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PHOTO STORY

FINDING HOPE AMID SEMERU'S ASH



SPECIAL REPORT

MILITARY OPERATIONS OTHER THAN WAR (MOOTW)

VANGUARD OF RESILIENCE: TNI'S CRUCIAL ROLE ON THE FRONTLINES OF DISASTER

Interview with Lt-Gen Mohamad Hasan, Commander of Kodiklatad

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Owning the Night, Bridging the Nation



The establishment of Air Squadron 33 in 2019 represents a decisive evolution in the Indonesian Air Force's (TNI AU) operational doctrine. Based in Makassar, the squadron serves as a strategic pivot, shifting air power from a Java-centric model to a truly archipelagic reach. In a nation of vast distances, the core logic of deterrence has transitioned from sheer mass to rapid, decentralized mobility.

Indonesia's unique geography and vulnerability to natural disasters demand an air force capable of operating across uneven infrastructure at any hour. Air Squadron 33 acts as a strategic bridge for central and eastern Indonesia, ensuring that personnel, equipment, and humanitarian aid reach remote regions without the constraints of daylight or ideal conditions.

The squadron's impact is most evident in Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW). Its versatility was demonstrated through rapid humanitarian deployments—such as the earthquake relief mission to Myanmar directed by President Prabowo Subianto—and critical logistics during the Covid-19 pandemic. These missions prove that airlift capability is not merely a tactical asset, but a vital instrument of state responsibility and regional diplomacy.

As highlighted on the "NatDef" page, the defining strength of Air Squadron 33 lies in its specialized mastery of Night Vision Goggle (NVG) operations. While other Hercules units focus on avionics or aerial refueling, Squadron 33 dominates low-light environments. By transforming darkness into an operational advantage, the squadron ensures mission continuity during total blackout conditions—often the critical margin between presence and absence in disaster response.

Ultimately, Air Squadron 33 embodies a doctrine of equitable air power, where speed and adaptability strengthen national defense. In an environment defined by distance and uncertainty, the ability to "own the night" stands as one of Indonesia's most significant strategic advantages in the skies.

Happy reading!

Budi Putra
Editor-in-Chief



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Indonesian Navy (TNI AL) personnel conduct a Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) drill aboard KRI Frans Kaisiepo-368, during the Orruda 2024 joint exercise in the Java Sea, East Java
Photo by: **IDM/Faisal Ramadhan**



OPERASI MILITER SELAIN PERANG

PERAN KRUSIAL TNI DALAM TANGGAP BENCANA



ANTARA FOTO/FAKHRI HERMANSYAH

Personel TNI Angkatan Udara mendistribusikan heli box berisi makanan untuk pengungsi bencana alam banjir bandang menggunakan metode Container Delivery System (CDS) dengan pesawat CN 295 di wilayah Tapanuli Tengah, Sumatera Utara (1/12).

Nurhidayat Nasution dan Yuli Ari

Tiga provinsi di Indonesia, yakni Aceh, Sumatra Utara, dan Sumatra Barat, menghadapi kondisi krisis setelah tanah longsor dan banjir bandang menerjang wilayah-wilayah tersebut sejak akhir November 2025. Dampaknya meluas, mulai dari terputusnya jalur transportasi darat di sejumlah titik, rumah-rumah yang terendam, rusaknya sarana dan prasarana, hingga terputusnya komunikasi. Kondisi yang sama turut memaksa masyarakat yang terdampak bencana harus bertahan di tenda-tenda darurat pengungsian. Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (BNPB) hingga 27 Desember 2025 mencatat, sebanyak 1.138 orang meninggal dunia dan 163 orang lainnya masih dinyatakan hilang.

Pemerintah bergerak cepat merespons kondisi darurat tersebut dengan mengerahkan bantuan lintas sektor, melibatkan Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI), Polri, kementerian/lembaga, hingga berbagai elemen lainnya. "Pemerintah bergerak cepat. Kita dari hari-hari pertama sudah bereaksi, sudah mengirim bantuan dan reaksi melalui jalur darat dan udara. Tetapi memang kondisinya sangat berat, banyak yang terputus, cuaca juga masih tidak memungkinkan, kadang-kadang juga helikopter dan pesawat kita sulit mendarat," ungkap Presiden RI Prabowo Subianto.

Dalam situasi krisis tersebut, unsur militer menjadi salah satu institusi yang bergerak cepat di lapangan. Respons tersebut sejalan dengan mandat operasi militer selain perang (OSMP), salah satu tugas utama TNI di luar operasi militer perang (OMP). Mandat OMSP secara eksplisit diatur dalam UU Nomor 34 Tahun 2004 tentang TNI, yang menempatkan militer sebagai bagian dari instrumen negara dalam meng-

IDM/FAISAL RAMADHAN



Personel TNI Angkatan Udara mengangkut barang bantuan untuk korban bencana alam banjir bandang Sumatra ke dalam pesawat Airbus A400M di Lanud Halim Perdanakusuma, Jakarta (28/11).