Total Defence in National Defence Policy: Case Study of Territorial Army Analysis of Problems and the Effects on MAF Readiness

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Abstract: The development of Territorial Army (TA) since 1900 has raised question on the TA’s ability to help the permanent teams (MAF and MA) in defending the nation’s safety. TA is one of the security team sources of energy under the Total Defence concept introduced in 1986. However, with numerous issues faced, TA’s ability is questioned about the problems this organization are facing. The objectives of this writing are to see the problems faced by TA and the effects on MAF and MA’s abilities and readiness in defending the nation’s safety. Besides that, this writing also does an overall analysis on the problems faced by TA and the effects on MAF and MA’s abilities. This writing uses primary and official resources and strengthened with secondary information resources.

Keywords: Territorial Army; Malaysian Army; Military Reserve Force; National Defence Policy

1. Introduction

Territorial Army (TA) is the Military Reserve Force of Malaysian Army (MRFMA), one of the government’s efforts in implementing Total Defence. The developments of MA, TA and MRFMA can be divided into two eras namely the Cold War (1957-1991) and after 1991 (Shaharuddin Othman, 2002). TA is MAF’s reserve unit which is a defence agency joined by the community voluntarily to assist the permanent members. With the involvement of public community in TA, it is an approach in accordance with HANRUH concept implemented in NDP. This is because HANRUH defence concept has outlined all of the nation’s defence resources whether it is military or non-military while the involvement of all government sectors (military) and private sectors in the defence. However, until now the community still do not understand HANRUH concept and not interested to participate in Malaysian Army reserve unit.

“The readiness of security agencies such as the military, police and others might not be a problem because they (MAF) are always ready. The concern is the community is still uncertain about the concept of security readiness. The people have never been exposed to NDP or many of them do not know about its existence. To ensure every people understand it, NDP needs to be made as White Paper “. (Abd Rahman Mahmood, 2001)

Significantly, TA is not seen as the Military Basic Course that capable in producing a generation of Malaysians who are prepared to face any unexpected event for example experienced by Bosnia-Herzegovina¹. This situation is clearly will make it hard for the government to strengthen Total Defence (HANRUH) concept that has been implemented². There are many positive views that give insights of the success of TA. However, there are also opinions that see the implementation of TA is problematic and disputable by the community. The implementation of HANRUH is not understandable by the community and the community awareness in participating in TA is low¹. Besides that, various issue such as low wages, the problem of training place, budget and others are related to TA. Hence, this has raises questions about the effectiveness of TA and the problems faced by MAF in managing TA. This study will examine the factors and problems in TA and the impact towards HANRUH principle that are practiced by the government to ensure the nation’s security is protected.

2. Weak Defence Policy

The weak development of TA is influenced by the posture factor of Malaysia’s Defence Policy which are not strong and comprehensive. This is because between 1957-2019 Malaysia did not have constancy and documented resolution which is DFC, although the effort of developing Defence White Paper (DWP) has started since 1962-1986 but it failed, although it was presented to the cabinet in 1986. In NDP, a few strategies had been outlined by the government and MAF to ensure the nation’s security and sovereignty are guaranteed. Among them are Deterrence (Cegah Rintang) (Mohd Najib Tun Razak, 1995), the concept of Forward Defence (konsep Pertahanan Hadapan) and the concept of Total Defence (Pertahanan Menyeluruh-HANRUH) (Azman Abdul
Razak, 2009) The suggestion of WPD that was presented in 1986 failed to be implemented as White Paper but it was accepted as the reference known as National Defence: Towards Independence Defence that became the reference to NDP and was the only defence document published for the public as the reference and guideline to the government, MAF, MA, and TA. Malaysia’s NDP can be seen in two methods, through the production of the nation’s official DWP document and through the government’s stand stated by any government’s senior officers related to the defence.

