

Royal Brunei Navy

# AMAN SAMUDERA

امان ساموديرا



ISSUE 9 | JANUARY - JUNE 2025

## A NEW WAVE OF COMMAND

Royal Brunei Navy Welcomes  
Its 15th Commander

## 80 YEARS ON

Remembering the Bravery Behind  
Brunei's Liberation

## BREAKING WAVES AND BARRIERS

Life as a Female Officer in the RBN



# SAILING THROUGH SIX DECADES

Royal Brunei Navy Celebrates Its Diamond Jubilee



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In naval tradition, the term "heads" refers to the ship's toilets. This dates back to the age of sail, when toilets were located in the bow (or "head") of the ship so that sea spray could wash them clean. Even on modern warships, the term "heads" is still used today instead of "toilets" or "restrooms."

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## Editor-in-Chief's Foreword



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Assalamuailakum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Welcome to the 9th edition of Aman Samudera — our first release of the year, and a reflection of the Royal Brunei Navy's enduring spirit and momentum. Within these pages lie stories of dedication, pride, and the men and women who continue to shape our Navy's journey

We open with the celebration of the **64th Anniversary of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces**, a milestone that reaffirms our collective commitment to defend, serve, and evolve. From the **Arena Demonstration** to the artistry of our **anniversary poster** and the unveiling of our **new main gate**, these efforts embody the creativity, precision, and teamwork that define us.

Following this is another defining moment in our naval story — the **Change of Command** from Captain Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudin bin Matserudin, RBN, to Captain Sahibul Bahari bin Haji Zainal Abidin, RBN. Leadership transitions are not merely ceremonial; they mark the renewal of purpose, energy, and trust.

From the decks of **KDB DARUSSALAM** at **IMDEX** to our participation in **Exercise KOMODO**, and through the dialogues of the **International Maritime Security Symposium**, our operational and diplomatic horizons continue to expand. This year also witnessed the Navy's **Diamond Jubilee**, celebrated not only in ceremonies but in the unity and perseverance of our people — the same spirit that continues to propel us forward.

Our feature on **life as a female officer** in the RBN reminds us that strength and service transcend roles and ranks, while our historical segments bridge the Navy's proud past with its evolving future.

As we turn these pages and look ahead to the **Iron Tide Challenge** and the **RBN Carnival**, may these stories rekindle our shared purpose — to serve with honour, together, as one Navy.

Onward with strength and purpose.

Commander Pg Hj Khairul Anwar  
Pg Hj Abu Bakar, RBN



# Threads of the RBAF Flag

This year, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) marked its 64th Anniversary with a celebration that brought together personnel, veterans, and civilians in a showcase of unity and tradition. Held at Muara Naval Base and hosted by the Royal Brunei Navy, the event featured a grand parade, arena displays, and ceremonial segments that highlighted the pride, discipline, and professionalism that define the RBAF.

Behind the polished performances and military precision were the stories of individuals working tirelessly to ensure the celebration's success. From leadership in formal events to operational coordination and parade excellence, these personal reflections offer a glimpse into the teamwork and dedication that brought the anniversary to life.



## Warrant Officer 1 Fauzillahrahime bin Haji Awang Damit, RBN, President of the Mess Committee for the Senior Rates' Mess

As President of the Mess Committee, Warrant Officer 1 Fauzillahrahime bin Haji Awang Damit, RBN, played a key role in the 64th RBAF Anniversary in 2025. Tasked with organising one of the central celebration segments, he described it as a rare and meaningful opportunity that marked a significant personal milestone in his career.

This year, he was entrusted with a much larger responsibility — coordinating a formal segment at the Senior Rates' Mess involving hundreds of retired and serving RBAF officers and warrant officers. "It was my first time handling something of this scale," he shared. "The pressure was real, but the outcome was incredibly rewarding." Despite the tight schedule and multiple rehearsals, the segment was a success — an achievement he credits to the dedication and unity of the team.

The event's success underscored the vital leadership roles senior non-commissioned officers like WO1 Fauzillahrahime, RBN, continue to embrace.



## Leading Hand Awang Muhammad Saifuddin bin Awang Zapri, RBN, In-charge of Radios during the Arena Performances

For Leading Hand Muhammad Saifuddin, RBN, the 64th RBAF Anniversary marked a turning point in his career. Previously focused on executing orders, he was now entrusted with managing 16 radios for the Arena Performances — a responsibility far beyond technical duties. The radio coordination was crucial to ensuring precise timing, the safety of RBAF assets, and the protection of civilian spectators along Jetty Bravo.

"It was a core memory, seeing teamwork from all levels," he recalled. The role demanded precision and calmness under pressure, especially with live moving assets near the active Muara Channel.

Despite the heat and tight rehearsals, the experience was rewarding and marked a proud step in his leadership journey.



# Stories of Discipline, Unity, and Quiet Leadership from the RBAF 64th Anniversary Celebration

## Lieutenant Junior Grade Nur 'Atikah Syafiqah binti Haji Mohd Roslani, RBN, Secretariat Committee Member



Among those working behind the scenes was Lieutenant Junior Grade Atikah, who served as part of the Secretariat team. While many witnessed the grandeur of the celebration from the parade ground or spectator stands, she had the unique opportunity to observe and contribute to the event's success through the lens of planning and coordination. Her involvement offered a deeper appreciation for the level of detail, teamwork, and professionalism required to execute an event of such scale. The experience not only enhanced her organisational and communication skills but also broadened her understanding of military service — recognising the importance of support roles that often work quietly behind the scenes.

"I carry with me a deeper sense of pride knowing I contributed to this milestone," she expressed. "It's an experience I'll always draw from in my journey of service."



