



The Authority of the Brimob Unit in the Handling of Chemical, Biological, and Radioactive Substances at the Bali Regional Police

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the authority and operational challenges of the Bali Police Brimob Unit in handling the threat of chemical, biological, and radioactive substances (KBR) for the purpose of terrorism. Based on an analysis of Law No. 2 of 2002 and related regulations, this study uses a normative legal approach enriched with empirical data through in-depth interviews with Brimob personnel and analysis of operational documents. The results of the study revealed that although the Brimob has a strong legal basis in handling KBR, there are several significant challenges in the form of: (1) limited personnel capacity in handling hazardous materials, (2) lack of adequate detection and protective equipment, and (3) logistical constraints due to Bali's unique geographical conditions as a tourism area. These findings strengthen the argument for the need to develop a more comprehensive KBR handling system, including intensive training, the provision of specialized tools, and improved coordination with relevant agencies. This research makes a practical contribution to the development of national security policies, especially in the face of the increasingly complex contemporary threat of terrorism. The resulting policy recommendations are expected to increase the effectiveness of the Brimob Unit in protecting the public from the threat of hazardous materials, while maintaining security stability in Bali as an international tourist destination.

Keywords: *authority, mobile brigade units and chemical, biological and radioactive materials.*

INTRODUCTION

The Mobile Brigade Unit (*Satbrimob*) is an operational element under the *Kapolda* tasked with countering high-intensity security disturbances, including terrorism, riots or mass unrest, and organized crime involving firearms or explosives (Dhewanty & Hidir, 2023; Hidayat et al., 2020; R et al., 2021). This unit is also responsible for handling Chemical, Biological, and Radioactive (KBR) weapons and implementing SAR activities (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2025; United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, 2025). As one of the 10 detachments of *Brimob Polda Bali*, the role of the *Wanteror Gegana* unit of *Satbrimob Polda Bali* is highly significant in addressing bomb threats, especially with the increasing number of such cases (Hidayat et al., 2020; Nasution, 2024).

Gegana Brimob was formed in response to the growing need for police officers with high discipline, a strong *corsa* spirit, tenacity, unity of purpose, and a sensitive and responsive approach to handling various forms of escalating security disturbances, particularly acts of terror that have been troubling the public (Safii, 2015; Hasan, 2021). The concept of *corsa* or esprit de corps is fundamental to building solidarity and effectiveness within police special units, fostering unity and dedication among personnel (Firmansyah, 2022). *Gegana Brimob* always operates in a solid and controlled group (unit or team) and is equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to support its main tasks, including bomb disposal, CBR handling, counter-terrorism operations, and search and rescue activities (Okita et al., 2018; Wardhana & Rahman, 2020).

In a relatively short period, the *Brimob Gegana* Unit has sought to strengthen its organizational structure by increasing personnel numbers in order to address the growing demands of its duties (Rahman et al., 2022; Sani et al., 2022). This organizational strengthening aligns with international standards for counter-terrorism and emergency response capabilities, as emphasized by international cooperation frameworks (International Committee of the Red Cross, 2016). The unit's development reflects Indonesia's comprehensive approach to addressing contemporary security challenges through specialized law enforcement capabilities (Satria, 2022; Dass, 2021).

Based on the above background, the problem formulation can be summarized as follows: first, what is **the authority of the Mobile Brigade Unit (*Brimob*) of the Bali Police in handling Chemical, Biological, and Radioactive materials for the purpose of terrorism**; second, what are **the obstacles faced by the Mobile Brigade Unit (*Brimob*) of the Bali Police in handling Chemical, Biological, and Radioactive materials for the purpose of terrorism**.

Previous research has examined various aspects of terrorism and law enforcement responses. For instance, Abdul Wahid et al. (2004) analyzed terrorism from legal, religious, and human rights perspectives, highlighting the complexities of defining and addressing terrorism in diverse socio-political contexts. However, their study did not specifically examine the operational authority and constraints of specialized units like *Brimob* in handling *KBR* materials. Similarly, Aulia Rosa Nasution (2017) investigated law enforcement against terrorism as an “extraordinary crime” but focused primarily on legal frameworks rather than the practical challenges faced by frontline units.