“The defence policy of a nation can be viewed in two ways. First, by taking a look at the published official documents which articulate policy framework and priorities and the necessary resources garnered in order to fulfill national security objectives. Second, is by making an observation on the ad hoc policies and implementations responses of a nation in crisis scenarios, especially in meeting contingencies. Many nations in recent years have published their defence policy documents periodically, in the form of a Defence White Paper, in trying to fulfill the global trend for transparency and accountability...Malaysia has yet to publish its defence policy documents in what that a few countries have been periodically doing in the region, following this global trend” (K.S Balakrishnan, 2009).

This means that Malaysia’s NDP is not constant and changes and NDP depends on the current government principle and foreign policy. NDP that was published in late 1990s has been used until 2010. It showed that while NDP was published in 1986, it only considered the traditional security threats because Malaysia encountered security threats during the Cold War (1945-1991) (Joel Krieger et.al,1993). NDP has been used until 2010 where the traditional threats have been changed after the Cold War ended and also faced non-traditional threats. With no constancy in NDP it means that MAF development and modernisation were based on government’s current perspectives towards the defence and security. It is not a fixed and structured development and modernization when the countries in the region already outlined the constancy and earnestness in developing the security and defence aspects. Other than that, DWP 2019 also has the nation’s basic principle which is independent but this is not the priority in DWP presented. Even from the view of constancy, the development of MAF is also not comprehensive. This situation weakens MAF, MA and TA development which finally impacted the total defence concept and deterrence becomes weaker because of the incomprehensive form of defence policy.

3. Failure of The Self Reliance Defence Principle

According to (Jaafar Kasim,2002) there are weakness in NDP and touches a few weaknesses in NDP principle. The practice of self-reliance defence principle in NDP has questionable weaknesses. This self-reliance defence principle emphasizes that the nation and MAF need to be independent in defence aspect not only in the aspect of military logistic but also in the aspect of defence industry and set the defence responsibility to the non-military groups. Malaysia’s concept of self-reliance involves two situations namely a) has the ability to act with self-reliance and not depending to foreign help in dealing matters related to security in the country, b) able to act with self-reliance in protecting the territory and sovereignty in the nearest border which involve low and moderate threats. However, the implementations of self-reliance defence principle and the ability of total defence are still questionable.

“This is Malaysian concept of self-reliance. No doubt it is a good concept, but its implementation is only make known to the armed forces whereas the other agencies involved are not knowing it or ignorance of its existence. Self-reliance should be a national commitment, which weaves through various facets of political, social and economic activities towards the principal objectives of preserving national security. Presently, most of the defence related agency are going for the economic gains rather than developing the defence need of the nation”.(Mohamad Sabu,2019)

The objective to achieve Self-Reliance Defence Principle needs the government’s earnestness, Ministry, MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRFMA to develop the NDP, defence logistics resource and the army overall comprehensively. This indirectly needs high ability and capability in the aspect of defence and needs the development of strength in defence specifically in the aspect of strong defence policy, logistics, RMA and defence industry. In ensuring self-reliance defence principle is achievable, ATM’s strength has been an important aspect so it can operate effectively in protecting the nation’s security and sovereignty. Hence, the government, MAF, MA and TA must be determined in emphasizing the development and possession of higher quality defence logistics asset to face foreign threats.
4. The Failure Implementation of HANRUH Concept

With the rise of various threats towards the nation’s security, TA team expands (Norazila Mohamad Rozailli, Mohd Rizal Ghazali, & etc., 2015). Under the Self-Reliance Defence Principle in Malaysia expands by creating defence industry since 1970s. In ensuring nation’s internal stability, the government took steps to implement the Security and Development (KESBAN) in 1970 with the aim to create security and development and eliminate communist movement. Thus, PKM (1948-1989) insurgency factor influenced MAF, MA, TA and MRFMA development and planning in various MFA’s aspects such strategy, policy, doctrine and structure. (Zulhilmi Paidi, 2003).

