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# Strategy for Implementing the Technical Functions of the Ministry of Defense in the Regions to Realize a Strong National Defense

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**Abstract:** This study aims to analyze the role and challenges in the implementation of the technical functions of the Ministry of Defense in the regions, as well as its contribution to a strong national defense system. In the context of Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defense, this study highlights the importance of synergy between the central and regional governments in managing national defense. Through the literature study method, this study examines various regulations, the role of regional governments, the involvement of TNI units, and the use of technology in supporting regional defense strategies. The results of the study indicate that although there are supportive policies, there are still significant challenges in implementation in the field, including less than optimal coordination between the center and regions, and limited facilities and infrastructure. This study concludes that the integration of formulating regional defense strategies in collaboration between Ministry of Defense, TNI and regional governments is very important to realize a strong, adaptive and resilient national defense system in facing various threats.

**Keyword:** National Defense, Ministry of Defense, Central-Regional Coordination.

## INTRODUCTION

Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defense mandates that the implementation of national defense is carried out through efforts to build and foster the capabilities, resilience of the state and nation and to overcome every threat. These efforts are organized and prepared

early with a national defense system that is universal in nature, involving all citizens, regions and other national resources early by the government, organized in a total, integrated, directed and continuous manner from the center to the regions.

In the era of globalization and security complexity, it is very important for a country to have a strong and effective defense system.(Badran, 2023). One of the important components of the defense system is the responsibility of representatives in carrying out their main tasks.(Wicaksono, 2022). Management of the defense system is carried out by coordinating and integrating tangible and intangible military and non-military defense into one defense unit, by balancing aspects of security and welfare.(Wardana et al., 2022). The realization of this synergy will be able to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of coordination in realizing the management of the defense system throughout the territory of the Republic of Indonesia. The Ministry of Defense as the executor of government functions in the field of defense, can play an active role in encouraging the realization of the implementation of its technical functions to the regions in achieving the goals of national defense.

The unrealized implementation of technical defense functions down to the regions has resulted in, among others; first, the implementation of technical functions of defense policies in the regions has not been coordinated with Ministries/Institutions and Regional Governments (non-military defense components); second, regulations and legislation related to the implementation of defense functions down to the regions in facing threats have not been realized by the Government; third, the management of national resources has not been integrated in transforming defense potential into defense strength; and fourth, spatial planning by the Regional Government has not considered aspects of defense interests.

## **METHOD**

This study uses a literature study method to collect data and information related to regulatory policies, the implementation of technical functions of the Ministry of Defense, the role of local governments, and the role of technology in supporting defense strategies in the regions. This method involves reviewing and analyzing various secondary sources, including laws, presidential regulations, scientific journals, books, articles and official reports from government agencies and research institutions. Literature studies allow researchers to identify, evaluate and interpret information relevant to the research topic and provide a strong theoretical basis for further analysis and discussion.(Sugiyono, 2021). By integrating various perspectives and findings from existing literature, this study can provide comprehensive insights into the challenges and solutions in implementing the technical functions of the Ministry of Defense in the regions and its contribution to a strong national defense system.

## **Regulatory Policy**

The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Article 30 paragraph (2), provides a constitutional basis for national defense and security efforts. This article mandates a total people's defense and security system which reflects, among other things, that the national defense sector must be able to carry out its technical functions down to the regions in implementing the concept of a "Total Defense System" to maintain state sovereignty, the integrity of the territory of the Republic of Indonesia and the safety of the entire nation.

Law Number 3 of 2002 stipulates the objectives of national defense, namely to maintain and protect state sovereignty, the integrity of the territory of the Republic of Indonesia and the safety of the entire nation by utilizing national resources. The focus on managing national resources as a defense force that is the responsibility of the Ministry of Defense, is regulated in Law Number 23 of 2019 concerning Management of National Resources for National Defense, which emphasizes the transformation of these resources to build a reliable defense force.

Law Number 39 of 2008 concerning the State Ministry, which has also been mandated that the Ministry of Defense has the task and function of assisting the President in defense affairs. In addition, based on Presidential Regulation Number 94 of 2022 concerning the Ministry of Defense, it has also given authority to the Ministry of Defense to form vertical agencies in the regions as needed.

Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government confirms that defense affairs are included in the absolute government affairs of the Central Government. This shows the importance of coordination between the central and regional governments in managing state defense affairs.

Presidential Regulation Number 68 of 2019 and Presidential Regulation Number 8 of 2021 concerning the General Policy of State Defense for 2020-2024, have provided direction regarding the implementation of technical activities from the center to the regions and the arrangement of defense coordination in the regions.

