

# Optimizing The Role of The Riau Regional Police Mobile Brigade Unit in Countering Radicalism Based on Law No. 5 of 2018 Concerning The Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism

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## Abstract.

*Radicalism is a serious threat to national security that develops through various channels, including social media and transnational ideological networks. Riau Province, as a strategic region, has experienced radical actions that threaten security stability, thus requiring optimization of the role of law enforcement officers, particularly the Mobile Brigade Unit of the Riau Regional Police. This study aims to analyze the role of Mobile Brigade in countering radicalism based on Law Number 5 of 2018 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism. The research method used is normative juridical with a legislative approach, conceptual, and qualitative analysis. The results show that the Mobile Brigade of the Riau Regional Police plays a role in the preventive, repressive, and deradicalization support aspects, but its implementation still faces obstacles such as limited personnel, technological facilities, and cross-agency coordination. Optimization can be done through increasing personnel capacity, utilizing information technology, mapping vulnerable areas, and strengthening cooperation with the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT), Densus 88, and local governments. With this strategy, the Riau Regional Police Mobile Brigade is expected to be able to carry out its anti-radicalism function more effectively and measurably in accordance with the mandate of Law No. 5 of 2018.*

**Keywords:** *Brimob; Radicalism; Terrorism and Riau Regional Police.*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Optimizing the role of the Riau Regional Police Mobile Brigade Unit in combating radicalism is very important with a legal basis based on Law No. 5 of 2018 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism. Brimob's primary task is to handle acts of radicalism and terrorism professionally and proportionally through partnership patrols in vulnerable areas and by controlling and enforcing the law against radical organizations that threaten public order and security. Riau Province, with its strategic geographic location and high socio-cultural diversity, is not immune to the potential for infiltration of radical ideologies that could threaten the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI). Radicalism, as the ideological root of terrorism, needs to be addressed comprehensively, not only through a reactive legal approach, but also through proactive preventive efforts. In this context, the Mobile Brigade Unit (BRIMOB) of the Riau Regional Police (POLDA), as part of the Indonesian National Police Mobile Brigade Corps (Brimob), which possesses tactical and territorial capabilities, plays a crucial role. Optimizing this role finds a strong legal basis in Law Number 5 of 2018 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism. The Mobile Brigade Corps of the Riau Regional Police as a tactical unit of the Indonesian National Police has a vital position in maintaining regional security stability, especially considering the characteristics of Riau as a strategic region that has international transportation routes, national vital objects, industrial areas, and heterogeneous society.

Brimob's capabilities in field operations, riot control, explosives disposal, and tactical intelligence support make it the vanguard in facing the threat of radicalism and terrorism in the region. However, the effectiveness of Brimob's role in combating radicalism cannot be separated from various obstacles, such as limited personnel resources, threat detection technology, and coordination with related institutions such as BNPT, Densus 88, local governments, and community groups. Therefore, an in-depth analysis is needed on

how to optimize the role of the Riau Regional Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) to effectively address the challenge of radicalism, as mandated by Law No. 5 of 2018. This article aims to comprehensively examine the role of the Riau Regional Police Mobile Brigade in combating radicalism and the optimization strategies that can be implemented. The discussion covers the legal framework, preventive and repressive roles, and support for deradicalization, including the obstacles encountered and recommendations for possible solutions.

This analysis is expected to provide a clear picture of an effective counter-radicalism model based on the technical capabilities and legality of the Mobile Brigade Corps (Brimob). Optimizing the role of the Riau Regional Police Mobile Brigade in combating radicalism prioritizes an integrated approach ranging from prevention, early detection, to direct action. Partnership patrols, intelligence gathering, and community collaboration are key strategies for creating an environment conducive to the influence of radicalism. A humanistic and professional approach to law enforcement against radical groups is also a key foundation for maintaining regional security. Law Number 5 of 2018 provides a strong legal basis for eradicating criminal acts of terrorism, including radicalism that can lead to terrorism. This law emphasizes the authority of Brimob, as part of the Indonesian National Police (Polri), to carry out preventive and repressive measures against terrorism through strategic, measured, and professional operations. With this law, Brimob has a legal basis to eradicate the threat of terrorism through various integrated and systematic methods.

