



KD 'Lekir' launching a missile in a sinking exercise on Tuesday. (Inset) The missile hitting the target in the waters of Hawaii in the United States. PIX COURTESY OF THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN NAVY

RIMPAC

KD 'LEKIR' MAKES NAVAL HISTORY

The missile it launched in Hawaii is the first fired by RMN ship outside Malaysian waters

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KD Lekir on Tuesday successfully launched an Exocet MM40 missile directly at its target in the waters of Hawaii in the United States.

It was participating in the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (Rimpac) 2022.

The Kasturi-class corvette made history as it was the first time the navy fired missiles out-

side Malaysian waters. Navy chief Admiral Tan Sri Mohd Reza Mohd Sany said KD Lekir was the second navy ship to have participated in Rimpac. "For 2022, 38 ships and four submarines from 26 navies took part in the exercise. "This is the second Rimpac that the navy has participated in, after KD Lekir in 2018.

"Unlike Malaysia's debut in 2018, this year, KD Lekir launched an Exocet MM40 Block 2 Missile at a target as part of the exercise."

The target was the former USS Rodney M. Davis, a Oliver Hazard Perry class guided missile frigate.

"KD Lekir launched its missile on Tuesday afternoon and it impacted the target minutes later."

Reza said KD Lekir successfully launched a missile of the same type on May 22 during the Taming Sari 21/22 exercise north of the Malacca Straits as part of prepa-

rations for the 28th Rimpac. "After two weeks in port, Rimpac participants left for training at sea for 22 days from July 11, involving 38 ships, four submarines and more than 170 aircraft belonging to 26 countries."

The Rimpac Combined Information Bureau said the firing was carried out on a target 15,000ft deep, about 50 nautical miles north of Kauai in Hawaii.

"Units from Australia, Canada, Malaysia and the US participated in the sinking exercise to improve tactics, targeting and live firing against a surface target at sea."

It said former navy vessels used in sinking exercises were prepared in strict compliance with regulations set and enforced by the US Environmental Protection Agency under a general permit the navy holds, pursuant to the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

