

# Transformation Of Korbrimob Intelligence Functions In The Effort Of Polri Operational Reform In Handling The Papua Armed Criminal Group (Kkb) Conflict: A Study Of Local Papuan Community Perceptions Of Korbrimob Intelligence

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## ***Abstract***

### **Keywords:**

*Intelligence Transformation, Korbrimob, Polri Operational Reform, Papua KKB Conflict, Community Perception, Humanistic, Community Policing*

*This study examines the transformation of the intelligence function of the Mobile Brigade Corps (Korps Brimob/ Korbrimob) within the framework of the Indonesian National Police's (Polri) Operational Reform in handling conflicts involving Armed Criminal Groups (Kelompok Kriminal Bersenjata/ KKB) in Papua. The main focus of the research is the perception of local Papuan communities toward the performance of Korbrimob's intelligence, particularly in the implementation of a humanistic and intelligence-based approach..*

*This research employs the theories of bureaucratic reform, intelligence theory, SWOT analysis, conflict theory, and the concept of trust as analytical frameworks. The method used is a case study method with a qualitative research approach. Primary data were obtained through interviews with key informants, while secondary data were collected from relevant supporting documents..*

*The findings indicate that the transformation of Korbrimob's intelligence function has marked a paradigm shift from a repressive approach to a more predictive, preventive, and humanistic approach. Public perceptions of the intelligence function vary and are influenced by historical experiences of conflict, social trauma, and the implementation of approaches based on dialogue and respect for local values. The success of this transformation is strongly influenced by supporting factors such as the professionalism of personnel, accountability, and community involvement, while also being constrained by challenges including structural inequalities, policy inconsistencies, and limited resources.*

*In conclusion, the transformation of Korbrimob's intelligence function plays a strategic role in managing KKB conflicts in Papua and in increasing public trust. This transformation serves not only as a security instrument but also as a means of strengthening state legitimacy and social integration in conflict areas, through a professional, humanistic, and community-oriented approach.*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

National security is a vital foundation in maintaining the sovereignty and integrity of a state. In Indonesia, one of the most complex and persistent security challenges is the dynamics of conflict in Papua. This conflict is no longer static but has transformed into a multidimensional threat involving historical, sociological, economic, and political factors. The role of state security institutions, particularly the Indonesian National Police (Polri) through its elite unit, the Mobile Brigade Corps (Korbrimob), is therefore crucial. Korbrimob serves as the operational spearhead, requiring intelligence support that is not only precise but also capable of integrating both physical security and human security aspects.

The transformation of the intelligence function within the Mobile Brigade Corps (Korbrimob) of Polri is an essential part of Polri's operational reform in handling the Armed Criminal Group (KKB) conflict in Papua, as well as in shaping positive public perceptions of Korbrimob's intelligence performance. This transformation involves not only improving technical capabilities but also shifting paradigms toward a more adaptive, professional, and humanistic intelligence approach. The evolving security dynamics in Papua demand intelligence that can deeply understand social conditions, so that strengthening intelligence functions is not merely tactical but also directed at building public trust in the police institution. Thus, this transformation directly contributes to the effectiveness of Polri operations in Papua while shaping public perceptions of the success and accountability of Korbrimob's intelligence performance.

According to Lowenthal (2016:12), this transformation requires intelligence functions to move from merely clandestine data collection toward a strategic risk management role capable of producing accurate early warning and early detection. In Indonesia, its legal basis is outlined in Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, particularly Article 14 paragraph (1) point b, which mandates Polri to conduct intelligence activities to support its duties. In recent years, the security situation in Papua has shown high complexity with increasing activities of Armed Criminal Groups (KKB) in regions such as Nduga, Intan Jaya, and Pegunungan Bintang. These conflicts have not only resulted in casualties but have also affected social stability and the psychological condition of local communities. In this context, the Mobile Brigade Corps (Korbrimob) of Polri, through its intelligence function, plays a strategic role in detecting potential threats, collecting field information, and analyzing situations to support more targeted operational measures.