## Petty Office Nurulain Binti Haji Sulaiman, RBN, Grand Parade Participant



For Petty Officer Nurulain, RBN, this year's Grand Parade at Muara Naval Base felt like coming home, enriched by unique Navy traditions like the Colours Ceremony and Sailpast that gave the event its distinct identity. It was also an opportunity to share these traditions with other units, fostering mutual respect. Despite countless rehearsals, witnessing the synchronised ships and flypast still left her in awe.

This year's parade showcased tri-service unity, with familiar and new faces coming together regardless of rank or unit to present the best possible performance.

Last-minute changes tested her team's adaptability and deepened her understanding of ceremonial precision. "Parade requires more than just sweat," she shared. "It demands discipline, endurance, and teamwork."



# PRECISION IN ACTION

## Behind the RBAF Arena Demonstration

Under the blistering sun and amid eager anticipation, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces delivered a standout highlight of the 64th Anniversary celebrations — the Arena Demonstration. Behind the flawless execution on 31st May and 1st June 2025 were weeks of preparation, teamwork, and joint-force integration across land, sea, and air.

A total of nine rehearsals were conducted before the main event, each iteration sharpening the choreography between air, sea, and land components. The demonstration simulated the interdiction of a hostile vessel in Brunei's maritime domain and featured a seamless blend of assets from across the RBAF.

The Special Forces Regiment's Maritime Squadron executed a fast-paced boat insertion, while their Combat Squadron snipers provided overwatch from an S-70i Blackhawk helicopter from No.3 Wing of the Royal Brunei Air Force. At sea, the Naval Surface Action Group (NAVSAG) personnel performed an air insertion onto the vessel, complemented by KDB MUSTAED's interdiction role. The Combat Boat Squadron from the



An S70i Blackhawk hovers over a hostile vessel during the Arena demonstration as NAVSAG personnel fast-ropes onto the deck.



A NAVSAG Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat closes in on a hostile seaboot during the Arena demonstration, as boarding teams move in to secure the vessel while subdued adversaries comply and one intruder is intercepted in the water.

Royal Brunei Land Force secured the safety cordon, while the Combat Engineering Squadron handled explosives rigging. Support also came from external partners, with PTAS AMANAH playing the role of the 'critical contact of interest' during rehearsals and the first day, followed by KDB TERABAN on the second.

Key leadership ensured smooth execution: Lieutenant Commander Awg Md Hasmalie bin Awg Hj Ahmad, RBN, served as Second-in-Command, while Lieutenant Commander Ahmad Zubair bin Abd Nasir RBN, managed on-ground movement. In total, 31 assets, 156 personnel, and 28 support staff worked in unison.

The event drew large crowds, offering a rare glimpse into the RBAF's operational capability. More than a display of tactics, the Arena Demonstration was a powerful testament to unity, professionalism, and the spirit of service.

**"It wasn't just for show—every move had to be perfectly synchronised because real risks were involved, both at sea and on the ground."**

— Staff Sergeant Amrin bin Haji Salleh, Special Forces Regiment Coordinator, Arena Demonstration

# Sailors of Skill: Unveiling the Creative Spirit of RBN



## BEHIND THE ANNIVERSARY POSTER



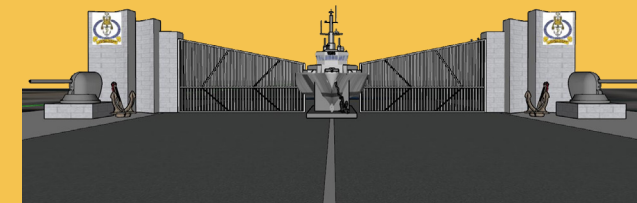
Lt JG Kiara, RBN, poses in front of the RBAF 64th Anniversary poster she designed.

At the 64th RBAF Anniversary, one standout contribution came from Lieutenant Junior Grade Kiara Esmeralda Iscramuon, RBN, the creative mind behind the official celebration poster. She spent countless nights crafting a poster that reflected the theme "Bersama Bersatu Mencapai Cita Negara,"

symbolising unity and diversity across the RBAF. One subtle but distinct feature of her design was the inclusion of scuttles (ship portholes), a nod to Brunei's maritime heritage.

Her dedication behind the scenes reflects a broader truth: in today's military, contributions go far beyond weapons and warfare. Creativity, communication, and cultural representation play a crucial role in shaping the identity of the force. For Lt JG Kiara, RBN, this wasn't just a design — it was her way of honouring the force while leaving a lasting creative mark.

## SHAPING THE FIRST IMPRESSION



For Ordinary Rate Md George Rizal bin Abdullah Guati, RBN, a Weapons Engineer from the Naval Training Centre, the RBN's newly constructed main gate stands as both a symbol of pride and his first major contribution to the Navy. Tasked with designing the gate for the RBAF 64th Anniversary celebrations, he embraced the challenge with creativity and precision, blending maritime elements with modern lines to reflect the Navy's heritage and progress. Despite his junior rank, his design now welcomes every visitor to Muara Naval Base — a daily reminder that dedication and talent can make an impact at any stage of a career.



OD Md George Rizal, RBN (right) was recognised for his creative contribution to the new Main Gate design during the RBN Diamond Jubilee Parade.

**"It's surreal to know something I designed will be part of the Navy for years to come."**

— Ordinary Rate Md George Rizal bin Abdullah Guati, RBN





In a time-honoured naval tradition, the ceremonial binoculars — a symbol of command passed down since the Royal Navy's stewardship of Brunei's Boat Section — is handed over, marking the official transfer of leadership within the Royal Brunei Navy.

# A New Wave of Command: Royal Brunei Navy Welcomes Its 15th Commander

In a proud moment steeped in tradition, unity, and reflection, the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) witnessed a historic Change of Command Parade at Muara Naval Base on 10 January 2025. The ceremony marked the official handover of duties from Captain Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudin bin Matserudin, RBN, to Captain Sahibul Bahari bin Haji Zainal Abidin, RBN — becoming the Navy's 15th Commander.

