

## **NAVY COOPERATION CROSS COUNTRY SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF MAINTAINING SECURITY STABILITY IN THE WATERS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Currently, the waters of the Southeast Asian Region have a fairly high level of vulnerability. Vulnerabilities that occur include territorial claims, security of communication lines and trade by sea, as well as non-traditional security in the form of an economic crisis. Non-state security disturbances in the form of theft/piracy/piracy at sea, illegal fishing activities, illegal logging, weapons and ammunition smuggling, CBRN-E materials, the spread of communicable and non-communicable diseases and the threat of disaster because they are located between the 4 world tectonic plates. Realizing sea security stability in the Southeast Asia region itself is certainly not easy, apart from being a vast archipelago, each country has many different visions and perspectives, exacerbated by the interests of other parties (non-state groups). Based on reports compiled by the authors from the Information Fusion Centre based in Singapore, for the period 2021 until semester I of 2022, at least 151 crime cases occurred in Southeast Asian waters with various types of cargo ships as the main target (more than 70% of cases) and 1 case of terrorism. In order to achieve Maritime Security Stability in the Southeast Asia Region, Cross-border Naval Cooperation can be put forward as a strategic solution. The Indonesian Navy, as a component of Indonesia's maritime defense and security, is still very consistent in upholding the principles of maritime security and always strives so that the sea can be free from: (1) disturbances and threats of violence (free from violence threats), namely threats by using armed force that is organized and has the ability to disturb and harm personnel or the state. (2) navigational disturbances and threats (free from navigational hazard), (3) disturbances and threats to marine resources (free from natural resources tribulation), (4) disturbances and threats to law violations (free from law transgression threat). Based on the Theory of Maritime Security which is essentially designed so that Indonesia has effective authority and control over various activities and/or activities at sea. Cooperation between the navies of Southeast Asian countries to overcome security threats at sea to maintain water security stability is something that is very important, because

currently the level of threat and vulnerability in regional waters is relatively high. The existence of IFC as a Maritime Information Centre contributes no small amount to regional security stability, information from IFC allows the Navy to map critical points.

**Keywords:** Cooperation, Security, Stability

## A. INTRODUCTION

Southeast Asian countries have a very strategic role in ensuring security stability in the Indo Pacific. This was conveyed by Ir. Joko Widodo (President of Indonesia) at the 2019 ASEAN Summit which took place in Bangkok, Thailand.<sup>1</sup> Economically, Southeast Asian waters are one of the world's arteries in sea transportation. Because of this, it is of concern to them (countries that are domiciled in the Southeast Asian region) for guard stability security its waters. **Stability security Waters** are as something condition of safe and conducive water area that is free from all form threats, obstacles and distractions.<sup>2</sup>

Until now, the waters of the Region Southeast Asia has level enough vulnerability \_ high. The vulnerability that occurred covers claim territorial, security track communication and trade through sea, as well as non- traditional security form crisis economy. G distraction security non-state form theft / piracy / pumping at sea, activities illegal fishing, illegal logging, smuggling weapons and ammunition, CBRN-E materials, deployment disease contagious or not infectious as well as threat disaster Because between the 4 plates world tectonics .

For realize stability security sea in the Southeast Asian region itself of course not easy, apart from being a large archipelago area, each country has many differences in vision and perspective, exacerbated by the interests of other parties (non-state groups). Based on collected reports \_ writer from Information Fusion Center based in Singapore, for period 2021 to semester I \_ year 2022, at least 151 cases crime occurred in the waters of Southeast Asia with various type boat cargo as the primary target (more of 70% of cases) and 1 case Terrorism.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://adv.kompas.id/baca/kerja-sama-antarnegara-untuk-dindingkan-stabilitas-keamanan-kawasan/> downloaded on the day Thursday , September 2, 2022

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Omprakash Dahiya, 2015, MARITIME SECURITY OF INDIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES, New Delhi [http://employmentnews.gov.in/Career\\_nano\\_eng.pdf](http://employmentnews.gov.in/Career_nano_eng.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> IFC, ILO.

