



الجزيرة - NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2019



WOMEN AND DEFENCE

International Women's Day, celebrated each year on March 8, is a day honouring the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women around the world, past, present and future. Today, International Women's Day belongs to all women and is acknowledged around the world. This year's International Women's Day global theme is "Better the Balance, Better the World - #BalanceForBetter".

International Women's Day is an opportunity for us to celebrate the achievements of inspirational women across the organisation. In this special edition we've compiled a list of inspiring and empowering women and for women in the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) both clients and colleagues who have made great strides in their careers, where they give some very interesting insight into their experiences.

HAPPY WOMEN'S DAY

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2** • FIRST FEMALE DEFENCE ATTACHÉ
- 3** • WOMEN IN DEFENCE
- 4** • MINDEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPRESENTED BRUNEI DARUSSALAM FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN USA
- 5** • MILITARY MEDICINE RBAF OFFICER SOON TO SERVE
- 5** • OBOE ENDEAVOUR AWARD TO TWO FEMALE RBAF SENIOR OFFICERS
- 6** • FIRST FEMALE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
- 6** • WOMEN ENGINEER AWARDED FOR EXCELLENT FLP GRADUATE
- 7** • THREE RECEIVED APCPA AWARD
- 7** • CBRE FEMALE TROOP COMMANDER
- 8** • FORMER PRESIDENT AND BAKTI SENIOR MEMBERS FIRST GET-TOGETHER





FIRST FEMALE DEFENCE ATTACHÉ

Lieutenant Colonel (U) Hjh Suriani binti Haji Junaidi began her career in the military on 7 September 1993 when she was enlisted as a potential Officer Cadet in the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF). She was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 14 January 1995.

Lieutenant Colonel (U) Hjh Suriani's first tour of duty was as a Berakas Platoon Officer under the Women's Company. She was attached at the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Commander's office for almost one year as a Staff Officer Grade 3 before being posted to the Royal Brunei Land Forces as a Staff Officer Grade 3 Logistics from December 1996 to January 2000. In December 1999, she was promoted to a Captain. She was the Staff Officer Grade 3 at the Combat Development and Operational Development (presently Directorate of Force Capability Development) from 2000 to 2001 and later posted as a Training Officer of the Recruit Company, Training Institute from 2002 until 2004.

She was promoted to the rank of Major in December 2003 and later posted to The Royal Brunei Air Force from 2005 until 2013 holding three different appointments; Staff Officer Grade 2 Training, Acting Officer Commanding of Air Technical Training School and Staff Officer Grade 2 Inspectorate, Air Force.

While serving in the RBAF, she has attended several courses both locally and overseas. She has also participated in the inaugural Command and Staff Course in Brunei from November 2010 to August 2011 and has also attended the 13th Executive Development Programme in 2016.

Lieutenant Colonel (U) Hjh Suriani was the Staff Officer Grade 2 J7 (Training) of the Joint Force Headquarters from January 2014 to October 2015, the first lady officer to take the role of Mindef Spokesperson from November 2015 to 2017 and the Assistant Chief of Staff, Royal Brunei Airforce in 2017 before having been posted to Thailand as the Brunei Defence Attache in December 2018.

She was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in November 2015 and has a keen interest in Volleyball.

She has been attributed as the first Female Defence Attache in the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and for that she has said that she felt truly privileged and thankful for the honour as it is a rare opportunity to have been given this role. She takes pride in that status but also humbled by the responsibility that it carries. The challenges she faces further fuels her determination to always do her best to contribute towards the progress in the roles and responsibilities of the Defence Attache Office. She hopes to inspire other female officers as well as strengthen the role of female officers and promoting their advancement in this organization.

Holding the post as a Defence Attache, She has found that it is important to continuously foster good communications to try to understand their culture and negotiate with her counterparts in Thailand as well as other Defence Attaches. Trust and confidence amongst Defence Attaches here are promoted through the regular conduct and attendance of a wide range of activities such as receptions, discussions, and meetings, Defence Attaches' Tour etc.





WOMEN IN DEFENCE

Ms. Ampuan Yura Kasumawati Bte DP Hj Mohd Adnan is a senior research officer in Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (SHHBIDSS) also serves as the head of the Research Division in the Institute. As an officer in MINDEF's think tank, she prepares and presents papers in Track 2 engagements in which her main research interests covers regional and security issues in particular ASEAN and maritime security. Operationally, she provides the yearly planning and ensure delivery of research outputs including papers and its activities and also identify priority Track 2 engagements and training opportunities for the Research Division. Overall, she has served for over 20 years being in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a diplomatic officer from 1999 and in Ministry of Defence from late 2009.

What is it like being a woman working in a field that is predominantly seen as a male territory @ relating to women in defence?

