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Effectiveness of the Brimob Unit in Handling Disturbances Caused by Armed Criminal Groups (KKB) in Puncak Regency, Papua Province (A Study on the Brimob Unit of South Sumatra Regional Police)

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Abstract

The security disturbances caused by the Armed Criminal Group (KKB) in Puncak Regency, Papua Province, represent a serious challenge in maintaining stability and order in the region. The KKB frequently commits violent acts such as attacks on security forces and civilians, robbery, and arson of public facilities, creating an unfavorable atmosphere for development and social life. In addressing this situation, the Brimob Unit of the South Sumatra Regional Police (Polda Sumsel) serves as one of the front-line forces in handling KKB disturbances in Papua, particularly in Puncak Regency. The presence of the Brimob Unit, which possesses special capabilities in security operations and armed conflict management, is expected to reduce and suppress the escalation of violence carried out by the group. The research problem formulation in this study is: How effective is the Brimob Unit in handling disturbances caused by the Armed Criminal Group (KKB) in Kompasiana.com, Puncak Regency, Papua Province? This research analyzes the specific role and function of Brimob within the police structure and its role in managing conflicts with the armed criminal group in Puncak Regency, Papua Province. It examines the social impact of the Brimob Task Force's presence on the local community, including changes in public trust toward security institutions. The study also investigates the obstacles faced by the Brimob Unit in handling disturbances from the Armed Criminal Group in Puncak Regency. It evaluates the quality of training received by Brimob members and the preparedness of resources available to face critical situations. Furthermore, it analyzes how Brimob coordinates with other institutions such as the military (TNI), local government, and international organizations in threat management. The research reviews the preventive approaches applied by Brimob to anticipate criminal acts before they occur, including intelligence activities and community outreach. It identifies legal and ethical challenges encountered by Brimob in performing their duties, including human rights concerns. The study also analyzes how media coverage of Brimob's actions in handling armed criminal groups affects public opinion. Additionally, it examines the influence of technology, such as the use of drones and digital devices, in enhancing the effectiveness of Brimob operations. The research assesses to what extent national security policies support or hinder Brimob's operations in handling criminal disturbances. Finally, it provides recommendations for capacity development and training of Brimob to better prepare for future threats. With these objectives, the research aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the challenges and contributions of Brimob in maintaining security in the Papua region.

keywords:

Effectiveness, Role of Brimob Unit, Disturbance of Armed Criminal Groups

Introduction

Post-reformasi, Indonesia is committed to becoming a democratic country that upholds the rule of law and human rights. However, after 20 years of reform, realizing this commitment has not been easy due to the complex and dynamic political, social, and cultural conditions of Indonesian society. Moreover, in this situation, the potential for conflicts based on ethnicity, religion, race, and inter-group differences (SARA) has grown due to various interests.¹

The Indonesian National Police (Polri) is a state institution responsible for maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, guidance, and services to the community in order to maintain domestic security.² The duties of Polri, including the Mobile Brigade Corps (Brimob), are to enforce the law, maintain public security and order, and protect, guide, and serve the community in various situations for the sake of upholding the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. Polri is the frontline state apparatus in carrying out its duties despite various limitations. Members of the Indonesian National Police, when performing their duties in the field, often face urgent situations, conditions, or problems that require the use of force in police actions.³ The use of force in police actions must be carried out in a manner that does not violate legal regulations, is in accordance with legal obligations, and continues to respect and uphold human rights.

In this case, the conflict occurring within the jurisdiction of Papua Police (Polda Papua) presents a serious challenge for the Indonesian government. The government has committed to addressing the conflict through a holistic approach, combining security and development aspects. The Indonesian government has increased the presence of security forces in Papua to counter the threats posed by the Armed Criminal Group (KKB). Military and police operations are conducted to maintain security and combat the illegal activities carried out by the group. This step aims to protect the people of Papua from acts of violence and restore security stability in the region.⁴

The government is making serious efforts to take action against members of the Armed Criminal Group (hereinafter referred to as KKB) who engage in criminal activities. Security forces strive to uncover and capture KKB members involved in attacks on security personnel, murder, kidnapping, and other activities. Through a fair legal process, the government seeks to ensure accountability and limit the activities of the KKB. The government has launched infrastructure development programs aimed at improving connectivity and quality of life in Papua. Investments are made in the construction of roads, bridges, airports, and other public facilities. This step aims to increase accessibility and promote economic development in areas affected by conflict.⁵

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¹ Idrus Ruslan, "MEMBANGUN NASIONALISME SEBAGAI SOLUSI UNTUK MENGATASI KONFLIK SARA DI INDONESIA," *Jurnal Tapis: Jurnal Teropong Aspirasi Politik Islam* 10, no. 1 (2017): 85–102.

² Jean Daryn Hendar Iskandar, "Kedudukan Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia Dalam Sistem Ketatanegaraan Indonesia," *Lex Administratum* 6, no. 4 (2018).

