

Royal Brunei Navy

AMAN SAMUDERA

امان سموديرا



EDITION 02
JUNE 2021



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR

// COMMANDER PG MOHD FAREN PG MOHD NOOR, RBN



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

2021 is an exciting time to be in the Navy! In this 2nd edition of Aman Samudera, we are excited to share with you the new faces of leadership in the Royal Brunei Navy as they share some insight into their visions for the Royal Brunei Navy. 2020 was tough on a lot of us but as Brunei Darussalam begins to return to normalcy, we are thrilled to be able to celebrate together as a nation with parades celebrating our National Day and even carry out our grand naval exercise dubbed the Blue Tombak. One of the Navy's greatest honours is bearing the responsibility of raising the nation's largest flag and here we showcase it in this edition's front-page cover.

The Royal Brunei Navy puts the care and well-being of its Sailors at the forefront and in celebrating the Navy people, we delve right into the illustrious career of our most senior enlistee, the Navy Sergeant Major. In this edition we also explore the Navy people's take on work-life balance as we feature both ratings and officers. Come and read with us! And we look forward to sharing more with you in the navy's biannual magazine!

It is our mission to reach our Sailors, so please share this issue and find us online for the latest information for Sailors!

Yours Aye,

Commander Pg Mohd Faren Pg Mohd Noor, RBN
Chief Editor



READ US ONLINE TOO!

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Former RBN Commander handing over the ceremonial commander's telescope to the new RBN Commander

A NEW ADMIRAL AT THE HELM

// LT JG PG MD FADHIL BIN PG HAJI ALI, RBN

First Admiral Spry initiated the ceremony by expressing his sincere appreciation on the trust placed on him by His Majesty to

“BEGIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD THIS NEW POSTING AND TO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMANDING THE ROYAL BRUNEI NAVY.”

Paying respects to the achievements of his predecessors, First Admiral Spry showed deep appreciation for the improvements achieved by the Royal Brunei Navy which includes

“Planning and execution of the procurement of new assets and capabilities, long deployments and participation in exercises that contribute towards enhancing professionalism and defence diplomacy. Hence, improving the image of Negara Brunei Darussalam.”

With the consent of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Royal Brunei Navy held a change of command ceremony bidding farewell to First Admiral (R) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Othman bin Haji Suhaili @ Suhaily and welcoming First Admiral Spry bin Hj Serudi @ Hj Seruji as the new Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy on the 31st of December 2020.

Reciting the mission of the Royal Brunei Navy to 'Defend Negara Brunei Darussalam's Maritime Sovereignty and Integrity', "This mission will not be achieved through a mindset of 'Business as usual' and staying within our comfort zone as that will lead to complacency and stagnation of the Royal Brunei Navy."

First Admiral Spry quoted two Malay proverbs that goes

***“Batu yang bergolek
tidak akan mengumpulkan lumut”***
***“Kalau tidak dipecahkan ruyung
manakan dapat sagunya”***

Essentially call upon the men and women of Royal Brunei Navy,

**“TO RISE AND STRIVE TOWARDS
A BETTER ROYAL BRUNEI NAVY”**

“ RAISE, TRAIN AND SUSTAIN ”



First Admiral Spry receiving his first official Admiral's Salute as the new RBN Commander

First Admiral Spry also made a note to uphold the image of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces "By ensuring military discipline is observed and enforcing security measures at all levels through 24/7 nature of the military career"

"The Family institution must also be taken care of in addition to carrying out our duties by placing better care on the welfare of our families" as a step towards achieving stability in the personal lives of the personnel.

First Admiral Spry ended his speech by inviting "all layers of leadership in the Royal Brunei Navy to self-reflect and to always remember to lead righteously towards achieving the Royal Brunei Navy's mission.



First Admiral Spry inspecting the parade contingents with parade commander Lt Cdr Amiel

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ROYAL BRUNEI NAVY

The Royal Brunei Navy must be forward and outward looking, vigilant and prepared to tackle whatever challenges come our way. Our plans for modernization and development must be sensitive to the current and future threats. Thus, RBN should always aspire to enhance professionalism and her warfighting capabilities.

But at the same time, we must not forget the people who are painstakingly committed in ensuring this happens. The officers, men and women of RBN lies at the heart of senior level leadership decision-making and it is important that we not forget their welfare and the value of having a work-life balance.

"...not forget their welfare and the value of having a work-life balance"



**DEPUTY
COMMANDER**

Captain Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudin bin Matserudin, RBN

**FLEET
COMMANDER**


// CAPTAIN KHAIRIL BIN ABDUL RAHMAN, RBN

"For the fleet to effectively perform their operational tasks and duties, it is very important for all ships to reach a certain standard in terms of training - both on an individual and collective level"

**COMMANDANT
SUPPORT SERVICES**


// COMMANDER HAJI SUHAILEE BIN PUNGUT, RBN

"CSS organization will strive towards creating and nurturing positive working and social environment throughout its organization, within the norms of military institutions, that is conducive to innovation and participation of all levels of officers and men."

**COMMANDANT NAVAL
TRAINING**


// COMMANDER WILLIE BIN PADAN, RBN

"The men and women of the Royal Brunei Navy are the backbone and the driving force of the organisation. As the Commandant of Naval Training, I have the responsibility to manage the development of human resource in the RBN. I am proud to be to an essential part of this organisation. Furthermore, the Naval Training Centre is growing particularly with the increasing number of courses and students, I am proud to take on this role."

**HEAD OF
INSPECTORATE UNIT**


// COMMANDER HAJI NORARIWWIN BIN HAJI ALI, RBN

"It is imperative to constantly assess how the evolving strategic impacts the RBN. Societal changes, technological advances and competency changes brought about by evolving security challenges requires the Inspectorate Unit to continuously evolve and be the driver of change. Thus will enable us to ensure compliancy to the highest standard on various range of operations in order to achieve mission success"

**CHIEF
OF STAFF**


// COMMANDER SONNY ISKANDAR BIN RASANI, RBN

"RBN Headquarters lies in the epicenter of the organization. We need to work not only as individuals in our specific roles, but more importantly to work as a team in order to ensure that we provide timely and concise service to Command and support for the other naval sub-units"

The Royal Brunei Navy keeps to its tradition and continues to take the lead in the National Flag Hoisting Ceremony on 16th February 2021 leading into Brunei's 37th National Day. Through two intensive weeks, the team of 20 Personnel from the Royal Brunei Navy rehearsed to achieve perfection in the drills and to synchronize the raising of the national flag with the national anthem.

