

BRUNEI SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: November 03, 2026 - November 10, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

Security Analysis Report: Brunei (November 03 - November 10, 2026)

Executive Summary

During the period of November 03 to November 10, 2026, Brunei Darussalam demonstrated a proactive approach to enhancing its security posture through significant diplomatic engagements and ongoing defense modernization efforts. Key developments included the elevation of ties to a Strategic Partnership with Oman and active participation in regional counter-terrorism and maritime security forums. The nation also continued its defense acquisition programs with the anticipated delivery of new helicopters, while simultaneously addressing a persistent cyber threat landscape through awareness initiatives. These activities underscore Brunei's commitment to regional stability and the protection of its national interests in a dynamic geopolitical environment.

Key Security Developments

- Elevation of Diplomatic Ties with Oman

From November 2 to November 4, 2026, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman paid a State Visit to Brunei Darussalam, marking a historic milestone in bilateral relations. During the visit, both Majesties agreed to elevate their relationship to a Strategic Partnership, aiming to deepen and broaden cooperation across various sectors. This elevation signifies a strengthened bond and a commitment to mutual benefit and closer engagement.

- Farewell Calls from Pakistan's High Commissioner

On November 3, 2026, Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), received a farewell call from His Excellency Janbaz Khan, the High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam, at Bolkiah Garrison. This was followed by another farewell call on November 4, 2026, to Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Coordinating Minister for National Security, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Defence II. These engagements highlight the ongoing diplomatic

exchanges and bilateral relations between Brunei and Pakistan.

- RBAF-SAF Sergeant Major Exchange Programme

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) hosted a delegation from the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) for the Sergeant Major Exchange Programme (SMEP) 2026, held from November 4 to November 6, 2026, in Bandar Seri Begawan. This program serves to enhance professional military collaboration and interoperability between the two armed forces, reinforcing bilateral defense cooperation.

- Participation in 7th Sub-Regional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (SRM)

On November 7, 2026, Brunei Darussalam's delegation, led by the Coordinating Minister for National Security, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Minister of Defence II, participated in the 7th Sub-Regional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (SRM) in Jakarta, Indonesia. Discussions focused on regional and global security challenges, including terrorism, irregular migration, cybersecurity, and transnational crime. Brunei and Malaysia are set to co-chair the Senior Officials' Counter-Terrorism Policy Forum next year.

- Courtesy Call with Australian Minister on Security Cooperation

Following the SRM, on November 7, 2026, Brunei's Coordinating Minister for National Security held a courtesy call with The Honourable Tony Burke MP, Australia's Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Cyber Security, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship. Both nations expressed satisfaction with their long-standing ties and discussed strengthening cooperation in areas of mutual significance, particularly border security and cybersecurity.

- ReCAAP ISC Cluster Meeting 2026 on Maritime Security

The Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) and the National Maritime Coordination Centre (NMCC) jointly hosted the ReCAAP ISC Cluster Meeting 2026 in Brunei Darussalam. This two-day meeting brought together representatives from several ASEAN countries and China to share information and strengthen cooperation in addressing maritime security challenges, including piracy and armed robbery against ships.

- CySec 2026 Cybersecurity Conference Underway

Brunei's flagship cybersecurity conference, CySec 2026, themed "Resilient by Design," was underway during this period. The conference aimed to unite government, industry, and defenders across the region to discuss protecting critical infrastructure in an age of escalating threats.

- BruCERT Cybersecurity Alerts Issued

The Brunei Computer Emergency Response Team (BruCERT) issued alerts on November 3, 2026, regarding Fake Invoice Attachments and on November 9, 2026, concerning Suspicious Files attachment. These alerts highlight ongoing efforts to

inform the public and organizations about prevalent cyber threats.

- Anticipated Delivery of H145M Helicopters

The first batch of six Airbus H145M helicopters for the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF) is scheduled for delivery to Brunei in November 2026. This follows the successful completion of the Customer Acceptance Test (CAT) in Donauwörth, Germany, in October 2026, marking a significant step in the nation's defense modernization program to replace its decommissioned Bölkow BO 105 fleet.