This research aims to determine the authority of the Bali Police Mobile Brigade Unit (*Brimob*) in handling Chemical, Biological, and Radioactive materials for the purpose of terrorism and to analyze, in depth, the obstacles faced by the Bali Police Mobile Brigade Unit (*Brimob*) in carrying out this task. The findings will contribute to policy improvements and enhance the unit's preparedness, ultimately supporting national security objectives.

METHOD

The research method used in this study is a normative research method that employs various types of primary legal materials in the form of laws and regulations, as well as secondary legal materials in the form of literature related to the authority of the Mobile Brigade (*Brimob*). Johnny Ibrahim argues that normative legal research is a form of scientific research aimed at finding the truth based on legal scientific logic reviewed from a normative perspective, or as a legal discovery effort tailored to a particular case. This research is also supported by empirical research.

The research data includes primary legal materials such as Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia and relevant *Kapolri* (Police Chief) Regulations, as well as secondary legal materials in the form of academic literature and previous research findings. In addition, this study collected empirical data through interviews with personnel of the *Gegana Brimob* Unit and case analyses of *KBR* threat-handling within the Bali Regional Police area.

Data collection techniques were carried out through document studies, field observations, and semi-structured interviews. The data were analyzed qualitatively using a descriptive-analytical approach, wherein legal materials were assessed through legal interpretation (*hermeneutics*), and empirical data were analyzed thematically. Despite limitations in accessing confidential operational documents and the potential for bias in interviews, this multidisciplinary approach is expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of *Brimob's* role, as well as recommendations to improve its operational capacity in dealing with *KBR* threats.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Authority of the Bali Police Mobile Brigade Unit (Brimob) in Handling Chemical, Biological and Radioactive Materials for the Purpose of Terrorism

Authority or authority has a very important position in the study of administrative law. The importance of this authority is such that F.A.M. Stroink and J.G Steenbeek stated: "*Het Begrip bevoegdheid is and ook een kembegrip in the staats-en administratief recht*". From this statement it can be concluded that authority is the core concept of administrative law. The term *authority* or authority is parallel to "*authority*" in English and "*bevoegdheid*" in Dutch.

Terrorism is a form of crime that uses violent means committed by a person or group of people aimed at civilian targets, both people and property for political purposes with different motivations, so this is what underlies the placement of terrorism as a special crime, namely extraordinary crimes. In the perspective of international criminal law, the crime of terrorism is a *crime against humanity* and classified as *Extraordinary crimes*. There are approximately twelve (12) international conventions that regulate terrorism.

The terrorist incidents that have occurred in Indonesia are a signal that Indonesia has become one of the targets of both international and domestic terrorism organizations. Increasing physical vigilance alone is not enough to deal with international terrorism organizations because organizationally these groups already have very calculated planning and preparation in terms of operations, personnel, as well as infrastructure and funding support.

With the arrest of these terrorists, it has been revealed that local terrorists have a close relationship with the global terrorist network. There is an awareness and belief that the fight against terrorism requires us to comprehensively synergize efforts with a cross-sectoral and cross-state approach. For this reason, it is necessary to establish a national strategy in the context of the fight against terrorism. For Indonesia, the prevention and eradication of terrorism requires careful observation of the culture, society, and political stability of the government.

These three factors greatly affect the effectiveness of the law. The concept of the West and Islamic countries on the definition of terrorism is very difficult to be accepted by Indonesia because the political conditions that occur in Islamic-based countries are fundamentally different both in terms of background and development with what happened in Indonesia. Likewise, the culture of the people from both these countries and the West is different from the culture of Indonesian society. Indonesian society recognizes the existence of multi-religions and multi-ethnicity and coexist peacefully. The Government's counterterrorism strategy is implemented through

preventive, preemptive, and repressive efforts. Counter-terrorism strategies carried out by the government are implemented through preventive, preemptive and repressive efforts.

One of the main principles of Indonesia's counterterrorism strategy is that the Government of Indonesia treats terrorism as a criminal act, hence the legal approach is used. The implementation of law enforcement against criminal acts of terrorism is regulated by Law No. 15 of 2003 which stipulates Perpu No. 1 of 2002 on the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism as a law.

