

The Urgency of Defense Diplomacy in Preventing the Threat of Drug Trafficking in Indonesia

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Abstract

Drug trafficking has become a serious threat to Indonesia's security. As a country with a strategic geographical position, Indonesia has become a target for international drug trafficking groups. The Indonesian government recognizes the urgency and negative impact that drug trafficking has on society. Defense diplomacy is one approach that can be used to overcome the threat of drug trafficking. The method used in this research is a qualitative descriptive method. The descriptive method uses a qualitative approach, namely research that intends to understand the phenomenon of what the research subject experiences, namely the Urgency of Defense Diplomacy in Preventing the Threat of Drug Trafficking in Indonesia. Defense diplomacy plays an important role in efforts to prevent the circulation of drug threats in Indonesia. In addition, defense diplomacy can also be used to strengthen cooperation in the field of research and development in order to identify and deal with new types of drugs that continue to grow. By collaborating with partner countries, Indonesia can accelerate the discovery of innovative technologies and methods in drug prevention, testing and handling. It can be concluded that defense diplomacy plays an important role in preventing and countering drug trafficking in Indonesia. Defense diplomacy can be an effective approach in addressing the threat of drug trafficking through international cooperation. Defense diplomacy involves various aspects, including military and non-military aspects, with the aim of building cooperation, strengthening bilateral relations, and promoting national interests in drug trafficking prevention efforts.

Keywords: Defense Diplomacy, Drug Trafficking, Drug Prevention



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INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world, located in Southeast Asia between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. The country has a population of more than 270 million people with diverse ethnicities, cultures and religions. Indonesia has a long history as the center of the spice trade and has experienced cultural influences from various nations, such as India, China, Arabia, the Netherlands, and others. With a population of around 270 million, the country's vast territory and strategic location make it important to the Southeast Asian Region and beyond. Indonesia plays an important role in promoting regional stability and is strategically located at the gateway between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The country serves as a bridge between Asia and Australia, with its vast territory consisting of more than 17,000 islands spread over 5,120 km from west to east and 1,760 km from north to south.

As a country, given its geographical and demographic conditions, Indonesia has become one of the destination countries for drug trafficking. Indonesia has placed drug crime as a high-risk crime and its handling requires extraordinary efforts (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019). Indonesia's vast territory, some of which borders directly with neighboring countries, has also become an attractive "entry point" for international syndicates to enter the country (Muhamad, 2016). For this reason, Indonesia encourages international cooperation to increase efforts to tackle the issue of drugs, of course Indonesia has threats that can disrupt national stability or national interests to date. These threats can be military or non-military threats. One of the

threats that can disrupt Indonesia's national interests and must be addressed immediately is drug trafficking. Based on Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Drugs, which are drugs and materials that are often used in the field of health and scientific development, narcotics can also cause dependence which can have a detrimental effect if misused without strict supervision. Drugs if used excessively, not according to the dose, can cause danger to those who use them, and can cause dependence on the users themselves.

Drug trafficking has become a serious threat to Indonesia's security. As a country with a strategic geographical position, Indonesia has become a target for international drug trafficking groups. Indonesia's vast waters, remote islands, and busy shipping lanes are potential routes for drug trafficking. The Indonesian government recognizes the urgency and negative impact that drug trafficking has on society, especially the younger generation. Therefore, the government has taken serious measures in safeguarding the country's security from such threats. Drug trafficking has become a significant global problem, including Indonesia. According to data from the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) in 2020, there were 127,798 drug cases in Indonesia, and 70% of them involved youth and adolescents (BNN, 2020). Drug trafficking has a serious impact on the health, social, and economic as well as the security of Indonesian society. On the health side, drug use can cause organ damage, mental health problems, and death. Meanwhile, on the social side, drugs can damage relationships between individuals and communities, and increase crime rates. This negative impact is also felt in the economic field, as the spread of drugs can disrupt productivity and economic stability.

In an effort to prevent and handle drug trafficking in Indonesia, the government has implemented various regulations and policies. For example, Law No. 35/2009 on Narcotics, which regulates the control and supervision of drug production, distribution, and abuse. In addition, the government has also taken other measures such as the establishment of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) and increased international cooperation in the prevention and control of drug trafficking. However, efforts to prevent and handle drug trafficking still require a comprehensive and coordinated approach between institutions and between countries. Defense diplomacy is one approach that can be used to address the threat of drug trafficking.

