

Formulation of National Defense Education Strategy in Order to Strengthen a Strong National Defense

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Abstract

This study aims to evaluate the strategic role of the establishment of the Defense Office in the regions in coordinating and strengthening the implementation of national defense policies at the local level. The research methods used are official document analysis, case studies, and evaluation of data from various reliable sources. The results of the study indicate that although the establishment of the Defense Office in the regions faces administrative and logistical challenges, the existence of this office has strengthened coordination between the central and regional governments, and contributed significantly to the development of national resources and increasing awareness of national defense. The conclusion of this study confirms that the establishment of the Defense Office in the regions has a vital role in ensuring national security stability through the implementation of effective and efficient defense policies at the regional level.

Keywords: *Defense Office, Defense Policy, Central-Regional Coordination, Security Stability, National Resources.*

Introduction

The establishment of a Defense Office in the region as a Representative Office of the Ministry of Defense is part of the constitutional mandate and the Law to carry out Duties and Functions in the field of national defense by the government through the Ministry of Defense at the regional level ((Santoso, 2010). Law Number 39 of 2008 concerning the State Ministry and Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning State Defense provide the legal basis for the establishment of this office, but until now its implementation has not been fully realized. According to Swastanto (2016) in a meeting with journalists in Jakarta, this Law became the main reference for the Ministry of Defense in carrying out government functions in the national defense sector after the Reformation Era. Article 7 of Law Number 3 of 2002 emphasizes the importance of the government, both central and regional, to prepare and organize national defense comprehensively, including the management of National Resources (SDN), in addition it is also strengthened by Law Number 39 of 2008 market 8 that the Ministry of Defense carries out technical activities from the center to the regions.

The establishment of a Defense Office in the region is expected to assist the Regional Government in managing SDN such as human, natural and artificial as well as infrastructure, all of which are important for the interests of national defense.(Arief Martharaharja & Oktovianus Bura, 2021). This is in line with the provisions of the Regulation of the Minister of Defense concerning Certain Functional Positions in the field of State Security and Resilience, which includes supporting tasks such as increasing awareness of national defense, management of reserve components, and management of other supporting components. The establishment of the Defense Office in the regions is not only an effort to implement the law, but also a strategic step in strengthening coordination between the central and regional governments in building a strong national defense system that is responsive to the challenges of the times. In this context, research on the implementation and impact of the establishment of this office is relevant to understanding its effectiveness in supporting state security and sovereignty at the local level.(Swastanto, 2016).

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Before the reform era, the Implementation of the Duties and Functions of the Ministry of Defense in the regions was carried out through the Kodam. However, based on the provisions of the Indonesian National Army Law, the Kodam is not an institution that acts as an organizer of government functions, but rather as a national defense tool (Chen et al., 2020). In 2008, the Ministry of Defense conducted a study related to the formation of regional representatives, which resulted in the Minister of Defense Regulation Number 11 of 2011 which revoked the Duties and Functions of the Kodam. However, the process of establishing a Defense Office in the regions took a long time and has not been fully completed to date. As a temporary response, in 2012, the Ministry of Defense formed the Central Control Desk of the Defense Office which was purely an assignment, without having a permanent and binding structure. Regarding the budget, the Director General of Defense Strategy of the Ministry of Defense emphasized that the establishment of the Defense Office in the regions did not significantly increase the budget allocation. The budget for the Defense Office was taken from the transfer of the Tasks and Functions budget that had been revoked since 2011. This process only diverts the use of the budget, not increases it.

The establishment of the Defense Office in the regions is considered important because it can bridge the central government with the regions in the context of national defense. This office is expected to improve coordination and synchronization between national and local interests, accommodate defense needs as a whole, and foster national resource management. (Varga et al., 2020). In addition, the Defense Office in the region is also tasked with carrying out supervision, control, and fostering awareness of national defense. Until now, several Regional Governments have shown a positive response to the establishment of the Defense Office in their region, indicating support and recognition of the importance of the existence of this office in supporting national security and sovereignty at the local level. (Kurnia et al., 2022).

