

***USINDO Comprehensive Partnership  
Open Forum Series***

**Expanding and Strengthening the U.S. – Indonesia  
Security Partnership: The Maritime Cooperation**



**Capt. Adrian Jansen**  
*Naval Attaché at the US Embassy in Jakarta,  
Captain of US Navy, Department of Defense*

**Capt. Judijanto**  
*Head of War Game Centre,  
Indonesian Naval Command and Staff College (Seskoal)*

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***Since signing the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership in 2010, the U.S. and Indonesia have strengthened their economic, political and military ties. Both countries, in particular, have been cooperating on maritime security issues.***

***On January 29, USINDO's office in Jakarta hosted a discussion, entitled Expanding and Strengthening the U.S. – Indonesia Security Partnership: Maritime Cooperation. The speakers, Captain Adrian Jansen, the Naval Attaché at the US Embassy in Jakarta and Captain Judijanto, the Head of the War Game Centre from SESKOAL, discussed the future of the U.S.-Indonesia military relationship.***

***This Open Forum talk is part of USINDO's Comprehensive Partnership Series.***

### **Summary of Capt. Jansen's key remarks**

The Comprehensive Partnership is vital to both the U.S. and Indonesia, Capt. Jansen said. It promotes cooperation and consultation.

In the Partnership's Plan of Action, there are three pillars: (1) political and security issues, (2) economic development, and (3) social-cultural, educational, and technological exchanges. There are six working groups, Capt. Jansen added, focusing on energy, security, trade and investment, democracy and civil society, education, and climate change and the environment.

The security-focused working group has started several programs, relating to maritime security. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Department of State (USDOS) work with the Indonesian government to improve Indonesia's maritime transportation, energy, fisheries, and security. Another program, Capt. Jansen mentioned, is the Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance (EXBS) program, which assigns a U.S. Coast Guard Officer to work with and advise Indonesia's border security and export control agencies.

The Panglima TNI and the US Pacific Command (US PACOM) work on U.S.-Indonesia military ties. They organize Bilateral Defense Discussions (BDD) and a Bilateral Defense Exercise Program. The U.S. navy's presence in Southeast Asia, Capt. Jansen said, is incredibly important. The U.S. Navy—in particular the Seventh Fleet—protects the interests of the U.S. and its allies in the region. It ensures that vital shipping and trade routes remain open and free.

The U.S. Navy's presence, Capt. Jansen explained, keeps tensions over the South China Sea in check. Right now, numerous states in the Asia Pacific are claiming the islands as their own. They want the islands' fisheries and oil and natural gas reserves. Their regional dispute, however, is a world-wide concern. Each year \$5.3 trillion of trade goods pass through the Sea. (\$1.2 trillion belongs

to the U.S.) If a crisis occurred, shipping would be diverted—perhaps even stopped—harming the international economy.

The U.S. does not take a position on the legitimacy of the rival claims to the South China Sea. All countries involved, Capt. Jansen added, should try to preserve peace and stability in the region and respect international law and the freedom of navigation through the Sea.

Besides the South China Sea dispute, the U.S. is concerned about nuclear proliferation in the region. The U.S. navy, according to Capt. Jansen, will continue to work with its regional partners to monitor and prevent nuclear proliferation in the Asia Pacific.

Piracy, too, is a concern. Capt. Jansen believes that as shipping traffic increases so will piracy. To prevent pirate attacks, the U.S. navy will work with its international partners to protect shipping lanes.

The U.S. navy's final concern is natural disasters, Capt. Jansen said. U.S. Navy personnel currently are working with other countries to prepare for natural disasters and to improve response times and rescue efforts.

To address the Navy's concerns, a continued military presence is needed in the region. Capt. Jansen explained that the U.S. navy and Indonesia already have conducted joint exercises, including the Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) program, the Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) exercise, and the Pacific Partnership.

