

Military Police Support for Low-Intensity Conflicts

In a world dominated by fear of destructive might, low-intensity conflict (LIC) may become, of necessity, the instrument of choice of countries or groups intending to pressure their aims by using force. Low-intensity conflict is not solely of interest to the terrorist, the insurgent, or the guerrilla. Threat governments and their surrogates have an understanding and interest in the use of LIC as a benefit to strategic plans.

LIC may well be a level of conflict experienced frequently in the future. If so, the specific operation assigned will determine what type of US Army force will be required.

A LIC operation is nominally characterized as a peacetime contingency operation (PCO), a foreign internal defense (FID) operation, or a peacekeeping (PK) operation. Although LIC operations are discussed as separate "categories," there are occasions when they overlap or occur simultaneously. The separation between these categories is often blurred. An operation may begin as a contingency rescue operation. After initial resistance is quelled, it may become a PK operation. Then, when the initial forces depart, MP and support units may be tasked to remain for a FID operation.

As terrorism occurs as part of all three LIC categories, US forces must be prepared to conduct terrorism counteraction measures in any LIC operation. In LIC environments belligerents often use terrorism to accomplish their goals. Terrorism is commonly used to cause governments to overextend their forces. Involvement in internal defense reduces their offensive capabilities. Terrorism is used as an effective form of psychological warfare. It gains attention and recognition of a nation's political, social, or economic problems. Terrorism is also often

CONTENTS	
	Page
PEACETIME CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS	10-2
FOREIGN INTERNAL DEFENSE OPERATIONS	10-5
Information/Intelligence Operations.....	10-6
Populace and Resources Control Operations	10-6
Civil Affairs Operations	10-7
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS	10-7

used to provoke police or military forces into overreacting so they lose the respect of the people.

Whatever form LIC takes, MP can assist HN /US efforts to thwart terrorism. MP can advise and help develop terrorism counteraction programs. MP can help prevent or reduce the effects of the terrorists by providing personnel, equipment, and training to deter and defeat terrorism. MP may assist in protective services details to protect key personnel. On occasion MP may be called upon to function as a response force to a terrorist incident. *See FM 100-37, FM 19-10, and TC 19-16 for details on MP responsibility, response operations, organization, and command and control in terrorist incidents.*

PEACETIME CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

A PCO is a politically sensitive military operation. It is usually a rapid deployment of forces for short-term operations in conditions short of conventional war. Usually it is without a preestablished US support base. It may be with or without allied assistance. In contingency combined operations, US forces deploy with allies.

A PCO is sometimes deemed necessary if diplomacy has failed to achieve a high-value and time-sensitive objective like protecting a nation's interests and/or assets. types of PCOs include—

- Strikes or raids to eliminate strategic targets, terrorist training bases or staging areas, and the like.
- Rescues and recoveries to aid personnel and protect property.
- Shows of force to influence friendly and enemy attitudes and commitments.
- Intelligence and information gathering operations to obtain IPB data before deployment of an armed force in a PCO.

Most often the US takes part in a PCO at the request of an HN. The objectives of the HN, in coordination with those of the US, determine the nature and extent of a military operation. US forces may be there to effect a decisive change in the conflict or to preserve US interests. Often they are there to provide HN forces with time and space to regain the initiative and enhance their control of the tactical situation. Time and space operations are primarily tactical operations against insurgent or guerrilla forces. The operations are offensive-oriented. They are intended to deny the insurgents or guerrillas the ability to train, sustain, and protect their forces. PCOs are expected to be of limited duration.

Peacetime contingency operations are usually carried out by a joint task force. The size of the force, its mission, and its AO vary with each employment. The Army component may be a small specialized element or a

battalion or brigade task force. Or it may range up to a division- or corps-size force tailored to the operation. If operational objectives are not achieved within a limited time, the operation may transform into a mid-intensity or higher level tactical operation.

