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MILITARY TRANSFORMATION IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract: *The present paper focuses upon military transformation in the context of the present-day globalized world. Globalization is the one which moulds military strategies and, implicitly, decisional processes, these being the component parts of the transformation management. What is emphasized here is the evolution of military organizations through alliances formed all over the world. These alliances aim at maintaining peace and creating military protection for all their Member States. Military strength can only be achieved with great investments and that is why poorer countries find it difficult to adapt to the conditions of such alliances as NATO, EU or OSCE. From this point of view, the supremacy of the U.S. army is underlined, not only because of their resources, but also because of their way of thinking. This paper also brings into the spotlight the fact that global cooperation in the defense department, and not only, brings significant advantages from the technological, economic and political point of view to the Member States. Military globalization can be perceived as a network which develops military connections at a global level, accompanied by the impact of new technologies. This paper also points out what are the key factors in conducting a successful operation and what should necessarily be taken into account when taking military decisions.*

Keywords: *military transformation, organization, globalization, interoperability, interchangeability, alliance, compatibility.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Transformation represents a set of activities which contribute to the rise of the functional performances of organizations. Through these functional performances, they become more efficient, humane, rational, innovative, useful to the society, profitable for their owners, convincing for their members,

democratic, stable and flexible. Military transformation is a process that shapes the changing nature of the military competition and cooperation through new combinations of concepts, capabilities, people and organizations. Change becomes a way of life when dealing with unstable and uncertain conditions. The main objective of the engine, which fuels change, is to create new organizational, political and cultural values.

On the one hand, regarding the main theories of organizational change, the contemporary organizations function in a chaotic world, where social paradox is leading. On the other hand, a system may be based on three categories: *incremental change*, which takes place unnoticeably, but leads, at the same time, to significant transformations; *discontinuous change*, which does not follow a prior established course, but rather relies on exploration; *radical change*, which implies major modifications under all the aspects of the organizational environment. Change essentially depends on elements in the external environment (the macroeconomic state, legislation). The impact of change upon the leading techniques requires an analysis because the decisional process is a main point in the transformation administration and in the assurance of the organizational performance. The correct initiation and implementation of change require both the understanding of the external climate of the organization and the internal dynamics of it. Transformation implies a bidirectional analysis: the process itself and the impact upon military organizations and their constituents.

2. TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES OF MILITARY SYSTEMS IN THE GLOBALIZED WORLD

Military globalization is a reality, and more than that, it foreshadows the globalization phenomenon as a whole. NATO represents, at the same time, a fact of military globalization and acts as a stimulus to this huge process. The new strategic concept completes the defense of national sovereignty: protection of the State's economic interest, here included the borders. In the past, conquering territories pertained exclusively to the military force. Nowadays, this sphere of influence surpasses the attributes of the army, thus the traditional military interventions and the annexation of new territories fell down on a secondary plan. NATO is a materialization of the military affairs globalization, with global missions, global actions and global partners. Taking into consideration NATO's

engagement to ensure energetic security to its members, the militarization of the vital centers of the world, especially of oil and natural gas pipes, of international waters and maritime corridors used by petrol ships, becomes obvious. Moreover, this is the reflection of the clear impact of globalization over military affairs and especially over the typology of the contemporary military conflict.

In the present-day political and military context, it is impossible to take decisions without considering terms, such as: interoperability of command and control, technology transfer, collaboration of multinational defense industries or migration off the global markets of defense industries. Analysts point out that the global market will more evidently incorporate the defense-security sector. Global cooperation in the defense department brings significant advantages from the technological, economic and political point of view. The decisional transformation is enriched by the defense sector. While the allies concentrate more upon regional conflicts and do not consider their imposing position, in every situation, as being important, the U.S. has developed an army which is capable to react unilaterally and to win major conventional conflicts. Furthermore, this difference of perception and approach creates discrepancies at the decisional level.

The transformation of the military organism is submitted to the influences of globalization through the chain loop of change management at different echelons and through the way in which taking decisions has to respond to these challenges. The U.S. considers that there should be a correspondence between the fundamental reorganization of the military system and the transformation of the military resources and capabilities. The other Member States of NATO maintain the proportions and cannot keep up with the investments of the DoD because of financial restrictions. In the actual situation of global financial crisis, the liquidity restriction of markets and the extremely negative impact upon economy as a whole, will lead to the redefining, rearranging and reprioritizing of the transformation process



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regarding military resources and capabilities. Globalization moulds military strategies and, implicitly, decisional processes, the component parts of the transformation management. The production globalization affects the defense industry, which, in its turn, influences the acquisition policy. Military globalization can be perceived as a network which develops military connections at a global level, accompanied by the impact of new technologies.

2.1 Interoperability

Interoperability represents the ability of units or forces to provide services to and from other units or forces and to use the services so exchanged to enable them to operate effectively together. NATO interoperability represents the capacity of enlisted men of different member countries to work together efficiently. The differences related to the objectives, strategies and doctrines, the incompatibilities in communication, the variety of planning systems, the execution and weaponry, all these can endanger the missions' fulfillment and affect their efficiency. Concrete problems of interoperability in military action can occur at all levels: belligerent, strategic, operational, tactical and technological. The political implications cannot be ignored and the allies must identify and exterminate the causes which generate difficulties in the interoperability process. The success of an operation depends mainly on the flexibility of the organizational structure, doctrines and procedures. Furthermore, the transcendence of linguistic and cultural boundaries of the Member States, massively contributes to the fulfillment of multinational missions in safety conditions and at necessary standards. The process of interoperability requires time, effort and capital investments