Table 1. Decentralized Defense Command Model of Each Country

No	Country	Command Structure	Area of Responsibility
1	United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unified Combatant Commands • NORTHCOM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographic and functional areas • North America & civil authority support in emergencies
2	Russia	Military Districts	Administrative and operational areas, supporting regional military forces
3	China	Theatre Commands	Five geographic areas for military readiness and strategic execution
4	Australia	HQ Joint Operations Command	Planning and execution of military operations in Australia and beyond
5	India	Regional Military Commands	Geographic commands like the Western Command for border defense

Source: processed data, 2024.

The United States has a decentralized defense structure through the establishment of Unified Combatant Commands, which are responsible for military operations in specific geographic areas and various functional commands, namely the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) which is responsible for the defense of the North American region, including support to civil authorities in cases of domestic emergencies. (David A. Shlapak, 2010). Russia also implemented a similar concept by establishing Military Districts, which are administrative and operational areas managed by the Russian Ministry of Defense. Each military district is responsible for maintaining and preparing for military operations in its designated area, as well as supporting the development of regional military forces. (Zwack, 2018). China, through the People's Liberation Army (PLA), has established five Theatre Commands replacing the previous system of seven Military Regions. Each Theatre Command is responsible for military operations in a specific geographic area, ensuring readiness and execution of military strategy in the region. (Cheung, 2009). Australia has a regional defence structure known as the Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQJOC), which is responsible for the planning and execution of military operations throughout Australia and beyond. HQJOC serves as the principal coordinating centre for all branches of the Australian armed

forces in support of national defence policy. (Peter J. Dean, Stephan Fruhling, 2014). India divides its military structure into several Commands responsible for different geographical areas. One example is the Western Command, which is responsible for the western region of India and plays a key role in defending the country's borders. (Pant, 2018).

Based on this background, this study aims to explore and evaluate the implementation of the establishment of the Defense Office in the regions as an effort to strengthen national defense coordinated between the central and regional governments. This objective includes an understanding of the effectiveness of the Defense Office in carrying out its role as a liaison that coordinates defense policies, as well as a unit that manages national resources for overall defense purposes.

Literature Review

In this study, the theory used as a basic framework includes several strategic approaches and theories as well as the concept of national resilience. This theoretical study will provide a strong academic foundation for understanding and analyzing the role and impact of the establishment of the Defense Office in the region. (Kanaya et al., 2020).

National Resilience Theory

National resilience is understood as the ability of a country to maintain its survival from various threats, both from within and outside the country. In this context, the Defense Office in the regions is expected to play a role in strengthening national resilience by ensuring the readiness and management of national resources. (Wulan, 2020). The theory of national resilience recognizes various dimensions, such as the dimensions of ideology, politics, economy, social, culture, and defense. The Defense Office in the regions is closely related to the dimensions of defense and security, especially in improving central-regional coordination to achieve security stability. (Lubis et al., 2024). National resilience can also be seen as a system, where all components (central government, regional government, community, and resources) interact to achieve national security. The Defense Office in the regions is part of this system, acting as an entity that ensures that each region has the same readiness to face threats.

Resource Based Defense Theory

This theory focuses on how resources (human, natural, and artificial) are managed and optimized to support national defense. The Defense Office in the region is tasked with coordinating the management of these resources at the local level, making it a key element in a comprehensive national defense strategy. (Ghouhani et al., 2023). The Defense Office in the region also manages reserve and support components, according to the defense needs of its region. This is in line with the theory that emphasizes the importance of reserve and support components in a country's defense system. (Mardamsyah et al., 2022).

Theory of Central-Regional Coordination in Public Policy

In this theory, multi-level coordination is considered essential for the implementation of national policies that require cross-level collaboration of government. The Defense Office in the regions performs this function, becoming a bridge between central policy and implementation in the field. (Devanny et al., 2021). Experience from several countries (US, Russia, China) shows how coordination between central and local governments in a decentralized defense structure can increase the effectiveness and efficiency of responses to local threats. This theory supports the importance of the Defense Office in the regions as a decentralized structure that adopts a local approach in national defense policy.

Theory of National Defense Awareness

National defense awareness is a theory that emphasizes the importance of community participation in defense, both as a civilian component and a supporting component. The Defense Office in the regions is expected to play an important role in educating and fostering national defense awareness in the

community.(Luthviati & Dian, 2020). This theory highlights the importance of educational strategies in strengthening the mental resilience and motivation of the community to participate in national defense. The Defense Office in the regions is responsible for implementing these programs at the local level, contributing to a strong and community-based national resilience.