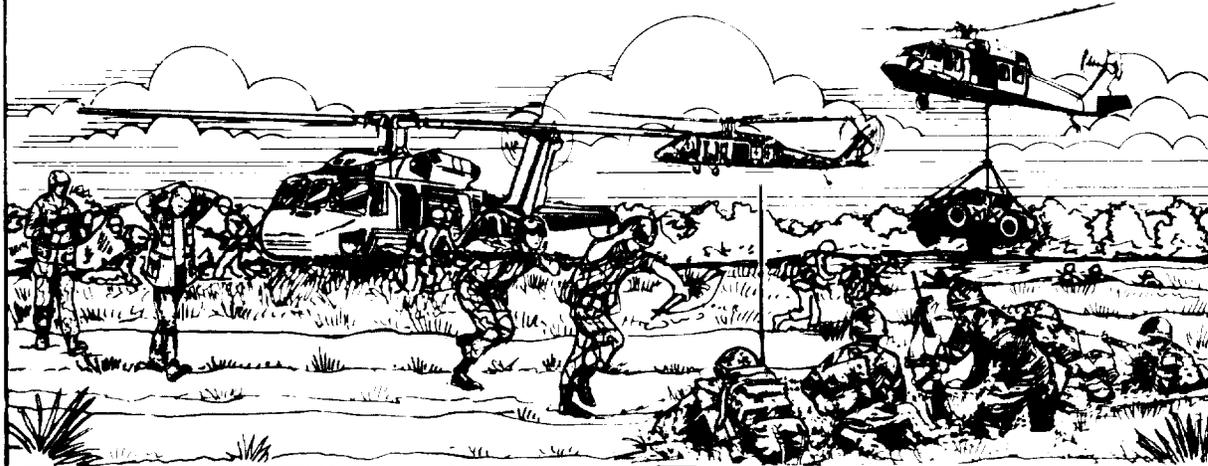
PCOs are usually carried out by light forces like airborne, air assault, or light infantry divisions. These contingency forces generally introduce combat and CS elements into an objective area in three phases. **The three phases of a contingency operation are—**

- ① **Deployment.**
- ② **Lodgement.**
- ③ **Expansion of logistical base and buildup of forces.**

The MP company assigned to the committed division provides MP support for the PCO. For example, if elements of a light division conduct a contingency operation, MP will accompany the assault force into the lodgement area. **During the first phase**, the MP advance party consists of a minimum of a PM cell and an MP platoon. The MP platoon's immediate missions may include the security of designated critical assets or terrain, safeguarding any US nationals, and/or securing captured EPWs/CIs. Elements from the MP advance party initially secure the division's ASPS. MP obtain a detailed knowledge of the road network in the vicinity of the arriving forces.

During the second phase of operation, the follow-on divisional elements arrive. They reinforce the assault forces and expand security out to the range of organic indirect-fire weapons. With them come the remaining platoons of the division MP company. These platoons will assist MP already in the lodgement area by providing BCC to and from the lodgement area and area security within the division's AO. They may be tasked to evacuate EPWs/CIs to the division EPW collecting point.

MP SUPPORTING THE ASSAULT FORCE



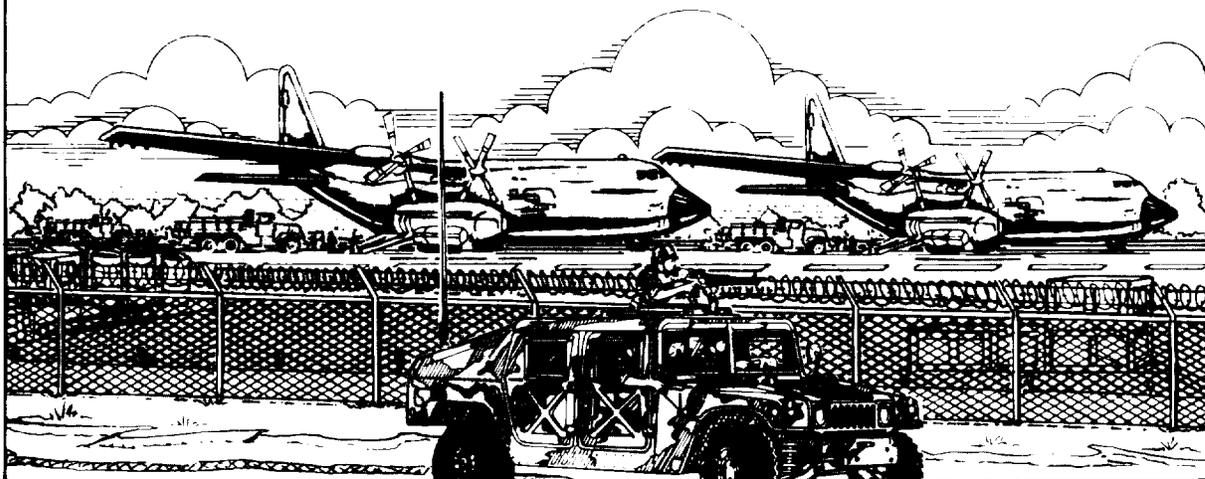
If the contingency force introduces corps units into the contingency area, elements of the corps MP brigade will secure the corps headquarters. They can also operate a corps EPW holding area if one is required. If MP platoons from the corps augment the division, they come under the OPCON of the division PM. These platoons can reinforce division MP platoons or provide support to the maneuver brigades.

