



VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF ROYAL BRUNEI ARMED FORCES

VECONAC 32ND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING & 19TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019

COUNTRY REPORT – PRESIDENT’S DELIBERATION TUESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER 2019

Bismillah Hirrahman Nirrahim.

Your Excellency General KUN KIM, President of VECONAC cum Vice President of Cambodia Veterans Association (CVA).

Your Excellencies Vice Presidents of VECONAC and Delegates of Member Associations,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum and a very Good Afternoon,

First and foremost, on behalf of Veterans Association of Royal Brunei Armed Forces, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Cambodia Veterans Association for the great effort and resilience to execute the VECONAC 32nd EBM & 19th GA in general, and as a Hosting Country for the first time especially. Well Done!

In this session, this time, the content of our Country Report is different from the norm we used to present.

Recalling the Resolution 17-3 of the 17th GA on “SAFEGUARDING AND PRESERVATION OF MILITARY HISTORICAL EVENTS” which was raised again recently during the 32nd EBM Working Committee Meeting on 03rd – 06th July 2019 @ Siem Reap, Kingdom Of Cambodia, and even yesterday during the 32nd EBM, we would like to take the honor to share our action taken with regard to this resolution.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

In Brunei Darussalam and every year, members of our Veterans Association participate actively in our national events either as executive members or working committee members such as celebrating our National Day on 23rd February, supporting the Royal Brunei Armed Forces’ Anniversary on 31st May, working as active committee members during His Majesty’s Birthday on 15th July etcetera etcetera.

As we all know, Royal Brunei Armed Forces is a young military organisation and its formation was only established back in 1961 and it was named then as Brunei Malay Regiment. Back in 2016 when we hosted the VECONAC 29th EBM & 16th GA, one of our itineraries in the Spouse Program was visiting the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Museum at Bolkiah Garison.



In one of the galleries in the museum is the pictorial display of this history especially on the first batch of sixty recruits trained at Port Dickson in Malaysia (formerly known as Malaya).



These recruits successfully passed out on 4th November 1961 and were inspected by Brigadier General Tengku Osman bin Tengku Mohammed Jewa. The best recruit award was won by Abu Bakar bin Tahir and the best shot award was Mohammad Shah bin Mohammad. When these first recruits came back for their first leave in Brunei, a few thousand people waited at the airport shouting 'Askar!' 'Askar!' (Soldiers! Soldiers!). They held a parade at the Town padang and marched past in front of His Royal Highness Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien. Drills were also held in Belait and Tutong Districts. After their leaves, the soldiers were posted to various active units in Malaya.





On 8th December 1962, the first three cadet officers were commissioned at the Federation of Malaya Military College at Sungai Besi, Kuala Lumpur. It was on the same day that a rebellion broke out in Brunei. However the regiment was not recalled back to Brunei.



Local officers of the First and Second intake at Segenting, Port Dickson

The three officer cadets were Sulaiman bin Awang Damit, Awangku Ibnu bin Pengiran Apong and Mohammad bin Haji Mohd Daud. These three eventually became the following high ranking officials: Yang DiMuliakan Pehin Datu Indera Setia Major General (Retd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Sulaiman bin Haji Damit; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Retd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Basit bin Pengiran Datu Penghulu Pengiran

Haji Apong; and Yang DiMuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General (Retd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Mohammad bin Haji Daud.

To commemorate the history of these three first officers, an additional display was put up in the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Museum to also commemorate the Royal Brunei Armed Forces' 58th Anniversary this year.





Therefore we would also like to share this very important event by showing the news clip of Radio Television Brunei (RTB).



Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Before I end our country report, our sincere salute and congratulation to the Cambodia Veterans Association and VECONAC Secretariat for the challenge to prepare this 32nd EBM and 19th GA, well done!

Sincerely we are more than happy to see the old and new comrades here in Phnom Penh, the capital city of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Taking this opportunity too to wish you all good health and wealth so that we all could meet again in the next 33rd EBM and 20th GA in Vietnam.

“VECONAC FOREVER, FOREVER VECONAC”

With Honours,

**HIS EXCELLENCY PEHIN DATO PADUKARAJA MAJOR GENERAL (RETD)
DATO PADUKA SERI HAJI SHARI BIN AHMAD
PRESIDENT OF VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF ROYAL BRUNEI ARMED FORCES**
