

Development of TNI Ad Posture Innorth Natuna Sea; Perspective and Direction

Achdwiyanto Yudi Hartono^{1*}, Zainal Arifin², Sutanto³, Robby Mochamad Taufik⁴

^{1,2,3,4} Indonesia Defence University, Indonesia

ayhartono90@gmail.com, zainal.sababuddin@idu.ac.id, pakarkeshan12853@gmail.com, Robby.taufik@idu.ac.id

*Corresponding Author: nut_ch@rmutto.ac.th

Citation: Hartono, A. Y., Arifin, Z., Sutanto & Taufik, R. M. (2025). Development of TNI Ad Posture Innorth Natuna Sea; Perspective and Direction, *Journal of Cultural Analysis and Social Change*, 10(4), 4123-4127. <https://doi.org/10.64753/jcasc.v10i4.3743>

Published: December 28, 2025

ABSTRACT

Maintaining national defense means increasing capabilities, creating deterrence for the state and nation, and dealing with every threat. Each threat has special characteristics that influence its handling pattern, so when conducting a strategic environmental analysis, matters relating to the nature, assessment of characteristics/classification, and assessment of threat tendencies must be taken into account. The main focus is evaluating threats to Indonesia's national defense interests. The Asia-Pacific is an important strategic area from economic, political and military points of view. It is important to consider the conflict in the South China Sea as well as tensions in several border areas between countries. According to Law no. 34 of 2004, the TNI's posture is a representation of the country's defense strength which is demonstrated by a combination of strength, capability and deployment of national resources. According to Puspen TNI (2007), the main, reserve and supporting components form the national defense system. As part of the Long Term Plan for Development of the National Defense System 2020–2024, the TNI AD divides the land defense area into five land dimension strategic compartments. It is hoped that the deployed TNI forces can carry out operations in their compartment areas. The TNI must strengthen its comprehensive strategy with the emergence of new provinces that may face threats. The TNI AD's defense posture must be adjusted to the current situation to protect the Republic of Indonesia's territory from danger.

Keywords: Threats, South China Sea, Posture Development Of TNI AD

INTRODUCTION

In the context of modern global competition, the rapidly changing dynamics of the strategic environment give rise to various real threats, including asymmetric threats, proxy conflicts, and hybrids. To anticipate this dynamic, countries must transform themselves into organizations capable of anticipating all the changes and dynamics occurring in the world today.

When building a national defense system, both real and potential threats are very important. Strategic analysis and the discovery of the fact that threats are highly dynamic allow combining of different types of threats. Therefore, there are three categories of threats, both current and future: military threats (armed or unarmed), non-military threats, and hybrid threats. Threats can come from national, regional and international levels, and actors can come from within or outside the country. All parts of society are affected, including ideology, politics, economics, socio-culture, defense and security.

Every citizen must understand the basis of national defense, which includes the objectives, interests, essence, system, function and basic principles of implementation.

The universal defense system is used to defend the Indonesian state. This type of defense involves all citizens, territories, all state resources and infrastructure, which is planned and implemented in a comprehensive, integrated,

directed and continuous manner. Military defense and non-military defense are combined in a universal defense system to build a strong and respected national defense with high deterrence. The universal defense system is prepared early to face threats from various sources, including military, non-military and hybrid threats. Overall, these various types of threats can be categorized into real and unreal threats.

As part of the TNI, the TNI AD is responsible for maintaining state sovereignty, protecting the land territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia from threats from within and outside, and carrying out military operations for war and military operations other than war. The extent to which the development of TNI AD units functions to carry out their main tasks is very important. The TNI AD was built to protect the country on land using the state defense system (Sishaneg).

In accordance with statutory regulations, the TNI AD was formed to carry out land defense duties, maintain land border security with other countries, build and develop land dimensions, and promote land defense areas for the national interest. The TNI AD organization is designed to be flexible. The roles, duties and functions of the TNI AD reflect the historical values of the TNI AD's struggle, identity, character and culture.

Limited budgets often hinder the development of military power in developing countries like Indonesia. In planning the development of military power, we must make precise and accurate budget forecasts because there is no way out. Basically, forecasting the national defense budget is a matter of uncertainty about the location of a point in continuity. However, there are some forecasts that can be considered accurate that have a strong rational basis, can be used well, and can be explained methodologically.

A weak national economy, which causes low GDB (gross domestic product), is the main obstacle in building a strong military posture in developing countries. Thus, if defense budget forecasting to build a military posture is only based on the real amount of GDB that the country is currently able to produce, developing countries will never have a strong military posture. However, to build a strong military posture in the future, developing countries must develop a vision of state power as stated by R.C. Cline.

