

Royal Brunei Navy

AMAN SAMUDERA

امن ساموديرا



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Life at Sea:

A Seaman's Tale
of Duty & Discovery

Waspada Class MGBs:

2nd Gen Legacy

Dedication & Devotion:

A Committed Naval
Clerk

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Royal Brunei Navy

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Message from Editor-In-Chief

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi
Wabarakatuh,

I'm Back! What an honour it's been to steer once again the Aman Samudera for its 7th issue, I am incredibly proud to present a diverse and engaging range of articles that highlight the very best of our naval community. This issue reflects not only our heritage and traditions but also the forward-thinking innovations and strategies that will shape the future of the Royal Brunei Navy. From celebrating our rich naval history to exploring cutting-edge developments in technology and defence tactics, there is something within these pages for everyone—whether you're a seasoned sailor, an aspiring officer, or a civilian interested in our nation's defence.

One of the standout features of this issue is our in-depth coverage of the National Resilience Course, where we explore the strategic thinking and leadership development that are key to national security. We've also captured personal reflections on leadership, offering insight into the character and dedication that defines our Navy's leaders. Another exciting feature dives into the Royal Brunei Navy's expanding role in defence diplomacy, underscoring how we are fostering international cooperation and strengthening security partnerships within the region and beyond.

In addition, we provide a first-hand account of the Navy's participation in the latest maritime exercises, alongside a close look at the integration of new technologies like the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), marking yet another milestone in the modernisation



of our fleet. Personal stories from our personnel, both at sea and in training, serve to remind us of the resilience, dedication, and professionalism that are the backbone of the Royal Brunei Navy. These are the individuals who carry the Navy's legacy forward, and we are proud to share their stories with you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the entire editorial team, whose tireless efforts and dedication have brought this issue to life. It is no small feat to coordinate and assemble such a wide array of content, and their creativity and commitment have made this issue truly special. As we launch the 7th issue of Aman Samudera, I am filled with excitement and pride for what we have achieved together. This magazine continues to be a platform to celebrate our accomplishments, share our challenges, and look forward to the future.

Thank you for your continued support and readership. I hope that, as you turn through these pages, you will feel the same sense of pride and inspiration that we have as we put this issue together. Here's to many more issues that showcase the strength, resilience, and excellence of the Royal Brunei Navy!

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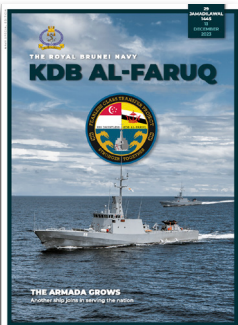
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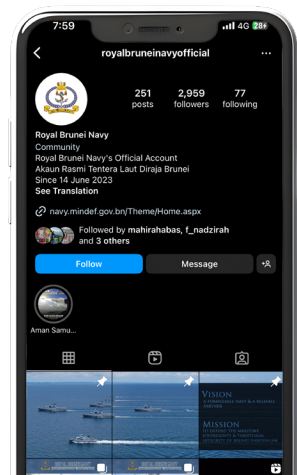
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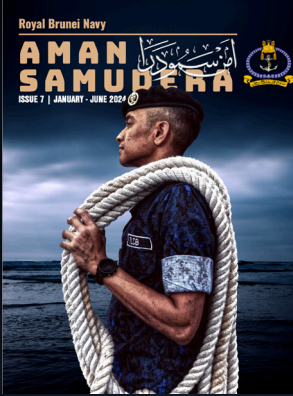
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COVER STORY

Life at Sea: A Seaman's Tale of Duty and Discovery



Able Rate Muhammad Afiq bin Haji Zulazmi has always been drawn to the sea. Raised in a family steeped in naval tradition, the tales of seafaring adventure and bravery told by his brother and uncle ignited his imagination from a young age. The call of the ocean was undeniable, and by the time he turned eighteen, Muhammad



Able Rate Muhammad Afiq with his brother and family.

Afiq knew where his future lay. Determined to serve his nation on the open seas, he joined the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) after several attempts, finally becoming part of Recruits of Intake 166 in 2020 at the age of twenty.

The journey to becoming a sailor was far from easy. The initial phase of training

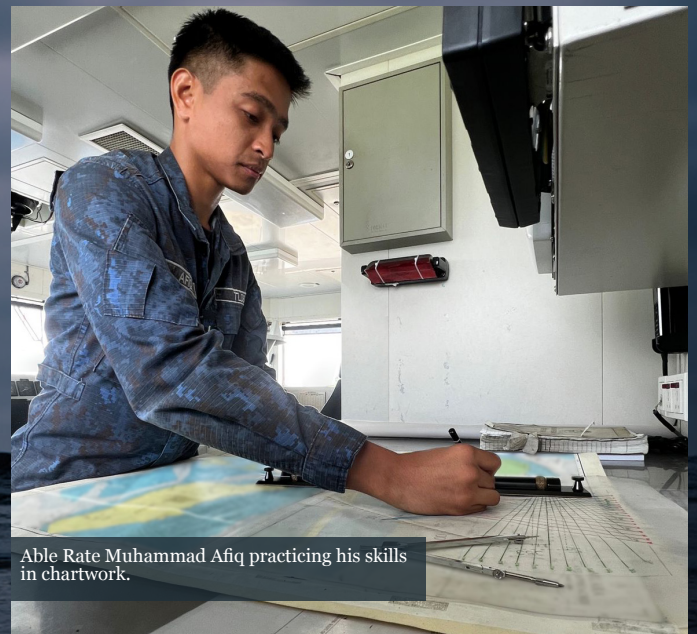
was intense, pushing him to his physical and mental limits. The discipline required was unyielding, and the challenges were relentless. Yet, Muhammad Afiq remained resolute, driven by the vision of one day wearing the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) uniform with pride. The camaraderie among the recruits became a source of strength; the friendships he forged during those demanding days would become the bedrock of his naval career.

Upon completing his rigorous training, Muhammad Afiq was assigned to the RBN as an on-the-job trainee (OJT) before being posted as an Above Water Tactical (AWT) attachment onboard KDB SYAFAAT. The first time he stood on the deck, with the vast expanse of the sea stretching out before him, he was overwhelmed with a sense of pride and accomplishment. The ocean, endless and mysterious, was now his domain.

Life aboard KDB SYAFAAT was both demanding and rewarding. Muhammad Afiq quickly adapted to the rhythms of naval life, mastering his duties and earning the respect of his shipmates. Each day brought new challenges, but it also offered countless opportunities for personal and professional growth. He found excitement in navigating through rough waters and solace in the tranquillity of starlit nights on the open sea.

Among the many skills Muhammad Afiq honed, knot-tying became a particular source of satisfaction. The art of creating knots like the bowline, clove hitch, and square knot became second nature, each twist and turn of the rope grounding him in the moment. Knot-tying was not just a skill; it was a meditative practice that connected him to the long tradition of sailors who had come before him.

His expertise extended far beyond knot-tying. At the chart table, surrounded by nautical maps and instruments, Muhammad Afiq meticulously plotted courses and marked positions. Navigation was an art that required precision, patience, and a deep understanding of the sea. He calculated distances, studied tides, and anticipated potential hazards, all while guiding his ship safely to its destination. His skill in chartwork became invaluable during long voyages, turning complex calculations into the confidence that the ship was always on the right course. Through his Basic AWT Course, he acquired essential navigation skills that prepared him to become a skilled navigator, capable of leading the ship through even the most challenging conditions.



Able Rate Muhammad Afiq practicing his skills in chartwork.

Beyond his duties at sea, Muhammad Afiq's service took him to places and experiences that broadened his horizons. In 2021, during the second wave of COVID-19, he was deployed to the COVID-19 Holding Area Belait 6th Form (CHABEL6) in Kuala Belait, where he played a crucial role in the nation's pandemic response. In 2022, he participated in Exercise PELICAN 40/22 in Singapore, a bilateral exercise that strengthened ties between the Royal Brunei Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy.

As the years have passed, Muhammad Afiq's love for the sea has only deepened, and his ambition to become a Coxswain is clear. His voyages have taken him to distant shores, allowing him to experience cultures and landscapes he once only dreamed of. The Royal Brunei Navy has given him a purpose, a place in the world, and a role as a guardian of the waters he has always revered. Now serving as an AWT attachment onboard KDB DAMUAN, Muhammad Afiq continues his journey, ever dedicated to the life at sea that has become his calling.



Royal Brunei Navy Marks 59 Years of Service with Grand Parade and Commemorative Events

The Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) celebrated its 59th Anniversary with a series of ceremonial events, starting with a Grand Parade held at the RBN Parade Square. The parade, led by Lieutenant Commander Mohd Akhmal bin Mohd Akbal, RBN, showcased the RBN's traditions, values, and dedication to service.

