APPLICATION OF DRONES IN THE MALAYSIAN ARMED FORCES

BRIG GEN DR MAHENDRA K SEKARAN NAIR
SENIOR DIRECTOR COMPREHENSIVE DEFENCE
MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY (MiDAS)

SCOPE

1. Drones in General
2. Malaysian Armed Forces usage of Drones
3. Malaysian Armed Forces Defence Planning on Drones Requirement
4. Drones Potential
5. Challenges

DRONES IN GENERAL

- Massive usage of drones in contemporary wars
- Vital in most military operations
- Flexibility of movement, small sized, durability and specially designed features
- Reduces the risk of human life losses
- Covering longer distances and flying for extended periods

MALAYSIAN ARMED FORCES USAGE OF DRONES

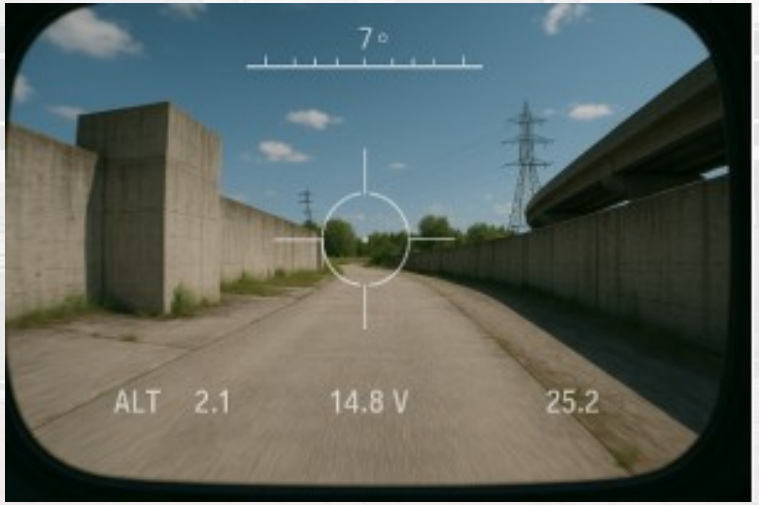
- Adopting **defensive posture** to ensure **sovereignty and territorial integrity**
- Usefulness of drones for **operations**
- Conducting surveillance and targeting
- Flexibility of movement, small sized and durable with specially designed features
- Royal Malaysian Navy with Scan Malaysia has operated UAV like the Scan Eagle 2 eagle drones
- Royal Malaysian Armed Forces recently receive the Turkish ANKA THS Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Drones to cover South China Sea and Sulu Sea

MAF DEFENCE PLANNING ON DRONE REQUIREMENTS

- Adapt modern technologies, including artificial intelligence drones and specifically Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE)
- Malaysian Army, in Army4NextG 2021 - real-time detection, C4ISRT and information operations
- Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) 15 to 5 Transformation Programme 2018
  - Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)
  - Unmanned Maritime System (UMS)
    - Unmanned Surface Vehicle (USV) and
    - Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV)
- Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF), through the CAP55 2021 - purchase MALE UAV

DRONES POTENTIAL

- Malaysia's Defence Industry Policy
- Malaysia's Public Universities Research Grants
- Drones in Assymetric Warfare



CHALLENGES

- Limited Budget
- Small market that hinders development of indigenous drones product – resorting to economic of scale development and toward asymmetric warfare
- Operation, maintenance and training requirements
- Easily improvised by terrorist groups
- Counter drone capability

CONCLUSION

THANK YOU