“The government should have an overall plan. A plan that not only covers the security and military movement, but also covers politics, socioeconomic, administration, police and other things that are related to insurgency war.” (Nasibah Harun, 1997)

Since the independence, the effort to instill KESBAN strategy has been done by National Operations Council (MAGERAN) and expanded as HANRUH was Malaysia’s comprehensive defence concept by involving MAF, government agencies and the community. This defence concept is a concept that pool the responsibilities of the military and non-military involving the community to partake the nation’s security defence. This concept stipulates the use of all nation’s assets and resources to increase a nation’s ability to face various forms of domestic and foreign border threats, expands and known as Total Defence introduced since May 1986. Among the criteria in HANRUH defence concept are activation of security teams and reserve public defence (call-up and voluntary) in each related organization. (Salim Ahmad Miandad, 2002)

“Taking cognisance of Malaysia’s strategic interests and the fundamentals of its defence policy, the MAF drew up a comprehensive strategy to achieve the aspirations envisaged by the nation in terms of defence. Hence, in this respect the concepts of forward defence, deterrence and total defence have been adopted as the defence strategy... The concept of total defence would further enhance and complement self-reliance” (Mohd Zackry Mokhtar, 2006)

In accordance with Singapore’s defence development that developed Total Defence strategy through the implementation of National Service since 1960s, Malaysian government also introduced Total Defence strategy through Total Defence concept (HANRUH) in 1986. (Zulkifli Haji Zainal Abidin, 2012) that responsible in nation’s security and defence involving all parties, the government and private sectors including MAF, enforcement, and the community together towards the nation’s security (Bakar Jalal, 2016). Minister of Defence, Y.B. Datuk Syed Hamid Albar (2 November 1998) stated:

“The Malaysian reserve team upholder committee is recommended to act as an important forum to create and preserve relationships between all government agencies with Ministry of Defence to achieve Total Force Concept) through the affiliate of permanent force and reserve force in realising HANRUH (Total Defence) concept that has become the National Defence Policy.”

In 24 October 2002, Malaysian government started to develop Malaysia’s Total Defence strategy by introducing National Service for the first time in the patriot conference. The National Service program is a defence strategy under Total Defence implemented in most of the countries like Singapore, also known as National Service. The suggestion of implementing national service in Cabinet Committee Meeting on National Service was formed in the Cabinet Meeting in 30 October 2002.

![Figure 1. HANRUH Defence Concept](image)

The figure shows HANRUH Defence concept implemented in NDP. HANRUH’s objective is to pool all the nation’s assets and strength from the economy, social, politics, psychology and public defence besides military defence system to strengthen nation’s defence system. (Azman Abdul Razak, 2009). The involvements of community, agencies and MAF are the expanded model in 1980s era also known as HANRUH that combines overall defence resources, MAF, government and private sectors and the community. In HANRUH defence concept, expanded defence aspect involving military defence, economic defence, social defence, public defence and psychology (Nasibah Harun,1997). MAF and MA defence are the first line of nation’s defence whereby MAF will play the role as the main security body assisted by other security members such as the police reserve unit. While the second line consists of voluntary members and paramilitary and the third line are the community, private sectors and other government sectors in defending the nation using equipment, techniques, logistics and psychology provided by the government.

“HANRUH is the Malaysian version of Total Defence concept introduced by National Security Council on May 1986 to outline concrete and total defence strategy... HANRUH emphasizes efficient use of human resource, economic stability, integrated actions from all government agencies and creating good regional and international cooperation as the strategy to preserve nation’s integrity and sovereignty all the time.”

MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRFMA developments by the government are seen as successful and strong. However, despite the positive views towards NDP and MAF developments, there are critics and reports that challenge the abilities, implementations and developments of self-reliance defence principles. This is because K. S. Balakrishnan (2009) stated that Total Defence concept (HANRUH) under the self-reliance defence principle was a vague defence concept. This problem was related to the nation’s financial constraint and limited of budget expenses that gave impact to the implementation of HANRUH defence concept. The community do not even know the roles, responsibilities and commitments in HANRUH. (K.S Balakrishnan, 2009) defence concept implemented by the government. According to Perlis Raja Muda, Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail said on 21 May 2019:

“The establishment, uplift and development of the Territorial Army as the second line of Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) is necessary to actuate the public interest support machines that function while the nation is in critical condition. The role of voluntary reserve unit of Territorial Army is the best deterrence element with established and trusted organization structure”. (Roshila Murni Rosli, 2019).

