

The Role of The Police Intelligence Unit in The Investigation of Murder Criminal Act (Case Study in The Natuna Resort Police)

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Abstract. *This study examines the role and effectiveness of the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit (Satintelkam) in investigating murder crimes, with a focus on operational challenges in the archipelago. An empirical legal approach is used to analyze the gap between the normative mandate (Law Number 2 of 2002 and Regulation of the Chief of Police Number 10 of 2010) and implementation in the field, covering social, geographical, and institutional dynamics in Natuna Regency. The results of the study show that Satintelkam plays a strategic role through method Human Intelligence (HUMINT), Signal Intelligence (SIGINT), and Open Source Intelligence (OSINT), which contribute to the identification of perpetrators, mapping of crime motives, and reconstruction of crime scenes, as seen in the cases of KM Samudra and Bunguran Timur. However, its effectiveness faces structural obstacles such as limited forensic technology, lack of certified human resources, and geographical barriers. Analysis based on the theory of authority, Friedman's legal system, and legal certainty reveals the disparity between ideal capacity and operational reality, which has an impact on the principle of speedy justice and the validity of evidence. The study recommends strengthening human resource capacity, procuring forensic tools, and improving cross-agency coordination (TNI AL, Immigration) to optimize intelligence functions. Local context-based solutions, such as mobile investigative units and specialized training, are proposed to mitigate geographic challenges and strengthen the integration of intelligence systems in the criminal justice process.*

Keywords: *Archipelagic Region; Law Enforcement; Murder Crime; Operational Effectiveness; Police Intelligence Unit.*

1. Introduction

Natuna Island, located at the northern tip of Indonesia, is a charming archipelago with abundant natural wealth.¹ Surrounded by the clear blue sea, Natuna is not only home to a society that lives in harmony with nature, but also becomes the vanguard in maintaining the country's sovereignty. Its strategic geography—directly bordering several countries such as Malaysia, Vietnam, and Singapore—makes Natuna a region rich in economic potential, especially from the fisheries sector and oil and natural gas reserves. However, this location also places it in the vortex of geopolitical dynamics, especially related to the South China Sea dispute.²

Compared to big cities like Jakarta or Surabaya, Natuna may feel more remote, but this is where resilience and pride as citizens are tested.³ Every day, the people of Natuna not only struggle to meet their daily needs, but also become part of a major effort to maintain the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Living in Natuna is about feeling the pulse of Indonesian sovereignty firsthand, where the sea is not just a view, but also a responsibility that is inherited to be preserved and maintained. As a border region with unique geographical characteristics and complex security challenges, Natuna is not only in the spotlight in the context of state sovereignty, but also in law enforcement at the local level.⁴ Its geographical conditions consisting of remote islands, long distances between regions, and limited communication and transportation infrastructure also influence the dynamics of crime in this area, including murder.⁵ Murder cases in Natuna, such as those that occurred on the KM Samudra or related to land disputes in East Bunguran, not only reflect the socio-economic vulnerability of the local community, but also test the capacity of the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit (Satintelkam) in responding crime quickly and accurately.⁶ It is in this context that the role of police intelligence becomes crucial—not only as an early detection of threats, but also as a primary supporter of the investigation process in an area full of operational limitations.⁷ Thus, understanding Natuna is not only about discussing its natural and geopolitical potential, but also how law enforcement officers, especially Satintelkam, adapt to local challenges to maintain public security and order.

¹Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia, National Defense Strategy Document in Border Regions, 2023.

²Kompas, "South China Sea Dispute and Indonesia's Position," February 15, 2024.

³Yanuar Nugroho, State, Borders, and Citizenship in Indonesia. (Jakarta: LP3ES, 2021).

⁴Gunarto, "Law Enforcement in Border Areas: Challenges and Solutions," UNISSULA Law Journal, Vol. 5 No. 2, 2023.

⁵Results of Researcher Interviews with Natuna Police Intelligence Unit Personnel, April 2025.

⁶RRI.co.id, "Natuna Police Hold Reenactment of Murder Case on KM Samudra," 2023.

⁷Anis Mashdurohatun, "Police Intelligence and the Challenges of Modern Law Enforcement," Law Development Journal, Vol. 4 No. 3, 2023.

Public security and order (kamtibmas) is a vital element in maintaining social stability and supporting national development. The Indonesian National Police (Polri) plays a strategic role as a law enforcer who has the main responsibility in maintaining kamtibmas, enforcing the law, and providing protection and services to the community. In carrying out its functions, the Polri is supported by various units and work units, one of which is the Intelligence and Security Unit (Satintelkam) which functions to carry out early detection and provide strategic information for leaders and other operational units.

The intelligence function is regulated in Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police and Regulation of the Chief of Police Number 8 of 2017 concerning Planning and Management of Police Security Intelligence Activities. This function places intelligence as the spearhead in early detection of potential disturbances to public order and security.

In the context of serious crimes such as murder, the role of Satintelkam becomes very important, considering that the crime not only harms individuals, but also has the potential to shake social stability. One case that illustrates the importance of this role is the murder incident on the KM Samudra which occurred in the jurisdiction of the Natuna Police. This case was reconstructed by the Natuna Police and became a public concern as reported by Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI, 2024). This incident shows that the role of police intelligence in collecting fast and accurate data is crucial in supporting the process of revealing cases.

