

Building the Security Sector in East Timor

The best defense is the best diplomacy?

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Outline

- Introduction
- Internal security
- External security
- The United Nations
- Conclusions

Framework

- Evaluate security sector using the comprehensive security framework
- Looking at internal and external dimensions

Internal threats

- Political threats
- Economic threats
- Social threats

Political threats

- Former combatants & resistance movements
- Groups outside of mainstream political system
- Untested democratic institutions such that it may face difficulties in managing transition of governments in the years to come

Economic threats

- High Poverty
- Low economic growth
- High unemployment

Social threats

- Smuggling
- People trafficking
- HIV/AIDS

Police force

- Internal security
- Rapid Intervention Unit (UIR)
- Border Patrol Unit (BPU)
- Special Unit --> long weapons -
-> division of labor with the
military..

External Defense

- Security vision
- F-FDTL
- Indonesia
- Australia

F-FDTL

- King's College, London recommendation: small-> less than 1,500 troops
- By 2005, all recruited --> but lag behind
- Limited funds (8% of the budget)
- About 40 - 50 soldiers discharged (discipline & voluntary -- > civilian lives)

Security Vision

- ET face low security threat
- Best defense is best diplomacy
- Imply preventive measures:
trade, education, & sports
- Managing relationship w/
Indonesia & Australia

Indonesia: Positive Factors

- History & geo-strategic reasons
- Major trade partner
- More than 2,000 students in Indonesian universities & is growing
- Strong interest being part of ASEAN --> bilateral & multilateral issues can be discussed

Indonesia: Potential problems

- History (love & hate relationship)
- Around 50,000 refugees still live in Indonesia, especially in West Timor

Australia

- Sending INTERFET
- Major donor in reconstruction of East Timor
- Australian willingness to stay longer to consolidate democracy & nation building
- Source of education & investment
- Timor Sea negotiations: can become a source of friction

Role of United Nations

- Transitional administration:
UNTAET, UNMISSET
- Reconstruction of East Timor
- A vs The Final Mission (may 2005)
- Need to be extended --> internal security reasons
- Need to go to 2007 after the 1st transition of the ET government

Conclusions

- The security sector in East Timor is still under construction
- ET likely face low external threat
- Domestic security threats is more salient: political, economic, & social
- UN presence need to be extended beyond 2005