

## **Empowerment of Coastal Communities as a Component of Sea Dimension Reserves in Support of Indonesia's Maritime Defense**

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### **Abstract**

Geographically, Indonesia has the longest coastline in both Asia and the world. This makes coastal areas vulnerable to various crimes, especially those using the sea and the coast as an alternative. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen through community empowerment in coastal areas as part of the duties of the Indonesian Navy as written in RI Law Number 34 of 2004 Article 9 (e), which is to maximize its role in empowering maritime defense areas. The purpose of this study is to analyze the empowerment of coastal communities carried out by the Indonesian Navy in supporting Indonesia's maritime defense strategy. The research method used is descriptive qualitative method. The result of this research is that by empowering coastal communities as Komcad Matra Laut, in addition to increasing Indonesia's maritime defense, it can also improve welfare and human resources in coastal areas. Defense and the economy support each other so that peace and prosperity can be created for the Indonesian people. Suggestions from this study are that synergy between the Indonesian Navy and the City and Provincial Governments is needed in empowering coastal communities as Marine Command Command in supporting Indonesia's maritime defense.

**Keywords:** Empowerment, Coastal Communities, Reserve Components, and Maritime Defense.



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### **INTRODUCTION**

According to the World Atlas website, Indonesia, with its area, population, and number of islands, makes it the largest archipelagic country in the world. The number of islands in Indonesia has been recorded at 17,000 islands in accordance with the results of agreements and coordination from ministries and various relevant agencies at the 2021 Island Data Coordination Follow-up Meeting. Of the 17,000 islands there are 229 additional islands, with previous data on data released by the Gazeter Republic of Indonesia in 2020 there were 16,771 islands (Geospatial Information Agency, 2021). Not only that, the location of the Indonesian state which is between two continents and two oceans, namely the continents of Asia and Australia, as well as the Pacific and Indian oceans, makes Indonesia a strategic country in the middle of the Southeast Asia, East Asia, or Asia Pacific regions, or it can be said as a geostrategic country.

Therefore, Indonesia can realize its goals as the World Maritime Axis. President Joko Widodo formed a concept that was outlined in the five main pillars so that Indonesia includes: first, the government wants to build and re-create maritime culture in Indonesian society; second, the government is increasing its seriousness in handling and managing the resources in the sea through building authority for all sources for food originating from the sea through the escalation of the fishing industry which makes fishermen the main figures; third, the government is increasing its seriousness in directing so that infrastructure increases and connectivity in the maritime sector occurs through the construction of sea highways, seaports, logistics, the shipping industry, and tourism in the maritime sector; fourth, the government will carry out cooperation and negotiations in the maritime sector by cooperating with all relevant

ministries and institutions both in the government and non-government sectors so that they can jointly develop Indonesia's maritime affairs; and finally, the government is trying to increase defense forces in the maritime field (KOMINFO, 2016).

The concept of the World Maritime Axis that is implemented by Indonesia is also stated in the RI Presidential Regulation Number 16 of 2017 concerning Indonesian Maritime Policy, that with Indonesia's aspirations to be more advanced, strong, independent, sovereign as a maritime country by increasing its position to protect security and peace which is in the interests of in the middle of the world, then the concept of the World Maritime Axis was formed. This was achieved by making Indonesia's identity as a nation whose society focuses on maritime interests, protecting maritime interests and security, increasing capabilities in the maritime sector, as well as giving birth to equality specifically in the Indonesian economy. In order for Indonesia's aspirations to become a World Maritime Axis, it is necessary to manage and enhance the development of the maritime sector, including in the fields of infrastructure, politics, socio-culture, law, security and economy (KOMINFO, 2016).