The strategic role of police intelligence was also tested in two murder cases handled by the Natuna Police in 2023. The first case occurred in April 2023, when a crew member, with the initials JH, was found dead on the Motor Vessel (KM) Samudra in the waters of Subi. The perpetrator, who was known to be his own co-worker, committed the murder at coordinates 2°57'100" N and 109°10'100" E—a relatively isolated location.⁸ In the investigation of this case, Satintelkam played an active role, including by conducting a reconstruction involving 14 reenactment scenes at Tanjung Payung Penagi Port and gathering information from eight key witnesses.

The second case took place in March 2023, involving a businessman in the East Bunguran area who died from a stabbing related to a land dispute. In this case, Satintelkam played a role through the Human Intelligence (HUMINT) method, namely by collecting information on the perpetrator's movements. secretly. The unit also analyzed the suspects' communication patterns through limited wiretapping and successfully mapped the perpetrators' network consisting of five people.⁹ Both cases were successfully resolved within 14 working days, faster than the national average settlement according to data from the Attorney General's Integrated Criminal Justice System (2023).

⁸Natuna Police Internal Document: Minutes of Crime Scene Examination of KM Samudra Case, 2023.

⁹Anis Mashdurohatun. "Police Intelligence and Early Detection of Criminal Threats". Law Development Journal, Vol. 5 No. 2, 2023.

However, this success also reveals a number of operational challenges faced by police intelligence units in the archipelago. Some of the main obstacles identified include technological limitations, a lack of digital forensic tools for analyzing electronic evidence, and geographical barriers in the form of distances between islands that make it difficult to collect evidence and mobilize personnel.

Based on preliminary studies and literature reviews, there is still a research gap regarding the extent of the existence and effectiveness of the role of intelligence units in investigating murder crimes. Previous studies, such as those conducted by Firman Santya (2017), have focused more on the performance of the police in eradicating crime in general without specifically focusing on the role of intelligence. Likewise, research by Imbang Sulistyono (2021), although discussing early detection by intelligence, focuses more on the context of securing regional elections and not on murder crimes. Both studies show that the role of Satintelkam has not been specifically discussed in scientific literature, especially in the context of murder investigations in border areas such as Natuna which have their own social, geographical and security complexities.

The absence or weak role of Satintelkam in investigating murder crimes can have various consequences. First, the disclosure of cases becomes slow, so that perpetrators have the potential to flee or eliminate evidence. Second, high dependence on the investigation function without intelligence support causes investigations to be unfocused and inefficient. Third, the public can lose trust in the police due to the slow handling of cases, which can trigger feelings of insecurity and social conflict. The long-term impacts include a decline in the image of the Police, especially in border areas, increased social tensions due to public speculation, and failure to prove at the court level due to weak initial data. In addition, the absence of intelligence support also opens up the potential for deviations in legal procedures by investigators who work under time pressure and minimal information.

Conditions in the field show several crucial weaknesses that hinder the effectiveness of the role of the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit (Satintelkam) in investigating murder crimes.¹⁰ Among them, the limited number of qualified personnel—only about a third have special certification—is a challenge in itself amidst the urgent need for trained analysts and forensic experts.¹¹ Natuna's geographical characteristics, which consist of hundreds of remote islands, also complicate logistics, especially in collecting evidence and monitoring the area.¹² In fact, as emphasized by Sudikno Mertokusumo, the integrity of physical evidence from the discovery stage to trial is a fundamental element in ensuring legal certainty. In addition, the lack of digital forensic devices weakens evidence efforts, while Bareskrim data (2023) notes that around 65% of evidence in modern murder cases comes from digital traces, such as CCTV footage, electronic messages, and device metadata.¹³

¹⁰Gunarto. "The Role of Intelligence in Criminal Law Enforcement." UNISSULA Law Journal, Vol. 6 No. 1, 2023.

¹¹Researcher Interview with Members of the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit, January 2025.

¹²Natuna Regency Government. RPJMD 2020–2025 and Regional Profile.

¹³Bareskrim Polri. Annual Report on Handling Criminal Acts 2023, p. 17.

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Other problems include slow intelligence responses due to distances between islands and dependence on sea transportation, weak coordination with other agencies such as Immigration, Customs and Excise, and the dominance of the Human Intelligence (HUMINT) approach without technological support such as big data, AI, or cyber. intelligence, as well as documentation of intelligence results that have not been standardized, thus complicating the process of further investigation and evidence in court.¹⁴ Socio-political challenges also often arise in the form of intervention by certain groups that affect the neutrality of investigations, especially in cases of murder motivated by communal conflict or the involvement of thug networks.¹⁵ On the other hand, limited operational budgets—both for personnel training, procurement of forensic equipment, and team mobilization—are major obstacles in the context of an archipelagic region that requires high logistics costs.¹⁶ This research is also driven by the unique phenomena of Natuna, such as the high number of murder cases with unique characteristics (for example, murder on ships or due to natural resource disputes), the rampant cross-border crimes that exploit gaps in water security, and the lack of academic studies related to the role of intelligence in the archipelagic region.¹⁷

Thus, police intelligence not only plays a role in collecting information related to potential threats and security disturbances, but also directly supports the investigation and inquiry activities of strategic criminal cases, including murder.

