

The Role of the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit in Minimizing the Number of Traffic Accidents

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| ARTICLE INFO | ABSTRACT |
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| <p>Keywords: The Role, Satlantas Polres Padang Lawas, Minimizes, Accidents, Traffic.</p> | <p><i>The purpose of this research is to describe the Role of the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit in Overcoming Traffic Accidents in Padang Lawas City and Obstacles to the Role of the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit in Minimizing the number of Traffic Accidents in Padang Lawas City. This type of research is qualitative-descriptive, where the data collection technique is done through literature sources, observation, and documentation. The results showed that: first, the role of the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit in minimizing the number of traffic accidents, among others: 1. conducting community development in the field of traffic; 2. conducting routine patrol activities on the highway; 3. organizing the administration of completeness for drivers and motorized vehicles; 4. conducting law enforcement activities; 5. we are organizing traffic operations. Second, the inhibiting factors of the role of the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit in minimizing the number of traffic accidents in Padang Lawas City are: 1. Lack of public awareness of traffic order; 2. Lack of Traffic Police Professionals to carry out Tasks.</i></p> |

INTRODUCTION

Traffic accidents are one of the biggest problems the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit has to deal with. The number does not show a small number. Sometimes, the number can decrease and increase, but it is more likely to increase more often. Even victims of traffic accidents show an increase from year to year. As a result, traffic accidents can cause casualties, both death and minor injuries to severe injuries, and even often cause material losses to the victims. Steps taken to reduce the number of traffic accidents include paying attention to safety factors in driving on the highway, one of which is complying with the rules that apply in traffic. (Harun et al., 2024).

Several factors influence the occurrence of traffic accidents, namely human factors, vehicles and roads. (Siregar & Dewi, 2020). These three factors greatly influence the traffic accidents in Padang Lawas City.

Data on traffic accident cases in 2021 there were 45 cases in which 24 people were declared dead; in 2022, there were 40 cases with 18 people killed. Meanwhile, in 2023, there were 3,855 cases, 884 people died, 1,246 seriously injured, and 4,545 slightly injured. This data shows a fantastic increase, so there must be a solution where the number of accidents must be minimized with better efforts.

As for some violations committed by motorists that cause traffic accidents that occur in the city of Padang Lawas, among others: driving while playing cell phones, underage drivers, riding more than one person, not using SNI helmets, driving under the influence of alcohol, against the current, using blong exhaust and driving vehicles at high speeds.

From the description above, the author is interested in conducting research related to the Role of the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit in Overcoming Traffic Accidents in Padang Lawas City and the inhibiting factors for the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit in Minimizing the number of Traffic Accidents in Padang Lawas City.

METHOD

The approach used is qualitative-descriptive research. Qualitative research is used to describe and analyze phenomena, events, social activities, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, and people individually and in groups" (Jumaeda, 2017). Furthermore, "the use of descriptive research aims to define a situation or phenomenon as it is." This approach is directed at the background and the individual holistically (whole). So, in this case, isolating individuals or organizations into variables or hypotheses is not allowed. However, it is necessary to view them as part of a whole.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit in Overcoming Traffic Accidents in Padang Lawas City

The term role comes from the word "role", which then gets the suffix "an" to become "role". In anthropology and the social sciences, role is one of the dynamic aspects of a position or status. If a person carries out his rights and obligations, he is considered to be carrying out a role." (Perwira et al., 2023). The role is a dynamic aspect and position (status). If a person carries out his rights and obligations by his position, he has carried out a role. The two cannot be separated and contradict each other. Everyone has various roles that come from their social patterns. This also means that the role determines what he does for society. "Role emphasizes function, self-adjustment and as a process." (Mewengkang et al., 2016).

Based on the definition of role above, it can be concluded that role is a dynamic aspect of the position of a person, body or institution in holding an interest in a social system as an effort to achieve a set goal or a measure of two variables that have a cause-and-effect relationship. the role intended here is the role of police officers/law enforcers who are dynamic in carrying out actions or actions that provide handling to ensure security and safety for road users on the highway.

