

## **Operation ZENI TNI-AD In Facing Biological Threats During The Covid-19 Pandemic As A Strategy To Strengthen The Country's Defense**

**Wahyudhi Adrian<sup>1)\*</sup>, Pujo Widodo<sup>2)</sup>, Halkis<sup>3)</sup>**

<sup>1,2,3)</sup> Assymmetric Warfare, Faculty of Defense Strategy, Republic Indonesia of Defense University

\*Corresponding Author

Email: [wahyudhiadrian.unhan@gmail.com](mailto:wahyudhiadrian.unhan@gmail.com)

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### **Abstract**

*The involvement of military defense functions in facing non-military threats is indirect and prioritizes the function of deterrence. However, on a certain scale, military defense can be involved in a more concrete form based on the government's political decisions or at the request of main non-military elements that need it, for example in addressing widespread disease outbreaks and dealing with natural disasters or search and rescue (SAR). The global Covid-19 pandemic is a form of non-military threat that is unclear about its causes but has an extraordinary impact and has raised the awareness of the world community, including Indonesia, about how terrible and tragic the danger of non-military threats to national and global security. The Covid-19 pandemic until 2021 has not ended, and the emergence of new variants has caused the virus to spread more quickly and widely in various countries. The Indonesian government continues to try to reduce the level of virus transmission through various social restriction policies, including involving the Indonesian military (TNI) in helping to handle the Covid-19 pandemic. One of these efforts involves the Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal Center (Kizi Nubika) as the TNI's single strategic unit that specializes in handling non-military threats. Biological threats can become asymmetric warfare and pose a major threat to human, animal, and plant health. Infectious diseases and dangerous biological materials can spread and have harmful impacts on ecosystems and economies. The TNI is expected to be the main force in handling biological threats through the development of skills and capabilities in the field of bioskills, including understanding zoonoses, epidemiology, early detection, prevention, control, and recovery from biological threats. The TNI is also expected to collaborate with various parties, including the government, international organizations, and the scientific community, in efforts to control biological threats.*

**Keywords:** *Non-Military, Threat, Nubika, Biology, TNI, Pandemic, Covid-19*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The threat of biological poison can be caused by natural events, such as the natural transfer of viruses from animals to humans, accidents in research facilities, or due to a covert biological weapon attack. Another potential biological weapon is poison contained in plants, such as ricin from the Castor Bean plant (Robert, 2018). The use of Nubika in Indonesia, both in the context of an attack and due to accidents, has not yet been classified as a mass destruction weapon attack, except for explosive materials, which can damage genetics and strengthen and improve growth, and can withstand physical threats, both from Nubika (military threat) and waste disposal (non-military threat) (Kusmayati, 2013).

Pandemic is a term that refers to a disease outbreak that spreads over a very wide geographical area (Awailuddin et al, 2020). The national leadership /TNI is currently not running optimally, making it unfinished to accelerate the handling of Covid-19 and national economic recovery. In realizing this, a strategy for finding solutions is needed, one of which is through strengthening the central role of strategic leadership. Strategic leadership is responsible for creating between the demands of the organization's external environment and the vision, mission, strategy and implementation of the organization (Isnaini Rodiah. 2011).

By looking at the risks posed by the global Covid-19 pandemic, there is the biggest point of view of resiko nubika is in the field of biology. This was reinforced by Minister of Defense (Menhan) Prabowo Subianto said the biggest threat in future wars among them is the

biological threat. Thus the biggest threat comes from the biology sector which in 3 fields of nubika, namely nuclear, biology, and chemistry, in this research will focus on the field of biology (Admin, 2022).

On the defense system owned by Indonesia, it uses the Universal People's Defense System developed by the Indonesian nation in accordance with the conditions of the Indonesian nation. Indonesia's territorial position which is in a cross position (flanked by two continents and two oceans) on the one hand provides advantages, but on the other hand it provides a large security threat in the form of military threats from other countries and international crimes (Arief, 2021).

A biological threat that when drawn to its primary focus focuses on the use of weapons where biological weapons qualify as weapons of mass destruction. Such weapons can be a threat that has the potential to cause mass deaths. The development of biological weapons among terrorists is one of the most pressing international security. This is supported by easy access and at prices that tend to be cheap, both of which are combined with advances in biochemical technology (Abott, 2020).

