

MAIN EFFORT – THE ENGINE OF THE CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

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***Abstract:** Main effort is one of the components of the concept of operations, therefore integral to the operational design. However, it is inherent when the commander communicates his/her intent to also designate the main effort. Hence, we could say that it belongs to operational art as well.*

Moreover, considering that through its designation, a commander not only prioritizes the enablers support, but also states the supported / supporting relationship between subordinate commanders it leads us to believe that main effort plays a part of the operational management.

Both main effort and supported/supporting relationship are poorly integrated in the contemporary planning of the Romanian forces.

***Keywords:** main effort, operational art, operational design, operational management*

Introduction

It is through Operational Art that the commander puts forward operational ideas regarding the center of gravity or the operational framework (shaping, decisive and supporting actions). The ideas are then internalized and refined by the staff in the operational estimate, thus generating the operational design. However, as George S Patton Jr. stated in his writing “Main concepts - strategy tactics leadership” while planning and executing a mission “*the promulgation of an order represents not over 10% of your responsibility; the remaining 90% consists of assuring, by means of personal supervision on the ground, by yourself and your staff, proper and vigorous execution*”. Therefore, the operational management