-bawa melawat ke-pangkalan pasokan laut-nya di-Muara di-mana mereka telah di-beri peluang untok menaiki pesawat hovercraft dan kapal2 ronda.

Gambar atas menunjokkan sa-bahagian daripada murid2 itu ketika menaiki salah sa-buah kapal ronda Askar Melayu Di-Raja Brunei.





Pegawai Pemerentah Pertama AMDB, Brig. Tengku Ahmad bin Pegawai Pemerentah Pertama AMDB, Brig. Tengku Ahmad bin Tengku Besar Burhanuddin (di-tengah2) bergambar dengan enam orang pegawai2 AMDB yang terdiri dari pemuda2 tempatan. Dari kiri, Lt. Hussain HJ. Mohamad, Kaptan Yusuf bin Md. Said, Kaptan Sulaiman bin Awang Damit, Brig. Tengku Ahmad, Kaptan Ak. Ibnu bin Pg. HJ. Apong, Kaptan Mohammad bin Haji Daud dan Kaptan Ariffin bin HJ Abd. Wahab. - PELITA BRUNEI, 31 Mei 1967



The Bendahara Class Coastal Patrol boats training in formation along the Brunei River. Photo circa 1966 courtesy of Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Juragan Laila DiRaja Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Kefli Bin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Haji Razali.



Visit of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ʻAli Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien onboard a Bendahara Class vessel on the 16th of November 1966.



KDB MAHARAJALELA post 1969 conversion rated as Armed Motor Launch. Photo circa 1975.



KDB BENDAHARA post 1974 conversion rated as Riverine Patrol Craft. Photo circa 1975.



KDB MAHARAJALELA now sits on display outside the RBAF Museum in her Armed Motor Launch configuration.

CHARACTERISTICS

- Bendahara Class Class **BENDAHARA** - (P21) MAHARAJALELA - (P22) KERMAINDERA - (P23)

Displacement - 10 tonnes -14.3 x 3.6 x 0.9 Dimensions (m) - 2x MG 42, 7.62 cal Guns Main Engines - 2 GM Diesel

-334 bhp; 20 Knots - 200 Nm Complement - 6 Crew

Fitted with Decca 202 radar.

Conversion:

Coastal Patrol Boat - 1966 Armed Motor Launch - 1969 Riverine Patrol Craft - 1974 Decommissioned - 1980

20

# FIRST PERSON VIEW

With WO2 NORZAHIRIN NADMIN BIN MUSA, RBN by Lt Wan Izz Zafir Alawi bin Mohd Kasim, RBN

n the sport of "drone racing" or "first person view," competitors "drones" (usually small radio-controlled planes or quadcopters) outfitted with cameras while donning headmounted displays that stream a live video feed from the drones. Similar to full-scale air racing, the objective is to finish a predetermined circuit as soon as possible.

Since 2013, interest in drone racing has exploded. It is simple to see why it may develop into a top sport given that competitions are currently held all over the world and drone technology is developing quickly. The spectacle's popularity has grown along with its size.

The sport has drawn more interest from Bruneians as well. Numerous competitions have been held locally, such as the Southeast Asia Drone Racing Championship (SEADRC), whose goal is to make Brunei the face of drone racing internationally. To develop the sport, find and train new pilots for exposure on the global stage, and conduct widespread promotions. Warrant Officer 2 Norzahirin Nadmin Bin Musa of Naval Surface Action Group is one of the local drone racing pilots that is active in the scene. Here is what he has to say.

Drone Racing in Brunei is a growing hobby enjoyed by everyone regardless of age and gender as I've seen youngsters and female participants competing in the sport as well. Annually, tournaments are held in the country to showcase local pilots' skills and each year, I can vouch that the number of participants keep on increasing.

After witnessing a buddy of mine playing his First-Person View Drone one day, I became intrigued, so I started doing some research on YouTube. A few days later, I bought a standard drone and after some mastery, I bought a racing-themed First-Person View drone for myself.

I felt more appreciative that a drone racing community exists in Brunei and that's where I learned more about drone racing. Of course, at first it was challenging but with practice and guidance from the community, I began to master it even more and gained

more confidence which allowed me to participate in tournaments. I have yet to win but I did achieve a runner up position back in 2018 from a small tournament organised in Jubilee Park.

Additionally, I like feeling exhilarated, and I am certain that drone racing in Brunei is a fun activity whose technology can fly at high speeds, huge distances, and great heights. Of course, with my role as the family's leader and a senior rank in my division, I cannot ignore my duties to pursue this interest of mine. I need to be cautious about how I allocate my time between my career, hobbies, and family.

I am dedicated to my job and few people in my unit or even my department are aware of my passion of drone racing. In respect to my family, I regularly invite my wife and children to my training sessions and even showed them how to use the equipment. I'm grateful that my family is completely behind me in my drone racing endeavours. With my loved ones' encouragement, l'm more motivated to keep up my passion and improve my talents as drone 4 racer that I might someday make my 4 family and

country

proud.





#### **LEADING THE LINE**

By P0 Hamzi bin Hj Tahir



Ihamdulillah, first and foremost I am grateful to Allah SWT, as I was selected to undergo the IBTE course at the School of Aviation in Electronic Engineering from the 7th of June 2020. Being chosen as one of the top students In IBTE brings feelings of extremely happiness and it was a proud moment for my family and I.

This course is certainly not easy, but with a strong desire to learn and unwavering determination along with faith and prayers, I have successfully graduated. Not only in terms of academic subjects, but I've also learnt to discipline myself in learning ensuring that I meet deadlines for my assignments.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Royal Brunei Navy for giving me the opportunity as well as to my parents and siblings who give me endless support and always praying for my success. I am also grateful to my wife and children for their understanding and encouragement to further develop my career in the Royal Brunei Navy.

In achieving this success and being selected as one of the top students, I hope to set a good example to my fellow shipmates and inspire my children to always strive in the fields they choose to pursue in the future.







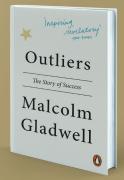
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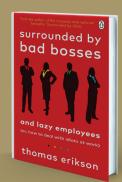
"Whoever travels a path in search of knowledge, Allah makes easy for them a path to Paradise"

(Sahih, Muslim)

#### SAILOR'S SELF

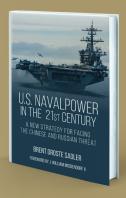


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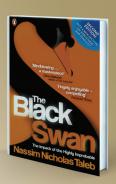
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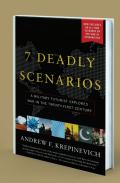
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