Initially, the concept of the World Maritime Axis was built on an understanding of Indonesia's future in the Pacific region. In fact, Indonesian seas have been used as world shipping lanes which enhance Indonesia's strategic role as a form of diplomacy with other countries. Thus, we should strengthen the current and future foreign policy doctrine through the concept of the World Maritime Axis. And Indonesia can improve the welfare of its people at the same time that it can also be respected by other countries (Limbong, 2015). President Joko Widodo is getting serious about carrying out the third pillar through the idea of building a "sea highway" as a form of connectivity between Indonesia and other regions. So that at this time it can be said that there is no separation of other regions, but the sea as a unifying route for the islands in Indonesia. Especially with the many islands in Indonesia, it is necessary to block the islands from being far apart and separated from each other through connectivity as the main key. With dynamic changes in the Indo-Pacific region, connectivity on the Indonesian island and the stability of the Indonesian Archipelagic Sea Lanes (ALKI) are the main issues on the agenda of the World Maritime Axis in Indonesia's maritime defense.

Indonesian Archipelagic Sea Lanes or known as ALKI is a route used in the field of international shipping and flights. ALKI can be used by ships or aircraft not owned by Indonesia (foreigners) in the territorial waters that fall under the jurisdiction of the Indonesian state in a peaceful and normal manner. ALKI located in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) can be used openly for all foreign ships and aircraft while upholding the Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC). Therefore, the use of ALKI by all countries must comply with regulations issued by Indonesia. These international regulations apply to the waters of all archipelagic countries so that sea traffic is always maintained (Nainggolan, 2015).

Indonesia's geographical location has a competitive advantage when compared to other countries, both geopolitically, geopolitically and geopolitically. Indonesia will greatly benefit from its geographic location, but also vulnerable to threats to maritime security. The increasing density of Indonesian waterways has had negative impacts, including causing damage to the environment, unmanaged natural resources in Indonesia, as well as various threats to security in the maritime sector that cannot be avoided. From a political perspective, geopolitical and geostrategic positions greatly affect the balance of regional security, including Indonesia's maritime security (Marsetio, 2014). Based on the increasingly dynamic strategic environment, it is increasingly difficult to predict future threats, so it is necessary to consider defense policies based on the threats. Threats that are predicted to come at any time are not only from military threats, but can be in non-military and hybrid forms.

Quoting the Strategic Document for the 21st Century Universal People's Defense and Security System (Sishankamrata), these threats have characteristics and are classified into factual threats and potential threats. Factual threats can be interpreted as various threats in the military, non-military, and hybrid fields as these can occur and develop dynamically and even continue, both domestically and internationally, which affect national sovereignty, territorial integrity of Indonesia, and national security. . These various threats include claims to the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia by foreign parties, territorial border violations, intervention by foreign parties, separatism by certain groups, rebellion by armed members, hostage taking of Indonesian citizens, piracy, terrorism and radicalism, cyber attacks, threats intelligence or espionage, threats that affect psychology, natural and environmental disasters, extraction of natural resources, endemic diseases, drug trafficking and abuse, SARA conflicts and the negative impacts of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. On the other hand, threats that have the potential to come and have not yet occurred, but in the future will be in unexpected conditions so that they become a factual threat. Various threats can be in the form of conventional war or open conflict (foreign invasion), threats due to the impact of the development of nuclear-powered weapons, biological weapons attacks, chemical weapons attacks, economic crises, and attacks using e-bombs (Indonesian Ministry of Defense, 2021).

Seeing one of the factual threats related to claims of the NKRI territory by foreigners and violations of border areas is very possible because Indonesia borders 10 countries. Indonesia's jurisdictional area is bordered by Australia, the Philippines, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam in accordance with RI Law Number 43 of 2008 concerning State Territories. Through laws and international law, border claims are formed including on land, waters, under the sea as well as land and air space above them. This is through an agreement between two state parties and/or more relating to the separation between land, sea and air. Maritime threats in Indonesia are predicted to increase with increased economic activity in Indonesian waters. Even though as an archipelagic country, the people of Indonesia are also trying to use the sea for their lives, especially in coastal areas. To unravel and eliminate these various threats requires a strong maritime defense. One of these maritime defenses can be carried out in its coastal areas.

Based on data owned by the World Atlas, Indonesia occupies the first position as a country with the longest coastline in the Asian region and the third longest in the world. The coastline owned by the Indonesian state ranges from 99,083 km showing various variations in landscape forms caused by natural factors and human factors in areas along the coast of Indonesia (Nag, 2017). If utilizing and managing coastal areas, then Indonesia is also managing national resources. With that, a strong maritime defense is needed, especially in the coastal areas of the Indonesian state.