³ Binsar H Sianturi and Margaretha Hanita, "Optimalisasi Peran Polri Dalam Penanganan Kelompok Kriminal Bersenjata Di Papua," *Jurnal Keamanan Nasional* 6, no. 1 (2020): 73–94.

⁴ Abdullah Irfan et al., "Pengkerdilan Tindakan Aparat Terhadap KKB Papua: Dilema Penegakan HAM Dalam Kasus KKB Papua," *IN RIGHT: Jurnal Agama Dan Hak Asasi Manusia* 13, no. 1 (2024): 83–106.

⁵ Hosi Muhammad, "Mengatasi Konflik KKB Di Papua, Upaya Pemerintah Dalam Mencapai Keamanan Dan Pembangunan Berkelanjutan," *Kompasiana.com*, 2024, <https://www.kompasiana.com/smartpoliticbyhosy/64a527644addee3af81f5053/mengatasi-konfli-kkb-di-papua-upaya-pemerintah-dalam-mencapai-keamanan-dan-pembangunan-berkelanjut>.

Order era (1970) until now. The militaristic approach raised human rights (hereinafter referred to as HAM) violations and resulted in political backlash against the Indonesian government. The socio-cultural approach during the early reform period did not improve the socio-political conditions in Papua.⁶ The current government is giving more serious attention to handling cases of violence and human rights violations in Papua based on the provisions of the Republic of Indonesia Law Number 39 of 1999 Article 3 paragraph (1): “Everyone is born free with the same and equal dignity and worth and is endowed with reason and a pure heart to live together in society, nation, and state in a spirit of brotherhood.” The goal is to foster the trust of the Papuan people towards the Indonesian government.

Development in all sectors is being enhanced to improve the welfare of the Papuan people. The government has given special attention to Papua’s special autonomy to address social and economic disparities in the region. Through this special autonomy, Papua is granted greater authority to manage natural resources, finances, and regional governance. This step aims to provide better opportunities for the Papuan people to make decisions and advance their region. However, Papua’s reintegration as part of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) broke the political promises made by the Dutch colonial government to the Papuan people. Since then, the KKB group has continued to organize itself to create security disturbances for the Papuan community, aiming to destabilize the political situation and development in the Cenderawasih Island, hoping to gain financial benefits by exploiting public unrest.

Although the KKB movements may seem pragmatic, they still have a basic ideological reason rooted in the desire for freedom—specifically, the wish to separate from the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI). This stems from feelings of injustice in development, inadequate individual welfare, poor social living standards, low education levels, and humanitarian concerns. The KKB movement has been an unbroken force since 1961, when Queen Juliana promised independence. Currently, the KKB in Papua has become a major security issue in Indonesia’s easternmost region.⁷ This problem resurfaced on December 2, 2018, when the KKB led by Egianus Kogoya carried out a security disturbance by killing employees of PT Istaka Karya in Nduga Regency. The attack resulted in seventeen deaths, four missing persons, one Indonesian military (TNI) personnel killed, one TNI member wounded by gunfire, and dozens of civilians injured by gunfire.

The conflict points they create also become a momentum to gain sympathy from the international community if the government’s security handling appears to violate human rights. This is easily done by the KKB because most of their members do not wear uniforms. In the decades following the reform era, the government has increasingly recognized the urgency of changing the approach to handling this problem. Such security situations have led the government to prioritize a civil-police-based security approach rather than the previous defense-military-based one. The principle of Pancasila Democracy carries the meaning of educating the nation’s life and advancing the common welfare, so that every citizen can fully experience freedom.⁸

Related to the above issues, to support the government’s program, efforts to handle the Armed Criminal Group (KKB) require a soft approach through various police activities that run parallel with government policies. These include Intelligence Operations, Community Guidance Operations, and Public Relations Operations, as well as a hard approach through professional, proportional law enforcement that respects human rights. This is optimized by Centralized Police Operations involving elements of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), as stated in Indonesian Law No. 2 of 2022, Article (2), which says that the police function is one of the state government functions in maintaining public security and order, law enforcement, protection, guidance, and public service. In this context,

⁶ Gurnald Patiran, Chairul Muriman Setyabudi, and Vita Mayastinasari, “To Win The Heart And Mind The People Of Papua: Fungsi Dan Peran Brimob Dalam Operasi Damai Cartenz 2022,” *Jurnal Civic Hukum* 7, no. 2 (2022).

⁷ Muhamad Ahyono, “PERLINDUNGAN HUKUM BAGI ANGGOTA RESIMEN I PASUKAN PELOPOR YANG MELAKSANAKAN TUGAS MENANGANI KONFLIK ANTAR ETNIS & BERSENJATA DI NEMANGKAWI PROVINSI PAPUA” (Universitas Djuanda Bogor, 2023).

⁸ Rofi Wahanisa and Septhian Eka Adiyatma, “Konsepsi Asas Kelestarian Dan Keberlanjutan Dalam Perlindungan Dan Pengelolaan Lingkungan Hidup Dalam Nilai Pancasila,” *Bina Hukum Lingkungan* 6, no. 1 (2021): 93–118.

