



# SPEECH

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## **Speech by Chief of the Republic of Singapore Air Force, Major-General Lim Kim Choon, at the Opening Ceremony for Exercise Elang Indopura**

20 Sep 2002

Selamat Pagi KASAU, Air Chief Marshal Chappy Hakim, distinguished guests, officers and men of TNI-AU and the RSAF. To our friends and counterparts from TNI-AU, Selamat Datang ke Singapura. I hope that our hospitality has met your expectations, and that your stay in Singapore has been pleasant and rewarding.

The first Exercise Elang Indopura was held in 1980 with the aim of enhancing mutual understanding and co-operation, and building friendship, trust and confidence between the personnel of TNI-AU and the RSAF. This friendship has been further strengthened through regular RSAF detachments to Pekan Baru Airbase, as well as the conduct of joint Search and Rescue exercises and Maritime Air Surveillance exercises such as Ex Camar Indopura and Ex Eagle.

Over the last 22 years, the close bilateral ties have greatly benefited both air forces in terms of tangible gains as well as knowledge and experiences for our personnel. The numerous joint events and projects are testament to the excellent working relationship and co-operation that exists between TNI-AU and the RSAF. Examples of such projects include the construction of joint detachment facilities in Pekan Baru Air Base, as well as the joint development and operation of the Siabu Air Weapons Range and the Air Combat Manoeuvring Range. More recently, 14 pilots from TNI-AU and the RSAF successfully completed the 2nd Combined Fighter Weapons Instructor Course that was held from 17 September and 30 November 2001. This course was co-hosted by TNI-AU and the RSAF, and allowed pilots from both countries to share valuable knowledge and experiences on areas such as flying techniques and air attack tactics.

Co-operation between the RSAF and TNI-AU also extends beyond flying operations and into the Air Traffic Control arena. Regular exchanges between Airforce System Brigade, Kijang Airbase, the Naval Air Wing, SATRAD 203 and RSAF 203 SQN have enhanced flight safety through a better understanding of one another's procedures and requirements.

Exercise Elang Indopura XII-02 is the 12th in the series of biennial exercises. It aims to create opportunities for mutual learning between TNI-AU and RSAF personnel through the conduct of an Operations Seminar and combined CPX and AMX. Furthermore, the exercise will strengthen the good relationship between TNI-AU and the RSAF through the conduct of joint mission planning and composite forces training.

The first phase of the programme, comprising of the Operations Seminar as well as pre-CPX activities, commenced on 18 Sept at the Paya Lebar Exercise Complex. Through lectures and discussions, personnel from TNI-AU and the RSAF have gained valuable insights into the each other's capabilities and doctrines. More importantly, this improved understanding will enhance interoperability and benefit all players as they commence the CPX phase of Elang Indopura XII-02.

Following the CPX, personnel will deploy to Pekan Baru Air Force Base for the AMX. Over the next 4 days, aircraft from TNI-AU and the RSAF will fly a total of 85 sorties, covering fighter, strike, Search And Rescue and tactical transport operations. For the first time, this AMX will also feature AAR operations by KC-130 aircraft as well as Air Defence operations by SHORAD units of both air forces. In addition to the flying activities, there will be a karia-bakti to provide medical care and distribute food aid to the needy, as well as combined sports activities to build camaraderie and friendship between personnel of TNI-AU and the RSAF.

Overall, I commend the respective working groups for a very exciting and comprehensive programme. Just as you have benefited from the Ops Seminar and pre-CPX activities, I am confident that the CPX and AMX will also be excellent forums for the sharing of knowledge and the development of new ideas. I urge all players to seize the many unique opportunities, and maximize learning through the exchange of ideas and experiences. By better understanding one another's modes of operation and culture, we can further strengthen the already strong and special bonds of friendship, trust, and co-operation that bind our two air forces together.

In closing, it is now my pleasure to declare open the 12th Exercise Elang Indopura. I wish all participants a very successful exercise. Thank you.

**News Release:**

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