The definition of the police according to Article 5 paragraph (1) of Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, states that: "The Indonesian National Police is a state instrument that plays a role in maintaining security and public order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, protection, and services to the community in the context of maintaining domestic security." (Iskandar, 2019). The word Police comes from the Ancient Greek term "politeia" which means the government of a polis or city. (Alfian, 2020). Then, the Big Indonesian Dictionary refers to the word police as a government agency in charge of maintaining security and public order, such as arresting people who violate laws or state employees in charge of maintaining security (Arif, 2021). (Arif, 2021).

The primary duties of the National Police are as law enforcers, protectors, protectors and services for the community. This is enshrined in the provisions of Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, namely Article 13, which states that the National Police are tasked with: 1. maintain security and public order; 2. enforce the law; 3. provide protection, protection and services to the community.

The composition of the police organization at the police level contained in Article 6 Paragraph 3 Letters a to w in the Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia National Police Number 2 of 2021 concerning Organizational Structure and Work Procedures at the Resort Police and Sector Police Level consists of Supervision Section, Professional and Security Section, Operations Section, Planning Section, Human Resources Section, Logistics Section, Public Relations Section, Legal Section, Communication Information Technology Section, General Section, Integrated Police Service Center, Security Intelligence Unit, Criminal Investigation Unit, Narcotics, Psychotropic and Dangerous Drug Investigation Unit, Community Development Unit, Samapta Unit, Traffic Unit, Vital Object Security Unit, Water and Air Police Unit, Prisoner and Evidence Treatment Unit, Finance Section, Police Medicine and Police Health Section, and Polsek.

Article 5 letter f states that in carrying out the duties as referred to in Article 4, the Polres organizes functions: "the implementation of traffic functions, including activities of regulating, guarding, escorting and patrolling traffic, including prosecution of violations and investigation of traffic accidents as well as registration and identification of motorized vehicles in the context of law enforcement and fostering security, safety, order, and smooth traffic."

Traffic accidents ab, abbreviated as Lakalantas, are unexpected and unintentional events involving vehicles or other road users that can cause victims and property losses. Traffic accidents can happen anytime and anywhere, and they are unpredictable. Traffic accidents can not only cause trauma, injury, minor injury, serious injury or disability but can result in death. (Zuleha, 2018). Furthermore, according to Fachrurrozy, as cited by Antory, traffic accidents are unexpected and unintentional events involving vehicles with or without other road

users, resulting in human casualties (minor injuries, serious injuries, and death) and property losses. (Suyanto, 2019).

The elements of a traffic accident include the existence of an event occurring on the road, the existence of an element of an accident involving vehicles, with or without other road users, and resulting in property and human casualties. (Prayoga & Sambas, 2022). Although accidents have supporting elements in their occurrence, accidents are not something that someone expects to experience. Suppose an accident is an element of intentionality. In that case, the argument that is imposed is not an accident but an argument of persecution or premeditated murder.

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that traffic accidents are spontaneous events that take place very quickly, without any element of intent. However, there is an element of negligence that causes minor, severe injuries and even death.

Traffic accidents that occur on the highway are not something that anyone expects. However, the number often increases, accompanied by the number of motorists on the road. The increase in traffic accidents does not just happen; some things significantly affect it. Legal awareness is highly expected for motorists on the highway to anticipate traffic violations. It is not only legal awareness that is needed in creating traffic orders, but law enforcement from parties who play a vital role is also needed. The party in question is the Traffic Unit (Satuan Lalulintas), whose duties are regulated by Law Article 41 (1). The Traffic Unit, as referred to in Article 6 paragraph (3) letter q, is tasked with: "to carry out traffic regulation, guarding, escorting and patrolling, traffic security and safety, registration and identification services for motorized vehicles and drivers, and law enforcement in the field of traffic." Furthermore, letter d states that the implementation of law enforcement by Satlantas includes the fields of traffic investigation and investigation, handling accidents, traffic violations and the first action at the scene of a traffic accident. So, the presence of the role of Satlantas in traffic order is needed.

