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CIVIL WORKS & COMBAT SUPPORT: HOW KORPS ZENI BRIDGES THE ARCHIPELAGO

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SPECIAL REPORT

NAVIGATING NEW WATERS: INDONESIA'S STRATEGIC JOURNEY TOWARDS A BLUE-WATER NAVY

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INTERVIEW WITH AIR MARSHAL ANDYAWAN MARTONO, COMMANDER OF KOHANUDNAS

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Pengabdian Tanpa Batas.
TNI AU AMPUH. Indonesia Maju.



BLUE-WATER NAVY: GREAT AMBITIONS MEET HARSH REALITIES

Amid the mounting geopolitical uncertainty in the Indo-Pacific, Indonesia's ambition to build a Blue-Water Navy has transcended strategic rhetoric—it is now a structural necessity. As the world's largest archipelagic state, Indonesia can no longer afford a parochial, coast-bound defense posture. In the modern era, sovereignty is not merely guarded at the shoreline; it is defended far beyond the horizon, in the deep-water theaters where global competition unfolds.

Yet, a compelling tension lies at the heart of this vision. As detailed in our Special Report in this edition, Indonesia remains committed to a defensive military doctrine even as it expands its operational reach. This creates a strategic paradox: how can a nation project power globally without appearing expansionist? The answer involves a recalibration of "defensive" operations—shifting from a passive stance to a proactive deterrent. Deterrence, sea control, and naval diplomacy are no longer optional extras; they are the central pillars of the national interest.

The challenges, however, are immediate and unforgiving. Indonesia's geography is not just complex—it is strategically volatile. The stark contrast between the shallow western basins and the plunging eastern trenches demands highly specialized operational approaches. More critically, deep water passages like the Wetar Strait offer ideal corridors for foreign submarines to transit silently and undetected. This is not a theoretical vulnerability, but a tangible gap in maritime security that requires urgent attention.

Consequently, the shift from platform-centric procurement toward an integrated combat ecosystem is a vital step forward. Architectures such as C6ISR, advanced anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities, and sustainable logistics will ultimately prove more decisive than prestige assets like aircraft carriers. Indonesia's pragmatic focus on modernizing its frigate and submarine fleets signals a maturing strategy—one that prioritizes operational effectiveness and endurance over mere symbolism.

Ultimately, the transition to a Blue-Water Navy is a marathon, not a sprint. It demands policy consistency, budgetary discipline, and a profound maritime mindset. Indonesia must build more than just ships; it must cultivate resilient systems, strategic partnerships, and institutional expertise. The fundamental question is no longer whether Indonesia can become a global maritime power, but whether it is prepared to navigate the consequences of that status in an increasingly contested world.

Happy reading!

Budi Putra
Editor-in-Chief



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Indonesian Navy personnel stand aboard KRI Banjarmasin (592) as the vessel prepares to dock at the Kolonlamil, Tanjung Priok, Jakarta.

Photo by: **Faisal Ramadhan/IDM**



ILUSTRATOR: AGUNG WAHYUDI

MENAKAR KESIAPAN TNI ANGKATAN LAUT MENUJU ARMADA *BLUE WATER NAVY*

Aini Tartinia, Bunga Permata dan Nirmala Maulana A

Di tengah dinamika geopolitik Indo-Pasifik yang kian sulit diprediksi, pemerintah melalui Kementerian Pertahanan (Kemhan) bersama TNI Angkatan Laut (TNI AL) memacu transformasi fundamental. Visi menuju *Blue Water Navy* atau armada laut lepas kini bukan lagi sekadar retorika, melainkan mandat strategis bagi Indonesia.





KRI Brawijaya (320) milik TNI Angkatan Laut di Tanjung Priok, Jakarta.