However, the implementation of public-military cooperation since 1970 and the implementation of HANRUH since 1986 showed failure. The failure of HANRUH can be seen based on the invasion in Lahad Datu on February 2013. Security threat dimension showed HANRUH weakness when the government failed to form public-military cooperation in security which brought to the ability of the enemy to invade and foothold in Lahad Datu Sabah and launched an attack. The weakness of defence system and nation’s security can be seen especially in human resource and the cooperation between MA and the public that failed to build close cooperation in defending the nation.

“The Lahad Datu incident on February 2013 surely gave a huge impact in the aspect of nation’s security”.(Khilir Hj Mohd Nor,2014)

The invasion of Lahad Datu showed the failure of relationship and cooperation between the public and to form cooperation in building total security network in Sabah. The invasion in Lahad Datu in 2013 showed that the nation’s strategy and security system and defence were weak. This invasion influenced the government to improve the defence and security in Sabah. It is not too late to make a change to the policy, system and defence cooperation with the public community in total (HANRUH) since this defence strategy existed since 1970s under KESBAN.

“While Malaysia has been a peaceful country, the nation was suddenly shocked by the attack of a group consisting of 200 terrorists who called themselves as The Royal Sulu Sultanate Army. This incident took lives of 10 nation’s security members. However, the commitment based on sworn blood of knights of the security teams especially the Malaysia Army has successfully eliminated the element and a few improvements from the operational aspect were made.”

The Lahad Datu invasion incident can be made as a signal dan warning about the current status of the policy, system and cooperation between MA and the community is weak in all areas bordering foreign countries. The method to produce security and defence cooperation is through HANRUH concept that creates cooperation among the authorities and public community together to help the nation’s defence. The forming of TA and
MRMFA is the best method that can become the platform for the public community together in defending the nation.

5. The Failure in Human Resources Development

The aspect of human resources was stated by the Chief of Army where it can be expanded through TA and MRMFA as the path for the public to participate in the defence team as permanent and voluntarily. The government should re-evaluate the efforts done in attracting the public community to participate TA or MRMFA especially from the aspects of salary or allowance, skills, attitudes and tolerance. As stated by the Chief of Army, the failure to increase public community participation in the nation’s security will make the nation’s defence weakened and can be exploited by the invaders as what happened in 2013 whereby the terrorists’ attack able to past the nation’s defence system and security in Sabah.

“In the same context, MA will continue its responsibilities to defend all borderland and nation’s border from any threats or outside invasion. This responsibility will always be implemented with full commitment, determination and professional. This is the result of high readiness based on effective trainings, advanced equipment and weaponry and high quality of human resources.” (Zaki Salleh, 2020)

With the armed invasion in 2013, it showed that the level of authorities’ and MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA readiness were weak. This also showed that the failure of the intelligence system and the authorities’ cooperation with the public were weak although MAF stated the nation’s Total Defence strategy (HANRUH) was at effective level. The weaknesses in obtaining information and cooperation could be seen with the government’s failure to attract the public interest to participate in TA and MRMFA which lead to foreign invasion of the nation’s security. (Zaki Salleh, 2020)

Yaakob Hashim and Azhar Omar (2004) explained a few issues or weaknesses in TA today. Among the weaknesses are the implementation of progressive and repeated trainings to the same trainees made them bored and uninterested between the volunteers. This means, the trainings in the team were not innovative and not interesting whereby making the TA’s general objectives not achievable. Other than that, the coaches’ level and quality of knowledge that did not show positive attitude and dedication produce trainees with no quality of training impacts. (Yaakob Hashim & Azhar Omar, 2004). (Zulkiflee Mohd Shukor, 2005) explained:

“For example, a team with the strength of 3,000 members but can only assemble 500 members during annual camp or trainings that need full attendance according to the strength of the Team. Looking at this phenomenon, the ability of TA to assist in defending the nation when needed is questionable. The participation problem of Reserved Unit Training Officers (ROTU) after their accreditation are also saddening. Until 2004, TA has 2,500 accredited ROTU officers and placed in 500 TA Series Team. The question is from the total number of accredited, only 300 of them reported to join the trainings and this is such a loss because their energy and skills are needed by the team.”