## **II. METHODS**

This research uses a normative juridical method with a statutory, conceptual, and analytical approach. Data were obtained through literature studies, official documents, laws and regulations, and scientific studies related to the prevention of radicalism and terrorism. The analysis was conducted qualitatively by linking legal norms with the operational practices of the Mobile Brigade Unit. Meanwhile, the empirical legal method complements the research by collecting primary data through interviews, observations, and field studies on the implementation of Brimob duties in certain areas, so that operational patterns and obstacles faced in handling radicalism can be identified. Descriptive qualitative methods were also used to in-depth describe social phenomena related to radicalism and Brimob's response. In similar research, data analysis was conducted by coding and categorizing findings to identify key patterns and themes related to Brimob's strategy, effectiveness, and constraints in optimizing its role. Data validation was conducted through triangulation to ensure more accurate and accountable research results.

## **III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

An in-depth discussion on optimizing the role of the Riau Regional Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) in preventing radicalism requires an analysis of three main pillars: the legal basis (Law No. 5/2018), Brimob's institutional capabilities, and Riau's socio-cultural context. Riau Province, with its strategic geographic location and high socio-cultural diversity, is not immune to the potential for radical infiltration, which could threaten the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI). Radicalism, as the ideological root of terrorism, needs to be addressed comprehensively, not only through a reactive legal approach but also through proactive preventive efforts. In this context, the Mobile Brigade Unit (BRIMOB) of the Riau Regional Police (POLDA), as part of the Indonesian National Police Mobile Brigade Corps (Brimob) which has tactical and territorial capabilities, plays a crucial role. Optimizing this role finds a strong legal basis in Law No. 5 of 2018 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism. Law No. 5 of 2018 expands the definition and scope of eradicating terrorism, encompassing preparatory actions, the spread of ideology, and even funding. This law not only emphasizes enforcement (a hard approach), but also explicitly regulates prevention (a soft approach). Article 43B, for example, mentions the participation of the community and government agencies in prevention efforts. Brimob, with its characteristics as a "mobile force" that extends to remote areas, has the access and capability to carry out this preventive function on the front lines.

### **Strategy for Optimizing the Role of the Riau Police Mobile Brigade Corps**

1. **Strengthening Intelligence and Early Detection Capacity:**Brimob can optimize the position of Regional Brimob (Brimobda) and Mobile Brimob (Brimbling) as "eyes and ears" in the field. Specialized training in detecting signs of radicalism, understanding local dynamics, and building information networks with community leaders, youth, and educational institutions is essential. The intelligence data collected can serve as an early warning system to prevent recruitment and the spread of radical ideology.

2. **Precise and Law-Based Operations and Enforcement:**As a unit with special capabilities, Brimob must be ready to be assigned to operations against terrorist groups based on orders and coordination with the Anti-Terror Task Force (Densus 88). Mastery of all articles in Law No. 5/2018, especially regarding criminal acts related to the spread of ideology (Articles 12A, 12B) and preparation for terror (Articles 13-15), is absolutely necessary to ensure that every operational action has a strong legal basis and avoids targeting the wrong targets.

3. **Role in Deradicalization and Prevention:**This role is often underutilized. Brimob can be actively involved in:

- **Counter-Radicalism Program in Society:**Conducting regular socialization of Law No. 5/2018, Pancasila values, and national insight, especially in vulnerable areas and vulnerable age groups.
- **Synergy with local governments and mass organizations:**Collaborating with the Regional Government, FKUB, the Ulema Council, youth groups, and religious organizations to create a strong national narrative and alternative development programs for the younger generation.
- **Assistance for Former Terrorism Convicts (MNPT):**Support MNPT's social reintegration program by ensuring a safe reception environment and preventing the possibility of returning to old networks.