Having been working for over 20 years, being in Defence has been a further enriching experience as a public servant.

While defence is often seen as male dominated field, increasingly women's views in defence and security issues are crucial and adds value in the current security challenges including in humanitarian aid and disaster relief and countering terrorism to name a few. Through personal observations and interactions with colleagues and counterparts alike, the sharing of ideas, listening to broader perspectives and learning from experiences is far more important.

With your expertise being in your current field, where does your responsibility start and where does it end?

Among the main roles of the Institute is to contribute towards well informed decision policy which requires us to provide research papers and analytical inputs on issues with implications to Brunei and of interest to MINDEF and RBAF. In this regard, part of my responsibility is to ensure the papers produced are of rich analytical standards. This involves meaningful conversations among the researchers within the Institute and also exchanges with colleagues from relevant directorates in MINDEF, RBAF and other relevant local agencies as well as regional and international think tanks and institutions.

Being a woman is it easier to carry out your responsibility or do you think otherwise?

Our line of work is not gender specific, those with the relevant qualifications and experience as well as dedication should be able to carry out the responsibility. Research outcomes and its impact is not usually tangible, direct or clear. It is an ongoing process of acquiring knowledge and building the capability of researchers and think tank as a whole takes time.

How has your time in SHHBIDSS and MINDEF in general developed in terms of equal opportunities for men and women?

Within the ten years being in MINDEF, I see that there have been equal opportunities for all officers. In my own experience, I have had the chance to work with remarkable men and women in the organisation.

I am most appreciative of the long-standing commitment of MINDEF in developing professionalism by ensuring its human resource assets are provided the best of opportunities to grow for the betterment of the organisation. It has certainly been beneficial to us in the Institute and myself personally.

SHHBIDSS as the only Brunei think tank on defence and strategic issues, has been afforded opportunities made possible with MINDEF's ongoing support. The Institute and its officers are able to develop and gain experiences through work attachments in the RSIS, Singapore and various courses and programmes including in the APCSS in Hawaii, US.

Will women play a bigger role in the future generation of leadership for RBAF & MINDEF?

I do believe women will continue to have a place in MINDEF. We have seen appointments of outstanding women as members in the Defence Executive in the past. And today, a number are holding senior and middle management posts as well. This could equally be said for the RBAF's female military officers too. Hence, I see the future generation of women to play a bigger role in running defence. With positive attitudes and strong support network particularly among women themselves, it is rewarding working in defence.

What advice do you offer to women who pursue a career path with MINDEF & RBAF?

I learnt that commitment is a must, willingness to learn and being adaptive is important and upholding inner values of integrity and sincerity is key in carrying out our duties and responsibility whether in MINDEF or RBAF and elsewhere in life.





MINDEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPRESENTED BRUNEI DARUSSALAM FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN USA



Mazveen Kaur Saggu, Executive Officer at the Ministry of Defence was selected by the Embassy of the United States of America in Brunei Darussalam to participate and represent Brunei Darussalam in the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program, the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in the United States of America from 24 September 2018 to 12 October 2018.

Mazveen Kaur Saggu was selected based on her exemplification of strong leadership, as well as her professional relationship with the U.S. Embassy's Office of Defence Cooperation.

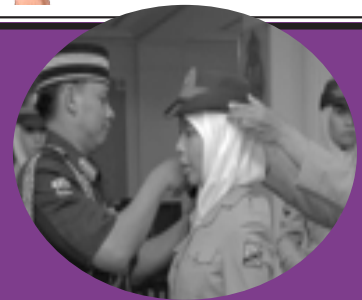
The program, entitled "ASEAN: Security Challenges" saw a participation of eight current and emerging international leaders from ASEAN countries, which include Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of the Philippines, Kingdom of Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar. The three-weeks program began in Washington DC and included stops in Chicago, San Francisco before finally ending in Honolulu.

Throughout the program, Mazveen was not only able to learn from her U.S. and

ASEAN Counterparts, but also played a significant role in sharing her knowledge, perspectives and experiences in a diplomatic, professional and immaculate nature during discussions, as well as represent Brunei Darussalam in a very positive light. During the program, she was also appointed by her ASEAN peers to represent the team as team leader during their final meeting.

Mazveen strongly believes that the program has contributed to her professional development, as well as expanded and strengthened her professional network with other professionals from the participating countries.

Mazveen Kaur Saggu is also the recipient of the Excellent Civil Employee Award in 2018, and participated in the 2nd Brunei Top 100 Leaders Program where she graduated with a platinum award.