However, during the Meeting on Extreme Poverty in the Coastal Areas, Vice President Ma'ruf Amin said that of the total people with the highest poverty rates, they live in 147 regencies/cities in the coastal areas, namely 1.3 million people or an estimated 12.5 percent of the population. the total number of poor people is 10.85 million people. This data is in line with data released by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), namely poverty at the national level was recorded at 27.54 million people or 10.14 percent with poverty at a high level of 4 percent or 10.86 million people in 2021 ( Haetami, 2021). Seeing the fact that poverty is difficult apart from the people who live in coastal areas. In fact, the potential of natural resources, especially in the sea is very large. It is estimated that as much as 12.54 million tonnes per year is the capacity of Indonesia's fish resources that can be conserved in waters within Indonesian territory and waters within the Indonesian Exclusive Economic Zone (ZEEI) (Deputi SD Maritim, 2020). Therefore, people who live and work in coastal areas should be empowered. Empowerment is

intended to improve the economy and welfare. A strong economy in a country can sustain national defense. As stated by Vice Admiral TNI (Purn) Agus Setiadji that the economy and national defense can be symbolized as two side by side sides of a currency whose existence cannot be separated (Wardi, 2020).

A good economy can shore up and support national defense through necessary military spending. In contrast, with good state defense, the people can safely carry out economic activities. The community can wisely use the sea because they feel that their safety is guaranteed. Thus, the economy and defense essentially complement each other in order to increase the country's existence in international level competition. Empowerment of coastal communities is one of the tasks and functions of the TNI, in this case the Navy, which is spelled out in RI Law Number 34 of 2004 concerning the Indonesian National Armed Forces. In its main duties related to military operations other than war, namely the TNI is obliged to carry out and carry out various empowerment programs in the area of defense and its supporting forces by focusing on the overall defense system as stipulated in RI Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defence. In it, it is explained that national defense needs to be prepared from the start, especially during peacetime by the government by mobilizing all the participation of the people who are in the country, part of its territory, and all national resources by integrating with each other in order to maintain the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia from various threats. which exists.

As explained above, good national defense can be realized through the participation of the community, especially in coastal areas, which has the potential to be used as a reserve component in supporting its duties and obligations with the function of the Indonesian Navy as the main component in national defense. Through empowering coastal communities, in this case, namely fishermen, apart from carrying out economic activities at sea, they can also become pioneers in detecting various threats or suspicious things at sea. The government, specifically the Indonesian Navy, should realize how big the potential role of existing maritime resources is. Through this empowerment, coastal communities can understand that the economy and defense must go hand in hand. In the end, the concept of the World Maritime Axis which means the form of the government's efforts to make the sea the main figure in defense and the economy can be achieved in order to achieve Indonesia's national interests.

## **Literature Review**

### **Strategy Theory**

Since ancient times, professional military circles have used the "concept of strategy" as a basis for dealing with war or battle. The development of the environment or battlefield from time to time causes the development of the theory of strategy used. Where experience and history of war or battle are used by theorists in obtaining new theories that are more in-depth and related to strategy formation. However, strategy theory essentially has an emphasis on national interests which are important towards the "existence and sovereignty of a country" (Supriyatno, 2014).

The theory of "strategy" presented by Terry L. Deibel has a broad and narrow point of view. A narrow point of view on strategy is intended to be a design or thing to be done for a certain goal (ends), the various means needed and used to achieve that goal (means), and all the ways in which the means owned can be utilized in achieving goals (ways), with all factors owned being taken into consideration in determining ends, means, and ways. more broadly regarding strategy how to view existing interests and threats that can affect objectives, capabilities, and various supporting factors externally such as the international context and internally such as in carrying out strategic plans at the domestic level (Deibel, 2007). So it can be concluded that

strategy is a or various ways (ways) used in managing the instrument a or means (means) owned to achieve national interests (ends) (Deibel, 2007).