"Honoured, Pressured and Nerve-racking." These were the words described by Lt JG Md Firdaus bin Col (R) Dato Paduka Hj Joharie as he leads the parade during the ceremony. Burdened with grand expectations of traditions and under the eyes of the whole nation, he said that "a single mistake and all the hard work will be for naught." He further added, "as we rehearsed more, my worries were allayed as I saw that I had a great team that I can count on."

WO2 Jultadli bin Haji Taha was selected by the presiding Sergeant Majors of the Royal Brunei Navy to be the Sergeant Major for this ceremony. "I feel proud of this achievement and of the trust placed in me for this opportunity that not all Warrant Officers will experience in their career," he stated.

Precision, teamwork, and dedication were simply the result of the desire to succeed. The heart of the success comes from the sense of pride that is instilled in these personnel. This team and those who come before them are the reasons why the Royal Brunei Navy is continued to be given the honour to raise the national flag.



COVER STORY

SALUTE TO THE GIANT NATIONAL FLAG

// LT JG PG MD FADHIL BIN PG HAJI ALI, RBN

PATRIOTISM AND UNITY

// LT JG PG MD FADHIL BIN PG HAJI ALI, RBN



RBN officers with the NSM

Brunei's 37th National Day is truly one for the history books. Though the 23rd of February for Brunei this year was celebrated in a similar fashion as any other 23rd February in the previous celebrations, how many billions of people around the world get to say the same about their livelihoods in their home country? Brunei is blessed with a swift return to normalcy in a world plagued by COVID-19. The swift actions of every agency, including that of the Royal Brunei Navy, enabled Brunei to see, once again, the parade of patriotism and unity celebrating her independence.

The Royal Brunei Navy's show of patriotism included parades of their men and women showcasing a variety of combat uniforms ranging from those donned for the base defence, anti-riots, and naval warfare to the classic naval grandeur of the white uniforms of the Bush jacket and Ceremonial dress. The inspiring parade comes from months of dedication of every man and woman that participated as each step taken in that parade, represents the countless repetitions of that step taken in pursuit of perfection.

The parade is further honoured by the presence of the Royal Colour and the Royal Brunei Navy Ensign which were bestowed upon to the Royal Brunei Navy by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Sultan and Yang Dipertuan of Brunei Darussalam in 1991 during the first establishment of the navy as "The Royal Brunei Navy".

The majestic presence of the ensigns are only during grand national celebrations and this day marks one of the celebrations. Behind the scenes of presenting the naval ensign, lies a full ceremonial procedure of the treatment of the Royal Ensign and the Navy's colours in terms of how it should be carried, how it is unsheathed and how an officer carrying the naval ensign must be stood to attention at all times. All the attention to detail may be tiresome and tedious, but it is what gives the Royal Brunei Navy a tradition and the practice of it, is a display of the professionalism of the Royal Brunei Navy.

Likewise, the diligence, professionalism and unity showed during the celebration represented the Royal Brunei Navy's fight against the global pandemic and its continued contribution to the whole-of-nation approach through the COVID-19 task force, enforcements of directives and guidelines implemented by the Ministry of Health and the achievement of safety in conducting international deployments amidst a global pandemic. This year's national day is a display of success in the ongoing fight against COVID-19.



Royal Colour contingent ready for duty

As the theme of this year's national day continues to be "Menjayakan Wawasan Negara", this celebration marks a milestone as we continue to work towards Brunei's Vision 2035.



Ceremonial guards of the Colour Party and Navy ensign



Unsheathing drill of the Royal Colour carried by Lt JG Mohd Firdaus



Base Defence showcasing Combat Gear



and Anti-Riot Gear



Contingent of RBN women in Ceremonial Dress



Colour party and Navy ensign bearers preparing to march in the parade

28 YEARS SERVING THE NAVY WITH **FULL COMMITMENT**

// LT CDR ASHARUDDIN BIN AHANAPIAH & LT AHMAD NAFEEES BIN KAMSANI



Signing on for Recruit Training intake 92 & RBAF at training institute on 3 Jan 1994

11323 WARRANT OFFICER 1 PG MOHD SOFIAN BIN PG HJ METUSSIN

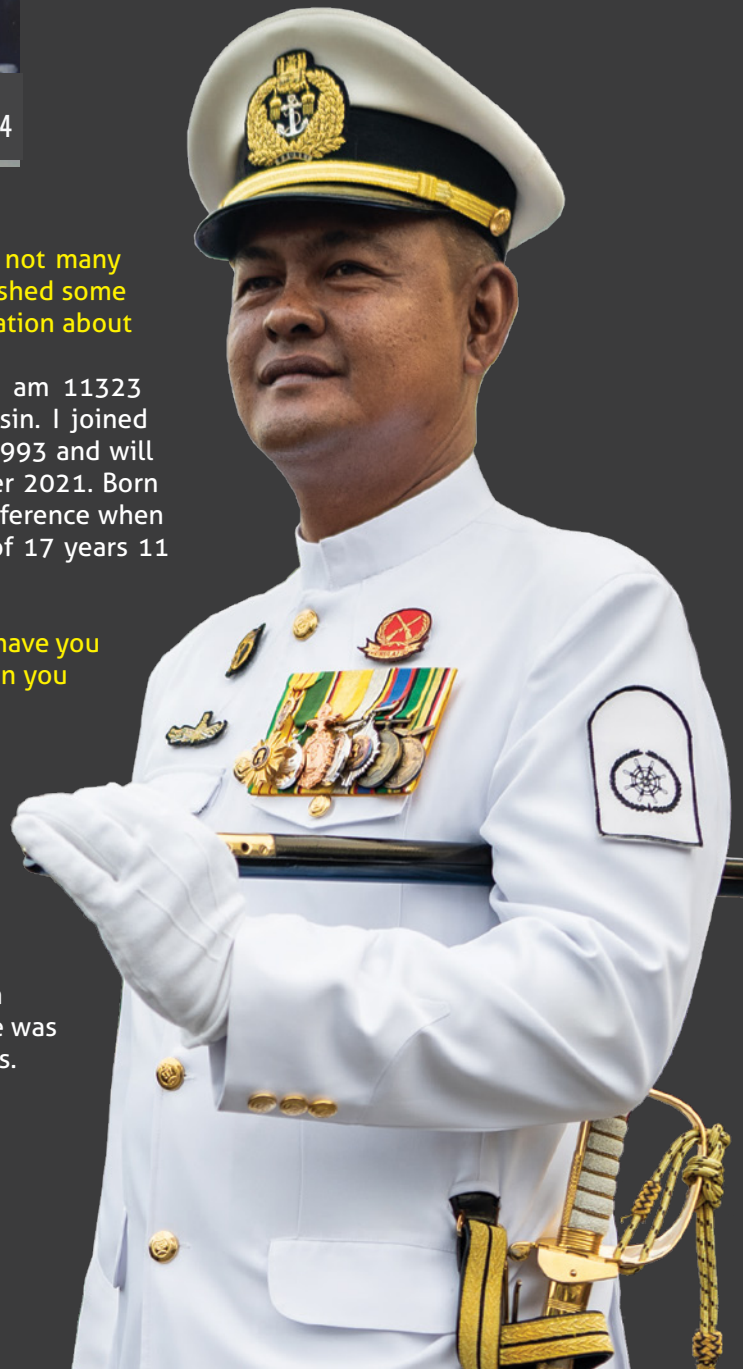
// ROYAL BRUNEI NAVY **REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR**

Everyone knows you as the NSM for RBN, however, not many know you on a personal level. Perhaps you can help shed some light by giving us some personal background information about yourself?