Senior officers from the U.S. navy and the Indonesian military also visit one another, Capt. Jansen said, to strengthen military ties between the two countries. Capt. Jansen expressed his appreciation for Indonesian military leaders, including the TNI AL's Chief of Staff Admiral Soeparno who participated in the Chief of Naval Operations Counterpart Visit, TNI AL's Deputy Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Marsetio who attended the International Sea-Power Symposium in Newport Rhode Island, and Commander Admiral Agus Suhartono who was involved with the Chief of Defense Counterpart Visit.

The U.S. Navy also sends guest lecturers to symposiums at Indonesian military academies, so they can exchange ideas with TNI AL personnel and establish closer military-to-military ties.

Capt. Jansen said that the U.S. and Indonesia share many interests. Both countries are democracies with large and diverse populations, and both are involved in the Pacific region. The U.S. and Indonesia also share many concerns, such as the dispute over the South China Sea, piracy, natural disasters, nuclear proliferation, and terrorism. Hopefully, U.S. and Indonesia can face these threats together, Capt. Jansen concluded.

## Summary of Capt. Judijanto's Key Remarks

According to Capt. Judijanto, there are two main threats to maritime security in the Asia Pacific region. One is inter-state conflict, such as disputes over natural resources, trade, and maritime boundaries. The second threat comes from natural disasters.

Because of its numerous islands, which are surrounded by volcanoes, Indonesia's armed forces need to focus on environmental security, Capt. Judijanto said. Volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis pose serious threats to Indonesia. Indonesia has 500 volcanoes, 128 of which are active, and each day there are five earthquakes below sea level, increasing the risk of tsunamis in the region. Capt. Judijanto identified South Sumatra, South Java, Maluku, North Maluku, and North Sulawesi as areas that are particularly vulnerable to tsunamis. (See red areas in map below.)



Moreover, Capt. Judijanto said that the TNI AL does not have enough naval and maritime assets to patrol Indonesia's three major straits: Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok. The huge amount of traffic passing through the three straits can be seen in the table below:

	Malacca Straits	Sunda Straits	Lombok Straits
Transit Annually	63.000 ships	3.500 ships	3.900 ships
Tons Carried	525 million	15 million	140 million
Worth of Resources	US\$ 390 billion	US\$ 5 billion	US\$ 40 billion

Many criminals, including terrorists and weapon smugglers, also pass through the waters, bordering the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia. The Indonesian navy must try to stop them.

The U.S. and Indonesian navies can cooperate in many areas, according to Capt. Judijanto. First, Indonesia and the U.S. can work together to prevent nuclear proliferation, thereby enhancing Indonesia's role in international nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

Second, cooperation should increase with maritime surveillance. Already, the TNI AL has Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA). It also has an Integrated Maritime Security Surveillance System (IMSS), which is supported by the U.S., and a Surveillance Picture (SURPIC) program, which is supported by Singapore. However, the TNI AL needs U.S. assistance with operational management and maritime navigation.

Third, the U.S. and Indonesian navies can cooperate on climate change issues, including oil spills, to preserve the seas and oceans for future generations.

Fourth, Capt. Judijanto emphasized the importance of information sharing. The U.S. and Indonesia should establish information-sharing networks—perhaps a joint database, Capt. Judijanto suggested—to promote more coordinated decision making. The U.S. also can help with intelligence analysis methods and share advanced technologies with Indonesia, so Indonesia can better protect itself.

Lastly, Capt. Judijanto said that the Comprehensive Partnership cannot only involve the military. It also must incorporate other government agencies, foreign governments, and NGOs.

### **Question and Answer session**

***Q: What do you think about Japan's recent call to build a maritime alliance against China? Also, how will cooperation resolve the South China Sea dispute?***

Capt. Jansen: I believe that Japan is only reacting to an increasingly powerful China. Japan recognizes that it cannot counteract China's power alone. It needs to build alliances. I do not know the U.S. official position on Japan's new policy, so I cannot comment on the issue. However, we already have a mutual defense agreement with Japan. We have military personnel who live and work in Japan. If Japan is threatened, our forces are, too. Therefore, if a threat emerges, the U.S. will respond accordingly to protect our Japanese ally and our forces in the region.