6. Government’s Political Will in Developing MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA’s Logistics

The problem faced on logistics development of MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA is of the government’s political will in developing and modernise the logistics assets of MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA. (Zulkifli Zainal Abidin,2018)Malaysian citizens are pictured of the government’s commitment to provide high ability of logistics equipment, the assets credibility that able to handle enemy’s threats and protect the nation’s security and then succeed in creating the effectiveness of total defence, deterrence through the purchase of strategic equipment. The purchases of equipment announced are to ensure it can provide logistics support and complement between the administration branch in executing the operation and able to create phobia or psychological effect to the enemy so they will not take the military approach towards Malaysia. Minister of Defence Dato’ Seri Mohd. Najib Tun Razak on 16 July 2004:

“The purchase of equipment is government’s effort to add MAF capability so it will become more capable and feared of.”(Najib Razak, 2004)

Government’s political will in developing the weaponry logistics of MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA can be seen through defence policy legislation that has many weaknesses. With weak policy it influenced the development process and MAF modernisation that neglected RMA and causing Malaysia’s total defence concept and deterrence became weak. The problem faced by MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA
in logistics aspect such as relating the acquisition process of modern equipment were interrupted with the interference of the politicians. Other than that, PAT official statement that stated MAF is facing assets problems and defence resources showed the problems faced by MAF, Am, Territorial Army and MRMFA. MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA logistics aspect also related to the problem of defence field that is seen as non-profitable and wasteful. There is even a report that relates MAF logistic equipment purchase are of no quality. Besides that, RMA aspect is also touched which is the structure of MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA and the use of defence equipment that follows the current use is a revolution of modernisation of military forces so that they are more focus and clear about the organization, objectives and tasks. According to Chief of Defence Forces General (R) Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Zahidi Zainuddin:

“Advance military equipment will give any meaning if the people who handle them cannot wholeheartedly appreciate the basic concept of the advance equipment”. (Zulkhairi Zainuddin, 2005b)

The weaknesses of MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA also relate to the lack of monetary funding to MA. The important aspect in increasing the ability is monetary funding and logistics to enable the purchase of logistics equipment whether from the aspects of weaponry, service, infrastructure and human capital. (Abdul Latiff Ahmad, 2009). It will directly enable Ministry of Defence to make efficient logistics equipment purchase for the military and increase MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA abilities. According to Minister of Defence, Datuk Seri Mohd. Najib Tun Razak on 6 December 2000 stated that, in the effort to increase the nation’s defence level:

“That is why, if the military are not given enough ships as required by the radar and all logistics supports, how can we control a long beach. If we are given enough equipment and if anything happens, the people can always blame the ministry but now people are blaming the ministry when the ministry does not have enough equipment and ships”. (Jamhariah Jaafar, 2000)

Monetary funding and logistics aspects are vital for any country that works hard to develop the military ability. If the government does not provide proper budget and logistics it will be hard for a country to develop the military defence ability. With the “ability needs” list as in DWP by the government in 2019 it shows the government weakness in developing MAF. Monetary funding and logistics aspects are the needs that enable a government to provide ability and strength to the weaponry teams whether it is conventional or high quality of weaponry teams. (Bary Buzan, 2001). The fact that is stated in DWP about the importance of ability and logistics development to develop MAF ability. This shows DWP development 2019 is weak that will influence MAF development that will finally lead to weak Malaysia’s deterrence:

“Mobility and shooting power are important to manoeuvre and fight in the modern wars, MAF needs to replace outdated Armoured Vehicle, AV with the new ones with better security, increase the shooting power, higher endurance and amphibian ability. Future Teams also need Tactical Transport Helicopter for fast blocking and fighter boats for rivers and beaches operations.”

7. Government Negligence Towards MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA Weaponry Logistics Problems

Besides that, the maintenance of MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA old logistics that were bought since 1960s and 1970s and maintained in MAF inventory until 2019 suggests that MAF is a failure. The problems of maintaining 1960s and 1970s logistics involves all branches of services. This also involves MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA. (P. Dibb, 1997). This situation shows that MAF logistics is far behind the technology that causes the nation’s deterrence to be weak and unable to defend the nation’s security and defence. (Barry Buzan, 1987).
Figure 2. News Straits Times’ Clipping on 11 July 1963.