Thus, police intelligence not only plays a role in collecting information related to potential threats and security disturbances, but also has a direct contribution in supporting activities.

investigation and prosecution of strategic criminal cases, including murder. In this context, the role of the Intelligence and Security Unit (Satintelkam) is very vital in early detection of the perpetrator's movements or motives, identifying crime patterns, and supplying relevant data for legal evidence. However, the reality in the jurisdiction of the Natuna Police shows various challenges and limitations, both in terms of human resources, infrastructure, and geographical conditions, which have an impact on the effectiveness of the intelligence role in the investigation process.

¹⁴Anis Mashdurohatun. "Intelligence Weaknesses in the Criminal Justice System." *Law Development Journal*, Vol. 5 No. 2, 2023.

¹⁵Researcher's Field Observation Results, April 2025.

¹⁶Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia. *Data on Police Operational Fund Allocation in Border Areas*, 2024.

¹⁷Imbang Sulistyono. "Security Intelligence in the Archipelago: Institutional Analysis." *National Security Journal*, Vol. 4 No. 1, 2022.

The disparity between the ideal role mandated in the regulation and the operational conditions in the field is what prompted researchers to raise this topic in a scientific study. This study not only aims to describe in detail how the role of the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit in investigating murder crimes, but also to evaluate the extent to which the role is running effectively. Therefore, through a study entitled "The Role of the Police Intelligence Unit in Investigating Murder Crimes (Case Study at the Natuna Police Resort)". It is hoped that the results of this study can provide academic and practical contributions in strengthening the function of police intelligence in the archipelago which has its own characteristics and complexities.

2. Research Methods

This study uses an empirical legal approach. According to Abdul Kadir Muhammad (2004:134), an empirical legal approach is a legal research conducted by first reviewing secondary data, namely applicable legal norms, then continuing with the collection of primary data through field research to determine the application of these norms in reality.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. The Role of the Police Intelligence Unit in the Investigation of the Murder Crime at the Natuna Police

1. General Description of the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit

a. Institution Profile

The Natuna Police Intelligence and Security Unit (Satintelkam) is a strategic unit responsible for providing intelligence information to support police operations in the Natuna Police jurisdiction. Currently, the Natuna Police Satintelkam has 27 personnel divided into three main sub-units:

1. The Intelligence Sub-Unit is tasked with collecting and analyzing data related to potential security disturbances.
2. Security Sub-unit, focuses on securing vital objects and community activities.
3. Cyber Sub-Unit, handles technology-based threats, although its capacity is still limited.

The working area of Satintelkam covers the entire Natuna Islands which consist of 154 islands, with the main challenges being the long distances between islands and the lack of communication infrastructure in remote areas.

b. Operational Legal Basis

The operational activities of the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit have a clear and binding legal basis. The main basis for carrying out its duties is based on Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Police The Republic of Indonesia, with special emphasis on Article 15 which

explicitly mandates the implementation of intelligence functions to conduct early detection of various potential security threats. In addition, its operational legal umbrella is also supported by the Regulation of the Chief of Police (Perkap) Number 10 of 2010 concerning the Organization and Work Procedures of the Regional Police which in detail regulates the organizational structure and division of tasks of the Intelligence Unit at the Polres level, including coordination mechanisms with related units such as Criminal Investigation (Reskrim) and Bhabinkamtibmas in the context of implementing the main tasks of the police. These two legal bases are the main foundations in every activity and operational policy-making of the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit.

c. Key Resources

The Natuna Police Intelligence Unit faces various limitations in terms of primary resources that affect its operational effectiveness. In terms of budget, the available funds are very minimal and are mostly allocated for basic needs such as patrol logistics and basic personnel training, leaving little room for capacity development through the procurement of sophisticated equipment such as digital forensic devices or integrated data analysis systems. In terms of work tools, this unit only relies on simple equipment in the form of handie talkies (HT) for communication and laptops with limited specifications, with significant shortcomings in digital footprint detection tools such as analysis software. metadata or data recovery devices that are very much needed in modern murder case investigations. For supporting infrastructure, Satintelkam only has one operational room at the Natuna Police Headquarters which functions as a coordination center, but is not yet supported by a centralized database system or a special server that is adequate for optimal storage and processing of intelligence data.

2. Implementation of Intelligence Tasks in Investigation Stage

a. Data collection processes (HUMINT, limited SIGINT, and OSINT)

The Intelligence and Security Unit (Satintelkam) of the Natuna Police uses three main methods in collecting intelligence data. First, Human Intelligence (HUMINT) is carried out through a network of local informants and direct approaches to the community to obtain information about suspicious activities, criminals, or potential security disturbances.¹⁸ Second, Signal Intelligence (SIGINT) is applied on a limited basis, such as monitoring certain communications related to criminal acts, while still complying with applicable legal provisions. Third, Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) is utilized by analyzing data from social media, local news, and other open sources to complement field information.¹⁹ This multidimensional approach allows Natuna Police Intelligence Unit obtained a more accurate and comprehensive picture in the investigation.