As the dawn broke over Muara Naval Base, the RBN kicked off the anniversary with the morning colours ceremony, a timeless tradition symbolising the Navy's honour and discipline. This poignant ceremony set the tone for the day, highlighting the RBN's steadfast commitment to Brunei Darussalam's maritime security.

The celebrations continued with the Grand Parade, graced by the Guest of Honour, Captain Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudin bin Matsrudin, Acting Commander of the RBN. In his commemorative speech, Captain Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudin applauded the high standards of professionalism displayed by the parade participants, noting that their performance symbolised the unwavering spirit and discipline of the Navy. He emphasised the significance of leadership, discipline, and adherence to core values, including professionalism, loyalty, courage, and piety. Furthermore, he acknowledged the vital contributions of the civilian and private sectors in supporting the RBN's operational efficiency.

Captain Haji Mohamad Sarif Pudin also took the opportunity to reflect on the RBN's significant milestones over the past 59 years, notably the commissioning of the AS-SIDDIQ Class and the adoption of advanced technologies like Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs). He urged the RBN personnel to continue striving for excellence while maintaining a healthy work-life balance, ensuring their optimal performance and well-being. Concluding his address, he expressed gratitude to all those involved in organising the anniversary celebration and offered prayers for Allah SWT's continued protection and guidance.

The Grand Parade was followed by the presentation of awards and certificates, recognising the outstanding achievements and professionalism of RBN officers and sailors. Among the accolades, the prestigious RBN Command Badge was awarded to Lieutenant Commander Aliashim bin Alias, RBN, and Lieutenant Commander Awg Mohd Zulyamin bin Awg Mohd Noor, RBN. In addition, the RBN Officer

of the Watch Certificates were presented to several officers, including Lieutenant Junior Grade Ahmad Mu'aadz bin Haji Abdul Razak, RBN, and Lieutenant Junior Grade Harzelah@Nurfazelah binti Yakub, RBN, in recognition of their skills and dedication.

Further awards celebrated a wide range of professional achievements. Lieutenant Junior Grade Dk Rabiatal Muthiah binti Pg Haji Ismail, RBN, received the Rules of the Road Masters award, while WO2 Norafendy Syuaib bin Rusli, RBN, was honoured with the Sauh Emas award. Other accolades included the Bintang Harapan award to Leading Hand Pg Muhd Wafuiddin bin Pg Mohd Jailani, and the Best Engineer awards to both commissioned and non-commissioned officers, highlighting the Navy's engineering prowess. Notably, awards were also given for fitness excellence, underscoring the RBN's commitment to physical readiness. Recipients included Lieutenant Commander Ak Faizul Azmizan bin Pg Hj Rajali, RBN, for the Officers' Category, and Petty Officer Muhammad Adi Firdaus bin Abu Bakar, for the male NCOs' Category, among others.

The event was further blessed with a Doa Selamat recited by Ustaz Muhammad Sabqi bin Nasar, RBN Religious Officer. Following this spiritual observance, the ceremony concluded with a group photo at Jetty Alpha, capturing the unity and pride of the RBN on this momentous occasion.

In the lead-up to the anniversary, a series of events were held to honour the RBN's legacy, including a Tahlil at the Royal Brunei Mausoleum, a Khatam Al-Qur'an ceremony, and a Doa Kesyukuran. These events not only reflected the Navy's deep-rooted traditions but also its commitment to faith and community. Looking ahead, more celebratory events are planned, such as Mess Dinners in all RBN messes, motivational talks, and the RBN Family Day, aiming to foster camaraderie and reflect on the Navy's journey and achievements.

The 59th Anniversary of the Royal Brunei Navy stands as a testament to the RBN's enduring legacy of service, excellence, and commitment to safeguarding the nation's maritime interests. As the RBN looks forward to its 60th year and beyond, it remains steadfast in its mission to serve Brunei Darussalam with honour, courage, and dedication.

CORE VALUES & CAREER ASPIRATIONS: INSIGHTS FROM A DEDICATED SAILOR

Success is a journey filled with dedication, challenges, and continuous growth. In this article, we explore the motivations, work habits, and aspirations of a personnel who is committed to excellence in every aspect of their career and earned himself the Sauh Emas award.

For many, family serves as the cornerstone of their drive to succeed, and WO2 Norafendy Syuaib bin Rosli, is no exception. When asked what motivates him to excel in his role, the answer is simple yet profound: “Family.” The unwavering support and love from family members provide the energy and determination needed to thrive in the workplace.



Mustering with KDB DAMUAN's crew before sail.



Warrant Officer 2 Norafendy spending time with his beloved family.



Warrant Officer 2 Norafendy demonstrating his command during his Qualifying Coxswain Assessment.

At the heart of our naval operations, one sailor's unwavering commitment and spiritual grounding define his approach to both personal and professional life. For him, the core value of Taqwa—a deep sense of piety and God-consciousness—stands as a guiding light, keeping him focused and significantly contributing to his success at work. This spiritual foundation informs his decisions and actions, permeating every aspect of his duties.

When it comes to dispensing advice to fellow sailors, he emphasises the importance of starting each workday with enthusiasm and a positive mindset. He encourages his peers to be adaptable to changes and to strive for excellence through positive competition, ensuring the production of quality work. This mindset not only fosters personal growth but also enhances the collective capability of the team.

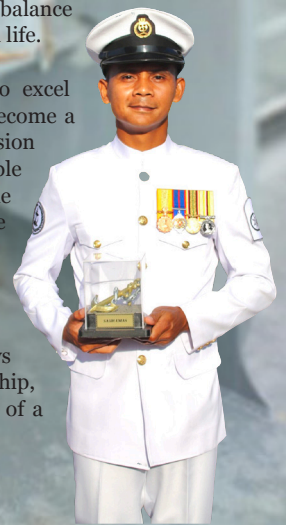
Leadership, in his view, extends beyond task management. It involves guiding and supporting team members, helping them develop through motivation and constructive feedback. By fostering a nurturing environment, he plays a pivotal role in enabling his team members to grow and succeed in their respective roles.

To continuously improve his skills and knowledge, he actively engages in training programs and courses, a testament to his commitment to professional development. The support and incentives from his superiors also play a crucial role, encouraging craftsmanship and ongoing learning.

Maintaining a healthy work-life balance, especially during busy periods, is essential to him. His family is a cornerstone of his well-being, providing support and motivation that fuel his enthusiasm for work and aiding in stress management. Prioritising quality time with family allows him to relax and recharge, maintaining a crucial balance that benefits his professional and personal life.

Looking to the future, he aspires to excel in every unit he is placed in, aiming to become a role model for the new generation. His vision is anchored to a desire to lead by example and inspire others to uphold the same high standards and core values of the organisation.

Through his dedication and strategic approach, this sailor not only excels in his current role but also lays a solid foundation for future leadership, embodying the ideals and aspirations of a truly inspirational naval professional.



DEDICATION & DEVOTION: A Committed Naval Clerk



By: Lt Nabilah Sa'adatul Hayat binti Shamsul Hayat, RBN

At the core of our naval operations, where diligence and integrity converge, stands a clerk whose motivation and commitment light the way for his colleagues. Inspired by the wisdom of his former head of department, he embodies sincerity in every task—be it paperwork or direct responsibilities. He believes that the true fruits of hard work are revealed over time, a testament to his dedication to seeing tasks through to completion.

Success, as he narrates, comes not solely from diligence but also from a deeper, spiritual commitment. Adhering to values of piety and reliance on Allah, he approaches every duty, whether as a simple clerk or in any other role, with a prayer for ease and success. This blend of professional diligence and spiritual reliance forms the cornerstone of his achievements.

A typical day for him involves prioritising his clerical duties while also managing responsibilities as the PMC Mariners Club. Effective time management and delegation, especially with assistance from his team, ensure that all tasks are updated with the latest information, keeping operations smooth and efficient.

Supporting and guiding his team members is a role he takes to heart. He boosts their morale by reminding them of the higher purpose of their work and the sustenance it provides for their families. This perspective not only enhances their commitment but also reinforces the halal nature of their earnings.

To continuously improve his skills and knowledge, he regularly reviews his work, takes detailed notes for future reference, and isn't shy about consulting more experienced colleagues. This proactive learning approach ensures he remains adept and informed.

Balancing work and personal life, especially during busy periods, is a challenge he acknowledges. To maintain his health and well-being, he engages in sports after work hours and catches up on tasks over the weekends. This balance helps him sustain his stamina and stay productive.