- Sultan's Scheduled Visit to Russia

His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei is scheduled to visit Russia in November 2026. This visit aims to deepen bilateral cooperation mechanisms, building on the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Cyber Threat Landscape

During this reporting period, Brunei's cyber threat landscape was characterized by persistent phishing and malware campaigns, as evidenced by alerts issued by the Brunei Computer Emergency Response Team (BruCERT). On November 3, 2026, BruCERT warned of Fake Invoice Attachments, and on November 9, 2026, it issued an alert regarding Suspicious Files attachment, indicating ongoing attempts by malicious actors to compromise systems through social engineering and malicious payloads. The nation's commitment to addressing these threats was highlighted by the ongoing CySec 2026 conference, themed "Resilient by Design," which focused on protecting critical infrastructure and fostering collaboration among government, industry, and cybersecurity defenders. This proactive stance reflects Brunei's recognition of the escalating digital risks.

Background: The "Dark Pink" advanced persistent threat (APT) group has been reported to target governments and militaries in Brunei, among other Southeast Asian nations, since mid-2021, focusing on data exfiltration and network access. Sowbug is also a known threat actor targeting Brunei.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

Brunei's diplomatic and security activities during this period underscore its commitment to maintaining regional stability and diversifying its international partnerships. The elevation of ties with Oman to a Strategic Partnership from November 2-4, 2026, signifies a deepening relationship beyond traditional economic interests, potentially opening new avenues for cooperation in security and other strategic areas. Concurrently, Brunei continued its long-standing defense cooperation

with the United States, as evidenced by the ongoing nature of exercises like CARAT (Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training), which commenced in September 2026 and focuses on maritime security in the South China Sea. This partnership is crucial for regional maritime domain awareness and interoperability.

The upcoming visit of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah to Russia in November 2026 aims to further deepen bilateral ties, building on 35 years of diplomatic relations. This engagement, alongside Brunei's reaffirmed defense ties and public security cooperation with China (as noted in September 2026), demonstrates Brunei's strategy of maintaining balanced relations with major global powers. Such a diversified diplomatic approach allows Brunei to navigate complex geopolitical currents and enhance its strategic autonomy.

Brunei's active participation in regional forums, such as the 7th Sub-Regional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (SRM) in Jakarta on November 7, 2026, and co-chairing the upcoming Senior Officials' Counter-Terrorism Policy Forum with Malaysia, highlights its leadership role in addressing shared security challenges within ASEAN. Similarly, hosting the ReCAAP ISC Cluster Meeting 2026 on maritime security reinforces its dedication to a safe and secure maritime environment in Southeast Asia. These multilateral engagements are vital for fostering collective action against transnational threats and promoting regional stability.

EU Relations and Implications

Brunei's relations with the European Union remained stable during this period, consistent with the "Stable" outlook assessed in August 2026 by SecurityStudies.info. High-level diplomatic engagement was observed with the visit of Her Excellency Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, to Brunei. Discussions during this visit, and at the 25th EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in April 2026, focused on advancing the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership across priority areas, including trade, investment, and security cooperation. As the Country Coordinator for the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations, Brunei continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening this strategic partnership through the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2023–2027).

The security and cyber developments in Brunei have direct implications for EU interests and ongoing cooperation. The focus on cybersecurity, highlighted by the CySec 2026 conference and BruCERT alerts, aligns with the EU's interest in digital cooperation and resilience, particularly given existing EU cooperation projects in sectors like Trade & Investment and Infrastructure & Transport. The EU's commitment to governance and rule of law cooperation (1 project) also finds resonance in Brunei's efforts against transnational crime and terrorism, as discussed at the 7th

Sub-Regional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime. The stability of Brunei's security environment is crucial for the effective implementation of EU-funded cooperation projects across various sectors, including Development Cooperation, Education & Skills, and Infrastructure & Transport.

Military and Defense Analysis

Brunei's military and defense posture during this period reflects a continued commitment to modernization and enhancing interoperability with key partners. A significant development is the anticipated delivery of the first batch of Airbus H145M helicopters to the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF) in November 2026. This acquisition of six H145M helicopters is a crucial step in replacing the RBAirF's aging Bölkow BO 105 fleet, significantly upgrading its utility and multi-role capabilities for various missions. The successful completion of the Customer Acceptance Test in Germany in October 2026 ensures the aircraft meet RBAirF technical specifications before deployment.

