

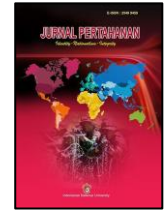


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DENTISTS' ROLE IN STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SYSTEM

Nora Lelyana

Republic of Indonesia Defense University

IPSC Area, Sentul, Sukahati, Citeureup, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia 16810

nora.unhan@gmail.com

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Abstract

National defense is a form of effort to maintain state sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national safety. In Indonesia, the national defense system is used in the form of a universal people's defense system that involves all resources prepared by the government and is carried out in a total, integrated, directed, and sustainable manner. The common people's defense and security system is used in dealing with various threats. Military threats place the Indonesian National Army (TNI) as the main component, while non-military threats place Ministries/Institutions as the main component. This study will identify how dentists can play a role in strengthening the defense system in Indonesia. The method used in this study is a qualitative research method with data collection techniques through literature studies and field observations. The results showed that in strengthening the defense system, dentists had the following roles namely 1) examination and treatment of the dental and oral health of soldiers, when the condition of the teeth is not good, it would interfere with the personnel's performance in the field; 2) in military operations, dentists also play a role in recording the *ante mortem* of troops; and 3) in the field of review, plays a very large role in identifying disaster victims, this is because teeth are the only part of the body that has a good level of resistance. Military dentists as one of the professionals in the health sector in Indonesia play an active role in strengthening the national defense system, but the distribution of human resources for health workers is still not evenly distributed throughout Indonesia. There needs an effort to manage dental health personnel so that the rights of every Indonesian citizen in the health sector, especially dental health, can be fulfilled optimally.

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INTRODUCTION

Geographically, Indonesia is in a cross position, located between the continents of Asia and the continent of Australia, as well

as the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, thus making the Republic of Indonesia a strategic and advantageous position. Martha (2003) stated that this position is an

opportunity as well as an obstacle for the Indonesian people to maintain state sovereignty in global competition that can trigger conflicts between countries in the world. Indonesia's strategic position geographically does not mean that the Indonesian state is free from various kinds of threats. The Ministry of Defense of Indonesia (Kementerian Pertahanan Republik Indonesia, 2015) explained that in essence, threats are the main factors in the preparation of the state defense system. The current threat has involved all levels of the nation's components, not just the military. The nation's components are divided into 3, namely the Main Component, Reserve Component, and Supporting Component as stated in Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 23 of 2019 Concerning Management of National Resources for National Defense (2019). The national resources referred to in the Law include human resources, natural resources, and artificial resources.

Jayani (2022) stated that in the G20 countries, Indonesia was ranked fourth with the largest population. The enormous human resources need to be managed properly, this is related to the Indonesian state defense system which involves all components of the country. The management of human resources can be carried out with efforts to improve welfare as stated in the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (1945) that everyone has the right to live in physical and spiritual prosperity, to have a place to live, to have a good & healthy environment, entitled to health services. One of the health services that Indonesian are entitled to obtain is dental and oral health services. Stahl, Mack, Cebula, & Gillingham (2019) explained that dentistry is almost the same as medicine in general which needs to develop an understanding and commitment to improving safety in repairing tooth decay.

In Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 36 of 2009 Concerning Health (2009) it is explained that dental and oral health services are carried out to maintain

and improve public health degrees in the form of improving dental health, preventing dental diseases, treating dental diseases, and restoring dental health by the Government, the government regions, and/or communities that are carried out in an integrated, integrated and sustainable manner. Surakarta City Health Office (2021) states that Indonesian still have a low level of awareness in caring for dental and oral health. This is by the results of basic health research in 2018 which stated that there were 45.3% of damaged teeth problems and 14% of oral health problems in the form of swollen gums (Rokom, 2021). Data and Information Center of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia (2019) explains that dental and oral health is part of overall body health that can hurt daily life. In addition, the Chancellor of Padjadjaran University, Prof. Tri Hanggono Achmad said that many dental health problems in the military world can be explored (Maulana, 2018). This, directly or indirectly, if it has not received special attention, could result in new threats that fall into the category of unreal threats, such as the spread of disease through the teeth and mouth so it is necessary to analyze the role of dentists in strengthening the national defense system to support research related to dental health in the military world. The results of research by Armstrong & Dermont (2021) state that in the U.K., defense dentistry has a role to play in meeting the challenges faced by U.K. Armed Forces in the twenty-first century in responding to enemy threats, supporting efforts to fight a global pandemic, or protecting British interests around the world. In Indonesia, each military health service has a dental and oral health department, but in some areas, such as on Natuna Island, the number of dentists is still limited with a ratio below the average for other regions in Indonesia (Maimuna, Tippe, & Sitorus, 2017).