Looking ahead, he sees this phase as just the beginning of his career in the service. With trust in Allah's provision and support from his family, he plans to further his skills and responsibilities. His goals are clear: to continue enhancing his capabilities, aiding in the welfare of others, and setting an example in welfare management.

To his fellow sailors, he offers a piece of advice steeped in realism and encouragement, to always be prepared for any task, and never hesitate to seek help if unsure. Embracing the proverb "No pain, no gain," he emphasises the necessity of perseverance and resilience in overcoming challenges and achieving success.

Through his story, we glimpse the profound dedication of our naval personnel, whose commitment extends beyond the mere completion of tasks to fostering an environment of continuous growth and spiritual grounding.



Leading Hand Wafiuddin is an avid supporter of the body-building community



Maintaining his fitness level through a work-life balance regime.



Achieving a winning goal in this year's RBN Tug-of-War Competition.



Leading the contingent during the Junior Rate's Promotion Ceremony.



The biggest supporters in Leading Hand Wafiuddin's life.

Dedication, hard work, and a strong work ethic—these are the qualities that have earned 50428 Leading Hand Pg Muhd Wafiuddin bin Pg Mohd Jalani, the prestigious Bintang Harapan award at the RBN's 59th Anniversary. Recognised for his outstanding performance and dedication, LH Wafiuddin has set a new standard of excellence within the RBN. This achievement is a testament to their consistent effort, positive attitude, and ability to go above and beyond in every task he undertakes.



The Promise of Progress: The Leadership Vision of Jurutera Harapan – Petty Officer Abdul Azim bin Haji Md Rhyme

In the intricate world of naval engineering, where precision and resilience are paramount, Petty Officer (PO) Abdul Azim bin Haji Md Rhyme stands out as a beacon of excellence. Recently honoured with the prestigious title of Jurutera Harapan 2024, PO Azim's remarkable journey is a testament to relentless hard work, unyielding dedication, and an unwavering commitment to both personal and professional growth. In an exclusive interview, PO Azim reflects on the motivations, challenges, and core values that have shaped his exemplary career within the Royal Brunei Navy.

For PO Azim, the foundation of his success lies not solely in technical prowess but in the unwavering support and encouragement he receives from his colleagues and superiors. "The motivation to excel comes from the continuous support and guidance I receive from my Head of Department and peers," he explains. This nurturing environment has been instrumental in his growth within the military—a career that demands both mental and physical endurance.

At the forefront of PO Azim's work ethic are the values of Taqwa (piety) and professionalism. These guiding principles inform every action he takes, ensuring that each task is approached with sincerity and dedication. "These values have been instrumental in my success, helping me navigate the challenges and responsibilities that come with the role," he shares.

A typical day in PO Azim's life is characterized by high productivity and an unwavering attention to detail. As a naval engineer, he is responsible for the meticulous inspection and testing of critical equipment, ensuring that the ship is always prepared to set sail without issues. His role is vital

to the operational readiness of the Royal Brunei Navy, and he approaches it with a deep sense of duty and precision.

Continuous learning is the cornerstone of PO Azim's professional development. He consistently seeks guidance from more experienced colleagues and remains open to new ideas, a mindset that has kept him at the forefront of his field. "I never shy away from asking questions or seeking help. It's important to stay curious and explore new ideas," he emphasizes. This thirst for knowledge has been key to his success, driving him to constantly improve and innovate in his role.

Balancing the demands of his career with personal well-being is essential to PO Azim. He achieves this balance through careful time management and a strong spiritual foundation. Outside of work, PO Azim finds solace in hiking, a physically demanding hobby that also provides mental rejuvenation. "Hiking gives me a sense of accomplishment and helps me recharge, even though it can be physically exhausting," he notes. This practice not only strengthens his body but also clears his mind, allowing him to maintain peak performance in his professional life.

Looking ahead, PO Azim's aspirations are clear: to rise to the position of Head of Department, where he can guide and mentor the next generation of engineers. "I want to be someone my team can rely on for advice and support," PO Azim shares. His vision for the future is one of leadership and responsibility, driven by a desire to give back to the community that has supported him throughout his career.

For aspiring engineers, PO Azim offers invaluable advice: "Never be afraid to ask questions or seek advice. Stay committed, and don't let

setbacks discourage you. Success comes to those who are willing to learn and grow." His words reflect the wisdom of someone who has navigated the challenges of his profession with grace and determination.

Despite his recent achievements, PO Azim remains focused on continuous improvement. "I believe there's always room for growth, whether it's building self-confidence or taking on more responsibility. My goal is to continue honing my skills and leading by example," he states. His journey is far from over; it is a constant pursuit of excellence, marked by a commitment to both personal and professional development.

As PO Azim continues to excel in his role, his story serves as a powerful inspiration to all who strive for excellence in their careers. With a blend of technical expertise, strong values, and a commitment to lifelong learning, PO Azim exemplifies what it means to be a true leader in naval engineering. His journey is not just a personal triumph but a beacon of hope for those who follow in his footsteps, proving that with dedication and perseverance, the promise of progress is within reach.



Hiking with Head of Department and peers.



Petty Officer Abdul Azim conducting engine trials.

"I want to be someone my team can rely on for advice and support"

Engineering Triumph: Celebrating the Exemplary Achievements of WO1 Johari Bin Haji Ludin, RBN

In the ever-evolving world of engineering, becoming a leader requires more than just technical skill—it demands dedication, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to continuous growth. This year, the Royal Brunei Navy proudly honours WO1 Johari bin Haji Ludin as the Best Engineer of 2024, a recognition of his exceptional contributions and leadership.

WO1 Johari's journey to excellence is deeply grounded in a philosophy of perseverance and resilience. "Don't be afraid to fail or lose heart when the burden feels too heavy," he reflects. This mindset has been the cornerstone of his career, guiding him through the inevitable challenges that arise in the demanding field of engineering. For WO1 Johari, failure is not a setback but a stepping stone—a crucial opportunity to learn and grow. "If you fail, use that failure as a learning experience," he emphasises, underscoring a principle that has propelled him to the forefront of his profession.



Warrant Officer 1 Johari as the Floor Manager

A key factor behind WO1 Johari's success is his ability to cultivate strong, collaborative relationships within the workplace. "I believe that sharing views and ideas with colleagues, and appreciating constructive criticism, is essential," he explains. This openness to dialogue and feedback not only enhances the quality of his work but also strengthens the bonds within his team. His approach fosters an environment of mutual respect and shared learning, where every team member feels valued and empowered to contribute their best.

Leadership, in WO1 Johari's view, is built on trust and fairness. "I maintain ongoing good relationships and trust with my team, treating everyone equally and fairly," he says. This inclusive leadership style is a testament to his belief in the power of teamwork and the importance of creating a cohesive, supportive environment. By ensuring that every team member is treated with respect and given the opportunity to grow, WO1 Johari has built a team that is not only highly skilled but also deeply motivated and committed to excellence.

Balancing the demands of a high-pressure career with personal well-being is a challenge that WO1 Johari has mastered through careful time management and a strong sense of self-discipline. "I organise my time well between work and personal life, so I have enough time for both and don't feel stressed," he shares. His hobbies—camping, traveling, and hiking—provide him with the perfect escape from the rigors of his profession, allowing him to recharge and maintain his motivation. These activities not only offer relaxation but also help him return to work with renewed energy and focus.

When asked for his advice to others, WO1 Johari offers a message of resilience and persistence: "Avoid easily feeling disappointed and discouraged if you don't achieve what you dream of. Be consistent and always ready to face challenges." His journey is a powerful reminder that excellence is achieved not just through technical skill, but through the right attitude, persistence, and a commitment to ongoing growth.

WO1 Johari's achievements are a lights of inspiration, demonstrating that true leadership in engineering is not just about individual success, but about uplifting others and fostering a spirit of collaboration and continuous improvement. As he continues to excel, his story will undoubtedly inspire future generations of engineers to strive for excellence with the same dedication and resilience that have defined his remarkable career.



Kapal panji2 di- lanchar

SINGAPURA.— Kapal panji2 Angkatan Laut Pertama AMDB yang baru telah di-lancharkan di-sini pada minggu lalu. KDB Waspada telah di-lancharkan dengan rasmi-nya oleh Ketua Pegawai Kebajikan, Datin Hajah Zaharah bte Haji Idris. Pemerintah AMDB, Col. Norman Roberts juga hadir di-upacara tersebut.

Kapal yang panjang-nya 220 kaki itu mempunyai kelajuan 35 knot. Ia-nya juga di-lengkapi dengan sistem radar dan radio serta peluru berpandu.

