

Empowering Kopassus Units in Conflict Management and Reconciliation in Papua to Create a Safe and Conducive Situation

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Abstract

The actions of armed separatist groups in Papua have led to ongoing conflicts in the region, posing a significant challenge for the Indonesian government in safeguarding national sovereignty and maintaining security stability. The activities of these armed groups have resulted in an increase in civilian casualties, prompting the Indonesian Army (TNI-AD) to assign the Special Forces Command (Kopassus) to conduct law enforcement operations, reconnaissance, investigation, and other specialized operations aimed at suppressing separatist activities and securing stability. This study aims to analyze the empowerment of the Kopassus unit in Conflict Management and Reconciliation in Papua. A qualitative research method with a descriptive design was utilized in this study. The findings indicate that Kopassus's approach to conflict management and reconciliation in Papua is carried out through collaborative reconciliation efforts with local actors, including local governments, religious leaders, and indigenous leaders. The conclusion of this study emphasizes that the empowerment of the Kopassus unit in Conflict Management and Reconciliation in Papua to create a safe and stable environment is achieved through personnel capacity enhancement and adaptive operational strategies. These efforts include equipping personnel with AI-supported drones, establishing community-based communication and conflict resolution centers in each conflict-affected area, providing specialized training for military personnel in diplomacy and social interaction, and implementing the Humanitarian-Kopassus program.

Keywords: Empowerment of Kopassus, Papua, Conflict Management, Reconciliation

INTRODUCTION

The Papua region is one of the most complex areas in Indonesia, particularly in terms of social, political, and security issues. Over the past few decades, Papua has been the focus of national and international attention due to the instability caused by conflicts between armed separatist groups and security forces. This conflict has not only impacted political and defense aspects but has also resulted in casualties among civilians and security forces, as well as triggering humanitarian crises in various conflict-prone areas (Febrianti, 2016).

One of the key actors with a strategic role in addressing the Papua conflict is the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), particularly through the involvement of the Special Forces Command (Kopassus), which serves as the frontline in maintaining security stability in conflict-affected areas. In the context of Papua, Kopassus is tasked with responding to the escalation of violence caused by armed separatist groups, as well as protecting vital infrastructure from sabotage threats. This assignment not only reflects the role of national defense against physical threats but is also part of the national strategy to maintain the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) (Hasan & Nugroho, 2022).

Preliminary data collected by researchers indicate that armed separatist conflicts frequently occur in areas such as Nduga, Puncak Jaya, Intan Jaya, and Mimika. These four regions are considered high-risk zones due to the high frequency of separatist activities, including acts of violence, shootings targeting security personnel and civilians, and attacks on public facilities. The high intensity of guerrilla warfare carried out by the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB) as part of the Free Papua Movement (OPM) shows that this conflict is not sporadic, but rather organized and systematic. The activities of separatist groups continue

to increase every year and cause casualties, both among civilians and state officials (Febrianti, 2016).

In this context, the involvement of Kopassus is crucial, as this unit possesses specialized combat capabilities in countering guerrilla warfare, securing vital infrastructure, and conducting military operations other than war (MOOTW). Kopassus' assignment in Papua is not only aimed at military confrontation, but also includes efforts to protect strategic infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and energy installations, which are often targeted by separatist groups in their attempts to weaken the state (Hasan & Nugroho, 2022).

However, a military-centric approach to resolving the Papua conflict cannot stand alone. The social and political complexities underlying the conflict in Papua demand synergy between security and dialogue-based approaches. The tensions that have arisen are not only caused by armed resistance, but also by the dissatisfaction of some Papuans with central government policies, including development disparities, human rights violations, and local identity and culture that are considered not to have been fully respected by the state (Septiadi et al., 2022).

In other words, the conflict in Papua is not merely a military issue but a manifestation of historical and structural problems that require comprehensive and sustainable solutions. In this context, the role of Kopassus and the TNI is important, not only as a state instrument to restore stability, but also as an instrument that can promote reconciliation and development based on justice. Handling the conflict in Papua requires a multidimensional strategy that does not only rely on military operations, but also pays attention to human rights approaches, diplomacy, and socio-economic development.