There are several roles of the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit in tackling Traffic Accidents in Padang Lawas City, including:

Conducting Community Development in the Field of Traffic

There is a need to guide the community regarding the understanding of traffic. That knowledge in the traffic field will bring motorists safety and security. We know that, currently, not all drivers understand the rules that apply in traffic. Drivers are not only required to be able to drive a vehicle but also to understand what must be done by the driver to drive safely and not harm the same road users on the highway. Guidance in the field of traffic carried out by the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit includes aspects of regulation, aspects of control, and aspects of supervision. This is intended to ensure all road users' safety, security, and order. Community development is carried out not only by conducting socialization and legal counselling to the public but also through appeals made by the Traffic Police in the form of advertisements, banners, print media, mass media, brochures and others that can help the public to understand the importance of driving on the road. Traffic rules are a step to prevent accidents for the safety of all road users. Providing education to the public in the field of traffic is targeted not only to adults but also to school levels such as elementary, middle, and high schools up to the college level, ordinary people, and agencies throughout the Padang Lawas Police area.

Conduct routine patrol activities on the highway.

Traffic police not only carry out road curbs but must also conduct more frequent patrol activities. (Poetra, 2014). Patrol activities are carried out by combing every road used by vehicle traffic. This patrol activity is intended to oversee driving activities on the highway further so that traffic is more orderly and smoother. Satlantas is an implementing element whose duties include supervision, escort and patrol, and traffic engineering. (Putra et al., 2018). Patrol activities are carried out to prevent situations and conditions that disrupt highway order. This is a step in overcoming traffic accidents. Patrol activities are considered very effective in taking firm action against street violations by motorists or criminals who make noise on the highway, which will hamper vehicle activities. This is done because there are several incidents on the streets of criminal acts that throw drivers on the highway to carry out extortion and robbery that interfere with the security and order of traffic activities on the highway. Patrol activities are an effort to create a conducive atmosphere. Patrol activities become information material to the owners of interests, not only the government but also the community, for the safety and smooth running of motorists and highway users.

Organizing the administration of completeness for drivers and motorized vehicles

The administration of completeness for drivers and motorized vehicles is essential. The Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit does this through observation, supervision, and strict action against any violations committed by drivers and vehicles that do not comply with applicable traffic rules. This is an effort of the Traffic Unit to carry

out orders on the highway. The goal is to reduce traffic to avoid traffic accidents for road users. Enforcement of violations can be carried out for motorists who do not have a driver's license, do not have or carry vehicle documents, do not understand traffic signs and road markings, do not complete vehicle completeness attributes, drive vehicles beyond the specified speed, carry vehicles in overcapacity conditions to drive vehicles not fit for the road. This activity is carried out in particular and routine operations so that motorists drive more orderly. This step is done according to the procedures of Satlantas officers, hoping that safety and order will be realized in driving activities on the road. Organizing police operations in the field of traffic

Conducting Law enforcement activities

Law Enforcement activities are practical in prosecuting motorists who commit traffic violations. (Bakri et al., 2020). Violations that often occur, for example, not having a driver's license, not using a helmet for motorcyclists, not wearing seat belts and not carrying motor vehicle equipment, driving vehicles at high speeds, violating traffic signs and road markings, driving vehicles with overcapacity, and drive vehicles that are not roadworthy. Law enforcement needs to deal with these violations. Law enforcement is carried out for orderly traffic and to provide a deterrent effect to the perpetrators of violations so as not to repeat their violations in the future. Law enforcement in traffic violations is by imposing sanctions, both criminal sanctions and fines.

