



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

MEDIA RELEASE

Royal Brunei Navy and Australian Defence Force Hold Joint Maritime Security Exercise

9 SEPTEMBER 2025, The Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) have commenced Exercise Penguin 25, the leading bilateral maritime security activity between the countries. Commencing 9 September in Brunei, personnel from both defence forces will undertake a number of training exercises to enhance interoperability and mutual support. Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy, First Admiral Sahibul Bahari bin Haji Zainal Abidin, said the exercise would continue to strengthen maritime security and cooperation between the two navies. “The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and the RBN have a long-standing defence relationship that dates back to 1986, when the first Exercise Penguin was conducted. This relationship is underpinned by strong navy-to-navy links and a shared interest in a stable, secure, and prosperous maritime domain,” said First Admiral Sahibul Bahari. “We look forward to hosting the event and providing opportunities for members of the RBN to train alongside the RAN, thereby enhancing our capacity to support each other in maritime security.”

Royal Brunei Navy assets participating in Exercise Penguin 25 includes Patrol Vessel KDB DARUSSALAM, IJHTIHAD-Class Fast Patrol Boat KDB AFIAT, and a team from the Naval Surface Action Group. Australian participation will comprise of an ANZAC class frigate HMAS Ballarat and an RAAF P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft. Australia’s Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AO RAN, said both defence forces are committed to boosting cooperation under the Australia - Brunei Darussalam Comprehensive Partnership and accompanying Plan of Action. “This year will be the 20th iteration of Exercise Penguin, further reinforcing the depth and the growing collaboration between our defence forces,” Vice Admiral Hammond said. “Australia highly values its maritime security relationship with Brunei and together I am confident we will continue to collectively meet any challenges or threats to regional peace and security.” Exercise Penguin 25 will conclude on 14 September after the completion of a number of sea and air surface warfare training exercises off the coast of Brunei Darussalam.

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