

## COMMAND AND CONTROL IN MODERN MILITARY OPERATIONS

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*“A strong collective defense of our populations, territory and forces is the core purpose of the Alliance and remains our most important security task”.*

*A memorable sentence from the Final Declaration of the Kohl/Strasbourg Summit, in April 2009, which, beside the fact that reconfirms the colossal importance of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, represents the milestone for the projected NATO’s Strategic Concept for the next 20 years.*

### INTRODUCTION

**E**ighteen years ago, in 1991, during the NATO Summit in Rome, the Alliance began to transform itself post-Cold War, in good faith, by adopting a new Strategic Concept. Although at that time NATO had not started any operation yet, in less than a year its aircraft equipped with airborne early warning systems (AWACS) started to patrol the skies over Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the mobile command headquarters of Army Group North, which no longer exists, were to become the UN Protection Force headquarters of the United Nations.

The two steps launched NATO in a series of increasingly varied and demanding operational commitments inside and outside Europe, first in the Balkans and the Mediterranean Sea and then in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Darfur region of Sudan.

These steps also led to the emergence of a model of political and operational cooperation between NATO, UN, OSCE and the EU based on the decision made in December 1992 by the foreign ministers of NATO countries,