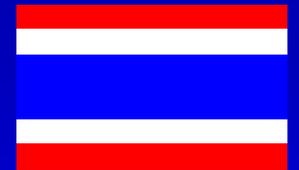


New Roles of the Thai Military:

Readjusting for the 21st

Century

by



Major General Piti Kumpoopong

The National Defence College of Thailand
Deputy Superintendent for Academic Affairs





Introduction

- ☞ Post Cold war profound changes
 - important implications for defence and security of states.
 - Domestic effects.
 - Many countries were swept by the spread of the wave of democratization.



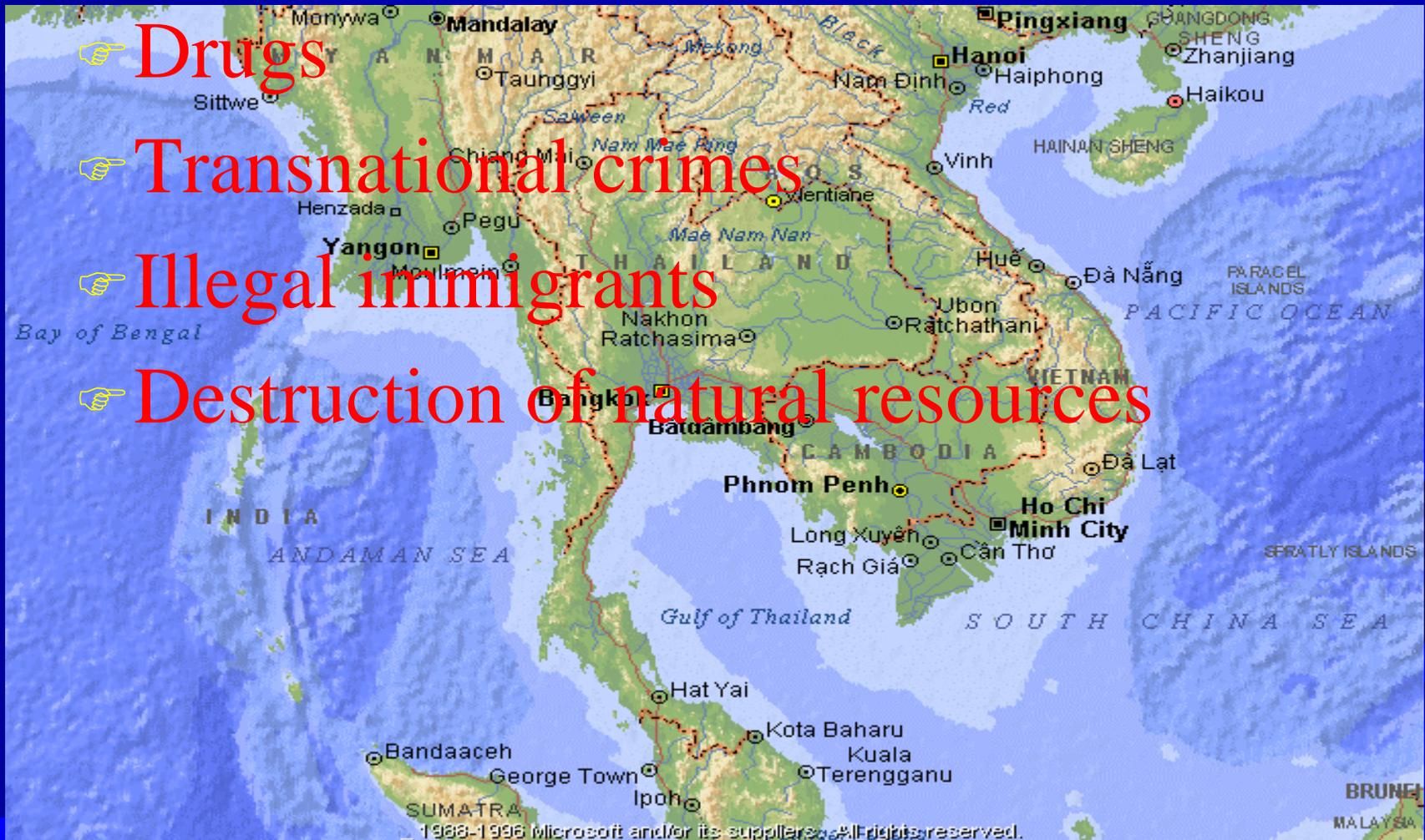


The role of the military needs to be redefined

- Decline of external defence role
- Adopt new roles
 - peacekeeping
 - Disaster control and management
 - National development



Currently problems affecting national security





**The nature of tasks performed by
The military has evolved from supervising,
patrolling and monitoring to include tasks
which
are shared with civilian personnel.
Some of these tasks include:**

- ☞ Security and protection of local populations.
- ☞ Delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid.
- ☞ Reconstitution of local justice systems.
- ☞ Logistics support and restoration of civilian infrastructure.
- ☞ Management of refugees and displaced persons.





- ➔ Public information and media relation.
- ➔ Providing armed escort for relief convoys.
- ➔ Enforcing sanctions.
- ➔ Election monitoring.
- ➔ De-mining and mine clearance.
- ➔ Constitution of human rights protection offices.