¹⁸Budi, Agus. *Police Intelligence in the Criminal Justice System*, Jakarta: Prenada Media, 2018

¹⁹Widodo, Dwi. "The Role of OSINT in Early Detection of Public Security", *Journal of Law and Intelligence*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (2022): 95.

The Intelligence and Security Unit (Satintelkam) of the Natuna Police carries out intelligence data collection through three main methods that have a strong legal basis. The operational authority of Satintelkam is based on Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, reinforced by the Regulation of the Chief of Police Number 10 of 2010 concerning the Organization and Work Procedures of the Regional Police and Regulation Number 24 of 2007 concerning the Internal Investigation Control System. Theoretically, this authority refers to the principle of administrative authority which requires clear legal legitimacy (legal authority) for every action of law enforcement officers, where Satintelkam of the Natuna Police has limited authority (limited authority) which is specifically regulated in laws and regulations.²⁰

In practice, Satintelkam implements Human Intelligence (HUMINT) through a network of local informants while still paying attention to the principles of proportionality and legal necessity, and is subject to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, especially regarding wiretapping and witness examination. For Signal Intelligence (SIGINT), its implementation is carried out in a very limited manner by complying with Law Number 19 of 2016 concerning Amendments to the ITE Law, where communication monitoring is only may be carried out after obtaining a wiretapping permit in accordance with the provisions of Articles 31–33 of the ITE Law. Meanwhile, the Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) method is implemented with strict attention to aspects of personal data protection in accordance with Law Number 27 of 2022 concerning Personal Data Protection, ensuring that OSINT analysis does not violate individual privacy.

Each of these data collection methods must meet three basic principles of legality: proportionality, necessity, and accountability.²¹ To maintain accountability, all intelligence activities of the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit are subject to a three-layered oversight mechanism that includes Kompolnas (National Police Commission), internal Propam Polri, and the Republic of Indonesia Ombudsman.²² This comprehensive legal framework ensures that the implementation of intelligence tasks remains effective and in accordance with applicable legal principles.

b. Analysis of information and preparation of intelligence reports

After the data was collected, the Natuna Police Satintelkam analyst team conducted a strict analysis process to identify patterns, correlations, and potential threats. This process is legally based on the principles of legal reasoning and legal proportionality which are the main pillars in the implementation police intelligence authority.²³ The analysis stage includes an assessment (judgment) of the reliability of data sources that must meet the minimum

²⁰Hadjon, Philipus M. *Introduction to Indonesian Administrative Law*, Surabaya: Gadjah Mada University Press, 1997.

²¹Otto, Jan Michiel. *Rule of Law, Legal Certainty, and Proportionality in Legal Systems*, Leiden University, 2015.

²²The National Police Commission (Kompolnas), Propam Polri, and the Indonesian Ombudsman in internal and external supervision of the Police.

²³Jan Michiel Otto, *Legal Reasoning and Rule of Law*, Leiden University Press, 2015, p. 33.
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evidentiary standards in accordance with Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code, prediction (forecasting) of case developments based on recognized scientific methods, and the preparation of early warnings that refer to Perkap No. 10 of 2010 concerning the Police Intelligence Function.

Theoretically, this analysis process implements the intelligence-led policing theory developed by Ratcliffe (2016), where each stage of the analysis must have a clear and proportional legal basis. The results of the analysis are then summarized in an intelligence report which legally functions as a legal standing for further operational actions.²⁴ The preparation of this report must meet the principle of due process of law by maintaining data accuracy, confidentiality of information in accordance with Law No. 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure, 112 and timeliness as a form of legal accountability.²⁵

The authority to prepare this intelligence report is based on Article 15 paragraph (2) of Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Police, which gives the Satintelkam a mandate to conduct security analysis. From the perspective of the theory of administrative authority, this process must always pay attention to the principle of ultra vires, where the analysis must not exceed the limits of authority. given by law. Operational recommendations in the report must be justiciable or legally accountable, especially when they will be followed up by related units such as Satreskrim.²⁶

This analysis and reporting process is also subject to the legal oversight mechanism as regulated in Perkap No. 24 of 2007 concerning the Internal Investigation Control System²⁷, where every intelligence report must go through a legal verification process by authorized officials before it can be used as an operational basis. Thus, all stages of data analysis and report preparation by the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit are always within the corridor of clear and limited legal authority, while also fulfilling the principles of the rule of law (rechtsstaat) adopted by the Indonesian legal system.²⁸

c. Coordination mechanism with Satreskrim in crime scene reconstruction

Coordination between the Intelligence Unit and the Criminal Investigation Unit (Satreskrim) of the Natuna Police in the reconstruction of the crime scene is legally based on the principles of functional differentiation and institutional cooperation in the criminal justice system.²⁹ Normatively, this collaboration is regulated in Article 5 of Perkap No. 10 of 2010

²⁴Ibid., p. 98.

²⁵Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure.

²⁶Philipus M. Hadjon, Legal Protection for the People in Indonesia, Bina Ilmu, Surabaya, 1987, p. 86.

²⁷Imbang Sulistyono, "Intelligence Authority in Criminal Law Enforcement", Journal of Criminal Law, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2021, p. 56.

²⁸Regulation of the Chief of the Republic of Indonesia National Police Number 24 of 2007 concerning the Internal Investigation Control System.

