

Analysis of the Effectiveness of First Response Actions at Crime Scenes by the Samapta Unit in Criminal Offense Handling (A Study at Karo Regional Police)

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Abstract

This study examines the effectiveness of the First Action at the Crime Scene (Tindakan Pertama di Tempat Kejadian Perkara/TPTKP) conducted by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police in handling criminal offenses. The study is based on the importance of initial police actions in supporting criminal law enforcement, particularly in securing crime scenes, protecting victims, preserving evidence, and maintaining public order. Problems in the implementation of TPTKP, such as limited personnel, inadequate facilities, geographical constraints, and low public legal awareness, may affect the effectiveness of criminal investigations and legal certainty. This research aims to analyze the effectiveness of TPTKP implementation by the Samapta Unit and identify the inhibiting factors and optimization efforts in handling criminal offenses. The study employs an empirical legal research method with a sociological juridical approach and descriptive-analytical research characteristics. Data were collected through interviews, observations, documentation studies, and library research, and were analyzed qualitatively. The findings indicate that the implementation of TPTKP by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police has generally been effective, particularly in rapid response, crime scene security, and victim protection. However, several obstacles remain, including limited personnel, inadequate supporting facilities, geographical challenges, and insufficient public awareness regarding crime scene preservation. Therefore, strengthening human resources, improving technical training, enhancing inter-unit coordination, and increasing public legal education are necessary to improve professional, humane, and effective criminal law enforcement.

Keywords: *Effectiveness of Law Enforcement, Crime Scene First Action, Samapta Unit, Criminal Offense Handling, Karo Regional Police*

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Introduction

Criminal law enforcement is fundamentally determined not only by the success of the investigation and evidentiary process in court, but also by the quality of the initial actions taken by police officers when they first arrive at the crime scene. The First Action at the Crime Scene (Tindakan Pertama di Tempat Kejadian Perkara/TPTKP) constitutes an essential stage within the criminal justice system because it is directly related to securing the crime scene, protecting victims, locating witnesses, preserving evidence, and preventing the loss of traces of criminal acts. Errors or delays at this initial stage may obstruct the investigation process and affect legal certainty in criminal case handling [1].

Normatively, the authority of the Indonesian National Police to conduct initial actions at crime scenes is regulated under Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police. The regulation emphasizes that the police are tasked with maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection and services to society. In practice, these initial field actions are frequently carried out by the Samapta Unit because this unit is responsible for patrols, security operations, guarding duties, and rapid responses to public reports [2]. Consequently, the Samapta Unit is often the first police unit to arrive at the location of a criminal incident before investigators reach the crime scene.

The presence of the Samapta Unit in implementing TPTKP is highly significant because the officers' initial actions greatly determine the quality of subsequent legal processes. Crime scenes that are not immediately secured may result in damaged evidence, altered crime scene conditions, loss of evidence, or even the escape of criminal offenders. From the perspective of criminal procedural law, such conditions may hinder the evidentiary process and reduce the effectiveness of law enforcement [3]. Therefore, the professionalism of officers who first arrive at the crime scene becomes an important element in realizing effective and fair law enforcement.

In practice, the implementation of TPTKP still faces various challenges, including limited facilities and infrastructure, insufficient personnel, lack of optimal coordination among police units, and inadequate technical understanding of standard operating procedures for crime scene management. Research conducted by Siregar and Taufik indicates that the effectiveness of first actions at crime scenes is strongly influenced by the technical competence of officers and the speed of police response in securing the location [4]. Other studies also explain that the quality of crime scene security has a close relationship with the success of criminal investigations, particularly in maintaining the integrity of evidence and preliminary case information [5].

These issues can also be observed in several incidents within the jurisdiction of the Karo Regional Police (Polres Tanah Karo). One case that attracted public attention occurred in December 2025 when officers from the Samapta Unit of Polres Tanah Karo rapidly responded to reports of a suspected student brawl in Kabanjahe District. During the operation, officers successfully secured 14 teenagers along with several sharp weapons allegedly intended for violent acts. The rapid response and immediate action of the officers successfully prevented a larger criminal incident and maintained public security [6]. This incident demonstrates that the effectiveness of initial police actions has a direct impact on crime prevention and public protection.

In addition, media reports also highlighted the involvement of the Samapta Unit of Polres Tanah Karo in detainee security and court escort operations at the Kabanjahe District Court. These activities illustrate that the Samapta Unit has a strategic role in maintaining security stability and supporting the continuity of law enforcement processes [7]. This condition indicates that the Samapta Unit not only performs preventive duties but also serves as an essential part of repressive and the initial handling of criminal acts.