Assalamualaikum and a very good morning sir, I am 11323 Warrant Officer 1 Pg Mohd Sofian bin Pg Hj Metussin. I joined the Royal Brunei Armed Forces on 13th December 1993 and will reach my 28th year in the armed forces in December 2021. Born and raised as the only child in the family, I had no reference when I decided to join in 1993. I joined at a tender age of 17 years 11 months.

Joining the Military is certainly not an easy decision, have you had any doubts putting your signature on paper when you were filling up the application form?

Initially, I just wanted to try it out. My decision to join the armed forces was heavily influenced by a dear friend of mine. He joined earlier than I did and his absence in my life was truly felt. After 6 weeks of recruit training, I had the chance to visit him. His change was astounding, and I was envious of this great change that he was experiencing. This man was 11249 WO2 Sahrizan bin Yunus. He was the first man in my life that had shown me what the military is all about. The changes that he was experiencing has inspired me to join the armed forces.



The Navy has gone through tremendous evolutions in the past 55 years of its establishment since 1965. It was also different 28 years ago when you first joined and one can only imagine how tough those days were. For a man who is synonymous to the RBN, has the Navy always been your first choice?

Joining the Armed Forces was a matter of personal choice and of course influenced by what I saw in my dear friend. 3rd January 1994 was the day when I signed up as a recruit after going through the process of 'holding platoon'. There was no choice for us, it was dictated by the organization. The Navy only picked people who had certain qualifications due to the technical criteria required. Academically, I had just finished form 4 and during those days form 4 was valued academically and because of this advantage I was chosen to be a part of the RBN. However, upon joining the Navy my heart almost immediately had this certain connection and affiliation to the Navy and I believe it has always been my destiny to be a part of this tremendous organization. I am glad to be wearing white!

Being the only child, you are very close to your parents, what was running in your head when you signed up and were you nervous?

Coming from a background where you have little or no insight about the military, I was clueless as to how the transition would be from civilian to military. My experience for the first 6 weeks of my recruit training was agonizing; it was a huge culture shock for me and there were many things that went through my head. The word REGRET was definitely one of them, but my pride stood tall and I did not want to be seen as a failure. Throughout the harsh training, it made you realize how lucky you are to be surrounded by loving and caring people and your appreciation of time is also amplified. Time is limited but there is always time for something, it is all about management.



Attending to the discipline and conduct of the National Day's parade.



Attended my first ever overseas course (Navigation and Detection Class 2) in the Republic of Singapore for 2 months

You mentioned time here, is that something that was instill heavily upon you during your recruit training?

Absolutely, time is everything when I first stepped foot in Recruit Company (RCoy). Before training, never have I thought that in the space of 24 hours that we could do so many things. The instructors instilled upon us the importance of keeping time and how to manage it. This enables me especially to gradually develop the sense of discipline which I believe as an Armed Forces personnel he/she must possess.

Do you ever think or wonder during your training that you will be the future the NSM in Royal Brunei Navy?

To be honest, all I ever thought about during my training was to SURVIVE each and everyday. I was not the best trainee nor was I any better than the others. I am thankful and grateful that I have survived 28 years of service in the RBAF and to be the NSM for RBN has never came across my mind all those years before. Even though it was tough, I enjoyed every moment that I went through and took everything in stride. Due to this mentality, I felt that I was able to express my true potential and maximise my years in the Navy.

**“EVEN THOUGH IT WAS TOUGH,
I ENJOYED EVERY MOMENT
THAT I WENT THROUGH AND
TOOK EVERYTHING IN STRIDE”**

Can you share your journey so far in the Navy before you became the NSM?

After the first two weeks of leave from the completion of 6 months training, we were assembled by our instructors from RBN in RCoy and brought to Muara Naval Base for the first time. The first thing that I notice when I arrived was looking at the vast seas. From there I became curious on what will happen, where will I go and become.

My first appointment was a seaman. After basic and induction course, I was immediately posted as a Seaman on board the Missile Gun Boat, KDB SETERIA. From there after a few sea sorties, I began to fall in love with Navigation. I slowly started to learn from my seniors onboard the ship with regards to everything Navigation. This included chart fixing, reporting, the use of Radar and so on.

Alhamdulillah not long after, I was fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to expand my love for Navigation through various Navigation courses such as Navigation and Detection Class 2 and 1 in the Republic of Singapore as well as Principal Radar Instructor Course in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It was during that time that thankfully I was able to venture abroad and of course going abroad meant a great deal and it gave me that extra bit of motivation to succeed despite all the challenges overseas.

I must say, the long career in navigation at sea that I envisioned for myself did not come to fruition, I was posted out to become an Instructor at RBN Training Wing after my Class 1 Navigation course. In addition to that, I was also given the opportunity to expand my skills in guarding the Muara Naval Base as a Provost. I did however come back on board KDB SETERIA, my first ship as Coxswain. Even though this was only for 5 months, it was a fulfilling tour. Ever since 2013, I have held Sergeant Maor positions starting with the RBN Drill Sergeant Major and eventually Navy Sergeant Major. This year marks my 8th year holding the NSM post, so far, the longest serving NSM in RBN History.

It is true that my time at sea was short lived, but I was positive because I believed that being entrusted to hold the Sergeant Major post which is not an easy feat was a direct reflection of my leadership skills and the trust that was given to me by the officers in RBN.



Attended Senior Enlisted Working Group (SELWG) Symposium at HMS penguin, Sydney Australia from 11th to 13th October 2019



Leading RBN senior ranks during the Royal Procession in conjunction with HM 50th Golden Jubilee

“A CAREER IN THE NAVY WOULD BE REWARDING AND ENJOYABLE DESPITE IT BEING ONE OF THE MOST DEMANDING.”

What is it about navigation that made you fall in love with it?

To be honest, at school I never passed my Geography test but when I joined the Navy; the thing that attracts me the most about navigation was the knowledge and the know how of where the ship is and where the ship will be. Not only that, but navigation also requires surgical level precision and proper effective planning knowing that any mistakes could affect the safety of the ship and the lives of its company. I believed my love for navigation has helped me improve as a person especially in becoming a more effective and efficient leader.