This research is important because it contributes to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of armed conflict in Papua, while critically examining the strategic role of Kopassus in supporting security stability and national integration. This research aims to provide a strong knowledge base for policymakers and strategic planners in the field of defense, particularly in designing adaptive military operational policies tailored to the conflict context in Papua.

Additionally, the results of this research are expected to provide direction for improving the effectiveness of defense strategies in addressing the threat of armed separatism. These strategies not only include combat capabilities but also the ability to build the trust of the Papuan people in state institutions. As stated by Hasan and Nugroho (2022), a peaceful approach is the ideal solution to resolving the conflict in Papua, as has been the case in several other regions in Indonesia that have successfully resolved conflicts through dialogue and community empowerment.

Furthermore, the deployment of Kopassus can also be seen as part of Indonesia's defense diplomacy in facing international pressure regarding the Papua issue. In various international forums, human rights violations in Papua are often highlighted, and this can have an impact on Indonesia's image and diplomatic relations. Therefore, it is important for the government to balance repressive actions and persuasive measures in defusing the conflict, while also building a global narrative that Indonesia is committed to a peaceful resolution based on respect for human rights and national sovereignty.

In conclusion, the Papua conflict is one of the biggest challenges in the context of Indonesia's national defense and security. In this situation, the presence of Kopassus is an integral part of the state's response to the growing threat of separatism. This study aims to provide an academic contribution by comprehensively describing the role of Kopassus in the context of conflict reconciliation, as well as formulating strategic steps that can be applied in the long-term handling of conflicts in the Papua region.

Theoretical Conceptual Review

This study adopts a multidisciplinary approach based on three main theoretical frameworks, namely empowerment theory, counterinsurgency (COIN) theory, and conflict resolution theory. These three theories are used to understand the dynamics of separatist conflict

in Papua and the strategic role of the state—in this case the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), particularly Kopassus—in efforts to reduce conflict and promote socio-political stability.

Empowerment Theory

The concept of empowerment in this study refers to the idea that every individual or community group has the potential to develop and, therefore, needs to be given access to resources and opportunities that enable them to improve their quality of life. According to Anwas (2013), empowerment comes from the word “daya,” which means ability or strength, and is defined as a process of giving “power” to the weaker party while reducing the dominance of the overly powerful party (Anwas, 2013).

In the context of community development, empowerment encompasses intellectual, socio-cultural, economic, political, environmental, and security dimensions (Bahua, 2015). This concept is particularly relevant in understanding the inequalities experienced by indigenous Papuans, who are often structurally marginalized. Researchers note that empowerment is closely related to two main concepts, namely power and disadvantage, which highlight the relationship between power and social inequality.

Furthermore, empowerment targets the ability of individuals, especially vulnerable groups, to meet their basic needs. The goal is to free communities from the shackles of poverty, ignorance, and hunger, and empower them to access the productive resources needed to improve their well-being. The strategies applied typically include increasing income and meeting basic needs, while encouraging active participation in the community development process (Bahua, 2015).

Counterinsurgency Theory (COIN)

Counterinsurgency theory, or COIN, is a strategic framework used to deal with insurgency threats, especially those that are asymmetrical. COIN is a response to rebellious movements that often use unconventional tactics such as guerrilla warfare, sabotage, terrorism, and infiltration of civilian bases. According to William (2013), COIN does not rely solely on military force but uses a combined approach involving military, political, economic, paramilitary, psychological, and civilian engagement components (William, 2013).

COIN is oriented toward the principle of winning hearts and minds, which is a strategy to separate rebels from their support base within the civilian population. Its primary objective is to restore the legitimacy and authority of the legitimate government by suppressing the rebellion while building public trust. Therefore, COIN strategies often involve military operations other than war (MOOTW), infrastructure development, community empowerment, and information campaigns aimed at neutralizing separatist propaganda.

In the context of Papua, COIN theory is highly relevant given that separatist groups such as the TPNPB-OPM utilize guerrilla warfare and terrorism tactics and operate in difficult-to-reach terrain. Therefore, Kopassus' assignment strategy is not solely offensive in nature, but also adaptive and emphasizes collaboration with the local population to reduce conflict (William, 2013).

