

THE INFLUENCE OF REVOLUTION IN MILITARY AFFAIRS ON INDONESIAN DEFENSE FORCES IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION

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ABSTRACT

The development of Indonesia's defense capability currently has an influence on the quality and quantity in the use of military technology. The role of the Indonesian government as the main actor driving military technology is one of the important instruments in advancing the Indonesian defense forces. The influence of Revolution in Military Affairs for Indonesian defense forces has a relationship with the Minimum Essential Force conducted in the third stage of 2020-2024 so that this basis becomes crucial for increasing Indonesia's defense capability. This research also looks at security issues that occur in the Southeast Asian region so that the increase in defense capability has a cause for the development of security issues that occur. Indonesian defense forces are not merely carried out as a form of Indonesian defense doctrine. But as an effort to achieve national security and interests. This study uses a qualitative research method with analytic descriptive so that it not only explains the problems that occur but also analyzes the problems that occur. The researcher found the fact that Indonesia is not only serious in increasing defense power. In 2020, Indonesia will improve and prioritize defense as the main sector in the government budget. Thus, it shows the government's seriousness in carrying out strengthening of the country's power base. The author also analyzed the security issues in the Southeast Asian region so that readers know the problems and causes of Indonesia to improve defense capabilities.

Keywords: *Revolution Military Affairs; Minimum Essential Force; Security Issues; Southeast Asia*

Introduction

The defense of a country is an issue that cannot be separated from the defense system of the country itself. The development of the environment both nationally, regionally, and globally influences a country's defense. It will affect the development of national defense capability in maintaining the sovereignty of the country's territory (Indonesian Defense White Paper, 2014).

Indonesia is advancing its defense to maintain its national security and interests. In addition to maintaining security, such as protecting territorial borders and natural resources, Indonesia

also maintains the stability of its country from security threats in the Southeast Asian region.

Security threats in the Southeast Asian region come from military and non-military threats that could incur instability for Indonesia (Indonesian Defense White Paper, 2014). These threats will affect Indonesia's position to fulfil its interests so they threaten the existence of Indonesia in the construction of its defense posture.

The use of technology in defense is an important aspect of advancing the Indonesian defense system. The advancement of military technology influences science and

technology and this relationship creates an interdependency between them (Sayidiman, 2015). In constructing the national defense posture, Indonesia is developing its defense capability based on the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) so that its defense has a strong ability to deal with the occurring security threats.

Defense technology will be closely related to the RMA as the result will be followed by development in military technology and human resources in carrying out their activities. The linkage between these aspects will increase the quality and quantity of Indonesian military technology.

Based on Law No. 16 of 2012, the use of science and technology is important in developing and maintaining national security and defense. The advancement of military technology will affect the response of the neighbouring countries in such a manner that it will affect the relationships between these countries.

Southeast Asian countries have geopolitically strategic territories. Thus, the countries have various interests in the international relations sector. The interests of every Southeast Asian country are aimed to create stability and security for their own country to the extent that each country will increase its defense to defend from various threats.

Indeed, Southeast Asian/ASEAN countries have a shared ideology in building their defenses by developing trust in Confidence Building Measurement (CBM) to maintain mutual trust within the region (Bambang, 2014). However, these countries are often faced with problems and armed conflicts and issue instability in the region. For Indonesia, security in the Southeast Asian region influences its interests in maintaining security and

defense in the region, therefore Indonesia needs a strategy to advance its defense interests without any suspicion arising from neighbouring countries.

In this research, the author will explain the influence of the RMA on Indonesian defense forces in the Southeast Asian region considering that technology development has an important role in Indonesian defense forces in achieving its national interests and security. The implementation of the RMA on Indonesian defense forces also becomes an important aspect of advancing its defense. Thus, the purpose of this research is to explain the importance of the influence of the RMA on Indonesian defense forces in the Southeast Asian region.

Conceptual Framework

Security becomes one of the important instruments in maintaining a country's sovereign territory. The country is demanded to defend from various situations and conditions in its development. In developing its defense Indonesia is inseparable from the improvement of its military technology. This action is in accordance with what Hopkins et al. (1979) wrote that security will be related to the survival of the country so that it will flock to increase its defense in any situation and conditions.