The perpetrator is, in some cases, his nature cross national borders. The economy and terrorism are the main precipitating factors and they become threat serious for user Then cross sea<sup>4</sup>. For other sectors (illegal activities such as fishing, smuggling and others), lane sea preferred because the risk factor for detection is smaller because the area of the sea area, the volume and type of commodity carried can be adjusted to the dimensions of the ship/boat transporting it. Smugglers using a ship, like boat fisherman local often go unnoticed by the authorities local <sup>5</sup>.

Southeast Asian countries that are members in the basic ASEAN community agreed for together guard stability security sea agar area activity economy still conducive and safe. Various activity cooperation has initiated through exchange information, patrol coordinated until patrol together. However thus, various form carried out cooperation still provides a loophole for the perpetrators.

The Navy, is the bearer of the security mandate for a country at sea. Based on UNCLOS Article 107 - a foreclosure Because piracy only can carried out by the ship war or aircraft air military, or boat or aircraft other air that is clear given sign and get known as in service government and those who are given authority For do matter so. And sharpened by Article 111 about Right Pursuit instantly (hot pursuit) - The chase instantly something boat foreign can done if competent authorities \_ from a coastal country have reason Enough For think that boat the has violate regulation the laws of that State . Pursuit This apply start sea inland until sea off. A cross-country cooperation will facilitate the implementation of this task.

In framework achieving Maritime Security Stability in the Southeast Asia Region, cooperation The Transnational Naval Forces can be put forward as a strategic solution.

## **B. DISCUSSION**

The Bangkok Declaration (8 August 1967) was a milestone in the commencement of an agreement between countries in the Southeast Asian Region to cooperate on the basis of common interests . For create regional stability for the sake of their national development. The ASEAN Organization is built on three pillars where one of them is the ASEAN *Political Security Community* (APSC) . APSC was formed to strengthen cooperation in the field of

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<sup>4</sup>Paul J. Smith and Don Berlin, *Transnational Security Threats in Asia*, Conference Report,

<sup>5</sup>Sam Bateman, et al . , *Good Order at Sea in Southeast Asia* , 2009

Politics and Security and to support the upholding of human rights as well as democratization in the Southeast Asian Region in order to create peace and security in the region.<sup>6</sup>

*ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)*, is a forum formed with its members being the leaders of ASEAN countries (1994). This forum is a forum for dialogue and consultation on various matters related to developments in national and regional politics and security as well as a forum for them to equalize perceptions in order to minimize opportunities for threats to regional stability and security. Various agreements related to security matters have been successfully reached by ARF. Starting from military aspects, traditional and non-traditional security issues, to political, economic, social and other issues.<sup>7</sup>

The Indonesian Navy, as a component of Indonesia's maritime defense and security, is still very consistent in upholding the principles of maritime security and always strives so that the sea can be free from: (1) disturbances and threats of violence (free from violence threats) , namely threats by using armed force that is organized and has the ability to disturb and harm personnel or the state. (2) navigational disturbances and threats (free from navigational hazard ) , namely threats posed by maritime geography and hydrography and inadequate means of navigation aids, such as flares, *buoys*, and so on which could endanger shipping safety; (3) disturbances and threats to marine resources (free from natural resources tribulation), in the form of pollution and destruction of marine ecosystems, as well as conflicts over management of marine resources, and (4) disturbances and threats to violation of law (free from law transgression threat), namely non-compliance with national and international laws that apply in waters, such as illegal fishing, illegal logging, smuggling, and others. This is based on the Theory of Maritime Security which is essentially designed so that Indonesia has effective authority and control over various activities and/or activities at sea.<sup>8</sup>