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the police carry out countermeasures against the KKB in Papua so that law enforcement efforts can be maximized. Both the soft and hard approaches are expected to be implemented simultaneously, targeted accurately, and measured effectively to win the sympathy of the public. It is hoped that this will weaken the political movements, armed groups, and propaganda, and if possible, eliminate these movements throughout Papua.⁹

The ongoing unstable political and security situation in Papua underpins the Indonesian National Police's policy to continue operations under the codename "Operation Damai Cartenz 2022 Papua." Operation Damai Cartenz 2022 Papua is conducted by the Papua Regional Police (Polda Papua) with support and backup from the National Police Headquarters (Mabes Polri) and the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), emphasizing a peaceful mission. This operation is a transformation of Operation Nemangkawi, which was carried out from 2019 until it ended on January 25, 2021 (Renops, 2022). In Operation Damai Cartenz 2022, the police prioritize a humanitarian (soft) approach through early detection strategies, as well as pre-emptive and preventive measures.¹⁰

This research aims to determine the effectiveness of the Brimob Unit's legal enforcement in handling disturbances caused by the Armed Criminal Group (KKB) in Puncak Regency, Papua Province, as well as to identify the obstacles faced by the Brimob Unit in managing these disturbances in Puncak Regency, Papua Province.

Research Method

This research will be compiled using the Normative empirical research type, namely research oriented to primary data (research results in the field). Empirical legal research is an approach carried out by field research to see and observe what happens in the field, the application of these regulations in practice in society. Empirical legal research is conducted by researching directly in the field to see directly the application of legislation or legal regulations, and conducting interviews with several respondents who are considered to be able to provide information related to the research theme.¹¹

Based on the source, the type of data is divided into two, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data is data obtained directly from the source and recorded for the first time. Secondary data is data collected by other people with their own intentions and has a categorization or classification according to their needs.¹²

Data collection techniques, carried out by means of Field Research. Field research, namely the collection of primary data by conducting interviews and collecting documentation. Data collection obtained through information or interview results with the South Sumatra Police Mobile Brigade Unit who had carried out duties in Puncak Regency, Papua Province. In addition, a large number of facts and data are stored in materials in the form of documentation. Most of the stored data is in the form of files stored in the Police. The main nature of this data is unlimited so that it provides an opportunity for researchers to see data that occurred some time ago. In detail, several types of documentaries are divided into several files, books or, memorials, and others. Documentation in a broad sense is any process of proof that is based on any type of source, be it written, oral, pictorial or archaeological.

Data obtained through field research and library research will be collected and reduced through activities to make the data collection results as complete as possible and sort them into certain conceptual units, certain categories, or certain themes. A set of data reduction results also needs to be organized into a certain form (Data Display) so that it looks complete to facilitate efforts to present

⁹ Patiran, Setyabudi, and Mayastinasari, "To Win The Heart And Mind The People Of Papua: Fungsi Dan Peran Brimob Dalam Operasi Damai Cartenz 2022."

¹⁰ Patiran, Setyabudi, and Mayastinasari.

¹¹ Jhonny Ibrahim, *Teori Dan Metode Penelitian Hukum Normatif* (Malang: Bayu Media Publishing, 2016), p.295.

¹² Ibrahim, p.42.

and confirm conclusions (Conclusion Drawing and Verification).¹³

Data yang didapat dengan cara penelitian lapangan (*Field Research*) dan penelitian kepustakaan (*Library Research*) akan dikumpulkan dan direduksi melalui kegiatan mengikhtikarkan hasil pengumpulan data selengkap mungkin dan memilah-milahkannya ke dalam satuan konsep tertentu, kategori tertentu, atau tema tertentu. Seperangkat hasil reduksi data juga perlu diorganisasikan ke dalam suatu bentuk tertentu (*Display Data*) sehingga terlihat secara utuh untuk memudahkan upaya pemaparan dan penegasan kesimpulan (*Conclusion Drawing and Verification*).¹⁴

The purpose of researchers conducting data analysis is to simplify the data so that it is easy to read the processed data. Data that is successfully obtained or that has been successfully collected during the research process, both primary data and secondary data, is then analyzed qualitatively and then presented descriptively, namely describing, describing and explaining in order to obtain a picture that can be researched. The method used in processing and analyzing data obtained in the study is qualitative analysis, namely analysis carried out by understanding or arranging data that has been collected systematically, so that a picture is obtained regarding the problem or condition being studied and using the deductive thinking method, namely drawing conclusions that are specific. This mindset draws conclusions starting from general statements to specific statements using reasoning.