On the other hand, Karo Regency possesses relatively complex geographical conditions consisting of mountainous areas and considerable distances between districts. These geographical conditions may affect the speed of police officers in reaching crime scenes. In certain situations, Samapta personnel are required to take prompt and appropriate action before

other police units arrive at the location. Such circumstances demand personnel readiness, technical competence, and effective coordination among police units in implementing TPTKP so that the criminal case handling process can continue optimally.

The first action at the crime scene also contains an important humanitarian dimension. Victims of criminal acts are often in conditions of trauma, fear, or immediate need of assistance. Therefore, officers who first arrive at the scene are not only required to secure the crime scene but must also be capable of providing safety and protection to victims and surrounding communities. The professionalism and humane approach demonstrated by police officers during the initial handling process will influence the level of public trust in law enforcement institutions [8].

Based on the foregoing explanation, research concerning the effectiveness of first actions at crime scenes by the Samapta Unit in handling criminal offenses is important to conduct, particularly at the Karo Regional Police. This study is necessary to analyze the effectiveness of TPTKP implementation by the Samapta Unit, identify obstacles encountered in field practices, and determine optimization efforts that may improve the quality of criminal law enforcement in a professional, humane, and just manner. Based on the foregoing explanation, the research problems in this study are formulated as follows:

1. How effective are the first actions at crime scenes conducted by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police in handling criminal offenses?
2. What are the inhibiting factors and optimization efforts related to the implementation of first actions at crime scenes by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police in handling criminal offenses?

Literature Review

1. Theory of Legal Effectiveness

Legal effectiveness fundamentally relates to the extent to which a legal rule can be implemented and achieve its intended objectives within society. Soerjono Soekanto explains that legal effectiveness is influenced by several factors, namely legal substance, law enforcement officers, facilities and infrastructure, society, and the prevailing legal culture [9]. In the context of the First Action at the Crime Scene (*Tindakan Pertama di Tempat Kejadian Perkara/TPTKP*), legal effectiveness can be observed through the ability of police officers to carry out the initial handling procedures of criminal acts promptly, accurately, and in accordance with applicable standard operating procedures.

The implementation of TPTKP is not merely measured by the success of securing the crime scene, but also by the officers' ability to preserve the integrity of evidence, provide protection to victims, and support the continuity of the investigation process. Such effectiveness is crucial because the initial actions of police officers constitute the primary foundation of the criminal evidentiary process. If the initial actions are conducted unprofessionally, the investigation process may encounter obstacles and potentially create legal uncertainty [10].

In this study, the theory of legal effectiveness is used to analyze the extent to which the implementation of first actions by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police has been carried out in accordance with the objectives of criminal law enforcement. Furthermore, this theory is also employed to identify factors influencing the effectiveness of TPTKP implementation in the field.

2. Theory of Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is the process of transforming legal norms into practical realities within society. According to Satjipto Rahardjo, law enforcement is not merely the formal implementation of legal rules, but must also consider the values of justice, utility, and protection for society [11]. From the perspective of criminal law, law enforcement does not begin only at the trial stage, but starts from the very first actions taken by officers when receiving reports or discovering criminal acts.

The first action at the crime scene constitutes an integral part of criminal law enforcement because it serves as the initial stage in collecting evidence and case-related information. The success of officers in securing the crime scene will influence the quality of the investigation and evidentiary process in court. Therefore, police officers assigned in the field must possess professional competence and adequate legal understanding to ensure that every action taken remains consistent with the principle of due process of law.

In this research, the theory of law enforcement is utilized to understand how the Samapta Unit performs its law enforcement function during the initial handling of criminal acts, particularly in maintaining public order, securing crime scenes, and supporting investigations in a professional and humane manner.

3. Theory of Police Authority

Authority refers to the rights and powers possessed by an institution or official to undertake certain actions based on statutory regulations. In the context of policing, the authority of police officers is regulated under Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police. The police are granted authority to conduct first actions at crime scenes as part of their functions in maintaining security and enforcing the law [12].

As an operational unit of the police institution, the Samapta Unit possesses authority to conduct patrols, security operations, guarding duties, and rapid responses to security disturbances and criminal offenses. In practice, Samapta personnel are often the first officers to arrive at the scene before investigators reach the crime scene. Therefore, actions carried out by the Samapta Unit must remain within legal boundaries and comply with applicable procedures in order to avoid human rights violations or abuse of authority.