When you look back to your 28 years of service, could you share your most memorable experience?

Alhamdulillah I have had many moments which were memorable but the one that stands out the most was my involvement during His Majesty's Golden Jubilee --



Celebrations. It was during that time, RBN was given the honour to bear the Royal Carriage in a procession through Bandar Seri Begawan in which I was also given the responsibility to choose the 50 Senior Ranks personnel who would be involved. To work closely with other government agencies in preparing for the procession, months in advance took a great deal of time and sacrifice but it was worth it. From my point of view, to be involved closely and to celebrate along His Majesty's historic 50th year on the throne was the pinnacle moment in my career of which I will never forget. In Brunei Darussalam, when it comes to the service to His Majesty, none will ever come close.

Life is certainly not easy in the military, after nearly 28 years in service, what motivates you to keep on going?

For me I am very lucky to be surrounded by my supportive family. In the Navy especially, you need to have strong family support as your job may not be as flexible as some of the other jobs out there. Holding this Sergeant Major post took a toll in my personal life especially in terms of time however I am thankful to have my wife that understands my job and able to sometimes take over my job at home for example picking our kids from school and such.



Awarded the Bintang Darjah Setia Negara Brunei Yang Amat Berbahagia (PSB) on 15 July 2016

What advice would you give to those who would like to venture in a career in the Navy?

For the new generation who wish to join the Navy, I can assure that a career in the Navy would be rewarding and enjoyable despite it being one of the most demanding. Firstly, my advice for them is to not be choosy, sometimes our career path may not be the one we envisioned or planned for but put the trust in the organization as they know what is best for you and ultimately Allah SWT as He is the great planner. Secondly do not sulk, in my 28 years of service I see many of those who frequently sulk end up not having a long career. We have to be disciplined and follow orders diligently and Inshaallah all will be rewarded in the end. Also, Do not forget to have Trust in yourself, in your ability and knowledge. And lastly, stay away from social problems such as drugs.

Thank you very much for taking the time with us NSM, and finally what does the Navy mean to you?

The Navy has been my career for the more than half of my life, it is also an opportunity for me to venture into the field that is so vast and develop new skills set be it out at sea and on land. Not only that the Navy also gives me the opportunity for me to go beyond my comfort zone, to experience all the things that seems impossible at first but eventually I was able to pull through. The Navy also provides me the platform to interact with navy personnel from other countries especially during deployments and symposiums. This enables me to become more aware on what is currently happening around the world. I truly believe in the saying, "Join The Navy See the World"; what the Navy offers is for someone the opportunity to travel the world and to take on more responsibility than would be possible in other occupations.

1941年3~5月の迷彩

Camouflage pattern during March

Tartaravind-Museum von M...

Schéma de camouflage



**NIMBLE HANDS
AT WORK!**

// LT NAJIAH BINTI ABDUL HISAB, RBN



15122 PETTY OFFICER MOHD FIRDAUS BIN MOHD IDRUS

//WEAPON ENGINEER FLEET STANDARD

15122 Petty Officer Mohd Firdaus bin Mohd Idrus was first introduced to the world of miniature models at the tender age of 12 by his uncle. Inspired by his uncle's talent and passion in building scale models, PO Mohd Firdaus has delved into the world of model detailing ever since and has never looked back. PO Mohd Firdaus stands his appointment as a Weapon Engineer 3 (WE-3) onboard one of the Darussalam class patrol vessels, KDB DARULEHSAN (07).

The scope of his profession entails overseeing the upkeep, maintenance and readiness of all the machineries designated under the Weapon Engineering department's care. His core profession demands meticulousness and attentiveness to details in ensuring the ship's health, as well as a comprehensive understanding of the ship's technical systems, all of which are valuable tools that makes model-making a success.

From the outset, model making seems like an arduous task, PO Mohd Firdaus truly enjoys the process of constructing miniature models. His interest lies in making models of warships and battle tanks.

**“MINIATURE
MODE-MAKING
OF WARSHIPS
SPARKS JOY IN
CHIEF PETTY
OFFICER MOHD
FIRDAUS”**

**FEATURED
ARTICLES**

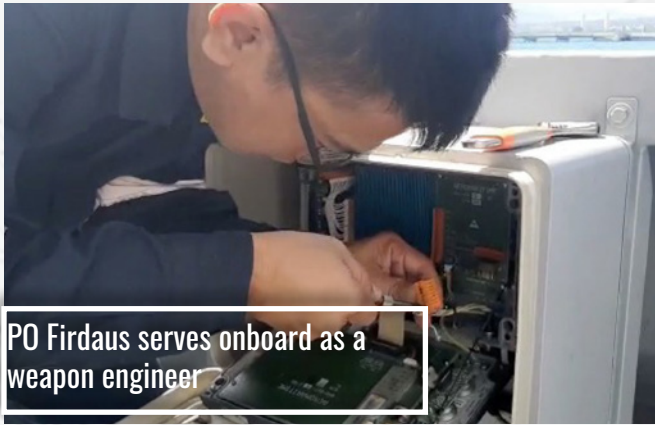
1941年5月18日

Camouflage pattern

Tartaravind-Museum von M...

Schéma de camouflage





PO Firdaus serves onboard as a weapon engineer

The process provides him with relief from the stressors of everyday working life. Not only that, his hobby has also given him some learning value as he carries out his own research on various aspects of the ships and battle tanks such as its history, its uniqueness. He mentioned that his hobby has also helped him gain a better grasp of the English Language. In the long run, his hobby has enabled him to build a wealth of knowledge on the various platforms he has constructed, whether it be in the ship's colourful past or in the future advancements of naval technology.

PO Mohd Firdaus boasts an impressive collection of miniature ships, ranging from the historic USS Missouri (circa 1991), IJN Yamato 1942, HMS George V, HMS Hood, HMS Prince of Wales, amongst others. PO Mohd Firdaus' interesting hobby has the potential to inspire curiosity amongst other sailors in not only understanding various different platforms but also about naval history. Bravo Zulu PO Mohd Firdaus!



PO Firdaus showcasing the books he used as references



PO Firdaus reflects on the wealth of insight and knowledge he's gained through his hobby



Making miniature models demands focus and meticulousness

ROYAL BRUNEI NAVY 56TH ANNIVERSARY

June 14th 2021 marks the 56th Anniversary of the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) which traces its roots to the early days as the Boat Section and Company of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF). From its humble beginning, RBN has undergone several evolutions to what is now a modernized and balanced naval force, able to project its presence and raise its flag to the far reaches of the globe.