Public perception indicates that law enforcement operations have not always fully considered humanitarian and local cultural aspects, while others observe improvements in the professionalism of security forces in anticipating KKB attacks. These facts form an important basis for examining how the transformation of Korbrimob's intelligence function has taken place as part of Polri's operational reform, as well as how public perception is shaped regarding intelligence performance in the context of armed conflict in Papua. The security situation in Papua from 2022 to 2024 shows an escalation of conflict, particularly in Nduga, Intan Jaya, and Pegunungan Bintang. Attacks by Armed Criminal Groups (KKB) have targeted not only security personnel but also public facilities and civilians. This condition requires Polri, especially Korbrimob, to strengthen early warning systems and enhance intelligence data collection and analysis capabilities in a more adaptive manner. Official reports from Polri, regional State Intelligence Agency (BIN), and the National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM) highlight significant challenges in maintaining security stability amid complex geographical and social dynamics. Public perception of Korbrimob's intelligence performance varies significantly. Some communities, particularly those in relatively secure areas, perceive security operations as more professional and aimed at minimizing excessive violence. However, communities in conflict areas often perceive the persistence of repressive actions, resulting in psychological trauma and distrust toward authorities. Interviews with local traditional and religious leaders reveal that the success of security operations largely depends on the ability of officers to respect Papuan cultural values and involve communities in security communication processes.

Internal evaluations within Polri indicate improvements in Korbrimob's intelligence performance, particularly in early detection, threat analysis, and security coordination. However, challenges remain, especially in the utilization of modern intelligence technology and the enhancement of human resource capacity. This condition shows that the transformation of Korbrimob's intelligence function is still in a transitional phase toward professionalism and modernization in line with Polri's operational reform agenda. The security situation in Papua

continues to be marked by various threats and disturbances from Armed Criminal Groups (KKB), causing instability across multiple sectors of society. KKB actions—such as shootings targeting security forces, burning of public facilities, hostage-taking, and dissemination of separatist propaganda—have had serious impacts on national security stability, regional governance effectiveness, and the social and psychological conditions of Papuan communities. This demonstrates that the conflict in Papua is not merely a security issue but also closely related to interconnected social, political, and cultural aspects.

The Mobile Brigade Corps (Korbrimob) of Polri plays a strategic role as the frontline in law enforcement and security recovery operations in the region. As an elite unit, Korbrimob is not only responsible for taking action against KKB but also for maintaining and restoring public trust in the state. One of the key elements determining the success of Korbrimob operations is the intelligence function, which is responsible for early detection, field data collection, threat analysis, and providing information support for both tactical and strategic operations. In security management theory, intelligence is a fundamental pillar in determining operational success. According to Lowenthal (2016:24), intelligence is not merely the collection of information but also the process of analyzing and assessing situations that enable decision-makers to act accurately and predictively. This highlights that the quality and accuracy of intelligence information are crucial to mission success in the field. This transformation aligns with Polri's "Presisi" vision (Predictive, Responsibility, and Transparency with Justice) initiated by Police Chief Listyo Sigit Prabowo. The predictive principle emphasizes the ability of intelligence to anticipate potential threats before they occur; responsibility demands professional accountability in every action; and transparency with justice underscores the need for public accountability in security policies. Therefore, Polri's operational reform through the transformation of Korbrimob's intelligence function is not only technical but also addresses moral and social aspects in policing practices. The dynamics of conflict in Papua involving Armed Criminal Groups (KKB) show an alarming trend of escalation and tactical shifts. For example, in March 2024, an attack occurred in Bibida District, Paniai, resulting in intense armed clashes between KKB and a joint Polri/TNI team. This incident not only caused casualties among security personnel but also triggered internal displacement of civilians.