The Thai Armed Forces have participated in UN peacekeeping



- April 1991 a group of 7 Thai military officers were invited to participate in UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission or UNIKOM.
- 50 officers to Iraq on September 1991 serving as UN Guard Contingent in Iraq or UNGCI.
- February 1992 After the civil-war in Cambodia.A contingent of 705 Thai military engineers were dispatched to join in UNAMIC their responsibilities were to de-mine landmines and rebuild bridges, roads and other infrastructures in Cambodia.

The Thai military has been participated in the United Nations peacekeeping operations.



- ☞ In July 1998, the UN set up UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone or NOMSIL and invited Thailand to participate with other 12 member countries.
- ☞ The Thai Armed Forces dispatched 5 officers to serve UNOMSIL. later changed to UNAMSIL, in Sierra Leone.

- ☞ The UN Security Council authorized a multinational force to maintain peace in East Timor.
- ☞ To provide troops to take part in this operation. On 5th October 1999,
- ☞ Send a force of 1,581 personnel to join INTERFET in East Timor
- ☞ In the second phase of peace operations in East Timor, Thai Armed Force dispatched a force of 925 personnel to participate in The UNTAET.

The Operations for Peace Division's scope of responsibility and major duties are as follows:

- To plan, direct, coordinate, control and Supervise training and exercise relating to Peace operations and MOOTW.**
- To prepare and propose plans, projects and budgets.**
- To plan, direct, coordinate, control, supervise and conduct the force deployment.**
- To collect and analyze data, and formulate the peace operations doctrine**
- To monitor and evaluate on the opns of Thai military**
- To coordinate and cooperate with the relevant public and private agencies.**
- To serve as The center of PKO studies and Training.**





The role of Thai Military in Anti - Drug Trafficking Missions

- ➡ Today new and unconventional threats to national security are not based on an ability to seize territory or defeat military forces
- ➡ The immediate and serious threat to national security pose by a flood of illicit narcotics from neighboring country.
- ➡ Production of methamphetamine tablets intended primarily for the Thai market has risen rapidly from around 200 million tablets in 1999 to an estimate of some 600 million this year.



The Narcotics Control Board

- Core unit involved in the counter-drug policies formulation.
- Chaired by the prime minister.





The Counter - narcotics Operations committee

- Coordinate unit.
- Chaired by the interior Minister.
- Permanent secretaries and directors-general of government agencies as well as Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces are committee members.





The 6 major program of Thai Military

- Narcotics interdiction both along the borders and coastal areas.
- Drug control in local areas.
- Drug prevention.
- Drug suppression
- Treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts
- Prevention and deterrence of drug in educational institutions.



Supreme Command Narcotics Control coordination committee

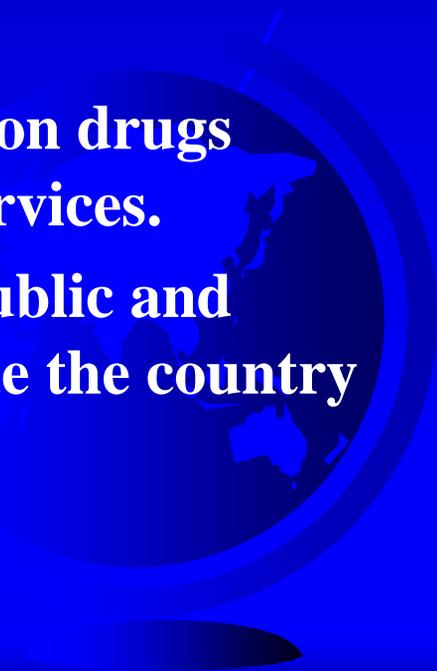
- Upgrade from Supreme command Narcotics control Coordination center.
- Chaired by Deputy Supreme Commander.
- Set up a Joint operations Center 108 (JOC 108) to coordinate narcotics control activities of all agencies in MOD.





JOC 108 has the responsibility and duties as follows

- 1.To plan, direct, coordinate, supervise, and propose policies pertaining to drug control.**
- 2.To supervise drug control operations in compliance with the policies of the Ministry of Defence's Narcotics Control Coordination Committee.**
- 3.To prepare and collect programs and projects on drugs control in the Supreme Command and the Services.**
- 4.To seek cooperation and assistance from the public and private sectors, including NGOs in and outside the country in support of drug control activities.**



- 5. To coordinate and cooperate with the public and private agencies on intelligence activities pertaining to narcotics prevention and suppression as well as the treatment of drug addicts.**
- 6. To initiate public relations campaign in and outside military units to create public awareness of the danger of drugs, including the launch of offensive psychological operations.**
- 7. To coordinate and implement measures on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts in and outside military units.**
- 8. To monitor, evaluate and report on narcotics prevention and suppression.**
- 9. To serve as the Secretariat of Supreme Command Narcotics Control Coordination Committee.**





Conclusions

- Now a days the world has gradually change itself into a multi - faceted social structure.
- Thai military to become more and more professional.
- Thai military participation more in social, economic, culture and political areas.
- The Thai Armed Forces have used troops in national development, in cooperate with civilian agencies to over come poverty and enhance well-being of the people.



- ☞ Thai military in cooperate with civilian agencies implementing Royal projects.
- ☞ Thai military was participated in the rescue operation in time of natural disasters and accidents.
- ☞ Thai military is increasingly playing its role in multi-national peace support operations.