The theory of authority is used in this study to analyze the legal basis for the implementation of TPTKP by the Samapta Unit, as well as the limits of authority possessed by officers in the initial handling of criminal acts.

4. Concept of First Action at the Crime Scene (TPTKP)

The first action at the crime scene refers to a series of initial measures undertaken by police officers when they first discover or receive reports regarding a criminal act. These actions include securing the location, recording the initial condition of the crime scene, rescuing victims, collecting preliminary information, and preserving evidence to prevent it from being damaged or lost [13].

In criminal law enforcement practice, TPTKP holds a strategic position because the initial condition of the crime scene greatly determines the success of the investigation process. According to Momo Kelana, the initial actions of officers at the crime scene must be conducted promptly, carefully, and professionally because mistakes at the initial stage may obstruct the disclosure of criminal acts [14]. Therefore, officers who first arrive at the location must possess technical competence and mental readiness in dealing with field situations.

The implementation of TPTKP also contains a dimension of legal protection for victims and society. Police officers are not only required to preserve the integrity of the crime scene, but must also be capable of providing safety, immediate assistance, and a humane approach toward victims and their families. Such an approach is important in building public trust in police institutions.

In this study, the concept of TPTKP is employed to examine how the first actions conducted by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police are implemented in practice and to what extent such actions fulfill the principles of professionalism and effective law enforcement.

5. Theory of Police Professionalism

Police professionalism refers to the ability of police officers to perform their duties based on competence, skills, ethics, and legal responsibility. Professionalism is an essential factor in police duties because officers interact directly with society and frequently encounter emergency situations [15].

In the implementation of TPTKP, police professionalism can be observed through the officers' ability to secure the crime scene, preserve evidence, coordinate with other police functions, and provide prompt services to the public. Professional officers are capable of taking appropriate actions without neglecting public rights or the applicable legal principles.

In addition to technical competence, police professionalism is also related to a humane approach in public service. The presence of police officers at crime scenes is not solely intended to enforce the law, but also to provide safety and protection to individuals affected by criminal incidents. Therefore, responsive and empathetic actions by police officers constitute an important element in building the legitimacy of police institutions within society.

Research Methodology

This study employs an empirical legal research method with a sociological juridical approach. This approach is used because the research not only examines legal provisions concerning the First Action at the Crime Scene (Tindakan Pertama di Tempat Kejadian Perkara/TPTKP), but also analyzes its direct implementation in the practice of criminal offense handling by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police. Empirical legal research was selected in order to obtain a concrete understanding of the effectiveness of TPTKP implementation, the obstacles encountered by police officers in the field, and the efforts undertaken to improve the quality of criminal case handling. This approach is relevant to the focus of the study, which emphasizes the relationship between legal norms and their implementation within society [16].

The nature of this research is descriptive-analytical, namely research intended to systematically, factually, and accurately describe the implementation of first actions at crime scenes by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police, which is then analyzed based on the theory of legal effectiveness, the theory of law enforcement, and applicable legal provisions. This study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of the initial actions carried out by police officers in supporting professional and humane criminal law enforcement processes.[17]

The research was conducted at the Karo Regional Police Office, particularly within the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police. The selection of this research location was based on the consideration that the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police has a high level of involvement in patrol activities, security operations, and initial responses to reports of criminal offenses within the jurisdiction of Karo Regency. Furthermore, Karo Regency possesses relatively complex geographical characteristics, making it an interesting area to examine in relation to the effectiveness of TPTKP implementation in the field.

The data sources in this study consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained directly through interviews with personnel of the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police, investigators, and parties related to the implementation of first actions at crime scenes. The interviews were conducted in-depth to obtain information regarding TPTKP procedures, obstacles encountered, forms of coordination among police functions, and efforts to improve police professionalism in handling criminal offenses. Primary data were also obtained through observations of the conditions and mechanisms of the Samapta Unit's operational duties in the field.

Meanwhile, secondary data were obtained through library research involving primary legal materials, secondary legal materials, and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials include Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP), and internal police regulations related to first actions at crime scenes. Secondary legal materials consist of legal textbooks, scientific journals, research findings, scholarly articles, and academic publications relevant to the effectiveness of law enforcement and police functions. Tertiary legal materials include legal dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other supporting sources related to this study [18].

