CHAPTER 7
INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT TO PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

This chapter defines PKO and describes the unique missions and functions of MI in PKO.

PKO are efforts taken with the consent of belligerent parties in a conflict. The object is to maintain a negotiated truce and let diplomatic efforts achieve and maintain a permanent peace. Such consent represents an explicit agreement permitting the—

- Introduction of the force.
- Type and size of force.
- Kinds and amount of equipment.
- Type of operation to be conducted.

PKO may take many forms, including—

- The supervision of free territories.
- Cease-fires.
- Withdrawals.
- Disengagements.
- Election supervision.
- Prisoner-of-war exchanges.
- Demilitarization and demobilization.
- Maintenance of law and order.

FM 100-20/AFP 3-20 and Joint Publication 3-07.3 discuss PKO doctrinal procedures and techniques in detail.

The US provides military support to PKO with either UN or multinational forces. While possible, it is unlikely that US military would be involved in PKO unilaterally.

Participating units may include naval, air, or ground forces; a combination of all of these; or be limited to selected individuals.

Tailored support packages may include communications, logistical, medical, engineer, MP, or combat arms units. IEW support, as we know it, will not be conducted. However, mission requirements such as language or area knowledge may require the limited use of MI personnel.

PKO have three broad missions:

- Peacekeeping support, of which financial support is the most predominant US form, particularly to peacekeeping sponsored by the UN. The US may provide logistical support, such as equipment and supplies, as well as airlift and sealift to support PKO.

- Observer missions, which include acting as individual observers or as functional area experts under the command of the UN. Military personnel observe, record, and report on implementation of truces and any violations. They also carry out tasks such as patrols in sensitive areas. Observer groups usually operate under an open-ended mandate which, in the case of UN operations, can be terminated only by the UN Security Council.

- Peacekeeping forces, which may be a combat, CS, or CSS unit. US personnel maybe used individually as members of a multinational staff, or as unit members. Atypical peacekeeping force is a combat unit in a peacekeeping role supported by logistics and communications units under a joint headquarters.

Typical missions for a peacekeeping force include

- Internal pacification. This requires the force to end violence by peaceful means and to prevent a renewal of violence. This requires placing observers or units between belligerents in order to stop the fighting. The peacekeeping force must remain neutral so diplomatic efforts can succeed. Violence may be used only in self-defense.

- The buffer force. The force occupies and patrols an established demilitarized zone in accordance with the terms of the peacekeeping mandate. The zone physically separates belligerents.

- The border patrol. The unit operates along an armistice line to detect and report violations. It interposes itself where possible to prevent violent incidents.

- A peacekeeping force. Observers occupy fixed sites to both visually and electronically monitor a cease-fire line. They observe, report, effect liaison, mediate, and supervise a cease-fire between the parties involved.
INFORMATION OPERATIONS GUIDELINES

There are threats in PKO. Under many circumstances the atmosphere is hostile. Each side watches the other, as well as the PKO force, with suspicion. In fact, some elements may not desire peace at all. They may target the peacekeeper in order to rekindle hostilities.

The command may not conduct intelligence operations nor will it include an intelligence section when it deploys. However, there will be an information section. This section may not be authorized to receive, process, or store classified information. The terms of reference established by the executive agent provides authorization for this. The information section focuses on analyzing reports obtained from within the command. Intelligence support systems, in most cases, do not exist. The command will be without traditional SIGINT, IMINT, and HUMINT support.

In an effort to compensate, diplomatic authorities instruct the command to rely upon Multinational Force Headquarters and the HN to provide required information. This is helpful, but these sources are seldom able to provide the threat information needed.

PREDEPLOYMENT INTELLIGENCE PLANNING

Predeployment intelligence operations focus on collecting information necessary for staff planning. The information officer must be ready to provide estimates to update or deal with changed conditions.

PKO are designed to achieve military, political, or psychological objectives. Therefore, the quality of available information is no less important than the quality of the forces themselves.

During the preparation for PKO, the information officer should ask the following questions:

- Does the information exist?
- Where can I find it?
- Is it valid, organized, and accessible?
- Who has been there?
- Who speaks the language?

With time and effort, all of these questions can be answered. In order to expand the breadth and depth of knowledge pertaining to the target area, new assets are required. These assets must include—

- Sources within the area (indigenous or foreign).
- Sources outside the area (direct or indirect access).
- Technical sources capable of covering the target from within or outside the area.
- A means of rapid and secure communications.

These assets, however, are often a luxury not readily available in most PKO. As the information officer, you know that information assets need to be among the first committed, and these assets must be tailored to the situation and the AO.

Politically motivated attacks by the more radical elements of belligerent forces or terrorists can never be completely eliminated. But they can be reduced by proper information and security operations.

Undue attention cannot be given to any radical element. Your understanding of the basic conflict, convincing the populace of your neutrality, and displaying strength through nonviolence, will allow the PKO to be effective.

INFORMATION SUPPORT

To meet PKO challenges, we must make-do with collection assets that are limited and sometimes unsuitable. National priorities, which determine the use of these assets, predominantly focus on the most dangerous, but less likely, threats to the defense of the United States.

Once deployed, the unit receives little or no external intelligence support and functions virtually alone.

PKO amplify your role as the force information officer in both training and operations. The nature of PKO demands a complete mental reorientation of each soldier. He has been-trained to go to war; in PKO we task him to keep the peace at all costs.
The information section must be prepared to assist the commander in developing this change. You will be looked upon as the resident historian and will be expected to provide information on—

- Threat.
- Economic conditions.
- History.
- Social conditions.
- Political situations.

In addition, they look to you for a definition of the threat. You help reorient the soldier by teaching him about the conflict from the perspectives of all parties.

By understanding both sides, and the root cause of the conflict, the soldier will have empathy for each side. Hopefully, this will help him keep the neutral perspective he needs in PKO.

All PKO forces must realize that, while there may be threats, there is no enemy! We train our soldiers in absolutes: GO or NO-GO, right or wrong. In PKO, every soldier must understand that two conflicting ideas may both be correct.

COMMAND SECURITY

Mission success and the security of the command depends almost entirely upon the observational skills of each soldier. Individual soldiers, observation and listening posts, and patrols become your primary source of timely information.

The information officer recommends all reconnaissance efforts, supervises processing and dissemination of reports, and redirects patrols to fill gaps. The system you direct is the first line of defense against threats and is critical in mission success.