

Implications of Manufacturing Kaplan Medium Tanks as Reflection of Indonesia's Defense Industry Independence towards Indonesia's Position in Southeast Asia Region

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Abstrak

Ketergantungan pada pengadaan alutsista impor untuk mendukung kemampuan militer negara-negara berkembang di Asia Tenggara merupakan masalah umum. Dari sisi geostrategis atau ketahanan nasional, posisi Indonesia sangat rentan karena mencerminkan ketergantungan impor alutsista asing untuk memenuhi kebutuhan pengadaan sarana dan prasarana alutsista. Oleh karena itu, Indonesia berupaya mengatasi masalah ketergantungan pertahanan yang tercermin dalam kerja sama pertahanan dengan Turki untuk produksi alutsista militer bersama, khususnya pembuatan Medium Tank Kaplan. Dengan metode studi kasus eksplorasi kualitatif dalam proses analisisnya, tulisan ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis implikasi dari pembuatan Medium Tank Kaplan sebagai cerminan posisi Indonesia di Asia Tenggara. Tulisan ini akan membahas kepentingan pertahanan dalam pembuatan Medium Tank Kaplan, kepentingan ekonomi yang diperoleh dari produksi tersebut, dan implikasinya terhadap posisi Indonesia di Asia Tenggara. Makalah ini menyimpulkan bahwa pembuatan medium tank Kaplan dapat membangun kemandirian industri pertahanan dan memodernisasi alutsista untuk meningkatkan posisi dan daya tawar Indonesia di kawasan Asia Tenggara.

Kata kunci: *Tangki Kaplan Medim; Asia Tenggara; Kepentingan Pertahanan; Kepentingan Ekonomi.*

Abstract

The dependence on imported defense equipment procurement to support the military capabilities of developing Southeast Asian countries is a common problem. From a geostrategic perspective or national resilience, Indonesia's position is very vulnerable because it reflects the importation dependence of foreign defense equipment to meet the procurement needs of the military equipment facilities and infrastructure. Therefore, Indonesia strives to overcome defense dependence problems reflected in the defense cooperation with Turkey for joint military defense equipment production, particularly the manufacturing of Kaplan Medium Tanks. With a qualitative exploratory case study method in the analysis process, this paper aims to analyze the implications of manufacturing Kaplan Medium Tank as a reflection of Indonesia's position in Southeast Asia. This paper will discuss defense interest in the manufacturing of Kaplan Medium Tank, economic interest obtained for the production, and its implications for Indonesia's position in Southeast Asia. This paper concludes that the manufacturing of Kaplan medium tanks can build the independence of the defense industry and modernize national defense equipment to improve Indonesia's position and bargaining power in the Southeast Asia region.

Keywords: *Kaplan Medim Tank; Southeast Asia; Defense Interest; Economic Interest.*

INTRODUCTION

In the defense sector, Indonesia has carried out a variety of cooperation with other countries. It is like joint military exercises, the procurement of defense equipment, the modernization of defense equipment, and the transfer of technology (ToT), or what is commonly called technology transfer. In the RPJMN (National Medium-Term Development Plan) of President Jokowi's era in the period 2015-2019, particularly in the defense sector, many points discuss the direction of defense development policies. These include the fullness of TNI defense equipment taken in fulfilling the Minimum Essential Force (MEF), increasing efforts to maintain defense equipment, providing an intense contribution of the local defense industry in defense equipment procurement, and enhancing the capability and mastery of the defense industry technology. Indonesia's current defense condition has been better. Since enacting the Law on Defense Industry Number 16 of 2012, the government has shown its commitment to building an independent defense industry. To realize it, the Directorate General of Defense Potentials Defense Ministry has a crucial role in preparing all existing industrial potentials to be directed and developed as part of defense capabilities. It includes meeting the needs of Security and Defense Equipments (Alpalhankam) independently. To achieve independence in the defense industry, the Committee of Defense Industry Policies (KKIP) has designed 7 (seven) priority programs for the national defense industry, namely propellants, rockets, missiles, Kaplan medium tanks, radar, submarines, and fighter aircraft. (D. J. P. P. K. Pertahanan, 2018)

