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Speech for CDF at the Opening Ceremony of the New TNI-AU/RSAF Joint Detachment Facilities in Pekan Baru

29 Aug 1998

Yang Mulia MENHANKAM/PANGAB Jenderal Wiranto,

His Excellency Minister for Defence & Security/ Comd-in-Chief General Wiranto

Yang Mulia Gubernur Riau Bapak Soeripto,

His Excellency Governor of Riau Mr Soeripto

Yang Terhormat KASAU Marsekal Madya Hanafie Asnan, KASAL Laksamana Madya Widodo dan KAPOLRI Letnan Jenderal Roesmanhadi

The Honourable Air Force Chief of Staff Air Marshal Hanafie Asnan, Navy Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Widodo and Chief of Police Lieutenant General Roesmanhadi

Para hadirin yang Saya hormati

Distinguished guests

Terlebih dahulu, saya ingin menyatakan bahwa saya sangat gembira dapat mengunjungi ke Pekan Baru hari ini bersama-sama dengan Bapak Wiranto, untuk meresmikan fasilitas detasemen bersama ABRI-SAF. Upacara pembukaan hari ini menandakan keakraban hubungan antara ABRI dan SAF.

It gives me great pleasure to be here in Pekan Baru today, to co-officiate with Bapak Wiranto at the Opening Ceremony of the ABRI-SAF joint detachment facilities. This ceremony is a testimony of the close relationship between the two Armed Forces.

Oleh karena Bahasa Indonesia saya kurang lancar, perkenanlah saya untuk meneruskan sambutan saya dalam Bahasa Inggris.

Due to my lack of fluency in Bahasa Indonesia, please allow me to continue my speech in English.

ABRI and the SAF have a long history of friendship and co-operation. For TNI-AU and the RSAF, this friendship and co-operation dates back to 1980 when the first Ex Elang-Indopura was conducted in Iswahyudi. Since then, the ties between TNI-AU and the RSAF have continued to grow, strengthen and develop in other areas of co-operation. An MOU was signed between our two governments in 1988, which resulted in the joint development of the Siabu Air Weapons Range and its commissioning in Mar 89. The Siabu Air Weapons Range offers one of the best air-to-ground weapons ranges in this region. In 1991, TNI-AU and the RSAF embarked on the joint development of the Air Combat Manoeuvring Range. The state-of-the-art Air Combat Manoeuvring Range was subsequently commissioned here in March 1994, providing our airmen an excellent facility for air combat training.

The SAF values its long-standing relationship with ABRI. We hope that our close bilateral co-operation, based on mutual respect and mutual benefit, will strengthen the foundation for closer ties in the future.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here today to commemorate another milestone in ABRI-SAF co-operation. The joint development of the new Pekan Baru detachment facilities was conceptualised in 1995 as part of the Airbase re-development programme. Detailed planning and design of the facilities were conducted under the ambit of the ABRI-SAF Joint Training Committee, in which representatives from the two Air Forces met regularly to work on the project before the joint development plan was finalised in 1997. What you see here today - a detachment building, new parking apron, two flight line offices and 6 aircraft shelters - is the result of the collaborative efforts between TNI-AU and the RSAF over the past 3 years. And Ex Elang-Indopura 98, which came to a successful close yesterday, saw the new facilities put to good use.

The joint development of the new facilities is a clear reflection of the importance ABRI and the SAF place on our mutually beneficial partnership and of our confidence in the long term relationship between our two countries and two Armed Forces. The SAF is happy to work closely with ABRI in bringing the project to fruition and we look forward to many more years of close co-operation with ABRI.

I commend the Joint Training Committee, Joint Air Force Training Working Group as well as Base Commander Pekan Baru and his staff for their hard work in bringing this project to successful completion. I would also like to express my personal appreciation to Bapak Wiranto for his key role in fostering closer friendship and understanding between our two Armed Forces, and for taking time off his busy schedule to join us in this morning.

Akhirnya, tetapi tidak kurang pentingnya, saya ingin mengambil kesempatan ini untuk mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Bapak Gubernur dan masyarakat Riau atas dukungan dan pengertiannya.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governor and people of Riau for their support and understanding.

Demikianlah sambutan saya. Terima kasih.

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