Conflict Resolution Theory

Conflict resolution theory provides a normative and applicable approach to understanding and resolving conflicts peacefully. This theory recognizes that conflicts arise from differences in interests, values, perceptions, and needs among the parties involved. Conflict resolution emphasizes the transformation of conflict toward sustainable reconciliation (Tal Bar, 2011).

Some of the main methods of conflict resolution include:

1. Negotiation, which is direct communication between the disputing parties to reach a mutual agreement, either informally or formally;
2. Mediation, which is the involvement of a neutral third party to facilitate dialogue between the conflicting parties without imposing a result;

3. Arbitration, in which a third party decides the outcome in a binding manner after hearing all arguments;
4. Reconciliation, which emphasizes the restoration of relationships through recognition, forgiveness, and post-conflict trust building (Tal Bar, 2011).

Peter et al. (2016) emphasize that conflict resolution requires a deep understanding of conflict dynamics, including the identification of actors involved, social background, conflict orientation and escalation, as well as the social values that underpin the conflict. Therefore, intervention in conflicts must be based on contextual knowledge and sensitivity to social realities (Peter et al., 2016).

In the context of the Papua conflict, this theory offers a peaceful approach that can complement security and empowerment strategies. Conflict resolution becomes relevant when the handling of separatism is not only militaristic, but also opens up space for dialogue and mediation between the government and the Papuan people. The implementation of this approach can create a more just and sustainable reconciliation, while reducing the escalation of conflict in the future

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach that aims to gain an in-depth understanding of the phenomena occurring in the field, particularly regarding the role of Kopassus in handling separatist conflicts in Papua. A qualitative approach was chosen because it is considered appropriate for examining complex social dynamics that have yet to be fully explored, as well as for responding to evolving challenges in the context of future assignments.

Informants are selected purposively, considering criteria such as the ability to provide accurate, precise, and scientifically accountable information (Kenedi et al., 2022). The data analysis process followed three main stages as described by Kurniawan (2017):

1. Data reduction, which is the process of filtering and focusing on relevant information from the results of interviews and observations;
2. Data presentation, which is the organization of information in a narrative form that allows for interpretation and comprehensive understanding;
3. Drawing conclusions, which is the final process of verifying and validating data to ensure that the research results have a high level of validity.

With this approach, the research aims to produce meaningful and contextual findings that can explain the reality in the field more comprehensively and deeply.

According to Sugiyono, qualitative methods are based on postpositivist philosophy, where the objects being studied are natural and unmanipulated, and the researcher acts as the primary instrument. Data collection was conducted using triangulation techniques—combining various sources and methods—and inductive data analysis, which produced a deeper understanding of the phenomenon under study rather than merely generating generalizations (Sugiyono).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Results

In an effort to uphold state sovereignty and maintain security, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), particularly Kopassus, plays an important role through various conflict management strategies and reconciliation efforts. According to sources obtained by researchers, in the last five years, the highest number of attacks by armed criminal groups occurred in 2021,

with 106 cases resulting in 34 fatalities. The number of attacks decreased compared to the following year, but the number of fatalities increased to 53. Therefore, the empowerment of Kopassus and its role in conflict reconciliation against armed criminal groups is a top priority and crucial in combating separatist actions and activities. These armed groups receive weapons support from foreign parties and irresponsible officials.

From 2018 to 2020, the number of fatalities decreased despite an increase in the number of cases. Throughout 2018, the number of fatalities reached 29 people. In the following year, there were 20 fatalities, with the lowest number occurring in 2020, where there were 9 fatalities. Some important incidents that occurred between 2018 and 2022 are as follows:

1. December 2018: The killing of 19 Trans Papua project workers in Nduga by the KKB, highlighting the escalation of violence and security challenges in the region.
2. 2020 - 2022: An increase in attacks on security forces and civilians, including shootings of aircraft and burning of government facilities, resulting in casualties and disruption to community activities.
3. During the period 2019 – 2023, there were several increases in security disturbances by the TPN-OPM/WPA, with the highest escalation in the Intan Jaya and Ilaga Beoga regions.
4. In addition, in 2021 in the Kalikopi region, with the movement of armed groups and the escalation of small-scale actions, the last action in 2021 was recorded with 24 actions and 10 victims. Meanwhile, in Maybrat, which is included in the escalation of small-scale actions with the movement of armed groups, the last action occurred in 2023 with 7 actions that resulted in 17 victims.