By strengthening its defense, Indonesia will achieve national security related to its interests to achieve continuity with the possessed power or strength. Power is related to national interests that are destructive for its interests (Morgenthau, 1960). The national interest defined as national security in this research has the same instrument of interests advancing Indonesian defense forces to optimize

its troops in the Southeast Asian region. National security achieved not only meant for the security of its territory from rebellion, people smuggling, and others but also to maximize Indonesia's defense against attacks or possible attempts at armed conflicts.

The development of military technology in the RMA is carried through by a country to maximise its defense to ward off existing threats since the use of technology is very important in defense and security. The development of RMA in Indonesia is inseparable from the policies issued by the government. The use of RMA is not only related to military technology but also the country's military capabilities and effectiveness (Safril, 2015). RMA is also getting attention in Indonesia since it is not only used for national security, but also as a form of aspiration to combine soft and hard power aiming to create smart power in achieving national security (Ramadhan, 2019).

Conceptually, the use of this RMA will be influenced by military technology, military capabilities, and effectiveness in such a manner that it will affect national security which can be defined as national interests for Indonesia. The influence of the RMA will have an impact on the Indonesian defense forces in executing their duties in maintaining Southeast Asian region stability. The influence of the RMA is very important in dealing with unstable international situations and conditions influenced by the dynamics during its development.

Discussion

Southeast Asian region security dynamics is one of the problems that make each country in the region to advance its defense capability. The development of the military capabilities is not only aimed for its national

security, but also as a form of state effort in dealing with uncertain situations and conditions in state relations. The security issues in this region are growing bigger in every decade. It can be seen from the development of the issues that shifted from one country problem to transnational or cross-border crimes involving neighbouring countries.

In advancing its defense capability, Indonesia utilizes various strategies to achieve national security. Indonesian defense forces are an important aspect of building a military defense to face threats. The development of Indonesia's defense capability is not carried through to create an arms race, rather, it is to achieve the professionalism of the Indonesian defense forces (Indonesian Defense White Paper, 2019: 4). Indonesian defense forces will develop national defense capability by following deterrence standards and RMA adjusted to the country's defense budget. The defense capability building is an important instrument in realizing strong defense forces with high standards.

Increased defense capability will be influenced by defense technology advancements, such as command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR) (Ministry of Defense, 2014: 10). While advancing defense capability, miscalculation will occur if the neighbouring countries do not have trust in them. Thus, if a country advances its national defense, the action could raise a misperception. It is related to the security dilemma in strengthening defense if a country does not have trust in others.

The Shifting Security Issues in the Southeast Asian Region

Security issues raise the potential for state confrontation and

even conflict, both open and closed conflicts. The conflict becomes one of the contexts that increase the occurrence of threats. Southeast Asian countries have disputes, such as border disputes which are still being debated.

Transnational crime becomes a crucial issue in the Southeast Asian region. The crime will threaten state stability, both inside and outside the region. In 2010, there were New and Emerging Crimes that became a matter of international concern because of enormous losses from these crimes (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019). This situation causes Indonesia to increase its defense capability against new threats and crimes at the international level.

Transnational crime has become a challenge for Indonesia in finding solutions to these problems since the actors involved are no longer state actors, but non-state actors. These crimes will generate a great impact on the security of Indonesian citizens and disrupt the country's security and stability in such a way that increasing state security becomes the most important instrument in protecting the country.

Technology enhancement in national security and defense is one of the things that influence the development of transnational crime therefore its increasingly complex response causing the country to advance its defense capability to deal with these threats. The use of technology, such as the development of RMA has become an important strategy to face changing issues.

Figure 1. The Level of Transnational Crime in the Southeast Asian Region



Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2019.

Transnational crime becomes one of the major security issues in the current era. Organized groups are not the only actors involved, but also individuals. From the picture above, it can be concluded that Southeast Asian countries are vulnerable to transnational crime. The Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia have high levels of transnational crimes.