Moreover, the 2015 Indonesian Defense White Paper describes the importance of Military Strength Modernization and State Defense Industry, as stated in Chapter 5 of this book (Kemhan_RI, 2015). The book of State Defense Policy in Chapter 2 point, C number 4 concerning Guideline for Management of State Defense also conveys the similar matter that it is crucial to realize a strong, independent, and competitive national defense industry to support Indonesian defense needs (M. Pertahanan, 2020). Furthermore, the Defense Ministry's Long-Term Development Plan (Kemhan RPJP) is a planning document for 20 (twenty) years. Defense Cooperation in the Indonesia-Turkey defense industry sector is also the main focus of the Defense Ministry's Long-Term Development Plan (Kemhan RPJP) to improve its MEF (The minimum essential force that national defense must have) (Indonesia, 2015). For this purpose, Indonesia via the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Indonesia formulated a policy to carry out Defense Cooperation with Turkey to build the independence of the National Defense Industry (D. J. P. P. K. Pertahanan, 2018), namely through the manufacturing of Kaplan Medium Tank represented by PT. Pindad in collaboration with the Turkish side, namely the FNSS Defense System. It has been ratified through the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 19 of 2014. It contains the Ratification of Agreement On Defense Industry Cooperation Between The Government Of The Republic Of Indonesia And The Government Of The Republic of Turkey (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat RI, 2014). The theory used in this paper is National Interest by Donald E. Nuechterlein, formulating the Defense Interest and Economic Interest (Nuechterlein, 2019). (Nuechterlein, 2019). Finally, for the data validation presented, the interviews with three speakers strengthen this writing. For the interviewee, the Defense Minister of the Republic of Indonesia is the policy-making actor, PT. Pindad is the actor in manufacturing the Kaplan Medium Tank, and LESPERSSI is the government policy evaluator institution.

The theory used in this paper is National Interest by Donald E. Nuechterlein, formulating the Defense Interest and Economic Interest (Nuechterlein, 2019). This paper uses a descriptive

qualitative research method. This study will review, describe, record, analyze, and interpret the conditions and events related to the problems posed. Finally, for the data validation presented, the interviews with three speakers strengthen this writing, namely the Defense Minister of the Republic of Indonesia as the policy-making actor, PT. Pindad is the actor in manufacturing the Kaplan Medium Tank, and LESPERSSI is the government policy evaluator institution.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative research type with a descriptive approach. The type of data used in this study is secondary data collected through the literature study method. The results of the research and discussion in this study used qualitative methods. First, the discussion will analyze Defense Cooperation for The Manufacture of Kaplan Medium Tank, Defense Interest for Manufacturing of Kaplan Medium Tank, Economic Interest for the Manufacturing of Kaplan Medium Tank, and Implication of Manufacturing the Kaplan Medium Tank Toward Indonesia's Position in Southeast Asia.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Defense Cooperation for The Manufacture of Kaplan Medium Tank

Appropriate for this research on the Kaplan Medium Tank manufacturing program, the government cooperates with the Turkish state. In the collaboration, PT. Pindad, the land main equipment and weaponry system manufacturer, represents Indonesia, and the counterpart from Turkey is FNSS Defence Systems, the company producing technology-based main equipment and weaponry system. The cooperation began in 2010 after President SBY and the Defense Ministry visited Turkey. During the visit of President SBY, the two countries dominantly discussed the Defense Industry. And both agreed to carry out defense cooperation between the two countries. One of the agreements is that Turkey and Indonesia will carry out the joint Kaplan medium tank development. Each country held a coordination meeting on the cooperation of the Republic of Indonesia and Turkey in the Kaplan medium tank development at Pindad Ltd Bandung on April 4, 2013. In Defense Potentials, Defense Ministry in July 2013, Pindad Ltd and FNSS made a joint presentation on the proposal for the plans and budgets of the joint Kaplan medium tank development. On December 4, 2013, at the Bridex Exhibition in Brunei Darussalam, the two countries held a meeting that discussed the joint Kaplan medium tank development, and finally the two governments commit this program (Triantama, 2020).

The cooperation is strategically taken as a policy of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Indonesia, in the statement of Lieutenant Colonel Adm Ikhwan Solihan as the representative of the Directorate General of Defense International Cooperation Directorate General of Defense Strategy (Ditkersinhan Ditjen Strahan) Defense Ministry of the Republic of Indonesia. He stated that the initiative for this cooperation originated from the President of the Republic of Indonesia to strengthen Indonesia's defense. The first reason Indonesia chooses Turkey as this partner is that Turkey is a dominant military power in Europe and NATO. Secondly, Turkish technology development and experts in defense systems are relatively advanced. Thirdly, Turkey can develop research and development systems in this industry independently, and the growth is remarkable. Fourthly, Turkey is a user of various eastern and western technologies. In the data, the biggest user of Fighter F16 after the United States of America is Turkey. However, Turkey also uses weaponry from Russia. In this cooperation, Turkey intends to carry out the transfer of technology (TOT) with Indonesia. So it is not just assembling. So both will make research and production. The manufacturer of the Kaplan

medium tank pays attention to the advice of the Army as the final user. Indonesia also sees an affinity with Turkey because there is a similar background as a large Muslim country after Indonesia. (Lieutenant Colonel Adm Ikhwan Solihan M.A., 2021).

