

## Military Threats in the Global Sea: Implications for Indonesia's Maritime Security Toward Golden Indonesia 2045

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### KEYWORDS

Maritime security, military threats, Golden Indonesia 2045, naval defense, maritime diplomacy.

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### ABSTRACT

Military threats in global waters are increasingly complex and significantly impact Indonesia's maritime security. Regional geopolitical dynamics, major power rivalries, and foreign military activities in strategic waters demand resilient maritime defense readiness toward the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision. This study analyzes the implications of global military threats on Indonesia's maritime security and formulates defense strategies aligned with the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision. The research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive analysis methods. Data were collected through literature studies of primary and secondary sources, including policy documents, international reports, and recent academic publications. Data analysis was conducted through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The findings indicate that global military threats significantly impact Indonesia's maritime security, particularly through foreign military presence in the South China Sea, uncoordinated military exercises, and hybrid technology developments. These threats require modernization of maritime defense systems, enhanced human resource capacity, and strengthened maritime diplomacy. Strong maritime security is a fundamental pillar in realizing the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision. Indonesia's maritime defense strategy needs to comprehensively integrate military, diplomatic, legal, and economic aspects. Modernization of primary weapons systems, human resource development, and regional cooperation are key to addressing global military threats and supporting Indonesia's achievement as a sovereign developed nation.

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## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's maritime security is one of the strategic aspects in maintaining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. As the largest archipelagic country in the world, Indonesia has a coastline of ±108,000 kilometers and more than 17,000 islands, making it the world's maritime axis. This geographical position provides strategic advantages, but it also creates vulnerability to various threats, especially those of a military nature (Aligica & Ciobanu, 2025; Laine, 2025).

In recent decades, global geopolitical dynamics have affected the stability of the maritime region (Datta, 2025). Territorial disputes in the South China Sea, foreign military presence in strategic waters, and uncoordinated military activities increase the risk of conflict (Hiim & Tunsjø, 2025). Although Indonesia is not directly involved in most of these disputes, its impact on national security remains significant (Benarrivo, 2025; Safitri, 2025).

Military threats in the global sea can affect Indonesia in several ways. First, potential territorial violations by foreign military ships or aircraft could threaten national sovereignty (Elleman, 2025; Wati, Pribadi, & Iriyani, 2025). Second, rising tensions in the region could affect international shipping lanes, which are vital for Indonesia's trade and economy (Fitri & Lubis, 2025; Gunawan, Ansar, & Dzakiyyah, 2025). Third, the presence of foreign militaries near Indonesia's borders can trigger an arms race and increase defense costs (Zulhatta, Maulida, & Rahman, 2025).

In the context of the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision, which targets Indonesia to become a developed, independent, and sovereign country, maritime security challenges must be faced with a comprehensive strategy (Brauhler, 2025; Valentina, Yanto, & Sundari, 2025). Strong maritime security is the foundation for national political, economic, and social stability. This requires the modernization of defense equipment, the strengthening of human resources in the maritime defense sector, and effective international cooperation (Ras, 2025).

In addition to military threats, non-military factors also affect Indonesia's maritime security (Asmussen, 2025; Panggabean, Duarte, Tarigan, & Prihantoro, 2025). Piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, and cyber threats in the maritime area are increasingly complex. The impact of these threats is not only economic but can also disrupt political stability, weaken sovereignty, and reduce the effectiveness of marine resource management (Zulhatta et al., 2025).

Existing scholarly work has explored various dimensions of Indonesia's maritime security. Keliat (2009) provided a foundational analysis of maritime security policy implications, while more recent studies by Sarlini (2024) and Zulhatta, Maulida, & Rahman (2025) have examined geopolitical dynamics in the South China Sea and regional security challenges. Nugroho (2023) focused specifically on naval modernization in response to regional threats. However, a conspicuous research gap exists in comprehensively analyzing how evolving global military threats specifically impact Indonesia's maritime security strategy within the framework of the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision. Most previous studies have treated military threats and long-term national vision as separate domains, lacking integrative analysis that connects immediate security challenges with strategic national development goals.