Discussion and Analysis

Theory of Law Enforcement

The basic idea of the positivist legal theory can be concluded as starting from John Austin (1790-1859) who held the view that law is the command of a lawgiver, which means an order from the holder of the highest power or the one who holds sovereignty.¹⁵ The order must be obeyed by every member of society and if it is violated, strict and real sanctions will be imposed and the position of Indonesian criminal law reviewed from the theory of legal positivism, it can be concluded that it is very appropriate between Indonesian criminal law and the theory of legal positivism pioneered by John Austin, the definition of Criminal Law as a translation of the Dutch *Strafrecht* is all rules that have orders and prohibitions that use sanctions (threats) of punishment for those who violate them, while the essence of the law itself according to John Austin lies in the element of "command" made by a sovereign ruler addressed to the governed accompanied by sanctions if the order is violated, so that from several descriptions above, Indonesian criminal law adheres to the theory of legal positivism.¹⁶

Legal enforcement theory encompasses a variety of approaches to understanding how law is implemented and enforced in society.¹⁷ Following are some of the main concepts in law enforcement theory:

- 1) Legal Positivism Theory: States that law enforcement must be based on clear and applicable legal texts. Law is considered a product of legislative decisions and law enforcement must follow established procedures.¹⁸
- 2) Legal Realism Theory: Focuses on how the law is applied in practice, emphasizing the social, economic, and political factors that influence law enforcement. It recognizes that the law is often applied differently in different situations.¹⁹

¹³ Lexy J. Moleong, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif* (Jakarta: Rosda, 2017), p.186.

¹⁴ Burhan Bungin, *Analisis Data Penelitian Kualitatif* (Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2018), p.70.

¹⁵ Theresia NA Narwadan, Arief Fahmi Lubis, and H Abd Hakim, *Positive Legal Theory: Comprehensive Theory and Its Development* (PT. Sonpedia Publishing Indonesia, 2025).

¹⁶ Supriyono Supriyono, "Hukum Pidana Indonesia Ditinjau Dari Teori Hukum Positivisme," *Fenomena* 11, no. 2 (2017): 1696–1704.

¹⁷ John Kenedi, *Book of Criminal Law Policy (Penal Policy) in the Law Enforcement System in Indonesia* (Pustaka Pelajar, 2017).

¹⁸ Herbert Lionel Adolphus Hart, *The Concept of Law* (OUP Oxford, 2012).

¹⁹ Karl N Llewellyn, *The Bramble Bush: On Our Law and Its Study* (Quid Pro Books, 2012).

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- 3) Critical Theory: Criticizes law enforcement that is considered unfair, often due to systemic bias or discrimination. This theory encourages legal reform to create a more just and equal system.²⁰
- 4) Empowerment Theory: Emphasizes the importance of community participation in law enforcement. This approach focuses on collaboration between law enforcement and the community to create safer environments.²¹
- 5) Proactive Law Enforcement Theory: Proposes a preventive approach, where law enforcement not only reacts to violations, but also seeks to prevent them through policy and education.²²
- 6) Restorative Law Enforcement Theory: Emphasizes improving relationships between parties involved in a crime, both perpetrators and victims, and focuses on rehabilitation and peaceful resolution rather than punishment alone.²³

The effectiveness of law enforcement is closely related to the effectiveness of the law. In order for the law to be effective, law enforcement officers are needed to enforce the sanctions. A sanction can be actualized to the community in the form of compliance, with this condition indicating that there are indicators that the law is effective. Factors that influence the effectiveness of the law according to Soerjono Soekanto include the following:²⁴

1) Legal Factors

Law contains elements of justice, certainty and benefit. In practice, its application often occurs a conflict between legal certainty and justice. Legal certainty is concrete in nature and tangible, while justice is abstract so that when a judge decides a case by applying the law alone, sometimes the value of justice is not achieved. So, when looking at a problem regarding the law, at least justice is the main priority. Because the law is not only seen from the written legal perspective, but also takes into account other factors that develop in society. While on the other hand, justice is still a debate because justice contains subjective elements that are very dependent on the subjective intrinsic values of each person.

2) Law Enforcement Factors

Law enforcement is related to the parties that form or implement the law (law enforcement). The parts of law enforcement are law enforcement officers who are able to provide certainty, justice, and benefits of law proportionally. Law enforcement officers encompass the understanding of law enforcement institutions and law enforcement officers, while law enforcement officers in the narrow sense start from the police, prosecutors, judiciary, legal advisors and correctional institution wardens. Each officer and officer is given authority to carry out their respective duties which include activities of receiving reports, investigations, inquiries, prosecutions, evidence, sentencing and sanctions as well as efforts to rehabilitate convicts. There are three important elements that influence the working mechanism of law enforcement officers and officers, including: (a) law enforcement institutions along with various supporting facilities and infrastructure and institutional work mechanisms; (b) work culture related to its officers, including regarding the welfare of its officers; and (c) regulatory instruments that support both institutional performance and those that regulate legal material that is used as a work standard, both material law and procedural law. Systematic law enforcement efforts must pay attention to these three aspects simultaneously, so that the process of law enforcement and justice internally can be realized in real terms.

