

FORCE PROTECTION DETACHMENT INDONESIA



Kevin Aurell from Indonesian Wikipedia

Setting the Standard for Security in the “Ring of Fire”

By Scott M. Bernat

FPD Indonesia has met and exceeded the challenge and sets the standard for security programs in the Asia Pacific region.

Force Protection Detachment (FPD) Indonesia, led by the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), is the front line of defense for all DOD forces visiting and training in Indonesia. Situated within the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” so designated due to the area’s significant number of active volcanoes and earthquakes, Indonesia is composed of more than 17,500 islands and a population of nearly 240 million, making it the fourth most populous nation in the world¹. Islam is the dominant religion. The country’s motto, “Unity in Diversity,” reflects its diverse ethnic, linguistic, and cultural character. The nation’s dynamic landscape, which includes an active terrorist threat, a spate of natural disasters, public integrity issues, and public unrest, represents a significant challenge to the safety and security of in-transit DOD personnel. FPD Indonesia has met and exceeded the challenge and sets

the standard for security programs in the Asia Pacific region.

The Beginning

The terrorist attack on the USS COLE (DDG-67) in the Port of Aden, Yemen, on 12 October 2000 identified the need for increased security support for in-transit DOD personnel and assets in overseas locations with no permanent DOD security presence. The USS COLE Commission, charged with investigating the circumstances leading to the attack, highlighted this need, and the overall FPD program was initiated. The primary mission of the FPD is to detect and warn of threats to in-transit DOD personnel and resources as well as to act as an FP force multiplier for the American Embassy Country Team in each designated overseas location. This

role includes working closely with host nation security forces for threat warning and security. Other missions include providing routine DOD counterintelligence and FP services to the country team, criminal and counterterrorism investigative response, and surge capabilities in the event of crises and/or contingencies.² There are currently 38 FPD offices worldwide, with additional offices planned.

FPD Indonesia

Situated within the American Embassy Jakarta, FPD Indonesia began full operations in 2009. A component of the NCIS Singapore Field Office, it is staffed by an NCIS Resident Agent in Charge, a U.S. Army (USA) Special Agent, and an Office Management Assistant. In close coordination with the American Embassy Regional Security Office (RSO), the Defense Attaché Office (DAO), and the Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC), the FPD is the embassy's authority for developing, coordinating, and overseeing FP information and security for more than 140 events per year, including U.S. military exercises, aircraft and ship visits, flag and general officer visits, and other engagements. These efforts not only support U.S. interests but also significantly increase the overall security of both the Indonesian and international communities. Through close cooperation with and assistance from the Indonesian military (Tentara Nasional Indonesia [TNI]) and the Indonesian National Police (INP), FPD Indonesia activities focus on threat awareness and mitigation, physical security, risk assessments and

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vulnerability studies, emergency preparedness, crisis action planning and response, executive protection, and investigations. The FPD is augmented by NCIS, the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI), and USA and U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) FP-focused personnel and teams as individual service component requirements arise.

The Key to Success: Information

The key to keeping people and assets safe and secure is to ensure that threat information is current and is disseminated on a timely basis. Coordination, cooperation, mutual support, and information sharing are paramount to threat identification and mitigation. The FPD accomplishes this through the fusion and utilization of all available resources, including those associated with American and foreign embassies, the TNI and INP, expatriate community contacts, and business and other



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professional contacts as well as commercial and private sector security companies located within Indonesia and regionally. Building contacts and relationships through liaison and networking is critical to the development of a sound and comprehensive security program.

Working in close cooperation and in conjunction with the American Embassy RSO, FPD personnel are active participants in the U.S. Department of State Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)³ as well as routine contributors of safety and security articles to the American Chamber of Commerce Indonesia magazine, *The Executive Exchange*.⁴ In addition, FPD personnel are members of both the Asia Crisis and Security Group⁵ and ASIS International⁶, organizations dedicated to advancing security assistance and cooperation. This interaction and involvement in the overall security community not only establishes the FPD as a security partner but also exponentially expands the office's ability to gain critical information through an extensive and wide-reaching contact base.

