



MARKAS ANGKATAN TENTERA MALAYSIA
BAHAGIAN HAL EHWAL AWAM-J7

Wisma Pertahanan
Jalan Padang Tembak
50634 KUALA LUMPUR
Tel: 03-40130078

Laman Web: www.mafhq.mil.my

KENYATAAN MEDIA BERSAMA

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20th FIVE POWER DEFENCE ARRANGEMENTS (FPDA) DEFENCE CHIEFS' CONFERENCE

Kuala Lumpur, 24 Jun 2021 – Panglima Angkatan Tentera bagi negara-negara Peraturan Pertahanan Lima Negara atau *Five Power Defence Arrangements* (FPDA) telah menghadiri persidangan kali ke-20 **FPDA Defence Chiefs' Conference (FDCC)**. Persidangan ini telah dianjurkan oleh Malaysia dan dilaksanakan secara maya di Wisma Pertahanan, Kuala Lumpur pada petang semalam, 23 Jun 2021.

Persidangan FDCC yang dianjurkan secara bergilir-gilir oleh Malaysia dan Singapura merupakan forum profesional ketenteraan peringkat tertinggi di dalam FPDA yang menyediakan platform untuk Panglima Angkatan Tentera negara-negara FPDA berdialog serta bertukar pendapat mengenai isu-isu berkaitan dengan pembangunan kapasiti dan keselamatan serantau. Kali terakhir persidangan ini dianjurkan adalah pada tahun 2019 di Singapura.

Persidangan FDCC pada kali ini telah dipengerusikan oleh Panglima Angkatan Tentera, Jeneral Tan Sri Dato' Sri Hj Affendi bin Buang TUDM dan dihadiri oleh Panglima Angkatan Tentera Australia, Jeneral Angus Campbell; Panglima Angkatan Tentera New Zealand, Air Marshal Kevin Short; Panglima Angkatan Tentera Singapura, Leftenan Jeneral Melvyn Ong Su Kiat; dan Timbalan Panglima Angkatan Tentera United Kingdom, Laksamana Sir Tim Fraser.

Di persidangan ini, Panglima Angkatan Tentera negara-negara ahli FPDA telah menegaskan komitmen mereka terhadap FPDA serta prinsip-prinsip asas peraturan pertahanan tersebut. Di samping itu, persidangan turut menekankan tentang kepentingan FPDA sebagai peraturan pertahanan yang konstruktif dan telus yang juga merupakan

sebahagian daripada struktur keselamatan serantau. Selain meneruskan dan memperkukuhkan latihan ketenteraan dalam bidang peperangan konvensional, persidangan pada kali ini bersetuju supaya FPDA meneruskan pembangunan keupayaan peperangan bukan konvensional selari dengan cabaran keselamatan semasa dan akan datang melalui latihan yang berkaitan dengan ancaman keganasan, bantuan kemanusiaan dan bencana serta keselamatan maritim.

Panglima Angkatan Tentera negara-negara FPDA juga bersetuju bahawa aspek ketelusan perlu diteruskan melalui program pemerhati yang mana akan memberi peluang kepada negara-negara serantau untuk memahami setiap pelaksanaan latihan dan aktiviti FPDA. Usaha ini adalah bagi memastikan FPDA kekal relevan dalam mengekalkan keamanan dan keselamatan serantau.

Panglima Angkatan Tentera negara-negara FPDA turut mengambil maklum bahawa keperluan FPDA untuk menjadi lebih fleksibel dan meningkatkan ketahanan dalam menghadapi situasi pandemik COVID-19 agar setiap aktiviti dan latihan ketenteraan dapat dijalankan dalam persekitaran yang selamat. Kejayaan penganjuran Eksekutif BERSAMA SHIELD 2021 (BS21) secara maya di Kuantan, Pahang pada 13 hingga 28 April adalah bukti terbaik komitmen dan kerjasama negara ahli FPDA dalam menjayakan pelaksanaan latihan ketenteraan dalam situasi yang mencabar.

Antara perkara yang dibentangkan di persidangan ini adalah berkenaan dengan FPDA *Exercise Concept Directive 2021* dan perbincangan mengenai rancangan 10 tahun pembangunan FPDA. Sempena ulang tahun ke-50 FPDA, rancangan pembangunan yang dibentangkan akan menjadi panduan bagi pelaksanaan aktiviti dan latihan ketenteraan dalam meningkatkan keupayaan FPDA untuk melaksanakan operasi konvensional dan bukan konvensional serta memperkukuhkan kesepakatan dan interaksi antara negara anggota FPDA.