During the third phase, the lodgement area is expanded to continue supporting the forward brigades. MP begin providing the full range of MP support for divisional

operations. They stress BCC and area security. In this phase, brigade, division, and corps rear areas are defined.

During this phase, any further augmentation by the contingency corps arrives. Corps MP brigade assets provide limited BCC and area security within the corps rear area. They go forward to the division EPW collecting points to evacuate EPWs/CIs to the corps holding area. If EPWs/CIs are to be moved from the Contingency area, an out-of-theater EPW camp may be set up to briefly hold EPWs/CIs pending their disposition.

MP SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF THE LODGEMENT AREA



Expected variations occur in the employment of contingency forces. A contingency operation mounted where the Army does not have deployed forces must conduct military operations where no previous US force exists. The availability of HN support initially will be limited due to the lack of agreements or the undeveloped nature of many potential AOs. If a contingency operation is initiated in a hostile environment, the first support elements are deployed as soon as initial objectives have been seized and a lodgement area has been secured by combat forces. Deployment to such an area may entail airborne, airmobile, or amphibious seizure of the lodgement area. The concept of contingency operations dictates a task force able to operate efficiently in this unique, highly vulnerable environment. MP supporting such contingency forces concentrate on area security and EPW operations. Then, as more forces arrive and the AO expands, BCC gains importance.

But when US forces enter into a threatening but not active combat situation, the support elements may precede the combat elements. This allows the needed units, materials, and other support to be on hand

and ready. Upon arrival in such a contingency area, the PM coordinates with the staff officers of the major unit. He ensures that his prepared plans are based on the current situation. He reviews the establishment of guidelines and procedures with the SJA for the conduct of MP activities involving civilians and any HN laws that must be followed. MP representatives contact HN authorities for information that will aid US forces in conducting BCC and area security missions. If needed, MP may conduct combined operations with the HN in terrorism counteraction to maintain or restore HN control. The probability of terrorism and other acts of sabotage and subversion are high during a PCO. Terrorism may be used to support insurgency objectives or tactical operations of guerrilla forces.

In addition, the PM reviews plans for handling EPWs /CIs. He ensures that all responsible units are ready to support the handling and internment of EPWs /CIs. He meets with the HN police authority when one is available and assesses the abilities of local national police forces. He ensures that MP obtain the information on routes, important facilities and the population that they need to support MP missions.



The MP battlefield missions are conducted in contingency operations in generally the same manner as they are in the conventional battlefield environment. Conventional prisoner of war guidance and doctrine may be applicable to the handling of captured personnel in LIC. In accord with a 1949 Geneva convention, captured guerrillas who meet the criteria for and are accorded combatant status are accorded prisoner of war status.

In a contingency operation, EPWs will be under the control and supervision of the senior Army command PM located in the area. An essential and vital prerequisite for prisoner record keeping, accountability, and reporting is the establishment of prisoner processing teams. If a processing section is required, on-site contingency MP forces are

organized into an EPW processing section of seven different ad hoc teams. The section includes search, receiving, property, processing, fingerprinting and photography (if equipment is available), and records teams. In addition, MWD teams can be used for prisoner security. If MWD teams do not accompany the deploying MP forces, they can be requested from supporting out-of-theater assets. Responsibility for EPW/CI security, administration, and further evacuation usually is assumed by the MP brigade.