The U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM), the NCIS Multiple Threat Alert Center, and other individual service component information centers play critical roles in this process by collating, analyzing, and disseminating the information received from the FPD, resulting in the promulgation of area threat assessments and timely indications and warnings of potential threats to the in-



BANDUNG, INDONESIA (25 March 2009) SGM William Smith, United States Army, Pacific Operations Sergeant Major, addresses Tentara Nasional Indonesia—Angkatan Darat (TNI-AD) Warrior Leader Course students after the Commandant's Inspection. Instructors from the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and USARPAC trained Indonesian NCOs on U.S. Army techniques, tactics and procedures. (Photo Credit: SSG Joann Moravac, USARPAC PAO)

transit forces. Relevant security information derived from FPD activities is utilized by in-transit forces to develop appropriate FP and crisis action plans tailored to the operating environment.

Assessing Vulnerabilities

FPD team members, as well as any AFOSI, NCIS, USA, and USMC security personnel assigned temporary duties in direct support of specific events and missions in conjunction and coordination with the TNI, INP, and private-sector establishments, routinely conduct security assessments of ports, airfields, travel routes, training areas, hotels and lodging sites, and various other facilities to identify and subsequently mitigate vulnerabilities. NCIS Security Training, Assistance, and Assessment Team (STAAT) members play a vital role in this process. The assessments they conduct in coordination with and with assistance from the FPD on the various ports and airfields become essential to the development of FP plans for visiting ships and aircraft. The identified

vulnerabilities and proposed mitigation measures, when associated with the joint establishment of security for an actual event, are often shared with Indonesian government and/or private-sector security personnel, further enhancing teamwork and effectively increasing the safety and security of all.

Capacity Building

The PACOM Theater Security Cooperation program is a key component of the FPD mission in Indonesia. Through the conduct of various security training programs and seminars, the FPD assists in building security capacity for the TNI and INP. Significant training events involving the FPD have included executive protection training for the Indonesian Presidential and Dignitary Protection Force (PASPAMPRES), law enforcement tactics, techniques and safety training for the Bali Regional Police, postblast investigation and crime scene management training for the INP Detachment 88 counterterrorism unit and forensics division, and security

training for the INP assigned to protect Indonesia's international ports. Course organizers and participating instructors include subject matter experts from the FBI, the American Embassy RSO, NCIS STAAT, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force West, and the Los Angeles County (CA) Sheriff's Department.

These events significantly contribute to the overall understanding of the capabilities and limitations of Indonesia's security forces—information that is essential to the development of comprehensive and mutually supportive FP plans. Through the combined efforts of the FPD, NCIS, RSO, and USCG, security and law enforcement equipment has been donated to the Indonesian government, effectively increasing the capabilities and expertise of security forces. The equipment included crime scene investigation materials, entry control point search apparatus, seaport interdiction kits, bomb suppression blankets, and police officer protective training gear. The donation of this equipment as well as demonstrations of its use are part of an ongoing FPD Indonesia port and critical infrastructure security enhancement initiative for locations visited and/or utilized by in-transit DOD forces.

Through effective liaison, comprehensive engagement, and mutually supportive programs, FPD Indonesia has set the standard for security programs in the Asia Pacific region.

Operationally Engaged

The FPD routinely provides direct support to the various U.S. military ships, aircraft, and personnel visiting Indonesia, serving as PACOM's front line in the detection and warning of threats. With more than 140 military events and visits per year, the FPD is actively engaged with the TNI and INP to develop comprehensive FP, security, and crisis action plans. Major PACOM events supported by the FPD include Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, Garuda Shield, and Pacific Partnership, activities designed to enhance interoperability, readiness, and cooperation between the Indonesian and U.S. militaries. In addition, the July 2009 terrorist bombings of two prominent Jakarta hotels and the September 2009 Padang earthquake and associated humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR) operation demonstrated the FPD's surge capabilities to provide immediate and comprehensive investigative and security support.