In the framework of law enforcement, there are two elements, namely detection and prevention before terrorist acts occur and legal action or processing after terrorist acts occur. Detection and prevention of terrorist acts is stated by Paul Wilkinson as the "secret recipe" of the fight against terrorism in liberal countries. In Indonesia, the task of detecting and preventing terrorist acts rests on the Indonesian intelligence community, especially the intelligence unit under the Special Detachment (Densus 88). Most (75%) of Densus' activities are intelligence activities. The immediate goal of intelligence activities is to gather information to thwart terrorist attack plans. However, intelligence can also be used as a first step to prevent individuals from joining terrorist groups and to reduce the capabilities of terrorist groups through so-called covert activities. Intelligence activities are the first link that will lead to countermeasures activities, namely the disruption of terror networks through ambushes and arrests for further legal processing through the justice system.

One of the Police Corps that has the authority to counter terrorism is the Mobile Brigade Corps (Brimob). According to Article 2 of the Decree of the Chief of Police (Skep Kapolri) No. KEP/53/X/2002 regarding Brimob, it is stated that the Brimob Corps is assigned to maintain security, especially those related to handling high-intensity threats, in an effort to support domestic security. Anarchy is a form of law violation that endangers security and disrupts public order so that it needs to be dealt with appropriately and firmly while still prioritizing the principles of human rights and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The main tasks and functions are further explained in Article 18 Paragraph (2) which relates to the Main Implementation Element, and more specifically to the Gegana and Pioneer units. Gegana, based on orders from the Brimob Commander, can act in the face of serious security violations, especially organized crime using firearms and explosives or carrying out terror attacks on a national or international scale. Article 19 Paragraph (2) deals with pioneers who, based on orders from the Brimob Commander, are responsible for the control of public order and counter-insurgency, in support of domestic security. Brimob is the main police force in operations against armed separatist movements, ethnic and religious violence, and other conflict situations.

The authority of the Mobile Brigade Unit (Brimob) of Bali Police in handling Chemical, Biological and Radioactive materials for the purpose of terrorism is carried out by the Bomb Disposal Unit as a sub-detachment under the Gegana Detachment of the Brimob Unit. Based on Article 220 of the National Police Chief Regulation Number 22 of 2010 concerning Organizational Structure and Work Procedures at the Regional Police Level, Satbrimob is an element of the main task executor under the Kapolda. Satbrimob is tasked with carrying out countermeasures against

high-intensity security disturbances including terrorism, riots or mass riots, organized crime armed with firearms or explosives, handling Chemical, Biological and Radioactive (KBR) weapons and implementing Search and Rescue (SAR) activities.

Article 8 Paragraph (1) of Law No. 2/2002, which establishes the position of Polri directly under the President, clearly provides an opportunity for the possibility of the police being used as an instrument of the President's political interests or becoming a force that monopolizes the use of violence politically, rather than legally. In addition, the authority granted to Polri in Law No. 2 of 2002 (Article 15, Article 16, Article 17, Article 18) seems to give them very broad authority in carrying out their duties. If this is not matched by strong public control, the possibility of abuse of power is very high. In many democratic countries, it is an absolute prerequisite to have an external oversight to correct, direct and develop the police to become a professional organization that serves the public interest.

The formulation of this task explicitly explains that Brimob is very authorized to deal with acts of terrorism committed by perpetrators of criminal acts of terrorism. Terrorism is a high-level public security disturbance and requires troops who are specially educated and trained to deal with high-level domestic security problems and community rescue supported by trained personnel and have solid leadership, equipment and equipment with modern technology.

In its authority, Brimob Polri is together with other police functions to take action against perpetrators of high-level crimes, especially mass riots, organized crime firearms bombs, chemical, biological and radioactive in order to create legal order and public peace throughout the juridical territory of the Republic of Indonesia. Brimob is authorized to assist other police functions, protect members of the Police as well as the public who are under threat and replace Police duties in the Regional Unit if the situation or target task has led to a high level of crime. To overcome the classic problem of coordination, both in detection and prevention as well as in prosecution, a standing joint force can be established consisting of elements of the police (Densus 88) and military special detachments to counter terror, and representatives from various intelligence communities coordinated under BNPT. The existence of this special force certainly has consequences for the allocation of resources such as technology and budget.