## **METHOD**

This study employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical research design. This approach was chosen to provide an in-depth description of the transformation of the intelligence function of Korbrimob in the context of Polri's operational reform in handling the Armed Criminal Group (KKB) conflict in Papua, particularly from the perspective of local Papuan communities regarding Korbrimob's intelligence performance. Through this approach, the researcher seeks to understand the phenomenon comprehensively based on the experiences, views, and assessments of informants in the field.

The research location is focused on areas affected by KKB conflict in Papua, as well as local communities that interact directly or indirectly with the police. The data sources in this study consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through in-depth interviews with Korbrimob personnel, community leaders, traditional leaders, and local Papuan residents. Meanwhile, secondary data were collected from official documents, police reports, academic journals, and relevant laws and regulations related to the research focus.

Data collection techniques include in-depth interviews, field observations, and documentation studies to obtain accurate and comprehensive data. Furthermore, the data were analyzed using the interactive analysis model of Miles and Huberman, which includes data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification. To ensure data validity, this study employs triangulation techniques, both source triangulation and methodological triangulation, so that the findings can be scientifically justified.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of the Transformation of Korbrimob Intelligence Functions in the Context of Polri Operational Reform in Addressing the KKB Conflict in Papua

The transformation of the intelligence function of the Mobile Brigade Corps (Korbrimob) of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) is an integral part of the implementation of Polri's Operational Reform, particularly in addressing complex, asymmetric, and prolonged security threats such as the conflict involving Armed Criminal Groups (KKB) in Papua. This conflict is not only characterized by armed violence but is also influenced by interconnected geographical, socio-cultural, economic, and political factors. Therefore, a security approach that relies solely on repressive force has proven insufficient. The transformation of intelligence functions is necessary to support more precise, accurate, and contextual strategic decision-making.

Intelligence is positioned as the core of operational planning and execution, rather than merely a supporting function. Korbrimob, as an elite unit with paramilitary characteristics and high tactical capabilities, is required to transform its intelligence function so that it is not only oriented toward operational success in the field but also toward conflict prevention, escalation control, and the protection of civilians. This transformation aligns with the concept of Polri Presisi, which emphasizes predictive capability, responsibility, and transparency with justice.

Based on the literature review in Chapter II, intelligence theory according to Lowenthal (2016:27) defines intelligence as a systematic process that includes the collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination of information to support strategic decision-making in the security sector. In the context of handling the KKB conflict in Papua, these stages form a continuous and adaptive intelligence cycle. At the information collection stage, the transformation of Korbrimob's intelligence function is marked by changes in methods and approaches. Intelligence gathering is no longer conducted exclusively through armed operations but is expanded through territorial and cultural approaches that are more sensitive to the conditions of Papuan society. Korbrimob intelligence develops mapping of conflict-prone areas, movement routes of KKB groups, and social bases that may serve as hiding places or logistical support. This approach is strengthened by human intelligence (HUMINT), which involves direct interaction with communities, traditional leaders, religious leaders, and local authorities.

Overall, the implementation of the transformation of Korbrimob's intelligence function in addressing the KKB conflict in Papua reflects a paradigm shift within Polri toward a modern and adaptive institution capable of responding to contemporary security challenges. This transformation strengthens the role of intelligence as the foundation of Polri's Operational Reform, ensuring that every security action is based on valid information, in-depth analysis, and comprehensive strategic considerations. Referring to Lowenthal's Intelligence Theory (2016:27), it can be concluded that Korbrimob's intelligence function has been carried out through a continuous and systematic process, enabling more effective and equitable strategic decision-making in handling the KKB conflict in Papua.