Administration Theory and Public Policy Implementation

Public policy implementation theory discusses the stages and challenges in implementing policies initiated by the government. The Defense Office in the regions faces administrative and logistical challenges in implementing defense policies, and this theory helps analyze how these obstacles can be overcome.(Ashton et al., 2021). This theory also highlights the importance of support and response from local stakeholders in ensuring the success of the policy. In this context, the role of the Defense Office in the regions becomes important to mobilize local government and community support to strengthen national defense policies.

These theories provide a basis for analyzing the role of the Defense Office in the regions in the context of defense policy, cross-level coordination, resource management, and fostering national defense awareness. This study also helps in evaluating the effectiveness of this office in ensuring national defense readiness at the local level.

Research Methodology

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method designed to explore in depth the purpose of establishing the Defense Office in the region and evaluate its role in strengthening national defense. This method was developed to understand the context and comprehensive analysis through qualitative data from various reliable sources. With this approach, it is hoped that the study can clearly identify the role of the Defense Office, the challenges faced, and the contribution of the office in supporting national defense policies at the local level.(Sugiyono, 2021)..

This research approach involves qualitative descriptive and case studies. The qualitative descriptive approach was chosen to reveal information in depth, providing a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon of the establishment of the Defense Office in the region. The case study method was used to observe the implementation of the Defense Office in several specific regions. Through this case study, the research can explore the success factors, challenges that arise, and the response of the local government regarding the establishment of this office.(Moleong, 2018).

Data collection was conducted using literature study techniques and official document analysis. Literature study relies on relevant literature, such as laws, regulations, and academic articles, to gain an understanding of the legal basis and theories underlying defense policy. Document analysis includes a review of relevant policy documents, such as Law Number 3 of 2002 and Law Number 39 of 2008, to understand the legal basis and role of the Defense Office in the regions. Case studies in several regions were also involved to see firsthand how the implementation of this office is in the local context. And in-depth interviews with experts who are qualified in this field so as to obtain valid information (Rosmayati & Maulana, 2023).

In data analysis, this study uses data reduction to identify important information, data presentation in summary form, and data interpretation to draw conclusions about the effectiveness of the Defense Office in the region. To ensure validity and reliability, triangulation of data sources and cross-referencing from various literature and official documents are carried out. The steps of this study include identifying objectives, collecting secondary data, analyzing, and compiling a report containing findings, conclusions, and recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Defense Office in the region.(Maulana, 2023).

Results and Discussion

Research Result

The establishment of the Defense Office in the regions as representatives of the Ministry of Defense is a strategic step in aligning the function of national defense between the central and regional governments. This step is important to fulfill the constitutional mandate of Law Number 39 of 2008 concerning the Ministry of State and Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defense, which emphasizes the need for effective and efficient defense by the government at all levels. Both at the central level and in the regions (Zahorulko, 2020).

Since the enactment of the Law, the implementation of the Duties and Functions of the Ministry of Defense in the regions was previously carried out through the Regional Military Command, although this was not entirely in accordance with the role of the Regional Military Command as a defense tool and not as an organizer of government functions.(Widodo et al., 2022). In this context, the Regulation of the Minister of Defense Number 11 of 2011 became an important milestone by revoking the Duties and Functions of the Regional Military Command and starting the process of establishing a Defense Office in the region as a replacement.(Asadi & Corresponding, 2023).

This study found that although the establishment of the Defense Office in the regions took a long time and has not been fully completed, the initiative of the Defense Office Central Control Desk in 2012 has filled the temporary gap in government functions in the defense sector in several regions. However, the Defense Office Central Control Desk is only an assignment and does not yet have strong structural strength to carry out its functions comprehensively.(Sinaga, 2021). In terms of budget, the implementation of the Defense Office in the regions did not cause a significant increase in the budget allocation of the Ministry of Defense. On the contrary, the budget used came from the transfer of the Task and Function budget that had been revoked since 2011, indicating a more efficient use of resources in the context of organizing national defense. The establishment of the Defense Office in the regions also had a positive impact in improving coordination between the central and regional governments in terms of security and defense. This finding is consistent with the positive response given by several Regional Governments to the existence of the Defense Office in their regions. This support reflects the recognition of the importance of synergy between national and local interests in maintaining national sovereignty and security.(Swastanto, 2016). The establishment of Defense Offices in the regions is an appropriate strategy in optimizing the implementation of national defense functions at the local level, although it still requires further steps to strengthen its structure and capacity.