When it is in accord with a US-HN agreement, enemy in the custody of the US forces may be transferred to the HN for internment. But US responsibility for the prisoners' welfare and accountability continues until they are released, repatriated, or returned to US custody.

FOREIGN INTERNAL DEFENSE OPERATIONS

A FID operation is undertaken to help improve the capabilities and efficiency of an HN's authorities. Sometimes known as a counterinsurgency operation, a FID operation is conducted to help an HN counter guerrilla and insurgent operations. A FID operation provides equipment, trainers, and advisors for "security assistance" elements. Sometimes it also provides technical and tactical military backup forces. But US policy places emphasis on HNs providing the assets needed for their own defense.

MP support may be to an HN's military, paramilitary, or civil forces in FID operations. But under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 the US military can only advise or train a foreign government's police force if such assistance is approved by Congress in an amendment to that act. Most often MP advise an HN's military or its paramilitary forces. Sometimes the MP participate in combined operations with the host government. In any case MP can expect to provide technical, advisory, and training support. They also can provide police-related equipment support.

An MP force providing security assistance for FID is often a cellular team. Or it may be an ad hoc team tailored to the operation. An MP team can provide MP planning, advice, and assistance to HN or deployed US forces. The teams often consist of a detachment headquarters team and one or more functional advisory teams. The advisory teams may include expertise in civil disturbance and area control. They may provide expertise in police public relations, physical security, and general investigative/police subjects. They include language expertise (interpreters). Continuous coordination and liaison between US and HN forces are provided by these teams.

MP may also support a FID operation as an element of a US tactical backup force. For example, MP may accompany a light infantry brigade responding as a backup force. Backup forces range from company-size units to battalion- and brigade-level task forces. Backup forces are committed to operational areas when the abilities of security assistance elements have been exceeded. A backup force is sometimes placed in advisory and training roles for limited periods.

Sometimes MP support US tactical forces called on to counter a large insurgent group or guerrilla force. Tactical operations may occur at the same time FID operations are being conducted. But such US forces are used only when or where they have a high probability of decisively altering a situation. The manner in which MP are employed for these operations is situation-dependent. See *FM 90-8 for details on counterinsurgency operations.*

INFORMATION/INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS

Success in a FID operation greatly depends on having timely intelligence and information. The nature of FID operations dictates a need for immediate access to detailed information. This includes economic, political, cultural, geographic, and police data. Police data will contain information on terrorist organizations and guerrilla activities, as they often overlap with criminal activities.

Combined police information operations can complement the overall intelligence and counterintelligence program. However, the degree to which the US and HN authorities integrate their intelligence effort is situation-dependent. Whenever possible, MP use the information assets and abilities of local HN authorities. HN police are close to the centers of unrest and are generally more acceptable to the population than are HN or US military forces.

Close coordination and continuous contact in combined police operations are critical in intelligence efforts. MP liaison elements may be assigned to HN police stations or coordination centers. They can assist in coordinating combined operations and help ensure a continuous flow of information. Police information efforts are closely coordinated through the PM section to the G2/S2, G3/S3, and G5/S5. See *FM 34-1 for detailed guidance on intelligence operations.*

POPULACE AND RESOURCES CONTROL OPERATIONS

Populace and resources control (PRC)

operations are designed to detect and neutralize insurgent or guerrilla activities. PRC operations are mainly carried out by some form of HN police. Sometimes US forces are called on to conduct PRC operations until HN forces are available to relieve them. PRC often occurs in concert with civil affairs (CA) operations. PRC and CA operations both help provide a secure physical and psychological environment for the population. Together the operations can restrict the movement of insurgents or guerrillas. They can sever access to support materials provided by sympathizers to the insurgent/guerrilla forces. Deprived of resources, the guerrillas must either become overt or retreat into rougher terrain to forage for food and supplies. In either case the belligerents become more vulnerable to police or military action.

