The Role Of Indonesian Army Aviation Towards Handling Covid-19 In The Papua Region

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Abstract
The spread of COVID-19 virus has spread throughout the world and affected almost all countries, including Indonesia. One of the areas that was quite badly affected was the Papua region. The Indonesian Army Aviation has an important role in assisting the government towards handling COVID-19 in the targeted region. The purpose of this research is to identify the role of the Indonesian Army Aviation in handling COVID-19 in the Papua region, the factors that influence the success of its operations, as well as the challenges and obstacles faced in supporting the operation to handle COVID-19 in the Papua region. Handling COVID-19 in the Papua region requires synergy and collaboration from various parties, including the Indonesian Army through Indonesian Army Aviation. Indonesian Army Aviation has an important role in distributing vaccines and medical devices to areas that are difficult to reach in Papua. However, this operation is inseparable from several factors that influence its success, such as geographical conditions and inadequate infrastructure. Challenges and obstacles were also encountered in supporting the operation to handle COVID-19 in the Papua region, including difficulties in taking blood samples and a lack of support from local health institutions. However, the Indonesian Army Aviation continues to strive to overcome these challenges and obstacles through collaboration with various parties, including health agencies and the Indonesian Air Force and the Indonesian Navy. In an effort to deal with COVID-19 in the Papua region, the Indonesian Army Aviation also works with the local government and local community to educate about health protocols and assist in tracing and testing. With good synergy and cooperation.

Keywords: COVID-19, Indonesian Army Aviation, Indonesian Army, Vaccine.

INTRODUCTION
The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Indonesia, both from a health, economic and social perspective. The health impact is mainly seen in the increasing number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19, as well as the burden felt by medical personnel and limited health facilities. Apart from that, this pandemic has also affected the availability of other health services, such as immunization, treatment of other diseases, and reproductive health services. The economic impact can be seen in various economic sectors affected by the pandemic, such as tourism, hospitality, creative industries and the informal sector. The Indonesian government has made various efforts to deal with this economic impact, such as providing social assistance, tax breaks and economic stimulus. The social impact is seen in the increase in poverty and unemployment rates, as well as social isolation due to social restriction policies implemented to inhibit the spread of COVID-19. This pandemic has also exacerbated
gender inequality, especially for women who are more vulnerable to domestic violence and economic hardship. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has also shown an imbalance in distribution and access to the COVID-19 vaccine, giving rise to fears of health disparities between areas that have access to vaccines and those without access.

An area that is isolated and has limited access to health infrastructure is one of the major challenges in handling the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia. This is especially evident in the Papua region, where access to health services and health facilities is still limited. The Papua region also has a higher health vulnerability, due to its unique geographic and socio-economic conditions. In addition, controlling the spread of COVID-19 in the Papua region is also faced with challenges in terms of coordination and communication between various related parties, including between the central and regional governments, as well as between health agencies and defense institutions. In addition, there is still a low level of public awareness and understanding about COVID-19 and how to handle it, so efforts need to be made to increase public understanding and participation in handling the pandemic. In addition to these challenges, the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Papua region is also faced with other problems such as limited transportation infrastructure, a lack of trained human resources in the health sector, and policies that do not always pay attention to the special needs of the region. Therefore, special efforts and close cooperation between various parties are needed to overcome these challenges and strengthen the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Papua region. Lacking of trained human resources in the health sector, and policies that do not always pay attention to the specific needs of the region. Therefore, special efforts and close cooperation between various parties are needed to overcome these challenges and strengthen the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Papua region.

In handling Covid-19, the Indonesian army is working with various related parties in the Papua region that is distributing the COVID-19 vaccine. Indonesian Army has formed a special task force, namely the COVID-19 task force consisting of the Indonesian Army, Navy and Indonesian Air Force. The Indonesian Air Force deployed Hercules aircraft carrying vaccines and health protocol equipment such as personal protective equipment, rapid tests, swap tests or antigens that were brought from Jakarta to Sentani. The Indonesian army and navy in this case deployed CASA aircraft owned by Indonesian Army Aviation and Indonesian Naval Aviation to assist in distributing the COVID-19 vaccine from Sentani to areas that are difficult to reach in Papua such as Sarmi, Oksibil, Batom, Wamena and other remote areas. In addition, this collaboration between forces also helps in supporting logistics and humanity in the isolated Papua region. In this case, Indonesian Army is showing strong synergy and collaboration in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in the Papua region. This collaboration between forces is clear evidence that the Indonesian Army is committed to assisting the government in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia.