Implementation of the Establishment of Defense Offices in the Regions

The establishment of Defense Offices in the regions emerged as an initiative to strengthen the implementation of government functions in the defense sector in accordance with Law Number 39 of 2008 concerning Ministries and States Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning State Defense. This office was established as a representative of the Ministry of Defense, replacing the previous role carried out by the Regional Military Command. The establishment process began with the revocation of the Kodam Function Task Order through the Regulation of the Minister of Defense No. 11 of 2011, which then became the initial step to facilitate the existence of the Defense Office at the regional level (Mukhyiddin et al., 2023).

Although its implementation is still in an ongoing process, the Defense Office in the regions is expected to function as an effective bridge between the central and regional governments in terms of coordination and implementation of national defense policies.(Sururi, 2018). Its main role is to ensure that the country's defense policy can be implemented uniformly and efficiently throughout Indonesia.(Manurung et al., 2023). Thus, the existence of the Defense Office in the regions is crucial in optimizing cross-sector coordination and ensuring national defense readiness at the local level.

The structural approach of the Defense Office in the regions is not only about policy implementation, but also includes the management of national resources such as human, natural, and artificial to support the

interests of national defense in an integrated manner. In supervision and control, this Office is responsible for monitoring the security situation in its region and supervising the implementation of established defense policies. (Juliana, 2022). Thus, the presence of the Defense Office in the region is expected to strengthen state sovereignty and provide a quick response to security dynamics that may occur at the local level.

The Role of the Defense Office in the Regions

The role of the Regional Defense Office is very important in several crucial aspects including coordination, development of national resources, as well as security supervision and control. (Mardamsyah et al., 2022). First, in terms of coordination and synchronization, the Defense Office acts as a vital link between the central and regional governments in order to ensure that national defense policies can be implemented consistently and effectively throughout the region. This includes the alignment of defense strategies, resource allocation, and response to local security dynamics. Second, in fostering national resources, the Defense Office plays a role in optimally managing human, natural, and artificial resources in its region. This includes developing the capacity of human resources involved in defense, managing the natural environment for the sustainability of defense, and using technology and infrastructure that support defense operations at the local level. Third, in terms of supervision and control, the Defense Office is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the security situation in its region. (Swastanto, 2016). This involves monitoring potential security threats and disruptions, as well as controlling the implementation of established defense policies to ensure that all activities are carried out in accordance with applicable provisions.

The existence of the Defense Office in the Region not only strengthens the coordination and implementation of national defense policies at the local level, but also supports the development of national resources and effective security supervision. (Meideri & Anwar, 2021). Thus, the Regional Defense Office becomes an important element in building a strong national resilience and responsiveness to security challenges in this era of globalization.

Research Discussion

The Importance of Establishing Defense Offices in the Regions

The importance of establishing a Defense Office in the Region cannot be separated from several key factors that support the effectiveness and efficiency of government functions in the defense sector. (Sharma & Marchang, 2024). 1) in terms of consistency with the law, this stance is in line with the mandate Law Number 39 of 2008 concerning the State Ministry and Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defense. The law outlines that national defense must be implemented in a coordinated manner between the central and regional governments. The Defense Office in the regions ensures that government functions in the field of defense can be implemented properly, comply with established regulations, and are able to respond to the specific needs of each region appropriately. (Handoyo et al., 2018). 2) The important role of the Defense Office in the regions is seen in efforts to improve coordination between the center and regions. In a complex defense ecosystem, the integration of national and local interests is very important. The Defense Office in the regions functions as a bridge connecting national strategy with implementation in the field, ensuring that national defense policies can be implemented uniformly and effectively throughout the region. This not only increases national cohesion but also allows for policy adjustments according to local dynamics. (Order, 2021). 3) fostering national defense awareness is one of the crucial aspects handled by the Defense Office in the regions. Through various educational and training activities, this office plays an active role in increasing local community awareness and participation in defense issues. Strong national defense awareness at the local level not only strengthens national defense in terms of the number and readiness of personnel, but also builds a resilient security culture in the community. (Lu et al., 2023).