4. **Digital Technology Mastery:**Radicalism is now widely spread through social media and digital platforms. The Riau Regional Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) needs to strengthen its cyber patrol capabilities to monitor and promptly report radical content, in accordance with the ITE Law and the Terrorism Law.

5. **Increasing Synergy with Stakeholders:**Optimization is impossible without solid synergy. Brimob must strengthen coordination with: (a) Densus 88 AT Polri as the leading sector; (b) Regional Intelligence (BINDA); (c) Law Enforcement Officials (Prosecutors' Office, Courts); (d) Regional Governments and related agencies (Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs); and (e) Civil Society (NGOs, academics, religious leaders).

#### **Challenges and Recommendations**

The challenges faced include budget limitations, the complexity of coordination, and the risk of public stigmatization of Brimob's role if it is only seen as an enforcement force. Therefore, it is necessary:

- Ongoing training that integrates tactical skills with social science, psychology, and community communication.
- Special budget allocation for community-based prevention programs.
- A public campaign that highlights the image of Brimob as "protectors of the people" in preventing terrorism, not just as enforcers.
- Building strong local partnerships with highly influential traditional and religious figures in Riau.

### **Strategy for Optimizing the Role of the Riau Police Mobile Brigade Corps**

To optimize the role of Brimob in combating radicalism, several strategies can be implemented:

#### **a. Increasing Personnel Capacity**

- Counter-radicalization training and handling of terrorist networks.
- Strengthening field intelligence capabilities.
- Modern explosives disposal training and urban combat operations.

#### **b. Strengthening Inter-Agency Coordination**

- Intensive collaboration with BNPT, Densus 88, and the National Police cyber unit.
- Radical network database integration to simplify threat detection.
- Cooperation with local governments for community outreach.

**c. Optimization of Technology and Information**

- Using social media analytics tools for early detection of radical propaganda.
- Strengthening the digital traffic monitoring system in the Riau region.

**d. Strengthening the Preventive-Humanist Role**

- Security education for pupils, students and local communities.
- Building a “Community Friend Brimob” model to increase public trust.

**e. Mapping of Areas Prone to Radicalization**

- Identify pockets of radicalism and vulnerable groups.
- Placement of Brimob personnel at strategic points in the region.

Terrorism Case in Riau Province Four terrorists attacked the Riau Regional Police Headquarters on May 16, 2018, using an Avanza car to ram the gate, followed by a katana attack, which killed one police officer and injured two others. The perpetrators, including Mursalim alias Ical, were suspected of being linked to ISIS after pledging allegiance to Abu Bakar al-Baghdadi. All four were shot dead by police during the incident. Densus 88 arrested five suspected terrorists in August 2020 in Kampar, Riau, part of the JAD network, after previously arresting three others in Pekanbaru and Kampar. In 2018, three alumni of the University of Riau were arrested with homemade bombs for the planned explosions at the Riau Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) and the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI). The arrests of four other suspects were also recorded in the Riau Regional Police area. In June 2025, 34 former terrorists and radicals in Riau pledged allegiance to ISIS in the presence of Riau Regional Police Chief Inspector General Herry Heryawan and other officials, affirming their commitment to the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI). The Riau Police actively disbanded banned organizations such as JI in 2014, reintegrating 142 former members.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

Optimizing the role of the Riau Regional Police Mobile Brigade Unit in combating radicalism, as stipulated in Law No. 5 of 2018, requires synergy between preventive, repressive, and deradicalization aspects. While Brimob possesses crucial tactical capabilities for enforcement, its preventive role, such as regional patrols, public education, and early detection, also needs to be strengthened. Obstacles such as limited personnel, technology, and cross-agency coordination must be addressed through capacity-building strategies, multi-agency collaboration, and the use of information technology. With this optimization, the Riau Regional Police Mobile Brigade Unit can become more effective in securing the region from the threat of radicalism and terrorism.

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