Kapal tersebut akan tiba dalam pertengahan tahun depan sa-lepas menjalani ujian pelayaran. Dua buah kapal yang sa-rupa juga sedang dalam pembenaan. Sa-buah dari-nya akan siap dalam bulan Oktober dan sa-buah lagi enam bulan sa-lepas itu.



Waspada Class MGBs :2nd Gen Legacy

The acquisition of the WASPADA-Class, Fast Attack Crafts-Missiles (FAC-M) in the 1970s marked a pivotal turning point in the evolution of the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN), transforming it into a formidable maritime force capable of safeguarding Brunei's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Armed with the Exocet MM38 surface-to-surface missiles, these vessels enabled the RBN to execute Over The Horizon Targeting (OHT) operations, significantly expanding the Navy's ability to project power and protect national waters.

Between 1977 and 1978, the RBN commissioned three Missile Gun Boats: KDB WASPADA, KDB SETERIA, and KDB PEJUANG. Built by Vosper Thornycroft in Tanjung Rhu, Singapore, these vessels symbolised the Navy's transition into a 2nd-generation force, bridging the gap from a coastal defence unit to a navy with extended reach and capabilities. KDB WASPADA (Po2) was commissioned in June 1977, followed by KDB PEJUANG (Po3) and KDB SETERIA (Po4) in June 1978. This moment in Brunei's naval history signalled a new era, where the RBN began to play a more prominent role in national defence and regional cooperation.

Each WASPADA-class vessel was equipped with 30mm Oerlikon guns and Exocet MM38 missiles. Measuring 37 meters in length, with a beam of 7.2 meters and a draft of 1.8 meters, these ships were capable of operating independently over a range of 1,200 nautical miles at a cruising speed of 14 knots. Their capabilities were put to the test during the Navy's first missile launch exercise, Exercise RAJAWALI, in 1979, which showcased their ability to engage targets well beyond the horizon, further solidifying the RBN's transition into a more sophisticated naval force.

The WASPADA-Class Missile Gun Boats played a critical role in enhancing the RBN's defence diplomacy through participation in bilateral and regional exercises. In 1979, KDB WASPADA and KDB SETERIA participated in Exercise PELICAN, the Navy's first bilateral exercise with the Republic of Singapore Navy. Throughout the 1980s, these vessels were deployed on various missions across the region, visiting strategic locations such as Pontianak, Banjarmasin, and Balikpapan in Indonesia, as well as Manado in Sulawesi and Sandakan in Sabah, Malaysia. Their operational deployment even extended as far as Hong Kong, representing Brunei on the international stage.

In the years that followed, the WASPADA-class ships continued to represent Brunei at prestigious international events. They participated in ARUNG SAMUDERA 95: Sail Indonesia and International Review in Surabaya, Indonesia

Full steam ahead for PELICAN V 1983



Berita Harian

HARIAN BERBAHASA MELAYU YANG TUNGGAL DI SINGAPURA

Bot KDB Sateria Kerajaan Brunei dilancar

SYARIKAT Vosper Sendirian Berhad akan meluaskan dan memodenkan kelengkapan pertukangannya bagi memenuhi pertambahan pesanan untuk bot-bot bersenjata jenis terbaru.

Langkah itu perlu diambil dan dipenuhi dalam masa beberapa bulan ini, Encik Robert Du Cane, pengarah urusan Vosper.

Syarikat itu semakin banyak menerima tempahan dari berbagai negara di seluruh dunia.

\$100 juta

Dia berkata demikian ketika berucap di upacara melancarkan bot KDB Sateria, yang merupakan bot ketiga dalam satu tempahan Kerajaan Brunei untuk Rejimen Melayu Diraja Brunei.

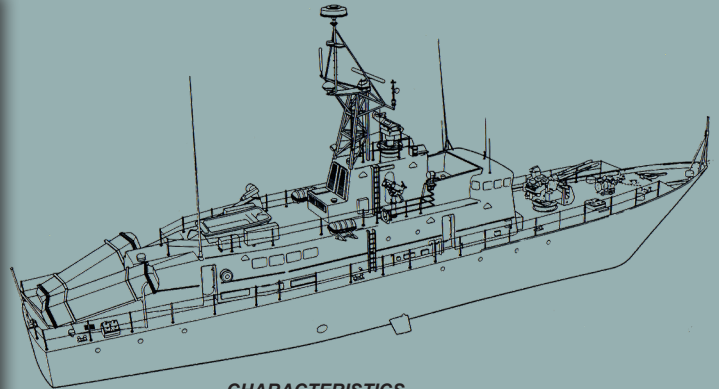
Kontrak yang diterima dari Kerajaan Brunei itu bernilai \$100 juta dan merupakan tempahan terbesar yang diterima oleh syarikat berkenaan.

Vosper, jelasnya, akan membesarkan dan memperbaiki skim latihan pekerja baru dan menyediakan jurulatih sepenuh masa yang dapat membekalkan pelatih dengan kemahiran teknologi terbaru.

Ketiga-tiga bot yang ditempah oleh Kerajaan Brunei itu berukuran 37 meter panjang dan tiap satu dilengkapi dengan peluru-peluru berpandu.

Pengiran Datin Zubaidah, isteri Leftenan Kolonel Pengiran Ibnu dari Rejimen Melayu Diraja Brunei telah melancarkan kapal tersebut.





CHARACTERISTICS

Class	- Waspada Class	
Name	Pennant	Commissioned
WASPADA	- P02	- 1978
PEJUANG	- P03	- 1979
SETERIA	- P04	- 1979
Displacement	- 150 tonnes	
Dimensions (m)	- 36.9 x 7.2 x 1.8	
Missiles	- SSM; MM38 Exocet (2 single Launchers); inertial cruise; active radar homing to 23 Nm at 0.9 mach; warhead 165 kg.	
Guns	- Twin cannon 30 mm Oerlikon GCM-B01; 650 rds/min effective to 5.5 Nm; 2 MGS	
Countermeasures	- ESM: Decca RDL; radar warning	
Radars	- Surface search; Kelvin Hughes Type 1007	
Main Engines	- 2 MTU 53BTB 91 diesels; 9000 bhp; 2 shafts	
	- 32 knots	
Range	- 1200 Nm @ 14 knots	
Complement	- 24 Crew (4 Officers, 20 ratings)	

in 1995, and the International Fleet Review in 1998, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Philippine Navy. In 2004, they were able to demonstrate their versatility sailing in consort with the likes of amphibious dock landing ship USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) and guided missile destroyer USS McCampbell (DDG 85) as part of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT), a bilateral exercise with the United States Navy (pictured below). These international engagements underscored Brunei's growing reputation in global maritime cooperation and symbolised the Royal Brunei Navy's leap into its 2nd-generation phase, characterised by increased readiness and regional influence.



Welded steel hull with aluminium alloy superstructure. KDB WASPADA had an enclosed upper bridge.

Such activities exemplified the RBN's capacity to conduct independent operations, demonstrating the Navy's professionalism and ability to collaborate with regional and international counterparts. Over three decades, the WASPADA-class vessels stood as the backbone of the Navy, consistently safeguarding Brunei's maritime interests while representing the nation in international forums.

In April 2011, these iconic vessels were decommissioned with full honours. KDB WASPADA and KDB PEJUANG were subsequently handed over to the Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) on April 14, 2011, where they continue to serve as KRI SALAWAKU (642) and KRI BADAU (643).

The acquisition and service of the WASPADA-class ships marked a significant milestone in the Royal Brunei Navy's history. These vessels not only extended Brunei's maritime reach but also laid the foundation for the Navy's transformation into a 2nd-Generation Naval Force—capable of independent operations, regional diplomacy, and contributing to the wider security framework of Southeast Asia.

The WASPADA-class legacy continues to be a point of pride for the Navy, serving as a symbol of its evolution from a coastal defence force to a capable maritime player, ready to take on the challenges of a modern navy. Through their decades of service, these ships left an indelible mark on the Royal Brunei Navy, representing a crucial phase in its history as it prepared to take the next step toward becoming a 21st-century naval force.



Pictured top from R to L: KDB PEJUANG coming alongside aft of USS ROBERT E PEARY in 1989; The crew and Captain of KDB SETERIA manning the rails in 2008; KDB WASPADA seen from Louisa Reef on a routine patrol in 2009; KDB WASPADA and KDB SETERIA taking berth in HMS TAMAR (shore station) Hong Kong in 1980. L: KDB PEJUANG under way making way passing Pelong Rock after a seaday in 2007.

Naval History

Today, the Freedom of Entry is a formal event steeped in tradition, yet it remains a living symbol of the relationship between a Naval unit and the community it serves. The ceremony typically begins with a request from the Naval unit to the city, asking for permission to enter. This request is often delivered by a Commanding Officer to the city's Mayor or another civic leader. The request, though symbolic, underscores the respect the military holds for the authority and autonomy of the city.

