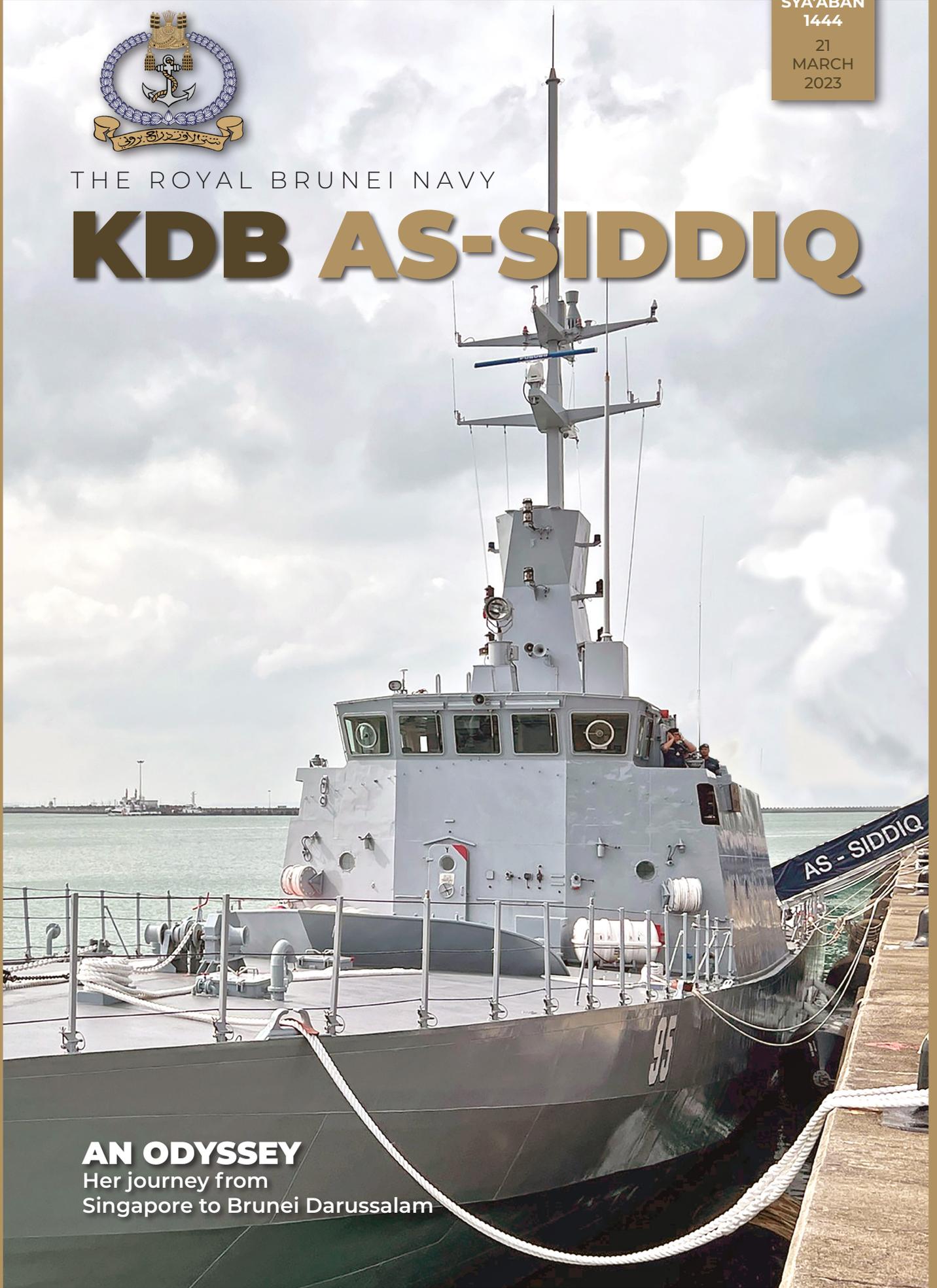


28
SYA'ABAN
1444
21
MARCH
2023



THE ROYAL BRUNEI NAVY

KDB AS-SIDDIQ



AN ODYSSEY
Her journey from
Singapore to Brunei Darussalam

AS - SIDDIQ

95

NAVY SPECIAL EDITION



Cover Photo:
A blessing with the Azan is given before AS-SIDDIQ's maiden voyage back to Brunei Darussalam.