### Marine Defense Strategy Theory

Strategy theory is specifically used by various maritime countries. A famous maritime expert from the United States at the end of the 19th century named Alfred Thayer Mahan wrote a work by making England the object of maritime country research. Then, the maritime strategy theory initiated by Mahan is used as a benchmark in achieving a strong maritime nation. Mahan formulated the theory of maritime strategy by determining the main requirements in developing a country's maritime power. There are six main characters, including how the geographical position determines the use of the territory (geographical position), the shape of the territory and the coast (physical conformation), how large the area is (extent of territory), how many people use the sea as a livelihood (number of population) ), national character / nationalism (national character), and government character (character of the government) as well as national ministries and institutions (Mahan, 1894).

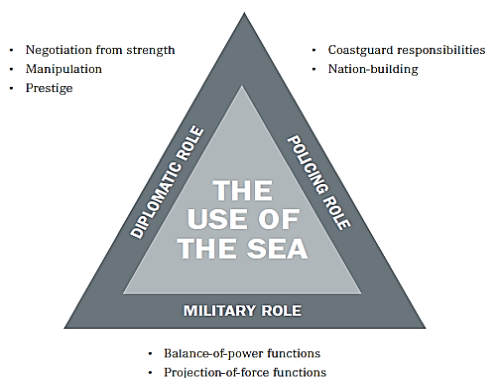


Figure 1. Trinity Roles by Ken Booth

Furthermore, the use of naval power cannot be released as a support for existing sea power. Maritime power is described in accordance with the function of using sea power for the maritime field according to Ken Booth's theory, namely the function of diplomacy, military function, and constabulary function (police function) (Booth, 1977). The Trinity Roles by Ken Booth are used by the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI AL) in defending the sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia. The function of diplomacy can be described as the use of skills in communicating and negotiating in protecting Indonesia's territorial waters and EEZ. The second is the function of the military to balance power (balance of power) and deterrence capabilities for threats that have the potential to enter Indonesian territory. The third is the constabulary or police function by using the law of the sea both nationally and internationally in its special patrols in border areas to support national development.

### Coastal Community Empowerment

Regional empowerment through community empowerment is explained in RI Law Number 27 of 2007 concerning the Management of Coastal Areas and Small Islands, that community empowerment is a variety of efforts to use Coastal Resources through the provision of adequate facilities and all actions to help Coastal Communities to be able to carry out their maritime activities with the best way. Communities that should be empowered are fishermen who are traditional in catching fish, fishermen who are modern in catching fish, people who cultivate and cultivate fish so that it is useful, entrepreneurs engaged in the tourism sector, entrepreneurs in the fisheries sector, and people who live in the area coast.



## **RESEARCH METHODS**

Qualitative descriptive research method with various data used including books, journal articles, news articles, as well as various supporting state documents as secondary data for this research. The technique of data collection carried out by researchers is through library research by making various concepts and theories the basis of the researchers' thoughts which are outlined in in-depth analysis in the discussion section. After that came the conclusions and various recommendations given by researchers for the continuation of the results of this study (Sugiyono, 2013). Researchers use the grand theory, namely the Marine Defense Strategy with the analysis of the concept of Sea Power by A. T. Mahan and Trinity Roles by Ken Booth, the middle theory, namely Empowerment of Coastal Communities, and the apply theory, namely Reserve Components in the sea dimension. This theory will be used in interpreting the understanding of researchers in analyzing that empowering coastal communities as one of the Indonesian Maritime Defense strategies.

## **RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Through the government's vision to declare Indonesia as a World Maritime Axis, it can run with the use of its sea power in the six characters that refer to Indonesia's geography which is surrounded by the sea with long beaches or coastlines, returning the nature of maritime-based nationalism supported by the involvement of the government and national ministries and institutions, as well as on finally it can also empower residents who use the sea as a livelihood, especially in coastal areas. Empowerment of coastal communities that the government is carrying out should not only focus on economic welfare, but also on their understanding of defending the country. This is where the role of the Indonesian Navy as the main component of national defense uses its ability to provide an understanding of the threats that exist in the Indonesian seas. Therefore, coastal communities can be empowered as a reserve component in strengthening the role of the Indonesian Navy.

