



Australian High Commission
Malaysia

**COMMEMORATION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF
OPERATION SEMUT**

Bario, Malaysia, 25 March 2025 – Australia and Malaysia are commemorating the 80th anniversary of Operation SEMUT at a ceremony in Bario, Sarawak.

Malaysia and Australia’s deep and unique defence partnership began when Australia’s Z Special Unit parachuted into Bario to unite with local communities at the end of World War II.

Thanks to their efforts, our partnership has endured, with mutual respect and strong community links between our two nations.

Eight decades later, Australia is honoured to participate in the Royal Malaysian Air Force’s re-enactment of Australia’s Z Special Unit parachute jump as part of a Commemorative Ceremony. This is a testament to the enduring friendship between our two nations, following in the footsteps of generations of sailors, soldiers and aviators who have lived, trained and fought together.

Quote attributable to the Her Excellency Danielle Heinecke, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia:

“Today’s event offers an opportunity to reflect on the past, present and future of our defence partnership as we continue to support Malaysia and our shared interest in a region that is open, stable and prosperous.”

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Media note: Imagery available via [link](#).