The task of Pusziad Nubika based on the decision of the Nubika organ company No. Kep / 3 / VI / 1991 dated June 26, 1991 is to organize and carry out investigations and decontamination of Nubika in the context of securing troops and or the public against the dangers of Nubika due to enemies or environmental pollution by industrial waste / accidents or by natural events.

In the task of the Indonesian Army, the task of anticipating Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical threats lies with the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Zeni Company abbreviated as Zeni Nubika Ditziad Company in form on April 22, 1986 under the Army Zeni Directorate. Since its establishment, the Nubika company has collaborated with the local government, the Nuclear Power Supervisory Agency (Bapeten), the Veterinary Research Center (BBalivet), Batan (National Nuclear Energy Agency), the Ministry of Health (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia), the KBR (Chemical, Biological, Radioactive) Unit of the Gegana Corps Brimob Polri and other related agencies. This company is the only unit owned by Indonesia and the Indonesian Army to anticipate the threat of nuclear, biological and chemical hazards (Denny, 2020).

The main task of Zeni Nubika Company is to organize and carry out decontamination to eliminate, neutralize and reduce Nubika contamination of humans, materials, (individual and unit equipment), terrain, installations / buildings, animals and food caused by enemies or environmental pollution by waste / accidents of an industry or natural events so that it can function again (Suhendar, 2011).

This force has been tested during the repatriation of Indonesian citizens from Wuhan China. In charge of handling Covid-19, the nubika soldier from Ditziad Zidam Jaya was also equipped with PPE. They routinely ensure that facilities and infrastructure are in a ready-to-use and safe condition, inside and outside the emergency hospital for Covid-19 patients, who are in the kemayoran athletes' guesthouse not only prepare but also ensure that everything is in the best condition and free from this deadly virus, including when facing biological and chemical nuclear attacks (RMOL, 2020).

But on the other hand, Samihardjo said that the Nubika threat has not been seen as a priority by the Indonesian government because our government is only in an action that has already happened. Currently, Indonesia just happens to be in a safe condition because there is no danger of Nubika, but once there is a Nubika attack, of course we will be difficult and unable because we do not yet have a great ability for it (Fikih Hidayat, 2019).

The Covid-19 pandemic until 2021 is not over and the emergence of new variants has caused the spread of the virus to be faster and wider in various countries. The Indonesian government continues to strive to reduce the rate of virus transmission through various social restriction

policies, including involving the TNI in assisting in handling the Covid-19 pandemic. One of them is the involvement of the Pusziad Army Explosives Taming Zeni Company (Kizi Nubika) as the only strategic unit in the Indonesian Army that specifically deals with the dangers of Nubika, especially in this case a biological threat.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research will use a qualitative approach with a descriptive type. This descriptive type of qualitative research is a study where researchers try to provide understanding through a complete depiction of a phenomenon that occurs supported by data. Sugiyono (2016) defines a descriptive qualitative approach as an approach in a study with a post-positivism paradigm (perspective) that views if the subject has a role in the existence of a reality. Poerwandari explained that in this case the case in question can take the form of certain decisions, policies, processes, or special events. Cases are limited by time and activity, and researchers use various data collection methods to continuously collect detailed information (Poerwandari, 2007).

From data collection using data from primary data sources (the data is obtained directly that has been given to researchers), then there is secondary data (data sources that are not directly given to researchers but with documents or come from other people) (Moleong, 2012). In the context of descriptive qualitative research such as this research, the method used to analyze the data is a model developed by Miles, Huberman and Saldana. According to Miles, et.al (2014: 13) there are several main components that must be considered in the qualitative analysis process, including data condensation, data display and conclusion drawing which is carried out in an interactive form accompanied by a data collection process

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Biological threat identification in Indonesia is a process carried out to identify, evaluate, and classify biological threats that may occur in Indonesia. Biological threats can be infectious diseases, pathogens, or organisms that can cause harm to humans, animals, or plants. This process is carried out by various government agencies such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Defense, as well as non-governmental institutions such as universities and research institutions. Through the identification of biological threats, governments can take appropriate action to address those threats and reduce their impacts.