I hope we never have an open conflict in the South China Sea. If that occurs, the entire region will suffer. The U.S. wants to ensure peace and stability in the Asia

Pacific, using diplomatic measures, so the U.S. must work with its regional partners. Using the U.S. military is a last resort.

***Q: Capt. Judijanto, what do you think of Indonesia's cooperation with the U.S. on maritime security issues, despite the fact that Indonesia is part of the non-aligned movement? Do you think Indonesia can work together with China instead of with the United States? How can Indonesia overcome the South China Sea issue with its limited budget?***

Capt. Judijanto: I believe that just because Indonesia is a non-aligned country does not mean that Indonesia cannot form partnerships with other countries. Our partnership with the U.S. is important. We need U.S. technology, and the U.S. presence in the region helps to ensure peace.

I think it is risky to collaborate with China without involving other countries. China, which has increased its military capacity and budget, has tried to establish bilateral ties with many ASEAN countries. So far, it has not taken a multilateral approach. It is a sensitive issue, particularly with the South China Sea

The TNI AL has been involved in the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), showing Indonesia's importance to regional maritime security. Other countries, in recognition of this fact, have tried to cooperate with us on maritime issues. Together, I believe that we can manage the South China Sea dispute.

Comment from the audience: As First Secretary of the Political Section for the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, I want to clarify what Capt. Judijanto said about China's reluctance to multilaterally engage with other countries. There is, I think, a misunderstanding. China believes in multilateralism. In the Asia Pacific, China already is involved with the Six Party Talks and the ASEAN Regional Forum. As for the South China Sea issue, we believe that bilateral negotiations should be conducted before an international body, such as the International Court of Justice, becomes involved. But we are open to multilateralism.

***Q: For Capt. Jansen, there are more than five maritime institutions in Indonesia. How does the U.S. Navy coordinate with all of them?***

Capt. Jansen: The U.S. and Indonesian militaries are different. The U.S. military, for instance, is not a law enforcement agency. The U.S. navy does not engage in anti-drug enforcement or deal with fishery disputes or apprehend smugglers. The U.S. Coast Guard does. Meanwhile, Indonesia's BAKORKAMLA (the Maritime Security Coordinating Board) is involved in maritime security, along with the TNI AL. Nevertheless, the TNI AL is primarily responsible for maritime security issues, and the U.S. navy tries to assist the TNI AL's efforts by sharing maritime surveillance information.

As Capt. Judijanto said earlier, the U.S. navy also wants to improve information sharing mechanisms. In the U.S., we have a national maritime information center. We work with other U.S. government agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard and local law enforcement agencies, to coordinate U.S. strategy on maritime security issues.

***Q: What actions will the U.S. take as it pivots towards Asia, particularly in regard to maritime security and cooperation? How does Indonesia respond to the U.S. pivot?***

Capt. Jansen: The U.S. pivot will not affect the U.S.-Indonesia partnership. For years, we have had a strong, mutually beneficial relationship, and that will not change. Ideally, the U.S. will be more aware and responsive to Indonesia's concerns and needs in the future.

Capt. Judijanto: I believe Indonesia will benefit from the U.S. pivot. The Indonesian military will improve. It will get more information and knowledge from our U.S. partners, and we will be able to improve our weapon systems. This year, we are sending thirty Indonesian officers to study at the post-graduate level in the U.S.

***Q: For Capt. Jansen, we all know that the U.S. did not sign the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982. Meanwhile, the US is involved in the Pacific. It seems like a contradiction. How do you see it?***

***For Capt. Judijanto, how will the Indonesian government, especially the TNI AL, use the Malacca Strait to improve the Indonesian economy?***

Capt. Jansen: All senior members of the U.S. navy support the UNCLOS. However, in the U.S., we did not have the consensus to ratify it. That being said, just because we have not ratified the UNCLOS, does not mean that we do not follow it.

Capt. Judijanto: The Malacca Strait not only is important to Indonesia, but also to Singapore and Malaysia since it passes through their borders. To get economic benefits from the Strait, Indonesia must improve its maritime and navigation control, and work with Singapore and Malaysia to ensure the Strait's security.