

The Utilization of Field Information Support Tool to Enhance ASEAN Regional Security Communication

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ABSTRACT

Transnational crimes include terrorism, illicit drugs, human trafficking, money laundering, and other crimes such as arms smuggling, sea piracy, international economic fraud and cybercrime still remain the significant security problems and obstacles in ASEAN region. The national security organization in each country particularly the Ministry of Defense should be responsible directly to defend its own territory against enemies and also to provide combat capabilities to protect its sovereignty and integrity of the country. The Field Information Support Tools or FIST is an Internet-based intelligence communication tool co-developed by the United States government agency and Kestrel Technology Group to assist military forces to collect data concerning security operations and HADR missions and trainings. FIST is a field-based collection system using commercial off-the-shelf mobile electronic devices, customized software and a robust information management back up known as *FusionPortal*. The overarching goal of FIST is to develop a user-friendly data collection tool that utilize automated information system to enable unstructured data to be collected, processed and structured for analysis and visualization. In this article, the authors discussed how FIST has been utilized in Thai military and civilian security and HADR exercises. In addition, FIST highlights the capacity of information and communication technology to facilitate civilian-military coordination on ASEAN security operations. However, it was found that the Thai military technical students from the military technical training school or other armed service non-commissioned officer schools still lacked skills on integrated communications technology. Most curricula in the Ministry of Defense were designed to develop applied science and technical skills to support traditional military needs such as artillery, cavalry, communication, infantry, mechanic, music, and transportation. Thus, it is critical to design military technical curriculum based on FIST system.

Keywords: Communication tool, crimes prevention, FIST (Field Information Support Tools), information management, security system