Together with the Navy of the Southeast Asian countries, the TNI-AL has formed the ASEAN Navy Chief Meeting (ANCM) forum. This forum consists of Leaders or Chief of Naval Staff (KSAL) of a regional country. Every year they meet to discuss and determine strategic policies related to their field of work. At the last ANCM meeting in Bali, Indonesia (21-24 August 2022) Admiral TNI Yudo Margono (when he became KSAL - Laksamana TNI Yudo

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<sup>6</sup> Yanyan, M, Harmony of Counter Cooperation Member States Terrorism ASEAN In Framework ASEAN Security Community. *Journal of Social Politics* Vol 2, No 1. 2012

<sup>7</sup> [D itpolkom.bappenas.go.id](http://D.itpolkom.bappenas.go.id) , *Politics Overseas Membership of Indonesia in Organization ASEAN International The Role of Indonesia in ASEAN/ARF Indonesia.pdf*

<sup>8</sup> Indonesian Navy, *White Paper on Maritime Security (Kamla)*. Jakarta Headquarters, 2022

Margono is currently the TNI Commander), put forward the theme of what concept should be carried out by the Regional Navy in the context of strengthening Oh operation security \_ sea \_ (Opskamla) region of Southeast Asia.

As a note, for Indonesia, from one aspect, namely illegal fishing, the state losses that were saved from the 166 ships that were successfully secured in 2021 amounted to IDR 1.1 trillion. The 166 ships came from 4 countries, namely Vietnam (25), Malaysia (21 ships), the Philippines (6), the remaining 114 ships were local ships.<sup>9</sup> The same condition experienced by other countries. Based on this, cooperation between the navies of Southeast Asian countries has a high urgency.

The form of cooperation that is carried out consists of several things with the nature, deterrence (through the exchange of information to coordinated and/or joint patrols) and law enforcement (actions to arrest, security to court proceedings with each country not interfering with each other in the ongoing process). Besides that, another security threat is China's unilateral claim to the South China Sea. Currently, China, with its great maritime power, often commits violations of exploration over the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of countries from the Southeast Asian region under the escort of its Coast Guard and Navy fleets.

## 1. Information Exchange

Information Fusion Center (*IFC*) has been officially established which was initiated by the Indonesian Navy. Republic of Singapore (RSN). This organization has an office at the **Changi Command and Control Center** (CC2C) and has now developed into a **maritime information center** that provides various maritime information for several countries in the Asia Pacific region. Within the IFC organization itself there is an integrated team consisting of International Liaison Officers (ILO) from the Navy and Coast Guard of several countries in the Southeast Asian Region plus other countries that have interests and are neighbors with the Southeast Asian Region. The existence of the ILO is vital for the IFC organization. And on a regular basis, currently IFC provides reports on all matters related to maritime security issues in the Region.

Regarding the problem of cross-border information exchange, in May 2021, based on information from Malaysian authorities, the Indonesian Navy succeeded in intercepting

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<sup>9</sup> Ridho Syukra, KKP Saves Potential State Losses Due to Illegal Fishing of IDR 1.1 Trillion, 2021

methamphetamine (narcotics) smuggling in Bengkalis waters. The methamphetamine originating from Malaysia is planned to enter Indonesia via Riau. Smuggling using speedboats is a direct smuggling operation using private/rented boats. With high speed, the smugglers headed for Sepahat Waters, Bengkalis Regency. In this intercept operation, the Indonesian Navy deployed a Fleet One Quick Response (F1QR) team from Lanal Dumai. Thanks to initial information from related parties on the Malaysian side, this intercept operation was able to proceed as expected even though the speedboat itself turned and immediately returned to Malaysian waters.<sup>10</sup> The problem is that there are no regulations that allow the F1QR team to chase the territory of neighboring countries.

## 2. Coordinated To Joint Patrols

In accordance with UNCLOS regulations, the Navy has the authority to secure areas up to the high seas. With 158 signatory countries with all regional countries agreeing to its



Figure 1. UNCLOS Signatory Countries  
Source: UNCLOS Manuscript

implementation (except Thailand), in the high seas area of the Southeast Asia Region, it is very possible for Navy patrols. Both independently and collectively. This activity is very important in efforts to reduce the number of violations that can affect the security stability of regional waters.