Data collection techniques in this study were carried out through interviews, documentation studies, and library research. Interviews were conducted to obtain empirical data regarding the implementation of TPTKP by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police. Documentation studies were conducted on activity reports, criminal offense handling data, crime scene security documentation, and media reports related to the response of the Samapta Unit in handling criminal offenses. Meanwhile, library research was conducted to obtain theoretical and normative foundations supporting the research analysis.

Data analysis in this study was conducted qualitatively. Data obtained from field research and library studies were collected, classified, and systematically analyzed to answer the research problems. The analysis was conducted by connecting empirical facts in the field with the theory of legal effectiveness, the theory of law enforcement, and the concept of police professionalism. Furthermore, the results of the analysis were descriptively arranged to provide a clear description regarding the effectiveness of first actions at crime scenes by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police in handling criminal offenses.

This research method is expected to produce an objective, comprehensive, and relevant study concerning the empirical conditions of law enforcement within society. In addition, this study is also expected to provide both academic and practical contributions toward improving the quality of first actions at crime scenes so that the criminal law enforcement process may operate effectively, professionally, and while continuing to uphold humanitarian values.

Results

1. Effectiveness of First Actions at Crime Scenes by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police in Handling Criminal Offenses

The implementation of First Actions at the Crime Scene (Tindakan Pertama di Tempat Kejadian Perkara/TPTKP) by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police fundamentally constitutes an important element in supporting the success of criminal law enforcement processes. Based on the findings of field research, the Samapta Unit is the police division most frequently arriving first at crime scenes due to its functions in patrol operations, security activities, and rapid responses to public reports. This condition places Samapta personnel in a strategic role in maintaining the stability of the initial situation before the investigative process is carried out by the criminal investigation unit.

In practice, the effectiveness of first actions at crime scenes can be observed through several indicators, namely the speed of officers' responses to crime scenes, the ability to secure the crime scene, the protection of victims, the preservation of evidence, and coordination with other police functions. Based on interviews conducted with personnel of the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police, the initial measures taken upon receiving reports of criminal offenses include securing the location, installing police lines, controlling the surrounding community at the crime scene, recording the initial condition of the incident, and reporting to investigators for further legal proceedings.

The speed of police response constitutes one of the factors demonstrating the effectiveness of TPTKP implementation. In several cases, the rapid presence of Samapta personnel succeeded in preventing the escalation of criminal acts and maintaining public security. One publicly recognized example occurred in December 2025 when the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police rapidly responded to reports of a suspected student brawl in Kabanjahe District. In the incident, officers successfully secured 14 teenagers along with several sharp weapons before a violent clash that could potentially result in casualties occurred [6]. Such rapid action demonstrates that the early presence of police officers at the scene has a direct impact on crime prevention and public protection.

In addition to rapid response, the effectiveness of TPTKP is also reflected in the officers' ability to preserve the integrity of evidence and the original condition of the crime scene. Based on the research findings, personnel of the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police generally understand the fundamental procedures for securing crime scenes, such as restricting public

access to the area and ensuring that evidence is not moved prior to formal crime scene investigations conducted by investigators. This is important because evidence and the original condition of the crime scene constitute essential components in the criminal evidentiary process before the court. According to Harahap, errors during the initial handling of a crime scene may obstruct the investigation process and affect the validity of evidence in criminal procedural law [1].

The effectiveness of first actions is also closely related to the humane approach of police officers toward victims and the surrounding community. In several cases involving traffic accidents, physical altercations, and violent crimes, Samapta personnel not only secured the location but also assisted in evacuating victims and providing reassurance to victims' families and nearby residents. This approach demonstrates that police duties are not solely oriented toward formal law enforcement but also reflect the functions of protection and public service as mandated under Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police [2].

Nevertheless, the effectiveness of TPTKP implementation by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police still faces several limitations. Based on interviews and field observations, obstacles remain in the form of limited personnel, inadequate supporting facilities for crime scene security, and the geographical condition of Karo Regency, which consists of broad and mountainous areas affecting the speed at which officers can reach crime scenes. In certain situations, Samapta personnel also face members of the public who lack understanding regarding the importance of preserving the status quo of crime scenes, thereby potentially damaging evidence or altering the initial condition of the scene.

From the perspective of legal effectiveness theory, the implementation of first actions at crime scenes by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police has generally operated quite effectively, particularly in terms of initial response and situational security. However, such effectiveness still requires improvement through strengthening human resources, enhancing supporting facilities, and improving coordination among police functions so that law enforcement processes may operate more optimally and professionally .

