

OPTIMIZING THE ROLE OF THE INDONESIAN MARINE CORPS IN ORGANIZING COASTAL DEFENSE OPERATIONS

Taufik Ramdhan¹, Juang Pawana², Kukuh Setyo Pambudi²

¹STTAL, Bumimoro, Morokrembangan, Surabaya, 60178, Indonesia

² Universitas Pertahanan, Kompleks IPSC, Sentul Bogor 16810, Indonesia

e-mail: kukuhpambudi@ymail.com

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the marine corps to play a bigger role in coastal defense operations in Indonesia. Based on Presidential Regulation Number 66 of 2019, article 63 states that the Marine corps is designated as the Main Operations Command. This provision has implications for the Marines to carry out several operations under the direct command of the TNI Commander. Some of the operations that can be carried out include amphibious operations, coastal defense operations, and securing strategic outer islands within OMP and OMSP. In particular, coastal defense operations are essential operations that the Marine Corps will be able to carry out properly because the coastal defense is one of its primary capabilities. The Marine Corps as the central coordinator in Coastal Defense Operations is also supported by article 153 which states the authority of the Marine Corps as the Main Guidance Command in fostering Marine unit elements and maritime potential in the region. Thus, it becomes a necessity if the Marine Corps becomes the main driving force for the implementation of Coastal Defense Operations along with the frontier coastal areas in Indonesia. This study used a qualitative descriptive analysis approach with the primary data source obtained from a literature review. It is hoped that the results of this study can contribute to the Republic of Indonesia in considering the Marine Corps to be able to play an active role by starting to develop the Composite Marine Unit organization. Then it will be more optimal if the Composite Marine Unit is dislocated throughout the Indonesian homeland, especially in areas that have the Main Base of the Indonesian Navy as the central role in the implementation of the current Coastal Defense Operations.

Keywords: *Optimizing ,Marine, Coastal Defense Operations.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country with the second-longest coastline in the world. With a total of more than 17 thousand islands and a coastline of more than 10 thousand kilometres, Indonesia has characteristics, unlike most continental countries. This, of course, has a massive influence on how Indonesia's defense system should be structured. The defense that prioritizes the elements of the sea and the coast should be one of the priorities because this element has a significant threat from its marine area.

The threat in the marine area cannot be underestimated and deserves attention to all components of the Indonesian nation. This is inseparable from the many threats from the sea that

have recently become increasingly visible. One of these threats can be seen from the tension in many border areas. Perhaps the hottest part of this time is the South China Sea, where the intense conflict is taking place in the Indonesian sea area.

The South China Sea continues to heat up until now. According to Prabowo (2013), both the policies and strategies applied by Indonesia in tensions at sea have not been well formulated. Therefore, a comprehensive formula is needed to respond to threats in Indonesia's oceans and beaches. The condition of Indonesia's defense at sea, which is not yet fully integrated, makes Indonesia vulnerable in facing various threats at sea. This is again proven by the lack of equipment that can carry out coastal defense operations.

In general, coastal defense operation (coastal defense) is a cross-dimensional joint operation which aims to protect and block threats on the coastline and attack other objects in the coastal area. In the context of Coastal Defense, beaches are identified as land-sea and air areas bounded by operating agreements (paradigmindonesia.com, 2019). This operation has strategic value because Indonesia is a country that has a very long coastline. Until now, coastal areas have not been enormously developed in Indonesia. This can be seen from the absence of a particular unit that is placed on the outer coasts of Indonesia.

If a country can use the coastal area properly, the potential that can be developed is enormous. This has been proven by many studies analyzing the potential of the coastal region as a maritime buffer. One of the studies conducted by Nasution (2009) found that the coastal area has a defense potential that can be developed as an effort to strengthen the defense aspect in Indonesia. This proves the strategic position of the coast in Indonesia's defense.

One fact that coastal defense has not been developed is a problem in itself for Indonesia. Given that Indonesia has a coastline that is so long that it is very vulnerable to threats from various parties (Putra and Hakim, 2016). Also, the elements of coastal defense that are still not yet integrated make the defense problem on the outer lines of Indonesian territory even more severe. The author sees this as a threat that needs to be resolved immediately. One that the writer tries to develop in this case is improving coordination in coastal defense operations, which until now has not appointed a particular city as the main driver in operations.