The crucial security issue is that Indonesia, as well as the Philippines, have a high level of transnational crime that enable these crimes to operate across borders to the neighbouring countries. The geographical location is crucial in the development of this security issue. Thus, the Indonesian government's efforts to increase its state defense is needed to execute its defense forces operations.

The development of RMA in Indonesia

The advancement of science in military technology innovation is one of the technology use that must be owned by Indonesia. The technology related to the developing security issue becomes a cause for Indonesia to advance its defense capabilities to face the threats.

The development of the RMA in Indonesia to increase defense capability is an important aspect of the Indonesian defense forces' capability in the security sector. The ex-Minister of Defense, Purnomo Yusgiantoro (2012) explained that military modernization in the form of defense equipment, increased military capability, the professionalism of human resources, and organization must be developed to advance RMA.

In realizing the RMA, Indonesia implements the MEF (Minimum Essential Force) so that RMA issues can be realized into the MEF. Currently, Indonesian MEF is on the third stage (2020-2024) including supporting the ideal defense posture, industrial development, and enhancing international cooperation (Ministry of Defense, 2014). The Indonesian defense forces posture then has an important role in being the frontline of defense and security to such an extent that the role of the MEF becomes an influence in the development of the Indonesian defense forces.

According to Andrew Tan (2011: 71-94), the RMA becomes a necessity for the Indonesian defense forces since it can be a driving force in balancing Indonesia's defense forces in the region. The development of defense military technology becomes a strategic sector for the security sector in the region that enables the Indonesian defense to use military technology. This is supported by Goldman (2004), that the main driving factor of the RMA is developing technological factor. It underlines the use of technology as one of the important innovations in building Indonesian defense capability.

The developed technology is not solely built by the defense ministry and the Indonesian government. However, the role of the defense industry becomes an important aspect of advancing the

Indonesian defense forces in the implementation of the MEF. Thus, the collaboration between soft and hard power implemented by Indonesia creates a smart power of the Indonesian military power (Ramadhan, 2019).

The integration will produce revolutionary changes in military technology and doctrine as support. The concept of the RMA which influences the MEF will be connected to the capability of the Indonesian defense forces to be able not only to implement policy but also to develop an ideal defense posture.

Implementation of RMA in Indonesia: Implementation of MEF (2020-2024)

The implementation of RMA has three instruments in its implementation, including changing doctrines, implementing technological changes and innovations, and also making organizational changes (Alex et al., 2015: 74). Based on the three instruments, the influence of the RMA for Indonesian defense forces has an important role in executing their duties. Military objectives allow the RMA to innovate the military defense postures. The influence of the RMA will affect military modernization in the form of defense equipment linked to the Indonesian MEF which can be observed from the technological development by the Indonesian government, particularly the role of the defense industry in executing its duties.

The implementation of the RMA is inseparable from the MEF implemented by Indonesia in the third phase (2020-2024) consisting of supporting an ideal defense posture, developing industry, and enhancing international cooperation. To support the ideal defense posture, Indonesia has increased the Indonesian defense forces

consisting of the main (state army), reserve, and support forces. These three forces developed a capability-based defense by considering the threats faced (Ministry of Defense Media Information, 2014). The military force instrument is used to support national interests along with other instruments with the use of military force (Ministry of Defense, 2014: 70).

The formation of the reserve troops is a planned, gradual, and proportional effort with the purpose that there will be a dual force in the national defense. In the future the role of the support forces will be increased and in line with the main forces in the development of its quality and quantity (Ministry of Defense, 2014: 51). The main force consisted of smaller troops compared to the supporting ones. The condition places a priority of the main force a priority in executing national defense.

The development of defense capability will be related to the defense budget issued by the Indonesian government. The national defense budget becomes a benchmark in determining the country's defense capability thus the budget becomes an important instrument in measuring the extent of the country's adaptation to the development of military technology along with its components. Indonesia's defense budget for 2016 to 2020 is in the following.