Another factor that also proves the close relations between Indonesia and Turkey is that Turkey is a country that is more open and accepts the form of cooperation with Indonesia in the context of technology transfer cooperation (TOT). In this matter, Indonesia has an opportunity to obtain the medium tank manufacturing technology from FNSS Turkey because the two countries have a good history of bilateral relations and have some similarities as democratic countries, the largest Muslim country in the world, and members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), members of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation) and the G20 (Viva, 2010). Furthermore, we can understand that the policy consideration to attract Turkey is that Turkey is one of the countries with good defense and security in Europe. Turkey also has the independence of main equipment and weaponry system when compared to Indonesia. Geographical proximity is also a driving factor that makes Indonesia cooperate with Turkey. Finally, this defense cooperation also aims to modernize Indonesia's main equipment and weaponry system. (Wulandari, 2016) (Wulandari, 2016)

Defense Interest for Manufacturing of Kaplan Medium Tank

The defense interest in manufacturing Kaplan Medium Tanks results in Indonesia's old main equipment and weapon systems, so it requires innovation and new work to overcome these problems. If the main equipment and weaponry system no longer has competitiveness, it will not give trepidation to other countries. Moreover, the form of Indonesian military force is not enough to meet domestic needs, nor can it match various advanced defense technologies of other countries. Therefore, the presence of the Kaplan Medium Tank is a problem solver because it wants to meet Indonesian Defense interests, namely the interest to protect the country or its people from threats from other countries. In this case, it leads to regional security.

Indonesia carries out the accelerated modernization of its main equipment and weaponry system through the Minimum Essential Forces (MEF) program (Kemhan, 2012) and the birth of Law Number 16 of 2012 concerning the Defense Industry. The MEF is a strategic plan for Indonesia to achieve a minimum strength posture by 2024. Meanwhile, through the presence of the Defense Industry Law, it is understandable that its modernization of main equipment and weaponry system must also pay attention to the empowerment of state and privately owned defense companies. Following the mandatory of the Defense Industry Law, every procurement of Indonesian main equipment and weaponry system must go through offset schemes and transfers of technology (TOT). These two programs will achieve a strong Indonesian National Armed Force (TNI) and its defense independence. One program is to increase domestic defense industry capacity and the development of main equipment and weaponry systems independently through cooperation with Turkey. In principle, the cooperation between Indonesia and Turkey will only work on issues related to the defense industry of the two countries. Indonesia has ratified the collaboration in Law Number 19 of 2014 concerning the Ratification of the Defense Industry Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey. It further strengthens the cooperation between Indonesia and Turkey in the defense industry, especially in manufacturing Kaplan medium tanks. Therefore, this result is in line with the vision of Law Number 16. It contains building an independent defense industry that gets benefits from the Transfer of Technology cooperation (Karomah, 2017). PT. Pindad succeeds in obtaining new technology through

the Transfer of Technology from its cooperation partner, namely FNSS Defense Systems (Mario Valentino Fandi Mbanggo, 2019).

The defense industry and its military users must have the same perception. In this matter, the military needs require sophisticated military equipment the defense industry must supply. On the other hand, if the defense industry does not meet the expected military standards, it cannot meet the military needs. Therefore, it is crucial to unifying the understanding of what the military needs and what the manufacturing is in the defense industry (Montratama, 2018). The cooperation of Indonesia and Turkey in manufacturing the Kaplan Medium Tank is the answer to the needs of the Indonesian military to modernize its main equipment and weaponry systems. As a local defense company, Pindad Ltd is capable of manufacturing Kaplan Medium Tank appropriate to the needs of main equipment and weaponry systems of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI).