The establishment of a Defense Office in the region brings many strategic benefits (Swastanto, 2016). In addition to ensuring the implementation of government functions consistent with national regulations, this office also plays a central role in coordinating defense policies between the center and regions. (Bunga et al., 2019). By educating and training local communities, the Defense Office in the regions helps strengthen the

foundation of national defense which is essential to maintaining national sovereignty and security in this challenging era.

Local Government Response

Support and response from local governments are determining factors for the success of establishing a Defense Office in the region. So far, several local governments have shown a positive response to this initiative. (Widorekno et al., 2021). This response reflects the recognition of the importance of the Defense Office in supporting national defense at the local level. The local government sees this office as a strategic partner that can assist in managing defense and security issues, as well as in fostering national defense awareness among local communities.

With the support of the regional government, the process of establishing and operating the Defense Office in the region is expected to run more smoothly. Collaboration between the central and regional governments can also strengthen the national defense base, making it more adaptive and responsive to the dynamics of threats that continue to develop. (Arabiyah & Wagner, 2023). Ultimately, the success of this initiative will not only strengthen national defense, but also enhance stability and security throughout Indonesia.

The establishment of the Defense Office in the regions has a strategic role in coordinating and strengthening the implementation of national defense policies at the local level. The existence of this office is an important step to ensure that national defense policies can be implemented uniformly and effectively throughout Indonesia. (Wardana et al., 2022). The Defense Office in the regions is tasked with bridging the central and regional governments in terms of coordinating defense policies, ensuring that each region has the same understanding and readiness in facing potential threats.

However, the process of establishing a Defense Office in the regions is not without challenges. Administrative and logistical challenges are often the main obstacles. Complex bureaucratic procedures can slow down the establishment and operation of these offices. (Mr. Turi, 2022). In addition, the need for trained human resources and adequate infrastructure are also issues that must be addressed. In some cases, coordination between the various government agencies involved also requires significant time and effort to achieve alignment. (Risahdi et al., 2020). However, despite these challenges, the potential benefits offered by the Defense Office in the regions are enormous. The existence of this office can strengthen the country's defense readiness by improving coordination between the central and regional governments. In addition, this office can also play an important role in managing national resources for defense purposes, including human, natural, and artificial resources. (Zamani, 2013). With better management, these resources can be optimally utilized to strengthen national defense.

The positive response from several local governments to this initiative shows that the existence of a Defense Office in the regions is recognized as important to support national defense at the local level. (Shofhani et al., 2022). The local governments that support this initiative understand that the office can assist in managing defense and security issues, as well as in fostering national defense awareness among local communities. (Tippe, 2016). Strong collaboration between the central and regional governments through the Regional Defense Office is expected to create better synergy in facing increasingly complex security challenges.

The establishment of Defense Offices in the regions has the potential to make a significant contribution to strengthening the country's defense readiness. (Kurnia et al., 2023). With improved coordination and better resource management, the Regional Defense Offices can play a key role in ensuring that national defense policies can be implemented effectively and efficiently throughout Indonesia, thereby strengthening overall national stability and security. (Swastanto, 2016).

National Defense Strategy Model in Facing Strengthening a Strong Defense

Regional Defense Offices play an important role in the national defense strategy by effectively linking central-regional coordination and ensuring synchronization of defense policies that are responsive to local security dynamics.(Srivastava, 2023). Resource and budget efficiency is achieved through the use of optimized budget allocations from previous budget transfers, as well as maximum utilization of national resources. In fostering national defense awareness, the Defense Office conducts education and training programs for local communities, while supporting the management of defense reserve components. Regional security surveillance is carried out through continuous threat monitoring and readiness to respond to local threats. On the other hand, support from local governments and collaboration between institutions strengthen the ability to adapt policies, allowing the Defense Office to be more responsive to changes and evolving security challenges.