²⁹Jimly Asshiddiqie, Constitution and the Legal State, Konstitusi Press, Jakarta, 2006, p. 67.
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which regulates the functional relationship between the units. intelligence and research.³⁰ The division of authority theory explains this division of authority, where Satintelkam has preventive authority based on information (Article 15 of Law No. 2/2002), while Satreskrim has repressive authority based on the Criminal Procedure Code.

In the practice of crime scene reconstruction, the application of the shared authority theory is seen when Satintelkam provides intelligence information that has gone through a legal intelligence assessment process, while Satreskrim conducts legal validation through a cross-examination mechanism against physical evidence according to the evidentiary standards of Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code. An example of the use of local informants by Satintelkam which was then verified by Satreskrim shows the implementation of the principle of checks and balances in the police authority system, as regulated in Perkap No. 24 of 2007 concerning Internal Control.

This collaboration also reflects the application of the theory of limited authority where:

1. Satintelkam is bound by the principle of intelligence privilege (Perkap No. 10/2010);
2. The Criminal Investigation Unit is subject to the principle of due process of law (Article 1 paragraph 1 of the Criminal Procedure Code);
3. Both units must comply with the principle of legal proportionality in sharing information.

This coordination mechanism is legally supervised by Kompolnas through the principle of oversight function (Article 37 of Law No. 2/2002) to ensure that there is no...abuse of authority occurs.³¹ Thus, this operational cooperation not only ensures the efficiency of investigations, but also maintains a balance between intelligence and law enforcement authority within the framework of a state based on the rule of law.³²

3. Case Study: The Role of Satintelkam in Handling Murder Cases in 2023

a. The case of KM Samudra

In handling the KM Samudra murder case, the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit played a key role through an intelligence approach based on Human Intelligence (HUMINT) and analysis of crime patterns. The intelligence team succeeded in identifying the perpetrator by utilizing a network of local informants and analysis of the behavior of the surrounding community, which led to the disclosure of a motive for revenge due to an inheritance dispute. The significant contribution of the Intelligence Unit was seen from the ability to present an accurate profile of the perpetrator to the Criminal Investigation Unit, so that the investigation process could be completed effectively within 14 days.³³ This success shows

³⁰Regulation of the Chief of the Republic of Indonesia National Police Number 10 of 2010 concerning the Police Intelligence Function, Article 5.

³¹Jimly Asshiddiqie, *Constitution and the Legal State*, Konstitusi Press, Jakarta, 2006, p. 75.

³²Natuna Police Investigation Information System, Summary of KM Samudra Murder Case, 2023.

³³Jerry H. Ratcliffe, *Intelligence-Led Policing*, Second Edition, Routledge, 2016, p. 88.

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the optimization of the early warning system and rapid assessment functions that are characteristic of police intelligence work.³⁴

This paragraph illustrates that integration between intelligence analytical capabilities and cooperation with investigative functions is key. the success of revealing serious criminal cases in the archipelago. The role of Satintelkam in this case is not only supportive, but has become a strategic foundation that determines the direction of the investigation, strengthening the argument for the importance of the presence of an adaptive, responsive, and contextually trained intelligence unit in the modern law enforcement system.³⁵

b. East Bunguran Case

The handling of the murder case in East Bunguran faced its own complexity where the Intelligence Unit focused on mapping the perpetrators' network through limited Signal Intelligence (SIGINT) techniques.³⁶ Analysis of electronic communication patterns succeeded in revealing the modus operandi of the organized group, despite facing technical obstacles in collecting electronic evidence due to limited digital infrastructure in remote areas.³⁷ The main challenge arose in the process of validating digital evidence that had to meet legal standards of evidence, requiring intensive coordination with digital forensic experts from the Regional Police. This case is a valuable lesson about the importance of strengthening the technical capacity of intelligence in the island region.

From this case it can be concluded that even though Satintelkam has implemented a technological approach in the investigation, its effectiveness is very low. depends on infrastructure support and human resource capacity. Limited devices and experts hamper the optimization of SIGINT functions, which in a geographical context such as Natuna is an urgent need. Therefore, improving digital forensic capabilities and cross-unit support, both regulatory and technical, are crucial elements in building an adaptive and relevant police intelligence system in the 3T (underdeveloped, frontier, and outermost) regions.³⁸

B. The Effectiveness of the Role of the Police Intelligence Unit in Investigating Murder Crimes

1. Effectiveness Analysis Based on Authority Theory, Legal System and Provision Theory

a. Compliance of intelligence actions with legal authority

The implementation of intelligence operations must always refer to the basis of legitimate legal authority.³⁹ Every act of information gathering, including wiretapping or surveillance methods, must be guided by statutory provisions such as the Criminal Procedure Code and

³⁴Jan Michiel Otto, *Legal Reasoning and Rule of Law*, Leiden University Press, 2015, p. 47.

³⁶Jerry H. Ratcliffe, *Op. cit.*, p. 112.

³⁷Agus Budi, *Op. cit.*, p. 155.

³⁸Jan Michiel Otto, *Op. cit.*, p. 50.

³⁹Philipus M. Hadjon, *Op. cit.*, p. 101.

the Intelligence Law. This ensures that intelligence practices do not exceed the limits of authority granted by law, while protecting the basic rights of the community.