Officers, personnel, civilian staff, and invited guests gathered in formation, saluting both the legacy of the outgoing Acting Commander and the future vision set by the new leadership. More than just ceremonial, the occasion reflected the evolving journey of the RBN — an institution built on the foundations of professionalism, teamwork, and service to the nation.

In his heartfelt farewell address, Captain Haji Mohd Sarif Pudin, RBN, looked back on his time at the helm — a tenure of 2 years and 9 days, defined by growth, operational readiness, and shared accomplishments. He proudly highlighted milestones that strengthened the Navy's core priorities: To Float, To Move, and To Fight.

Beyond these tangible milestones, Captain Haji Mohd Sarif Pudin, RBN, credited RBN's steady progress to its people — the men and women of the Navy, their families, and the vital civilian support agencies working tirelessly behind the scenes.

"Everything we achieved was possible because of the unity, dedication, and unwavering spirit of our team," he shared, thanking personnel across ranks for their commitment to the Navy's mission.



The outgoing Acting Commander Royal Brunei Navy, inspects the Guard of Honour for the final time as part of the Change of Command parade.

Among those significant accomplishments were:

- The commissioning of the AS-SIDDIQ Class Patrol Vessels — KDB AS-SIDDIQ and KDB AL-FARUQ
- The launching of new officer training courses, including the Intermediate Navigation Officer Course, Naval Engineering Officer Course, and Base Defence Officer Course — all designed to empower the next generation of leaders
- Expansion of the Sub-Lieutenant Course, now open to regional navies. To date, officers from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines have taken part in the course
- Integration of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and the establishment of the Fleet Tactical Aircraft Squadron (FTAS)
- The successful MM40 missile firing of 3 salvos at the prestigious Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise, held at the island of Hawai'i, United States of America
- Completion of Exercise BLUE TOMBAK, Fleet Concentration Period, and the installation of the MSI 20mm Seahawk gun system aboard KDB MUSTAED



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam officiating the establishment of the Fleet Tactical Aircraft (FTA) Squadron, marking a historic milestone in RBN's operational capabilities.



Another milestone under the outgoing Acting Commander's tenure — KDB MUSTAED, now upgraded with the 20mm MSI Seahawk Gun System, reinforcing RBN's commitment to enhance combat readiness and modernised fleet capabilities.



Captain Sahibul Bahari, RBN, salutes the parade as he receives his first "Commander's Salute" — a proud and symbolic welcome as the newly appointed Commander RBN.

## Anchored in Amanah: A New Vision Under Captain Sahibul Bahari

In his inaugural address, Captain Sahibul Bahari, RBN, expressed deep gratitude for the trust bestowed upon him by His Majesty, acknowledging that leadership is more than a title — it is an amanah, a sacred trust and responsibility.

"Our duty is not merely a position," he reminded. "It is an amanah — one we are accountable for, before Allah SWT." Outlining his leadership priorities, the new Commander emphasised:

- 1 Strengthening combat readiness through training, exercises, and compliance
- 2 Modernising naval governance, fleet management, and infrastructure
- 3 Delivering updated Standing Orders and Standard Operating Procedures by February 2025
- 4 Responsiveness to audit findings from the Commander RBAF's Inspection
- 5 Promoting work-life balance and supporting the wellbeing of naval families

He underlined that enhancing morale, operational readiness, and unity across the RBN aligns with the Navy's core mission to **Raise, Train, and Sustain** — the pillars that ensure its combat effectiveness in safeguarding Brunei's maritime interests. Captain Sahibul Bahari, RBN, concluded with a rallying call for all personnel, regardless of rank or department, to stand as one team in navigating the challenges ahead.

The Change of Command ceremony was more than the passing of a command flag — it was a reaffirmation of the Navy's enduring mission: to defend Brunei Darussalam's maritime sovereignty, strengthen regional cooperation, and uphold the Navy's proud legacy of service.

With the foundations laid by past commanders and the vision charted by Captain Sahibul Bahari, RBN, the Royal Brunei Navy sails forward — anchored by professionalism, propelled by unity, and guided by unwavering commitment to the nation.





# Eyes on Innovation

## RBN at IMDEX Asia 2025

IMDEX Asia 2025 returned to Singapore, drawing thousands of visitors, advanced technology displays, and navies from across the Indo-Pacific. The Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) was among them, reaffirming Brunei's enduring role as a regional maritime partner.

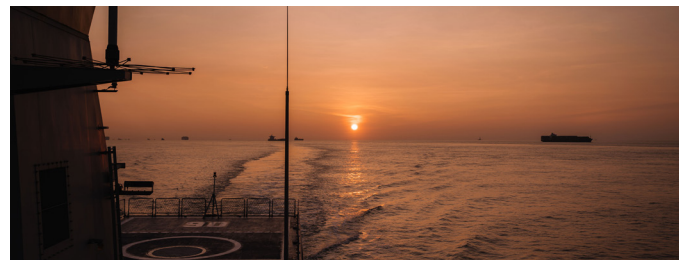
Leading the Brunei delegation was Captain Haji Norbahrin bin Haji Muamad, RBN, Head of Inspectorate Cell, accompanied by Lieutenant Adi Fakhri bin Johari, RBN. Their participation included ship visits, security forums, and regional engagements aimed at strengthening ties and promoting cooperation.

Brunei's participation was anchored by the deployment of KDB DARUSSALAM, which sailed from Muara Naval Base to Singapore, symbolising Brunei's operational commitment to regional stability. Throughout the voyage, the crew maintained readiness through drills and exercises.

During their stay at Changi Naval Base, the crew hosted onboard engagements, including a formal visit by Vice Admiral Aaron Beng Yao Cheng, Chief of Defence Force, Singapore Armed Forces. These exchanges underscored strong defence ties between Brunei and its partners, highlighting the quiet strength of naval diplomacy.