RBN executive board cutting the 56th anniversary cake

“...A MODERNIZED AND BALANCED NAVAL FORCE, ABLE TO PROJECT ITS PRESENCE AND RAISE ITS FLAG TO THE FAR REACHES OF THE GLOBE.”



ANNIVERSARY //LT CDR ASHARUDDIN AHANAPIAH, RBN & LT AHMAD NAFEEES BIN HJ KAMSANI, RBN

For this year's 56th celebration, a parade ceremony was held in moderation in line with COVID 19 Restrictions at the Muara Naval Base parade square. During the Celebration, the Commander of RBN reminded everyone of the complexity of the modern challenges, also reminding RBN Personnel to continue striving for excellence as well as to maintain professionalism. RBN must be well converse in order to fulfill its duty in protecting our beloved country and with an even greater complexity in the maritime security domain, RBN should always strive to improve on the effectiveness of its operation in order to become a versatile and operations ready Navy.



First Admiral Spry with Leading Hand Hazwan

In recent years, challenges such as Covid-19 and Cyber security has continued to pose threats to the security of our nation and this is a reminder that threats can come from all axis, and may not be as conventional to the traditional threats. However, whatever the threats may be, RBN will be ready to overcome these challenges in order to protect our country's sovereignty.





ALWAYS **READY** TO DEFEND OUR **HOMEGROUND**

// LT JG MOHD SYAFI'IE BIN HJ OTHMAN, RBN

Once every two years, hundreds of Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) Fleet personnel gather to participate in the Fleet Concentration Period or FCP for short. The FCP offers an opportunity to enhance, sharpen and hone their maritime naval skills as well as experiencing real-life maritime operations. It was held for four days to coincide along with Exercise Blue Tombak from 2nd March to the 5th March 2021 and was divided into two phases; Harbour Phase and followed by the Sea Phase.

The opening of the Fleet Concentration Period and Exercise Blue Tombak was officiated with a Parade consisting of 100 RBN personnel from Base Defence and Fleet respectively, with personnel donning their operational gears (D2P) and equipped with their respective SOP Bergen.

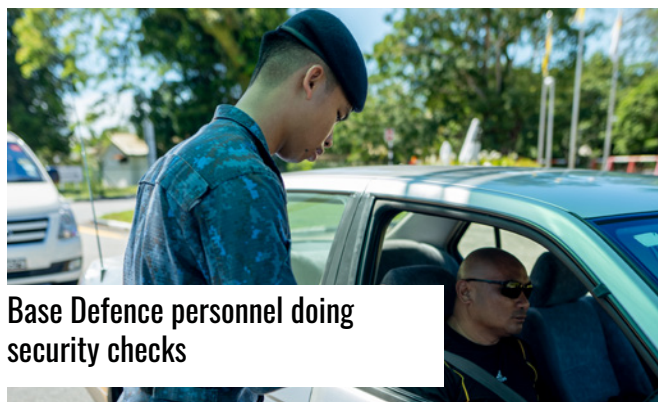
Among the exercises that was conducted during the Sea phase of the Fleet Concentration Period are Surface Target Firing Exercise (SUTFX) and Anti-Air Gunnery Exercise (AAGDX), aimed to test ability of the gunnery team to operate guns on board their respective ships, Deck Landing Exercise, aimed to test the capabilities of the flight deck team during Helicopter operations, Manoeuvring Exercise (MANEX), aimed to test the capability of the officer of the watch as well as the bridge team to manoeuvre their respective ships in formation,



Boarding Exercise, aimed to test the capability and the effectiveness of the boarding team during boarding operations, Publication Exercise (PUBEX) and Flashing Exercise (FLASHEX), aimed to test the capabilities and knowledge of the communication personnel in their ability to encode and decode signals.



Nine ships were involved for this year's FCP; KDB DARUSSALAM, KDB DARULEHSAN, KDB DARUTTAQWA, KDB SYAFAAT, KDB BERKAT, KDB AFIAT, KDB SERASA, KDB DAMUAN, and KDB PUNI. The aim of the Fleet Concentration Period is to stimulate Fleet mariner and war fighting skills of the Royal Brunei Navy personnel as they go through number of exercises.



Base Defence personnel doing security checks



Staying vigilant protecting the borders to the naval base

BASE DEFENCE

Exercise Blue Tombak on the other hand is an annual exercise held by Royal Brunei Navy involving base defence personnel in support of fleet personnel. The aim of the exercise is to train RBN personnel in defending the base from conventional and non-conventional attacks, as well as attacks from the sea, air, and land.

Among the exercises conducted during Exercise Blue Tombak are Key point guard, where a sangar and observation post are placed in strategic locations in order to deny enemy forces from penetrating the base, Escort exercise, where RBN headquarter personnel and items are escorted to a new location, and also anti-riot exercise, where the base defence personnel are trained to stabilize and control the public during protests.

DID YOU KNOW??

Commonly found in navies having roots in the Royal Navy, the Executive Curl or 'Elliot's Eye' is the small round braid above a naval officer's rank. It is an insignia traditionally used by naval officers on their epaulettes and tunic sleeves - as a distinct uniform, distinguishing them from officers of other units. This insignia was first used by the Royal Navy since the 1850s.

The rationale for planning and executing these military exercises is to prepare commands and forces for operations in peace, crisis and conflict. It is carried out in order to practice and evaluate collective training of personnel, and forces to enable them to operate effectively together, to demonstrate Military Capabilities, or to provide improvements to the capabilities. Exercises are essential elements of our military personnel training programme as it provides the best means of testing out our capabilities to effectively perform our missions. In overall, not only do such exercises help to train RBN personnel, it also helps RBN to maintain our operational preparedness to protect and defend our homeland from any external threats.



Doa before the commencement of the exercise



Escort security deployed



**WANT TO
KNOW MORE?
READ ON!**

COOPERATION THROUGH INFORMATION SHARING

// LT QURRATU'AINI QAYYIMAH DR. AL-HAJ ZELZY, RBN



I have served at the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) and the Changi Regional Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief Coordination Centre (RHCC) as an International Liaison Officer (ILO) representing Brunei Darussalam from March 2020 to February 2021. In my one-year tenure, I have worked alongside a multinational team comprising of 29 ILOs from 20 countries. My line of work essentially involved in the contribution and strengthening of operational linkages and information-sharing between the IFC as well as RHCC and the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) and the Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE

"Safe and Secure Seas for All" – this slogan has been at the heart of the IFC, a regional maritime security centre at Changi Naval Base for 12 years now. Information-sharing is at the heart of the contemporary maritime security agenda. It is a key enabler for effective coordination and cooperation between diverse maritime security agencies. Since its establishment in 2009, the IFC has been at the forefront of providing actionable information to cue responses by regional and international navies, coast guards and other maritime security agencies to deal with maritime security threats and incidents. As of 2020, 20 countries were represented at IFC.