In relation to the Bali Police Mobile Brigade Unit (Brimob) in handling Chemical, Biological and Radioactive materials for the purpose of terrorism, the standardization of brimob capabilities is divided into several parts, namely pioneers, SAR, gegana and intel brimob. Each brigade plays a role for high-intensity control, but gegana is one of the small nuclei that specifically handles terrorism cases. This is regulated in the duties, functions and roles of the Mobile Brigade Unit (Brimob)-Polri in the Gegana Detachment. The target of the assignment of brimob members with jibom specifications is directed to every incident in the form of bomb threats and chemical bombs that pose direct or indirect hazards in accordance with the procedures for sterilization and taming of bombs with chemicals. In high intensity countermeasures against acts of terrorism by brimob specifically by the field of wanteror which is regulated in the posture of the brimob body Article 3 paragraph 3b No.1a contains the duties of Wanteror.

Obstacles of the Mobile Brigade Unit (Brimob) of Bali Police in Handling Chemical, Biological and Radioactive Materials for the Purpose of Terrorism

The existence of a wrong understanding of religious teachings can be a driving factor in the occurrence of terrorism. terrorists are driven by the desire of some groups to replace the state ideology with the religious ideology they adhere to. The group also seeks to inflame the spirit of struggle among its group, and also seeks to recruit as many members as possible to be influenced to jointly carry out acts of terror against various objects in the country. various regions. They believe that by replacing the state ideology with the religious ideology they believe in, there will be a better life for them, regardless of other people's understanding of the same religion but different from that of the terrorists.

The emergence of terrorists is also driven by a political situation that is not conducive. There are opposing sides, namely between people in the government and people outside the government. Those outside the government are trying to replace the government in various ways, including by shaking people's trust in the government, namely by committing terrorist acts. With terrorist acts, there is an assumption that the current ruler is unable to ensure security for citizens, so it needs to be replaced with a new government.

The existence of policies that are considered unfavorable or even detrimental to certain groups can encourage acts of terrorism to express their disappointment in a negative way or by breaking the law. The group will continue to try to change the policy in question by shaking up national security with the aim of forcing the government to change its policy.

According to Wahid and Sidiq, there are several factors that cause acts of terrorism, including the following: 1. tribalism, nationalism and separatism; 2. poverty, inequality and globalization; 3. non-democracy; 4. violation of human dignity; 5. radicalism of religious extremism; and 6. a sense of hopelessness and helplessness.

Brimob's obstacles in handling chemical, biological and radioactive materials for the purpose of terrorism consist of internal factors, namely the limited ability of Jibom unit personnel to hinder the implementation of tasks; The existence of vital equipment has been damaged and there has been no replacement of equipment; external factors, namely vehicle density and frequent road congestion; The jurisdiction of the Bali Police consists of many regional units, so the Jibom unit will experience difficulties in backing up the jurisdiction; The location targeted by the bomb terror threat is always a large place and consists of many rooms and there are buildings that do not have sketches / building plans, so it will take a long time to carry out inspection and sterilization.

CONCLUSION

The authority of the Mobile Brigade (*Brimob*) in handling Chemical, Biological, and Radioactive (*KBR*) materials for the purpose of terrorism is based on the duties and functions of *Brimob* as stipulated in Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, namely to implement and mobilize the strength of the *Brimob* Police to combat high-level public order disturbances, particularly mass riots, organized crime involving firearms, bombs, and *KBR* materials, in coordination with other operational elements of the police to maintain law,

order, and public tranquility throughout the Republic of Indonesia, as well as to carry out other assigned duties. In practice, however, there are both internal and external obstacles. To enhance *KBR* threat management, the following measures are needed: (1) increasing personnel capacity through specialized training and the establishment of dedicated training centers in Bali; (2) modernizing detection and protection equipment with a dedicated budget; (3) strengthening coordination through integrated protocols and digital mapping of vulnerable locations; (4) involving the community in awareness campaigns and reporting systems; and (5) improving inter-agency cooperation regulations and amending laws related to *KBR* terrorism. The implementation of these recommendations is expected to strengthen *Brimob*'s effectiveness in maintaining Bali's security, although further evaluation is needed to assess their long-term impact.

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