Panglima Angkatan Tentera negara-negara FPDA turut diberikan taklimat berkenaan dengan aspek keselamatan persekitaran serantau oleh Bahagian Staf Perisikan Pertahanan Malaysia (BSPP), aktiviti/latihan FPDA yang telah diadakan tahun 2019/2020 dan isu berkaitan pembangunan *Headquarters Integrated Area Defence System* (HQIADS) oleh Komander HQIADS, Air Vice Marshal, Geoffrey Harland.

Persidangan FDCC ke-20 dilaksanakan secara maya selari dengan dasar dan Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) COVID-19 semasa Malaysia. Selain itu, kaedah ini juga mempamerkan komitmen negara anggota untuk meneruskan aktiviti FPDA walaupun berhadapan dengan cabaran pandemik COVID-19.

Di akhir sesi, Panglima Angkatan Tentera negara-negara FPDA turut menyatakan penghargaan di atas kejayaan penganjuran FDCC ke-20 dan menantikan sambutan Jubli Emas FPDA ke-50 pada tahun ini.

- TAMAT -

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

20th FIVE POWER DEFENCE ARRANGEMENTS (FPDA) DEFENCE CHIEFS' CONFERENCE

The Defence Chiefs of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) member-nations convened yesterday via video conference for the 20th FPDA Defence Chiefs' Conference (FDCC), which was hosted by Malaysia. The FDCC, which is hosted alternately by Malaysia and Singapore, is the highest military professional forum of the FPDA and serves as the key platform for dialogue and exchange of views among the Defence Chiefs. It was last hosted by Singapore in 2019.

The 20th FDCC, which was chaired by Malaysia's Chief of Defence Force (CDF) General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Hj Affendi bin Buang RMAF, was attended virtually by Australia's CDF, General Angus J. Campbell; New Zealand's CDF, Air Marshal Kevin Short; Singapore's CDF, Lieutenant General Melvyn Ong Su Kiat; and United Kingdom's Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Tim Fraser.

During the Conference, the Defence Chiefs reaffirmed their commitment to the FPDA and its founding principles. They also emphasised the importance of the FPDA as a constructive, transparent and peaceful arrangement which is an integral part of the regional security architecture. As the FPDA continues to enhance the operational value of the exercise programme in conventional areas, it will also build capacity in areas including counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and maritime security, to keep pace with the evolving security challenges.

The Defence Chiefs welcomed that the FPDA will continue to boost its transparency through the formalisation of its observer programme, which provides the opportunity for regional countries to understand and observe major exercises. These efforts will ensure the FPDA maintains its relevance and effectiveness in supporting peace and security in this region.

The Defence Chiefs also acknowledged the need for flexibility and resilience in response to the ever-changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and exchanged views on how exercises could still proceed safely. They commended the successful virtual conduct of Exercise BERSAMA SHIELD 2021. This commitment to working together in the face of adversity represents the true strength of the FPDA.

The conference started with a briefing by the Malaysian Defence Intelligence Staff Division on the regional security environment. They were also briefed on the FPDA activities and exercises that had taken place since 2019.

During the conference, the Defence Chiefs issued the FPDA Exercise Concept Directive 2021 and discussed a ten-year roadmap for the FPDA's development. As this year marks the 50th Anniversary of the FPDA, the directive and roadmap will guide the development of FPDA exercises and activities, with the aim of further enhancing the FPDA's capacity in conducting conventional and non-conventional operations, and to further strengthen interoperability and interactions among the armed forces of the five member nations of the FPDA. The Chiefs were also briefed by the Commander of Headquarters Integrated Area Defence System (HQIADS) Air Vice Marshal Geoffrey Harland on the prominent matters pertaining to the HQIADS' developments and exercise conduct.

The 20th FDCC was held virtually in compliance with Malaysia's COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), demonstrating the relentless effort by all the member nations in pursuing the FPDA activities despite the COVID-19 challenges.

The Defence Chiefs commended the successful conduct of the 20th FDCC and looked forward to the 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee celebrations of the FPDA in 2021.

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