This newspaper clipping also reported about MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA’s logistics asset, Cannon 105MM PH L 5 which started its service since 1962 and still in the service in 2019.

Figure 3. Allouette Helicopter Operation With 2nd Artillery Regiment at Titi Akar in 1972.


Newspaper clipping of MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA’s Artillery also reported on the logistics asset of Allouette Helicopter was still maintained in MAF inventory in 2019 which started to serve in 1970s. According to Pemodenan ATM Seiring Pertahanan Era Moden report, the use of this helicopter was questioned in 2002 but until now, it is still maintained in the service in 2019.

“In addition, MAF’s infantry’s facilities and equipment were old and need to be replaced, for example Allouette helicopter used by Malaysia Army was more than 30 years” (Abd Ghani Yunus, 1995)

The 1970s Helicopter Base in MA’s, Territorial Army and MRMFA inventory was also stated by the Chief of Army General Datuk Seri Aziz Zainal in an interview session on 1 Mac 2005 during the 72nd birthday of MA. According to MA Chief of Army, General Datuk Seri Aziz Zainal”
“Azmi Md. Deros: Does MA has a plan to own a fighter helicopter? AZIZ: We already bought LOH helicopter to replace Alloutte. The next step is MA must be equipped with utility helicopter to transport the members and equipment. Then only we can buy weapon helicopter, probably it can be considered in 11th Malaysia Plan (RMK-11).”” (Jamhariah Jaafar, 2000)

Figure 4. Nuri Helicopter Operation With 3rd Artillery Regiment in 1977.

The fact is the government, Ministry of Defence and MAF know about the need to make changes in MAF logistics assets so it can ensure effectiveness and defends the nation. Minister of Defence, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on 6 December 2000 stated:

“However, when we talk about the nation’s defence system, the equipment that Malaysia owns has always been a joke and the question is always about MAF’s ability in facing any internal or external threats. Restructuring of MAF is needed since the current change and the passion of the neighbouring countries in improving and increasing their quality of weaponry teams, including buying various advance equipment”. (Jamhariah Jaafar, 2000)

According to Jamhariah Jaafar (2000) in ATM Perlukan Kelengkapan Canggih explained that Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF), MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA modernization was accelerated since late 1980s with the main objective was to increase MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA abilities to face any conventional threats. Minister of Defence, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on 6 December 2000 stated:

“MAF now is in need of bigger budget in the effort to modernize the defence system because the development of military ability takes time while the threats towards the nation can exists in a short time. Just look at what happened around the region recently. Various conflicts, although are not big, but they show that we need to take the equipment we currently owned seriously.” (Najib Razak, 2010)

Although the Ministry of Defence, MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA aware that the logistics problem faced and the need to increase the nation’s defence logistics assets, but until now the government did not show any effort and passion to ensure MAF has the logistics assets that fulfill the criteria to enable the effectiveness of nation’s deterrence system. (Bary Buzan, 1987). The government on the other hand only provide small and limited budget that enable MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA continue to use the existing assets and increase the old assets than making new purchases. The problem of government’s half-heartedness in developing the logistics assets can be seen in the effort of developing RMA’s logistics assets which is clearly behind the current technology, old and the ability to fight are questionable. Chief of Air Force, General Tan Sri Affendi Buang on 1 March 2019 was absolutely aware about the risk faced by MAF and stated:

“The needs to add the aircrafts are there because of the advance technology but for now the financial situation does not us to buy new assets”. (Nur Izzati Mohamad, 2019)
The Maintenance of Problematic and Old Assets in MA Inventory