Disputes involving many countries in the South China Sea can affect security stability in the Asia Pacific. This area has a very strategic geographical position and natural resource potential that is very profitable economically. Its geographical position is also an international shipping and communication route, and its natural resource potential allows further exploration.

There are three reasons why disputes in the South China Sea can turn into armed (open) conflict. First, both sides often use military instruments to support their claims. Second, the conflict involves countries outside the region. Third, there are no international institutions that can be relied upon to resolve conflicts. Because ASEAN countries are committed to resolving conflicts through dialogue and brotherhood based on mutual understanding, respect and trust, conflicts will not occur.

Due to the strategic significance and complex maritime conflicts in the South China Sea, building the TNI's posture there is very important. Many countries, including Indonesia, have political, economic and security interests in the South China Sea. To maintain national sovereignty and security in the region, the TNI must take the right position in this situation.

Geopolitical analysis, national interests, and the dynamics of relations between countries are relevant perspectives. In addition, diplomatic efforts, regional cooperation and strengthening appropriate military capabilities must be part of developing the TNI's posture in the South China Sea. Therefore, research on the TNI's position in the South China Sea provides important information for Indonesia's defense policy.

Given the complexity of maritime disputes in the South China Sea, we emphasize that the TNI must be strengthened to anticipate potential conflicts. To maintain Indonesia's sovereignty and national security, a strong security posture is needed, especially considering the escalation of tensions in the region. In addition, China carries out regular patrols in the South China Sea to improve security status and prevent activities that destabilize the region.

Military diplomacy is also considered an effective way to reduce conflict in the South China Sea, with the Ministry of Defense and TNI responsible for doing so. The study also emphasizes the role and function of the Indonesian Navy in maintaining maritime security, especially because the development of the autonomous region in the North Natuna Sea requires developing the TNI-AD's posture.

The purpose of this article is to provide a perspective on the TNI's position in the North Natuna Sea amidst potential threats from China which could threaten the strength of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

Problem

At the national level, Indonesia's security conditions are generally quite stable. However, because Indonesia is located near the center of instability in the Asian region, precisely in the Strait of Malacca and in the South China Sea region, many potential military and non-military threats could threaten national stability, which could influence

the TNI's policies and strategies for building its posture. Apart from that, factors that accelerate the development of TNI posture can also influence the development of TNI policies and strategies.

This is likely to become a problem which, according to the author, will become a threat to overcome potential threats that could occur in the South China Sea region.

Research Purposes

This research aims to gain a better understanding of the TNI's strategy to build its posture in the South China Sea region, including the factors that influence defense and security policies in the region. Apart from that, this research also aims to analyze the security opportunities and challenges faced by Indonesia, especially related to conflicts and political dynamics in the South China Sea. This research aims to develop an effective defense strategy

RESEARCH METHODS

Researchers used qualitative studies to analyze it, with literature study as the main data source. Journals, books, archives, newspapers, the internet, and online trade publications are investigated to obtain relevant information and data, which are then compared with relevant theories.

RESEARCH RESULT

In developing national defense and security, there are many problems that must be resolved. This includes the formulation of various regulations governing the TNI in the state security system, such as TAP VI and VII MPR 2000, Law no. 3 of 2002, and misunderstandings about regional autonomy (UU no. 22 of 1999), which can be used by regional governments as an excuse to protect their own regional interests. At the same time, we also recognize that the defense budget is another major related issue.

Because defense issues must be centralized, direct regional government involvement (APBD) is not permitted and is not regulated, this budget issue must be handled by the central government (through the APBN). Apart from that, there are also problems with the development of Indonesian defense doctrine through strategic doctrine, such as TNI doctrine, which is the main doctrine that shows the position, function, identity and concept of war adopted; Army, Navy and Air Force doctrine, as well as classic problems, such as limited defense budgets.

Civilian duties must make the military professional and respected through the TNI's strong and high-tech posture. To build a strong TNI posture and an efficient and effective inter-force cooperation mechanism that is built in an integrated manner from all Army, Navy and Air Force forces, there are two things that need to be considered: first, maritime security must be analyzed from a civilian perspective as a state tool aimed at to maintain the country's existence in the eyes of the world.

The large budget allocated for the construction and development of military defense forces of large countries such as the United States, Russia and China influences the development of the strategic environment at the global level. The United States prioritizes defense spending to maintain long-term competition with Russia and China, which are considered the biggest threats to the United States. Russia continues to prioritize its military role. They guarantee strategic deterrence and military preparedness to prevent conflict.