From the description of the regulatory policies that have been built, there is still a national policy for the establishment of an office that is not/has not been needed until now even though there is already the Minister of Defense Regulation Number 21 of 2018 concerning the Organization and Work Procedures of the Regional Office of the Ministry of Defense.

The national policy that has not yet formed a defense office in the regions, indicates its view regarding the need and relevance of establishing a defense office at the regional level. Nevertheless, the need for the implementation of the technical functions of the Ministry of Defense in the regions is still recognized as vital.(Wardana et al., 2022).

The implementation of the technical functions of the Ministry of Defense in the regions is a necessity based on laws and regulations governing the implementation of government affairs in the field of defense. Not only is it a legal obligation, but it is also a crucial step in maintaining national stability and security as a whole.(Ashton et al., 2021). The technical function of the Ministry of Defense in the regions can be seen as an extension of the central government in implementing absolute government affairs authority in the field of defense.(Wardana et al., 2022). The dimensions of authority include the formulation, determination and implementation of policies in various aspects of defense strategy, defense planning, defense potential and state defense strength, both military and non-military. All of this is done to face various dimensions of threats that may arise as an effort to maintain national stability and security which is a shared responsibility between the central and regional governments.(Kurnia et al., 2022).

### **Realizing a Strong Defense**

Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defense, in Article 1 paragraph (2) describes the national defense system as a universal system that must be prepared early by the government and implemented in a total, integrated, directed and ongoing manner to uphold national sovereignty. The national defense system adopted by Indonesia is the concept of a "Total Defense System," which of course requires "National Intention" and "National Commitment" or a national agreement. However, until now, the implementation of this national agreement has not been fully realized, including the non-functioning implementation of technical activities of the Ministry of Defense down to the regions.(Kurnia et al., 2022).

The technical activities of the Ministry of Defense to the regions have an important role in implementing and applying Sishankamrata. The failure to realize the implementation of technical defense functions in the regions is also an obstacle in realizing a strong and universal national defense system. Therefore, to achieve this goal, concrete steps and a strong national commitment are needed, including increasing the implementation of technical activities of the Ministry of Defense at the regional level (Zhu et al., 2024).

Meanwhile, the implementation of national defense in the regions has not yet been realized, so there are several problems, including: first, there is no government institution that organizes

defense affairs in the regions as a partner of the Ministry/Institution and Regional Government in the implementation of national defense. Second, the regulations and laws related to national defense have not been used as references and guidelines for the Ministry/Institution and Regional Government in determining national defense policies in the regions (Muksin, 2020). Third, the management of national resources in transforming defense potential into defense strength used for the interests of welfare (Prosperity) and national defense and security has not been integrated and fourth, the arrangement of defense area spatial planning has not been in line with the arrangement of regional government spatial planning or vice versa in order to realize the arrangement of national regional spatial planning for the interests of national defense.(Wardana et al., 2022).

In overcoming these problems, collaboration between the central and regional governments can be the key to success in strengthening the implementation of a strong and resilient national defense down to the regions.

### **The Role of Regional Government in Supporting Defense Functions in the Regions**

Defense system management is a synergy and integration of physical and non-physical military and non-military defense into one defense unit by balancing security and welfare aspects. The realization of this synergy will be able to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of defense coordination throughout the region.(Kurnia et al., 2022).

The Ministry of Defense as the executor of government functions in the defense sector plays an active role in encouraging Ministries/Institutions and Regional Governments to develop defense capabilities (Muksin, 2020). National defense is realized through the development of integrated military strength by Ministries/Institutions and Regional Governments that are able to maintain state sovereignty, the integrity of the territory of the Republic of Indonesia and state security as a whole. The implementation of people's participation in the history of national defense implementation carried out since independence has provided valuable experience about the values of struggle that are arranged in a national defense concept (Mohammadi, 2023). The implementation of the duties and functions of the Ministry of Defense in the regions that have been carried out so far has received a very positive response and appreciation from officials in the regions. This appreciation is carried out in synergizing the implementation of defense and management of national resources in the regions for the interests of welfare and security.(Mardamsyah et al., 2022).

In carrying out the duties and functions of the Ministry of Defense, Regional Government officials and officials of vertical Ministry/Institution agencies have carried out limited coordination in reviewing, assessing and compiling integrated policy aspects regarding the implementation of national defense in the regions.(Sumarlan, 2022). In real terms, the defense synergy is manifested in the form of policy formulation in the regions, regional planning for the interests of welfare and security aspects, and bridging the interests of state defense, both military defense and non-military defense ((Saptono, 2022).