Table 6. Malaysian Army Data For 2010 And 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment By Type</th>
<th>ANGKATAN DARAT</th>
<th>TENTERA DARAT MALAYSIA 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Battle Tank (MBT)</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>PT-91M Twardy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Tank (L.T TK)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Scorpion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconnaissance (RECECE)</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>140 AM-L, 40; AM-L, 90; 92 Ferret (80 mod); 82 SIBMAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armour: Infantry Fighting Vehicle</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>31 AVCI100 Ashok (Backward); 13 AVCI100 Ashok AGL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC)</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>APC (T) 133; 120 AVCI100 Ashok, 77 varians; 75 FV433; Stormer; 98 K-200A; 13 variants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Tank Missile (ATM)</td>
<td></td>
<td>APC (W) 302; 452 Condor (incl variants); 50 LAV-150 Commendals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery</td>
<td>456</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towed</td>
<td>164</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Rocket Launcher (MRL)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>105mm 130 Model 56 pack howitzer; 155mm 34; 12 FH-70; 22 G-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortar</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>81mm SP 14: 4 K281A1; 10 AVCI-300; 120mm; 8 AVCI-5; 81mm 232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Tank: Manportan Anti-Tank (MANPAT)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Propelled</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramped Craft Logistic (RCL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rocket Launchers (RLM)</td>
<td>154</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphibious + Landing Craft Assault</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helicopters + Utility</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Defense B.A.M.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss. Portable Air-Defense (MANPAD)</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guns • Towed</td>
<td>60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**The Maintenance of Problematic and Old Assets in MA Inventory**

The government’s half-hearted effort in developing MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA logistics can be seen in all branches of services. Based on MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA development data prepared by the international agency that reported logistics assets development of every country can be used in analysing the government effort in developing MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA logistics. SIBMAS and CONDOR are maintained in MA’s inventory and as Malaysia’s war assets. Both of the models are outdated armoured cars bought in late 1980s. These armoured cars are recorded to be involved in accident cases involving various technical cases. Starbust Guided Missile was bought in late 1980s has been maintained until 2019 (please refer to RMA 2019). SIBMASlogistics assets are clearly old to be operated when there were 82 units in 2010 and decreased to 74 in 2019, ADNAN owned by MA in 2003 also reported to be involved in accidents and technical problems. (Ifwan Tun Tuah, 2018). Meanwhile for 2019 data, Nuri helicopters (S-61A-4) known for their age of more than 50 years old and involved in many accidents and technical problems were put under
Malaysian Army Air Force Team. (N.S Shah, 2008). It clearly shows that the government, MINDEF and MAF are half-heartedly in developing MA’s logistics assets, when they are aware about the logistics problems faced. (Zulkifeli Mohd Zin, 2019). Mohamad Sabu, Minister of Defence on 9 August 2018:

“Malaysia’s current land, sea and air assets branches are at the lowest position among the countries in South East Asia. That was far different in 1970s when Malaysia was at the highest position. From the aspects of marine, air force and others among the South East Asian countries, our nation is at the lowest position now.”

Halim Samad, (2010)

8. Outdated MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA’s Equipment and Are Still in Use

In the efforts to strengthen MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA the government made a purchase of 26 units of Scorpion, a light tank from the UK in 1978. Scorpion was Malaysia’s first armed tank model F101 Scorpion Light Tank produced by Alvis Company (BAE Systems) since 1973. This light tank is 42 years old (1978-2020), but according to The Military Balance data, this light tank is still maintained in MAF inventory although using 42 years old technology. According to 2010 data, the total of Scorpion tank are 26 units and in 2007 to 2011 MA took an approach of extending the age usage of this light tank in Service Life Extension Programme (SLEP). (Siti Nur Mas Erah Amran, 2018). In 2018, the government suggested to end Scorpion Tank service because of age factor and spare parts. However, in 2019 the Light Tank was still in the inventory. It also showed that the government did not fully apply RMA. According to Ahdar Gasar (1997) the light tank faced breakaway and spare parts problems because the age of MA logistics equipment is too old:

“Scorpion Tank is very effective and suitable for operation in our environment because of its mobility and effective firepower. These tanks were introduced to the Malaysian Army in 1985. Due to the old age and excessive usage, a high percentage of these tanks are categorized as non-operational and require immediate repair. The Armed Forces is giving priority to the repair of these tanks. (Ahdar Gasar, 1997).”