Thailand only. If we look at Thailand's position towards UNCLOS, there is something unique in dealing with the law of the sea issue. In international conferences, Thailand has shown a less sympathetic attitude towards the Exclusive Economic Zone Conception although it has not opposed it, and Thailand is trying to find guarantees that are strong enough so that its fishing interests are not harmed.<sup>11</sup>

The existence of Thailand's *traditional fishing rights* in the Adaman Sea has made Thailand feel the need to find a reasonable shipping regime through the Malacca and Singapore Straits. Thailand is willing to support the Archipelagic Outlook for Indonesia and the Philippines as long as their interests can be protected. Indonesia then held various

<sup>10</sup> Iwan Sutiawan, TNI-AL foils methamphetamine smuggling from Malaysia, 2021

<sup>11</sup> Ahmad Fahrudin and Akhmad Solihin, Development of the Law of the Sea International and Indonesian Legislation, 1999

dialogues with Thailand and an agreement was agreed that Thailand's interests in going through the Malacca Straits and Singapore Straits in the field of fisheries were slightly different. After going through various dialogues, an agreement was finally reached that Thailand would support Indonesia's sovereignty over its archipelago waters, with the understanding that the "traditional fishing rights" of Thai fishermen who have been in certain parts of Indonesian waters in the South China Sea will be recognized, with the provisions of how its implementation will be arranged bilaterally and currently an agreement has been established between Indonesia and Thailand.

Patrol Cooperation, TNI-AL has established relations with all countries of the Region in the form of information exchange and is currently moving towards coordinated patrols. The thing that underlies the non-organized form of joint patrols is the regulation and political interests of each country. The TNI-AL has succeeded in taking a step forward regarding joint patrol efforts on a bilateral basis. One of them with the Vietnamese Navy. September 2022 in Batam. Codex 22B1 between TNI-AL and Vietnam People's Army Navy or *Quân đội Nhân dân Việt Nam* ( QDND) was implemented . Draft exercises carried out is rehearsal field between element the two countries, involving KRI Bung Tomo-357 with Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) Ly Thai To-012 with 1 pc helicopter belonging to the TNI-AL Aviation Center (Puspenerbal). After this exercise, the two ALs agreed to increase this activity into a joint patrol at security-prone points.

The initiation of this activity is a step forward for increasing efforts to uphold security in regional waters. Indonesia is easier to cooperate with Vietnam because it has the same foreign policy view, namely a neutral country or not allied with major world powers such as the United States, China and Russia. Even so, this may be done regionally, in terms of security interests, the principle is that Southeast Asian countries are in one frequency. The differences that exist are more to the elements of political policy.

### **3. Strategic Steps To Face China's Claims In The South China Sea**

Politically, the Southeast Asian region is a stable region. The political upheaval of each country runs dynamically with minimal horizontal conflicts. This is what drives the high investment of countries outside the region in Southeast Asia. Regarding regional security issues, especially China's claims over the South China Sea, at the ASEAN-China leaders' meeting at the end of 2021, the Indonesian President emphasized China's responsibility and

the leaders of ASEAN countries to make the Southeast Asian region a peaceful and stable region. President Joko Widodo believes that without peace and stability there will be no prosperity.<sup>12</sup>

Territorially, China's claims do not intersect with the Indonesian Territorial Sea even though they intersect with the EEZ. In this regard, Indonesia emphasized that it would prioritize regional level diplomacy to accelerate the resolution of this problem.