Table 1. Indonesian Defense Budget
2015 – 2020

Year	Trillion (Rupiah)
2016	98.1 Trillion
2017	117.3 Trillion
2018	106.8 Trillion
2019	108.4 Trillion

2020 1274 Trillion

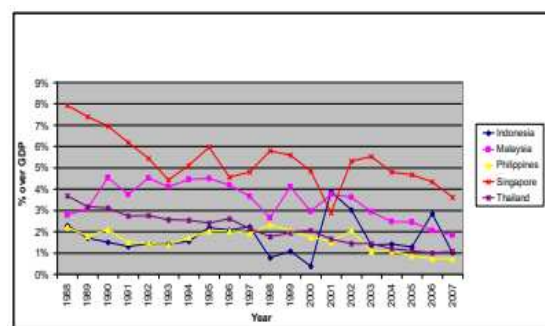
Source: Ministry of Finance, 2020.

The defense sector is one of the priorities developed by the government in 2020. It is shown from the 2020 State Budget that the Indonesian defense budget increases to 127.4 Trillion and this increase influences Indonesia's defense posture and MEF.

In 2020, defense is one of the sectors that receive the highest budget. The budget aims to strengthen the foundation in competitiveness to deal with threats so that the Indonesian government utilizes this momentum to strengthen defense capabilities to face problems in the future. The budget is divided into several components for the Indonesian defense forces, including the Land, Sea, and Air Force.

Compared to the national defense budget of the Southeast Asian countries in recent years, Indonesia still has a low budget index compared to Singapore and Malaysia. Indonesia's defense budget is always on the dynamic side. The following is the national defense budget in the Southeast Asia region in 1988 - 2007.

Figure 2. State Defense Budget in
Southeast Asia Region 1988 -
2007



Source: Amirudin et al., (2019).

The national defense budget has its ups and downs each year therefore it needs consistency in the implementation

of the defense budget. Since 2001, Indonesia has experienced a very drastic increase in defense budget expenditure. However, there was a very drastic decline the following year. This is shown as inconsistencies from the Indonesian government in implementing its defense budget.

Indonesia's defense doctrine is inseparable from the military and non-military defense. This is following the national interest in realizing the values in Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution in its implementation. The defense doctrine becomes a basic principle for the Indonesian citizens in maintaining the survival of the nation thus the defense system both in a state of peace and war can be realized. The defense doctrine is a guideline for the state and supporters to face and ward off occurring threats.

The national defense doctrine will become the basic foundation of the state in dealing with all occurring threats so that the increase in the national defense budget and military technology innovation becomes an important element for the state in accomplishing its national interests. Advancing military technology innovation is a must for Indonesia to improve these aspects.

Meeting the needs of defense equipment for Indonesia is one aspect to ward off occurring threats. High mobility followed by innovation will achieve this interest. Innovations made by the Indonesian government by committing independence toward the domestic defense industry enables it to develop defense equipment in the future.

KKIP (Defense Industry Policy Committee) has the task to foster the domestic defense industry to encourage the development of MEF in Indonesia. In conducting innovations in military

technology, KKIP has launched new future products, including IF-X Combat Aircraft, transport aircraft, submarines, warships on water, rockets, missiles, unmanned aircraft, radar, combat management systems, communication equipment, large caliber ammunition, air bombs, torpedoes, propellants, combat vehicles, and tactical vehicles (Ministry of Defense, 2014: 14).

Thus, supporting the RMA in Indonesia is not only done based on the application of the national defense doctrine policy, but there are other supporting aspects, such as the role of the defense industry and budget in maximizing the Indonesian defense posture. The implementation of Indonesia's defense is still low compared to other Southeast Asian countries thus consistency in implementing its defense is required.

Conclusion

Based on the results that have been carried out in this research, the Indonesian government has maximized Indonesia's defense posture implemented from the MEF (2020-2024) in 2020. It is shown that there is an influence from the RMA on the implementation, such as the use of military technology and its innovation. The implementation is supported by an increase in the defense budget carried out by the Indonesian government in 2020, proved that Indonesia is ready to increase its defense capability.

Compared to the other countries in Southeast Asia, Indonesia has occurring security issues therefore Indonesia needs to improve its defense capabilities. Consistency and support from various parties are needed to realize the desirable defense and security so that national interests and security will be achieved.

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