

THE GENERAL STAFF – Architect of the Romanian Armed Forces Transformation –

Admiral Gheorghe MARIN, PhD*

After the disappearance of the bipolar world, the direct threats to the security of the European states have diminished, which has led to dealing with the threats as close to their outbreak as possible. This state of the play has led to an increased number of missions in which the forces of the European states have been deployed in areas of conflict in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, as well as in the Western Balkans.

The author points out that, until the last decade of the 20th century, the traditional threats mainly consisted in territorial disagreements, ethnic and cultural disputes or competitions for gaining access to resources, while today, besides the fact that these threats have not lost their relevance, other types of threats have emerged, such as: terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, emergence of non-state actors or asymmetric threats, violation of the human rights and failing states.

Keywords: interoperability; war training; responsibility and competence; forces command; transformation process

If we carry out a retrospective analysis of the Romanian military body evolution, the role played by the General Staff as the architect of the Romanian Armed Forces transformation, no matter the period in history it may be related to, is obvious. The General Staff's capacity to draw up concepts and the act of command permanently exercised by it have caused the evolution and progress of the armed forces, the outcome being the current modern military institution. The General Staff has been the "brains" of all the decisions that have had a major impact on the armed forces and, implicitly, on the military policy of the country.

These days, when the General Staff celebrates 150 years of existence, we take the opportunity to recall the past and to highlight the distinct moments in its evolution. Thus, on 12 November 1859, the ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza signed the order through which the General Staff Corps of the United Principalities Army was

* Admiral **Gheorghe Marin, PhD** – Chief of Romanian General Staff