To date, the formation and operation of the OPM and WPA organizations continue to instill fear in the community. They remain active in conducting various activities in the field, which undoubtedly endanger both the community and security personnel. According to data obtained by researchers, the organizational structures of both groups are now highly developed, with clear territorial divisions. Therefore, conflict management and reconciliation are important parts of Kopassus' strategy in creating sustainable peace in Papua. Through an approach that involves dialogue with indigenous communities, religious leaders, and former members of separatist groups, Kopassus strives to end the conflict and rebuild damaged relationships.

Conflict Management and Reconciliation in Papua by the Indonesian Army

In this discussion, the author attempts to explain conflict management and reconciliation in Papua through field data and interview results. In this study, the researcher conducted interviews with informants who had the credibility and ability to provide valid or authentic data to support the research process. The researcher began the analysis by interviewing leaders, members, and community figures. Based on the results of an interview with the Operations Officer of Group 1 Kopassus (Egi Satria), it was stated that:

“Some vulnerable areas in Papua, such as Nduga, Puncak, and Intan Jaya, are regions with high escalation, and other areas are also trying to assert the existence of their respective groups.”

Additional information was provided by the Operations Officer of Group 1 Kopassus (Lettu Inf Priyitno Ira Konelius TB), who noted that other high-risk areas include Oksibil, Sinak, and Timika. Given the ongoing escalation of conflict, the Operations Officer of Kopassus Group 1 (Egi Satria) also noted that, to date, the methods employed by Kopassus include:

“Enforcing legal actions in accordance with regulations and escalation levels. Preventive measures involve deploying task forces to maintain security stability and resolve escalations as quickly as possible.”

Therefore, given the potential for escalating conflict, it is necessary for Kopassus to empower the community and engage in conflict resolution and reconciliation processes.

Conflict Management

Kopassus' conflict management in Papua is driven by several key factors. First, the increasing threat from armed separatist groups such as the KKB requires a swift and effective military response. Kopassus is chosen for its ability to carry out special operations in difficult and complex terrain. Second, there is a need to isolate separatist groups from local community support through measured operations that minimize negative impacts on civilians.

Kopassus' conflict management strategy involves counter-guerrilla operations, intelligence operations, and preventive measures aimed at dismantling KKB networks while protecting civilians. From an analytical perspective on the situation in Papua, historically, Papua has been a region prone to rebellion and vertical conflicts that can directly disrupt the conducive environment and stability of the state, thereby threatening national defense and security (Munua, 2021).

The success of these operations heavily depends on Kopassus' ability to adapt to field conditions and execute precise actions. Various approaches are employed, such as dialogues involving the central government with local leaders and communities representing the Papuan people, as part of efforts to find strategies for resolving issues in Papua. In addition, to accommodate the various inputs and aspirations of the Papuan people. Of course, in accommodating these aspirations, the main corridors of applicable regulations must be considered (Kusuma et al., 2023), and violence in the name of law must no longer be used (Hasan & Nugroho, 2022).

Conflict Reconciliation

Reconciliation is the process of restoring relationships after conflict. Reconciliation involves acknowledging mistakes, granting forgiveness, and rebuilding trust between the parties involved (Tal Bar, 2011). Reconciliation is an important step in efforts to create sustainable peace in Papua. As part of its empowerment strategy, Kopassus plays an important role in reconciliation efforts, both through direct action in the field and through support for civil initiatives. Based on an interview with Waasren Kopassus (Jefry Satria), "Kopassus' efforts to optimize conflict reconciliation are carried out by approaching local governments, community elements such as traditional leaders, religious leaders, and the community through social activities that can provide assurance that the goal is to maintain the sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia."

As stated by the Kopassus Operations Assistant (Lekol Inf Budi Rahman), "Conflict reconciliation is carried out by collaborating with stakeholders and the community. Approaching local governments, community elements such as traditional leaders, religious leaders, and the community. Providing a sense of security to the community by approaching them through social activities."

