

# FEATURES SOME CONSIDERATIONS INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

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**Abstract:** *The complexity of the security environment in recent years is shown continuously, the multitude, magnitude and interdependency of events occurring globally.*

*The end of the last millennium is marked by the emergence and development of new phenomena such as terrorism, human trafficking, trafficking of strategic materials, migration, depletion of natural resources, pollution, global warming is brought to the public attention more and more. It should be noted that these phenomena did not occur overnight, they have existed in the past but nowadays they have worsened. Evolution is not so surprising since the crises of all kinds and especially economic ones leading to exacerbation of these phenomena. This clearly demonstrates this global economic crisis, which is deepening from one month to another, leading to exacerbation of terrorist attacks in different parts of the globe carefully selected to achieve a strong media impact, increasing migration, depletion of natural resources and increasing pollution.*

**Keywords:** *security environment, economic and financial crisis, terrorist phenomenon; competition; rearmament;*

**B**oth military and political analysts pointed out that the governments and military-political alliances created after the second world conflagration, concluded a series of partnerships, presently in a continuous development, regarding security problems, but which have not managed to prevent the multiplication of those tensions which led and will probably lead to the preservation of the hearth of regional conflicts. Also, the social, ethnic and environmental problems will permanently generate instability.

The Russian Federation has initiated many actions among which we mention: the control over the transport routes of Caspian hydrocarbons and the desire of the

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Russian Federation of regaining the status lost through the collapse of the Soviet Union; the new Russian policy which brings to the fore the armed forces and the latest massive growth of military expenses, its sending of strategic nuclear or strategic Russian force units on common exercise missions or common missions along with the armies of some states of other continents from North Pole to Latin America; the recession of energy supply for some of the neighbor states; the threat of installing anti missile systems in Kaliningrad area, as a response to the assent of some European states NATO members of installing on their territories of some elements of the American anti missile shield; the efforts of increasing its influence and control over some former Soviet states from Eastern Europe and Asia.

As compared to the United States and NATO which intervened with military forces in Afghanistan and have troops in some of Asia's countries, the Russian Federation reconfigured its strategic arrangement of forces. The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), designed for the states members of the Community of Independent States, is reactivated simultaneously with the development of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). CSTO, of which membership is grouping former Soviet countries as Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan, is, similar to NATO, developing a quick response force, capable of reacting immediately in any corner of the CSI area. However, a further analysis of some authors<sup>1</sup> shows that "the rearming of Russia" does not have the alarming proportions the latter strove to make public and can not be considered a real threat for the US and EU. China and Russia, along with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan and Uzbekistan founded in 2001 the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. As Russia has pleaded for a long time the increasing importance given by CSTO and SCO, both groups seem to strengthen the relationships they established. China has a major role in the international economic system. However, its continuously expanding outlet is in opposition to its relatively conservative political system which, as it is claimed, denies the human rights which are a matter of course in Western democracy.

The Central Asian and Caucasian states formed as a consequence of the Soviet Union collapse remain a potential source of instability and uncertainty. Although the states in this region have the capacity of making reform and of becoming democratic countries, it is possible that the process should be lethargic

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<sup>1</sup> Lt.Gl. Teodor FRUNZETI PhD., *Common knowledge and scientific knowledge in military science*, Impact Strategic Magazine, nr.1(42)/2012, p. 13.

and the instability would raise problems which could create tensions in Europe. The instability in Ukraine or the restraining of its sovereignty could bring into discussion the security and the interests of all the states in the area. Whatsoever, between NATO on the one side, and Russia respectively Ukraine on the other, there are cooperation, partnership and dialogue relationships. Thus, the NATO-Russia Joint Permanent Council was founded according to the NATO-Russia Founding Act signed in May 27, 1997 so as to achieve mutual counseling and cooperation between NATO and the Russian Federation. Also, based on "NATO-Ukraine Charter" of July, 1997, the North Atlantic Council has regular meetings with Ukraine in NATO-Ukraine Commission in order to evaluate and study the stage and the development of bilateral relationships.

The Middle East has always represented an active volcano expected to erupt at any time. The sources of tension are present not only in the Gulf but also outside it. The Middle East has territorial and intercultural issues which can cause anytime military conflicts with human losses and not only. The Arab states and Israel are far from coming to cohabitation in full security. The recent conflict in Gaza Strip, the very different positions of the international community as well as the dramatic aftermath for the inhabitants in the area express quite clearly the complexity of the situation. The radical regimes governing Libya and Iran put in jeopardy the regional stability as well as the international access to vital sources of energy.

We can unmistakably speak about a competition between the USA and Iran in achieving regional power and having control over the oil resources in the area.

In this context, the perspective of an Iran with nuclear power capable of transferring this capability to Middle East terrorist groups becomes unacceptable not only from the viewpoint of the vital interests the US has for it but also for world peace and security.

The Korean Peninsula, as well as the two new regional power centers, India and Pakistan, can lead to unpredictable evolutions and uncertain endings.