Identification of biological threats by the military in Indonesia is a process carried out by the TNI (Indonesian National Army) in identifying, evaluating, and classifying biological threats that may occur in military areas of operation in Indonesia. These include the threat of infectious diseases that can be spread through the movement of military personnel, threats to the health of troops and threats to military logistics and equipment. This process is carried out through monitoring, data collection, risk analysis and taking necessary actions such as improving operational readiness, training, and cooperation with other relevant agencies such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture.

This identification begins with Risk Analysis, which is a process used to evaluate the potential impact of a biological threat and determine the severity of the threat. Risk analysis can be used to evaluate various biological threats such as infectious diseases, pathogens, or organisms that can cause harm to humans, animals, or plants. Then related to continued surveillance by the Ministry of Health and the Indonesian Army (Indonesian Army) is a monitoring and data collection process used to detect, identify, and evaluate biological threats.

After that, the ecological survey is a process of monitoring and collecting data on the environment and ecosystems that is used to identify possible biological threats. The data is combined and then combined with research and development processes used to improve preparedness and capability in the face of biological threats. This includes research on pathogens and organisms that cause disease. This is also supported by the process of cooperation with other parties in dealing with biological threats is important to ensure an effective and efficient response in overcoming these threats.

Operation Zeni is one of the operations carried out by the Indonesian Army (Army) in the face of biological threats in Indonesia. Operation Zeni stands for "Integral Sixactive Zone" which is carried out to control biological threats originating from the natural environment as well as the human environment. In general, it can be said that the effectiveness of the Indonesian Army's Zeni operations in dealing with biological threats in Indonesia is largely determined by good cooperation with other parties, good preparation, fast and accurate data collection, sufficient government support, fast and appropriate handling, as well as evaluations carried out regularly and accurately

The handling of Covid-19 also involves elements of state defense with the main actor, namely the Indonesian National Army (TNI). In Article 5 of Law (UU) No. 34 of 2004 concerning the Indonesian National Army, it is stated that the TNI plays a role as a state tool in the field of defense in carrying out its duties based on state policies and political decisions. Furthermore, according to article 6, the TNI is the main component of the state defense tool. Regarding the handling of Covid-19, the involvement of the TNI is in accordance with article 7 Paragraph 2 of Law No.34 of 2004 of the TNI related to the duties of the TNI in Military Operations Other Than War (OMSP). Of the 14 points, there are three main points related to handling Covid-19, namely point 9 related to assisting government tasks in the regions; point 10 is related to assisting the National Police in the framework of public security and order duties regulated in the Law; Also point 12 related to helping to overcome the consequences of natural disasters, displacement, and the provision of humanitarian assistance. In addition to Law No. 34 of 2004, regulations on the involvement and role of the TNI are also strengthened by Presidential Decree No. 12 of 2020 concerning the Determination of Non-Natural Disasters, Law No. 23 of 2019 concerning Management of National Resources for State Defense and Presidential Instruction No. 4 of 2019 concerning Capacity Building in Preventing, Detecting and Responding to Disease Outbreaks, Global Pandemics, Nuclear Emergencies, Biology and Chemistry. In this regulation, the TNI as an element of state defense can play a role in dealing with crisis situations due to outbreaks or pandemics.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of the TNI in handling the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has encouraged many countries to involve various actors, one of which is the military. In Indonesia, TNI involvement has been carried out since the beginning of handling COVID-19 until entering the new normal era. Such involvement is indeed allowed in the context of OMSP, as stipulated in Law No.34/2004 concerning the TNI. OMSP is the task of the Indonesian National Army (TNI) in addition to the task of war operations. In Law No. 34/2004 on the TNI, it is mentioned about OMSP. In addition to fighting, the TNI also has other obligations in the implementation of defense and state sovereignty. This task has been regulated in the TNI Law No. 34 of 2004 concerning the Indonesian National Army.

The state defense system is a universal defense system that involves all citizens, territories, and other national resources, and is prepared early by the government and organized in a total, integrated, directed, and continuous manner to uphold state sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the safety of the entire nation from all threats. The universal defense system can be carried out by deploying all elements of national resources, including also elements of national defense, such as Main Components, Reserve Components and Supporting

Components. The main component is the Indonesian National Army which is ready to be used to carry out defense tasks. Reserve components are national resources that have been prepared to be deployed through mobilization to enlarge and strengthen the strengths and capabilities of key components. Meanwhile, supporting components are national resources that can be used to increase the strength and capability of key components and reserve components.

