



Intermediate Staff Course 20/2020

The latest ISC 20/2020 news, views and highlights



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International Security Lectures

TANAH JAMBU, Thursday, 08 October 2020 - The second week of International Security phase delved deeper into security challenges which included non-traditional security (NTS) challenges and terrorism by SHHBIDSS and saw perspectives shared on the characteristics of NTS and terrorism, how nations respond to them and how COVID-19 affected defence and security forces. The cohort also had the opportunity to learn about defence diplomacy, its importance in achieving Brunei Darussalam's Wawasan 2035 and ways to maintain robust defence relations with regional partners.

Attempting to tackle security issues beyond our borders requires an insightful look at our national policies.



Acting Commandant's Talk

The session between the Acting Commandant of DA RBAF and the cohort took place at the Auditorium on 08 October 2020. The Acting Commandant emphasised on several aspects of leadership such as having the right work attitude, the importance of proactivity and the value of continuous learning. The session was also a good opportunity for the course participants to interact with the Acting Commandant and gain more insight on her perspectives and experience on military leadership.

Give the best that you can regardless of reward for that is your duty as military officers.



International Security



The International Security lectures continued with a session on foreign policy perspectives by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which included briefings on Brunei's foreign policy objectives and relations with key international organisations such as the United Nations (UN), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Commonwealth. The International Security Phase concluded with a week of assessed presentations based on the course participants' research essay topics.

Research Essay Presentations

As part of their assessment, the cohort presented their findings on their chosen research essay topics. This requires them to effectively 'sell' their ideas in a convincing and thought-provoking way especially to those who are unfamiliar to the topics. It also offers a good opportunity for the students to further develop their essays based on the discussions on their presentations.



Writing your thoughts is one thing, To present them in a digestible manner is another.

National Policy Lectures

The National Policy phase gave the cohort an opportunity to explore a diverse range of topics concerning the country's governmental system and organisation which includes formation and functions of Brunei's constitutions and Brunei's function at international settings.



Representatives from Universiti Brunei Darussalam also gave lectures regarding post-independence development and challenges including formation of the new long-term development plan, Wawasan 2035 and strategies to achieve this vision.

Opinion

CALLING OUT CULTURE is a trend that is not only prevalent in its social media form of 'cancel culture.' It invites hate and sometimes damaging consequences to the victim(s) often without fully respecting the circumstances surrounding the debate. As a society, we must not be so easily swayed by group mentalities and seek to establish the truth ourselves before making an informed decision.

LGBTQ in Brunei can be a taboo subject to discuss. However, reality is that it nonetheless is present and the question then becomes: what should be done about it? The negative impacts it has on Bruneian society can be viewed from the perspective of establishing *Maqasid Syariah* in Brunei as its drive towards *negara dzikir*.

BIG DATA can be a great force-multiplier for the military if used correctly. It allows for more accurate decisions to be made based on real empirical data. However, the RBAF still has a long way to go before it can embark on such a venture. In the age of contest for information supremacy, the organisation must seek to not only capture but also capitalise on all available information that it can gather.

CYBER HYGIENE acts as a preventive measure to maintain the security of computers, mobile devices and to protect data. A common cybersecurity breach in RBAF is the wide use of personal pen drives. RBAF needs to exercise regulations and policies to counter cybersecurity breaches and improve cyber hygiene.

National Policy

Topics regarding Syariah Law and Malay Islamic Monarchy was presented by representatives from *Unit Perundangan Islam* and Universiti Brunei Darussalam respectively. The lectures covered an overview of *Maqasid* Syariah, implementation of Syariah Penal Code Order 2013 in Brunei and the importance of instilling Malay Islamic Monarchy philosophy when defending the nation's sovereignty.

To achieve Wawasan 2035, the country must reach a nationwide understanding on what needs to be changed and how to take the next step forward.

ISC 2020 Teambuilding Activity 02: The Great Race



The second ISC 2020 Teambuilding activity was organised by Syndicate 2, the theme this time being a mixture of cycling, running and a variety of mini games. The objective is to further develop team dynamics by pushing their physical limits while also maintaining the entertainment element. This week, Syndicate 4 brought home the winner's prize.

Local Study Tour

During the local study tour week, the cohort kicked off the week with an excursion to Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF), where they were briefed on the operations and collaborations of RBPF and RBAF, followed by a visit to Darussalam Enterprises (DARE) with a presentation on their functions and how they assist and develop businesses in Brunei.



On the next few days of visits, the cohort also had the opportunity to visit the Brunei History Centre, National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) and lastly to Monetary Authority of Brunei Darussalam (AMBD). The tours gave excellent opportunities for the cohort to boost their knowledge and insight on the roles of different government agencies and their contribution to the nation in terms of security and economic settings.