According to RI Law Number 23 of 2019 Concerning the Management of National Resources for National Defence, Reserve Components can be interpreted as all National Resources that have been trained with special preparation to support and increase the strength of the Main Component in the defense sector, namely the TNI. Reserve components are divided into four categories, including human reserve components (HR), natural reserve components (SDA), man-made reserve components (SDB), as well as infrastructure reserve components and all the main supports so that these components can be utilized. All national resources are prepared so that they can be used when a country is in an unexpectedly difficult situation militarily that requires an immediate countermeasure, including disturbing nature. The deployment of this reserve component is an absolute authority that belongs to the President with the approval of the DPR RI in defending the country, and the reserve component needs to be underlined as a voluntary non-conscription program.

Programs related to national defense have been carried out by major countries which are implemented through a variety of different systems. Among them is the Army Reserve of the United Kingdom which is a form of reserve army. Apart from that in the form of a state guard or just like a home guard including the United State National Guard, the Swedish Home Guard, the Norwegian Home Guard, and the Danish Home Guard. Countries such as South Korea, Colombia, Singapore, Israel, Norway, and Taiwan also implement this system in the form of compulsory military service for a certain period of time given military training and skills (Nurhuda, Widjayanto, & Prakoso, 2021). Furthermore, if we look at China, which is building its militia force, which the Chinese government declared as a backup force of armed civilians. China's Maritime Militia has three responsibilities, firstly to support the People's Liberation Army (PLA)

in defending China from external threats, secondly to assist China's domestic security forces to ensure social stability, and thirdly China's Maritime Militia is mobilized to engage in assistance disaster (Kennedy & Erickson, 2017).

By making coastal communities a reserve component specifically on the sea dimension, it can save the government in spending money to increase personnel in peacetime and the Alutsista can be modernized. Especially now, the Marine Defense Technology System is increasing along with the digitalization era. The 4.0 revolution will change a lot of technology in the military field, especially digital-based defense equipment. Therefore, components of the marine dimension reserves originating from coastal communities also need to receive education and training so they can adapt to modern technology. Technology needs to be utilized as best as possible so that the reserve component can more easily detect the presence of threats at sea.

With the concept of a reserve component from people who live or do activities in coastal areas, it is very beneficial for the government in saving personnel costs. This is because during periods of inactivity, the reserve components, in this case coastal communities, can return to their profession and activities as fishermen, traders, manual laborers, factory workers, or others. Meanwhile, when the sea cannot be a place of livelihood, they can work as a reserve component to fulfill their daily needs. Empowering coastal communities apart from increasing their welfare can also increase their sense of defending their country in supporting Indonesia's maritime defense.

## **CONCLUSION**

By implementing a universal national defense system, the government, in this case the Indonesian Navy, should empower all available national resources. This is no exception to the empowerment of coastal communities as a component of marine dimension reserves to support the main components in maintaining national defense, especially in the maritime sector. Making coastal communities a trained reserve component can increase understanding of defense. Not only for the country, but for self-defense in the face of threats when making a living at sea. As previously explained, defense and the economy support each other so that peace and prosperity can be created for the Indonesian people. Furthermore, as a continuation of this research, the authors provide three recommendations. First, the government needs to create a concept and policy for empowering coastal communities as a component of marine dimension reserves. This sees the current urgency regarding threats that do not only come from the military, but non-military as well as hybrids. By making them a component of the sea dimension reserves can also increase the sense of defending the country.

Second, the government needs to improve the marine defense technology system specifically for coastal communities, especially fishermen. In this case, the TNI AL is obliged to provide a training program regarding the use of this technology in the hope that the technology and defense equipment used can detect threats at sea. Third, the formation of this marine reserve component must be based on the existence of a strong legal umbrella regarding rights and responsibilities in carrying out their duties. With a strong foundation, the government can socialize the concept well and can be accepted by the coastal communities who will be empowered. From the recommendations above, it is hoped that the desire of the Indonesian state to have a strong maritime defense will be achieved.

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