Efforts to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic by using CASA aircraft owned by the Indonesian Army Aviation can reach areas that are difficult to access by land and sea transportation, so that vaccine distribution can be carried out more effectively and efficiently. In addition, by taking blood samples from every hospital in remote areas, the Indonesian Army Aviation can help increase the number of samples tested for COVID-19 detection in the Papua region. This is important in identifying cases of COVID-19 in isolated areas and providing a rapid response to stop the spread of the virus. In this case, the Indonesian Army Aviation also plays a role in supporting coordination and communication between various related parties,
such as between the central and regional governments, as well as between health agencies and defense institutions. This is important in overcoming the challenges faced in handling the COVID-19 pandemic in the Papua region, especially in terms of coordination and communication between various related parties. Thus, the role of the Indonesian Army Aviation in distributing vaccines and taking blood samples in remote areas specifically Papua region has a major impact on efforts to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia.

From these problems, the authors are interested in analyzing the role of the Indonesian Army Aviation in handling COVID-19 in the Papua region. In addition, this analysis is also expected to contribute in developing strategies for handling COVID-19 in other remote areas that face similar challenges, as well as the factors that influence the success of these operations. In addition, the author will also explore solutions and recommendations that can assist the Indonesian Army or u in Indonesian Language is called “Puspenerbad” in overcoming the challenges faced, such as increasing cooperation with health authorities and the local community, as well as strengthening health infrastructure in remote areas.

RESEARCH METHODS

In writing about the role of the Indonesian Army Aviation in handling COVID-19 in the Papua region, the author will use a qualitative descriptive research method. This method will be used to describe in detail the role of the Indonesian Army Aviation in handling COVID-19 in the Papua region, as well as the factors that influence the success of this operation. In addition, this method will also be used to collect data through interviews with related parties, direct observation, and documentation studies related to the activities of the Indonesian Army Aviation in handling COVID-19 in the Papua region. In collecting data, the author will prioritize accuracy, clarity, and objectivity to ensure the quality of the data produced. After the data is collected, the author will analyze the data qualitatively by using content analysis techniques to identify patterns and themes that emerge from the data obtained. With this research method, it is hoped that it can provide a more detailed and comprehensive picture of the role of the Indonesian Army Aviation towards handling COVID-19 in the Papua region and the other factors that can influence the success of this operation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Several institutions involved in handling COVID-19 in Indonesia includes the Ministry of Health, the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), the Indonesian Army, Indonesian Police, and State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN) such as PT Bio Farma which play a role in vaccine production and distribution. The role of the Indonesian Army in supporting the handling of Covid-19 covers various aspects such as logistics, transportation, monitoring and supervision, as well as the provision of medical and non-medical personnel. In addition, the Indonesian Army also plays a role in assisting the government in enforcing health protocols, spraying disinfectants in affected areas, and providing education and outreach to the public regarding the importance of implementing health protocols. The Indonesian Army is also actively involved in implementing mass vaccinations in various regions in Indonesia. Through these efforts, The Indonesian Army plays an important role in supporting the government in efforts to handle and control the spread of Covid-19 in Indonesia. Being at the forefront of handling Covid-19, such as carrying out security and surveillance in isolated areas and difficult to reach by health services. Prepare emergency health facilities and medical personnel to treat
Covid-19 patients, including providing the necessary beds and medical equipment. Provide transportation and logistics to distribute vaccines and other medical devices to remote and hard-to-reach areas. Assist local governments in implementing health policies and protocols, such as social restrictions and the use of masks. Provide education and training to the public about correct health protocols. Conduct campaigns and outreach about Covid-19 to increase public awareness about the dangers of the virus and how to prevent its spread. Assist local governments in conducting tracing and testing to identify Covid-19 cases. Providing psychological support and mental health assistance to communities affected by Covid-19.