The Indonesian government is optimistic that the negotiations between ASEAN and China will be about the code of conduct in the South China Sea. This optimism is based on the agreement of the respective heads of state at the November 2018 Summit. Which resulted in the '**Single Draft South China Sea Code of Conduct Negotiating Text**' covering at least five main focuses on the dispute, namely includes: (1) the geographical scope of the South China Sea; (2) efforts to resolve disputes; (3) the obligation to cooperate in preserving the maritime environment; (4) the role of third parties in the South China Sea and; (5) legal status code of conduct<sup>13</sup>. Quoting the statement of the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Retno Marsudi, "The framework for the Code of Conduct has been agreed upon. At the ASEAN-CHINA meeting, he also said that a code of ethics was needed as a guideline to maintain the stability and security of Southeast Asia and its surroundings."

**Strategic Obstacles.** Even though ASEAN has put forward the diplomatic path in dealing with China's claims, from a military perspective we have to open up military theory as a reference. In this case the theory of the Balance of Power.

China's naval strength when compared to the strength of the Southeast Asian countries' naval forces is not balanced. China currently has surface and underwater combat ships of at least 557 combat elements. With a core strength of 2 aircraft carriers, 36 destroyers, 52 frigates, 50 Corvettes and 74 submarines.<sup>14</sup>This number will soon be added to the largest aircraft carrier Fujian (Type 003) which is capable of transporting 84 fighter jets armed with short, medium and long range missiles, complete with a supporting fleet.

Southeast Asian countries, if you count the combined Navy Fleet strength, will have about 1,000 ships. With the largest 1 aircraft carrier belonging to Thailand. However, the

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<sup>12</sup> Candra Gian Asmara, Jokowi's Speech at the ASEAN-China Meeting, 2021

<sup>13</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ASEAN- China negotiations Question South China Sea Completed 3 Years Again ,” Liputan6.com, 2018.

<sup>14</sup> Prihastomo Wahyu Widodo , " Measuring strength force sea China versus the US, who is more excel ?" ,2020



majority of the 1,000 ships were patrol boats (+/- 650 ships), with support ships (Armphibious Elements and Auxiliary Elements) of around 100 ships. That is, if the combat elements are combined, then there will only be a maximum of 250, and even that is dominated by corvettes, many of which are not in a combat ready position. Certainly very disproportionate to the strength of the Chinese combat fleet.

Indonesia is currently developing its navy by ordering new warships with a minimum size of frigates (8 units from the Italian Ficantieri Shipyard), scorpene-class submarines (2 units from France) and PT Navy Upgrading (PAL) is currently making efforts to transfer technology from Germany, in the form of making Iver Huitfeldt class frigates.<sup>15</sup> However, this power is not yet comparable to the Chinese Navy. Therefore, the concept of a Joint Regional Fleet in the framework of strengthening security in the waters of the Southeast Asian Region is a tactical concept in order to eliminate illegal acts as well as being a balance of power to prevent territorial violations from other countries outside the Region.

Based on theory **Stability Dynamic (Dynamic Equilibrium)** where Stability as a part draft no inseparable from security is A condition Where happen self-sufficient and or capable endure from various circumstances to be change the desired ideal situation. Stability needed for create resilience and flexibility A organization, country or group certain. And According to Gregory B Polling, concept This is a **mechanism connection between countries in the Southeast Asian Region who think the same for own a comparable strength \_ with major power countries in the Indo Pacific Region**. The goal no in framework create a domination but effort avoid too how strong One party on other party or domination excessive for get balance strength, author try push policy toward formation area security integration in Southeast Asian waters.

### C. CONCLUSION

cooperation \_ between the Southeast Asian Region's Navy for overcome threat safety at sea in framework guard stability security waters is something really \_ important. Called very important Because moment This level threats and vulnerabilities in the territorial waters relatively high. The existence of IFC as a Maritime Information Center contributes no small amount to regional security stability, information from IFC allows the Navy to map critical

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<sup>15</sup> Fathanah Akbar, Finally a deal too, Prabowo wholesale Boat Italian War to RI , 2021

points. Furthermore, jointly coordinated patrols are a technical solution to address regional security issues in the waters of the Southeast Asian region.

Regarding China's Claims in the South China Sea. The Diplomacy Track is still a strategic step to resolve conflicts of interest over China's claims to the South China Sea

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