2. Inhibiting Factors and Optimization Efforts in the Implementation of First Actions at Crime Scenes by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police

The implementation of first actions at crime scenes cannot be separated from various obstacles affecting the effectiveness of police performance in the field. Based on the research findings, the inhibiting factors affecting the implementation of TPTKP by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police may be categorized into internal and external factors.

The first internal factor relates to the limited number of personnel. The number of Samapta members available is often disproportionate to the extensive jurisdictional area of the Karo Regional Police and the high level of security mobility that must be managed. This condition requires personnel to perform multiple duties simultaneously, including patrol activities, security operations for public events, and responses to reports of criminal offenses. Consequently, in certain situations, the response to crime scenes becomes less optimal.

Another internal factor concerns the limitations of supporting facilities and infrastructure. Based on the research findings, there remain shortages of crime scene security equipment, such as documentation tools, preliminary identification equipment, and operational vehicles needed to reach remote areas. In fact, supporting facilities play an essential role in supporting the effectiveness of police actions in the field. Soekanto explains that one of the primary factors influencing the effectiveness of law enforcement is the availability of adequate facilities and infrastructure [9].

In addition to internal factors, external factors also affect the effectiveness of TPTKP implementation. One such factor is the geographical condition of Karo Regency, which consists of mountainous regions with considerable distances between districts. Road conditions and weather circumstances may influence the speed at which officers reach crime scenes. These

geographical obstacles create particular challenges for the Samapta Unit in providing rapid responses to public reports.

Another external factor is the limited public understanding regarding the importance of preserving crime scene conditions. Based on the research findings, members of the public frequently approach crime scenes before officers arrive and sometimes touch or move evidence without understanding the legal consequences of such actions. In several cases, these actions resulted in changes to the original condition of the crime scene and complicated the investigation process. This condition demonstrates that the effectiveness of criminal offense handling depends not only on law enforcement officers but also on the legal awareness of society [11].

To address these various obstacles, the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police has undertaken several optimization efforts. One such effort involves strengthening coordination with the criminal investigation division and identification units in handling crime scenes. Such coordination is important in accelerating crime scene processing and ensuring that initial actions remain consistent with applicable legal procedures.

Another effort undertaken involves improving personnel capabilities through technical training and crime scene handling simulations. These training activities are intended to improve officers' understanding regarding crime scene security procedures, evidence protection, and humane approaches toward victims and society. Police professionalism constitutes an important factor in realizing effective and just law enforcement.

Furthermore, preventive approaches toward society are also conducted through dialogical patrols and public education regarding the importance of preserving crime scenes. These measures are intended to improve public legal awareness so that individuals do not damage evidence or interfere with criminal case handling processes. Such a humane approach is considered important because the success of law enforcement is determined not only by repressive police actions but also by public participation in maintaining security and public order.

Based on the results of the research and discussion above, it can be understood that the effectiveness of first actions at crime scenes conducted by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police has generally operated quite well in supporting the handling of criminal offenses. Nevertheless, further strengthening of human resources, improvement of supporting facilities, and optimization of coordination and public education are still required so that the implementation of TPTKP can operate more professionally, rapidly, and in a manner oriented toward legal protection and the realization of justice within society.

Conclusion

1. The implementation of first actions at crime scenes by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police in handling criminal offenses has generally been carried out quite effectively. This effectiveness can be seen from the personnel's ability to provide rapid responses to public reports, secure crime scenes, preserve evidence, and help create a safe situation before the investigation process is conducted. The presence of the Samapta Unit as the first officers arriving at the scene not only supports the law enforcement process but also provides protection and a sense of security to the community and victims of criminal acts. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of first actions at crime scenes still needs to be improved so that the process of handling criminal offenses can be conducted in a more professional, rapid, and optimal manner.
2. The inhibiting factors affecting the implementation of first actions at crime scenes by the Samapta Unit of the Karo Regional Police include limited personnel, inadequate supporting facilities and infrastructure, geographical conditions that are relatively difficult to access, and the low level of public understanding regarding the importance of preserving crime scene conditions. To overcome these obstacles, optimization efforts are required through improving the quality of human resources, conducting technical training in crime scene handling, strengthening coordination among police functions, and providing adequate

operational facilities. In addition, a humane approach through public education and the enhancement of legal awareness also constitutes an important step in supporting the effectiveness of criminal offense handling and building public trust in police institutions.

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