The existence of regulations related to the role of dentists in the military world as described in the description should be able

to strengthen national defense. So this article aims to clarify what the role of dentists is in strengthening national defense.

METHODS

The research method used in this article is a literature study. Nazir (2009) explains that a literature study can be done by collecting data and analyzing problems through the study of books, literature, notes, and reports. The results obtained from the literature study are used to discuss the role of dentists in strengthening the national defense system. The steps taken in writing this article include 1) looking for references related to the role of dentists in general; 2) narrowing the discussion to the role of dentists in military organizations; 3) analyzing the obtained references such as Ministerial Regulations, Presidential Regulations, Laws, and other references such as books, proceedings, and online news. The data search was carried out from May to June 2022.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Main Duties and Functions of Dentists within the Ministry of Defense

In Minister of Defense Regulation Number 29 of 2008 Concerning Implementation of Dentist Functional Positions and Credit Scores for Civil Servants of the Ministry of Defense (2008a) explains that the main tasks of dentists include providing dental and oral health services at health service facilities, including promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitation to improve the health status of the community, as well as foster community participation in the context of self-reliance in the field of dental and oral health to the community. Currently, the main tasks described in the Regulation of the Minister of Defense Number 29 of 2008 have been running well, but there is a need for improvement so that the function of dentists can run optimally.

Dentist Positions in Military Medicine

Based on Regulation of the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia Number 18 of 2020 Concerning Military Medicine (2020), it is stated that dentists have a position as medical personnel from military health personnel who are included in military medical resources. Military medical resources are a supporting element in Military Medicine activities. In Minister of Defense Regulation Number 29 of 2008 Concerning Implementation of Dentist Functional Positions and Credit Scores for Civil Servants of the Ministry of Defense (2008b) it is explained that military medical activities include:

1. Health support in military operations for war.
2. Health support in military operations other than war.
3. Medical Intelligence.
4. Health Services at the base.

Regulation of the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia Number 18 of 2020 Concerning Military Medicine (2020) concerning Policies for the Integration of State Defense Components defines War Military Operations (*Operasi Militer Perang* or OMP) as a form of mobilization and use of state defense components to fight the military forces of other countries that carry out aggression against Indonesia, and/or in armed conflicts with other or more countries, preceded by a declaration of war and subject to the international law of war.

In the 1949 Geneva Conventions Article 24 it is stated that members of the health service who are specially employed to search for or collect, lift or care for the wounded and sick, or to prevent illness and staff specially employed in the administration of health units and buildings must be respected and protected in all circumstances (International Committee of the Red Cross, 1949). If it is related to the Regulation of the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia Number 18 of 2020

Concerning Military Medicine, 2020), dentists who are included in the medical personnel section of military health personnel also receive protection in war military operations. Airlangga University Alumni Association (2017) stated that military dentists in war military operations are tasked with preparing dental services in combat areas. These military dentists can fight as well as treat troops who have toothache complaints. Dental health is very important for members of the military. This is because when the condition of the teeth is not good it will interfere with performance in the field. In addition, in military operations of war dentists also have a role to record *ante mortem* of the troops.

