



Australian High Commission
Malaysia

**EXERCISE BERSAMA LIMA 2025 DEMONSTRATES
COMMITMENT TO THE FIVE POWER DEFENCE
ARRANGEMENTS IN DEFENCE OF MALAYSIA**

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 OCTOBER 2025 – Malaysia’s impressive Joint Warfare Centre in Kuantan was the chosen location for a gathering of VVIPs representing the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) nations during this year’s Exercise Bersama Lima 25 (BL25).

Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, Her Excellency Ms Danielle Heinecke was one of the VVIP guests, alongside Australian Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, AO DSC and senior defence leaders and diplomatic representatives from all FPDA nations.


Ms Heinecke said Australia is strongly committed to the FPDA as our longest-standing regional security mechanism and she was proud of the contribution that the Australian Defence Force (ADF) is making this year to this important exercise.

“Bersama Lima 25 is the latest activity in the long-standing Bersama-series of exercises conducted by FPDA and improves the ability of the five nations’ militaries to operate effectively as a combined force”, said MS Heinecke.

“This year, Australia is contributing a contingent of over 400 ADF personnel, including ANZAC Class Frigate HMAS *Ballarat* and Fifth Generation Royal Australian Air Force F35A Lightning II joint strike fighters, C-17 Globemaster III and C-27J Spartan aircraft as well as a contingent of land forces across the air, maritime, land and cyber domains,” she added.

Malaysia’s Commander Joint Forces, LT GEN Dato’ Pahlawan Zahani bin Hj Zainal Abidin, Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) hosted the visit.

LT GEN Zahani said that he was proud that Malaysia was hosting the exercise in 2025, and that the visiting VVIPs were able to see first-hand the scale and capability of BL25, both at the Joint Forces Headquarters and also at sea.



“It is the role of our Joint Forces Headquarters to manage the VVIP visit and to demonstrate the role that Bersama Lima plays for the FPDA,” said LT GEN Zahani.

“One of the most important things that we learned from the visit is about our five nations’ interoperability. Interoperability in communication, in doctrine, and how we coordinate and conduct multinational warfighting,” he added.

This year, the maritime domain scope of the exercise was enhanced by the participation of the United Kingdom’s Carrier Strike Group (CSG), including its flagship aircraft carrier, HMS *Prince of Wales*.

The visitors travelled by Royal Malaysian Navy, Republic of Singapore Air Force and Royal Navy helicopters onto the deck of HMS *Prince of Wales* for an in-depth tour of the scale and capability that the CSG provides. This included a demonstration of take-off and landing of the F-35B multirole fighters.

The FPDA was established in 1971 consisting of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom, continued to be reinforced by these Bersama-series exercises. BL25 is the latest combined joint training exercise by the FPDA, and each year it grows in scale and complexity. BL25 reinforces FPDA’s commitment to enhancing interoperability and strengthening professional relationships between FPDA’s defence forces.

BL25 is being conducted in Malaysia and across the South China Sea from 19 September until 6 October 2025. It will exercise the FPDA defence forces in the conduct of Combined and Joint Operations at the operational and tactical level, within a multi-threat environment for the defence of Malaysia and Singapore.

End.

Media imagery can be found here: [Exercise Bersama Lima 2025 – for Media](#)