The legal basis governing the involvement of defense institutions in assisting the acceleration of handling the COVID-19 pandemic is contained in Law No. 34 of 2004 concerning the TNI. In article 7 paragraph 2 of the law, it is stated that one of the main tasks of the TNI is to implement OMSP, which in this case aims to help overcome the consequences of natural disasters, displacement, and the provision of humanitarian assistance. In addition, Presidential Instruction No. 4 of 2019 concerning capacity building in preventing, detecting, and responding to disease outbreaks, global pandemics, and nuclear, biological, and chemical emergencies is also the legal basis for assigning the TNI to assist the government in overcoming this global health crisis.

Kemhan also focused on improving the quality of defense human resources in the health sector by establishing the Faculty of Military Medicine, Faculty of Military Pharmacy and Faculty of Military Engineering at the Defense University. Furthermore, kemhan plans to establish pharmacy. Another thing, the Ministry of Defense carried out a transformation in the field of Higher Education at the Defense University (Unhan), by establishing a Faculty related to biological threats by issuing circulars according to ministry-level authority and always guided by regulations from relevant Ministries and Institutions. Defense Universities can play an important role in dealing with biological threats through the development of study programs and research activities related to military biology. Some of the things that defense universities can do to deal with biological threats are to provide military health study programs: Defense Universities can provide specialized study programs to produce graduates who have knowledge and competence in the field of military health. Research and Development where Defense Universities can conduct research and development related to biological threats, such as research related to vaccination, development of decontamination technology, and others. Coupled with cooperation with other parties where the Defense University can cooperate with various parties such as governments, ministries, institutions, and communities in dealing with biological threats.

Training and education, the Defense University can conduct training and education on biological threats to Army personnel and society. Strategic studies: Defense Universities can conduct strategic studies related to biological threats and provide recommendations to the government and the Army to address these threats. In general, defense universities can play an important role in dealing with biological threats by providing graduates who have the knowledge and competencies needed in the field of military health, conduct research and development, cooperate with others, organize training and education, and conduct strategic studies.

In general, the Ministry of Defense can play an important role in maintaining food security during the pandemic by providing reserve food stocks, diversifying food sources, establishing food production units, synergy with other parties, training and education, and distributing food assistance. Kemhan realizes that COVID-19 has an impact on people's lives, one of which is the problem of food availability. Therefore, Kemhan also has a focus on building food security to anticipate the impact of future disease outbreaks by coordinating with relevant ministries. On June 23, 2020, the Deputy Minister of Defense attended a meeting on the discussion and management of the Former Peatland Development Area (PLG) in Central Kalimantan Province. The meeting was also attended by the Minister of Public Works and Public Housing along with representative officials of the Ministry of Forestry and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of SOEs. This meeting discussed

the joint action of the ministry in developing food estates in Central Kalimantan in supporting the food security strengthening program.

## CONCLUSION

The identification of biological threats is critical to the country's defense because it can assist in the prevention and control of the spread of diseases that can threaten public health and state security. It can also help in the development of strategies and technologies to deal with biological threats that may arise in the future. The handling of Covid-19 also involves elements of state defense with the main actor, namely the Indonesian National Army (TNI). In Article 5 of Law (UU) No. 34 of 2004 concerning the Indonesian National Army, it is stated that the TNI plays a role as a state tool in the field of defense in carrying out its duties based on state policies and political decisions. Furthermore, according to article 6, the TNI is the main component of the state defense tool. Regarding the handling of Covid-19, the involvement of the TNI is in accordance with article 7 Paragraph 2 of Law No.34 of 2004 of the TNI related to the duties of the TNI in Military Operations Other Than War (OMSP). The TNI (Indonesian National Army) can be used as the main component in handling biological threats. The TNI can provide support in various aspects, where Logistics assistance is important in handling this. The TNI can provide logistical assistance such as transportation, medical supplies, and treatment to communities affected by biological threats. Logistics and food security are important aspects in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, because they can ensure the availability of sufficient food ingredients and prevent food shortages.

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