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FOREWORD

All praise be to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala, the Creator of all worlds, and greetings and blessings to our Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasalam, his family, companions and loyal followers.

It is with great honour that I represent the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) in extending our sincerest and greatest appreciation for the presence of His Majesty Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam in the Royal Brunei Navy today, Tuesday, 28th Sya'aban 1444 / 21st March 2023, for the Commissioning Ceremony of *Kapal Diraja Brunei* (KDB) AS-SIDDIQ.

The addition of KDB AS-SIDDIQ is a proud moment for us all as it further enhances the capabilities of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and of the RBN. With the commissioning ceremony today, KDB AS-SIDDIQ will now begin to carry out the honourable duty entrusted upon her to defend Brunei Darussalam's maritime sovereignty and territorial integrity. Furthermore, from a defence diplomacy aspect, it represents a mutual commitment between the RBN and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in maintaining the peace and stability of our regional maritime domain. I see this endeavour as a significant bridge between both navies, bringing our relationship to new heights. Indeed, the success of it is a testament to the friendship and efforts of both navies. The RBN will continue to carry out our roles and duties to serve our Monarch, uphold our religion and defend our nation.

Finally, the men and women of the RBN, with gratitude to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala, reaffirms our oath of loyalty to His Majesty Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Mahrum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam, and prays with sincerity to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala that His Majesty continues to lead the nation with excellence, and for His Majesty's well-being and prosperity. Amin Ya Rabbal Alamin.

**Captain Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudin bin Matserudin, RBN
Acting Commander of The Royal Brunei Navy**

REFLECTIONS OF HER FIRST COMMANDING OFFICER

By: Lieutenant Commander Haji Mohammad Arnold bin Haji Osman, RBN
Commanding Officer of KDB AS-SIDDIQ

Being a part of this project and this crew is definitely one of the top highlights of my career. Prior to this, I was also involved in similar pioneering projects when I became the first crew of KDB BERKAT and KDB DARUTTAQWA. This is my third hat-trick as the first crew of a ship, now holding a **COMMAND** post. This time, however, is different, as the responsibilities, demand, and challenges are monumental.

This project is crucial in strengthening the bonds between the RBN and the RSN as both navies are committed to ensuring its success. It has improved our interpersonal relationship as it creates opportunities for us to work alongside each other ever more closely. From the start of the project in mid-2021, both teams established a close-knit bond through constant communication, meetings, interactions, and coordination. Despite the myriad of ups and downs which we have faced together, it had somehow brought us closer – not just at the working level, but also at the leadership level.

I am very fortunate and grateful to be given this opportunity. I feel a sense of pride and excitement to be a part of this momentous journey. This is an indication that the RBN has full confidence



“**THIS TIME, HOWEVER, IS DIFFERENT, AS THE RESPONSIBILITIES, DEMAND, AND CHALLENGES ARE MONUMENTAL.**”

and faith in me to be the first **Commanding Officer of KDB AS-SIDDIQ**. I believed that this would not have also been possible without the hard work, dedication, commitment, and support from the RBN leadership.

At the same time, I realised that I am holding a great responsibility as a heavy burden is placed on my shoulders. The pressure is always high; the risk is always present; and the expectation is always great, especially when we are at the

final stages of seeing the mission through, completing the project, and bringing the ship safely to Brunei Darussalam. Knowing that this ship was decommissioned for almost 4 years and to see its revival and making it operational again, the 'Fog of War' has somewhat obscured my confidence. The ship's integrity, stability, capability, running sustainment of the machineries and endurance have always been part of my major concerns.

That said, I always believe that the key to great success is learning from my own accomplishments and past experiences. Hence, it is very important for me to fully understand my role and responsibilities as a Commanding Officer,

to understand the ship's behaviour, and to be able to transform the team into a robust and well-trained crew. This helps increase my confidence and always put me on my toes. Alhamdulillah, the team spirit has always been positive amongst my officers and crew thus far. The team bonded magnificently, and the dynamic is always strong. With all the knowledge and training imparted on us as well as the attitude and capacity of punch above our weight, we were able to accomplish the mission together. By God's willing, our continuous prayers, do'a and tawakkal to Allah S.W.T. will always guide us towards success and triumph not just for ourselves, but also for the organisation and the country.

AS-SIDDIQ ORIGINS

Built by Singapore Shipbuilding and Engineering Limited (currently known as Singapore Technologies Engineering Marine) for the RSN in the 1990s, RSS Brave was commissioned on 5 October 1996 by then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam. RSS Brave was in service with the 182 Squadron under the Maritime Security Task Force in the execution of daily patrols, boarding, and escort operations in the Singapore Straits.