CHANGI REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN AID AND DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATION CENTRE

Changi RHCC on the other hand, seeks to facilitate military-to-military coordination in HADR, supporting the military of a disaster-affected state in the Asia-Pacific region in coordinating assistance provided by foreign militaries. The Asia Pacific is one of the most natural disaster-prone regions in the world, as it lies within the 'Pacific Ring of Fire', a path along the Pacific

Citation and
farewell
ceremony at
IFC



Ocean characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes. Till date, partner militaries from 15 countries have accredited ILOs to Changi RHCC.

THE 'NEW NORMAL'

During my tenure, the world saw a surge in COVID-19 cases and Singapore immediately went into a 2-month 'circuit-breaker' period – a temporary nationwide lockdown to combat the spread of the disease after a huge spike in cases was seen in the community. The global pandemic had circumstantially transformed work and how it's done. We began to espouse and adopt the new work setting that is 'Work-From-Home' (WFH) from our laptops and personal computers. Digitalisation had altered the workforce in Singapore and everywhere else in the world as video-conferencing was the main mode of work. There were advantages to working from the comfort of our own homes, but at the same time, there were unexpected challenges too. Isolation became a significant source of psychological distress for many of us, and remote working makes communication more difficult. Being in lockdown in a foreign country was very depressing, especially during Ramadhan and Hari Raya. Everyone was feeling different on different days. Some furloughed, some with mental health issues exacerbated by the increasing uncertainty, some making the most of it, in their element, others just appreciative of the newfound 'me' time. There was a lot to learn from being grounded in a confined space for days on end, and the key point is being able to adapt to new circumstances.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation in many major events and activities, and all meetings and seminars were conducted online. During my time, I participated in several multinational capacity-building activities



Citation and farewell ceremony at IFC

that promoted information-sharing among maritime security stakeholders. These include participation in key events such as the 14th ASEAN Navy Chiefs' Meeting (ANCM), the Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Symposium 2020, IFC Maritime Security Webinars, Singapore Shipping Association Cybersecurity Seminar, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) Regional Maritime Security Outlook Conference 2021, CSO Alliance Seminar 2020 and various other engagements.

AN ENRICHING EXPERIENCE

My work experience at both the IFC and RHCC have left me with a wealth of knowledge and learning experience that I will always treasure. I have learned the importance of independence and adaptability. I have also learned to take directions, criticisms and compliments. Most importantly, I have learned to be open-minded and tolerant, to value other people's opinions and to consider ideas along with mine, to end up with a great final result. Being part of the IFC and

RHCC teams have taught me skills that I can use in more than just the professional area of my life. I have come to realise that being part of a community is more than just sharing credit. A team effort takes compromise. When we are on a team, we have to at times lead, follow, and more often than not, meet in the middle. That's what I like about working at IFC and RHCC. We come from such diverse backgrounds with different values and priorities that even though we sometimes had our disagreements, at the end of the day, everything worked well, and we always delivered great results in our work. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve as the 11th Brunei ILO at IFC and RHCC and contribute to the strengthening of partnership, professional bond and ultimately, bilateral relations between the RBN and all other participating militaries at IFC and RHCC.

DID YOU KNOW??

The precise origin of how it is called the 'Elliot's Eye' still poses a mystery! There are 2 versions of the story. One tells a story of Captain George Elliot in his fight in the Crimean War in which he looped the gold on his sleeve as a sling around his wounded arm.



READ ON!



Farewell ceremony at RHCC



KDB PAHLAWAN

// LT JG AIMAN SYAHIRAH BINTI CAPT (R) DATO PADUKA HJ ABD RAHMAN



14th June 1965 - 4 years after the formation of the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, the "Boat Section" came into being - comprising of only 18 personnel and a number of aluminum boats known as Temuai. Its sole purpose was to transport infantry elements within the interior of Brunei. Shortly after, triggered by the stable economic growth, the Boat Section evolved to become "Boat Company" in 1966. The Boat Company was further equipped with 3 River Patrol Boats named KDB BENDAHARA, KDB MAHARAJALELA and KDB KERMAINDERA - all crewed by Bruneians and led by qualified commanding officers. Within the same year, the Boat Company further developed and acquired type SRN5 Hovercraft and later SRN6 Hovercraft in 1968.

What created the main upward shift in capability and role for the Boat Company was the arrival of KDB PAHLAWAN - it's first Fast Patrol Craft and its first **Flagship**. The term "**Flagship**" is defined as the lead ship within a fleet of vessels - typically the first, the largest, the fastest, the most heavily armed within the fleet. It was without doubt was KDB PAHLAWAN designated as the Boat Company's Flagship as she was the most capable vessel serving for Brunei Darussalam at that time. Enriched with pride, the Boat Company received KDB PAHLAWAN - she was an export version variant of the British Royal Navy's Brave-class Fast Patrol Boat, known to be one of the most advanced vessels existing during that era. She was known for reaching the speed of up to 62 Knots, equipped with 3 gas turbine engines and 2 diesel engines. She was also equipped with very modern weapons among which were; SS.11 wire-guided missile, SS.12 surface-to-surface missile; 40mm Bofors on the forepart and 20mm Oerlikon on her aft.

In May of 1968, Captain David Cant, Second Lieutenant Kefli, Chief Engineer K. Johnson and a total of 14 crew members flew to Singapore to assess KDB PAHLAWAN before sailing her back to Brunei Darussalam. KDB PAHLAWAN's grand arrival - she was greeted by Al-Marhum Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Maulana Al-Sultan, Sir Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, along with the officers and men of the Boat Company. Her arrival was followed by the Flag Hoisting ceremony - which signifies her commissioning. To augment and amplify the sense of pride and patriotism of her arrival, the ceremony was accompanied by an orchestrated recital of Brunei Darussalam's national anthem played by the *Pasukan Pancaragam Angkatan Melayu Diraja Brunei* (AMDB) in the background.

The arrival of KDB PAHLAWAN shows great significance in the advancement of the Boat Company as it signaled a shift in the role of the Navy, from assuming a supplementary role in supporting land elements to being at the forefront of maritime defense. Her presence and endurance enabled the Boat Company to project themselves offshore whilst still maintaining riverine and coastal patrol. The consistent advancement, expansion and also their ability to adapt to current geopolitical situations made the Boat Company one of the largest and significant branches for the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment. This advancement triggered further elevations in the Boat Company in terms of logistical assets and also capability which flourished consistently to what it has now become- the Royal Brunei Navy.