Defense Diplomacy is a multilateral or bilateral state cooperation activity, carried out by the military and related stakeholders in peacetime by involving military cooperation in strategic issues, ranging from military roles to non-military roles. In Sudarsono, et al, (2018) Pedrason argues that defense diplomacy is all ways and strategies through various aspects of cooperation such as economics, culture, politics, defense and diplomacy so that countries can have friendly relations, can further cooperate with each other, and the most important thing is to increase trust. In this case, it can be interpreted that defense diplomacy is concerned with increasing trust by cooperating in various aspects in realizing national interests. In various problems, the government uses defense diplomacy as a tool to try to deal with or minimize these problems, as well as the problem of drug trafficking in Indonesia.

RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. The descriptive method uses a qualitative approach, namely research that intends to understand the phenomenon of what the research subject experiences, namely the Urgency of Defense Diplomacy in Preventing the Threat of Drug Trafficking in Indonesia. This research was conducted using various relevant secondary data from books, journals and related references that are in accordance with the facts and circumstances. This research uses literature studies by collecting various data and information which are then processed to produce precise and accurate conclusions according to the facts that occur.

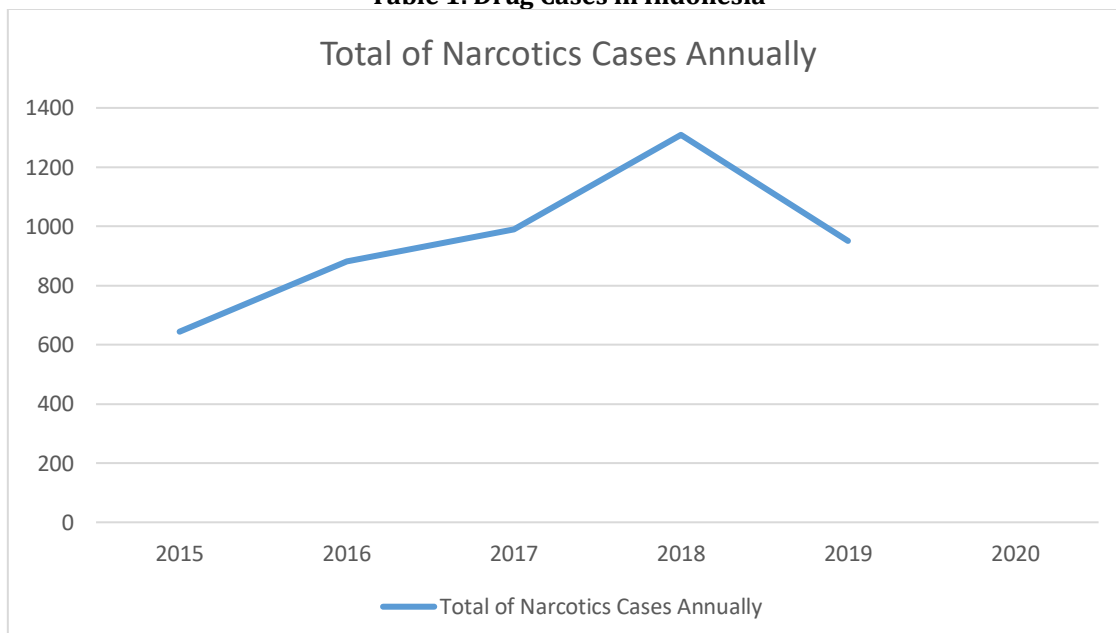
RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Drug Problems in Indonesia

According to Law Number 35 of 2009, drugs are drugs and materials that are often used in the field of health and scientific development, narcotics can also cause dependence which can have a detrimental effect if misused without strict supervision. Drugs if used excessively, not according to the dose, can cause danger to those who use them, and can cause dependence on the users themselves. Drug trafficking in Indonesia is a significant national security threat. Indonesia is a vast archipelago with more than 17,000 islands, making it a prime location for drug traffickers to operate. The country's vast territory and porous borders make it difficult for law enforcement authorities to effectively control drug smuggling activities. The illegal drug trade not only fuels addiction, but also destabilizes society. It can also pose a significant threat to national security through funding terrorism and insurgent groups.

Narcotics and drugs crime (drugs) is a transnational organized crime (TOC) that disrupts the stability and peace of borders and regions and is also an intense problem for the international community. The high rate of drug trafficking not only threatens human security but can also threaten the existence of state sovereignty, especially disrupting state border areas (Fatmala, 2021). In this case, the drug problem has seriously disrupted Indonesia's national stability and interests, because drugs are one of the problems that are in fact included in transnational organized crime. In recent years, the drug problem in Indonesia has become more and more prevalent. Based on data from the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), there was a huge increase in drug-related problems in Indonesia in 2015, and until 2018 the number of drug problems in Indonesia continued to increase (Puslitdatin BNN, 2020).