This scenario shows Scorpion light tank is not effective for fighting dan outdated in the current technology (RMA) which uses high technology light tank. (P.Dibb, 1997). This situation weakens MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA ability and Malaysia’s deterrence system towards the enemy where the outdated assets are seen unable to defend the nation’s security and easily demolished. Unfortunately, Scorpion Light Tank is still in MAF and MA’s inventory and in 2019 the government was confident to protect the nation’s security and defence. According to the Deputy Minister of Defence, Liew Chin Yong on 18 December 2018:

“None of the Scorpions are currently operational and the Army had decided to declare the vehicle obsolete, ... Malaysian Defence had previously reported that the planned upgrades of the Scorpion and Condor were on a short leash and under review. Without the planned upgrades both vehicles would be facing obsolescence in the near future.KAD (The Royal Armoured Corps) Scorpion and Sibmas in action at the Army Firepower Demonstration last year”.

9. The Impact Towards MAF Readiness

The implementation of PERISTA in 1979 brought to the expansion of MAF, MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA weaponry logistics. (Abdul Razak Baginda,1995). The government started the modernization plan (PERISTA) between 1979 and 1983 to ensure the strength of Malaysian Army is expanded. In 1980s, Malaysia made a purchase of 26 units of Scorpion armed cars from the UK. The armed cars were still in the MA’s inventory in 2020. (Abd Ghani Yunus, 1995) To increase MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA and security teams’ strength, the government purchased Ferret Scout Car armed cars produced by Daimler UK. The armed cars were widely used in eliminating the communists in Malaysia and maintained until 2015. Malaysia used 92 units of Ferret Mk 2/2 from the UK purchased in 1960s. Besides that, in increasing the military operation in 1982, the government purchased 186 units of Sibmas 6x6 made in Belgium and the purchase of 450 units of Condor APC 4x4 armed cars made in Germany. In 1981, the government made a purchased if 469 units of Condor armed cars. While Malaysia was having communists’ threat, the government also made a purchase of 184 units of armed cars LAV-150 made in the United States in late 1970s. Seeing the current MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA needs and importance, Malaysia is accepting the fact as the former Chief of Defence Force, General (R) Tan Sri Yaacob Mohd. Zain that Malaysia will decrease the number of army and emphasize to the purchase of advance equipment, especially air force and sea in enhancing the defence. (Fazli Arman, 1993)

“However, Malaysian Army which is the reckoned backbone of the nation’s defence in the region, especially in guerrilla wars, but is far behind in the aspect of fighting equipment.”
The question is that the development of MAF especially MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA are at the medium level. In this case, medium level are logistics and development aspects, such as problems of camps’ facilities, outdated weaponry, trainings which did not fulfil the criteria like permanent teams and weak citizens’ support showed that MA, Territorial Army and MRMFA are not ready to face the security threats. Medium level is a weak level compared to high level in readiness to protect the nation’s security. MA’s medium level includes Territorial Army which is the MA Regiment and corps, the second line of MA strength can be measured by the 25th Chief of Army in 2016, about his comment about MA’s logistics ability, answering the question, “What is the aspect that needs to be prioritise to be developed now?”

“Logistics is one of the most important elements for MA in determining the ability and successfulness in implementing the tasks and responsibilities in defending the nation. THE CURRENT STATUS OF MA LOGISTICS IS MEDIUM... At the same time, MA will continue to increase its members’ quality of life through the construction of RKAT and outdated camps identified. These efforts will be done in stages in accordance to the monetary ability that will be provisioned to MA. (Tahir, Sharil Mat Ali & Saiful Fazley Rusli 2016).”

10. Conclusion

MA, TA, and MRMFA development since 1900 generally brought to the development of MAF. TA team functions to assist the permanent teams in the military operations whether during war and peace. However, TA development shows there are various problems faced by MAF and MA which questioned their effectiveness. With the weaknesses, this shows MAF, MA, Ta and MRMFA readiness are weak and unable to handle threats. This situation needs improvements by the Malaysian government in developing TA teams and military equipment in accordance with the needs that able to handle the nation’s security threats.

References

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