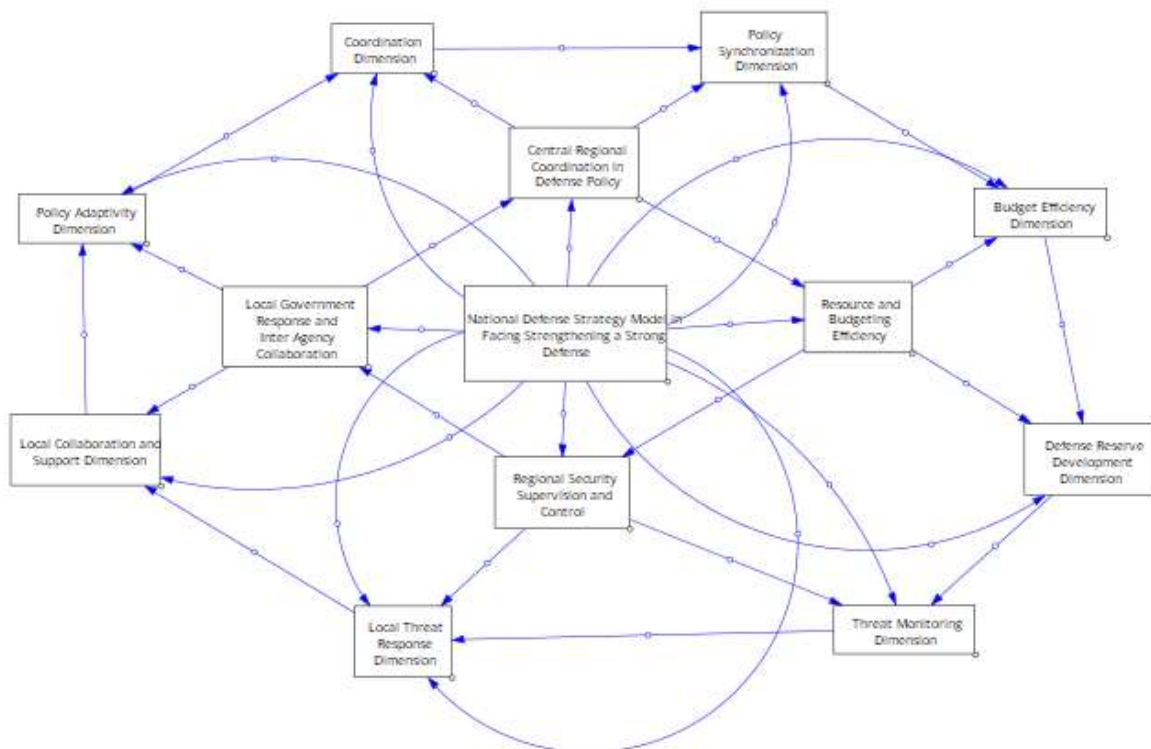


Figure 1. Dynamic System Model of National Defense Strategy

This national defense strategy model demonstrates a comprehensive approach to strengthening defense through coordinated key dimensions. At the center of this model is the primary objective of building a resilient national defense strategy.(Yusuf, M., & Herlambang, 2022). The main dimensions presented include Policy Coordination and Synchronization, which focuses on collaboration between the central and regional governments in harmonizing defense policies. The Resource and Budget Efficiency and Defense Reserve Development dimensions illustrate the importance of optimal and efficient resource utilization to support defense operations. In addition, the Regional Security Supervision and Control and Threat Monitoring dimensions demonstrate the need for continuous monitoring of potential threats in the regions, while Response to Local Threats and Policy Adaptivity illustrate regional readiness to respond to changing conditions and dynamic threats. Finally, Local Collaboration and Support reinforce the importance of support from local governments in implementing an integrated defense strategy. All of these dimensions are interdependently connected to build a strong, adaptive, and responsive defense system to security challenges.

Conclusion

The conclusion of this study shows that the establishment of the Defense Office in the regions has a strategic role in strengthening national defense policies through increased coordination between the central and regional governments and optimal management of National Resources (SDN), including human resources, natural resources, and infrastructure that are crucial to support national defense. Despite facing administrative and logistical challenges such as complex bureaucratic procedures, budget constraints, and inadequate infrastructure, the use of the budget from the previous transfer of functions shows the efficiency carried out to support this policy. In addition, the Defense Office in the regions has made a positive contribution in increasing awareness of national defense and the development of reserve components, and has been recognized by the regional government as an important step in educating local communities about their role in national security. Therefore, improvements are needed in simplifying bureaucracy, developing infrastructure, and budget support to ensure that the Defense Office in the regions can function more effectively in strengthening national stability and security.

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