MP provide a distinct advantage in FID PRC. PRC operations are similar to elements of the MP BCC and area security missions. To support PRC programs MP can conduct route recon and surveillance. They can provide convoy security for priority or sensitive supplies. They can effect the refugee control that is vital to PRC success. MP can also provide security of critical assets. Warehouses and radio stations, for example, must not be permitted to fall into insurgents' hands. And MP can provide protective services to key personnel.

Population surveillance may be needed to help suppress insurgent or guerrilla activities. MP can provide area reconnaissance and surveillance throughout a given AO. MP can help prevent infiltration of insurgents and their supplies across borders. MP can support border operations at control posts and crossing points. MP can perform customs and refugee control. They can enforce movement and travel restrictions. MP also can monitor borders with mobile patrols. Or they may operate checkpoint and roadblocks. MP can help ensure entering or departing personnel are not moving contraband. MP using MWD teams can help detect explosives or narcotics. And

MP can help HN authorities investigate crimes suspected of being committed to support insurgent activities and guerrilla operations. If a crime is severe, USACIDC personnel may be requested to assist. *See FM 19-10 for details.*

MP can support an HN in combined cordon-and-search operations. MP can cordon off the area for HN search parties. They can protect captured persons or property. And they can evacuate prisoners. A search may be oriented to people, to material, to buildings, or to terrain. The actual search is performed by HN police when they are available in adequate numbers and have been trained in search operations. The proper use of authority in searches gains the respect and support of the people. Abusive, excessive, or inconsiderate search methods may temporarily suppress the guerrilla force or expose elements of it. But, at the same time, such methods may ultimately increase the civilian population's sympathy for and/or support of the guerrillas. MWDs used to detect explosives and narcotics are an invaluable asset in search operations. Their abilities as trackers and searchers warrant maximum use.

MP can support HN forces in securing urban areas. HN forces handle and quell any incidents of insurgent unrest or guerrilla attacks within the area. MP may take part in combined civil disturbance operations. However, MP participation is limited to containing the disturbance and protecting US lives and property. The suppression of demonstrators and rioters should be left entirely to HN forces. Any direct action by US troops against demonstrators or rioters might be

claimed by the insurgents and their sympathizers as "brutal suppression of legitimate dissent" and used for propaganda purposes. *See FM 19-15 for details on civil disturbance operations.* MP will usually provide cordon security around the urban area, thereby denying the belligerents support or reinforcements. Critical facilities like public utilities, police stations, and governmental FID coordination centers are crucial to FID operations. MP may act as a rapid response force to protect these assets.

CIVIL AFFAIRS OPERATIONS

MP will often be used in CA operations. Close coordination with the G5/S5 and liaison with appropriate HN representatives has added emphasis in FID. The scope of CA operations is influenced by the economic, social, psychological, and political background of the country and people. CA personnel will coordinate the efforts of the MP to restore stability, contribute to national development, and promote support for the host government. CA assists in preventing civilian interference with military operations and coordinates all other military-civil affairs, such as community relations, PRC, civil defense, and community/area security programs.

MP can conduct ADC measures to assist the HN in the aftermath of an insurgent activity or guerrilla attack. This assistance may include handling refugees, evacuees, and stragglers. MP can provide humanitarian assistance. They can help rescue and evacuate injured for medical care. They may also help issue food, water, and essential supplies. *See FM 41-10 for details on CA operations.*

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

A PK operation is a low-intensity military operation undertaken to restore or maintain peace. A PK operation often contains ambiguous situations in which the PK force must attempt to defuse extreme tension and violence. This violence may range from terrorism and sabotage to minor military

conflicts involving known and unknown belligerents. The essence of PK is the diffusing of hostilities and the monitoring and reporting of incidents that violate the terms of a peace accord. MP forces may serve as an element of a United Nations PK force or as part of a multinational observer group. MP