One of the key elements in reconciliation is dialogue between the government and groups involved in the conflict. Kopassus has participated in facilitating this dialogue by collaborating with local governments and community leaders. This dialogue aims to find peaceful solutions acceptable to all parties, including the surrender of weapons by armed groups and their integration into society.

Discussion**Empowering Kopassus Units in Conflict Management and Reconciliation in Papua to Create a Safe and Conducive Situation****Empowering Kopassus Units.**

Empowerment is a process that gives individuals or groups the strength or ability to act independently and effectively in achieving certain goals. In the context of empowering Kopassus units, this theory refers to efforts to improve operational capacity and capabilities. The stages of empowerment carried out by Kopassus in the Papua region in conflict management and reconciliation are as follows:

1. Preparation Stage (engagement), this stage emphasizes substance, namely the preparation of personnel and conditions on the ground. Kopassus assignments are regulated in accordance with leadership directives through various task force directives, such as the TNI Nemangkawi Task Force in 2021.
2. Assessment Phase: This is an active phase through the implementation of empowerment programs with the community. Local communities have knowledge about the conditions, circumstances, and issues occurring in their areas. In this phase, Kopassus involves civilian intelligence and community leaders with critical information regarding the presence of the KKB.
3. Alternative Program or Activity Planning Stage (designing). In this stage, the planning process is discussed optimally with community participation. The goal is to produce optimal problem-solving and solutions.
4. Action Plan Formulation Stage (designing), in this stage Kopassus designs actions involving the assignment of all members.
5. Implementation Phase of the Program or Activity. This phase involves the actual implementation of synergies between the community and Kopassus. The implementation phase is the execution of the program planning that has been formulated with the community beforehand.
6. Evaluation Phase, a phase that serves as an internal oversight process by Kopassus leadership and community involvement. This stage formulates various indicators of the success of Kopassus assignments in conflict-prone areas.
7. Termination Stage (Disengagement), a stage where all programs have been implemented optimally. At this stage, it appears that Kopassus' involvement cannot be separated from maintaining the integrity and security of the Papua region. Kopassus is still on duty and cannot yet carry out the termination process because the conflict caused by the KKB could continue to escalate.

Civil-Military Relations.

Civil-military relations in the context of conflict management and reconciliation in Papua are crucial. Good cooperation between the military and civil authorities is key to the success of operations. Kopassus' involvement in military operations in Papua must be coordinated with civilian programs, such as infrastructure development, education, and health services, to win the hearts and minds of the community. Active involvement of the civilian government in the reconciliation process is also important to ensure that conflict resolution is carried out through a comprehensive approach, covering legal, political, and socio-cultural aspects.

The relationship between civil and military authorities can be analyzed through the principal-agent framework, where civil authorities as principals control the military as agents. This is important in Papua to ensure that the military acts in accordance with the mandate given by the civil government (Feaver; 2003). An integrative approach between the military and civilian actors has proven effective in reducing tensions and building the foundations for sustainable peace.

1. Collaboration with Local Government. Kopassus works closely with local governments to identify community needs and design programs that can improve welfare and security.
2. The Role of Community and Religious Leaders. In the context of issues in Papua, important figures in the community have significant influence. Through this approach, Kopassus can reach a wider community and build a strong support network for peace efforts.
3. Humanitarian Approach. In addition to military operations, Kopassus is also involved in various humanitarian activities, such as medical assistance, food distribution, and infrastructure development.

Kopassus Empowerment Strategy in Handling the Papua Conflict

Kopassus empowerment in this context includes improving operational capabilities, adapting tactics and strategies relevant to local conditions, and integrating military efforts with broader non-military approaches. This empowerment program is in line with the theory of Counterinsurgency (COIN), which offers a framework for understanding and overcoming insurgency with a focus on the civilian population, government legitimacy, and a comprehensive approach involving all instruments of national power. The Kopassus Task Force is assigned through the following efforts:

- 1) Security Operations: The TNI and Polri conduct joint operations to suppress separatist actions and ensure public safety. These operations often involve the deployment of additional troops and intensive patrols in vulnerable areas;
- 2) Welfare Approach: The government also implements a welfare approach through infrastructure development, education, and health care to reduce public support for separatist movements;
- 3) Dialogue efforts with community leaders and moderate groups are conducted to find peaceful solutions to protracted conflicts;
- 4) Empowerment through Territorial Development. Through Binter, Kopassus not only plays a role as a military force but also as an agent of social change. Additionally, the TNI is expected to strike the right balance between maintaining military neutrality and fulfilling the political rights of individuals to prevent casualties (Ramadantica, 2024).