MILITARY MEDICINE RBAF OFFICER SOON TO SERVE

21734 Officer Cadet Naqibah binti Dato Paduka Ahmad Bukhari, is a holder in Bachelor Doctor of Medicine at the National Defence University Malaysia (NDUM). OCdt Naqibah is the first international student to be enrolled into UPNM. Studying for a span of over 5 years since September 2013, she is one of the scholars who achieved top 10 within the medical faculty.

Throughout the 5-year degree course, in addition to undergoing medical modules and military training, she took courses in Army Medicine, Aviation Medicine, Naval Medicine and Battlefield Medicine, including Tactical Combat Casualty Care and Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC).



She also received a Book Prize Award for achieving the best results in the Obstetrics and Gynecology discipline. She graduated during the NDUM's 9th annual convocation ceremony at Putrajaya International Convention Centre, and was honoured to receive her scroll



OBOE ENDEAVOUR AWARD TO TWO FEMALE RBAF SENIOR OFFICERS



Two female senior officers of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) received the OBOE Endeavour Award at the Defence Academy. The award recipients were 643 Lieutenant Colonel Norsuriati bte Haji Sharbini, 618 Commander Norharirayati bte Yakub,

The OBOE Endeavour Award is an Academic Excellence Program from the Australian Government that is awarded to RBAF Officers who have graduated with outstanding results during the Command and Staff Course. These officers met with key Australian Defence Force leaders, Australian military base, and participated in educational and cultural activities, as well as engage in dialogues and discussions. The program aimed to impart knowledge to the RBAF officers about Australia and its Defence Force, share commonalities on the region's security and interest, as well as to build stronger relationship between the armed forces. This will further enhance the bilateral defence relations between Brunei Darussalam and Australia.



The name 'OBOE Endeavour Award' was chosen to commemorate Australian Defence Force's contribution to the successful liberation of Borneo from the Japanese occupation during Operation OBOE in World War II, which marked the beginning of Brunei Darussalam and Australia's defence relationship.

FIRST MILITARY PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

1 274 Lieutenant (U) Dk Noorul Aqilah Pg Ishak: After having just graduated from the Officer Cadet School, I have been posted to the Public Relations Unit, a civilian unit in the Ministry of Defence, as the first female Public Relations Military Officer. Having trained to be a Military Officer, to work in an environment where most of the personnel in the office are civilians, it was something for myself to adapt to. The personnel under this unit have had many experience in working for this unit and that they would always offer myself advice as being new in this organization. A change of mindset and culture in fully embracing Public Relations responsibilities is necessary. This has to start from the top of the hierarchy and cascaded to the personnel on the ground. Realistically, this is a very complex and difficult task to achieve. Only through such support from the PRU team will there be progress.

Working with Commander Norharirayati Binti Yakub, RBN,



Mindef Spokesperson, has taught me many things from being a female leader in a male dominated profession to handling the balance of work and life. As a Public Relations officer, it is essential to do various appraisals to make sure that the civilian attitude towards the military is confident, and also that there is effective communication between both parties. Being in this unit has exposed myself to the overview of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces as well as the reputation that this organization upholds.

from the National Defence University Malaysia (NDUM)'s Pro-Chancellor, Brigadier General Dato' Seri DiRaja Tan Sri Dr Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz binti Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, Tunku Temenggong Kedah.

She also went through military training at the Army Academy, Segenting Camp in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan, for 4 months and the passing out parade will take place this this month, March. Following that she, will then undertake their foundation years in RIPAS Hospital, after which they will serve the RBAF.





WOMEN ENGINEER AWARDED FOR EXCELLENT FURTHER LEARNING PROGRAMME GRADUATE

Dayang Tieng Chwei Peng, who holds an appointment as an Engineer in the Directorate of Development and Works Services, Ministry of Defence received an award for Excellent Further Learning Programme (FLP) Graduate during her graduation of the Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Engineering (Civil Engineering) on February 20.

Chwei Peng said the programme modules provided a holistic view of the various facets of engineering from traditional design to the more contemporary topic of sustainability. "Some modules were particularly pertinent to my line of work as a project engineer such as construction law and contract administration. In addition, one of the most insightful albeit demanding experiences was the project work which allowed me to delve into topics of my interest, such as the causes of construction project delay and disputes, with the guidance of knowledgeable supervisors", said Chwei Peng.



She said "the feeling that comes to the forefront having received a Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Engineering (Civil Engineering) and the Excellent Graduate Award is one of gratitude – Gratitude for the organisations and individuals involved in the programme, gratitude for a workplace that encourages professional development, gratitude for my fellow course mates who enlivened the learning experience and gratitude for my family and friends for their relentless emotional support."

"If I could impart any general wisdom to aspiring or current young engineers, it would be to approach endeavours in life with sincere motivation and deliberate commitment, and to embrace opportunities for growth – be it in the personal, educational or professional sphere."