RBN's engagement extended beyond ships. Lieutenant Commander Mohd Nabil bin Jalil, RBN, participated in the IMSC Future Leaders Programme — a strategic initiative preparing promising officers for regional leadership roles through dialogue and scenario-based exercises.

In parallel, Warrant Officer 1 Mohammad Nasri bin



A sunset view during KDB DARUSSALAM's transit to Singapore.



Ladis, RBN Sergeant Major, represented Brunei at the Warrior Expert Leader (WEL) Seminar — a forum bringing together senior enlisted leaders from allied navies to exchange views on leadership, morale, and mentorship.

From shipboard discussions to leadership forums, Brunei's participation at IMDEX Asia 2025 reflected a balanced approach to maritime engagement — blending operational readiness, defence diplomacy, and leadership development.

As the event concluded, KDB DARUSSALAM and the RBN delegation returned home with strengthened partnerships and renewed resolve to contribute to peace, cooperation, and stability at sea.

**“These exchanges underscored strong defence ties between Brunei and its partners”**



WO1 Nasri bin Ladis, RBN, representing the RBN at the WEL.



Captain Haji Norbahrin, RBN and Lt Cdr Zulyamin, RBN reaffirm defence ties with Rear Admiral Sean Wat of Republic of Singapore Navy during a deck reception hosted by KDB DARUSSALAM.



Lt Cdr Mohd Nabil, RBN, actively engaging in discussions during the IMSC Future Leaders Programme.



# Regional Security Through Diplomacy

*Diplomacy at the Core – The Royal Brunei Navy's consistent participation in multilateral engagements reflects its steadfast commitment to regional cooperation, trust-building, and ASEAN solidarity.*

Bali hosted one of the region's largest maritime engagements as navies from across the Indo-Pacific gathered for Multilateral Naval Exercise KOMODO (MNEK) and the International Maritime Security Symposium (IMSS) 2025.

### RBN In The Mix

Commander RBN, Captain Sahibul Bahari bin Haji Zainal Abidin, RBN, led the Brunei delegation with his spouse, RBN officers and the Defence Attaché to Indonesia, Commander Muhd Shahmun Azimin bin Haji Awg Asli, RBN. Lieutenant Commander Mohammad Aliashim bin Alias, RBN, and Lieutenant Commander Mohammed Aiezuddin bin Julaini, RBN, attended as official observers.

### At Sea: The Spectacle

The International Fleet Review turned the Bali Strait into a parade ground. A broad line of participating ships wheeled past the reviewing ship, KRI dr. Radjiman Wedyodiningrat, national ensigns snapping and signal flags aloft. Overhead, maritime aircraft traced the formation, while decks were manned and salutes exchanged—modern steel set against a very old naval ritual. RBN representatives embarked on the host platform to observe the choreography up close, taking in the communications, station-keeping and safety drills



Naval leaders from participating nations sign commemorative plaques during the IFR.



Commander RBN and delegation with Brunei's flag bearer during the MNEK 2025 IMSS Cultural Event.

**“MNEK and IMSS help a small navy punch above its weight - by staying connected, interoperable and ready alongside trusted partners.”**

that make a multinational sail-past look effortless.

### On Shore: The Thinking

Running in parallel, the International Maritime Security Symposium (IMSS) gathered naval leaders, policy thinkers and technologists under the theme “Addressing Maritime Security Challenges with Technology and Cooperation.” Conversations dug into surveillance and domain awareness, smarter information-sharing and the nuts and bolts of interoperability.

### Side Conversations That Count

Between sea serials and symposium sessions, Captain Sahibul Bahari sat down with regional counterparts to turn handshakes into homework. The

talks circled practicals: extra slots on courses and exercises, cross-deck visits for junior officers, HADR and maritime-safety coordination, and cleaner information-sharing for day-to-day awareness. There was interest in comms compatibility, simple track-reporting norms, and port-call cooperation—small, workable steps that add up to smoother operations the next time ships meet at sea.

### Why It Matters for the RBN

For the RBN, engagements like this translate directly into sharper day-to-day operations. Observer billets and deck visits turn into practical takeaways—cleaner comms procedures, tighter station-keeping, clearer reporting norms—so mixed formations feel familiar the next time our ships meet at sea. The conversations also open doors: extra slots on regional courses and exercises, cross-deck time for junior officers and technicians, and faster points-of-contact for port calls, logistics and HADR coordination. Just as important is the people piece: professional networks built in Bali make information-sharing quicker and trust stronger when it matters. In short, MNEK and IMSS help a small navy punch above its weight—by staying connected, interoperable and ready alongside trusted partners.

# Beyond the Ledger

## RBN Officer Sharpens Supply Chain Expertise



Rear Admiral Dr. Azizi Hj Ahmad Sarkawi, RMN, poses with SOAC participants.

In naval operations, logistics often works behind the scenes — vital but unseen. For 908 Lieutenant Commander Mohammad Luqman bin Haji Abd Hamid, RBN, this critical domain took centre stage during a five-week immersion in the Royal Malaysian Navy's (RMN) Supply Officer Advanced Course (SOAC) 09/2024.

Held at KD Sultan Idris I in Lumut, Malaysia, the course brought together regional logistics specialists to deepen their understanding of defence acquisition, joint logistics planning, and strategic supply chain management. “It's not only the technical knowledge,” Lieutenant Commander Luqman, RBN, shared. “The experience challenged how we think about integration — how we, as supply officers, are expected to enable operations beyond our own silos.”

Aligned with Level 5 competency standards, the course blended theory with practical application. Experts from the National Defence University of Malaysia and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) Malaysia led sessions on financial tools and procurement strategies — all aimed at preparing supply officers for today's dynamic defence environment.