Assisting the government in developing Covid-19 countermeasures policies, including collecting data and information about cases and their spread in their respective areas. Providing psychological support and mental health assistance to communities affected by Covid-19. Assisting the government in developing Covid-19 countermeasures policies, including collecting data and information about cases and their spread in their respective areas. Providing psychological support and mental health assistance to communities affected by Covid-19. Assisting the government in developing Covid-19 countermeasures policies, including collecting data and information about cases and their spread in their respective areas. Providing psychological support and mental health assistance to communities affected by Covid-19.

The role of the Indonesian Army Aviation in distributing vaccines and medical devices to hard-to-reach areas in Papua.

The Indonesian Army is one of the institutions that plays an active role in tackling Covid-19 in Indonesia, including in the Papua region which is an area that is difficult to reach and has its own challenges in terms of the spread of this virus. Indonesian Army Aviation as part of the Indonesian Army also plays a role in efforts to deal with Covid-19 in this region. Based on interviews conducted with Captain Cpn Aditya and Captain Cpn Habib, one of the important roles carried out by the Indonesian Army Aviation is in terms of distributing vaccines and medical devices to remote areas in Papua. This is done by taking on the role of airplane transportation used to reach these areas, the aircraft used is the CASA type.

Apart from that, the Indonesian Army Aviation is also collaborating with the Indonesian Air Force and the Indonesian Navy in terms of distributing vaccines and medical devices in the Papua region. This collaboration is carried out by utilizing all the potential and capabilities of each institution to reach remote areas that are difficult to reach by health services. Indonesian Army Aviation also plays a role in terms of security and surveillance in isolated areas and difficult to reach by health services. This is done to ensure that the health protocols set by the government can be implemented properly in these areas. In addition, the Indonesian Army Aviation also assists local governments in implementing established health policies and protocols. Indonesian Army Aviation is also working with the local government in providing medical equipment and medical personnel to treat Covid-19 patients in the Papua region. Through its various roles and contributions, the Indonesian Army Aviation has become one of the institutions participating in efforts to deal with Covid-19 in the Papua region. It is hoped that this effort can continue to be improved and coordinated with various institutions and related parties to ensure an effective and optimal handling of Covid-19 in this region. Several airports in Papua have become destinations for the Indonesian Army Aviation or “Puspenerbad” in distributing vaccines and medical devices to areas that are difficult to reach. Some of them are Sentani Jayapura Airport, Nabire Airport, Frans Kaisiepo Biak Airport, Mozes Kilangin Timika Airport, Oksibil Mountains Bintang Airport.

In addition to distributing vaccines and medical devices, the Indonesian Army Aviation brings blood samples from hospitals in remote areas to be examined at a large hospital in Sentani Jayapura, the Indonesian Army Aviation involves a medical team that has been equipped with adequate medical equipment and transportation. The medical team can be
assigned to visit hospitals in remote areas and take blood samples from patients suspected of being infected with Covid-19, then send them to a laboratory for examination. The process of taking samples and sending them to the laboratory can be carried out with due observance of the established health and safety protocols.

Factors influencing the success of the Indonesian Army Aviation operations in handling COVID-19 in the Papua region.

According to Squadron-21/Multipurpose Commander Lt. Col. Cpn Gatot, the factors that influence the success of the Indonesian Army's Command Center in handling COVID-19 in the Papua region can help evaluate and improve efforts to deal with COVID-19 in the future. By knowing the factors that influence the success of operations, efforts can be made to improve performance and overcome problems that may arise in the future. Several factors include:

a. Personnel readiness and capabilities. The success of the operation is highly dependent on the readiness and capability of the personnel. Indonesian Army Aviation personnel involved in the operation must have sufficient readiness and capability in handling COVID-19, including the ability to implement the correct health protocols.

b. Adequate medical facilities and equipment. Availability of adequate health facilities and equipment is very important in operations handling COVID-19. Indonesian Army Aviation must provide adequate health facilities and equipment to treat COVID-19 patients in the Papua region.

c. Good coordination with related parties. Good coordination with related parties, such as health agencies and local governments, is very important in handling operations for COVID-19. Indonesian Army Aviation must work closely with related parties to ensure that the handling of COVID-19 is carried out effectively.

d. Adequate information technology. Adequate information technology, such as health information systems and the use of contact tracing applications, can help facilitate the collection of data and information, as well as facilitate coordination between units in operations handling COVID-19.

e. Level of community participation. The level of community participation in handling COVID-19 also influences the success of the operation. Indonesian Army Aviation must conduct outreach and education to the public about the importance of health protocols and how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

f. Geographical and weather conditions. The extreme geographical and weather conditions in the Papua region can affect the success of the Indonesian Army Aviation operations in handling COVID-19, especially in terms of transportation and logistics. Therefore, Indonesian Army Aviation must have a mature strategy and plan in dealing with these conditions.