3) Legal Facilities or Means Factors

Supporting facilities can be simply formulated as a means to achieve goals. Its scope is mainly physical facilities that function as supporting factors. Supporting facilities include educated and

²⁰ Duncan Kennedy, "Legal Education and the Reproduction of Hierarchy," J. Legal Education 32 (1982): 591.

²¹ Theo Gavrielides, *Restorative Justice Theory and Practice: Addressing the Discrepancy* (RJ4All Publications, 2020).

²² Herman Goldstein, "Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing," in New York NY: Police Executive Research Forum, 1990.

²³ John Braithwaite, *Restorative Justice & Responsive Regulation* (Oxford University Press, 2002).

²⁴ Soerjono Soekanto, *Pokok-Pokok Sosiologi Hukum* (Jakarta: Raja Grafindo Persada, 2017), p.110.

skilled human resources, good organization, adequate equipment, sufficient finances, and so on. In addition to the availability of facilities, maintenance is also very important to maintain sustainability. It often happens that a regulation has been put into effect, even though the facilities are not yet fully available. This kind of condition will only cause counter-productiveness which should facilitate the process but instead cause congestion.

4) Community Factors

Law enforcement aims to achieve peace in society. Society has certain opinions about the law. This means that the effectiveness of the law also depends on the will and awareness of the community. Low awareness of the community will complicate law enforcement, the steps that can be taken are socialization by involving social strata, power holders and law enforcers themselves. The formulation of the law must also pay attention to the relationship between social changes and the law which in the end the law can be effective as a means of regulating community behavior.

5) Cultural Factors

The cultural factor that is actually integrated with the societal factor is deliberately distinguished, because in its discussion the problem of the value system that is the core of spiritual or non-material culture is presented. This is distinguished because as a system (or subsystem of the societal system), law includes structure, substance, and culture. The structure includes the container or form of the system, for example, including the order of formal legal institutions, the law between these institutions, their rights and obligations, and so on. Law has a direct or indirect influence in encouraging social change. Ways to influence society with a system that is orderly and planned in advance are called social engineering or social planning. In order for the law to truly influence the treatment of society, the law must be disseminated, so that it becomes institutionalized in society. The existence of certain communication tools is one of the requirements for the dissemination and institutionalization of law. This legal communication can be done formally, namely, through an officially organized procedure. As stated by Soerjono Soekanto, an attitude of legal behavior is considered effective if the attitude, action or other behavior leads to the desired goal, meaning if the other party obeys the law. The law can be effective if the role carried out by law enforcement officials is closer to what is expected by the law and vice versa it becomes ineffective if the role carried out by law enforcers is far from what is expected by the law.

Effectiveness of Brimob Unit in Handling Armed Criminal Group (KKB) Disturbances in Puncak Regency, Papua Province (Study on Satbrimob Polda Sumsel)

The results of this study were conducted through data collection, interviews, and document analysis related to the role and effectiveness of the Brimob Unit in handling disturbances by the Armed Criminal Group (KKB) in Puncak Regency, Papua Province to the Brimob Unit of the South Sumatra Regional Police who had served in the Puncak Regency area of Papua Province. This study aims to identify the extent to which the Brimob Unit is able to carry out its operational duties and functions in handling threats posed by the KKB, which has so far been a serious problem in maintaining security and order in certain areas.

The results obtained from observations and interviews with Brimob members will be studied in depth to measure the effectiveness of the strategies and methods implemented by this unit. The discussion will cover various factors that affect Brimob's performance, both in terms of human resources, equipment readiness, coordination with other agencies, and challenges faced in the field.

Through this analysis, it is hoped that recommendations can be found that can strengthen strategies and policies in handling KKB disturbances in the future, as well as improve the performance of the Brimob Unit in maintaining national security stability.

1. Ideal Role

The South Sumatra Police Mobile Brigade Unit in handling KKB disturbances in Puncak

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Regency, Papua Province, carried out patrols from village to village in Puncak Regency to maintain and build public trust in government agencies by conducting open dialogue between community leaders and youth in the Puncak area so that it can help reduce tensions and build mutual understanding. Delivering aspirations peacefully is very important to prevent people from feeling marginalized and also to prevent people from being influenced or becoming sympathizers of the KKB.²⁵

Papuan people often feel discriminated against or treated unfairly. Therefore, it is important for the government and security forces, in this case the South Sumatra Police Mobile Brigade Corps as the actors in the field, to reduce negative stigma and give appreciation to Papuan cultural identity, which can strengthen their sense of pride in their culture and region.

Satbrimob Polda Sumsel also held a dialogue with the community and traditional leaders both in schools and the general public, to explain the dangers and negative impacts caused by armed criminal groups. The community needs to be given an understanding that the KKB often misuses the issue of freedom and justice to achieve goals that are detrimental to many parties, including the community itself.