### **Public Perception in Papua Toward the Performance of Korbrimob Intelligence Functions, Particularly in the Implementation of a Humanistic Approach in Handling the KKB Conflict**

Public perception in Papua regarding the performance of the Korbrimob intelligence function of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) in handling the Armed Criminal Group (KKB) conflict is an important aspect in assessing the effectiveness of Polri's Operational Reform, particularly in the implementation of a humanistic approach. Public perception does not only reflect the extent to which security policies and strategies are understood by society, but also

indicates the level of trust, acceptance, and social legitimacy of the state's presence in conflict areas. In the Papuan context, public perception is particularly crucial due to the long-standing nature of the conflict, which involves complex historical, social, and cultural dimensions. The humanistic approach is reflected in Korbrimob intelligence efforts to understand the social and cultural conditions of Papuan communities prior to operational actions. Through this approach, intelligence is no longer solely focused on threat identification but also on conflict prevention, minimizing the use of force, and protecting communities from the impacts of violence. For some members of the public, this shift has begun to shape the perception that Korbrimob's intelligence function is not only a tool for law enforcement but also part of public service in the field of security. When linked to Bureaucratic Reform Theory by Dwiyanto (2011:15), bureaucratic reform is understood as a process of change aimed at creating public institutions that are efficient, transparent, accountable, and oriented toward high-quality public services. In this context, the Korbrimob intelligence function, as part of the police bureaucracy, is required to transform from a closed and power-oriented institution into one that is responsive to public needs and expectations.

From an efficiency perspective, Papuan communities have begun to observe Korbrimob's efforts to adjust intelligence working patterns to become more targeted and to avoid generating excessive fear among the public. More measured intelligence operations based on local information are considered capable of reducing the intensity of security disturbances without relying solely on armed force. This indicates that bureaucratic reform in intelligence functions is directed toward achieving optimal outcomes with minimal social impact. In terms of transparency and accountability, although intelligence functions are inherently confidential, communities have begun to experience a degree of openness through communication and explanations regarding the presence of security personnel in their areas. This approach is important for building understanding and reducing negative perceptions of Korbrimob intelligence activities. Transparency in this context does not mean disclosing state secrets, but rather providing space for dialogue so that communities feel involved and respected as subjects rather than objects of security policy.

Furthermore, public service orientation becomes a key indicator in assessing public perception of Korbrimob intelligence performance. Within Dwiyanto's framework, public bureaucracy must position society as service users. In the context of security in Papua, these services include a sense of safety, protection of human rights, and legal certainty. Thus, public perception in Papua toward the performance of Korbrimob intelligence functions in implementing a humanistic approach can be understood as a reflection of the Polri Operational Reform process itself. In line with Dwiyanto's Bureaucratic Reform Theory (2011:15), Korbrimob's efforts to transform intelligence practices toward a more humanistic approach demonstrate a reform direction oriented toward efficiency, transparency, accountability, and the quality of public services.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion, it can be concluded that the transformation of the Korbrimob intelligence function within the context of Polri's Operational Reform in addressing the Armed Criminal Group (KKB) conflict in Papua is a complex, gradual process that is strongly influenced by social, cultural, and conflict dynamics in the region. This transformation does not only involve changes in technical and operational aspects of intelligence work, but also encompasses a shift in paradigm, patterns of engagement with society, and a more humanistic and justice-oriented security service approach.

1. The implementation of the transformation of Korbrimob intelligence functions in dealing with the KKB conflict in Papua shows a paradigm shift from a reactive and repressive security approach toward a more predictive, preventive, and intelligence-based approach. Intelligence is no longer positioned merely as a support element for armed operations, but as a core foundation in strategic planning and decision-making within Polri. This transformation is reflected in the strengthening of more systematic and integrated processes of intelligence collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination.
2. The success of intelligence transformation in improving public trust is influenced by both supporting and inhibiting factors. Supporting factors include a paradigm shift among officers toward a more humanistic approach, improved professionalism and accountability of intelligence personnel, community involvement in security management, and the ability of intelligence units to understand conflicts in a comprehensive manner. Meanwhile, inhibiting factors include the legacy of conflict and past trauma, ongoing structural inequalities experienced by communities, inconsistencies in policy implementation in the field, and limitations in resources and personnel capacity. These conditions indicate that intelligence transformation is an ongoing process that requires long-term commitment and cross-sectoral support.

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