Once the permission is granted, the Naval unit proceeds to march through the city "with swords drawn, drums beating, and colours flying," reflecting the unit's readiness and pride. The parade is usually accompanied by a military band, adding to the pageantry and ceremonial atmosphere. Civic leaders often play a prominent role in the event, welcoming the unit and participating in the parade, which symbolises the unity and cooperation between the military and the civilian population.

The ceremony may also include the reading of a formal proclamation by the city's mayor, detailing the reasons for granting the Freedom of Entry and highlighting the historical and contemporary significance of the relationship between the city and the military unit. This proclamation often reflects on the shared history, values, and mutual respect that bind the military and civilian communities together. In some cities, this event has evolved to include community celebrations, such as festivals or open days at military installations, further strengthening the connection between the armed forces and the public they protect.

The Significance of Freedom of Entry

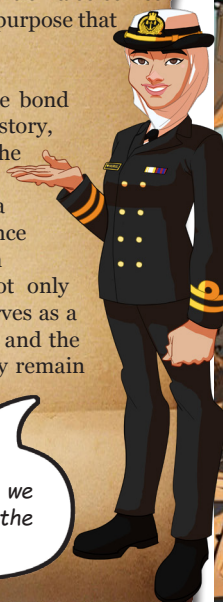


While the Freedom of Entry ceremony is rooted in history, its significance in modern times cannot be overstated. In an era where the connection between the military and the civilian population can sometimes feel distant, this tradition serves as a reminder of the deep ties that exist between the two. It is an opportunity for the public to express their appreciation for the sacrifices made by service members and for the military to demonstrate its commitment to the protection and well-being of the community. The ceremony also provides a rare opportunity for civilians to witness the discipline, unity, and professionalism of the Naval forces up close, fostering greater understanding and respect.

The Freedom of Entry also reinforces the notion that the military exists to serve the people, not to impose upon them. By seeking permission to enter a city, the military unit acknowledges the authority of civic leaders and the importance of maintaining a respectful and cooperative relationship with the community. This interaction often leads to lasting partnerships, with cities recognizing the ongoing contributions of their local Naval units through commemorative plaques or annual celebrations.

For the naval units that participate in these ceremonies, the Freedom of Entry is more than just a parade. It is a mark of honour, recognising their professionalism, dedication, and the trust placed in them by the communities they protect. It is also a moment of reflection, reminding service members of the historical legacy they carry and the ongoing responsibility they bear to uphold the values of the naval force. This tradition also serves as a powerful tool for morale within the ranks, reinforcing the pride and purpose that come with military service.

The tradition of Freedom of Entry is a profound expression of the bond between a naval unit and the city it serves. It is a ceremony rich in history, yet deeply relevant in today's world, where the relationship between the military and the civilian population must be nurtured and celebrated. As cities continue to grant this honour to their naval forces, they reaffirm a relationship built on trust, respect, and a shared commitment to the defence of the nation. Through the Freedom of Entry, the legacy of cooperation and mutual respect between the military and the community is not only preserved but also strengthened for future generations. Moreover, it serves as a living testament to the enduring partnership between the armed forces and the societies they protect, ensuring that the values of service and civic duty remain intertwined in the fabric of national identity.



Hi there, It's me!
Lieutenant Nurul! in this issue's Naval History section we are going to explore an age-old naval tradition called the Freedom of Entry... Let's jump right in!

From the 17th Century...



All the way back to medieval times, maritime armed forces needed permission to enter a city, symbolising trust and mutual respect.



Permission granted by the Mayor marked the beginning of an age-old tradition.

Today...

The city has granted us the right to march through its streets, symbolising trust and shared history!

...the tradition continues as...

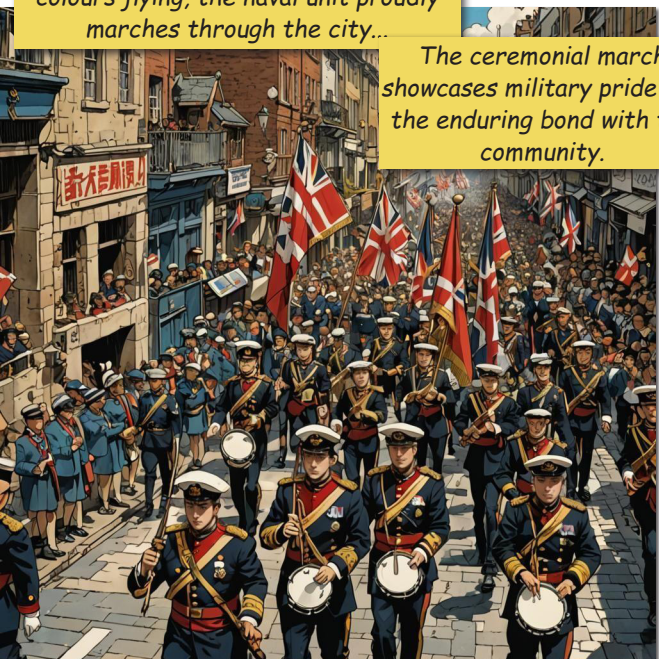
Freedom of Entry



With swords drawn, drums beating, and colours flying, the naval unit proudly marches through the city...

The ceremonial march showcases military pride and the enduring bond with the community.

Reinforcing the enduring bond between the military and the civilian community. A tradition that honours history, celebrates unity, and strengthens the future.



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DEFENDING THE SMALL: SMART STRATEGIES FOR TACKLING HYBRID THREATS

By: Lt Cdr Qurratu'aini Qayyimah Dr. Al-Haj Zelzy, RBN



Lt Cdr Qayyimah was the 1st place winner of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Essay Writing Competition with this submission and her work is published in the RBAF Defence Academy Journal SINARAN 3rd edition.

Hybrid threats are indeed a unique challenge. They blur the lines between peace, crisis, and war. They aim to undermine political cohesion by trying to amplify divisions amongst societies. They create ambiguity to complicate consensual decision-making, and they can undermine military responses in a crisis

In today's strategic landscape, hybrid threats present multifaceted challenges that transcend traditional forms of conflict. Defined by their use of diverse tactics—such as propaganda, economic pressure, sabotage, cyberattacks, and misinformation—hybrid threats aim to destabilise adversaries through non-military means while avoiding direct confrontation. These threats have evolved rapidly, fuelled by technological advancements and global interconnectedness, particularly impacting small states as they navigate the intricacies of international power dynamics. The need for an agile and nuanced approach to counter these threats has never been more crucial.

The Evolving Nature of Hybrid Threats

Hybrid threats are not a new concept. Historically, tactics like the Trojan Horse and strategies from Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* have demonstrated the use of deception and unconventional methods in conflict. In the 20th century, the Soviet doctrine of *maskirovka* exemplified the use of camouflage, concealment, and deception in both military operations and national security. Today, hybrid threats have become more sophisticated, exploiting the complexities of globalisation to challenge rules, values, and norms in international relations.

A prominent feature of hybrid threats is their ability to blend traditional and non-traditional tactics, creating dilemmas for defenders. These threats leverage ambiguity and deniability, operating below the threshold of open warfare to gain strategic advantages. In recent times, the situation in Crimea and activities in the South China Sea demonstrate how hybrid tactics are employed to alter the status quo without triggering conventional military responses. These actions blur the lines between peace and conflict, making it difficult for targeted states to respond effectively. The speed, scale, and intensity of modern hybrid threats, amplified by cyber capabilities and information warfare, present a daunting challenge for small states that often lack the resources and infrastructure to counter such threats effectively.

Hybrid Threats in the Current Security Discourse

Incidents such as those in Crimea and the use of irregular maritime militias in the South China Sea have sparked global debates on the changing nature of conflict. Hybrid threats have become a central theme in international security policy, forcing governments and defence organisations to rethink traditional defence strategies. The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine exemplifies the use of hybrid

tactics, ranging from cyberattacks and economic pressure to the use of proxy forces and misinformation campaigns.

Similarly, China's use of maritime forces, including fishing vessels and survey ships, to assert control over disputed waters demonstrates a calculated approach to avoid direct military confrontations while pursuing strategic objectives. These actions highlight how hybrid tactics can achieve political goals without provoking military escalation. For small states, these examples underscore the need for adaptive strategies that extend beyond conventional military power. The hybrid threat landscape has become increasingly fluid, with state and non-state actors exploiting legal grey areas, political divisions, and technological vulnerabilities to exert influence and achieve their objectives.