Currently, dentists are tasked with preparing combat-ready soldiers for the military dental examination, which is held twice a year. Dental examinations and treatments are one of the points that can determine the health status of soldiers. If there are soldiers who have problems with cavities, then the soldier cannot pass to go on assignment. In Presidential Regulation Number 66 of 2019 Concerning the Organizational Structure of the TNI (2019), it is explained that Military Operations Other than War (*Operasi Militer Selain Perang* or OMSP) is the direction of the Indonesian National Armed Forces or TNI's strength to carry out military operations that are not in the context of war with other countries, but to carry out non-combat tasks, such as humanitarian tasks, dealing with the consequences of disasters and for other national interests, such as overcoming armed insurgencies, separatist, the task of overcoming transnational crimes, and peacekeeping tasks.

Indonesia is a country surrounded by hundreds of active mountains and located on tectonic plates, this makes it prone to disasters. In addition, in Indonesia, accidents often occur on land, sea, and air. If it is associated with Presidential Regulation Number 66 of 2019 Concerning the Organizational Structure of the TNI (2019), the Indonesian National Armed

Forces (TNI) has a role in tackling disasters that occur in Indonesia. Manitik (2015) states that the Navy Hospital is one part of the Navy that is given the main task of providing health support and health services.

Dentists who are defense resources also take on their role in running Military Operations Other than War (*Operasi Militer Selain Perang* or OMSP), namely by identifying the teeth of victims of disasters or accidents. The explanation from Kormar Korps Information Service or Dispen Kormar (n.d.) that apart from fingerprints and Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA), teeth are also primary tools that can determine a person's identity. In Military Operations Other than War (*Operasi Militer Selain Perang* or OMSP), dentists play a role in the forensic field, which plays a very large role in identifying disaster victims. This is because the teeth are the only part of the body that has a good level of resistance.

In Regulation of the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia Number 38 of 2013 Concerning the Standardization of Preventive Health Workers in the Ministry of Defense and the Indonesian National Armed Forces (2013a), it is explained that Medical Intelligence is all efforts, work, and activities of implementing intelligence functions in the health sector. Hendropriyono (2013) explains that the State intelligence of the Republic of Indonesia has a role to support the function of the state, namely to build a complete Indonesian society by carrying out state intelligence operations using intelligent and civilized tactics.

Regulation of the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia Number 38 of 2013 Concerning the Standardization of Preventive Health Workers in the Ministry of Defense and the Indonesian National Armed Forces (2013b) explains that health workers at bases have the following duties:

1. Implementing health maintenance efforts, including:
 - a. Prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

- b. Prevention of mental disorders.
 - c. Prevention of environmental diseases.
 - d. Prevention of diseases caused by toxic and hazardous materials.
 - e. Maintenance of physical fitness.
2. Implementation of health maintenance efforts, including:
- a. Health education.
 - b. Medical examination.
 - c. Nutrition management.
 - d. Implementation of personal hygiene.
 - e. Implementation of environmental sanitation and sanitation.
 - f. Health risk assessment.
 - g. Implementation of occupational health and safety.
 - h. Implementation of epidemiological surveillance.
 - i. Medical intelligence implementation
 - j. Implementation of dental fitness.
 - k. Family planning and reproductive health programs.

By this explanation, dentists have a role as implementers of dental fitness in health services at the base.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

In strengthening the national defense system, dentists have the following roles:

1. Examination and treatment of the dental and oral health of soldiers are because when the condition of the teeth is not good it will interfere with performance in the field. Dental examination and treatment are one of the things that can determine the health status of soldiers. If there is a soldier who has a problem with cavities, then that soldier cannot escape going on duty
2. In military operations, dentists also play a role in recording the *ante mortem* of troops
3. In the field of forensics which has a very large role in identifying disaster victims, this is because teeth are the only part of the body that has a good level of resistance.

In addition, the results of this study also found that dentists as one of the health

professionals in Indonesia play an active role in strengthening the national defense system, but the distribution of human resources for dental health workers is still not evenly distributed throughout Indonesia. There needs an effort to manage dental health personnel so that the rights of every Indonesian citizen in the health sector, especially dental health, can be fulfilled optimally.

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