As stated in the previous literature review chapter, empowerment is the development of a relationship between the subject and the object as an actualization of power or empowerment. This process proves that there needs to be recognition of the capabilities possessed by the object in empowerment. This process reviews the importance of the flow of power from the subject to the object.

Problem-Solving Strategy

SWOT analysis begins with identifying factors that influence both internal and external factors. This step aims to maximize opportunities (Opportunity) into strengths (Strength), minimize weaknesses (Weakness), and if possible, transform threats (Threat) into opportunities (Opportunity). In using this technique, the SWOT analysis is combined into a matrix. Subsequently, strategies are developed based on the SWOT aspects, considering both external and internal factors.

Table 1 SWOT aspects based on external and internal factors

Category	Influential factors	
Internal	<p>Strength</p> <p>High morale and motivation among members. Optimal human resources and a capable recruitment system. Support and guidance from senior leadership/command.</p>	<p>Weakness</p> <p>Limitations of defense equipment. Limited scanning and field information systems. Difficult field conditions.</p>
Eksternal	<p>Opportunity (Peluang)</p> <p>The role of Kopassus in conflict management and reconciliation. Attention and support from the central government and stakeholders. Support from civil society</p>	<p>Threat (Ancaman)</p> <p>Illegally supplied KKB and OPM weapons. Foreign support. Threats and hostage-taking of civilians.</p>

Source: Author 2025

Based on the weight of factors in the table above, a strategic external factor matrix is constructed to determine the Support Weight Value (SWV) of each factor. Based on the strategic external factor analysis matrix in Table 2 below, it is known that the sub-variable of the monitoring system implemented continuously has the highest support weight value of (1.00), while the lack of synergy has the lowest support weight value of (0.60).

Table 2 Quadrant Calculation

INTERNAL	VALUE	EKSTERNAL	VALUE
Strenght	1,00	Opportunity	1,00
Weakness	0,50	Threat	0,60
Diference	0,50	Diference	0,40

Source: Author 2025

- a. For internal conditions regarding strengths and weaknesses: $1.00 - 0.50 = 0.50$
- b. For external conditions regarding opportunities and threats/constraints: $1.00 - 0.60 = 0.40$

Based on the results of the SWOT analysis calculations, the obtained values, when converted to the SWOT Quadrant for strategy determination, are located in Quadrant I. This is as shown in the following diagram:

To support the primary tasks of the Indonesian Army in Papua through the empowerment of Kopassus units, an innovative approach is needed that not only focuses on military strategy but also involves multidimensional methods, technological integration, and community empowerment.

a. AI-based Monitoring System and Drones.

One innovation that can be implemented is the use of drones equipped with artificial intelligence (AI) systems for monitoring in hard-to-reach areas. Based on the empowerment stages, the technology-based monitoring system stage is the Program Implementation or Activity Implementation stage, which is the form of implementation and application of the previously formulated program. These drones can be used to monitor the movements of separatist groups (KKB) in remote areas, provide real-time information to Kopassus command, and minimize risks for personnel in the field. This innovation emphasizes the use of smart technology to enhance the effectiveness of Kopassus operations in Papua. Through the integration of technologies such as drone surveillance, artificial intelligence (AI), and big data analytics, Kopassus can enhance surveillance of separatist group movements without having to deploy troops directly to high-risk areas.

b. Community-Based Communication and Conflict Resolution Center

The community-based communication and conflict resolution center established in each conflict area aims to serve as a point of connection between Kopassus, local leaders, local governments, and the local community. Based on the analysis, the establishment of community-based communication and conflict resolution centers, as outlined in the theoretical review, is guided by four principles of community development: 1) Impartiality toward any particular interest, 2) Non-discrimination, coercion, or oppression of the community, 3) Providing the community with the freedom to express their opinions democratically, and 4) Ensuring access to service programs for the community. Therefore, in addition to focusing on security, the empowerment process through dialogue and a soft approach is expected to have a significant impact on the community.

c. Integrated Economic and Social Empowerment Program

The conflict resolution strategy begins with sufficient knowledge about the profile and background of the social conflict that has occurred and knowledge of the regional map.

