

BERSAMA PADU —

TOGETHER UNITED

PICS CORPORAL DAVID GIBBS AND SERGEANT CHRIS WEISENBORN



A major international exercise involving Australian Army, Navy and Air Force personnel, as well as members of the armed forces of Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom, took place in Malaysia in October.

Exercise Bersama Padu 2010 (BP10) – which means ‘together united’ in Bahasa – from 11 to 29 October was designed to enhance security in the region.

The exercise, under the auspices of the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA), took place at various locations across the Malaysian Peninsula as well as in the South China Sea, and was designed to allow the FPDA nations’

armies, navies and air forces to practice the conduct of combined and joint operations at an operational and/or tactical level for the defence of Malaysia and Singapore.

Overall, the exercise involved more than 3000 personnel, 13 ships and 60 aircraft, plus various support elements.

HMA Ships Success, Tobruk, Toowoomba and Arunta; Australian Clearance Dive Team One; eight F/A-18s from No 3 Squadron; an Australian Army platoon from RMAF Butterworth; and around 60 support staff from across the ADF participated.

Chief of Joint Operations Lieutenant General Mark Evans said the FPDA countries shared a common interest in the security and

stability of the region, and the exercise would enhance the interoperability of the combined air, ground and naval forces of the member nations.

“The FPDA was established 39 years ago and continues to be an integral part of the regional security architecture because of its ability to adapt to the changing security environment,” he said.

“The FPDA also serves as a useful forum for an exchange of views among the defence ministers and senior defence officials of its member states.

“Involving [for the first time] an Army platoon in this year’s exercise will give the Australian Defence Force a more inclusive

COMPOSITE MAIN PICS FLYING OFFICERS SHAUN HAYLES AND ANTHONY YELLAND