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W00969H

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

INDONESIA
Air Vice Marshal SOEKARDI
July 1982

(U) NAME: Air Vice Marshal Soekardi, Indonesian Air Force. Variant Sukardi (pronounced soo-KAR-dee).

(U) POSITION: Commander, National Strategic Command (KOSTRANAS), since April 1981.

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SIGNIFICANCE: Marshal Soekardi is a highly intelligent and professional officer who was once President Suharto's personal pilot. A forceful leader, he previously held the post of Deputy Commander, Regional Defense Command II, the most important territorial command, responsible for Java, Bali, the Lesser Sunda Islands and Timor. His present command, KOSTRANAS is the Joint Force Strike Headquarters which functions as a general reserve for the regional commands, develops training and operational doctrine, engages in strategic planning, and oversees the yearly combined force exercises. Although generally inactive in the past, KOSTRANAS, in recent years, has received increased attention as a result of Defense Minister General Jusuf's drive to upgrade military readiness. Marshal Soekardi may have accompanied Jusuf to the US, at least partially, to obtain new ideas for improving KOSTRANAS, possibly through comparison with the US Rapid Deployment Force. With retirement scheduled for 1985, this may be Soekardi's last military command.



No photo available

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ POLITICS: Although recent information is not available on Marshal Soekardi, he undoubtedly remains a loyal and trusted supporter of the present government. (b)(1),1.4 (c)

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

In the past, Soekardi avoided politics, preferring instead to concentrate on his military career. He once was considered a protege of Air Marshal Rusmin, a former Air Force Commander and US Ambassador, who is now Minister of Communications.

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ PERSONAL DATA: Marshal Soekardi was born in (b)(6)

He is an effective although quiet speaker in the Javanese tradition. An earlier report indicated that subordinate officers respect (b)(1),1.4 (d)

(b)(6)

He and his wife,

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

have three children. (b)(6)

1.4 (c)

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

(b)(6)

He has travelled widely in the past and is reportedly fluent in English as well as his native Indonesian and Javanese.

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(C) CAREER:

- 1952 - Entered pilot training in Indonesia.
- 1953 - Promoted to Junior First Lieutenant, assigned as a pilot at Husein AFB, Bandung.
- 1954 - Transferred to Military Air Transport Service at Husein AFB.
- 1955 - Air Force Staff School.
- 1960 - Promoted to Captain, and transferred to the Second Air Training Command at Adisucipto AFB, Jogjakarta. Completed Flight Instructors School, Group VI.
- 1963 - Assigned as a pilot with operations wing 001, Squadron 31, at Halim Perdanakusuma AFB, Jakarta.
- 1963 - Promoted to Major and given command of Squadron 31.
- 1964 - Completed AURI Staff and Command School (SESKAU) Promoted LTC.
- 1964 - Assistant to the Assistant Director of Foreign Procurement.
- 1965 - Chief of the Air Force Bureau of Procurement.
- 1968 - Promoted to Colonel, Commander of Halim Perdanakusuma AFB, Jakarta. Served as personal pilot for Indonesian President SUHARTO in a Lockheed C-140 Jetstar.
- 1970 - Promoted to Air Commodore.
- 1970 - Installed as Commander of Seventh Air Territorial Command (KODAU VII) at Boroku AFB, Irian Jaya.
- 1970-80 - Data not available.
- By 1981 - Deputy Commander Regional Defense Command II.
- 1981-Present - Commander National Strategic Command.

PREPARED BY:

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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