Organizing traffic operations

The Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit often carries out traffic operations. The implementation of traffic operations is divided into two parts: special operations and routine operations. Special operations are carried out according to central instructions and apply to all police forces in Indonesia. These operations include Operation Zebra, Operation Candle, Operation Ketupat, Operation Sympathetic and Operation Obedient Jaya. The second operation is routine operations, which are carried out according to the instructions of regional police units at both provincial and district levels; central police instructions do not bind this operation. Routine operations are usually carried out by setting up roads prone to congestion and traffic accidents. The duties of the Traffic Unit have been regulated by law so that its duties and functions are carried out according to applicable regulations. The implementation of traffic operations is carried out to tackle traffic orders on the highway, prosecute violations committed by the same motorists and road users, and prosecute motor vehicles that do not meet the rules of traffic orders. The violations committed are indicated to be able to cause traffic accidents because the incidents of traffic accidents are harmed not only by the victims but also by the perpetrators of violations, who are also sometimes in the same position. The result of a traffic accident is not only causing minor injuries to the victim, but it can cause severe injuries until the victim dies. Losses are not only personal but material losses are also experienced, so to prevent and overcome the occurrence of traffic accidents that need to be considered, namely the operational implementation system of traffic, which is increasingly being improved as an effort to minimize the number of traffic accidents in the jurisdiction of the Padang Lawas police. Routine operations aim to bring order to the implementation of driving activities on the highway to reduce the number of traffic accidents in the Padang Lawas Police Legal Area.

Obstacles to the Role of the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit in Minimizing the Number of Traffic Accidents in Padang Lawas City

Some of the inhibiting factors for the role of Satlantas Polres Padang Lawas in minimizing the number of traffic accidents in Padang Lawas City are as follows:

Lack of public awareness of traffic rules

Public awareness as a driver on the highway still needs to improve. This can be seen from the number of violations in Padang Lawas to the number of violations that cause traffic accidents. The level of driver awareness is one of the critical factors that can cause traffic accidents. If the level of public awareness of motorists is still low, the number of violations will continue to increase. For this reason, Satlantas is present to increase legal awareness regarding orderly traffic. Increased awareness can be realized through socialization activities and legal counselling to appeal to orderly traffic. This activity will impact the lack of traffic violations committed by motorists on the highway.

Lack of Professionalism of the Traffic Unit in carrying out Tasks

The police, through the Traffic Unit, are tasked with securing traffic orders. By its Tupoks, the police function provides services, protection, and a sense of security to the community. (Wicaksana et al., 2021). However, the facts in the field show that there are still many police officers who need to work according to their Tupoksinya. They even abuse their authority for personal and group interests. One of them is KKN (Corruption et al.) behaviour. The police force, considered a community protector, needs to reflect more professionalism in its duties. They selectively enforce the law and abuse their authority for their interests. KKN's behaviour is highly

disgraceful because it can harm oneself, others, and even the State and tarnish the good name of the institution. KKN behaviour certainly impacts police performance in the field, including the Satlantas section. Another impact is that it makes people lazy and even disobedient to the rules applied on the road because they think every violation has a solution, namely finding safety from corrupt police officers. Therefore, acts of violation are things that need to be feared. When violations are given the space to occur repeatedly, Traffic Incidents are inevitable and will even increase. So, the professionalism of a Traffic Police officer will continue working by *Tupoksinya*. Efforts that can be made for this KKN behaviour are: increasing faith in God Almighty, implementing clean living behaviour from KKN, applying professionalism in carrying out tasks, increasing discipline on duty, and increasing legal awareness that KKN behaviour is disgraceful behaviour.

CONCLUSION

The role of Satlantas Polres Padang Lawas in handling traffic accidents in Padang Lawas City includes: 1. Conducting Community Development in the Field of Traffic; 2. Conducting Routine patrol activities on the highway; 2. Conducting the administration of completeness for drivers and motorized vehicles; 2. Conducting law enforcement activities; 2. We are conducting traffic operations. Factors inhibiting the role of the Padang Lawas Police Traffic Unit in minimizing the number of traffic accidents in Padang Lawas City, namely: Lack of public awareness of orderly traffic; 2. Lack of Professional Satlantas in carrying out their duties; 3.

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