A standout moment was a lecture by Rear Admiral Dr. Azizi bin Hj Ahmad Sarkawi, Assistant Chief of Staff (Materiel), RMN, who emphasised that beyond technical skill, integrity, teamwork, and attitude are essential.

SOAC also required participants to conduct independent research on real-world logistics challenges, presenting formal assessments graded by CILT Malaysia — a step toward further professional certification.

The course culminated in the CILTM Convocation Ceremony 2024, held at the Grand Shah Alam Convention Centre (SACC). It was a formal but celebratory occasion, marking the accomplishments of officers who had juggled analytical rigour, peer collaboration, and operational context to earn recognition from one of Malaysia's most respected professional bodies in logistics and transport.

For Lieutenant Commander Luqman, RBN, the course was not just a career milestone — it was a reaffirmation of the crucial but often invisible work supply officers perform. “We may not always be in the headlines,” he said with a smile, “but without logistics, nothing moves, and nothing fights.”

**“...without logistics, nothing moves, and nothing fights.”**

His achievement is not only a personal one. It reflects the Royal Brunei Navy's ongoing commitment to building capacity at every level — including in the domains that ensure ships sail, equipment arrives, and operations succeed.



Lt Cdr Mohammad Luqman, RBN, receives his Chartered Member certificate from Chief Teete Owusu-Norty, FCILT, during the 2024 CILT Malaysia Convocation Ceremony.



Course participants take on Bukit 300, completing the 5.8km hiking loop as part of the afternoon fitness challenge.



# BREAKING WAVES

## Life as a Female Officer in the Royal Brunei Navy

by: Lt JG Nazurah binti Mohd. Noor, RBN

From a young age, Lieutenant Commander Nazurah binti Haji Mahaleh, RBN was no stranger to naval life. As the daughter of a former Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) officer, she grew up surrounded by the rhythm of the base. One memory from the mid-90s remains etched in her mind — standing at the RBN Headquarters, looking out at the ships berthed at Jetty Alpha, their dressing flags fluttering proudly in the sea breeze. Her father had brought her to the office, unable to leave her home alone while he carried out his duties. It was there, as a young primary school student peering through those windows, that a quiet dream took root: to one day wear the uniform and serve her nation at sea.

Though initially intending to enlist after her GCE O-Level, she chose to further her education and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Primary Education from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). Yet the call to serve remained. In 2009, she joined Officer Cadet School (OCS) Intake 3 and was commissioned as an officer at the age of 25, marking the beginning of her naval career forged through grit and perseverance.

Upon joining the RBN, Lieutenant Commander Nazurah, RBN expected to serve in a shore-based role. However, 2010 marked a historic shift in the RBN with the integration of female officers onboard ships, beginning with the newly commissioned Fast Patrol Boats (FPB) dubbed the IJHTIHAD-Class. Without hesitation, she embraced the opportunity and stepped into the uncharted waters.

Alongside her fellow pioneers and squadmates – Lieutenant Commander Suzalina binti Serbini, RBN, Lieutenant Commander Dk Lyadia Ulandari binti Pg Muhammad, RBN, and Lieutenant Commander Hidayatul Zabidah binti Haji Dayang, RBN – they underwent rigorous training identical to her male counterparts and were deployed to sea within the same year.

She fondly recalls her early deployments, including Exercise HORNBILL 20/10 at Sepanggar Naval Base, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, in 2010, and Exercise Helang Laut 12B/10 at Semarang, Republic of Indonesia – formative experiences that shaped her operational foundation and confidence as a naval officer.

Her determination and performance led to a momentous milestone: in 2016, she was appointed as the first female Commanding Officer of KDB MUSTAED, a Fast Interceptor



Lt Cdr Nazurah, RBN, returning the salute onboard her first ship as command.



Then Lt JG Nazurah, RBN, engaging in discussions during Ex HELANG LAUT in Semarang, Indonesia, fostering cooperation and camaraderie with regional counterparts.



Then Lt JG Nazurah, RBN, during the International Sub-Lieutenant Course at HMS Collingwood, United Kingdom, in 2011.

# AND BARRIERS



Together with fellow officers during the International Principal Warfare Officer (IPWO) Course at HMS Collingwood, U.K., in 2023.

Boat (FIB). Six years later, she once again made history by taking command of KDB SYAFAAT, an FPB, which is a testament to her leadership, resilience, and operational excellence.

But being a pioneer comes with challenges. “The real challenge is always me vs me,” she shares, highlighting the importance of personal discipline, mental strength, and self-reflection in command. For Lieutenant Commander Nazurah, RBN, the key to overcoming obstacles lies in maintaining professionalism, setting clear boundaries, and cultivating mutual respect, especially in a male-dominated environment where growth and adaptation are constant.

“Leadership is not about giving orders,” she reflects. “It’s about earning trust, building rapport, and being willing to step outside your comfort zone when the mission demands it.”

In navigating her career, she has participated in numerous local and international courses and programmes, including the International Principal Warfare Officer (IPWO) Course at HMS Collingwood in the United Kingdom in 2023 and the Women in Maritime Security (WIMS) Programme at the University of Wollongong in Australia in 2024 – further demonstrating her unwavering commitment to professional growth and naval excellence.

In addition to her operational and leadership roles, she has also been entrusted with ceremonial duties, including leading the Guard of Honour during the visit of Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph S. Mercado, Flag Officer-in-Command of the Philippine Navy, to the RBN in 2017. She was also appointed as the Commander for the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) women’s contingent during the 33rd and 40th National Day celebrations in the same year (2017) as well as last year.

Whether ashore or underway, she ensures time to de-stress and stay active – a reflection of the discipline and

balance expected of today’s naval officers. She regularly goes for walks, both within and outside of camp, and enjoys horse riding at the RBAF Saddle Club in Berakas Camp as a way to unwind and maintain resilience amidst her demanding duties. Beyond her professional role, she also embraces leadership in the sporting arena, having served as team manager for Hokage Warriors, a local netball team, who were crowned champions of the Brunei Netball League in 2022.