China's economic capabilities are utilized simultaneously to build its strength and defense capabilities with an ever-increasing defense budget to emphasize its foreign policy. The development of China's defense strength and capabilities is realized by massively modernizing its military forces with increasingly sophisticated technology, building military strength and facilities in the Paracel and Spratly Islands, changing the structure and function of 7 Military Regions into 5 Theater Commands with an Anti-Access/Area Denial Strategy (A2/AD) which is equipped with long-range missiles, to the Military-Civil Fusion strategy which synergizes China's military and civilian forces (Indonesian Minister of Defense Regulation Number 3 of 2023 concerning National Defense Posture for 2020-2024, 2023).

Currently, the biggest threat is China's domination of the South China Area, especially its claim to the North Natuna Area, and violations of underwater areas carried out by three Chinese diving drones captured in Indonesian waters.

The current National Defense System is less robust in dealing with threats, as shown by territorial violations committed by other countries and the TNI has not been able to ward off, discover and follow up on these violations in an optimal manner.

Three Chinese diving drones were caught in Indonesian waters, with the most recent being caught by a fisherman near the Selayar Islands in Luas Flores in December 2020. Previously, a foreign submarine had appeared

in the waters of Deli Island, Pandeglang Banten in June 2006 (Indosiar.com, 2006) , and at the Indonesian Navy's Armada Jaya XV Exercise in December 2005 in Sulawesi Waters (TEMPO Interactive, 2005).

The TNI does not yet have a permanent underwater detection system in strategic strait funnels, Black Shark torpedoes, anti-submarine helicopters with the latest technology, and the number and technology of submarines is limited. As a result, this violation occurred in the area.

With the shift in the paradigm of military, non-military and hybrid threats as well as advances in science and technology, the TNI must increase its development and posture to face the era of globalization and the challenges of the tasks that will come.

The role of the Indonesian Army is not limited to state interests or international relations. Therefore, the TNI AD KEP doctrine must be in harmony with and not conflict with the foundations of international law such as the UN Charter, the law of armed conflict, international humanitarian law and human rights. Basically, the TNI AD KEP doctrine is a doctrine that is considered correct, not dogmatic, and must be adjusted to suit strategic changes, types of threats, and the factors that influence them.

Basically, the TNI AD needs to be built and developed to be able to carry out its duties. As a force, the TNI AD was formed to carry out land-based tasks in the defense sector, maintain security in land border areas with other countries, build and develop land-based areas, and carry out empowerment of land-based defense areas to support national interests in accordance with statutory regulations. The Indonesian Army, on the other hand, was designed to be a flexible and sensitive organization. The historical values of the struggle, identity, character and culture of TNI AD soldiers are reflected in the roles, duties and functions of the TNI AD.

As a means of defense of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 3 of 2002 and Law Number 34 of 2004 stipulate that the Indonesian National Army is responsible for implementing national defense policies to uphold state sovereignty, defend territorial integrity, and protect the safety of the nation. Therefore, the TNI-AD's posture development strategy must be based on this law, especially when it comes to potential conflicts.

According to his explanation, TNI posture is a form of TNI appearance which is reflected in the combination of TNI strength, ability and title. The development and deployment of TNI forces must consider and prioritize security areas, border areas, conflict-prone areas and remote islands in accordance with geographical conditions and defense strategies. Planning is an important part of defense management and is an important part of long-term plans. To achieve the TNI-AD's ideal defense posture in facing developments in areas that are vulnerable to external threats, such as the North Natuna Sea, planning must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and have clear time limits.

Specific means that the goal or target must be unique or not confusing. In this case, there must be a certain object or area to be controlled in military operations. Currently the North Natuna Sea Area is included in the defense area of Kodam I / Bukit Barisan where the Command Headquarters is located in Medan, and is under Korem 033/Wira Pratama whose Command Headquarters is located in Tanjung Pinang.

The North Natuna Sea is currently in the Riau Islands province and is a new province which is the only province whose land area is only 5% of the sea area and consists of thousands of islands. The province has a very large territory and borders directly with neighboring countries, making this region very vulnerable from a defense aspect. This kind of thing invites its own vulnerability to being used as a place for infiltration by foreign parties. Located in the waters of the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea, then on the border with neighboring countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand.

On the other hand, the Riau Islands Province, which borders directly with several countries, has the potential for state border conflicts, which could threaten the integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia. Starting from several things stated above, including the aspirations that developed among the community at that time and after an in-depth study was carried out by various parties, it is time for the Riau Islands region to have a command unit at the Kodam level that can quickly and precisely deal with every potential threat. which could disrupt the stability and sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia in the Riau Islands Province, especially the North Natuna Sea Region.