Therefore, Kopassus, together with stakeholders and other authorities, is expected to implement the stages of the empowerment program through an integrated economic and social basis. In addition, this empowerment program is in line with the Counterinsurgency (COIN) theory, which offers a framework for understanding and overcoming insurgency with a focus on the civilian population, government legitimacy, and a comprehensive approach involving all instruments of national power. The successful implementation of COIN strategies requires close coordination between military operations and civilian efforts, accurate intelligence, and long-term engagement with patience and flexibility.

d. Special Training for Soldiers in Diplomacy and Social Interaction

In addition to military training, Kopassus can also be given training in field diplomacy and social interaction involving cross-cultural communication skills. This training will help soldiers understand the social and cultural sensitivities of the Papuan people so that operations are more inclusive and minimize friction. Civil-military relations are an important aspect of state governance that affects political stability, national security, and democracy. Researchers review that by understanding and applying key theories and concepts in civil-military relations, the state can achieve the necessary balance to ensure that the military can carry out its role effectively without threatening civilian supremacy or democratic principles.

e. “Hearts and Minds” Initiative Through the Kopassus Humanitarian Program

An innovative approach to supporting reconciliation is the introduction of the Kopassus Humanitarian Program, in which Kopassus is not only involved in military operations but also plays a role in improving the welfare of the Papuan people. This program focuses on social and economic infrastructure development in conflict-prone areas. Some activities that can be implemented are: 1) Kopassus can collaborate with local and international medical personnel to provide free health services through mobile health clinics in remote areas. 2) In addition to military operations, Kopassus can also be involved in citizenship education programs for the younger generation in Papua, with the aim of increasing understanding of national values and providing practical skills that can help them create economic opportunities.

f. Sustainable Civil-Military Security Training Center

This initiative proposes the establishment of a Civil-Military Security Training Center focused on enhancing synergy between Kopassus and local actors, such as indigenous communities, religious leaders, and regional leaders. This training center will serve to educate Kopassus members on the importance of healthy civil-military relations and peaceful conflict management. 1) Conflict Simulation and Mediation: At this training center, Kopassus members and local communities are involved in conflict simulations that teach mediation and conflict resolution techniques that can be applied in Papua. 2) Reconciliation Certification: Each Kopassus member who has completed this training will receive special certification in conflict management and community reconciliation, which will improve their ability to handle conflict situations in the field.

CONCLUSION

This study, titled “Empowering Kopassus Units in Conflict Management and Reconciliation in Papua to Create a Safe and Conducive Situation,” emphasizes the strategic role of Kopassus in managing conflicts in Papua, which has complex social, political, and security dynamics. From 2018 to 2022, Kopassus has demonstrated significant involvement in managing conflicts through a holistic military and reconciliation approach, combining military operations with more humanistic methods to win the hearts and minds of the Papuan people. Some important conclusions from the research obtained by the researchers are as follows:

1. Conflict Management and Reconciliation in Papua by the Indonesian Army (TNI AD) is carried out through a reconciliation approach implemented by Kopassus, involving collaboration with local actors such as local governments, religious leaders, and traditional leaders. This aims to ease social tensions and promote productive dialogue between conflicting parties, creating a more conducive environment for social and economic development.
2. The empowerment of Kopassus units in conflict management and reconciliation in Papua to create a safe and conducive situation is carried out through capacity building of personnel and adaptive operational strategies. Equipped with drones with artificial intelligence (AI) systems, forming community-based communication and conflict resolution centers in each conflict area, Special Army Training in Diplomacy and Social Interaction, and the Humanitarian-Kopassus program.

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