Table 1. Drug Cases in Indonesia



Source: Puslitdatin BNN, 2020

Based on this table, it explains that in 2018 Indonesia experienced a high increase in drug-related cases. In 2019, Indonesia was able to reduce the number of drug cases in Indonesia. But in 2022, Indonesia experienced an increase in the number of drug cases again. This means that in the last year the number of drug cases has increased.

2. Defense Diplomacy in Preventing Drug Trafficking Threats in Indonesia

The global security condition is characterized by the increasing intensity of security threats in the form of transnational security threats. Actions of piracy, smuggling of weapons and explosives, smuggling of women and children, illegal immigrants, illegal logging, disposal of hazardous and toxic waste (B3), narcotics and drugs (drugs), The increasing action of transnational security threats has affected the global security and defense policies of major countries that place these issues as common security issues. For Indonesia, transnational security threats have been very detrimental to national interests so that it is a priority to be addressed, including in cooperation with a number of friendly countries (Indonesian Defense White Paper, 2008).

Drugs as a threat to Indonesia, in Elfitriani (2018) Banyu Perwita argues that the concept of non-traditional security, the nature of threats becomes more complex, which is not only related to military aspects, but also related to other aspects, such as economic, socio-cultural, environmental, and other issues, such as democracy, respect for human rights, trafficking, and transnational crime, one of which is drug trafficking (Elfitriani, 2018). In Cahyasari (2017) Abdurrachman Mattalitti in his writing (2001) argues that the problem of drug trafficking is one of the transnational crimes which is a global phenomenon so that it cannot be resolved by one country alone, but must go through international cooperation. In this case, defense diplomacy plays a very important role in preventing the threat of drug trafficking, especially in Indonesian territory. Defense diplomacy can be interpreted as an effort to achieve national interests including problem solving by means of or through cooperation with other countries. Defense diplomacy is also more concerned with trust in building cooperation with other countries. This form of cooperation can be carried out in various aspects of the field such as economic, social cooperation, even the exchange of information related to suspected drug trafficking.

In the writings of Hofstede and Matos (2004) related to diplomacy, it is revealed that the essence of diplomacy language is to use language in ways conducive to constructing and supporting the realization of consensus and collaboration between nations. Diplomacy is characterized by the emphasis that there is collaboration between nations or countries in solving problems, including drug problems. Regarding the drug problem, the government puts forward defense diplomacy as the main tool in preventing the threat of drug trafficking. Defense diplomacy in the form of cooperation is developed as one of the instruments of defense diplomacy in realizing national interests in the field of defense which will be streamlined through concrete and mutually beneficial steps. In line with that, international cooperation in the field of defense is one of the bridges for the realization of regional security stability (Indonesian Defense White Paper, 2015).

Defense diplomacy makes a significant contribution to the prevention of drug trafficking because it involves strengthening and developing cooperation between law enforcement agencies, countries and regions. Defense diplomacy initiatives, including strengthening regional and bilateral partnerships, improving intelligence gathering and sharing, and establishing strong regulatory frameworks, can help combat drug trafficking. Defense diplomacy also strengthens regional cooperation, enhances security, and reduces the risk of external security threats. Defense diplomacy also helps improve Indonesia's international image, promotes Indonesia's economic growth and stability, and facilitates trade with other countries. Finally, defense diplomacy is an important tool to reduce the risk of drug trafficking and protect Indonesia's national interests.

Based on the National Defense Policy, in the Decree of the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia (2017), international cooperation can be carried out through several types of activities, including joint operations and exercises, technology transfer, training and education, exchange of visits, cooperation with neighboring countries that are directly adjacent to solve border-related problems, defense diplomacy, strategic dialogue in various defense cooperation forums, sending world peacekeeping troops, and humanitarian assistance.

In its implementation, Indonesia's defense diplomacy at the multilateral level continues to play an active role in combating drug trafficking and illicit trade in various forums such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem, Head of National Drug Law Enforcement for Asia Pacific, and ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters and various other meetings under the UNODC framework (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019). This is proof that the government is serious in wanting to resolve the drug trafficking in Indonesia to protect all Indonesians. In terms of solving the problem of drug trafficking, Indonesia actively cooperates with other countries in both bilateral and multilateral.