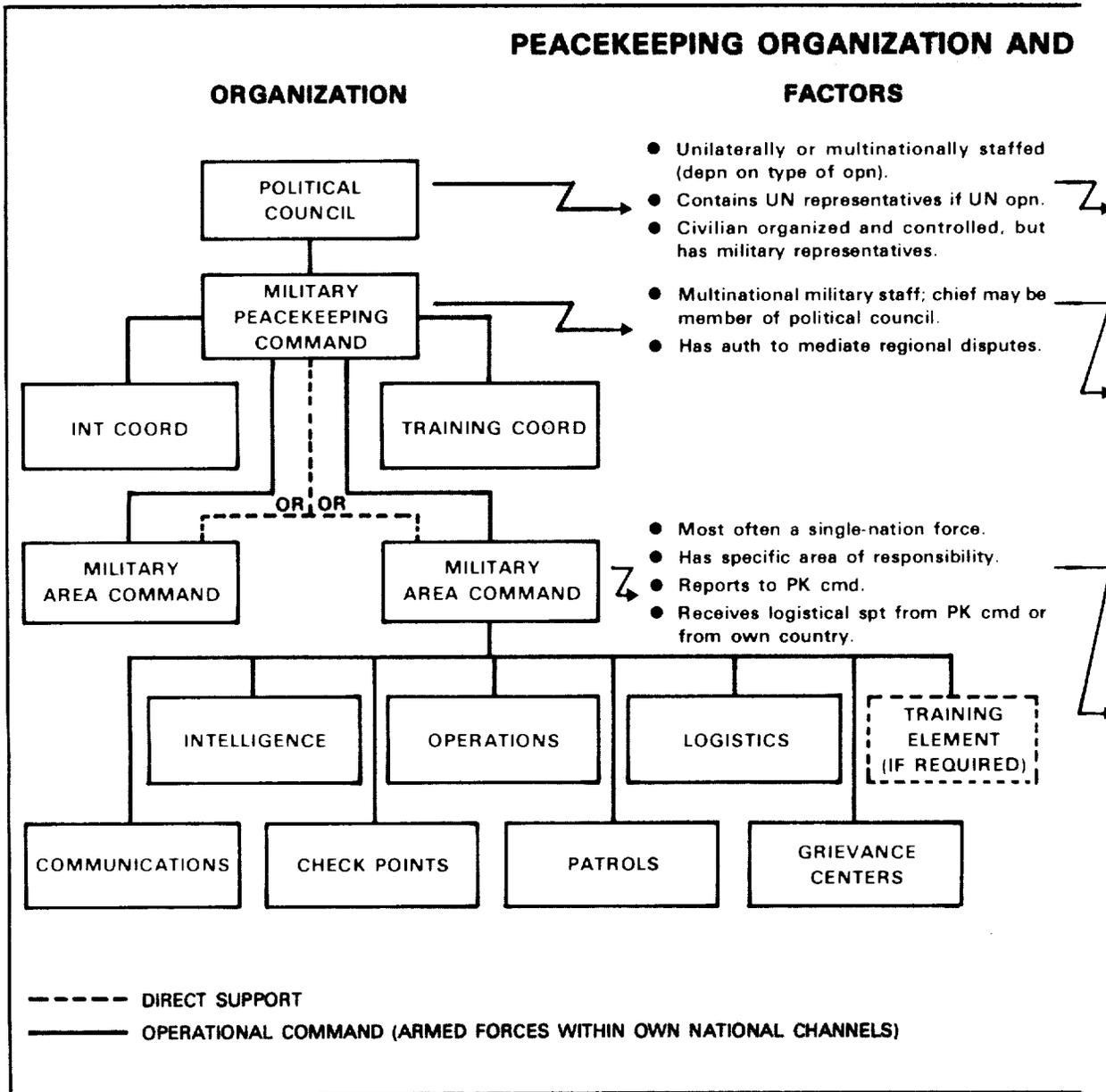
are well-suited to PK operations. *They are uniquely trained for maintaining order and for de-escalating violence*

PK operations are undertaken by "neutral" forces to ensure that renewed active hostility does not occur while adversaries are attempting to negotiate a state of peace.