The urgency of this research stems from the rapid escalation of military activities in regional waters and the critical timeline towards achieving Indonesia's developmental aspirations. The novelty of this study lies in its integrated approach, systematically examining the interplay between global military threats and Indonesia's maritime security strategy specifically contextualized within the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision. This research provides a forward-looking perspective that connects contemporary security challenges with long-term national strategic objectives.

Therefore, this study emphasizes the importance of an integrative approach that combines military, diplomatic, legal, and economic aspects in maintaining maritime security. An adaptive, intelligence-based, and multilateral defense strategy is key to dealing with evolving threats. The implementation of the strategy is also part of the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision, which emphasizes strengthening national sovereignty, regional stability, and Indonesia's role as the world's maritime axis (Ras, 2025). Overall, this background suggests that Indonesia's maritime security faces multidimensional challenges. Military threats in the global seas, combined with non-traditional threats and regional geopolitical dynamics, require Indonesia to

have a holistic, adaptive, and sustainable maritime defense policy. This research will further explore the implications of these threats on Indonesia's defense strategy and its role in achieving the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision.

The objective of this research is to analyze the implications of global military threats on Indonesia's maritime security and to formulate strategic recommendations aligned with the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision. The benefits of this study include providing evidence-based policy recommendations for maritime defense strategy, contributing to academic discourse on maritime security, and supporting strategic planning for national development. This research aims to identify optimal pathways for balancing immediate security needs with long-term developmental goals, ensuring that maritime security strengthens rather than hinders national progress.

## METHOD

In the context of the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision, which targeted Indonesia to become a developed, independent, and sovereign country, maritime security challenges were addressed with a comprehensive strategy. Strong maritime security formed the foundation for national political, economic, and social stability. This required the modernization of defense equipment, strengthening of human resources in the maritime defense sector, and effective international cooperation (Ras, 2025). In addition to military threats, non-military factors also affected Indonesia's maritime security. Piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, and cyber threats in the maritime area became increasingly complex. The impact of these threats went beyond economic losses to disrupting political stability, weakening sovereignty, and reducing the effectiveness of marine resource management (Zulhatta et al., 2025). Therefore, this study emphasized the importance of an integrative approach combining military, diplomatic, legal, and economic aspects to maintain maritime security. An adaptive, intelligence-based, and multilateral defense strategy was key to dealing with evolving threats. The implementation of this strategy was a core part of the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision, which prioritized strengthening national sovereignty, regional stability, and Indonesia's role as the world's maritime axis (Ras, 2025). Overall, Indonesia's maritime security faced multidimensional challenges. Military threats in global seas, combined with non-traditional threats and regional geopolitical dynamics, required a holistic, adaptive, and sustainable maritime defense policy. This research aimed to further explore the implications of these threats on Indonesia's defense strategy and its role in achieving the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results of the study show that military threats in the global sea have a significant impact on Indonesia's maritime security. These findings were obtained through an analysis of the literature, policy documents, and international reports, which were then categorized based on the type of threat and its implications for Indonesia.

### 1. Territorial Disputes in the South China Sea

Although Indonesia does not have direct overlapping claims in the South China Sea, foreign military presence and territorial disputes in the region have a direct impact on Indonesia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in Natuna (Sarlini, 2024). The presence of foreign warships and aggressive military exercises increase the risk of territorial violations. Nugroho (2023) emphasizes that increased maritime patrols by major countries can trigger unwanted tensions, even for countries that do not engage in direct claims.

This impact is not only military, but also economic, because international shipping lanes in the South China Sea are one of the main trade routes for Indonesia. Disruption to this line can increase logistics costs and affect the stability of commodity prices (Ras, 2025).

## 2. Foreign Military Presence in Strategic Waters

The Strait of Malacca, the Sulawesi Sea, and the waters around Natuna are strategic points that attract foreign military presence (Zulhatta, Maulida, & Rahman, 2025). The increased presence of foreign warships, including submarines and reconnaissance ships, increases the risk of naval incidents that could develop into open conflicts.