COMMANDANT NAVAL TRAINING READING LIST

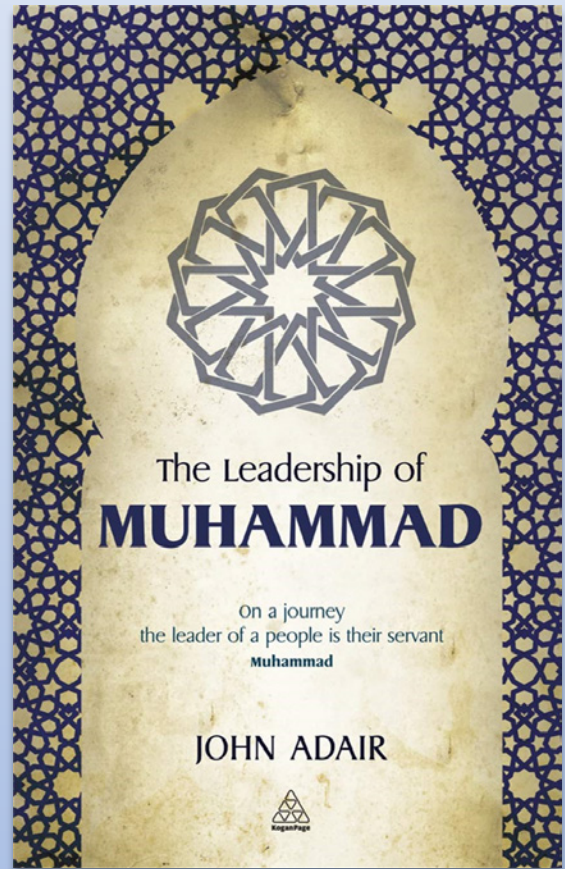
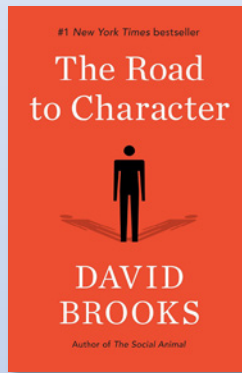
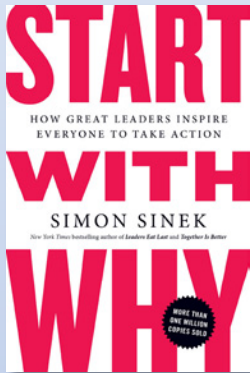
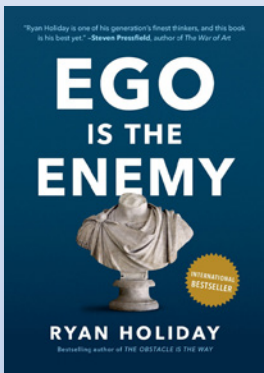


*"The nation that will insist on drawing a broad demarcation between the fighting man and the thinking man is liable to have its fighting done by fools and its thinking done by cowards."
Colonel Sir William F. Butler (1889), Charles George Gordon*

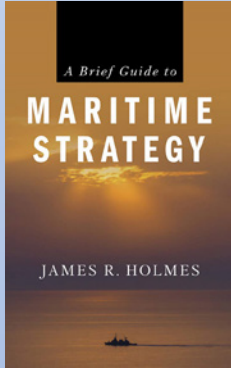
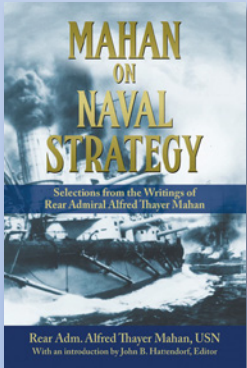
This new age demands our sailors to have a deeper learning and understanding of our ever changing environment. As being in the Navy inspires us all, I encourage you to take on the challenge of building your knowledge with this edition's reading list in the hopes that you will nurture a greater passion for leadership, our Navy and the maritime domain that surrounds it. If you are not a reader, then I encourage you to try an audio book and have someone read to you. This is great for making the most of your commute or travel time. You may also find these titles at a MINDEF Library near you. *Read and Lead!*

Commander Willie Mathias Bin Padan, Commandant of Naval Training Centre, Royal Brunei Navy

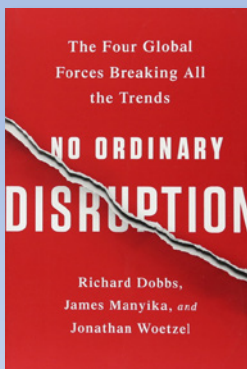
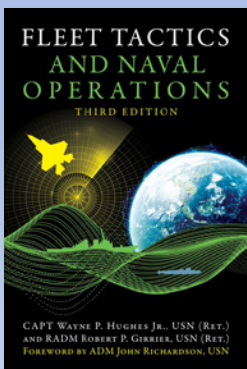
SAILOR'S SELF



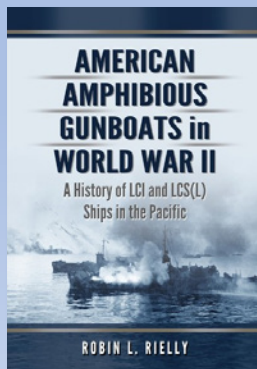
PREPAREDNESS



CAPACITY



BRUNEI NAVAL HISTORY



KEEPING DARULAMAN SHIP SHAPE!

// LT AK ABDUL RAUF BIN PG HJ YUSOF, RBN

To ensure continuous maritime operational capability, the RBN ensures all assets undergo regular maintenance to stay operationally ready. Muara Naval Base, the home port of the RBN is equipped to carry out maintenance on our ladies in-house and with the cooperation of other agencies, from bodywork to complex weapon systems can be maintained to optimal standards.



The maintenance period ranges from routine harbour maintenance where the vessel is alongside the jetty to schedule up slip maintenance where the whole vessel is raised out of the water and dock safely in a shed to undergo maintenance. The opportunity of having a vessel out of the water allows maintenance works to carry out on underwater systems fitted to the vessel and as well as to clean the underwater part of the vessel.

One of the RBN Darussalam Class, Patrol Vessel (PV80) is currently undergoing her quarterly schedule maintenance that involves carrying out level 3 and level 4 jobs that involves taking apart machinery and equipment by skilled maintainers on all the essential systems onboard including a fresh new paint job.

This allowed the onboard crew to get hands-on training with maintainers to further improve their knowledge and experience on their favourite systems.



“Running machinery, greasy parts and oily bilges may not be everyone’s idea of a playground...”



Ordinary Rate Faaruuq Al Muwaffaq Bin Hj Marsidi who has recently finished his General Mechanic Course, M3 at the Naval Training centre, has been posted as one of the marine engineers onboard KDB Darulaman. Being posted to a ship currently on maintenance gave him a whole new perspective on the ship systems that he regularly operates at sea.