One of the corps that has the most capable capabilities in conducting coastal defense is the Marines. Historically the Marine Corps was a unit formed to fill the Indonesian military force with

several tasks such as coastal defense, amphibious operations, and defense on the outer islands. This capability is coupled with the allusista that is owned, which is quite complete in protecting and defending coastal areas in Indonesia. Thus, the author believes that the Marines are the most suitable units to coordinate coastal defense operations in Indonesia.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Indonesian Marine Corps

The Indonesian Marine Corps is one of the combat units included in the Main Operations Command under the TNI commander who has outstanding abilities in terms of landing and coastal defense. Apart from serving as Main Operations Command, the Marines through Presidential Decree No. 66 of 2019 was also appointed as Main Command of Development or served as a supervisor in coastal and maritime defense.

In the historical context of the formation of the Marines, they were starting in 1945 were at that time there was the Mariniers Corps at the main headquarters of the Republic of Indonesia's navy in Tegal (Irianto et al., 2014). The formation of the Marine Corps was then preceded by the existence of the Marine Operations Command Corps (KKO) where the Marines entered with an initial force of 7 Battalion. Furthermore, with the changes that occurred within the KKO, in 1950, the Marines stood alone and became the Marine Corps like in 1945 at the beginning of its establishment.

The Indonesian Marine Corps is currently quite large, with three divisions divided into three cities in Indonesia. The three divisions consist of Marine Forces 1 in Marunda, Jakarta, Marine Forces 2 in Sidoarjo, East Java, and Marines 3 in Sorong, West Papua. This sizeable strength is also supported by several units under it, such as the Marine Infatuation Brigade, Artillery, Amphibious Reconnaissance, and the elite Denjaka Troops.

Thus, the Marines can be said to be the central amphibious unit owned by Indonesia.

In its history, the Marines have also been involved in various operations and events that have occurred in Indonesia. One of the most memorable ones is Operation Dwikora, which involved two Marines (KKO) to carry out bombings in Singapore (Saefudin, 2018). Also, the Marines were also assigned to eradicate the DI / TII rebels led by Kartosuwiryo, known as the Mount Gede operation (Setiyono and Triyana, 2014). The footprint of the Marines is quite large, proving that the Marines are a reliable commando unit in national defense.

The great strength of the Marines was also driven by the designation of the Marines as Main Operations Command through Presidential Regulation Number 66 of 2019. This designation certainly had several impacts on the Marine Corps, especially in terms of the assignment and authority to the Marines in maintaining Indonesian sovereignty. As a Main Operations Command the Marines have the same level as several other units such as Kogabwilhan, Kodam, Kostrad, and Kopassus.

The Marines have their specialties compared to some of the other Main Operations Command. A characteristic of the Marines is that they can be deployed in amphibious operations and on the coast. These characteristics are supported by the abilities possessed by Marines and their alusista. Besides, in the past, the Marines have also received a special place as troops ready to be deployed in existing operations in swampy areas or beaches as well as amphibious landings.

As one of the Main Operations Command, the Marines are charged with several assignments including amphibious operations, coastal defense operations, and security operations for the outer islands, as well as other operations concerning OMP and OMSP according to the policies of the

TNI Commander. Especially about coastal defense operations, so far this operation has been a cross-dimensional operation commanded by the main Navy Base. So that the Marines only act as one of the supporting elements in process. Likewise with Coastal Defense Commander, until now it is still held by the Assistant Operation of the Navy Main Base.

Main Operations Command has one further consequence for the Marines in terms of coastal defense operations. As a unit with the most capable capabilities in the amphibious field, the Marines should not only act as a support unit. This needs to be elaborated further, because in practice, currently, the coordinator of Coastal Defense Operations has not involved too many Marines. Thus, the role of the Marines both as Main Operations Command and as a unit that has the most capable capabilities in the field of Coastal Defense Operations has not been optimal.

2.2 Marines as Prime Mover of Coastal Defense Operations

Based on the determination as Main Operations Command and its capabilities, the Marines should not only be a support unit in coastal defense operations. The Marines should be further charged with being the leading sector in the coastal defense operation which so far has been mostly held by Lantamal. Making the Marines a leading sector will optimize the role of the Marines.

Based on several studies that have been done, several issues make the author believe in the research topic. Some of them are, (1) The Marines are a combat operations unit with primary qualifications (one of which) is coastal defense. (2) The role that is not too big in coastal defense operations in Indonesia. (3) The need for sizeable coastal defense personnel in Indonesia, and (4) the designation of the Marines as Main Operations Command.

