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STARDEX 2001

03 Sep 2001

Kuala Lumpur, 3 Sep 01 - This morning the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) Exercise STARDEX 01 was declared open. The exercise comprises integrated maritime, land and air activities and will be carried out until 15 Sep 2001. It involves 28 ships, 73 aircraft, a submarine, Low Level Air Defence (LLAD) assets and approximately 4000 personnel from the Armed Forces of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

STARDEX 01, hosted by Malaysia, will be conducted in the airspace and territorial waters of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore as well as the South China Sea. Its main objective is to exercise FPDA forces in the conduct of combined and joint maritime and air operations in a multi-threat and limited conflict scenario. The exercise is aimed at further enhancing interoperability among the FPDA forces. At the same time, it is expected to strengthen co-operation and understanding among them.

The origins of STARDEX could be traced back to Ex STARFISH, a maritime exercise that was confined to the navies of FPDA countries. To provide more value to the training, Air Defence Exercise (ADEX) was merged with Ex STARFISH. This joint exercise is known as STARDEX and has been carried out annually since 1999. The culmination of these exercises is Ex FLYING FISH, the biggest FPDA exercise that is held triennially.

The Opening Ceremony of STARDEX 01 was held at RMAF Base, Subang. It was officiated by the Chief of Defence Forces, Malaysia, General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohd Zahidi bin Hj Zainuddin. Senior officials of the FPDA member countries and invited guests from the ASEAN countries attended the ceremony.

The closing ceremony will be held on 15 Sep 01. It will be officiated by the Chief of Defence Force, Singapore, Lieutenant-General Lim Chuan Poh.

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