The Central Government can consider appropriate programs for physical and non-physical development in the North Natuna Sea after the threats have been translated based on a priority scale of the most dangerous and urgent threats. These programs can then be implemented by local governments with the help of community organizations and traditional institutions.

After the threats have been translated based on a priority scale of the most dangerous and urgent threats, the central government can consider appropriate physical and non-physical development programs in the North Natuna Sea. These programs can then be implemented by local governments with the help of community groups and traditional institutions.

The TNI-AD's posture development strategy must also be organized by considering the breadth of existing areas of duty and responsibility. The current personnel not only carry out their main duties, but they are also responsible for helping the local community become better. A limited number of personnel carry out these duties and responsibilities.

By considering the situation in the North Natuna Sea based on threat priorities, it will be easier to evaluate each event which is certainly influenced by the dynamic strategic environment, which requires careful consideration to prevent future uncertainty. Thus, the TNI must continue to protect the sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia from threats, especially those occurring in the North Natuna Sea, regardless of changes in its strategic environment.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the discussion above show that the strategy for developing the TNI-AD's posture in facing the development of the new autonomous region in the North Natuna Sea can be implemented through structured defense management. This strategy requires planning that is specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and has a clear time limit.

Apart from planning, organization is also needed to manage physical and non-physical development. This must be done based on the translation of existing strategic environmental threats. Due to the large number of duties and responsibilities, more staff is required.

Apart from that, efforts are also needed to increase synergy and cooperation, especially among implementing elements in the field from the lowest strata such as village level, to obtain information that can assist the Central Government in developing the appropriate TNI-AD posture for the North Natuna Sea region.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bakrie, Connie Rahakundini. *Pertahanan negara dan postur TNI ideal*. Yayasan Obor Indonesia, 2007.
 Diakses dari: https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Komando_Resor_Militer_033
- Harahap, Iman Rahmadsyah. "Analisa Yuridis Industri Pertahanan Indonesia Terkait Pembangunan Postur Tni Al Dalam Pengadaan KRI/KAL." *Jurnal Maritim Indonesia (Indonesian Maritime Journal)* 10.2 (2022): 156-166.
- Nugraha, Muhammad Harry Riana. "Perencanaan Strategis Pertahanan Masa Depan Indonesia: Analisis Pada Lingkungan Strategis Asia Tenggara (ASEAN) Periode 2015-2020." *Jurnal Pertahanan dan Bela Negara* 7.3 (2017): 139-150.
- Prakoso, L. Y., Yulivan, I., Purwantoro, S. A., Prihantoro, K., Suhirwan, S., Uksan, A., ... & Pramono, B. (2022). *Implementasi Pengembangan Persenjataan Angkatan Laut Indonesia*. *Jurnal Pendidikan Tambusai*, 6(1), 519-526.
- Priyono, Sigit. "Evaluasi Implementasi Kebijakan Minimum Essential Force (MEF) Pada Postur Pewira Tni Jurnal Manajemen & Bisnis Aliansi Angkatan Udara." *Aliansi: Jurnal Manajemen dan Bisnis* 14.2 (2019): 11-20.
- Sinaga, Philip Jeremia, Agung Risdhianto, and Hikmat Zakky Almubaroq. "Strategi Pengembangan Postur Tni-Ad Dihadapkan Pada Pengembangan Daerah Otonomi Baru Di Papua." *Jurnal Kewarganegaraan* 7.1 (2023): 1154-1160.
- Soebakgijo, Nanang Hery, et al. "Penyusunan Postur Pertahanan Militer Berdasarkan Analisis Ancaman Militer Guna Menujudkan Sistem Pertahanan Negara Yang Tangguh." *Manajemen Pertahanan: Jurnal Pemikiran dan Penelitian Manajemen Pertahanan* 9.1 (2023).
- Rachmat, Angga Nurdin. "Tantangan dan Peluang Perkembangan Teknologi Pertahanan Global Bagi Pembangunan Kekuatan Pertahanan Indonesia." *Transformasi Global* 1.2 (2014).
- Rifai, M., Tutu, A., Mulyani, M., Sunra, A., & Suwarno, P. (2022). *Pengaruh Anggaran Pertahanan Dan Minimum Essential Force Terhadap Postur Tentara Nasional Indonesia*. *Jurnal Inovasi Penelitian*, 2(10), 3311-3324.