Problems in implementing the technical tasks and functions of the Ministry of Defense Regional Office in the regions can have an impact on threats, both military and non-military.(Sumarlan, 2022). The proposed solution involves increasing coordination between the central and regional governments, increasing the capacity of representatives of the Ministry of Defense in the regions and preparing an integrated cooperation program to ensure the success of the national defense system holistically at the regional level (Nizar et al., 2021).

### **TNI Units in Carrying Out Defense Functions in the Regions**

Threat response is one of the main tasks of the regional command unit which must always be ready to face various emergency situations, including natural disasters, armed conflicts, or terrorism threats. The Ministry of Defense needs to work together with the TNI and the

Regional Government to design an appropriate and effective response plan (Muksin, 2020). Arrangement of resource flow, coordination with related parties, and implementation of appropriate emergency measures.(Manurung et al., 2023). The importance of preparing this regional command unit is to ensure that Indonesia has a strong defense capacity at the regional level. With an effective regional command unit, Indonesia can deal with threats and disturbances quickly and efficiently throughout the country. In addition, it also creates a sense of security and tranquility in society, which is very important to maintain the stability and sustainability of the country.(Wardana et al., 2022).

In order to maintain national security and sovereignty, the Ministry of Defense continues to work hard to ensure that regional command units are ready to carry out defense tasks in the region.(Wardana et al., 2022). This involves investment in equipment, personnel training, and close coordination with the TNI and the Regional Government. With this joint effort, Indonesia can meet the security challenges at the regional and national levels in maintaining territorial integrity and providing protection to citizens (Nizar et al., 2021). The role of the Ministry of Defense in preparing regional command units is an important element in maintaining the security and stability of the country.

The empowerment of regional command units also aims to ensure that the country has a balanced defense capability and is responsive to threats from various directions.(Mukhyiddin et al., 2023). The existence of a strong and ready-to-act regional command unit is a determining factor in maintaining national security, especially in crisis or conflict situations. All of these efforts reflect the Ministry of Defense's commitment to ensuring that national defense is well maintained, both at the central and regional levels, through close cooperation between the center and regions (Nizar et al., 2021).

### **Defense Support Facilities and Infrastructure in the Regions**

The role of the Ministry of Defense in supporting and preparing regional command units is critical to maintaining regional and national security.(Kurnia et al., 2023). One of the things that needs to be considered in the preparation of regional command units is the fulfillment of technical needs and appropriate equipment. In this case, the Ministry of Defense must ensure that regional command units are equipped with modern and adequate equipment needed to carry out their duties effectively ((Setianingsih et al., 2021). This includes military equipment, communications, logistics and software that supports the planning and implementation of defense operations. In addition, training and capacity building of regional command unit personnel is also an important focus, in designing training programs that are in accordance with the needs of regional command units. This training covers various aspects, such as military tactics, strategy, crisis management and communication skills.(Mukhyiddin et al., 2023). Regional surveillance is also a key aspect of the regional command unit's duties. They must be able to monitor developments in the region, including potential threats and disturbances that may arise (Adams, 2020).

In addition, the Ministry of Defense also has an important role in providing intelligence resources and information needed for effective surveillance. Not only that, regional surveillance is a key aspect in the task of regional command units(Mukhyiddin et al., 2023). Close coordination between the Ministry of Defense, TNI and Regional Government as a basis for maintaining national security and sovereignty.

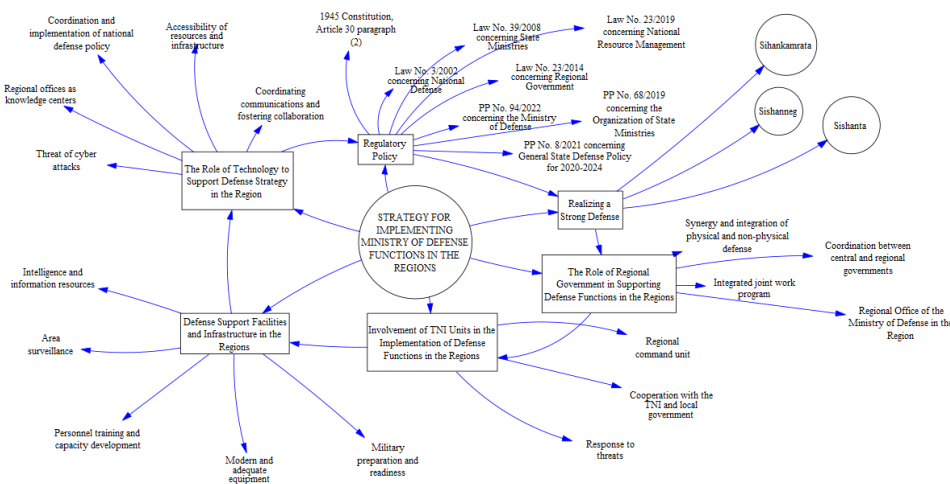
### **The Role of Technology to Support Defense Strategy in the Region**

