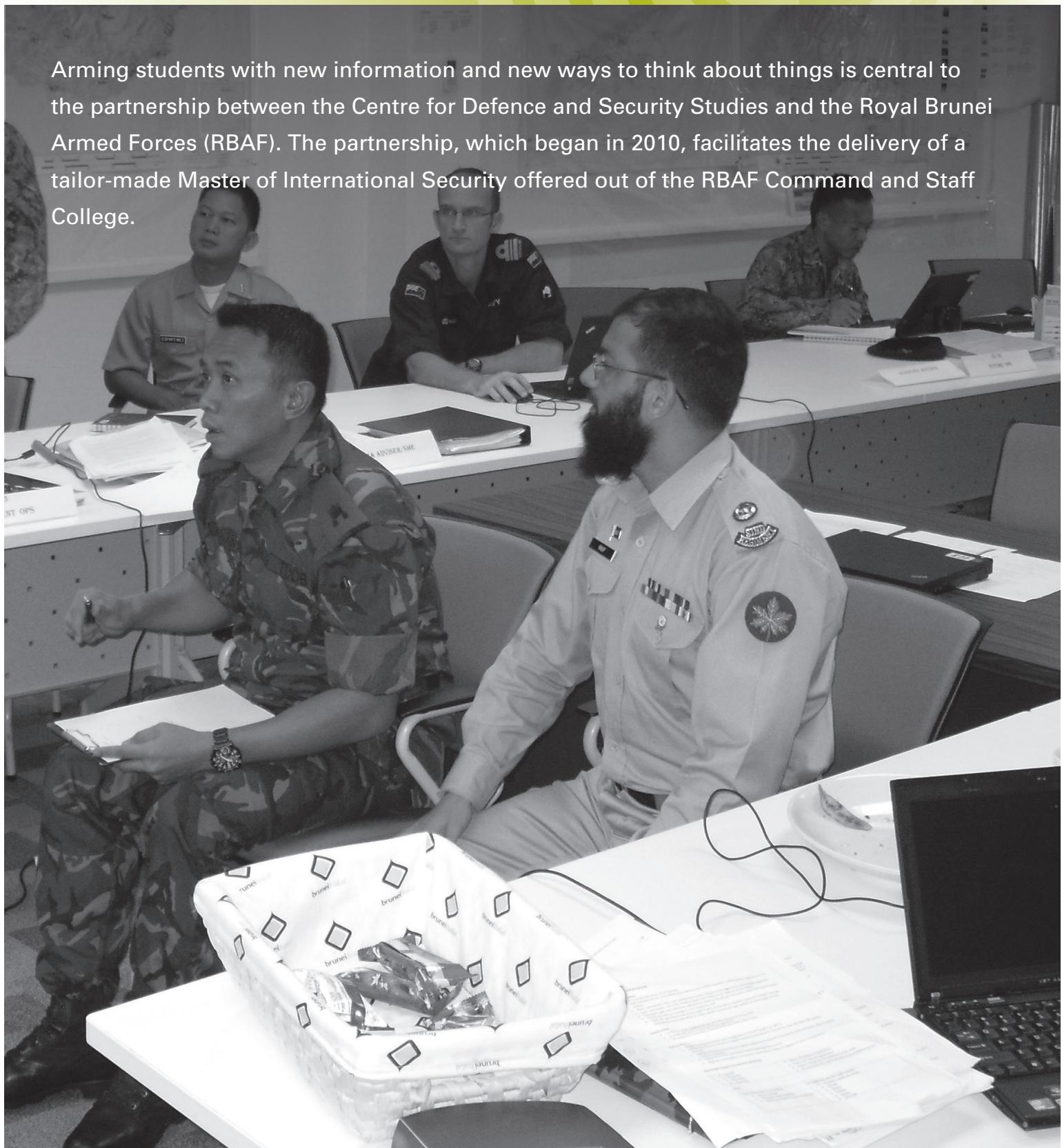


INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP BENEFICIAL FOR ALL

Arming students with new information and new ways to think about things is central to the partnership between the Centre for Defence and Security Studies and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF). The partnership, which began in 2010, facilitates the delivery of a tailor-made Master of International Security offered out of the RBAF Command and Staff College.



Set up to service the needs of the RBAF, the partnership brings in Massey's expertise in defence and security to offer an internationally recognised academic qualification for domestic and international students of the RBAF Command and Staff College.

Massey University's Brunei Relationship Manager Oiroa Kaihau says the programme is mutually beneficial for both parties.

"We're here to empower students with critical thinking skills that will serve them well in the types of ambiguous, volatile and complex situations that they often find themselves in. It's these intangible skills that have a significant impact on the students and our ability to offer an adaptive programme that speaks to the needs of the RBAF fits well with both organisations," says Mr Kaihau, from the Centre for Defence and Security Studies.

Mr Kaihau has been in and out of Brunei since 2011 and says the programme has the potential to be an exemplar for other international partnership opportunities.

"When I look around I see so many examples of where areas of expertise from Massey can be used to enhance the knowledge of overseas communities. We have a formula for success that works in the Brunei context and these insights could be offered up elsewhere. At the end of the day it all comes down to the quality of the relationship. You need to put the effort into building the relationship, and then maintain it by keeping up good rapport and dealing with problems quickly," he says.

The Master of International Security is a 180 credit postgraduate qualification offering papers in command, leadership and management; international security; the Brunei strategic environment across the Asia Pacific region; and applied military core competencies. It attracts students from all over the world including China, USA, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and of course, Brunei. Mr Kaihau says the diversity of the cohort adds a new depth to the quality of the learning.

"When you bring together people from all over the world, who work for a range of services like the Air Force, the Navy, the Army and government departments, and then add to that their unique core specialities – such as pilots, air traffic control, logisticians, communications specialists and engineers for example, you end up with a really unique learning environment. There is this level of richness and flavour that is very rare and leads to experiences that really benefit all of the students involved," he says.

The Centre for Defence and Security Studies is keen to continue working with the RBAF long into the future.

"It is my hope that we stay in Brunei for at least ten years working closely with them to provide a service that meets their needs," says Mr Kaihau.

Mr Oiroa Kaihau manages Massey's relationship with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and delivers a practical operational planning paper to the students in Brunei. He has a Master of Philosophy (Defence and Strategic Studies).