Following the nearly simultaneous terrorist suicide bombings of the JW Marriott and Ritz Carlton hotels in the Kuningan district of Jakarta on 17 July 2009, the FPD in coordination with the American Embassy DAO, ODC, and RSO assisted in accounting for all DOD personnel and associated assets. The FPD also interviewed military

members and other U.S. government employees who were present in the hotels during the bombing to gain immediate and actionable information to assist in identifying the terrorists and attack methods involved.

In response to the Padang earthquake, the FPD, in direct coordination with the American Embassy DAO and RSO, led a team of security professionals composed of AFOSI, NCIS, and USA personnel within the quake zone in direct support of U.S. government and military HA/DR efforts. Support included coordination with and assistance to the TNI, INP, and nongovernmental organizations as well as the conduct of site vulnerability surveys, which were utilized to build and adjust safety and security plans. Suspicious incidents were quickly investigated and addressed by the team. The FPD's overall efforts guaranteed the timely and accurate receipt of information by American Embassy and U.S. military supervisors responsible for ensuring the safety and security of deployed HA/DR personnel.

Another example of FPD direct support occurred during the PACOM Pacific Partnership disaster relief exercise that was held throughout the North Maluku province in Summer 2010. The centerpiece of this exercise was the USNS MERCY (T-AH 19) hospital ship, requiring close coordination with and assistance from the TNI and INP for security support. The FPD in conjunction with NCIS conducted numerous security assessments of the various ports and helicopter landing zones as well as the many medical, dental, veterinary, engineering assistance, and community service project sites located across the North Maluku island chain. These assessments were utilized to build and establish solid security and crisis action plans as well as to keep key decision makers apprised of the security environment so that an appropriate security posture could be maintained.

Protecting Dignitaries

In coordination with the American Embassy DAO and RSO, the FPD coordinates and provides FP assistance and support to Protective Service Operations involving authorized U.S. military flag and general officers visiting Indonesia. In support of this mission, the FPD routinely conducts route vulnerability surveys and security assessments for associated hotels, hospitals, and meeting locations to aid the protective detail in formulating a comprehensive security plan. Occasionally, FPD personnel will augment the protective detail as the in-country security expert.

In preparation for President Obama's November 2010 visit to Indonesia, the FPD utilized NCIS STAAT personnel to conduct executive protection training for PASPAMPRES, significantly enhancing interoperability and strengthening a strategic security relationship with the American Embassy. The FPD also provided support to both the White House Military Office and the Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet forward command

element. This support included the conduct of numerous lodging, route, and site vulnerability surveys; the synchronization and facilitation of private sector security contacts; and the provision of daily ground-level situational reports and briefings, all of which significantly contributed to a safe and successful presidential visit.

Leading the Way

Through effective liaison, comprehensive engagement, and mutually supportive programs, FPD Indonesia has set the standard for security programs in the Asia Pacific region. The FPD's effectiveness as an FP force multiplier in Indonesia is well documented. This is a direct result of the close cooperation and coordination achieved with the American Embassy RSO, the Senior Defense Official/ Defense Attaché, ODC, and Indonesian military and police. The safety and security of our in-transit forces depends on it.

Note: This article is an update to "FPD Thailand Shows the Way," U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, February 2008.

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- 1 Indonesia. Wikipedia. Available at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia>
- 2 Department of Defense. *Force Protection Detachment Joint Standard Operating Procedures*. September 2008.
- 3 U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security. OSAC [Overseas Security Advisory Council]. Available at <http://www.osac.gov>
- 4 American Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia. Available at <http://www.amcham.or.id>
- 5 Asia Crisis and Security Group. Available at <http://www.acsgroup.org>
- 6 ASIS International. Available at <http://www.asisonline.org>