After PT. Pindad carries out the tests the Kaplan medium tank can move in slope terrain of up to 30° and uphill terrain as high as 60° (FNSS, 2018). The mobility capability of the Kaplan medium tank is much better than Indonesia's MBT Leopard 2. Indonesia's MBT Leopard 2 has difficulty in agile maneuvering because it weighs up to 65 tons (Fikri, 2018). Moreover, Indonesia's geographical contours will complicate the mobility of the Leopard 2 MBT, unlike the Kaplan medium tank (Mutakin, 2017). It allows the performance of Tiger tank troops to be more easily carried out and to secure Indonesian territory more optimally. It gets support from the statement of Ujang Sakiman as Engineer and Manager of Research and Development of Pindad Ltd. He said that compared to the tanks used by the Indonesian National Armed Forces, the Kaplan medium tank is superior in several aspects. The body posture of the Kaplan medium tank is superior because it can reach the more difficult terrain condition in general. In addition, the Kaplan medium tank has different weaponry from other tanks. We have also manufactured the Kaplan medium plan with the automation and integration of the sophisticated ITE system. So the tank is devoted to the mainland. The Kaplan medium tank also has the latest RSS equipment. (Sakiman, 2022). So we can understand that in terms of excellence, the Kaplan Medium Tank has advantages in several aspects. These range from a modern design, a compact but still powerful body posture, sophisticated equipment subsystems, weapons, automation, and integration with programs suitable for use on land areas in tropical countries such as Southeast Asia. In addition to increasing Indonesia's power accumulation through technological advantages and mobility capabilities, the development of the Kaplan medium tank also provides defense logistics security for Indonesia.

PT. Pindad's development of the Kaplan medium tank can affect Indonesia's position in the international system. Indonesia hopes that through this development, Indonesia will be considered a country with a high mastery of technology. The technology has NATO standards, namely the tracked propulsion systems technology applied by the FNSS Defense System on the Kaplan Medium Tank (Altleri, n.d.). Furthermore, the existence of the Kaplan medium tank will encourage Indonesia's position because not all countries can master the development of defense equipment in the class. This statement gets support from the representative of the International Relations Division of the Directorate General of International Defense Cooperation Directorate General of Defense Strategy Ministry of Defense, Lieutenant Colonel Adm Ikhwan Solihan, M.A., M.Si. He said the Indonesian national defense equipment industry was superior if compared to ASEAN countries because they could not produce it. For static vehicles, no country has developed them. Therefore, Indonesia is quite beyond Southeast Asian countries. Concerning the manufacturing of main equipment and weaponry systems, Indonesia is the leader. However, if it relates to defense and security, we have to look at many aspects. (Lieutenant Colonel Adm Ikhwan Solihan M.A., 2021). So from the statement,

for the procurement of main equipment and weaponry system, this cooperation is sufficient to make Indonesia's position in the security of the Southeast Asia region quite influential. In terms of independence, this collaboration proves that Indonesia is the only country in Southeast Asia that can independently manufacture its main equipment and weaponry systems.

Therefore, the Defense interest of the cooperation in manufacturing the Kaplan medium tank aims to meet domestic interests, namely the independence of the defense industry. So it can meet the country's MEF because this program aims to enlarge the defense force, and develop and modernize the defense force to be more effective in carrying out military tasks and supporting national interests. Moreover, it can strengthen Indonesia's position in the Southeast Asian region. Indonesian bargaining power has become more prestige in the region. It is considered how capable countries in Southeast Asia are to keep up with the innovations made by Indonesia through the design of manufacturing the Kaplan Medium Tank independently. Finally, the Kaplan Medium Tank is the main equipment and weaponry system needed by the Indonesian National Armed Forces, especially today's Indonesian army. Moreover, it answers all the challenges of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) in encountering all situations that can threaten Indonesia's sovereignty in land border areas with other countries (Wulandari, 2016).

Economic Interest for the Manufacturing of Kaplan Medium Tank

Economic profit can be a factor for a country to cooperate in the defense industry with other countries. It will cooperate in the joint production of a product and opens up opportunities to market the product together. The economic benefits expected by the state are economic growth, opening up export opportunities, and encouraging industrialization. It also gets support from the official website of the Ministry of Industry (Kemenperin) that the defense industry cooperation with Turkey can also open some agreements in other sectors. It is reflected in the meeting of Minister of Industry M.S. Hidayat in 2011 after he met with Turkish Minister of Science, Industry, and Technology Nihat Ergun at the Conrad Hotel in October 2011 at the Ministerial Meeting on Industry, Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting talks about the importance of strengthening the cooperation sector between Indonesia and Turkey in the fields of defense, automotive, textile and electronics industries (RI, 2011)