A PK force maintains surveillance over a designated area. It observes activities

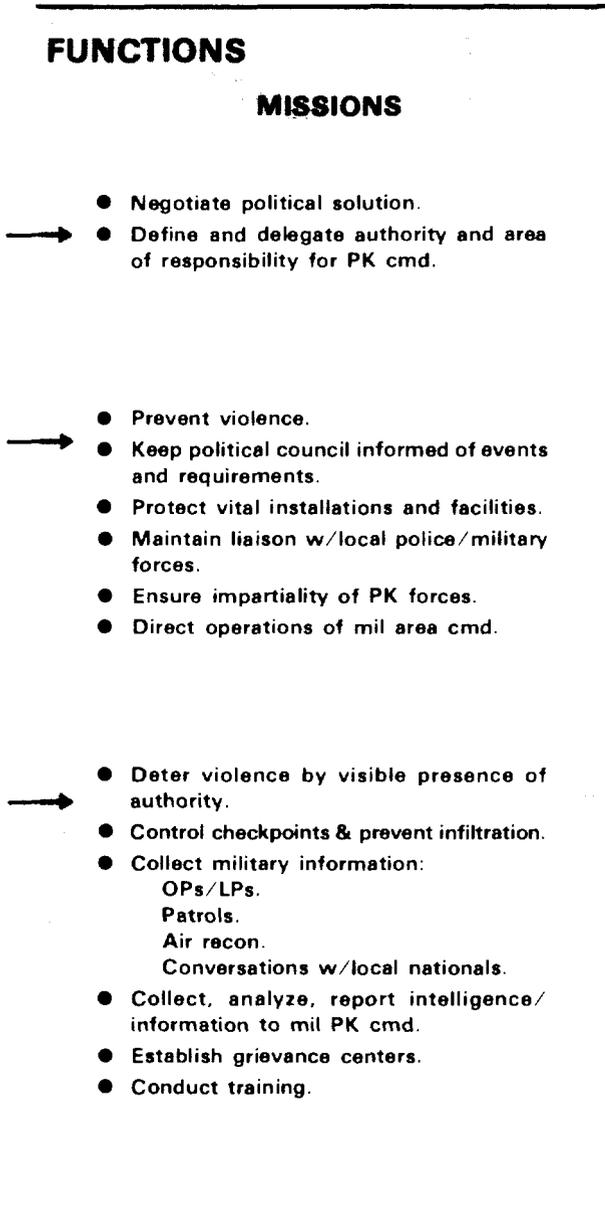
occurring within those areas and reports its findings, And, if necessary, it oversees corrections of any violations to a peace accord.

The terms of a cease-fire agreement may call for the PK force to supervise the withdrawals and disengagements of the belligerents. Or it may call for the PK force to monitor demobilization of forces in a



given area. MP participating in PK operations can observe and report on compliance with diplomatically arranged cease-fires. A PK force must be able to respond rapidly within its AOs to investigate possible violations.

The overall operational control of a military PK force is exercised by a multinational staffed military PK command. The



military PK command exercises operational control of the multinational force. But commanders of each of the assigned national forces retain command integrity of their units. A military area command, which consists of forces from any single nation, reports to the military PK command. The military area command retains its usual command and control with its subelements.

Basic MP force structure and appropriate augmentation are situation-dependent. The size and composition of the MP force is determined by diplomatic negotiations. Personnel spaces are allocated based on the US contingents' respective missions. The principle of consent affects the composition and function of the PK force. Consent applies to the degree of interest the disputing countries have when contributing their forces to participate in the PK force effort.

Each PK operation is unique, but is generally characterized by constraints in the use of force. In PK operations, force is to be used only for self-defense. Thus, the soldiers in a PK operation must possess the skills required for warfare. But, they must also be trained so that they are equally able to act as intermediaries.

MP are a distinct asset in a PK operation. They are experienced in a case-by-case approach to the use of force. They are experienced in the use of discretion and in the de-escalation of potential violence. And MP experienced in EPW operations are especially useful in handling EPWs if the PK force supervises the exchange of prisoners of war. In addition, situations may arise that require US military PK forces to provide limited support to HN law enforcement authorities. MP are especially qualified to render support in this area.

Terrorism can be an element of any PK operation. It may be employed with other military and/or political activities designed to supplant the existing peace accords, treaty. In a PK operation, MP will be tasked to observe for and deter all terrorist acts. MP can ensure that the interests of involved

disputing countries are maintained through the aggressive use of OPs/LPs, patrolling, investigation of possible terrorist acts, and information gathering. The manning of

checkpoints on designated critical roads, especially into and out of urban areas, will assist in controlling contraband, terrorism, and potential trouble spots.