Local officials, village heads and tribal chiefs have great influence in Papua. If they are involved in peace and education efforts, they can play a role in spreading messages of peace and unity. They can help explain to the community that violence is not the right solution to achieve change. Fulfilling basic community rights, such as quality education and health services, is essential to ensure that the community feels respected and given a fair chance.²⁶

2. Normative Role

Armed Criminal Groups (KKB) in Papua refer to armed groups involved in acts of violence in the Papua region of Indonesia. They mostly operate in the mountainous and interior regions of Papua, with the aim of demanding independence for Papua or fighting for certain rights of the indigenous Papuan people. This conflict has been going on for decades, with various KKB groups emerging with different backgrounds. One of the most well-known groups is the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB), which claims to be fighting for the independence of West Papua. In addition, there are several other groups involved in attacks on security forces or government infrastructure.

The conflict has caused significant social and political tensions, and risks increasing suffering for the Papuan people. The Indonesian government, through the TNI (Indonesian National Army) and Polri (Indonesian Republic Police), continues to try to address this problem with various approaches, both through military operations and efforts to approach dialogue. However, a long-term solution to this problem remains a major challenge due to various factors, including political tensions, social discontent, and differences of opinion on the political status of Papua.

In addition to the Satbrimob Polda Sumsel approach pattern, it also carries out duties with law enforcement, maintaining security, and dealing with threats that can damage regional stability. Brimob operates to maintain security, and prevent violence carried out by the KKB group. Providing protection to the community and Regional Officials from threats from armed groups that often disrupt public order. For example, in cases of shootings, slashings that cause fatalities and damage to public facilities, this step is unfortunately effective in dealing with Armed Criminal Groups in Papua, seen from the decreasing number of cases each year.

The presence of the South Sumatra Police Mobile Brigade Corps in handling the KKB in Papua is very effective because the Mobile Brigade Corps has special expertise and capabilities in handling situations that require a fast, tactical, and well-coordinated response.

²⁵ Senior Commissioner of Police Susnadi, "Results of Interview with the Commander of the Mobile Brigade Corps of the South Sumatra Regional Police," (2024).

²⁶ Susannadi.

Some of the main roles of Brimob in handling KKB in Papua include:²⁷

- 1) Security Response. Satbrimob Polda Sumsel is deployed to maintain security in conflict-prone areas, especially in areas that are the base of KKB activities. They are trained to deal with high-risk situations, such as ambushes, battles with armed groups, and protecting the community.
- 2) Law Enforcement Task Force. The South Sumatra Police Mobile Brigade Corps is involved in the law enforcement task force to arrest members of the KKB involved in acts of violence in Puncak Regency. This operation often involves pursuit, intelligence briefing, and control of areas to prevent the KKB from moving freely.
- 3) Increasing State Presence. The presence of the South Sumatra Police Mobile Brigade Corps in Papua is a form of state presence in maintaining sovereignty and security in Puncak Regency. With the presence of trained troops, the community can feel safer, while state officials can be more effective in fighting groups that seek to shake the stability of the state.
- 4) Conducting Joint Task Force. Satbrimob Polda Sumsel also cooperates with TNI troops in a joint Task Force, which aims to reduce the strength of the KKB, paralyze their operations, and stabilize the Puncak Regency area exposed to conflict.
- 5) Reducing Threats to Civilians. KKB often targets civilians and critical infrastructure such as health facilities, schools, or transportation. The South Sumatra Police Mobile Brigade Corps plays a role in securing vital objects and reducing the impact of violence caused by KKB on local communities and these facilities.

The Brimob Unit has a significant role, but in addition to the security approach, it is important to also seek a more holistic dialogue and social approach to resolve the problems in Papua. The Brimob Unit's approach to dealing with KKB disturbances in Papua focuses on tactics and strategies designed to effectively address the threat, but also seeks to minimize the negative impact on civil society.

The following are some of the approaches used by Brimob in dealing with KKB:²⁸

- 1) Increased Patrols and Security. Increased patrols in areas prone to KKB disturbances. These patrols aim to secure the area from potential threats, while providing a sense of security to the community and suppressing the movement of KKB who want to control the area.
- 2) Cooperation with the TNI and Other Parties. In dealing with the KKB, the Brimob Unit conducted joint operations with the TNI. Synergy between the Police and TNI is key in carrying out tasks in difficult terrain and often in the form of forests or mountains that are difficult to reach. This increases operational effectiveness and reduces the KKB's room for movement.
- 3) Persuasive and Social Approach. In addition to firm action, the South Sumatra Police Mobile Brigade Unit is also trying to establish communication with local communities and traditional leaders in Papua. This approach aims to gain support from the community in dealing with the KKB and create a conducive atmosphere to support peace. In some cases, Brimob also helps channel humanitarian aid or public services to build trust.
- 4) Conflict Prevention and Intelligence Activities. Cooperate with intelligence agencies to identify the movements and plans of the KKB. With accurate information, Brimob can take earlier preventive measures, such as thwarting attacks or preventing the KKB from planning terrorist acts.
- 5) Vital Infrastructure Security. The South Sumatra Police Mobile Brigade Unit is also involved in guarding vital infrastructure that is often the target of KKB attacks, such as health centers, schools, and airports. By securing these objects, the Mobile Brigade Unit seeks to maintain social stability and reduce the impact of KKB disturbances.