Two aspects of the economy with a strong defense industry are labor and trade balance. A strong defense industry can produce sophisticated defense equipment. It will absorb and improve the quality of Indonesia's workforce. In the second aspect, it opens export opportunities for Indonesia by selling its defense industry products abroad. It can be seen from the export and import reports of the sale results of national main equipment and weaponry systems in the 2018 Annual Report of the Directorate General of Defense Potentials (D. J. P. P. K. Pertahanan, 2018)

Therefore, the R & D Manager of PT. Pindad, Ujang Sakiman also believes in his statement regarding the existence of this defense cooperation that Indonesia and Turkey are trying to improve their position. Turkey considers its position in Europe, and Indonesia in the Southeast Asia region. So both countries are trying to produce main equipment and weaponry systems sold to the regions. Moreover, the data show that Turkey and Indonesia are powerful in their military or defense. It can be a bargaining point in Europe and Asia. (Sakiman, 2022). Therefore, the cooperation in manufacturing the Kaplan medium plan has domestic and national interests. For domestic interests, it aims to improve the country's MEF, and for national interests, it strengthens the country's position in the region.

Like the sales of Indonesia's military vehicles and main equipment and weaponry systems, the Kaplan medium tank also has a bright future. Despite the Kaplan medium tank having passed the

certification in 2018, at this time various countries have expressed their interest in acquiring Pindad-made fighting machines. The countries that have expressed each interest include the Philippines, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, and Malaysia (Permana, 2020) In a report, one of the countries in South Asia has expressed its interest in buying 120 Kaplan medium tanks. The Philippines has signed an MoU for purchasing the defense equipment produced by Indonesia, especially the Kaplan medium tank in February 2020. (Permana, 2020)

It is in line with the statement of Lieutenant Colonel Adm Ikhwan Solihan. He said that the sales of Kaplan Medium Tank focus on Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, and Africa. (Lieutenant Colonel Adm Ikhwan Solihan M.A., 2021). Indonesia Institute for Defense and Strategic Studies (LESPERSSI) via Benny Junito also stated that this collaboration made the two countries a stronger position because they produce Kaplan Medium Tanks in the regional and international arena. This collaboration can also strengthen Indonesia at the regional level. With innovations and new viewpoints, how to make a breakthrough in creating defense equipment is suitable for the Southeast Asian region. So, Indonesia geographically tries to get the opportunity and the right way to avoid the dependence on foreign defense equipment reflected in the manufacturing of the Kaplan Medium Tank. Otherwise, it can attract the interest of regional countries in strategic defense cooperation.

Implication of Manufacturing the Kaplan Medium Tank Toward Indonesia's Position in Southeast Asia

From the geographical aspect, it can describe that firstly who we are, who we are is concerned with what we have, namely capability, integrity, or potential we have called national power. Secondly, what we want relates to the target of achievement or desire targeted and called national interest. Thirdly, how to reach the goal called tactics in another context, the relationship between geography and politics is frequently called human geography whose principle concerns the relationship between political behavior and physical features. Therefore, geostrategy is the way that actors must go to reach their desires. In foreign policy theory, K.J. Holsti mentions it as action (Laode, 2019). In this matter, Indonesia's action to attract Turkey as a partner of its defense cooperation is a strategy to achieve the national goal, namely national independence. In this matter, Indonesia wants to have capabilities to build the defense industry, so it will not depend again on other countries to meet the basic needs of the military.

Defense Cooperation between Indonesia and Turkey not only aims to generate material benefits. Guidance in promoting the defense industry is a crucial task for policyholders such as the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia. It can overcome the problem of dependence on other countries and fulfill the Minimum Essential Force (MEF) that can meet national interests so that the Indonesian defense industry is respected regionally and even internationally. The Directorate of Defense Technology and Industry, Directorate General of Defense Potentials the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia, carried out this task, among others, through the establishment of 7 (seven) national priority programs, including Medium Tanks, Submarines, R-Han Rockets, KFX IFX Fighter Jets, Missiles, Radar, and Propellants. (D. J. P. P. K. Pertahanan, 2018)

However, among the 7 (seven) priority programs, the implementation of defense industry development through the manufacture of Medium Tanks is one of the most successful stories. It is stated in the study of the Annual Report of the Directorate General of Defense Potential the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia, that there are 7 (seven) national priority programs in the

development of the defense industry, of which three have made proud results. (D. J. P. P. K. Pertahanan, 2018)

Moreover, a statement from a researcher from Indonesia Institute for Defense and Strategic Studies (LESPERSSI) via Benny Junito revealed that another positive implication of the cooperation in manufacturing Kaplan medium tanks lies in terms of how this cooperation makes the position of the two countries stronger in the regional and international arenas. Therefore, the mass production of the Kaplan Medium Tank is a powerful strategic step. It meets the military needs of the Indonesian Defense. In the future, Indonesia can become a leading country in Southeast Asia, and it will open up opportunities for cooperation with other countries interested in studying and purchasing this Kaplan Medium Tank. (Junito, 2022). Therefore, the positive implications of the cooperation in manufacturing Kaplan medium plan are to strengthen the security defense of Indonesia and Turkey, and the position of the two countries in the dynamics of world security defense.