Opportunities and Vulnerabilities for Small States

Small states, by nature, face unique vulnerabilities in the face of hybrid threats. They often lack the military might to counter larger powers directly and may be more susceptible to non-military forms of coercion. However, these states also possess opportunities to leverage their position within the international system. Theories in international relations offer various perspectives:

Realist Approach: Focuses on the inherent vulnerability of small states in asymmetric power dynamics. It emphasises the limitations small states face in shaping their environment independently. This view underscores the need for small states to form alliances and seek the protection of larger powers to balance against threats.

Liberal Approach: Suggests that small states can influence stronger powers by leveraging their strengths in specific situations, often through international institutions and norms. Small states can advocate for a rules-based international order, using diplomacy and international law to constrain great power ambitions.

Constructivist Approach: Highlights the role of small states as norm entrepreneurs, advancing new norms and influencing global policy agendas despite their limited power. Small states can shape international discourse and mobilise global opinion in support of their interests, thereby enhancing their strategic influence.

Understanding these theories provides insight into how small states can navigate the complex spectrum of political, military, economic,

social, and informational (PMESI) domains. Politically, small states can utilise diplomacy and international norms to build alliances and counterbalance great power influence. Militarily, they can focus on niche capabilities, such as cyber defence, intelligence, and maritime domain awareness, to enhance their strategic posture. Economically, maintaining diversified trade relations and monitoring foreign investments can mitigate vulnerabilities to economic coercion. Socially, fostering resilience through media literacy, public trust, and societal cohesion is crucial to counter disinformation and hybrid influence operations.

Strategies for Addressing Hybrid Threats

To address hybrid threats effectively, small states need comprehensive strategies that encompass both defensive and proactive measures. Key strategies include:

Building Resilience

Establishing a resilient society is fundamental. The state must cultivate trust and engagement with its populace to withstand hybrid tactics aimed at sowing division. Media literacy initiatives, such as Finland's Mediapooli, can enhance public awareness and resilience against disinformation campaigns. By empowering citizens with the ability to discern credible information, states can prevent the erosion of social cohesion that hybrid actors often seek. Additionally, building institutional resilience through robust governance structures and crisis management mechanisms ensures that the state can respond effectively to hybrid attacks.

Enhancing Quality of Life

Improving living conditions, economic stability, and social welfare reduces the appeal of adversarial narratives. When citizens enjoy economic security, access to essential services, and a sense of participation in governance, they are less susceptible to external manipulation. Expanding wage employment, ensuring fair access to resources, and protecting fundamental freedoms strengthen societal resilience. The ability of the state to provide for its citizens creates a buffer against the discontent that hybrid actors exploit to foment unrest.

Monitoring Economic Dependencies

Small states must remain vigilant about trade relations and foreign investments that could provide leverage to hybrid threat actors. By detecting potential economic dependencies early, states can take measures to prevent these from becoming tools of coercion. Strategic economic policies, diversification of trade partners, and investment in domestic capabilities can mitigate the risks associated with economic coercion. For example, reducing reliance on critical foreign technologies and securing supply chains are vital in ensuring economic sovereignty and reducing vulnerability to external pressures.

Leveraging International Norms

While small states may not match great powers in military strength, they can wield influence through international norms and institutions. Active participation in global forums such as the United Nations and regional security frameworks provides small states with platforms to advocate for rule-based order, collective security, and peaceful conflict resolution. By championing international law, small states can hold hybrid actors accountable and garner international support for their positions. These mechanisms can act as a counterbalance against unilateral coercion by great powers, creating a collective response to hybrid threats.

Comprehensive Defence Capability

Small states should develop an all-encompassing defence capability that includes both military and non-military dimensions. This includes cyber defence, maritime security, intelligence, and strategic communications. By fostering interoperability and joint responses with allies and partners, small states can enhance their deterrence

posture. Building strong partnerships and alliances not only increases a state's ability to respond to hybrid threats but also sends a clear message of collective resistance to would-be aggressors. Integrated defence efforts that combine civil and military resources can enhance national security resilience against a spectrum of hybrid tactics.

Fostering International Partnerships: Engaging in international and regional partnerships enhances the security framework of small states. By participating in joint exercises, information-sharing networks, and multilateral agreements, small states can strengthen their security posture. Collaborative initiatives, such as those under NATO or ASEAN, provide small states with access to shared intelligence, best practices, and collective defence mechanisms. These partnerships act as a force multiplier, augmenting the capabilities of small states to resist hybrid threats.



Conclusion

Hybrid threats represent a complex and evolving challenge for small states in the contemporary security environment. These threats blur the lines between peace and war, leveraging a mix of military and non-military tactics to achieve strategic objectives. For small states, navigating this labyrinthine landscape requires a multifaceted approach that balances defence, diplomacy, and societal resilience.

By recognising their vulnerabilities and opportunities across the PMESI spectrum, small states can develop innovative strategies to counter hybrid threats. This involves building societal resilience, enhancing economic stability, fostering strategic partnerships, and leveraging international norms. In an era where statecraft extends beyond conventional military means, the ability of small states to adapt and innovate will be crucial in safeguarding their sovereignty and security.

The challenge for small states is not merely to react to hybrid threats but to proactively shape their security environment. This requires an enduring commitment to building societal resilience, strengthening alliances, and promoting a rules-based international order. Through continuous evaluation, strategic adaptation, and fostering a culture of innovation, small states can navigate the complexities of hybrid warfare, ensuring they remain resilient actors in an increasingly unpredictable world. Ultimately, the success of small states in countering hybrid threats depends on their ability to remain agile, maintain strategic clarity, and harness the collective strength of their people, institutions, and international partnerships.

From the 18th to 30th of June, 2024, I had the distinct privilege of participating in the Ship Rider Cooperation Program (SRCP), an event held aboard the prestigious Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force aircraft carrier, JS IZUMO. This program, a testament to Japan's commitment to regional security, brought together young naval officers and maritime police from 16 different countries, serving as an essential platform for addressing the complex and rapidly evolving challenges in the modern maritime domain.

The SRCP underscored the critical importance of maritime security in an era defined by rapid technological advancements, geopolitical shifts, and emerging threats. The program's primary focus was to enhance naval interoperability and collaboration through a series of exercises, seminars, and discussions that addressed contemporary warfare operations and the strategic role of naval power.

Key subjects throughout the program revolved around the integration of emerging technologies such as autonomous systems, cyber warfare, and the strategic imperative of protecting vital sea lanes. These discussions not only highlighted the increasing role of technology in naval operations but also emphasised the need for stronger international cooperation to ensure the security and stability of the maritime environment.

One of the most compelling aspects of the Ships Rider Program was its emphasis on collaborative strategies. Expert-led seminars delved into the necessity of joint operations and

shared intelligence to effectively counter threats such as piracy, territorial disputes, and potential regional conflicts. Through detailed case studies and scenario-based analyses, participants were able to explore best practices and innovative solutions aimed at enhancing maritime security and operational efficiency. The program stressed the critical need for a unified approach to addressing global maritime challenges, fostering a spirit of cooperation among diverse naval and maritime forces.

Beyond operational strategies, the program also provided valuable insights into Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Management (HADRM), a crucial component of modern naval operations. The inclusion of a Women, Peace, and Security seminar demonstrated the growing importance of gender equality in the military, reflecting global efforts to integrate diverse perspectives into peacekeeping and defence strategies. These seminars offered participants a holistic view of the challenges and responsibilities facing modern naval forces, broadening their understanding of both traditional and non-traditional security threats.

A standout feature of the SRCP was the invaluable networking opportunities it provided. Participants were not only able to forge stronger partnerships with their counterparts from various navies and maritime police branches but also had the chance to engage in meaningful cultural exchanges. These interactions fostered a sense of camaraderie and mutual respect, which is vital for building long-lasting alliances that are crucial in today's interconnected world.

Overall, the Ship Rider Cooperation Program was a transformative experience, providing young naval officers with an unparalleled platform to share and discuss contemporary maritime issues. The program reaffirmed the importance of strategic alliances and the power of collaboration in safeguarding global maritime interests. Through team-based activities and collective problem-solving, participants emerged with a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in maritime security, ensuring a secure and stable future for the international maritime community.

EXPLORING MODERN MARITIME CHALLENGES

The Japan-ASEAN, Pacific Islands and Timor-Leste Ship Rider Cooperation Program



Lieutenant Junior Grade Abdul Aziz@Muhammad Daud AlMuktafibilah bin Hj Mohd Rafee, RBN (2nd right) was onboard JS IZUMO for 12 days with 16 other participants including from Lao, The Philippines, Malaysia, Japan, Samoa, Vietnam, Brunei and Indonesia.

