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Navy officers and personnel from RMN and RBN at the end of the Hornbill Exercise.

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KOTA KINABALU: A seven-day bilateral maritime exercise between the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) and the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) was a positive step to enhance regional maritime defence security.

Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) Eastern Fleet Commander, Rear Admiral Datuk Pahlawan Syed Zahrul Syed Abdullah said, the Hornbill Exercise

27/19 bilateral exercise between both countries, was not only to enhance regional maritime defence security but also to enhance interaction and understanding between both the RMN and the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN).

"The exercise, which is held once in every two years, is able to enhance military efficiency through implementation of the Marine Phase, which is

the sharing of experience and skills as well as exchanging professional views throughout the training," he said yesterday at the closing ceremony of the Hornbill Exercise 27/19 that was held at the Sepanggar Naval Base here yesterday. His speech was read by RMN First Admiral Rusli Ahmad.

Present at the ceremony were RBN Fleet Commander Captain Norshahrinizam Talib, RMN

Captain Mohd Hasnan Mohd Hanafiah and RBN Commander Haji Edy Jofren Pehin Datu Panglima Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil.

The seven-day exercise, which began on February 27, involved two ships from the Royal Malaysian Navy, namely KD Perak and KD Baung, and two ships from the Royal Brunei Navy, KDB Darulehsan and KDB Syafaat.