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IDN/ANTARA

GOVERNMENT PLANS TO BUILD FOOTBALL TRAINING CENTER IN IKN NUSANTARA

President Jokowi spoke about the plan while receiving Youth and Sports Minister Zainudin Amali and Chairman of the Indonesian Football Association (PSSI) Mochamad Iriawan at the Merdeka Palace on Wednesday (3/8).

Super Garuda Shield 2022 Exercise Officially Opened

The annual joint military exercise Super Garuda Shield 2022, the cornerstone of the military partnership between the United States and Indonesia, officially kicked off on Wednesday (3/8).

UNDER the banners of 14 nations, the 16th annual Garuda Shield exercise this year showcases multinational partnership and joint interoperability, the US Embassy in Jakarta noted in a statement on Thursday (4/8).

Expanding from a bilateral training event between the Indonesian Army and the US Army, this year's Super Garuda Shield is now one of the biggest joint, multinational exercises in the Indo-Pacific region.

The strong and diverse Super Garuda Shield 2022 features a number of "firsts," including the first ever tri-lateral airborne

jump among the United States, Indonesia, and Japan, the US Embassy said in its statement. "When we are together like this, we are stronger," Commanding General of the US Army Pacific, General Charles Flynn, stated.

Flynn believes that the multinational exercise's planning, operations, exchanges, and activities can help increase all participating nations' military defense capabilities and work to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific.

"Together as a multinational force, Garuda Shield is an important expression of our teamwork, our interoperability, and our unity as a group of nations that seek

to have a free and open Indo-Pacific and maintain a rules-based order," he remarked.

The opening day ceremony of the annual military exercise showcased a formation of combined forces, highlighting the themes of joint, multinational interoperability, and partnership.

Over four thousand combined forces personnel, including first-time participants Australia, Singapore, and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, are participating in support of the exercise.

Other participating nations include Canada, France, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and the United Kingdom.

Commanding General of the 7th Infantry Division and exercise director for Super Garuda Shield 2022, Major General Stephen G. Smith, hailed the opportunity to be training side by side

with Pacific partners.

"This Indonesian-led exercise has grown in scope and scale. Every time we can build our joint readiness is a great opportunity for us and the region," Smith remarked. "The growth of this exercise shows its importance and how these nations view this as a consequential area within the Indo-Pacific region," he added.

Over the duration of the exercise, Super Garuda Shield will feature field and maritime training events to include an amphibious exercise, maritime security training, military operations in an urban terrain training, an air defense exercise, airborne operations, and an airfield seizure exercise.

Command post exercises where participating troops will practice their ability to plan, command, and communicate with each other in a simulated operational environment are also planned. (*)