Over the years, she played a vital role in safeguarding Singapore's maritime interests and territorial integrity through various operations at sea. Of note, she also advanced defence relations by participating in international engagements. In 2001, her sister ship RSS Dauntless sailed together with the RBN's KDB WASPADA and KDB PEJUANG from Singapore to Brunei Darussalam for the 23rd edition of the bilateral Exercise Pelican.

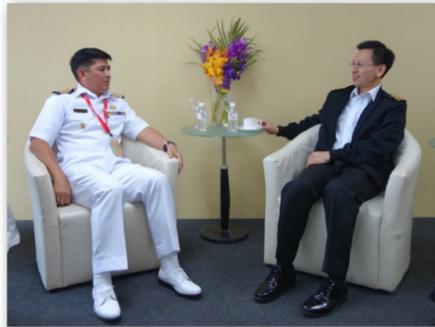
Officiated by Chief of Navy RADM Lew Chuen Hong, the RSN decommissioned RSS Brave (P95) along with two other Fearless Class Patrol Vessels on 27 August 2019.



Length: 59.5 meters
Beam: 8.6 meters
Draught: 2.5 meters
Engine Type: 2x MTU 12V 595 Engine driven by 2x Kamewa Waterjets
Speed: Max 26 knots
Complement: 8 officers & 31 crew
Displacement: 500 tonnes

The crew of RSS Brave presenting a final salute as her commissioning pennant is hauled down during The Sunset Ceremony

MILESTONES OF THE PV TRANSFER PROJECT



The first working visit to the RSN was held by the RBN and the Ministry of Defence Integrated Project Team headed by Cdr Shahairil bin Haji Mohd Shahlan, RBN to discuss the details of the Patrol Vessels transfer.

An initial discussion was made on the Fearless Class Patrol Vessel offer to the RBN, between First Admiral Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Norazmi bin Pengiran Haji Muhammad, the former Commander RBN and RADM Lai Chung Han, the former Chief of Navy, RSN, during the 11th International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference Asia in Singapore.

16 MAY 2017

30 DECEMBER 2019

The RSN officially offered a free transfer of two decommissioned Fearless Class Patrol Vessels to the RBN, namely Brave and Dauntless.



09 NOVEMBER 2020

09 DECEMBER 2020



The presentation of Fearless Class Patrol Vessel (P99) Dauntless Commissioning Pennant to First Admiral Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Othman bin Haji Suhaili @ Suhaili, the former Commander RBN during RADM Aaron Beng, the former Chief of Navy, RSN's introductory visit to Brunei.



Progress brief by the PV Transfer Project Committee to First Admiral Dato Seri Pahlawan Spry bin Haji Serudi @ Seruji, the former Commander RBN and former Chief of Navy, RSN, RADM Aaron Beng.

18 OCTOBER 2022



Both navies conducted the first meeting on the transfer of the two Fearless Class Patrol Vessels virtually.

09 JUNE 2021

07 OCTOBER 2021

The first PV Transfer Project technical visit and training discussion between ME7 Joses Yau, RSN Head Operations Logistics Group and Cdr Junaidi bin Hj Duraman, CO Maintenance RBN, accompanied by Lt Cdr Hj Marjidi bin Hj Abdul Rahman, RBN.



The discussion between both Head of PV Transfer Project, Cdr Haji Nor Ariwwin bin Haji Mohd Ali, RBN and RADM Edwin Leong, RSN on the patrol vessel transfer project.

27 OCTOBER 2022

22 DECEMBER 2022

The opening ceremony of crew training for the Fearless Class Transfer Project between Cdr Muhamad Shahmun Azimin bin Hj Awang Asli, Head Project Naval Overseer and LTC Oh Zongbo, RSN Twinning Partnership Project Lead.



The undocking ceremony of AS-SIDDIQ was conducted in January 2023. The Azan and prayers were recited to bless the ceremony.

13 JANUARY 2023

27 FEBRUARY 2023



AS-SIDDIQ completes Sea Acceptance Trials (SATs) to ensure the seaworthiness of the vessel's main machineries and the operability of safety equipment onboard.



The signing of the Certificate of Transfer between the Chief of Defence Force SAF and Commander RBAF, signifying the Handing Over, Taking Over of AS-SIDDIQ.