As the RBN continues to evolve, Lieutenant Commander Nazurah, RBN, hopes her journey inspires more young men and women to step forward in service. “The Navy has given me purpose, growth, and pride in serving my country. I encourage others, especially young women, to believe in themselves, take the leap, and contribute to something bigger than themselves.”

Now serving as the RBN Principal Warfare Officer (PWO) at the Fleet Headquarters, her journey embodies grit, determination, leadership, and steadfast national service. Her story stands as a testament to the growing opportunities within the RBN for those with courage, conviction, and commitment. As she continues to break waves and barriers, Lieutenant Commander Nazurah, RBN, stands as an inspiring role model for future generations, reminding us that the sea holds a place for everyone who dares to rise to the challenge, regardless of gender.

As she looks ahead from the Fleet HQ, she keeps one line close from novelist Nora Roberts: “If you don’t go after what you want, you’ll never have it. If you don’t ask, the answer is always no. If you don’t step forward, you’re always in the same place” — a reminder to ask boldly, step forward, and never stand still.

**“Leadership is not about giving orders... it’s about earning trust, building rapport, and being willing to step outside your comfort zone when the mission demands it”**



Lt Cdr Nazurah, RBN, leading the RBAF women’s contingent during the 40th National Day Celebration at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in 2024.



# 80 Years On: Remembering the Bravery Behind Brunei's Liberation



**Top Left Insert |** Fires rage at the Seria oilfield, deliberately ignited by retreating Japanese forces during Operation OBOE VI. Dutch oil engineers and Australian troops from the 2/3rd Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers, work swiftly to contain the inferno — preserving one of Brunei's most vital resources.

**Middle Left Insert |** Matilda tanks of the 2/9 Armoured Regiment make their dramatic amphibious landing at Muara Beach, Brunei, during Operation OBOE VI. These tanks were among the first wave securing Brunei's shoreline, marking a pivotal moment in the Allied campaign to liberate North Borneo.

**Bottom Left Insert |** 17 June 1945 — The Sultan of Brunei and his consort make their way up the riverbank after arriving at the wharf. Their return from the village of Tentayer, where they had taken refuge during the bombing of Brunei, symbolised the restoration of royal presence and national hope following the Allied liberation under Operation OBOE VI.

**E**ighty years ago, Brunei Darussalam's shores bore witness not to peace, but to war. The tranquil Brunei Bay, now patrolled by our Navy, once echoed with the thunder of naval bombardments and landing craft during Operation OBOE VI, launched on 10 June 1945 by the Australian 9th Division with U.S. and British naval support. The objective was twofold: to liberate Brunei from Japanese occupation and to secure Brunei Bay as a forward fleet base for the British Pacific Fleet. Brunei's oil and rubber reserves made it a strategically vital target and the operation was carefully orchestrated to regain control of these resources while enabling further Allied operations in Southeast Asia.

Brunei had endured four years of hardship under Japanese rule, marked by forced labour and repression. The Allied landings at Muara and Labuan, followed by advances into Brunei Town, Tutong, Limbang, and Kuala Belait, were swift but hard-fought — especially in "The Pocket," a heavily fortified jungle area on Labuan where entrenched Japanese

troops held out for days before being overwhelmed. Indigenous Dayak fighters, with their deep knowledge of the land, played a crucial role through guerrilla tactics that disrupted Japanese movements and supported the liberation effort.

The cost of freedom was steep, paid through the courage of Allied troops and local resistance. Their sacrifice not only restored Brunei's sovereignty but transformed Brunei Bay into a critical Allied anchorage.

On 12 June 2025, the Royal Brunei Navy commemorated this historic victory at the "Saksi Sejarah: 80 Years On - Remembering Operation OBOE" exhibition hosted by the Australian High Commission at Dermaga Diraja. Led by RBN Deputy Commander Captain Khairil bin Haji Abdul Rahman, RBN, and accompanied by the Australian Defence Adviser Lieutenant Colonel Paul Sanderson, the RBN delegation reflected on artifacts and wartime relics — including an original 25-pounder shell box — honouring those who fought for Brunei's freedom.

For today's Bruneian sailors, Operation OBOE VI is more than history — it is the reason they serve. As the officers moved through the exhibition, surrounded by echoes of the past, they were reminded that their service today is an extension



The Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence attended a solemn dawn service at the Brunei-Australia Memorial hosted by the Australian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam.

of a legacy forged through sacrifice. They do not sail alone; they sail in the wake of those who fought to give Brunei its future. Their mission — ensuring maritime security, defending national waters and upholding peace — is rooted in the very struggle that brought freedom ashore in 1945.

**We honour those  
who came ashore.  
We remember those  
who never returned.  
Because of them —  
we are free. Because  
of them — we serve.**



Deputy Commander RBN in conversation with the Australian Defence Adviser to Brunei Darussalam.



The RBN delegation with Australian Defence Adviser at the "Saksi Sejarah: 80 Years On - Remembering Operation OBOE" exhibition, held at Dermaga Diraja, Bandar Seri Begawan, on 12th June 2025.



# Fleet Reviews: Honouring the Sea, Uniting the Fleet

*A timeless tradition showcasing unity, readiness and naval prestige on the world stage.*



A dazzling display of fireworks and ship illuminations lights up the night during the Coronation Fleet Review for Queen Elizabeth II. With warships glowing from stem to stern and the sky ablaze, this spectacle at Spithead celebrated not just a new monarch — but the enduring pageantry and pride of the Royal Navy.

There is a deep, almost sacred resonance to the sight of a naval fleet assembled in formation — warships stretched across the water in solemn order, their national ensigns fluttering proudly in the wind. Sailors stand motionless at their stations, uniforms immaculate, while the reviewing vessel glides past to the sound of saluting guns and bugle calls. This is the fleet review — a ceremony steeped in maritime tradition, rich in symbolism and as relevant to the modern navy as it was centuries ago.

