

## **INDONESIAN MILITARY GARRISON WEST PAPUA**

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Known as “**West Papua**” (or “**West New Guinea**”) until 1973 when renamed “**Irian Jaya**”

Indonesian controlled since 1963, becoming a province in 1969

### **Indonesian Military Garrison**

- 1963 had 15,000 army troops
- 1968 had 10,000 to 15,000 military personnel
- 1978 had 25,000 to 30,000 military personnel
- 1981 had 25,000 military personnel
- 1984 had 5,000 military/armed police personnel

### **Indonesian Army**

- HQ at Jayapura
- Highest rank achieved by local Papuan soldier was Major
- In 1963 had 15,000 army troops

- 1968 had 9,000 to 20,000 army troops including 6,000 deployed directly against rebels  
(4 extra Battalions rushed in)

- 1976 had 16,000 army troops including 5,000 near P.N.G. border

- 1978 had 15,000 army troops including 3,000 at Jayapura and 700 to 800 on P.N.G. border

- In 1984 had 2,300 to 2,500 army troops
  - Under command of a Brigadier-General
  - Deployed in 3 Infantry Battalions (735 , 736 , 737)
  - Based at Jayapura, Sorong and Manahwari
  - Including 400 on PNG border

- In 2000 Organised into
  - VIII Military Area Command [KODAM] under command of a Major-General
    - Total of 8,400 military personnel
    - HQ Jayapura [with 700 military personnel including 90 strong intelligence unit]
  - 4 Military Regions [KOREM] each under command of a Colonel
    - each KOREM HQ has 350 military personnel including 40 strong intelligence unit
  - 14 Military District Commands [KODIM] each under command of a Lieut-Colonel and comprising Kodim HQ [of 50 army personnel] and
    - 14 Koramil Military Sub Districts [under command of a NCO with 7 to 8 army troops]

- plus 6 Territorial Infantry Battalions
  - [each 700 strong , of 4 Rifle Companies]
  - based at Jayapura
  - Sorong
  - Manahwari

2 Territorial Combat Engineer Group/Detachments  
[ Company plus size, used on civic aid, construction projects]

1 Kopassus Special Forces Unit based at Freeport mining base

Kopasandha “Red Beret” unit

NB; 4 Battalions permanently based in Irian Jaya  
Battalion 751 had 150 local Papuan soldiers & 400 other Indonesian troops  
2 Infantry Companies based at Timika region  
In 2003 deployed 1,500 troops on PNG border

#### **Indonesian Air Force**

based at Biak  
deployed [5] armed OV-10 Bronco COIN aircraft and 6 helicopters

#### **Indonesian Navy**

HQ at Jayapura  
include Marine Corps base at Manokwari (400 Marine troops based at Sorong)

#### **Indonesian Police**

Police HQ at Jayapura  
In 1984 had 2,500 personnel  
armed and uniformed paramilitary force  
equipped with rifles  
part of the Armed Forces  
under command of a Police Brigadier-General  
Police Stations at Biak  
Sorong  
Jayapura  
Merauke

#### **1964 Border Clash**

between Australian force and Indonesian military forces  
minor

#### **April 1969 Border Clash**

When small group of armed uniformed Indonesian soldiers crossed into eastern PNG territory  
Fired on a patrol of unarmed Australian District Officer and two native Constables

#### **May 1969 Border Clash**

When group of 15 Indonesian soldiers crossed into PNG and raided a refugee camp  
2 Irianese refugees killed

#### **April 1989 Border Clash**

When group of 150 Indonesian troops crossed over into PNG near Imanda

#### **References;** “ Pacific Islands Monthly”

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