



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

MEDIA RELEASE

Enhancing Chaplaincy Connections

19th September 2025, Bandar Seri Begawan – Educating on emotional intelligence, the chaplains role in mental health support and enhancing the chaplaincy network throughout the Indo-Pacific region were just some of the positive outcomes for Flight Lieutenant Imam Abdul Kader on his fifth visit to Brunei Darussalam on behalf of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

As part of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2025 (IPE25) the visit included a five-day Religious Engagement Program hosted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Religious Directorate.

During the program Imam Kader provide a presentation on ‘emotional intelligence’ to a large group of students of Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan in Brunei Darussalam, titled ‘Feel like the Prophet Muhammad Felt.’

“I was delighted to be invited to give a lecture to youth leadership, focussing on emotional intelligence.

“It demonstrated a growing level of trust in the relationship between and ADF and RBAF, outside of the defence boundary and into the community and beyond,” he said.

Imam Kader also participated in round table discussions with the Directorate of Religion, RBAF at Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies.

The discussions focussed on topics such as 'Enhancing Chaplain Readiness' in the context of Defence Forces and followed on with some demonstrations of chaplaincy in the field, including providing mental health support in the context of operational missions.

“It resonated with our counterparts very well to understand the level of support and engagement our ADF chaplains provide when members go through mental health, loss and grief,” he said.

Imam Kader believes that the week’s engagements have demonstrated an increased interest to extend the collaboration between ADF and RBAF chaplaincy.

“The strength of the strategic partnership is growing and through that we can have an established presence of chaplaincy throughout the region.

“As we continue to support each other, we can build our network where we grow together on a journey that extends our support for each other into the future,” he said.

Images

Image 1 and 2 - Royal Australian Air Force Flight Lieutenant Imam Abdul Kader delivering a presentation on ‘emotional intelligence’ to Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan

Image 3, 4, and 5 - Royal Australian Air Force Flight Lieutenant Imam Abdul Kader joins a round table discussion with the Directorate of Religion, Royal Brunei Armed Forces, at Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies. The group discussed 'Enhancing Chaplain Readiness' in the context of Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Australian Defence Forces as part of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2025

Image 6 - Royal Australian Air Force Flight Lieutenant Imam Abdul Kader and Australian Defence Advisor to Brunei Darussalam, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Anderson visit to the YSHHB Islamic Calligraphy and Art Study Centre.

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