15 MARCH 2023

17 MARCH 2023

The ship arrives at Muara Naval Base after a 2-day journey from the Republic of Singapore, greeted by a grand fanfare and supportive family members.



STRONGER TOGETHER

Reinforcing 44 years of friendship and strong defence ties between the RBN and the RSN, where bonds have been forged through annual exercises, port visits and professional exchange programmes.

Established in 1979, the naval relations between the RBN and the RSN have since been enhanced through mutual cooperation, understanding and interoperability.

Below: This picture encapsulates the unbreakable spirit of comradeship between both navies.



SNAPSHOTS

EVOLUTION TOWARDS OPERATIONAL READINESS



◀ A refurbished AS-SIDDIQ at the STEML Shipyard undergoing Harbour Acceptance Trials and Sea Acceptance Trials.



◀ New ship, new layout, but the same procedures and safety precautions are employed when conducting firefighting and damage control exercises, ensuring that a high standard of safety is maintained.



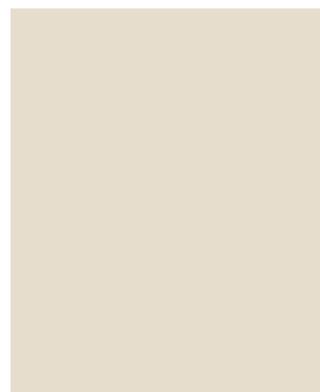
▶ Anchorage training onboard AS-SIDDIQ conducted by the RBN and RSN crew in January 2023.



▶ Execution of emergency procedures are important for the safety of the ship as well as her crew. Here, a Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC) exercise is being conducted by the crew of AS-SIDDIQ.



▶ HEAVE, HO! Quick and decisive action, coordination, strength and teamwork is essential to ensure safe berthing and harbouring of the ship alongside the Jetty.



▶ Here, the Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) launching drill is being conducted to familiarise the crew on the sequence and its safe handling.



THE HANDING OVER, TAKING OVER OF AS-SIDDIQ

The 15th of March 2023 marked a momentous occasion as the RSN officially handed over AS-SIDDIQ to RBN through the Handing Over, Taking Over and Ship Naming Ceremony. The ceremony witnessed the signing of the Certificate of Transfer between Lieutenant General Dato Paduka Seri Melvyn Ong Su Kiat, Chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

The ceremony also witnessed the handing over of the Negara Brunei Darussalam national flag and RBN Ensign from the Commander of RBAF to CO AS-SIDDIQ as well as the presentation of the Symbol of Transfer between the Chief of Defence Force SAF and the Commander RBAF.



A group photo with the Chiefs of Defence Forces prior to their maiden voyage home

“OUR GATHERING TODAY IS NOT JUST CELEBRATING THE TRANSFER OF A VESSEL, BUT WE ARE ALSO COMMEMORATING THE COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN OUR ARMED FORCES”



Exchange of momento between Rear Admiral Sean Wat, Chief of Navy, RSN and Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander RBAF



“NOTHING IS MORE SATISFYING THAN THE LAST LINE THROWN TO THE JETTY. IT MARKS THE SUCCESS OF OUR THREE MONTHS JOURNEY”

- Lt JG Muhammad Afiq bin Yuzrin, RBN

As 42 sailors pulled into the jetty at Muara Naval Base on Friday afternoon of the 17th of March 2023, it was difficult to hold in the emotion. It was the moment the sailors' families have long been waiting for since their loved ones left for the Republic of Singapore over three months ago.

The RBN proudly welcomed the arrival of AS-SIDDIQ and her sailors following its maiden voyage from the Republic of Singapore. To bless the ship's homecoming, the *Takbir*



and *Dzikir* were chanted followed by the Thanksgiving Prostration (*Sujud Syukur*) to thank Allah the Almighty for her safe journey and arrival.

The Acting Commander of RBN and company were also present to welcome her return.