In the context of investigating the crime of murder, the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit carries out intelligence functions by referring to authority that has been established in the positive legal framework. The application of methods such as closed observation and communication interception is carried out by considering their legality according to the Criminal Procedure Code, Law No. 2 of 2002, and the ITE Law.⁴⁰ The theory of legal authority emphasizes the importance of formal limitations on the actions of officers so that they do not exceed the limits (*ultra vires*), while also guaranteeing the legitimacy of intelligence actions in the criminal justice process.

Based on the applicable legal norms, Satintelkam shows a good level of effectiveness in carrying out intelligence functions without going outside the legal corridor. This reflects the implementation of legitimate, accountable authority, and is oriented towards a greater legal goal, namely protecting the community through orderly and legitimate law enforcement.⁴¹

b. Evaluation of the structure, substance and culture of law (Friedman's Theory) Example: Limited wiretapping according to Article 31 of the Criminal Procedure Code

Based on Friedman's legal system theory, the effectiveness of intelligence operations needs to be assessed from three aspects:

1. Legal structure: Institutions that regulate intelligence administration.
2. Legal substance: Normative provisions such as Article 31 of the Criminal Procedure Code regarding limited wiretapping.
3. Legal culture: Understanding and compliance of officials with legal guidelines.

A concrete example is the implementation of wiretapping which must meet formal and material requirements according to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.⁴² A comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of Satintelkam can be reviewed from the theory of the legal system of Lawrence M. Friedman, which consists of structure, substance, and legal culture. The institutional structure in Natuna faces logistical challenges, but continues to carry out operational functions based on Perkap No. 10 of 2010. Legal substances such as the limitations of wiretapping in Article 31 of the Criminal Procedure Code have been used as technical guidelines. However, the legal culture of officers in the field shows the need to increase legal awareness so that the implementation of tasks is not only legal, but also ethical.⁴³

⁴⁰Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police; Law Number 19 of 2016 concerning Amendments to the ITE Law.

⁴¹Jan Michiel Otto, Op. cit., p. 46.

⁴²Agus Budi, Op. cit., p. 192.

⁴³Natuna Police Internal Intelligence Unit Evaluation Report, 2023.
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The three components of the legal system mutually influence the effectiveness of the performance of Satintelkam. Although the structure and substance are available, strengthening the legal culture through training and supervision is still needed so that the implementation of intelligence tasks truly supports legitimate and professional criminal justice.⁴⁴

c. Integration of Legal Certainty Theory in the Authority of Satintelkam

The theory of legal certainty demands that every intelligence authority, including wiretapping, fulfills the following elements:

1. Explicit legal basis,
2. Standardized procedures,
3. Clear monitoring mechanisms.⁴⁵

This evaluation is important to ensure that intelligence practices do not create uncertainty or arbitrariness.⁴⁶ The theory of legal certainty emphasizes the importance of a clear legal basis and standardized procedures in every law enforcement action. In practice, the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit has implemented a work pattern that refers to formal protocols, but limited resources and infrastructure require adjustments that remain within legal limits. Internal supervision and periodic reporting are important mechanisms for maintaining accountability.

The application of the principle of legal certainty in intelligence activities has been proven to support transparency and accuracy in investigations. By implementing standard procedures and strict supervision, Satintelkam is able to maintain the legality and integrity of every operational step in the murder case.⁴⁷

2. Comparison between Regulation and Operational Reality

a. Ideal vs actual in the use of intelligence technology

Normatively, Regulation of the Chief of Police No. 8 of 2017 concerning Planning and Management of Intelligence and Security Activities of the Indonesian National Police requires the use of advanced technology such as big data analytics and cyber intelligence in the implementation of intelligence operations.⁴⁸ However, the factual conditions at the Natuna Police show a significant gap between regulatory standards and available technical capabilities. The Intelligence Unit is only supported by two low-spec laptops for digital data

⁴⁴Jan Michiel Otto, Op. cit., p. 54.

⁴⁵cit., p. 76.

⁴⁶Peter Mahmud Marzuki, Op. cit., p. 102.

⁴⁷Criminal Procedure Code, Article 184.

⁴⁸Regulation of the Chief of the Republic of Indonesia National Police Number 8 of 2017 concerning Planning and Management of Police Security Intelligence Activities, Article 10.

analysis purposes and does not have direct access to the national criminal database in real time. Due to these limitations, personnel in the field rely more on conventional methods such as face-to-face interviews and visual observation, which in some contexts result in slow acquisition and low accuracy of information.

This was clearly seen in the case of the murder of a fisherman on Serasan Island in March 2023, where the intelligence team experienced difficulties in analyzing CCTV footage from the crime scene due to the limited digital forensic software available.⁴⁹ The footage actually contained important clues regarding the identity of the perpetrator, but technological limitations caused the identification process to be delayed for up to three months. day—a crucial time because the perpetrator had time to remove a number of pieces of evidence.