HONOURING 58 YEARS OF SERVICE: A CELEBRATION OF FAMILY, FITNESS, AND NAVAL PRIDE



The Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) recently marked its 58th anniversary with a vibrant celebration that seamlessly blended tradition, community, and a commitment to wellness. The day was meticulously planned to not only commemorate the Navy's rich history but also to strengthen the bonds among the RBN family and the broader community, while providing a glimpse into the life of those who serve.

The anniversary celebration was thoughtfully organized into three key segments: the Colours Ceremony, a Walkathon, and a lively Bazaar and Fun Fair. Each segment played a crucial role in reflecting the Navy's values of duty, unity, and resilience.

The day commenced with the solemn Colours Ceremony, where the naval ensign was raised with precision and pride. This act of respect for the RBN's storied traditions set the tone for the day, reminding everyone of the Navy's enduring legacy of service and excellence. Adding to the morning's energy was a spirited performance by the RBN Band, whose Mini Tattoo showcased the skill and dedication of our naval musicians.

The celebration continued with a Walkathon that led participants along a 1.5-kilometer route, starting from RBN's Parade Square Bravo and concluding at Jetty Bravo. This walk not only promoted physical fitness—a cornerstone of naval life—but also offered families an exclusive look at the RBN's operational facilities. Upon

arrival at Jetty Bravo, participants engaged in a Zumba session, emphasizing the importance of maintaining physical readiness in the Navy.

The final segment of the day was the Bazaar and Fun Fair, which brought a burst of excitement and camaraderie to the event. The fair featured a wide range of attractions, including an open ship tour, ship rides, a car and bike show, laser tag, and thrilling Go-Kart races. One of the day's highlights was the opportunity to explore RBN's vessels—KDB DARULEHSAN, KDB DARULAMAN, and KDB SYAFAAT—offering civilians a rare chance to step aboard and experience the Navy's operational environment firsthand.

Supporting the community spirit, many of the vendors at the bazaar were RBN personnel and their families, adding a personal touch to the festivities and underscoring the close-knit nature of the naval community.

The 58th anniversary celebration of the Royal Brunei Navy was more than just a commemoration; it was a vibrant testament to the unity and dedication that define the RBN. By bringing together service members and their families with the broader community, the event not only achieved its goals but set a new standard for future celebrations. It was a day that celebrated not just the past achievements of the RBN, but also the enduring spirit and future aspirations of the Navy as it continues to safeguard the nation's maritime interests.



FORGING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP:

A Senior Naval Officer's Journey at the National Resilience College

An Insight from Commander Sonny Iskandar bin Rasani, RBN



MAKTAB KETAHANAN NASIONAL NATIONAL RESILIENCE COLLEGE

Nurturing Strategic Thinkers Of Statesman Quality

In the heart of Malaysia's defence education system lies the prestigious National Resilience Course (NRC), conducted at the Malaysian Armed Forces National Centre for Defence Studies in Precinct 1, Putrajaya. As one of the elite institutions shaping military and civilian leaders, the centre is home to three key colleges: the Command Staff College, the Defence College, and the National Resilience College. This

practice, sharpening our analytical skills and cultivating a collaborative environment that placed critical thinking at the forefront. By solving complex problems, we learned how to develop effective strategies, a skill set essential for today's military and civilian leaders.

The global perspective offered by the course was enriched through overseas study visits to key international capitals like Paris, Seoul, and Bangkok, where we observed first-hand how different nations manage their defence and security sectors. These visits provided invaluable insights into the diverse approaches to national resilience, highlighting how other nations navigate their own challenges. The opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from global counterparts has broadened my understanding of international security cooperation and provided new perspectives on defence strategies.

Equally important were the ****domestic study tours**** across Malaysia, including visits to Pulau Penang, Lumut Perak, Sarawak, and Sabah. These local excursions allowed us to explore how Malaysia's defence, economic, and industrial sectors intersect to ensure national resilience. From defence industries to academic institutions and military establishments, these visits provided a well-rounded view of how various sectors contribute to the nation's security framework.

Beyond the academic rigor, one of the standout features of the NRC was the emphasis on building strong professional and personal networks. The camaraderie formed within our cohort was exceptional, further strengthened by



year, I had the privilege of joining the ranks of the NRC's participants, becoming one of the first international military officers to embark on this transformative 12-month journey.

The NRC is designed to challenge and develop leaders through a comprehensive curriculum that spans across critical domains such as diplomacy, politics, economics, defence, and policy studies. As part of one of four exclusive cohorts, I was immersed in a programme that fostered a deep understanding of regional and international security dynamics, with a focus on strengthening national resilience.

One of the most engaging aspects of the course was the National Power Practicum, an intensive exercise that required us to tackle real-world issues. This practicum was the perfect bridge between theory and





social activities and community events. My family accompanied me for the year, and the inclusive nature of the programme allowed my wife and youngest daughter to integrate into the course community. Whether it was attending Iftar during Ramadan, performing Tarawih prayers, or participating in sports events, the sense of unity and shared experience was palpable. These interactions fostered relationships that extended well beyond the classroom, creating lifelong connections with fellow military leaders.

As a Bruneian in Malaysia, the cultural similarities, shared language, and familiar way of life made the transition into this programme smooth, allowing me to focus more intently on the course without the adjustment challenges often faced when attending similar programmes abroad. This was a unique advantage, particularly when compared to my previous experiences in Australia and the United Kingdom.

One of the most significant moments during the course was being selected to present our final policy recommendation to a distinguished panel of ministers, deputy ministers, and senior military officers. Initially reserved for local officers, I was honoured to be chosen by the Commandant to present alongside my team leader, making history as the first international officer to present a policy recommendation to Malaysia's top defence and government officials. This was not only a

personal achievement but a testament to the NRC's inclusive approach to leadership development.

Completing the National Resilience Course is a milestone in my career, equipping me with invaluable knowledge and skills. From a deeper understanding of regional and global security to the nuances of diplomacy and the interconnectedness of defence and economics, the course has prepared me to take on more significant roles in both national and international arenas.



The National Resilience Course is more than just an academic pursuit. It is a comprehensive experience that offers unparalleled learning opportunities, practical application, and the chance to forge lasting relationships with fellow leaders. As I return home, I carry with me not only the knowledge gained but also the sense of duty to contribute to a more secure and resilient future. The NRC stands as a testament to the power of international cooperation and the critical role that education plays in preparing leaders to face the challenges of an increasingly complex world.



NAVAL DIPLOMACY

In the first half of 2024, the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) has demonstrated its strong commitment to defence diplomacy, solidifying its role as a key player in fostering international security and cooperation. Through a series of collaborative initiatives, the RBN has not only strengthened alliances but also contributed significantly to global stability. By actively engaging with partners and allies, the RBN has enhanced collective capabilities to respond to crises, secure borders, and promote peace, reflecting the tangible impact of its diplomatic efforts.

A highlight of this period is the Royal Brunei Navy's continued involvement in the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS). As one of the founding members since 1988, the RBN has been instrumental in the symposium's growth, which now includes 30 member states and 7 observer states. WPNS serves as a vital platform for naval cooperation, fostering Navy-to-Navy relations, mutual trust, and confidence among member nations. The symposium supports a wide range of programs,

from interaction initiatives for all ranks to practical exercises and exchange programs.

Scheduled for 2025, the RBN will host the WPNS Junior Officer Interaction Programme, aimed at fostering stronger connections among junior officers throughout the region. This initiative highlights Brunei's ongoing commitment to advancing naval diplomacy and reinforcing regional security.

Looking ahead, Royal Brunei Navy will be involved in more bilateral and multilateral exercises regionally. By leveraging their global reach, sustained presence, and versatility, the RBN has effectively protected Brunei's maritime interests, built enduring international partnerships, and contributed to the broader regional stability. The navy's unique capabilities to operate across vast oceans and engage in diverse missions make it an indispensable tool in the realm of defence diplomacy.



Farewell Call from Colonel Khanchit Wichaworn, the outgoing Defence Attache of Thailand and an Introductory Call by Captain Woravit Pranet, the incoming Defence Attache of Thailand on 4 April 2024.



Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy makes an Introductory Visit to Brunei Darussalam from 16 April until 18 April 2024.



The Acting Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy Received a Courtesy Call from Ms. Holly A. Haverstick, Director of International Affairs and Foreign Policy Advisor for the U.S Coast Guard on 3 June 2024



Courtesy Call from Colonel Markus Thiel, Defence Attache of the Federal Republic of Germany accredited to Brunei Darussalam on 7 July 2024

Western Pacific Naval Symposium Workshop

Nanjing, People's Republic of China

15 to 18 January 2024

Right: Commander Md Nazrin bin Sabli, RBN made a courtesy call to Rear Admiral Li Han Jun, Commandant of Naval Command College, widening the relations between PLA-N and RBN.