Overall, the Brimob Unit's approach to dealing with the KKB is a combination of law enforcement efforts, coordinated military action, and cooperation with the community and traditional leaders to create more comprehensive security. However, challenges remain, given the difficult

²⁷ Susnadi.

²⁸ Susannadi.

terrain, as well as the political and social dynamics that play a role in the conflict situation in Papua.

3. Factual Role

The Mobile Brigade (Brimob) is an elite unit of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) that has a vital role in maintaining order and security in Indonesia. Brimob was formed to handle situations that require special expertise, especially in dealing with serious threats and security disturbances that cannot be handled by ordinary police units, one of which is the Eradication of KKB Brimob which has the ability to operate in difficult terrain, such as forests or isolated areas.²⁹

The Mobile Brigade (Brimob) is one of the main forces in the Indonesian National Police which has special abilities and expertise in handling various types of threats that threaten security stability such as Combat and Survival Skills. Brimob is trained to deal with various terrain conditions, especially in hard-to-reach areas, such as tropical forests, mountains, and remote areas.³⁰ Brimob troops are equipped with the ability to survive in extreme terrain, with training in mastering survival techniques such as foraging, making shelters, and overcoming other natural difficulties and the ability to use a compass and map to navigate difficult terrain, especially in operations that take place in hilly or forest areas.

Brimob is also equipped with Weapons Mastery and Military Tactics skills trained in the use of various firearms and military tactics to deal with serious threats. Brimob personnel are skilled in using various types of firearms, ranging from assault rifles to close-range weapons such as pistols and heavy weapons. Brimob is also trained in combat tactics both individually and in teams, with skills in ambushes, precision shooting, and maneuvering on the battlefield.³¹ In Papua, Brimob has a very crucial role in the KKB which threatens security stability.

The presence of the Brimob Unit in handling KKB disturbances in Puncak Regency, Papua Province as a whole is very effective, seen from the reduced intensity of attacks or security disturbances carried out by the KKB after the presence of Brimob, so the assessment is that the presence of Brimob in the Papua region is very effective.

Some indicators that can be seen in assessing this effectiveness include:³²

- 1) Reduction in the number of attacks on civilians and authorities.
- 2) Securing areas previously controlled or frequently attacked by the KKB.
- 3) Arrest or neutralization of KKB members.
- 4) Reducing tension and fear among local communities.

However, it is also important to note that short-term tactical success (such as reduced attacks) does not necessarily guarantee long-term strategic success. The security approach must be accompanied by a humanitarian, social, and economic approach so that the community is not exposed to separatist ideology or violence again, so that development projects in the region continue without significant disruption. The security stability created by the presence of Brimob provides space for the government and private sector to continue various infrastructure projects, such as the construction of roads, bridges, health facilities, and education. This is very important, considering that physical development is an integral part of the government's efforts to improve the welfare of local communities and reduce regional inequality. Without security guarantees, development activities are vulnerable to being halted due to threats and disruptions from armed groups.

²⁹ Mabes Polri, *Profil Korps Brigade Mobil* (Jakarta: Divisi Humas Polri, 2021).

³⁰ Brigjen Pol Drs Syafruddin, *Perpolisian Masyarakat: Tantangan Terorisme Di Indonesia Sekarang Dan Masa Depan* (Humaniora, 2018).

³¹ A. Sutrisno, "Pelatihan Dan Kompetensi Personel Brimob Dalam Operasi Militer Selain Perang (OMSP)," *Jurnal Keamanan Nasional* 7, no. 1 (2021): 88–102.

³² Susnadi, "Hasil Wawancara Dengan Dansat Brimob Polda Sumsel."

Factors that hinder the Brimob Unit in Handling Armed Criminal Group (KKB) Disturbances in Puncak Regency, Papua Province

Several factors that hinder the Indonesian Police Mobile Brigade Unit in handling armed criminal group (KKB) disturbances in Papua include:³³

First, the Papua region has very difficult terrain, with dense forests, steep mountains, and remote areas, as well as unpredictable weather that complicates troop movement and surveillance. Topographical issues in Papua are one of the major obstacles in handling armed criminal group (KKB) disturbances by the Police Mobile Brigade Unit. Several topographical aspects that affect operations in Papua include:

- 1) **Hard-to-reach Battlefields:** Papua has many hilly areas, steep mountains, and very steep valleys, such as the Maoke Mountains, Jayawijaya Mountains, and Bintang Mountains. This causes difficulties in troop mobility, both for logistics delivery and personnel movement. Some remote areas can only be reached by air, which slows down the delivery of supplies and troop deployment to certain locations.
- 2) **Dense Tropical Forest:** The Papua region is dominated by dense tropical forests, which can be an ideal hiding place for KKB. In addition, the dense forest makes it difficult to monitor and detect enemy movements. Troop movements are also hampered by the difficult conditions of the forest. Moreover, swampy and wet terrain often hinders personnel crossing the area.
- 3) **Unpredictable Weather:** The Papua Mountains have a humid climate with high rainfall throughout the year. Frequent heavy rains can make the terrain slippery and difficult to navigate, and worsen already poor road conditions. Unpredictable weather conditions also affect air operations, such as helicopter supply deliveries, as fog and rain can limit visibility and flight times.
- 4) **Isolation of Certain Areas:** Many areas in Puncak Regency, Papua Province are isolated, with limited access to transportation. Some areas can only be reached by damaged land routes, or by small aircraft that can only land on very limited runways. This makes it difficult to move troops and distribute logistics effectively. In some places, communication networks are also very limited, hampering coordination between units involved in security operations.
- 5) **Infrastructure Constraints:** Infrastructure constraints in many areas of Papua, such as poor and limited roads, further impair the ability of troops to respond quickly to disruptions. Inadequate infrastructure makes it difficult for logistics to get to where they are needed in a timely manner.

Overall, Papua's mountainous topography, dense forests, and difficult access to remote areas pose a major challenge for the operations of the Indonesian Police Mobile Brigade Unit in dealing with the KKB. These natural factors require special planning and readiness, as well as more flexible mobility capabilities and equipment that is appropriate to the difficult terrain conditions.

Second, the limitations of supporting tools and facilities are often faced in handling the developing situation in Papua. In addition, the limitations of supporting tools, such as communication equipment and transportation, can hamper operations in hard-to-reach areas. Many areas in Papua still have minimal road and transportation infrastructure and can only be reached by foot, making access to some areas very difficult. and difficult geographical conditions and heavy rain, fog, or strong winds, causing limited access in some areas, air transportation is the main choice. However, the limited availability of adequate airports, as well as unpredictable weather conditions, can cause difficulties in the distribution of logistics or personnel. Limited Communication Networks Puncak Papua Regency, especially in Sinak District, often experiences difficulties in terms of telecommunications and internet networks. The absence of cellular signals hampers coordination between the center and regions, as well as communication between operational teams.

Third, Differences in Views and Perspectives, Limited Community Support Many communities in Papua have ties or sympathy for armed criminal groups. Papuan interior communities have

³³ Susannadi.

traditional cultures and values that are deeply embedded in their lives. Their belief systems and customs can be very strong, making it difficult to accept ideas or advice that contradict these traditions. Many communities in Papua's interior are geographically isolated, either due to difficult-to-reach locations or minimal access to information from outside. This can cause their mindsets to remain rooted in tradition and less open to change or new knowledge. Education in Papua's interior is still limited, with facilities that are often inadequate. Without adequate education, many individuals or groups have difficulty understanding more complex concepts or accepting outside views. The mindset of indigenous communities is often closely tied to how they view the world and life. Advice that comes from an outside perspective may not be in line with the values they hold or how they view their daily lives.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the research and discussion, the conclusion in this study is that the presence of the Brimob Unit in handling the disturbances of the Armed Criminal Group (KKB) in Puncak Regency, Papua Province as a whole is effective as seen from the reduction in cases each year. However, the Brimob Unit also encountered obstacles in the field when carrying out its duties.

The Brimob unit faces two main aspects in carrying out its duties in Papua. In terms of success, Brimob has succeeded in reducing the frequency of attacks carried out by the KKB, especially in vulnerable areas, and in capturing or neutralizing a number of KKB members and leaders, which has had an impact on weakening their organizational structure. Brimob also plays an important role in securing vital objects such as airports, government offices, and national strategic projects, so that community activities and development continue to run. The presence of Brimob increases the community's sense of security, encourages residents to return to their hometowns and be more active in reporting suspicious activities. The humanist approach through social services and communication with traditional leaders also strengthens cooperation between officers and residents. However, there are several inhibiting factors, including the difficult geographical conditions of Papua such as dense forests, steep mountains, and extreme weather that make it difficult to move troops and carry out surveillance. In addition, limited supporting equipment such as communication and transportation hinders the effectiveness of operations, coupled with complex socio-political conditions, where some people have sympathy for the KKB and lack of trust in the authorities, so that the support and information needed for law enforcement is limited.

The author suggests that Brimob's presence be maintained as the main force in dealing with threats in Papua, because it has the tactical and technical capabilities needed to protect civilians from violence. Continuous troop deployment is expected to be able to narrow the KKB's room for movement and create a deterrent effect, but must be accompanied by human rights-based training and an understanding of local wisdom so as not to cause tension. The author also emphasizes the importance of a persuasive approach through dialogue, respect for local culture, and social activities such as health services and education to build community trust. In addition, Brimob needs to be equipped with special training to face the difficult terrain of Papua and improve coordination with the TNI, Polri, local governments, and community leaders so that security operations are more effective, synergistic, and support development within the framework of Special Autonomy.

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