The challenges and obstacles faced by the Indonesian Army Aviation in supporting the operation towards handling COVID-19 in the Papua region.

The challenges and obstacles faced by the Indonesian Army Aviation in supporting the operation to handle COVID-19 in the Papua region are things that need to be known to understand that the conditions faced in efforts to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. This can also be noted for improvements in future operations, as well as providing a clearer picture for parties involved in handling COVID-19 in the Papua region. The following are the challenges and obstacles faced:

a. Limited resources. Papua's vast territory and consisting of many areas that are difficult to reach has limited the resources in terms of transportation, logistics and medical personnel needed to deal with COVID-19.
b. Difficulties in accessing remote areas. Parts of Papua are still difficult to reach by land transportation and can only be accessed by air. This makes it difficult to distribute vaccines, medical devices and medical personnel to remote areas.

c. Security issue. Several areas in Papua still have security problems that make operations to handle COVID-19 difficult. This threatens the safety of medical personnel and military personnel who are involved in operations handling COVID-19.

d. Cultural and language differences. Papua has a variety of cultures and languages that vary from one region to another. This makes it difficult to convey messages about the importance of maintaining health protocols and public awareness to follow government policies.

e. Dependence on air transportation. Air transportation is very important in distributing vaccines and medical devices to remote areas in Papua. However, this dependency is also a problem if the weather conditions are bad or there are technical problems with the aircraft.

f. Lack of knowledge about COVID-19. Communities in several areas in Papua still lack adequate education and knowledge about COVID-19. This makes it difficult for them to understand the health protocols that must be followed and creates excessive fear and worry about vaccines.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussions conducted, it can be concluded that the Indonesian Army Aviation has an important role in handling the COVID-19 pandemic in the Papua region. Through operations carried out by the Indonesian Army Aviation, the distribution of vaccines and medical devices can be carried out to remote areas that are difficult to reach by health services. However, there are several challenges and obstacles faced by the Indonesian Army Aviation in carrying out operations to handle COVID-19 in the Papua region, such as difficult geographical conditions and limited infrastructure. In addition, the problem of vaccine availability is also one of the challenges faced. Nonetheless, the factors that influenced the success of the Indonesian Army Aviation operations in handling COVID-19 in the Papua region can also be identified.

In a broader context, the role of the Indonesian Army Aviation in handling COVID-19 in the Papua region also shows an important contribution from the Indonesian Army in assisting the government in overcoming the pandemic. Apart from that, the operations carried out by the Indonesian Army Aviation can also be used as an example for other agencies in carrying out efforts to deal with COVID-19 in remote areas. In an effort to overcome the challenges and obstacles faced, the Indonesian Army Aviation needs to continue to evaluate and improve the operations carried out. Efforts to increase cooperation with health institutions and local governments also need to be continued in order to achieve better success. In addition, efforts to increase public awareness about proper health protocols also need to be continued. This can be done through more intensive campaigns and outreach as well as providing broader education and training. Overall, the role of the Indonesian Army Aviation in handling COVID-19 in the Papua region has made a significant contribution in efforts to overcome the pandemic in remote areas. Even though there are challenges and obstacles faced, the operations carried out by the Indonesian Army Aviation can still be used as an example for other agencies in carrying out efforts to deal with COVID-19 in remote areas. Continue to strive to improve the quality of operations and cooperation with health institutions and local governments in order to achieve better success in efforts to deal with COVID-19 in the Papua region. The role of the Indonesian Army Aviation in handling COVID-19 in the Papua region has made a significant contribution.
in efforts to overcome the pandemic in remote areas. Even though there are challenges and obstacles faced, the operations carried out by the Indonesian Army Aviation can still be used as an example for other agencies in carrying out efforts to deal with COVID-19 in remote areas.

REFERENCES