Based on the enormous need for coastal defense, the consequences of Indonesia as an archipelago make this need more complex. Likewise, Indonesia's maritime defense strategy has not fully answered the need for coastal defense (Armados et al., 2017). Therefore an adequate solution is needed to answer this problem. In this context, pushing for the optimization of the Marines role would make sense.

One of the studies conducted by Farick et al. (2019) also proves that so far, the role of the Marines in carrying out operations is not optimal. Lack of personnel and capabilities have been a significant problem on coastal defense operations assignments. This is then exacerbated by the absence of a unit that focuses on developing coastal defense operations. Thus, coastal defense operations which are very crucial are less well developed.

Assigning the Marines to coordinate Coastal defense operations can be a quick step towards filling the shortage of coastal defense personnel. By becoming a coordinator of the Marines, they will be able to concentrate their strength to deploy coastal defenses. Also, the Marines will be better at providing an assessment of threats on the coast compared to other units because the Marines are a unit with this specialty.

On the other hand, the assignment of the Marines as prime mover of Coastal defense operation can later become an embodiment of one of the Marine's primary duties as Main Command of Development. Main Command of Development is an Operations Command whose task is to guide other units (Rohimat et al., 2020). The Marines who serve as supervisors in amphibious operations and coastal defense, it is only natural that the Marines also become coordinators at this level. It would be counterproductive if the Marines were not coordinating this field.

As Prime Mover of the coastal defense operation, Marine units can be upgraded in status and position on each Navy Main Base. Currently, the Marine units available at Navy Main Base are only in the Marine Defense Battalion Base (Yonmarhanlan) form, not too many. The only function as a unit to defend the base. This number is certainly not very significant and needs to be increased.

In this case, the authors argue that for each Lantamal region, a separate Marine brigade can be formed. This will be very productive because each Navy Main Base can have a particular unit that can carry out one Marine Unit Composite on Coastal defense operation independently and is ready in Indonesia's region. Besides, in their function of guidance, the Marines will also be better able to provide advice in units in the area. So that the Marines will be more effective in carrying out their functions as Main Operations Command and Main Command of Development. The formation of a separate brigade in each Navy Main Base can also welcome the plan to adjust the Navy Main Base, planned to be aligned with units at the Kodam level.

The solution of holding a Marine's komposit unit in each Navy Main Base will also encourage the spread of Marines throughout Indonesia. This solution will increase the Marines' effectiveness as an Main Operations Command as well as its role if it can be approved as coordinator of coastal defense operations. This is very appropriate and will add to the posture of the TNI, especially the Navy, to be more ideal. Given that the current state of defense at sea is still not perfect, there is always an impression that the reason is based on land (Bakrie, 2007).

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Coastal Defense Operations and Maritime Potential

One of the advantages that the Marines have in their units is the ownership of personnel

who have sufficient territorial understanding. This is in line with the establishment of a new desk in the Navy, namely the Maritime Potential. The personnel in the Maritime Potential field are mostly include personel from the Marines, and it is characteristic that the Marines are the most flexible unit in developing territorial areas in the Navy.

This territorial advantage can make the Marines more effective in maintaining coastal defenses. Apart from the strength, personnel, and defense equipment they have, the marine personnel serving at Maritime Potential can also embrace the community to work together and participate in security on the coast. This is very effective because community involvement can enlarge and multiply the strength of the TNI wherever it is on duty. Apart from being a supporter in logistics and personnel, a well-developed community will be able to become the eyes and ears for the Army to anticipate threats that arise.

It is on this basis that the authors argue that the Marines will be more effective in becoming the prime mover of Coastal defense operation. Apart from the specialization of their abilities, the Marines can also foster coastal communities to participate in maintaining aspects of coastal defense. If this can be carried out well, the author believes that defense in the coastal area will be strong and will get support from the whole community.

4. CONCLUSION

Indonesia is a country with the second-longest coastline in the world. This fact makes Indonesia need an adequate and robust aspect of coastal defense. Unfortunately, so far the coastal defenses built in Coastal Defense Operations have not been well established.

Seeing the current conditions, the authors see the potential to make the Marines prime mover of Coastal defense operation. This aims to make Coastal defense operation as the backbone of

coastal defense more optimal. The author based this view on several reasons including the designation of the Marines as Main Operations Command and Main Command of Development, the ability of Marines who are indeed trained to carry out Coastal defense operation, and the territorial capabilities of Marines in coastal areas which can be maximized if they become the coordinator of Coastal defense Operations.

