



Media release

Malaysian Coast Guard / Australian Border Force joint media release

Combined exercise keeps Malaysian and Australian borders safe

24 July 2017

The Malaysian Coast Guard (MCG), supported by the Australian Border Force (ABF), have completed Operation Redback VIII; an on-water operation to combat maritime security threats facing both nations, including people smuggling and human trafficking.

The operation was held from 17 July to 23 July off Kuala Perlis and Kuala Kedah in Malaysia and involved 6 MCG vessels and more than 50 crew, alongside ABF officers who observed aboard a MCG vessel and from a MCG operations centre.

During the operation, MCG inspected a total of 87 vessels and apprehended 4 vessels and their crew for offences under the Malaysian Fisheries and Immigration Acts.

MCG's Deputy Director-General (Operations), Rear Admiral (M) Dato' Mohd Taha Bin Ibrahim said that anyone seeking to operate illegally in Malaysian waters was on notice.

"The MCG will continue to target people smugglers, human traffickers, drug smugglers, those engaged in illegal fishing, and anyone else seeking to break Malaysian law off our coast," he said.

"International cooperation like Operation Redback ensures our enforcement net is as tight as possible."

ABF Regional Director South-East Asia, Commander Chris Waters, said that Australia values its relationship with Malaysia and that cooperation of this nature would make both nations safer.

"People smuggling and human trafficking threats in the Malacca Strait may seem far away to most Australians, but cooperation with regional partners including the Malaysian Coast Guard is a crucial component of our multi-layered approach to protecting Australia's borders," Commander Waters said.

“We’re proud to be working alongside our Malaysian counterparts to stamp out these illegal activities.”

Operation Redback VIII is part of an ongoing series of Australian Border Force-supported maritime security operations carried out in cooperation with Malaysian authorities.

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