Another female colleague who received the certificate of FLP was Dayang Sabrina binti Hamidon, Executive Engineer Project.



THREE RECEIVED APCPA AWARD



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present certificates of appreciation to various government departments that have been awarded with three stars through the Program Penggredan Prestasi Sektor Awam (3PSA) Melalui Penarafan Bintang, Anugerah Pekerja Cemerlang Perkhidmatan Awam (APCPA) or the Excellent Civil Service Employee Award to 49 recipients and the Penghargaan Khas Kakitangan Perkhidmatan Awam (PKKPA) to 10 recipients at the 25th Civil Service Day celebration this year.

Among the civil servants who were acknowledged and recognized as APCPA recipients were three women personnel whom are currently serving the Ministry of Defence namely Dayang Mazveen Kaur Saggi, Executive Officer at the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Commander's Secretariat Office (Division II); Dayang Munirah Hayati binti Haji Hanipah, Assistant Executive Officer Grade I, Directorate of Administration and Manpower (Division III); Dayang Norhayati binti Haji Japar, Clerk, Permanent Secretary's Secretariat Office (Division IV). The APCPA is an acknowledgement and recognition to civil servants who have demonstrated exemplary work quality, character and performance.



CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL RADIOLOGICAL AND EXPLOSIVES FIRST FEMALE TROOP COMMANDER

- Born on 27th February 1994.
- HND in civil engineering from University Of Technology Brunei.
- Commissioned from OCS the 14th intake on 28th April 2016.
- 1st posting as resource officer, Combat Engineer Squadron, Support Battalion, Royal Brunei Land Forces.
- Currently since January 2018, posted as Combat Engineer Search Advisor (CESA)/ Search Troop Commander, Chemical Biological Radiological and Explosives Defence Unit, Support Battalion, Royal Brunei Land Forces.

Shazeera,
Leadership is lifting a person's vision to high sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations

Presented to
LT Nur Shazeera
 For successfully completed the ECC(CBRD) Course
 1st November 2018



In January 2018, I received my posting order to Chemical Biological Radiological and Explosives (CBRE) Defence Unit as Combat Engineer Search Advisor (CESA)/ Search Troop Commander. As the very first female to be posted in this specialist unit as a troop commander, of course I had mix feelings, excited to experience this soon-to-be chaotic routine and at the same time more feelings of anxiety on what is ahead of me. The first two months were quite a challenge to me, especially in terms of command and fitness. Looking at where I was before back when I was only managing engineer's equipment, compare to what I'm doing now having my own troop and also managing specialist's equipment, the gap in between was quite huge that I believe if only I halt for a second, I might not be able to catch the time. As time goes by, and especially after attending the Engineer Commander Course (Chemical Biological and Radiological Defense) in Singapore where I got to experience as the only female in the batch, I gained more confidants in every decision I made.

I still remember when I mentioned that I wanted to be an engineer that time specifically as a Field Engineer when I was just signed in to this organization, I was laughed by a few crowds that believed there is no place for woman in combatant field. I thought so too, never because of sexism, but because I believe that every Ulul Amri has to be a man. Yet, that did not stop me from contributing my capability to this organization. There will be times you will be looked down at just for being a female, be humble but never let your dignity off, chin up and show them that you are not just an ordinary female.



FORMER PRESIDENT AND BAKTI SENIOR MEMBERS FIRST GET-TOGETHER



The Royal Brunei Armed Forces Wives Welfare Body Association (BAKTI) for the first time organised a get-together event with the former President and BAKTI senior members at the Officers' Mess of Berakas Garrison. The event aimed to express appreciation towards the former President and BAKTI senior members for their contributions during and after the retirement of their spouses in RBAF, and to further strengthen the relationship between them and the current BAKTI members.

The get-together included a cooking demonstration and a dialogue session from the former BAKTI representatives. The

event was further enlivened with performances from members of the BAKTI Association.

Families are the backbone of the military. When spouses and children are happy and healthy, service members can focus on their missions. Supporting spouses is critical to the Armed Forces. The strength of our Armed Forces comes from the strength of their families. The Armed Forces recognizes the important role spouses play in today's military. Armed Forces spouses are community leaders, mothers, fathers, husbands and wives who keep our Armed Forces families on track.



CAREER WOMEN IN ISLAM

Narrated 'Umar bin Al-Khattab raḍyAllāhu 'anhu (may Allāh be pleased with him): The Prophet ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) said, "The rewards (of deeds) are according to the intention, and everybody will get the reward for what he has intended. So whoever emigrated for Allah's and His Apostle's sake, his emigration was for Allah and His Apostle ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him); and whoever emigrated for worldly benefits, or to marry a woman, then his emigration was for the thing for what he emigrated for." [Bukhari]