The gap between regulatory demands and the reality of technical infrastructure in this archipelago region underscores the importance of more realistic policy adjustments for remote areas. As a temporary solution, intensive training in basic digital forensics and increased collaboration with the Riau Islands Police in the data analysis process can be strategic steps while waiting for the fulfillment of the ideal intelligence infrastructure.⁵⁰

b. Gap between National SOP and Implementation in Natuna

The national Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in the investigation of murder requires the formation of a Rapid Reaction Team (TRC) within 1x24 hours from the time the report is received by the police.⁵¹ However, the geographical reality in Natuna Regency, which consists of a cluster of remote islands, makes it difficult to implement this provision consistently. In some locations such as Pulau Tiga District, the travel time using a patrol boat can take up to 2 to 3 days, depending on weather conditions and sea waves. This creates a dilemma between compliance with standard procedures and the effectiveness of handling cases in the field.

This condition is reflected in the murder case in Sabang Mawang Village (July 2023), where the incident report was only received by Satintelkam Natuna Police two days after the incident due to communication network constraints.⁵² When the team finally arrived at the scene three days later, much of the physical evidence such as blood and fingerprints had been damaged or lost due to environmental factors such as rain and sea winds. In fact, the national SOP stipulates that forensic evidence collection should be carried out within a maximum of 72 hours to ensure its validity in the investigation process.⁵³

These findings reinforce the urgency of developing a special SOP for the archipelago, which can take into account extreme geographical conditions without compromising the

⁴⁹Documentation of the Serasan Island Murder Case, Natuna Police Intelligence Unit, March 2023.

⁵⁰Recommendations from the Results of the Regional Intelligence Coordination Meeting of the Riau Islands Police, April 2023.

⁵¹Police Chief Regulation No. 12 of 2009 concerning Criminal Investigation Management, Article 14.

⁵²Documentation of the Sabang Mawang Case, Natuna Police Intelligence Unit, July 2023.

⁵³Peter Murphy, *Op. cit.*, p. 326.

professional standards of investigation. One strategic alternative that can be developed is a fast-boat-based mobile investigative unit, equipped with basic forensic equipment to support initial investigations before additional assistance arrives.

1. A Critical Review of HR, Technology, and Cross-Functional Coordination Factors

a. Personnel Qualifications (only 8 out of 27 are certified)

In the view of Lawrence M. Friedman's legal system theory, the quality of human resources is an important element of an effective legal structure. In the Natuna Police, only 8 of the 27 Satintelkam personnel (around 30%) have obtained intelligence certification, while national standards require a minimum of 60%.⁵⁴ This inequality has a direct impact on the quality of analytical work, as evidenced by the 2023 murder case where 40% of initial intelligence reports contained errors in the identification of perpetrators. From the perspective of the theory of authority, the limited capacity of the apparatus can reduce the legitimacy and legality of intelligence actions in the eyes of the law.⁵⁵ Therefore, a tiered training program and national certification are urgent needs to align operational capacity with nationally determined normative standards.

b. Technological limitations and their impact on the quality of evidence

From the perspective of the theory of legal certainty, the role of technology is very important in ensuring the accuracy and integrity of legal evidence. However, the limitations of technological infrastructure in the Natuna region mean that around 65% of electronic evidence cannot be processed optimally.⁵⁶ One example occurred in the murder case in Cemaga Village (August 2023), when the victim's cellphone could not be analyzed due to the absence of a mobile forensic device.²⁰⁴ This condition is contrary to the principle of due process of law, which requires the handling of evidence to be carried out professionally, standardized, and legally accountable. Thus, investment in basic digital forensic devices and increasing personnel capacity through training in their use need to be prioritized in order to meet applicable legal evidence standards.

c. The need for synergy with BNPT for terrorism cases

In the theory of legal authority, the effectiveness of task implementation does not only depend on the internal institution, but also on inter-agency coordination. Several murder cases in Natuna—including the murder of a religious figure in 2022—show potential links to terrorist networks, which should receive attention from BNPT.⁵⁷ Unfortunately, the current information exchange mechanism still relies on manual bureaucratic channels, even though Law No. 5 of 2018 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism has provided a

⁵⁴Gustav Radbruch, Loc. cit.

⁵⁵Natuna Police Intelligence Unit Human Resources Qualification Report, 2025.

⁵⁶Philipus M. Hadjon, Op. cit., p. 113.

⁵⁷Natuna Police Intelligence Unit Digital Evidence Evaluation Report, August 2025.
The Role of The Police Intelligence Unit in The Investigation of Murder Criminal Act
(Case Study in The Natuna Resort Police)
(Muhammad Iqbal & Andri Winjaya Laksana)

faster and more flexible space for cooperation.⁵⁸ According to Friedman, weaknesses in the coordinating structure can hinder the performance of the legal system as a whole. It is important to develop an integrated information system between the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit and BNPT and to hold joint training, as concrete steps to increase the effectiveness of handling terrorism-motivated murder cases.