The emergence of technology and the increase in information have resulted in an increase in threats, demonstrated primarily by dangerous phenomena such as cyber attacks.(Wardana et al., 2022). These destructive attacks have the capacity to cause substantial disruption to critical services and infrastructure, especially at the regional level. Regional government offices have

the potential to become knowledge hubs in cybersecurity which in turn fosters alliances.(Pramono, 2021).

The Regional Offices of the Ministry of Defense certainly also play an important role in the overall structure of a country's defense administration, playing a role in effective and efficient responses to potential threats and disturbances, as well as the implementation of effective national defense policies throughout the country. The main purpose of these regional offices is to facilitate coordination and implementation of effective regional or local national defense policies.(Wardana et al., 2022).

Regional defense agencies serve as integral components of the central Ministry of Defense operating at the regional level to coordinate communications and foster cooperation between local governments, security agencies and local constituents to the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Defense to integrate policies into national defense programs.(Widodo et al., 2022). With active involvement, contributing to the enhancement of defense preparedness in the region, the Regional Office of the Ministry of Defense also ensures the prime condition of defense technology assets, including military installations and personnel through monitoring and training.



**Figure 1. Research Model of the Strategy for Implementing the Functions of the Ministry of Defense in the Regions to Realize a Strong National Defense**

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study describe the implementation strategy of the Ministry of Defense's function in supporting defense at the regional level, emphasizing the important role of regional governments in synergy with national policies. Various fundamental regulations and policies such as Law No. 3/2002 concerning National Defense, Law No. 39/2008 concerning the Ministry of State, and Law No. 23/2019 concerning National Resource Management, as well as the general policy of national defense for 2020-2024, are the legal basis for strengthening defense functions in the regions. This study highlights the importance of utilizing technology in supporting defense strategies, including in dealing with cyber threats, managing intelligence resources, and monitoring regions. On the other hand, adequate defense infrastructure support, personnel readiness, and the provision of facilities and training are also important focuses for improving regional capabilities in dealing with security threats. In this case, the involvement of TNI units in the regions is very crucial, especially in ensuring military readiness, responding to threats, and cooperation with local governments. This study also emphasizes the need for synergy between physical and non-physical defense through coordination between the central and regional governments, integration of joint work programs, and strengthening regional commands. The Total People's Defense and Security System is a key element in integrating

defense involving local resources, with the aim of building sustainable and resilient defense at the regional level. Overall, this study highlights the importance of multi-level collaboration between the government, military, and other stakeholders in maintaining and strengthening the national defense posture through an integrated strategy at the regional level.

## CONCLUSION

The implementation of the technical functions of the Ministry of Defense in the regions plays a central role in the defense administration of a country, especially in aligning the defense policy strategy that has been set by the government. With the main objective of facilitating coordination and implementing effective defense policies together with other regional government offices as an integral component of realizing a strong and resilient national defense system in the context of universal people's defense and security system.

The establishment and existence of the Defense Regional Office as a strategy in realizing the implementation of the technical functions of the Ministry of Defense to the regions, plays a role in responding to threats, building cooperation with Ministries/Institutions and Regional Governments, as well as being an intermediary connecting the center and regions related to defense.

The role of the Regional Defense Office also includes maintaining military personnel and defense installations in their respective regions, ensuring personnel readiness, conducting military exercises and developing special capabilities as well as actively contributing to improving defense readiness in their respective geographic areas. The establishment of vertical institutions of the Ministry of Defense in the Regions is considered an important step to support government policies in managing defense potential into defense strength by improving coordination between the center and regions.

Detailing the role of implementing the Ministry of Defense's tasks down to the regions is expected to create better synergy, build an adaptive defense system, and increase responsibility for the developing security situation in various regions in Indonesia, this is with the hope of strategic thinking to improve the indicators of the problems faced as strategies including: regulatory policies, the realization of a strong defense, the role of local governments in supporting defense functions in the regions, the involvement of TNI units in implementing defense functions in the regions, supporting defense facilities and infrastructure in the regions and the role of technology to support defense strategies in the regions..

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