

Appendix A

THE THREAT

REGIONAL THREATS

Recent events in the former Soviet Union have virtually eliminated the probability of a Soviet-led attack against Western Europe. Four of the republics forming the new Commonwealth of Independent States--Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia, and Kazakhstan--retain the capability to strike the US with strategic nuclear weapons. Indications are that their conventional forces will be considerably downsized, modernized, and reoriented toward territorial defense. Although the threat of strategic attack remains a concern, the export of tactical nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons technology, and scientific expertise from the former Soviet Union to the Third World is of even greater concern. The potential for US forces being drawn into Third World conflicts to protect national interests has thus significantly increased. Third World forces can be expected to be armed with modern weapons. This includes weapons of mass destruction supplied by the former Soviet Union, China, North Korea, and some Western nations. States which have, may be developing, or desire such a capability include North Korea, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, China, and India. However, they may not be as proficient in modern military war as the former Warsaw Pact nations.

Southwest Asia

One of the most unstable regions of the world is Southwest Asia. This area stretches from the Indian Ocean, across the Persian Gulf and the Middle East, to the Mediterranean Sea. Ideological and religious conflicts, nationalism, great wealth and desperate poverty, expanding populations and rising expectations, and more modern military forces make the region unstable. Countries in this region are acquiring advanced conventional weapons. They also want unconventional weapons, particularly nuclear weapons. Threat forces in the region may be the most modern in the Third World. These countries have deployed tanks, jet fighter aircraft, SCUD missiles, helicopter, and multiple rocket launchers. All are armed with a variety of conventional and unconventional munitions. High cost keeps these acquisitions to

a minimum. The international arms market may make nuclear weapons production technology available to the highest bidder. The US may become opposed by Western technology in this strategically significant region.

Central and South America

Social trends will determine economic, demographic, and political and military events in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Governments in these regions will struggle to contain domestic tensions and maintain the cohesion of their respective societies. Military operations in Grenada and Panama, counternarcotics operations, and military advisory missions indicate continued Army involvement throughout the region. LIC is the dominant military activity in the region. Threats to US forces include terrorist and guerrilla groups armed with crew-served weapons, small arms, and shoulder-fired antitank and anti-aircraft weapons systems.

Europe

Stability depends on the ability of the CIS to survive economically and politically. Economic collapse and war between the republics are possible. Ethnic strife also threatens Eastern Europe stability as it did in the former Soviet Union. NATO nations may have to intervene with peacekeeping forces. Opposing forces may be as formidable as those of the former Soviet Union.

Pacific

Major changes in the Asian security environment continue to occur. These include the shifting military balance on the Korean Peninsula; the relationship between the US, Japan, and Russia; the growing power of China and India; serious instability in and withdrawal of US troops from the Philippines; the nuclear arms buildup; and vigorous arms exports to the Third World. Regional conflicts adverse to US interests may erupt as US forces are downsized or withdrawn. Regional powers traditionally hostile to US interests include Russia, North Korea, and China.

TERRORISM

The most insidious threat to US security in peace and war is terrorism. Generally, terrorism has evolved from ideological, political, religious, and ethnic discontent and the narcotics trade. Terrorist threats to US interests continue in Western Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America. In Europe, leftist groups continue to attack "Western Imperialism" including the NATO Alliance and the US military presence. In the Near East, the US and Israel are seen as common enemies in the eyes of various subnational and religious groups. In South America, economics and ideology are the two principal motivations for terrorist acts. Narcotics traffickers are driven by perceived threats to their economic interests. They oppose governments allied to the US. Individuals, groups, and states which view the US presence and influence as a threat to their existence and political beliefs will most likely endorse terrorist attacks. The Pacific trade war could dramatically heighten the potential for terrorist activities.