In order to prevent the threat of drug trafficking in Indonesia through defense diplomacy, Indonesia is always active in participating or building cooperation in eradicating these problems. One of Indonesia's steps in preventing the increasing threat of drug trafficking in Indonesia is through the Indonesia - Thailand Cooperation. On October 1-2, 2013 Indonesia and Thailand cooperated in efforts to prevent, eradicate, abuse and illicit drug trafficking (P4GN) through various campaigns and ideas that are poured into various positive activities. "Thailand Goes to Indonesia" visited schools with the intention of campaigning drug abuse deterrence activities, as a "study visit" and comparative research (Ramelan, et al, 2022). This is done to reduce the number of drug use among youth or teenagers, giving the target the view that drugs are a real threat to both individuals, community groups and the state.

In addition to diplomacy or cooperation with Thailand, Indonesia also cooperates with China as a form of its seriousness in solving the circulation of drug threats in Indonesia. From 2012 to 2018, Indonesia cooperated in the field of prevention and combating transnational crimes, especially in drug trafficking. Implementation in this activity is a genuine form carried out by the Indonesian state in minimizing drug-related problems in Indonesia such as:

1. Conducting Joint Operations (National Narcotics Control Commissions) China NNCC China
2. Disclosure of cases related to both countries
3. Arrest perpetrators of crimes related to international drug trafficking or distribution organizations from both China and Indonesia
4. Carry out activities of handling patterns with each other in response to drug trafficking
5. BNN and NNCC provide technological support and equipment that can support the success in arresting drug trafficking.

Through this cooperation, Indonesia certainly hopes that the implementation of this cooperation can make a positive contribution to solving the problem of drug trafficking, especially in Indonesia. In the context of preventing drug trafficking, the importance of defense diplomacy between Indonesia and China's NNCC cannot be ignored. This cooperation allows both countries to share information, enhance law enforcement capabilities, conduct joint operations, and strengthen prevention and rehabilitation programs. By synergizing between Indonesia and the Chinese NNCC, we certainly hope that the implementation of this cooperation can make a positive contribution to solving the problem of drug trafficking, especially in Indonesia.

In diplomacy, Indonesia also holds cooperation with neighboring countries, namely Malaysia. The government's seriousness in solving the problem of drug trafficking is implemented in cooperation with Malaysia. Cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia in combating drug trafficking has become the main focus of both countries in an effort to combat this problem. The two countries are geographically close and interconnected through border routes, so bilateral cooperation is important to face the challenges of cross-border drug trafficking. In recent years, Indonesia and Malaysia have enhanced their cooperation through the exchange of intelligence information, operational coordination between law enforcement agencies, and joint law enforcement actions. Both countries have also established cooperation with other neighboring countries in regional frameworks, such as ASEAN and other regional cooperation mechanisms.

Defense diplomacy plays an important role in efforts to prevent the circulation of drug threats in Indonesia. The importance of defense diplomacy in this context can be seen from several aspects. In addition, defense diplomacy can also be used to strengthen cooperation in the field of research and development in order to identify and deal with new types of drugs that continue to evolve. By cooperating with partner countries, Indonesia can accelerate the discovery of innovative technologies and methods in drug prevention, testing and treatment.

In dealing with the threat of drug trafficking, defense diplomacy can also help Indonesia advocate for stricter global policies against drug production, smuggling and abuse. Through regional and international cooperation, Indonesia can champion a common agenda in forums such as the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness and coordination in drug prevention. Overall, the urgency of defense diplomacy in preventing drug trafficking in Indonesia lies in its ability to build solid international cooperation networks, share information and experiences, and strengthen national and global policies in dealing with this challenge. By combining defense diplomacy efforts with a comprehensive national security approach, Indonesia can more effectively combat drug trafficking and protect its people from the dangers it poses.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that defense diplomacy plays an important role in preventing and countering drug trafficking in Indonesia. Drug trafficking has become a serious threat to national security, causing detrimental impacts in terms of health, social, economic and public security. As an archipelagic country with a strategic geographical location, Indonesia is vulnerable to drug smuggling activities carried out by international syndicates.

In this context, defense diplomacy can be an effective approach in addressing the threat of drug trafficking through international cooperation. Defense diplomacy involves various aspects, including military and non-military aspects, with the aim of building cooperation, strengthening bilateral relations, and promoting national interests in drug trafficking prevention efforts. Through defense diplomacy, Indonesia can cooperate with other countries in various fields, such as intelligence, law enforcement, information exchange, and personnel training. This cooperation aims to improve the capability and effectiveness of countering drug trafficking by involving all parties involved. In this context, exchange visits, policy dialogues, and bilateral or multilateral meetings can strengthen cooperation between countries to face the drug challenge together. Defense diplomacy can also be a platform to strengthen dialogue between countries on security issues and drug prevention. In conclusion, defense diplomacy has a significant role in preventing drug trafficking in Indonesia.

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