and the present global crisis affects and endangers this process. Thus, because of change resistance, political implications (which institutionalize military power), and the limited financial resources, interoperability has become a complex and provocative desideratum. The assurance of the NATO interoperability environment is possible because of three approaches: the operational approach, which is related to tasks, activities, organizational and operational elements and information flows supporting the military forces or the fulfillment of consultative functions; the systemic approach, which is developed by the host-State and which identifies and describes the internal and external systems, the necessary support connections of military forces and fulfills consultative functions; the technical approach, also developed by the host-State, describes the interaction and interdependencies between the system's elements and considers the restrictions stipulated in the systemic approach. Moreover, the technical approach provides the fundamental set of principles which govern the selection of standards and relevant products for the achievement of interoperability. In general, the objective of NATO's interoperability policy is to develop four skills: to communicate, to support, to operate efficiently and to teach/instruct.

2.1.1 Compatibility

The capacity of a Member State's army to act efficiently along with other armies in the alliance, irrespective of the conditions of the mission, is called *compatibility*. In the documents of the Ministry of Defense of the U.K., *compatibility* is defined as the appropriate character of products, processes or services used together in certain situations in

order to fulfill the requirements without undesired interactions.

2.1.2 Standardization

Taking into consideration the great diversity of nations and cultures, which characterizes both NATO and EU, it becomes obvious that a main role in assuring common action is played by standardization. Standardization is a key element of NATO's policy which targets three domains enumerated according to their importance: compatibility, interchangeability and common action. Standardization should be a must for all the Member States of alliances, such as NATO or EU, because it is the fueling engine of interoperability.

2.2 Interchangeability

Interchangeability consists of the possibility of replacing one entity with another, fact which does not affect the good functioning of the system. According to NATO and EU's documents and requirements, interchangeability is tightly linked to the standardization of all categories of resources, equipment, weaponry, technologies, procedures, etc., its aim being the fulfillment of the interoperability criteria of all fight systems, on which the flexibility of multinational forces depends. Interchangeability of products inside an alliance is important because during conflicts, peace keeping operations and training exercises, State Members must use the same units. It is worth to mention the fact that interchangeability is still not realized in NATO or EU, mainly because of the linguistic barriers and the significant differences between the partner States from many points of view, such as: experience, amenity, cultural characteristics, etc.

The actual multinational expeditionary actions vise internal conflicts in which the decision to dislocate military forces cannot be based exclusively on correct information and clear criteria. This is the main reason why the international community is reluctant to its intervention in the home affairs of a State. On

the one hand, this intervention implies risks and loss of resources, and on the other hand, the result is not beneficial for those who interfere in these conflicts. Although, the beneficial effect of military implications in humanitarian actions is unquestionable. Firstly, the equipment and technology offered by military organizations are often superior to those pertaining to the humanitarian organizations. Secondly, in uncertain and unstable situations, military organizations do not only contribute to the protection of the population, but they also help humanitarian organizations to develop their activity under safety conditions. Thirdly, in the post-conflict period, military forces deploy mine clearance, monitoring demobilization operations or surveillance of the refugees who return to their native countries. The army's necessity to carry out defensive actions is iterated in the official documents of the EU. These documents underline that collective security and defense policy play an important role in the priorities of this alliance. Thus, both military and civilian resources will be used in peace keeping actions, of preventing conflicts, stiffening security, demobilizing, rescuing people, of military counseling and supporting, of post-conflict stabilizing. All these aspects contribute to the achievement of the major objective of fighting terrorism and they are in accordance with the principles mentioned in the UN Charter. In contrast with the period of the Cold War, when problems were predictable, static and, exclusively of military nature, the actual phenomena are unpredictable, asymmetrical, dynamic, and threats are not always of military nature. Hence, problems cannot only be solved by military means, but also by using a portfolio of economic, civilian and political methods. As Kugler and Frost [2] assert, the EU is not a simple economic and political organism. Furthermore, it has become an organization which is perfectly capable of developing diplomatic actions and coherent defense policies. In other words, this whole transformation process aims at creating a united Europe through regional and global organizations, such as: NATO, EU and OSCE.



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3. CONCLUSIONS

Military action cannot be restricted to its traditional role. Nowadays, it has to respond also to humanitarian challenges because the new realities we are exposed to determine the diversification of roles in all fields of activity.

Moreover, the diversification of multinational operations is a result of globalization, which, in its turn, has generated the appearance of new types of conflicts. Two decades ago, these new types of conflicts, such as the informational and/or electronic war, the ecologic war, the economic war, the media war, etc., did not even exist at an imaginary or conceptual level.

`Globalization is the process of growing international activity in many areas that is creating ever-closer ties, enhanced interdependence, and greater opportunity and vulnerability for all. Events at the far corners of the earth are now affecting each other, countries and regions are being drawn closer together, key trends are interacting as never before, and the pace of change is accelerating. Because of it, the 21st century will be the first truly Global Century` [1].

Events which take place in a certain part of the world echo in another part of the world, the rhythm of change is more and more accelerated, the old boundaries between foreign and domestic as well as between economics and national security are rapidly eroded.

To conclude, the central features of globalization are the rapidly growing and uneven cross-border flows of goods, services, people, money, technology, information, ideas, culture, crime and weapons. Due to globalization, international and transnational activity is growing exponentially, and the rate of change is accelerating almost everywhere,

often faster than governments and institutions can respond.

Military transformation has to keep the track with this accelerating process in order to maintain the balance between the Member States of the alliances formed all over the world.

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