Final Report of the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus Counter Terrorism Exercise

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In addition to the elaborate opening and closing ceremonies, this exercise consisted of three major elements:

1) **Strategic-level table top exercise (TTX)**

Senior civilian and military participants — and a smaller number of observers — from the ADMM-Plus countries attended presentations on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats, and conventional threats, which can produce CBRN-like effects. They were introduced to a methodology to assess and prioritize “all hazards” risks — natural and man-made — in Southeast Asia, and were briefed on Indonesia’s de-radicalization and re-integration efforts by Inspector General (Retired) Ansyaad Mbai, the Director of the Indonesian National Counterterrorism Center, or BNPT.

During the remainder of the TTX, the participants were also presented with 2.5 credible terrorism scenarios, using a simulated “ASEAN” news broadcast, an intelligence summary and specific tasking, with the overarching question, “What can be done now by ADMM-Plus countries to better prepare for these types of events?”

All of the scenarios were specifically designed to require a multinational regional response. The first scenario was a maritime terrorism threat against a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility or tanker, either pier-side or transiting the region. The second scenario was a major regional sports and cultural event attended by dignitaries and celebrities from many countries. On the last day of the TTX, the threat of Man-Portable surface-to-air missiles, or MANPADS — in the hands of a sophisticated regional terrorism organization — was injected into the second scenario.

The TTX participants and observers were divided into four working groups, composed of four countries each, where they discussed the scenarios and came up with findings and recommendations, which were presented to all of the representatives in a plenary session at the end of each day.

2) **Tactical-level practical exercise (PE)**

Ten to 12 participants from 12 of the ADMM-Plus countries, along with observers, attended lectures and shared best practices on various anti-terrorism-related procedures in a “walk and talk” format. Participants were shown how to identify and counter various Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Australia and Singapore demonstrated how to assault a mock-up Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) tanker and respond to a major hostage situation in a stadium. The PE activities were loosely tied to the TTX scenarios.

3) **Full Mission Profile (FMP)**

This was an elaborate tactical demonstration by various antiterrorism units of Indonesian Special Operations Forces, as well as selected ADMM-Plus partners, prior to the closing ceremony. Originally planned as an Indonesian forces-only demonstration, the Indonesian hosts graciously added personnel from the other nations’ PE tactical teams to support parts of the demonstration.

The five-day CTX was the culmination of more than two years of planning by the Indonesian Ministry of Defense, the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) and their National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT). On the U.S. side, representatives from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict (ASD SOLIC); Special Operations Command, Pacific (SOCPAC); and the Center for Civil-Military Relations (CCMR) were engaged in the planning since September 2011. Over those two years, the Indonesian and U.S. planners participated in multiple meetings in Makassar and Jakarta in Indonesia, and Washington, D.C., Honolulu, Hawaii, and Monterey, California, in the USA.

The CTX was a significant and tangible example of enhanced regional security cooperation by the 10 ASEAN and eight “Plus,” or ASEAN dialogue partner nations. Shortly before the CTX, the 18 ADMM-Plus Defense Ministers held their second meeting in Brunei on 29 August 2013.

In the CTX, senior participants from the various ADMM-Plus delegations identified many issues requiring enhanced regional coordination under the ASEAN organizational umbrella, and made specific recommendation on the way ahead. This report attempts to capture the planning, CTX highlights, and most importantly, issues and recommendations participants offered for future consideration by senior ADMM-Plus decision makers, especially the incoming cochairs for the EWG-CT: Singapore and Australia.