## Centuries of Ceremony and Seapower

The tradition of fleet reviews reaches back nearly seven centuries. One of the earliest recorded events took place in 1346, when King Edward III of England reviewed his ships before departing for the Battle of Crécy. These early reviews served both practical and symbolic purposes: they were a means to assess fleet readiness, project military power, and instill a sense of unity and morale among sailors.

By the 19th and early 20th centuries, fleet reviews had evolved into elaborate national spectacles. Spithead, the anchorage off Portsmouth, became synonymous with these grand gatherings, held to mark coronations, royal jubilees, and major wartime transitions. Notable among them was the Coronation Review for Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, which featured over 300 ships from the Commonwealth and allied nations. It was a powerful display of seapower and unity, highlighting the navy's role in defence and diplomacy.

## Beyond the Salute: The Strategic Theatre of Fleet Reviews

Though rooted in royal and wartime traditions, today's fleet reviews serve broader and more diverse functions. At their core, they remain a demonstration of naval readiness and discipline. Every formation, manoeuvre, and salute is a testament to the training and coordination that underpin effective seapower.

When a navy invites foreign vessels to participate in a review, it is not merely a ceremonial courtesy — it is an act of trust and cooperation. Such events offer an opportunity for navies to interact on neutral waters, share best practices, and reinforce multilateral relationships. For the host nation, the review becomes a platform to signal its commitment to maritime peace and security.

## The Orchestration of Naval Honour

A fleet review is a highly coordinated event, beginning with warships assembling in precise formation, decks readied, and flags flying. As the reviewing authority — often a head of state or commander — approaches, the fleet prepares to render honours.

The reviewing ship passes between the lines as sailors stand in silent salute, naval guns fire, and aircraft may perform overhead tributes. At night, ships are often illuminated in unison, a tradition dating back to 19th-century Spithead Reviews. The ceremony typically concludes with receptions, ship tours, and joint exercises.

## Carrying Heritage into the Currents of Today

Fleet reviews are more than symbolic gestures — they are rituals that bind sailors across generations and borders. These grand maritime gatherings connect us to a long-standing legacy of naval excellence while reinforcing values of unity, readiness, and service. In an age of evolving maritime threats and complex partnerships, such traditions remind us that the strength of a navy lies not only in its firepower but also in its ability to represent a nation with dignity and pride on the world stage.

For the Royal Brunei Navy, participating in fleet reviews has become a meaningful avenue to cement our stature among global maritime peers. In 2011, the RBN proudly hosted a fleet review of its own as part of the Brunei Darussalam International Defence Exhibition (BRIDEX) — a historic moment that showcased Brunei's commitment to maritime diplomacy and brought regional and international vessels to our shores. More recently, in November 2022, KDB DARULEHSAN made RBN's inaugural deployment to Japan's 18th Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) and International Fleet Review in Yokosuka.

These engagements raise RBN's profile, enhance interoperability, and affirm our credibility as a professional and dependable force. Though modest in size, RBN stands tall — embodying honour, professionalism, and enduring dedication.



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, aboard the Royal Yacht Surprise during the Coronation Naval Review at Spithead.



Warships as far as the eye can see — this sweeping aerial image captures the Coronation Fleet Review for Queen Elizabeth II.

## A Chronicle of RBN's Fleet Review Participation



Brunei International Fleet Review  
Brunei Darussalam 2011



Western Pacific Naval Symposium Multilateral  
Maritime Exercise and International Fleet Review  
Qingdao, China 2014



Republic of Korea Navy International Fleet Review  
Jeju Island, South Korea 2018



07 DARULEHSAN  
艦長 海軍中佐 サファル・ハズル・ビン  
CO, KDB DARULEHSAN Commander Saiful Hazril Bin Ali  
Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force International Fleet Review  
Yokosuka Naval Base, Sagami Bay, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan 2022



# SAILING THROUGH SIX DECADES

## RBN Celebrates its 60th Diamond Jubilee

The Royal Brunei Navy proudly marked its 60th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary with a series of celebrations that reflected the service's proud legacy, unity, and enduring commitment to national defence.

The anniversary began with a grand parade led by Lieutenant Commander Mohd Nabil bin Jalil, RBN. Under bright skies and with naval assets standing proudly on display, marching contingents moved in perfect rhythm — a visible symbol of the professionalism, discipline, and cohesion that have defined the RBN over the past six decades.

The occasion was graced by the Commander Royal Brunei Navy, Captain Sahibul Bahari bin Haji Zainal Abidin, RBN, members of the Executive Board, naval personnel, and invited guests — all gathered to share in this significant milestone.

As part of the celebrations, deserving personnel were honoured with certificates and awards in

recognition of their service and dedication. The recitation of Doa Selamat followed, offering prayers for continued success and blessings for the future of the Royal Brunei Navy.

No celebration would be complete without a moment of shared joy — the ceremonial cake-cutting brought together officers, sailors, and guests, symbolising unity and pride. Beyond commemorating the Navy's achievements, the 60th Jubilee served as a reminder of the values that have anchored RBN's journey: loyalty, excellence, and service to the nation.



The March Past begins as RBN personnel step off smartly during the RBN 60th Anniversary parade.



Lt Cdr Rosfadhly, RBN, receiving the Command Badge from Commander RBN - a proud moment of leadership and service.



Parade Commander Lt Cdr Mohd Nabil, RBN, reporting to Commander RBN as the Guest of Honour.