Several proposals to be able to develop the Marines as an operations coordinator, among others. (1) Improve the position of the Marines in each Navy Main Base area by holding a Marine Unit Composite in each Navy Main Base's Area. (2) Deploy Marine units throughout Indonesia with coordination of permanent operations under Pasmabar as Main Operations Command. If some of these suggestions can be followed up, the author believes that Indonesia will have capable strengths in Coastal Defense Operations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research has been Supported by Indonesia Naval Technology College (STTAL).

REFERENCES

- Atmaja, S. B., & Nugroho, D. (2016). Distribusi spasial upaya penangkapan kapal cantrang dan Permasalahannya di laut jawa. *Jurnal Penelitian Perikanan Indonesia*, 18(4), 233-241.
- Antariksa, A. Y. (2018). Diplomasi Pertahanan Laut Indonesia dalam Konteks Pergeseran Geopolitik di Kawasan pada Masa Depan. *Jurnal Pertahanan & Bela Negara*, 4(2), 1-24.
- Armandos, D., Yusnaldi, Y., & Purwanto, P. (2017). Implementasi Kebijakan Pertahanan Laut dalam Mendukung Keamanan Maritim di Pulau Nipa. *Keamanan Maritim*, 3(2).
- Bastari, A., Toruan, T. S. L., & Suhirwan, S. (2018). Strategi Pemberdayaan Wilayah Pertahanan Laut Dalam Meningkatkan Kesadaran Bela Negara di Kabupaten Tangerang, Banten

- (Studi di Lantamal III/JKT). Strategi Perang Semesta, 4(3).
- Bakrie, C. R. (2007). Pertahanan negara dan postur TNI ideal. Yayasan Obor Indonesia.
- Farick, F., Salim, A., & Widodo, S. S. 2019. Optimalisasi Kemampuan Personel Batalyon A Dalam Melaksanakan Tugas Operasi Pertahanan Pantai X. JUPIIS: Jurnal Pendidikan Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial, 11(2), 428-437.
- Irianto, T., Pattinasarani., Budiman. 2014. ENSIKLOPEDIA KORPS MARINIR TNI AL : Selayang Pandang. Jakarta: Lentera Abadi.
- Indrawan, J. (2018). Perubahan Paradigma Pertahanan Indonesia Dari Pertahanan Teritorial Menjadi Pertahanan Maritim: Sebuah Usulan. Jurnal Pertahanan & Bela Negara, 5(2), 93-114.
- Marsetio, A. P. P. W. L. (2013). Dalam Mendukung Pembangunan Indonesia Sebagai Negara Maritim Yang Tangguh. UNY.
- Muzakky, A. A. (2018). Pasang Surut Pasukan Elit Angkatan Laut: Dari KKO AL Menjadi Korps Marinir TNI AL, 1948–1975 (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Airlangga).
- Nasution A. 2009. Pengaruh Pengembangan Wilayah (Aspek Ekonomi Sosial Dan Budaya) Terhadap Pertahanan Negara Di Wilayah Pantai Timur Sumatera Utara. Jurnal Perencanaan dan Pengembangan Wilayah WAHANA HIJAU. 3 (4) : 117-130.
- Prabowo, E. E. (2013). KEBIJAKAN DAN STRATEGI PERTAHANAN INDONESIA (Studi Kasus Konflik Di Laut Cina Selatan). Jurnal Ketahanan Nasional, 19(3), 118-129.
- Putra, I. N., & Hakim, A. (2016). Analisa Peluang dan Ancaman Keamanan Maritim Indonesia sebagai Dampak Perkembangan Lingkungan Strategis. JOURNAL ASRO, 6, 1-22.
- Rohimat, U., Mulyadi, R. A., & Ansori, A. (2020). Optimalisasi Pembinaan Mental Fungsi Komando Dalam Mendukung Pencegahan Paham Radikalisme Di Komando Lintas Laut Militer Jakarta. Strategi Pertahanan Laut, 6(2).
- Saefudin, A. (2018). Usman Janatin dan Harun Tohir, Kisah Perjuangan Pahlawan Dwikora. Deepublish.
- Setiyono, B., & Triyana, B. (2014). Revolusi Belum Selesai. Serambi Ilmu Semesta.
- Wardhana, W. (2016). Poros Maritim: Dalam Kerangka Sejarah Maritim Dan Ekonomi Pertahanan. Jurnal Masyarakat dan Budaya, 18(3), 369-386.
- <http://paradigmaindonesia.com/2019/04/10/danpusl-atmar-kodiklatal-kuasai-mekanisme-proses-ppkm-pada-pelaksanaan-operasi-pertahanan-pantai/>