

BACKGROUND ...

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

DIRECTIONAL EMPHASIS OF SECTOR ...

The Task Force of the Royal Brunei Air Forces comprises of land forces, the Flotilla and the Air Wing. These are grouped together as a brigade headed by two infantry battalions:

- The Task Force is equipped with armored reconnaissance vehicles and armored personal carriers. The Force is also supported by a basic Rapier air defense missile system and combat engineering equipment.
- The Flotilla is comprised of Riverine Class Patrol boats and hovercraft. Some are also equipped with SS11 and SS12 missiles, missile boats equipped with French Exocet missiles, 30mm anti-aircraft guns, a river division of two landing craft and 32 fast assault boats.
- The Air Wing consists of 6 units:
 - A Medium Lift Helicopter Squadron which operates 11 Bell 212s and 1 Bell 214ST, 1 Sikorsky S.70 Black Hawk to carry out Jungle Team rescues and the Flying Doctor's service.
 - Light Observation/Armed Attack Squadron which maintains 6 BO105 helicopters fitted with 12.7 machine guns and forward firing and pilot operated 80mm Sura rockets.
 - Parachute and Airborne Tactical Delivery Unit which undertakes airborne tactical delivery, freefall parachuting and the Jungle Rescue Team.
 - Basic Flying Training Squadron which maintains 4 Bell 206 Jet Ranger Mk 3 helicopters and 2 Siai Marchetti SF206 fixed wing aircraft.
 - Tactical Training and Ground Studies School which offers courses in basic aviation, technical systems training and post-graduate technician training for all Brunei aircraft technicians.

Many of the Ministry's senior level officers have received training in the UK.

The Defense sector employs approximately 4000 services and 2000 administrative personnel. As part of the military's re-organization process, an active recruitment program is underway to attract young men and women into the Armed Forces. The Royal Brunei Malay Reserve Regiment maintains trained soldiers as a back-up to the regular force. There are plans to open the reserve force to other citizen volunteers. In 1981, the women's company of RBAF was formed.

However, the country's small population places serious constraints on the military's manpower needs. Brunei has taken up the "Saudi Arabia Plan". This Plan uses servicemen recruited from overseas to supplement the Bruneian armed forces.