Chapter 2

The Threat: CA Confronts Unstable Conditions

The global environment has changed drastically since the Cold War ended and the Soviet Union broke apart. The unification of Germany, the demise of the Warsaw Pact, and the democratization of Eastern Europe have contributed to this change. Other events that have contributed to the world scene include ongoing political, military, and ideological struggles producing changed alliances and new adversaries.

Technological advances have reduced response time for global requirements. Extreme ranges—from the use of nuclear weapons to large-scale conventional wars to operations that fall under the scope of LIC—exist in the new world order. The latter includes destabilizing conditions resulting from economic, political, cultural, and ethnic instability. With an understanding of, and an appreciation for, the global situation, CA personnel can readily identify those threats.

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENTS

The former Soviet Union is no longer a threat to NATO. As the newly independent republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States jockey for position, the potential for instability in a destabilized environment is apparent. Eastern Europe is in the process of democratization. As part of this process, it is establishing free market economies to enter a competitive world economy.

A new multipolar world is emerging with centers of power no longer identified solely in military terms. Emerging regional powers will attempt to gain influence through economic, political, religious, ethnic, and technological means. The conditions for insurrections exist and could lead to open aggression in the future.
Developing nations still pose a potential for instability but no longer in terms of cold war competition. Conditions that impact on stability in regional terms include—

- Poverty.
- Ecological problems.
- Economic deprivation.
- Illegal trafficking in drugs.
- Terrorism.
- Narco-terrorism.

Instability breeds discontent, which allows for the outbreak of insurgencies. As the potential for insurgencies grows, the threats to vital U.S. interests increase (Figure 2-1). The well-being of the United States and its allies rests on global stability and on the uninterrupted access to resources and markets.

Major technological advancements are becoming more accessible to more nations. The United States and its allies cannot depend on continued technical dominance in the future. As technology becomes readily available, the ability of small nations to produce weapons of mass destruction threatens the global balance of power.

- Political ideologies that elevate the state or special interest groups above the human rights of citizens.
- International political rivalry.
- Recurring national disasters or man-made destruction resulting from combat or accidents.
- Low per capita income and unemployment.
- Disproportionate control of economic resources by an elite group.
- High illiteracy rates and low education levels.
- Atmosphere and water pollution, soil erosion, and crop damage.
- Economic exploitation, actual or imagined, by world powers.
- Illegal drug trade.
- Traditional cultural or religious disputes in a single region or state.

Figure 2-1. Conditions that impact on regional stability.

THE CA THREAT

The civilian populace in an AO may create unfavorable conditions or contribute to them. CA personnel must determine whether the populace will be cooperative, passive, or uncooperative and recommend appropriate PRC measures. Attitudes of the civilian populace may be measured by its behavior or conduct. The populace may indicate its confidence and trust through compliance with laws or approval of civilians selected for positions of authority. Attitudes may also be measured by—

- Lack of cooperation by resistance movements.
- Lack of cooperation as shown by violations of laws.
• Evidence of doubt and suspicion or ill-tempered compliance or reluctance to work with CA personnel.
• Comparison or contrast with attitudes in other zones.
• Expressions in public opinion polls.
• Fraternization and other friendly gestures toward occupation force personnel.
• Statements in the press, radio, handbills, rumors, or films.
• Demand for change voiced through clandestine or open meetings.

Shortages of basic necessities create unfavorable conditions that impact on national objectives. CA forces aid in providing food, clothing, water, shelter, and medical care to the civilian populace. This aid fosters acceptance of, and support for, U.S. forces and maintains the legitimacy of the military mission. Large numbers of DCs can become obstacles on the battlefield and, at the same time, put a strain on the local government. CA personnel support the maneuver commander by providing advice and assistance for the control of DCs and by identifying local resources to support DC operations. For more information on DC operations, see Chapter 10.

An economy heavily damaged by war threatens the success of military operations. To alleviate this condition, CA personnel assist in reestablishing transportation, public utilities, communications systems, and public health and sanitation facilities. For a discussion of CA functional specialties, refer to Chapter 4.

Civil government unresponsive to the needs of its citizens is a threat. Civil administration may be required to resolve identified problems that threaten the success of military operations.

CA forces consider enemy capabilities for sabotage, espionage, subversion, and terrorism. CA personnel conduct PRC activities to reduce the threat of possible terrorists, enemy SOF, and dissidents (see Chapter 10).