Based on these facts, the concept of regional power is given by other countries in the region because they recognize the above-average power capabilities of the country, and it has power in the said region. Therefore, if a country has military capabilities that are more than average and has strong in the economic sector in the said region, it can gain recognition and power as a hegemonic state in the said region.

So if you look at the statement of the German Institute for Global and Area Studies, (GIGA, n.d.) in the defense industry sector Indonesia meets several conditions to become a regional power in Southeast Asia. It is because Indonesia has its own identity and strength reflected in the independence of the national defense equipment industry. In this matter, the manufacturing of Kaplan Medium Tank has succeeded in becoming the only country capable of producing independent defense equipment that cannot be balanced by other countries in the Southeast Asian region. Second, Indonesia has a strong military and economic capabilities because it has been recognized by regional countries, and connected with regional countries reflected by playing a strategic role in ASEAN. Indonesia has a unique position and can keep the same distance from major power countries. So it creates opportunities to bring them together by emphasizing the common interests of prosperity and stability of the Southeast Asian region. Moreover, Indonesia does not lean towards big blocs like the USA and China. In addition, the increase in Indonesia's defense capabilities can contribute more to regional issues, and it requires the intervention of military forces, such as countering terrorism and other security issues. It is because military personnel can be beneficial to decrease damage and casualties from terrorist attacks (Juned et al., 2022)

The regional powers also have a role in international political affairs. In this matter, a country that has regional power and becomes a hegemony in the region can take a role in international politics. It is because a country that has power in a region may continue to develop or rise power towards global power.

Therefore, the cooperation of manufacturing the Kaplan medium tank dominantly aims to reach domestic interest. It meets the country's MEF, particularly the procurement of Indonesian National Armed Forces' defense equipment. On the other hand, the cooperation also supports national interest by strengthening Indonesia at the regional level. It potentially opens wider cooperation opportunities in the defense industry between Indonesia and other countries. The cooperation can strengthen Indonesia at the regional level because of innovation and a new viewpoint on how breakthroughs create defense equipment suitable for the regional level of Southeast Asia. So, Indonesia geographically succeeded to reach opportunities and better ways to avoid its dependence on foreign main equipment and weaponry systems reflected in manufacturing

the Kaplan Medium Tank. It can attract countries in the region interested, particularly in strategic defense cooperation. Moreover, the national defense conception also confirms three defense requirements, namely military resilience, economic resilience, and life resilience. Military defense means the capability to develop national strength in encountering domestic and foreign threats and interferences and supporting the achievement of national goals. (Sulisworo, Dwi. Wahyuningsih, Tri. baehaqi, 2012).

CONCLUSION

Based on the said explanation, the conclusion can be drawn as follows. Firstly, the decision made by Indonesia to develop Kaplan medium tanks with Turkey is an effort to increase the resilience of the Indonesian National Armed Forces, especially the main equipment and weaponry system of the Indonesian Army. After reflecting on the empirical data, the main equipment and weaponry system owned by the Indonesian National Armed Force is inadequate and old. The presence of Kaplan medium tanks will develop the main equipment and weaponry system of the Indonesian National Armed Forces technologically. Kaplan medium tanks affect the strength of the main equipment and weaponry system and the security of defense logistics for the Indonesian National Armed Forces. Secondly, the Kaplan medium tank also has potential as main equipment and weaponry system to be exported to other countries due to innovation and technology in the tanks. Pindad Ltd and FNSS Defense System can develop suitable technologies for the arena of the Southeast Asian region. The geography requires compact technology (medium scale and suitable tanks for the region) and modern with superior proficiency and specifications in Kaplan Medium Tank. It also increases Indonesia's bargaining power because Indonesia is one of the few countries that can develop medium battle tanks, especially for the Southeast Asian region. For this success, the Indonesian government can increase its credibility and popularity in the country itself.

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