2. Answers to Research Problem Formulation

a. The Role of Satintelkam

Based on the Theory of Authority and the Theory of Legal System, the Natuna Police Intelligence Unit has carried out two core roles functionally. First, as an initial data collection unit, this unit has succeeded in obtaining 78% of the data.

the beginning of the murder case by relying on the Human Intelligence (HUMINT) method that has been adjusted to local geographic conditions.⁵⁹ Second, as a supporter of the investigation, the network analysis conducted by Satintelkam in the 2023 serial murder case resulted in the identification of 12 suspects from 5 different groups.⁶⁰ According to Lawrence M. Friedman, this dual role reflects the ideal function of the legal structure in the criminal justice system. Thus, it can be concluded that Satintelkam has carried out its normative duties optimally despite facing limited facilities and resources, while also demonstrating the resilience of the legal system in marginal conditions.⁶¹

b. Effectiveness

The effectiveness analysis using the Legal Certainty Theory shows dualistic results. On the one hand, the speed of case resolution was recorded as 85% faster than the national average for the archipelago (14 days compared to 21 days).⁶² However, on the other hand, around 45% of the digital evidence submitted was declared not to meet the standards of Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code by the prosecutor's office, mainly due to limited digital forensic equipment.⁶³ This situation creates a dilemma between time efficiency and quality of evidence, which has the potential to conflict with the principle of fair trial in modern legal system. This finding emphasizes the importance of balancing procedural efficiency with substantive accuracy of law, in order to achieve substantive justice.

c. Synthesis of Legal Certainty Theory

The application of Gustav Radbruch's Theory of Legal Certainty revealed that 60% of the legal uncertainty in the Natuna murder case stems from two root problems: first, the

⁵⁸Documentation of the Cemaga Case, Natuna Police Intelligence Unit, 2023.

⁵⁹Religious Figure Case Report, Natuna Police Intelligence Unit, 2022.

⁶⁰Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 5 of 2018 concerning Amendments to Law No. 15 of 2003 concerning Terrorism.

⁶¹Natuna Police HUMINT Intelligence Unit Report, 2023.

⁶²Documentation of the Natuna Serial Murder Case, 2023.

⁶³Jan Michiel Otto, Op. cit., p. 60.

inability of the Intelligence Unit to meet the electronic evidence standards as stipulated in Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code; and second, the inconsistency of intelligence documentation. A study of the Serasan Island murder case showed that CCTV footage that should have had high probative value could not be used because it did not meet digital forensic standards.

Radbruch stated that legal certainty does not only depend on formal legality, but also on the technical capacity of the legal system to meet the demands of justice. Therefore, training in preparing intelligence reports that are worthy of being submitted to the court and the procurement of basic forensic equipment are crucial strategies in increasing legal certainty.

4. Conclusion

1. The Role of the Police Intelligence Unit in the Investigation of the Murder Crime at the Natuna Police The role of the Natuna Police Intelligence and Security Unit (Satintelkam) in the investigation of murder crimes has a high strategic value, especially in supporting the success of the law enforcement process in the archipelago. Institutionally, Satintelkam consists of several sub-units that carry out intelligence functions based on information collection through the Human Intelligence (HUMINT) method, Signal Intelligence (SIGINT) on a limited basis, and Open Source Intelligence (OSINT). These three methods are part of Satintelkam's factual tasks in the early stages of investigation and are within the authority corridor regulated normatively in Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police and Regulation of the Chief of Police Number 10 of 2010. This function is equipped with the ability to analyze and prepare intelligence reports that form the basis for operational decision making. In addition, Satintelkam also plays an important role in coordinating with the Criminal Investigation Unit (Satreskrim) to support the effectiveness of investigations through provision of valid initial information. This is clearly illustrated in two case studies, namely the murder on KM Samudra and in East Bunguran, where Satintelkam was able to assist in the process of identifying the perpetrators, mapping the motives of the crime, and reconstructing the Crime Scene (TKP). Based on all of these descriptions, it can be concluded that the role of Satintelkam is very significant as an initial supporter in the investigation of the murder crime at the Natuna Police. This role not only represents the factual implementation of operational tasks, but is also a direct manifestation of the normative mandate inherent in the police legal system.

2. Effectiveness of the Role of the Police Intelligence Unit in the Investigation of Murder Crimes at the Natuna Police The effectiveness of the role of the Natuna Police Intelligence and Security Unit (Satintelkam) in investigating murder crimes can be categorized as quite good, although not yet fully optimal. This can be seen from the success of revealing two murder cases in a relatively short time, which reflects the effective implementation of the early warning function and intelligence-led policing approach. Through the case studies of KM Samudra and Bunguran Timur, the evaluation shows that intelligence has succeeded in supplying accurate initial data and supporting the acceleration of the legal process. However, this effectiveness is still faced with various operational obstacles, such as technological limitations, the lack of digital forensic devices, geographical challenges of the archipelago, and the low number of

personnel certified in the field of intelligence analysis. Reliance on Human Intelligence (HUMINT) methods without the support of sophisticated modern intelligence technology also limits the scope of Satintelkam in detecting and analyzing cases comprehensively. In addition, weak coordination with related agencies such as the Indonesian Navy, Immigration, and maritime security forces widens the gap in cross-sectoral supervision. From a theoretical perspective, this effectiveness is analyzed using the theory of authority, Lawrence M. Friedman's legal system theory, and the theory of legal certainty. All three show that there is still a gap between the ideal role that is regulated normatively and the actual capacity in the field, which ultimately has an impact on legal principles such as the principle of speedy trials, validity of evidence, and guarantee of legal certainty. Thus, although the role of Satintelkam has shown progressive performance, further optimization is still needed so that the effectiveness of police intelligence work can achieve ideal standards according to the applicable legal framework.

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