Left: Commander Nazrin bin Haji Sabli, RBN with representatives from the Chilean Navy and the Republic of Fiji Navy.



19th Western Pacific Naval Symposium

Qingdao, People's Republic of China

21 to 25 January 2024

Right: Captain Khairil Hj Abdul Rahman, RBN made a courtesy call to Admiral Yuan Huazhi, The Political Commissar of People's Liberation Army Navy.



Left: Captain Khairil Hj Abdul Rahman, RBN with Admiral Dr Md Ali, Chief of Naval Staff Indonesian Navy and Rear Admiral Augustine Lim, Assistant Chief of Staff, Republic of Philippines Navy.



Western Pacific Naval Symposium Junior Officer Interaction Program

Sydney, Australia

18 to 23 March 2024

Right: Lieutenant Haji Asri bin Haji Awang Anuar, RBN with other JOIP participants onboard a ferry making way to Sydney, Australia.



Left: Lieutenant Haji Asri bin Awang Anuar, RBN with other 45 JOIP participants on a ship tour onboard HMAS Supply.



8th Naval Working Group Indonesian Navy & Royal Brunei Navy

Brunei Darussalam

23 to 25 January 2024



A group photo with the Indonesian Navy delegation headed by Captain Alfred Daniel Matthews, Indonesian Navy Senior Staff for Strategic Operations and Bilateral Diplomacy.

ASEAN Navy Young Officers Interaction Program

Subic, Republic of Philippines

24 to 27 June 2024



Lieutenant Siti Wanna and Lieutenant Junior Grade Nurharzelah with other representatives from 10 ASEAN nations visiting BRP Jose Rizal (FF-150).

HARNESSING INNOVATION

ADVANCING THE RBN'S CAPABILITIES THROUGH MODERN TECHNOLOGY & TRAINING

By: Lt Cdr Mohd Khairul
Anuar bin Abdullah, RBN



The Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) is at a critical juncture where the implementation of innovative technologies and forward-thinking strategies can significantly boost our operational readiness and effectiveness. As maritime challenges grow increasingly complex, there is an urgent need to modernise our fleet and adopt cutting-edge technologies that will ensure the continued security of our waters and enhance our role in regional and international defence cooperation.

Modernisation and Technological Upgrades

Investing in the modernisation of our vessels and upgrading the onboard equipment is a vital first step in this transformation. By equipping our existing ships with state-of-the-art sensor systems, advanced weaponry, and more sophisticated communication technologies, we can significantly enhance the operational effectiveness of the entire fleet. While the acquisition of new vessels is essential for fleet expansion, it is equally important to optimise the capabilities of our current assets, ensuring that they are equipped to meet the challenges of modern naval warfare.

Next-Generation Communication and Information System

One key area ripe for innovation is the adoption of advanced communication and information systems, which are crucial to improving coordination and enhancing situational awareness during operations. The implementation of secure and resilient communication networks is paramount, enabling seamless data transmission between the RBN Headquarters and our seagoing assets. Real-time decision-making, facilitated by the integration of modern command and control systems, will empower the RBN to respond swiftly and effectively to evolving maritime threats.

Moreover, establishing a fully integrated and networked force is essential for future operations. Ensuring that all elements of the RBN, from our ships to the Fleet Tactical Aircraft Squadron, are interconnected via these communication systems will enhance our ability to collaborate with international allies and contribute to larger, multi-nation exercises and missions.

Unmanned Systems for Strategic Advantage

The integration of unmanned systems represents another significant leap in our operational capabilities. In May 2023, the RBN successfully introduced Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) into the Fleet Tactical Aircraft Squadron, providing new perspectives and capabilities in aerial reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition. The next logical step is to explore the implementation of Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs), which can revolutionise our capacity for underwater reconnaissance, surveillance, and search-and-rescue missions. UUVs offer the strategic advantage of operating in hazardous environments without putting human lives at risk, thereby expanding our operational flexibility in challenging underwater conditions. These unmanned systems will provide invaluable intelligence and operational support across a variety of missions, from monitoring marine traffic to conducting anti-submarine warfare exercises. By harnessing the potential of unmanned systems, the RBN can further enhance its maritime domain awareness and project power both above and below the surface.



Prioritising Training and Development

Equally important is the need for comprehensive and continuous training for our personnel. As we modernise our naval assets, we must ensure that our sailors are equipped with the technical skills required to operate and maintain these advanced systems. This includes not only training in new technologies but also developing expertise in critical areas such as maritime security, search-and-rescue operations, and disaster response.

Moreover, training must extend beyond technical knowledge; it should also encompass leadership development, strategic thinking, and decision-making in high-pressure environments. By fostering a culture of learning and adaptability, we can ensure that RBN personnel are prepared to meet the evolving demands of modern naval operations.

International Collaboration and Joint Exercises

Continuous collaboration with our international partners is another cornerstone of the RBN's strategy for the future. Joint exercises and training programs with allied navies provide invaluable opportunities for professional development and knowledge exchange. These collaborations not only enhance our tactical capabilities but also strengthen diplomatic ties and foster greater regional stability. By participating in multinational exercises and joint missions, the RBN can showcase its growing capabilities while learning from the experiences of others.

In conclusion, the RBN stands on the cusp of a new era in which modernisation, innovation, and collaboration will define our future. By investing in advanced technologies, improving our communication systems, integrating unmanned platforms, and prioritising the development of our personnel, we can ensure that the RBN remains a capable and adaptive force. The challenges of tomorrow's maritime landscape are already on the horizon, and with these steps, the RBN will be well-prepared to meet them head-on, safeguarding the sovereignty and security of Brunei Darussalam for generations to come.

The Editor-In-Chief's Reading List

"Learn to take a step back from the everyday noise of our lives and allow ourselves the opportunity to set our priorities."

Brett Crozier

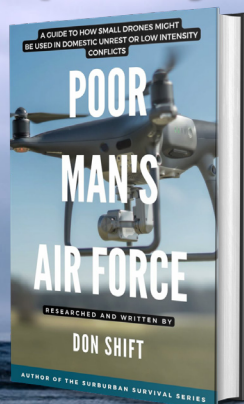
This issue's latest reading list for the discerning leader spans an impressive array of topics, from the strategic insights in "The New Makers of Modern Strategy" and the evolution of Russian military thought in "The Russian Understanding of War," to the personal reflections on leadership and resilience in "Surf When You Can" by Navy Captain Brett Crozier.

Practical guides like "Poor Man's Air Force" delve into the emerging role of drones in modern conflicts, while "Small Navies: Strategy and Policy" explores the significant impact of smaller maritime forces on global events. Leadership is further examined through historical lenses in both "The Leadership of Muhammad" and "Turn the Ship Around!," showcasing timeless principles of effective leadership. Finally, "Developing the Naval Mind" provides a comprehensive syllabus for fostering a culture of continuous learning and professional development within the naval services, making this collection essential for anyone committed to strategic thinking and leadership excellence.

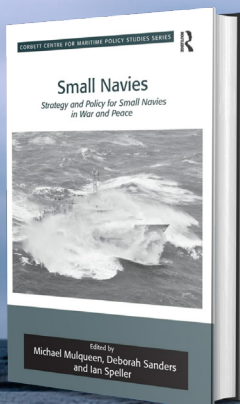


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Capability

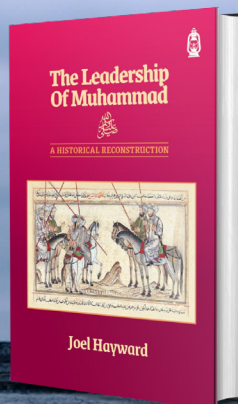


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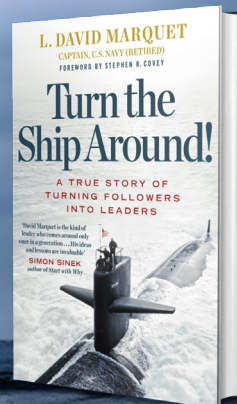


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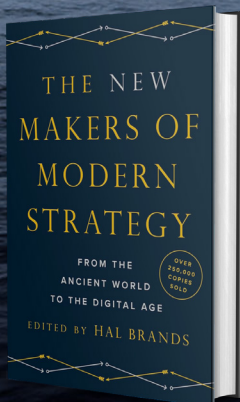


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Preparedness

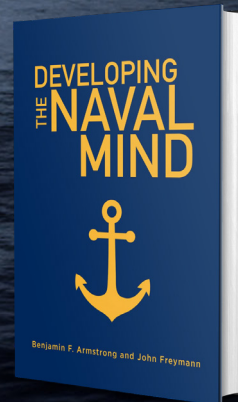


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