

Malaysia-China Inaugural Military Training Kicks Off Today
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PETALING JAYA, Sept 18 (Bernama) -- Nearly 2,000 Malaysia and China Armed Forces personnel took part in a three-day, first bilateral training programme in the Straits of Melaka.

The 'Exercise Peace and Friendship 2015' which also involved 28 combined assets from both sides was jointly launched by Malaysian Armed Forces chief Tan Sri Dr Zulkifeli Mohd Zin and the Chinese People Liberation Army (PLA)'s General Staff deputy chief Lieutenant General Yi Xiaoguang at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Subang Air Base here today.

China's Ambassador to Malaysia, Dr Huang Huikang was also present.

Zulkifeli said this was the biggest number of participants in joint military training ever organised by Malaysia.

China sent 1,160 personnel to take part in this inaugural programme held in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of Malaysia-China diplomatic relations, he told reporters after launching the event.

Describing the exercise as historical, Zulkifeli said Malaysia was honoured since its armed forces were chosen by PLA for its first bilateral exercise in the Southeast Asia region.

"We have hosted many joint exercises with several countries before this and have had thousands of participants, but never this large from just an exercise with a single country," he said.

Zulkifeli said the exercise themed, 'Managing Non-traditional Threats and Humanitarian and Disaster Relief' would be conducted in the airspace and the waters of the Melaka Strait, and several places in Selangor for land exercises.

He said 'KD Jebat', 'KD Selangor', 'KD Mahawangsa' and 'Superlynx helicopter' would be participating in the exercise, while China is bringing in their medical ship, 'Peace Ark', Lanzhou170 ship and Jiangkai 11 ship.

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