In terms of force posture and capability development, Brunei actively engaged in bilateral military exercises. The Sergeant Major Exchange Programme (SMEP) 2026 with the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), held from November 4-6, 2026, in Bandar Seri Begawan, underscores ongoing efforts to foster professional development and strengthen interoperability at the non-commissioned officer level. While the CARAT Brunei 2026 exercise with the U.S. forces commenced in September 2026, its long-standing nature (since 1995) and focus on maritime domain awareness, anti-submarine warfare, and maritime interdiction operations in the South China Sea remain critical for enhancing the Royal Brunei Navy's combat readiness and regional security cooperation. Similarly, Exercise Pahlawan Warrior 26 with the U.S. Army, which began in August 2026, focuses on jungle operations and urban warfare, contributing to the Royal Brunei Land Force's readiness.

Defense spending trends are indicated by active tenders for various military supplies. Notices for the purchase of vaccines for the Royal Brunei Army, ballistic helmets for the RBAF Special Forces Regiment Unit (RPK), and George Black Boots for the Royal Brunei Air Force were open with deadlines in November and December 2026. These procurements reflect ongoing efforts to equip and support military personnel. The earlier tender for advanced Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and Vertical Take-off and Landing (VTOL) UAV systems (opened October 2025) also signals a strategic interest in next-generation surveillance and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): Brunei is expected to continue its active diplomatic engagements, particularly with the scheduled visit of His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah to Russia in November 2026, which will likely result in further bilateral cooperation agreements. The integration of the newly delivered Airbus H145M helicopters into the Royal Brunei Air Force will be a key focus, involving training and operational readiness assessments. Brunei will also likely maintain its strong participation in regional security dialogues, building on the outcomes of the 7th Sub-Regional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime and the ReCAAP ISC Cluster Meeting. Cybersecurity awareness campaigns and infrastructure protection efforts will remain a priority, especially with the ongoing CySec 2026 conference.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The South China Sea remains a persistent area of concern due to overlapping territorial claims and the presence of various naval forces, although no direct incidents involving Brunei were reported in this period. Brunei's participation in maritime exercises in this region underscores its vigilance. Cyber threats, particularly from state-sponsored and criminal actors, continue to pose a significant risk to critical infrastructure and government entities, as highlighted by BruCERT's recent alerts. The potential for transnational crime, including irregular migration and trafficking in persons, also remains a monitored risk, given Brunei's active role in regional counter-terrorism and transnational crime forums.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the progress of the H145M helicopter integration and their operational deployment, which will reflect Brunei's enhanced aerial capabilities. The outcomes and follow-up actions from the Sultan's visit to Russia will indicate the trajectory of this bilateral relationship. Further developments in regional maritime security initiatives and any new joint exercises will signal the evolving dynamics in the South China Sea. On the cyber front, the frequency and sophistication of reported incidents by BruCERT, along with the implementation of recommendations from CySec 2026, will be crucial indicators of the nation's cyber resilience.

Strategic recommendations: Brunei should continue its strategy of diversified diplomatic engagement to balance relations with major global powers and foster regional cooperation. Prioritizing the seamless integration and effective utilization of new defense assets, such as the H145M helicopters, is essential for enhancing national defense capabilities. Strengthening national cybersecurity infrastructure and public awareness programs remains paramount to counter evolving cyber threats. Active leadership and participation in multilateral security frameworks, particularly within ASEAN, will reinforce Brunei's role in promoting regional peace and stability and addressing shared security challenges.

Structured Assessment

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: The Scoop

• XPENG makes official Brunei debut with X9, L03 AND G6, bringing a new era of intelligent mobility (2026-11-07 03:25)

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN — Brunei’s automotive market has a new name to watch, as XPENG officially makes its debut in the country with the launch of three models — the X9, L03 and G6 — bringing a different approach to how people experience mobility. Unveiled by Imperial Motors Sdn Bhd at its showroom in Katok Point on November 6, the launch marks the arrival of a brand built around intelligent technology, connectivity and electric mobility. For Bruneian motorists who have been following XPENG’s introduction to the local market, the announcement marks the opportunity to experience a new generation of automotive technology first-hand, backed by an established local automotive distributor, Imperial Motors Sdn Bhd. Three XPENG Models for a new generation of mobility XPENG X9 At the top of the line-up is the XPENG X9, a premium seven-seater electric MPV designed around space, comfort and convenience. With its futuristic design, spacious cabin and intelligent features, the X9 seven-seat configuration makes it particularly relevant for families who need room for passengers, while its premium positioning and focus on passenger comfort also make it an option for those seeking a more refined people-carrier experience. XPENG L03 The XPENG L03 introduces a more […] This story 'XPENG makes official Brunei debut with X9, L03 AND G6, bringing a new era of intelligent mobility' appeared first on The Scoop.