He had the opportunity to assist and see maintenance done on the ships main engine and this showed him the complex inner workings of the engine that you can rarely see when it is running. Running machinery, greasy parts and oily bilges may not be everyone’s idea of

a playground, but it is the place where a marine engineer like Farooq feels at home.

To ensure all the maintenance are carried out safely and properly, the ship crew and staff for the RBN Support Service Headquarters work closely with contractors and quality inspections are carried out from time to time to ensure everything is squared away.



Inspection on propeller

NOW YOU KNOW

Another theory linking to 'Elliot's Eye' refers to the method of making an eye-splice using ropes made out of hemp which was introduced by a member of the Board of Admiralty from 1800 to 1801, the Honourable William Elliot.



**THE NAVY
CURL**



STARBOARD TRAIL

/// LT JG DK NORARIFAH PG HJ BAHAR, RBN

The Naval Training Centre has recently taken the initiative to creating a route for Jungle Trekking for the Navy after being decided to be a caretaker of Bukit Tempayan Pisang, Subok.

Celebrated on 27th November 2020 by YM Former Commander of TLDB, First Admiral Dato Haji Othman Bin Hj Suhaili@Suhaily, this 4.5kilometre path is the most premeditated and suitable sports venue for all ages as it is located at Muara Beach. It takes 5 minutes walk from the Navy base. The trail was a one-way walk, starting point from Muara Beach into the jungle, passing by the Tanjong Batu beach and ended at the end of Muara Beach which leads to Muara Naval Base which took about an hour and sums up the total distance of 4.5KM.

Relaxed conditions and a moderate forest atmosphere, sufficiently create a healthy mind stimulation and vibrant physical endurance.

This is a rare opportunity to experience the jungle trekking in the nature of a beach. Putting the Navy culture into this trekking where the route is divided into port trail and starboard trail. Besides, the trail route is separated into two

“Relaxed conditions and a moderate forest atmosphere, sufficiently create a healthy mind stimulation and vibrant physical endurance.”

namely trail port and starboard trail. Between the two trails is the Muara Beach Recreational Area which makes it unique and good for anyone who wants to do other sports activities such as cycling, dodgeball, netball and etc as well as recreational activities. Along the trail, there are several interesting places such as, Brunei-Australia memorial site, playgrounds,

Tanjung Batu Muara and also Tanjung Batu Putus.

The trail route was also used as a recreational venue for the Royal Brunei Navy and the latest TLDB interaction sport with the Honourable Second Minister of Defence held earlier this year. Hence this route is no stranger to TLDB members as the choice of sports venue interaction.

With the benefit of this small forest path, it is possible to make better use of its treasures and not be wasted. It is hoped that the navy trail will always be the choice of sports venues like other places already known.



January 2021



J1 J2



J3

NAVAL DIPLOMACY



// LT NAJIHAH BINTI HJ ABDUL HISAB, RBN

20 JAN (J1)

Bilateral discussion between the Commander of Royal Brunei Navy and His Excellency M Christian Ramage, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam.

28 JAN (J2, J3)

Her Excellency Tiffany McDonald, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam paid an introductory call to Commander of Royal Brunei Navy. During her visit to Muara Naval Base, Her Excellency Tiffany McDonald, had the opportunity to Visit KDB DARUSSALAM.

February 2021

02 FEB (F1)

Commander Randall D. Jones, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, Embassy of the United States paid a Courtesy call to the Commander of Royal Brunei Navy.

03 FEB (F2)

Colonel Angelo Gerald P. Ariles, Defence and Armed Forces attaché of the Republic of the Philippines paid an introductory call to the Commander of Royal Brunei Navy.

09 FEB (F3)

Her Excellency Jeanette Stovel, High Commissioner of Canada in Brunei Darussalam paid an introductory call to the Commander of Royal Brunei Navy.

11 FEB (F4)

Virtual Signing of the Arafura / Darussalam class Offshore Patrol Vessel User Group Members Charter between Royal Australian Navy and Royal Brunei Navy.

22 FEB (F5)

Colonel ARH Zaenal Arifin, Republic of Indonesia Defence Attaché to Brunei Darussalam paid an introductory call to Commander of Royal Brunei Navy.

22 - 25 FEB (F6)

United Kingdom's Virtual Laws of the Seas Workshop organized by United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)



F1 F2 F3

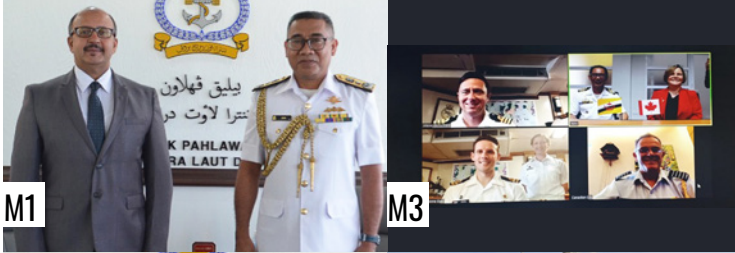


F4 F5



F6

March 2021



18 MARCH (M1)

Introductory Call to Commander RBN by His Excellency Ajaneesh Kumar, High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam.

22 MARCH (M2)

Colonel Nopadej Pansri, Thailand Defence Attaché to Brunei Darussalam paid a farewell call to Commander of Royal Brunei Navy.

26 MARCH (M3)

Virtual Interaction and Information Sharing between Royal Brunei Navy and Royal Canadian Navy HMCS CALGARY.

28 MARCH (M4)

Her Excellency Jeanette Stovel, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam participated in the Passage Exercise between KDB DARUSSALAM and HMCS CALGARY.

April 2021

12 APRIL (A1)

Navy to Navy Talk with the Indonesian Navy

20 APRIL (A2)

Introductory Call to Commander RBN by His Excellency John Leonard Pencavel Virgoe, British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

28 APRIL (A3)

The Working Group Meeting on the ASEAN Navy Training Experience and Exchange Program (ANTEEP).



May 2021

MAY 2021

11 May (M1)

Royal Brunei Navy hosted the 15th ASEAN Navy Chiefs' Staff Meeting at the International Convention Centre, Berakas

27 May (M2)

Royal Brunei Navy conducts Information Sharing session with Royal Australian Navy via Video Teleconferencing. In attendance were Ms Chinata Vongpaseuth, Deputy High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, Lieutenant Colonel Dan Hauser, Australian Defence Adviser to Brunei Darussalam. Representing HMAS PARRAMATTA was Commander Anita Nemarich, Commanding Officer. Her Excellency Tiffany McDonald participated later on in the program for the bilateral discussion.

28 May (M3)

RBN ships KDB DARULEHSAN, KDB SYAFAAT conducting Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS PARRAMATTA.





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OF US**



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