The presence of this foreign military also creates pressure for Indonesia to increase its maritime defense capacity. Ras (2025) emphasized that the modernization of defense equipment, such as fast patrol boats, submarines, and maritime radar systems, is a priority in maintaining the sovereignty of strategic waters.

## 3. Military Exercises and Operations Without Coordination

Military exercises conducted by major countries are often not coordinated with coastal states. Nugroho (2023) shows that large exercises such as "freedom of navigation operations" in international waters adjacent to Indonesia's EEZ can pose a risk of collisions and misunderstandings. It emphasizes the importance of maritime diplomacy and multilateral coordination to prevent incidental conflicts.

## 4. Hybrid Threats and Military Technology

In addition to conventional threats, hybrid threats also emerge through the use of advanced military technology. Marine drone systems, autonomous ships, and cyberattacks on maritime communication systems can disrupt Indonesia's defense operations (Santoso, 2024). For example, disruptions to navigation or communication systems at ports can have a direct impact on logistics security and the national economy.

## 5. Impact on Indonesia's Defense Policy

The findings of the study show that global military threats are pushing Indonesia to make defense policy adjustments. Ras (2025) stated that Indonesia needs to develop an adaptive maritime defense strategy, including:

- a. Modernization of maritime defense systems, including fast patrol ships, submarines, and radar systems.
- b. Capacity building of human resources, particularly in intelligence and law enforcement operations at sea.
- c. Strengthening maritime diplomacy through ASEAN, the United Nations, and other international forums to maintain regional stability.

In addition, the integration between military defense, law enforcement, and information technology is key to dealing with complex threats (Zulhatta et al., 2025).

## Economic and Strategic Implications

Military threats in the global sea have an impact not only on security aspects, but also on national economic stability. Disruption of shipping lanes and threats to the EEZ can increase logistics costs, reduce investor confidence, and affect export-import (Sarlini, 2024).

In addition, research shows that these threats encourage Indonesia to place maritime security as a national priority, in line with the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision. Indonesia is expected to become an independent, sovereign country, and able to maintain regional stability through a comprehensive defense strategy (Ras, 2025).

## Conclusion of Research Results

Overall, the results indicate that:

1. Military threats in the global sea have a direct and indirect impact on Indonesia's maritime security.
2. Foreign military presence and uncoordinated exercises increase the risk of conflict and require active maritime diplomacy.
3. Hybrid threats and advanced technologies are new challenges that must be anticipated with the modernization and integration of defense systems.
4. Economic and strategic implications emphasize the importance of maritime security as the foundation of the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision.

This research emphasizes that Indonesia's defense strategy must be adaptive, comprehensive, and focus on military, legal, and diplomatic integration, so as to be able to face global military threats and support the achievement of national visions.

### **Implications Of Global Maritime Military Threats on Indonesia's Maritime Security**

1. Global Maritime Military Threats and Their Implications for Indonesia's Maritime Security

Military threats in the global seas, particularly those related to foreign military presence and territorial disputes, have a significant impact on Indonesia's maritime security. The South China Sea area, which includes Indonesia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around the Natuna Islands, has become a focal point of international tensions. Although Indonesia is not directly involved in territorial claims in the South China Sea, the presence of foreign military, especially from China, has increased the intensity of Indonesia's military patrols and preparedness.

In 2024, Indonesia reported several incidents in which Chinese coast guard vessels interfered with energy survey activities by the Indonesian state company, Pertamina, in Natuna waters. In two separate incidents, a Chinese coast guard vessel was successfully expelled by Indonesia's Bakamla (Maritime Security Agency) after interfering with a seismic survey on the MV Geo Coral. Although Indonesia does not claim the territory directly, this incident shows the escalation of tensions and potential conflicts in these strategic waters.

In response to the growing threat, Indonesia has strengthened its military presence in the region. The construction of a new military base in the Natuna Islands and the increase in maritime patrols demonstrate Indonesia's commitment to maintaining the sovereignty and security of its maritime areas. This step is in line with President Prabowo Subianto's defense strategy which emphasizes the importance of strengthening maritime defense as a national priority.