THREATS TO COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

Threats to future CSS operations will consist primarily of Level I and modernized Level II forces equipped with long-range indirect fire weapons. These weapons will include tube artillery and surface-to-surface missiles armed with both conventional and unconventional munitions. Level III operations will occur only if the opposing forces are capable of conducting deep armored penetrations or large airborne or air assault operations in the rear area.

Level I

Level I threats predominate in LIC. They include insurgents, drug cartels, and terrorists armed with various weapons. Drug cartels have many resources to organize, arm, and equip private armies and establish intelligence networks. Soviet weapons, such as the AK-47 assault rifle and RPG-7 anti-tank rocket, predominate. Homemade mines and booby traps may also be employed. Level I threats are also found on the mid-to high-intensity battlefield. These threats range from individual sleeper agents and terrorists to squad-size special operations elements. Specific CSS targets include logistics

command and control, convoys, and storage areas. The enemy may interdict CSS operations throughout the battlefield, especially in the corps support area, due to the density of troops forward. Sleeper agents will function as intelligence collectors as well as saboteurs and provocateurs. Fanatical paramilitary forces may also be encountered operating independently of conventional forces.

Level II

Mid- to high-intensity threats involve countries that use intensive missile and artillery fire strikes to disrupt the enemy's logistics system. Other threats include tank and mechanized infantry forces; airborne, air assault, and heliborne forces; radio-electronic combat; and NBC warfare. Attacks by naval infantry forces are also possible within coastal areas.

POTENTIAL THREAT WEAPON SYSTEMS

Forces opposing the US Army will generally be equipped with Soviet tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, or comparable weapons of Chinese or Western manufacture. These are inferior to comparable US systems. Without more modern Western technology or a mechanized penetration in the classic Soviet style, they pose only a moderate threat to CSS operations.

Tube Artillery Systems

The primary threats to CSS operations are towed and self-propelled 122- and 152-millimeter systems. These provide a range capability equal to or superior to our current systems. Despite efforts to control their export, systems meeting these requirements are available on the international arms market from Argentina, China, France, Italy, and South Africa.

Multiple Rocket Launcher Systems

Multiple rocket launchers deliver a variety of munitions. This includes chemical and biological agents, fuel-air explosives, cluster bombs, and antipersonnel mines. The Soviet BM-21 is used in most modernized Third World countries. Better systems are available from China, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, South Africa, Russia, and the United States. These systems generally outrange

our best counterbattery systems and are thus a significant threat to the CSS operations.

Ballistic Missile Systems

The number of short- and medium-range ballistic missiles has increased in recent years. These weapons will be armed with conventional munitions. Chemical and nuclear munitions may also be available to certain countries. France, Taiwan, China, North Korea, and Russia produce these weapons. They pose a significant threat to CSS operations.

Precision-Guided Munitions

Precision-guided air- and sea-launched cruise missiles have proved their worth in the Gulf War. They have top acquisition priority by those countries that can obtain them. Reports indicate that Iraq recently acquired a defective US Tomahawk missile, will attempt to copy it for production, and will most likely share the technology with other arms-producing Third World countries. Similar weapons systems may soon be

available on the international arms market from France, Germany, and Russia.

SUMMARY

The threat to CSS operations is no longer primarily the former Soviet Union. The conflict with Iraq demonstrated that Third World countries with the political will and the military power will challenge their neighbors for regional dominance. Forces opposing US military operations vary in size, equipment, and proficiency. They have Soviet weapons such as T-62 and T-72 tanks. Artillery systems, the primary CSS threat, are more mobile and outrange our systems. They consist of older Soviet equipment, such as the 2S1 122-millimeter SP howitzer, 2S3 152-millimeter SP howitzer, and BM-21 medium-range launcher. Stringent controls and high cost limit the acquisition of Western technology by Third World countries. As it becomes available, this technology will inevitably reach the Third World, especially in the oil-rich Middle East. Finally, although international sanctions will prohibit the production of NBC weapons, the most radical Third World countries will continue to obtain them.