“ALL I DO IS FOR MY FAMILY. TEARS AND SWEAT DO NOT BURDEN ME ONCE I MEET THEM”

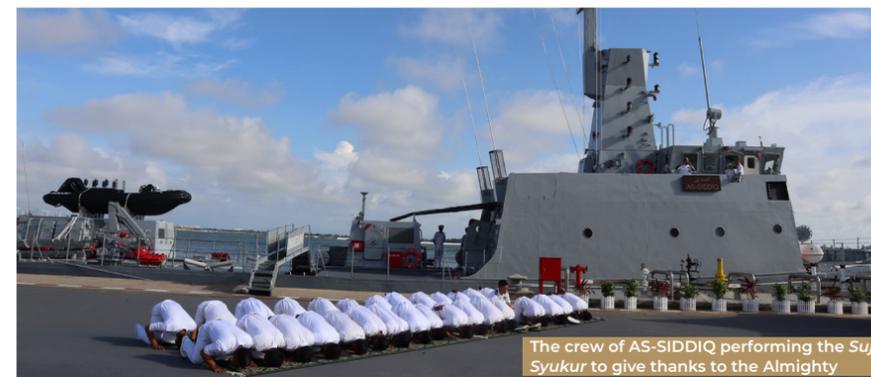
- PO Hamzi bin Haji Tahir



A HOMECOMING TO REMEMBER



AS-SIDDIQ making her approach to come alongside Muara Naval Base



The crew of AS-SIDDIQ performing the *Sujud Syukur* to give thanks to the Almighty



The crew praising Allah the Almighty for their safe passage home

PLANK OWNERS



“Alhamdulillah, being selected as the Executive Officer (XO) of AS-SIDDIQ is a proud moment for me. This is my second involvement in a similar project, which took place ten years ago when I became part of the first crew of KDB DARULAMAN patrol vessel as an Officer of the Watch (OOW). However, being involved in this project is different from the previous projects because it involves two navies, and it requires detailed planning and a high level of understanding between both the RBN and the RSN. As the XO of KDB AS-SIDDIQ, I am responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the ship by creating and implementing the ship's schedules, coordinating training, maintenance, and safety programmes.”

(Above) LT CDR MOHAMMAD KHAIRUL FADZILLAH BIN AWANG ROSLAN, RBN



“I was effectively posted to KDB AS-SIDDIQ as an Underwater Warfare Officer (UWO). I am also part of the Handing Over and Taking Over Team for Project Fearless-Class. I was given the opportunity and responsibility to plan and equip KDB AS-SIDDIQ with firefighting and damage control capabilities and safety plans. It was a challenge as we tried to utilise the existing safety equipments' fixed storage location and minimise major alterations. Although we encountered several difficulties during the training phase, especially in integrating both the navies' practices, in the end, the exchanges of knowledge and expertise produced positive results.”

(Left) LT JG MUHAMAD RAFIUDDIN BIN MAIDIN, RBN

“Alhamdulillah for the opportunity to be a part of the pioneer crew of KDB AS-SIDDIQ. Throughout my training as an Operations Room Supervisor (ORS) of the ship, I have been exposed to a new role as a Bridge Supervisor. The Bridge Supervisor assists the OOW in ensuring all bridge team members perform their tasks well so that the ship can fulfil her peacetime and operational requirements without compromising the overall navigational safety of the ship. I faced many challenges throughout, but the RSN have been supportive throughout the entire training phase. I will use my knowledge to teach the next generation of seagoing personnel. I am thankful to be part of this team and my hope is that we will always be strong together for a better Navy.”

(Right) CPO KHAIRUL ANWAR BIN HJ ALI HASSAN



“I am the Marine Signaller (C4) onboard KDB AS-SIDDIQ. My role as a Marine Signaller in this project is to receive and relay messages to the Supervision Officer of the ship either by using Voice through Radio or Letter. My responsibility is to keep all communication systems in good condition and know how to operate it. This is my first experience joining a ship as the first crew. I am very grateful to have such a strong bond with the crew and to also be able to learn new things. I hope we will always stay 'Stronger Together' till the end.”

(Left) AB MD KHAIRUL NAZRI BIN AWG SULAIMAN

STRONGER TOGETHER

“I, as the Chief Cook, manage food and beverage supplies for the ship's crew, kitchen maintenance, and ensuring personal and kitchen cleanliness and hygiene in the preparation area and storage of food or drinks. The contributions that I have made throughout the Fearless-Class project is determining that every task that has been given by my superiors run smoothly and perfectly, determining every logistical equipment and rations are in accordance with the requirements. At the same time, I also took the opportunity to increase my knowledge through seamanship training provided by the RSN so that I can share it with my comrades back home. This is very valuable for me as it broadens my thinking, and it allows me to tackle any obstacles that I may face in the future.”



(Above) AB MD ARIFFSHAHDAN BIN MATZAININ



THE MAIDEN VOYAGE, 15 MARCH 2023