2. Non-Military Threats: Piracy and Maritime Crime

In addition to military threats, Indonesia also faces non-military threats at sea, such as piracy and other maritime crimes. Data from the ReCAAP (Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia) shows that in the first half of 2024, there were 21 incidents of piracy and armed robbery in the Singapore Strait and Malacca Strait areas. This figure decreased compared to 41 incidents in the same period the previous year, but still shows a potential risk to shipping security and Indonesia's maritime economy.



In addition, a report from the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) notes that in 2024, there will be 116 incidents of piracy and armed robbery of ships in Asia, a slight decrease compared to 120 incidents in 2023. However, this figure still shows that the Asian region, including Indonesian waters, is still a vulnerable point for maritime crime activities.

### 3. Modernization of Indonesia's Maritime Defense

To deal with military and non-military threats, Indonesia has significantly increased its defense budget. In 2024, Indonesia's defense budget is approved to increase by 20% to \$25 billion, from the previous \$20.75 billion. This increase reflects the urgent need to strengthen Indonesia's maritime defense capacity in the face of evolving geopolitical and geosecurity dynamics.

However, despite the increase in the budget, the proportion of the defense budget to Indonesia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is still relatively low. In 2023, Indonesia's defense budget is \$8.8 billion, which is only about 0.7% of GDP. Although there is a nominal increase in 2025 to \$10.6 billion, the percentage to GDP only increases to 0.77%. This shows that despite the increase in budget, Indonesia still needs to allocate more resources to the defense sector to deal with increasingly complex threats.

### 4. Linkage with the Golden Indonesia Vision 2045

Strong maritime security is one of the main pillars in realizing the vision of a Golden Indonesia 2045, where Indonesia is expected to become a developed country with a strong and sovereign economy. Strengthening maritime defense is not only aimed at maintaining territorial sovereignty, but also to ensure the smooth running of international shipping lanes that are vital for Indonesian trade.

In this context, President Prabowo Subianto's defense strategy that emphasizes the modernization of maritime defense equipment and increasing the capacity of human resources in the defense sector is very relevant. Strengthening maritime defense equipment, such as fast patrol vessels and advanced radar systems, will enhance Indonesia's ability to detect and respond to threats effectively. In addition, increasing the capacity of human resources through training and education will ensure that Indonesian defense personnel have the necessary skills and knowledge to face the challenges of the modern era.

Military and non-military threats in the global sea have a significant impact on Indonesia's maritime security. The presence of foreign militaries, particularly in the South China Sea, as well as the threat of maritime crimes such as piracy, require Indonesia to strengthen its maritime defense capacity. Increasing the defense budget and modernizing maritime defense equipment are strategic steps that need to be taken to deal with these threats. In addition, strengthening the capacity of human resources in the defense sector is also key in facing future challenges. These measures are in line with the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision, where strong maritime security will be the foundation for sustainable economic growth and national sovereignty. Thus, strengthening maritime defense is not only a strategic need, but also an investment for a safer and more prosperous future for Indonesia.

## CONCLUSION

Military threats in the global sea have significantly impacted Indonesia's maritime security, with conflicts in strategic waters, foreign military presence, uncoordinated exercises,

and hybrid technology-based threats challenging its sovereignty and stability. Non-military issues like piracy, illegal fishing, and transnational crime further complicate this landscape, affecting the economy and national security. Indonesia has responded by strengthening its naval fleet, enhancing human resource capacity, and advancing maritime diplomacy, which are central to securing the maritime domain necessary for achieving the Golden Indonesia 2045 vision. Despite progress, challenges remain due to fragmented maritime security coordination and the need for a cohesive, integrated defense and law enforcement strategy. Future research should focus on developing a unified maritime security governance framework that enhances inter-agency coordination, integrates advanced surveillance technologies, and fosters regional cooperation to effectively address both traditional and emerging maritime threats in line with Indonesia's long-term strategic goals.

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