## Celebrating on Deck: Reception Aboard RBN Flagships

Following the prayers, the evening before the Diamond Jubilee celebration, a reception was held aboard the Royal Brunei Navy's proud vessels, KDB DARUSSALAM and KDB DARULAMAN, berthed alongside each other at Jetty Bravo. Former RBN Commanders, Sergeant Majors, officers, and sailors gathered on deck to mark six decades of maritime service and the enduring camaraderie of the RBN family. The illuminated decks, the sound of laughter, and shared reflections created an atmosphere of pride and remembrance.

The night concluded with a group photo, capturing not just faces, but the unity and legacy that have defined the Royal Brunei Navy's journey. It was a tribute to generations who served, and a meaningful moment for those continuing the Navy's legacy.



Past and present RBN leaders trade smiles and sea tales during the Diamond Jubilee dinner onboard KDB DARUSSALAM

The current Commander RBN with former RBN Commanders and Sergeant Majors in a group photo after the Commemorative Dinner onboard KDB DARUSSALAM.



The RBN Officers' Mess Dinner brings together officers in a formal evening of tradition, camaraderie and honour.



President of the Mess Committee (Left) and the RBN Sergeant Major (Centre) in conversation with Commander RBN.



Group photo with the Guest of Honour during the Junior Ratings' Dinner.

## Six Decades, Three Dinners, One Navy

The Royal Brunei Navy's 60th Anniversary wasn't just about parades and ceremonies — it was also a time to share a meal, swap stories, and honour the bonds that make the Navy a family.

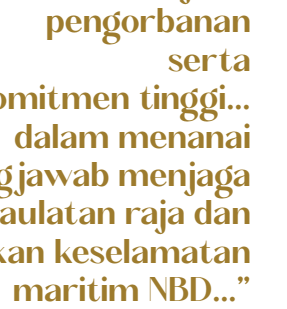
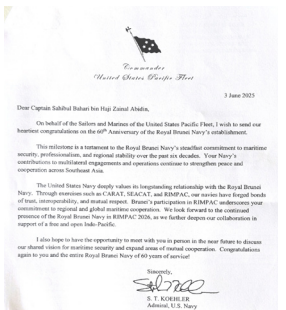
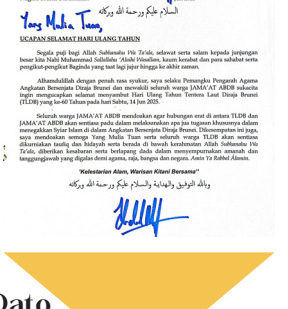
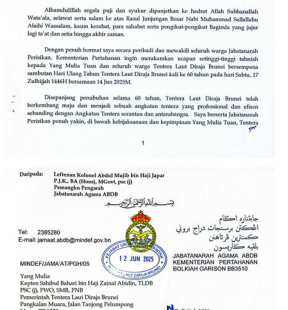
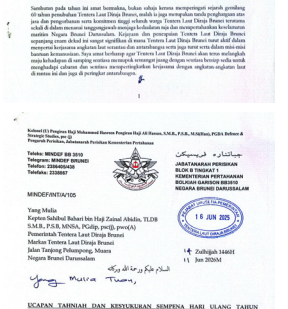
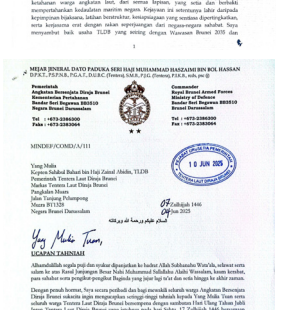
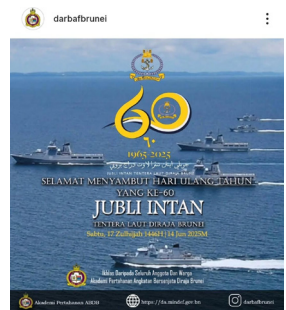
The Officers' Mess set the tone on 14 June, hosting the RBN Commander for an evening of reflection and pride. On 18 June, the Junior Rates filled Samudera Hall with laughter and camaraderie alongside the RBN Sergeant Major. The celebrations wrapped up on 20 June at the Senior Rates' Mess, where the RBN Commander joined seasoned leaders in marking six decades of service.

Each dinner was more than tradition — it was a reminder that the Navy's greatest strength lies in its people.

## 60 YEARS STRONG AND STILL SAILING FORWARD.



# THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIGNALS RECEIVED!



# FORGED BY SEA AND STEEL

## IRON TIDE CHALLENGE LAUNCHES THIS NOVEMBER

This November, the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) will launch the Iron Tide Challenge — a bold new test of strength, teamwork, and resilience as part of its upcoming RBN Carnival.

Conceptualised as a military-styled fitness event, Iron Tide reflects RBN's commitment to fostering wellness, camaraderie, and operational excellence within the service and the wider public.

Teams of six will take on physical challenges inspired by real naval tasks — from tyre flips and sandbag carries to weighted runs and endurance circuits — designed to build strength, coordination, and trust.

Set to be a thrilling highlight for both participants and spectators, Iron Tide promotes unity, healthy competition, and public engagement. The Royal Brunei Navy welcomes naval personnel of all ranks to join this showcase of strength and shared spirit. Registration details will be announced soon via official RBN platforms.



# PREPARE TO TEST YOUR METTLE.

## IRON TIDE IS COMING.



“Saya turut bersyukur dapat mengikuti dan menyaksikan evolusi perkembangan 6 dekad TLDB bukan sekadar catatan sejarah, tetapi lambang keteguhan dan ketahanan warga Angkatan Laut...”

— YB Pehin Datu Lailaraja Maj Gen (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Hj Halbi bin Hi Mohd Yussof Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Defence II

“...jasa, pengorbanan serta komitmen tinggi... dalam menandai tanggungjawab menjaga kedaulatan raja dan mempertahankan keselamatan maritim NBD...”

— Maj Gen Dato Paduka Seri Hj Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander RBAF



# BE ONE OF US

CHART A COURSE TOWARDS A FUTURE LIKE NO OTHER



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