



Indonesian National Armed Forces

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The Indonesian National Armed Forces trace their origins back to the People's Security Army (Tentara Keamanan Rakyat, TKR) in the war of independence against the Dutch in 1945. They were later established as ABRI (Angkatan Bersenjata Republik Indonesia – Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia), consisting of four services under HANKAM (Departemen Pertahanan dan Keamanan – Department of Defence and Security): Army, Navy, Air Force and Police. On 1 April 1999, the Police were split from the rest of the Armed Forces, which henceforth were known as TNI (Tentara Nasional Indonesia – Indonesian National Military).

The Indonesian military's doctrine was based on the concept of Sishankamrata (Sistem Pertahanan Keamanan Rakyat Semesta, or Total People's Defense and Security System). In addition to conventionally trained, full-time military personnel, civilians were selected to undergo basic military training, after which they were known as Ratih (Rakyat Terlatih or Trained Civilians). From Ratih some were further trained as Hansip (Pertahanan Sipil, or Civil Defense Force), in case of natural disaster or war. Others were further trained as Kamra (Keamanan Rakyat or People's Security Force), to assist the police. Others were trained as Wanra (Perlawanan Rakyat or People's Resistance Force), to assist the armed forces. In most parts of Indonesia these groups were under the control of Depdagri (Departemen Dalam Negeri or Department of the Interior). In East Timor, however, all these groups were under the command of the Indonesian military.

The Indonesian Armed Forces in East Timor were composed of two commands: a combat command and a territorial command. Indonesian special forces (Kopassus) and the Strategic Reserve Command (Kostrad) operated within the combat command. The territorial command in East Timor was under the control of the combat command. The territorial command extended down to the village level, with military personnel operating alongside the civil

administration. Thus, in most villages there was a non-commissioned village guidance officer called a Babinsa (Bintara Pembina Desa) who operated alongside the village head man (kepala desa). Thus, there was an all-pervasive military presence during the occupation of East Timor.

Shortly after the invasion, East Timor was divided into four operational commands. Sector A covered Dili and Oecussi, Sector B covered Bobonaro, Covalima, Ermera and Liquiça, Sector C covered Aileu, Ainaro, Manufahi and Manatuto, and Sector D covered Baucau, Viqueque and Lautem. In July 1976, the Indonesian parliament formally integrated East Timor into the Indonesian republic. On 14th August 1976, military operations in East Timor were formally incorporated into Indonesia's domestic, conventional military structure via the East Timor Regional Defence and Security Command (Kodahankam – Komando Daerah Pertahanan Keamanan). On 26th March 1979, after the Indonesian government had declared East Timor "pacified", it established Sub-regional Military Command 164 (Korem 164). Despite the claim that East Timor was "pacified", foreign visitors were forbidden to visit the territory until December 1988, when President Suharto signed Presidential Decree No. 62. This decree granted East Timor "equal status" with the other 26 provinces of Indonesia, permitting Indonesian citizens to enter East Timor.

Indonesian forces withdrew from East Timor in 1999.