Central Europe, from the security viewpoint, represents a coherent space. History shows that, especially during the Second World War followed by the Cold War, as many times the coherence of the security in the area was affected, as many were the times the seeds of a future conflict were about to grow.

It is not by pure happening that the fragmentation of Central Europe generated major tensions and conflicts on the continent. The formula of creating the identity of European Security and Defense in NATO's context aims to reunite a new major European autonomy on security and defense issues by keeping the

transatlantic relationship. In this context, the processes of expansion of the two large integrative organizations – NATO and EU – complete the physiognomy of the present security environment, making credible the efforts of building new security architecture in stability, trust and safety conditions at the regional level.

The Balkan Peninsula, including Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, the states formed as a consequence of Yugoslavia's collapse, next to Romania and European Turkey, represent a border among cultures, religions, mentalities, ideologies and spheres of influence, as multiple and individualized, as varied and interdependent. In this framework are reunited on the one side, state entities in different levels of the process of transition to democracy and market economy, having extremely differentiated levels of development and distinct statuses towards integrative Euro-Atlantic institutions and, on the other side, spaces and regions still unstable and unsure, subject to some active or ready to begin crises and conflicts, insufficiently settled, capable of generating new threats and challenges in the context of global and regional security.

The major changes that took place in the security environment, both at end and in the beginning of the millennium, cast loose the thinking from ideological restraints and imposed faithfulness, marking the beginning of a new era. The security environment became fluid, flexible, making possible all kinds of constructions, of organizing and reorganizing, depending on the prevalence, on the impact of some tendencies but also by taking into account the dynamics of the interests and physiognomic changes at the level of the poles of power.

The recent major political events, the triggering of "war against terrorism", the creation of NATO-Russia Council, the expansion of international security organizations and that of the EU, highlights the dynamics of the present security environment.<sup>2</sup>

In the evolution of building the international security, it has been noticed in the last few years an augmentation of the efforts of building stability at regional level, fact considered as an intermediate phase of the process of achieving stability at global level. The efforts made by the International Community for instauration of peace in the Balkans, Middle East and Africa are relevant and point out the preoccupations of international security institutions.

These organizations must make use of instruments at their disposal (political, economic and military) so as to build and develop the European stability and

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<sup>2</sup> Gl.It. Teodor Frunzeti PhD., Land Forces Magazine 2009, *Editorial*, p. 1.

interstates relationships, the cooperation and collaboration among them and, last but not least, in order to assess some decisions at global level. From this perspective, the regional alliances and understandings will remain the traits of the future international policy, even though they will adapt to new circumstances and will contribute to defusing crises situations.

Building a viable international security naturally claims the necessity of accelerating the process of integration in the European and Euro-Atlantic structures and of creating a stability context capable of fighting against the risks and threats peculiar to this stage.

The main risks and vulnerabilities specific to the present stage of international security environment, highly contributes to the evolution both of the present and future operations theatre. The present security architecture reflects the essential traits of geopolitical and geostrategic environment in which it takes place: the transition towards a multipolar international system; the competition among powers in Euro-Atlantic space for redistributing the roles; the expansion of NATO and EU; the attempts of the Russian Federation of reaffirming its major world power status.

All of these are evolving in the conditions of maintaining some risks and threats at the address of world stability and security. The classical risks and threats at the address of European security are at a low level, however, of present being the asymmetric ones such as:

- the terrorist phenomena under all its forms of manifestation. The risks of terrorist phenomena proliferation in European states tend to amplify, especially in those countries where there is political instability and among which the apparition of some leaders or groups with radical or non-democratic attitude has been observed. Islamic terrorism continues to adapt to the new conditions in which the international riposte revealed its firmness (Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina), through receding from vertical-hierarchic structures and their replacement with independent regional cells/structures, invoking a common ideology;

- transnational organized crime in which bank fraud, corruption, illegal migration and drugs and arms trafficking become dominant;

- the existence of poorly governed states and areas, states which favor the proliferation and the manifestation of asymmetric threats (Syria, Egypt, Iran, Somalia, Afghanistan, Liberia, Chechnya, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo etc).

The political factors which determine the evolution of operations theatres are the creation of an alliance, the change of government, destitutions, possible political scandals etc.

The participation of a state with troops in an international conflict has major influences over the evolution of military operations. Altogether, we must pay attention that the retreat of the troops, because of a political regime change, will influence in a negative way the evolution of the events in the conflict area.

The opening of a new operation theatre can not take place but with the political consent of the countries intending to get involved in that conflict (the present or the imminent one, etc) and with UN's agreement.

Designed for political-military realities which, starting the last ten years of the past century, suffers permanent modifications, NATO is facing new challenges. In order to demonstrate its credibility and attachment towards the values it defended since the foundation, but also in order to manage the specific post Cold War risks and threats, the Alliance initiated an extensive process of adaptation to the new conditions.

After performing a professional political-military analysis, NATO initiated and is presently executing extensive processes of remodeling the internal structures with an emphasis on the military ones in order to give consistency, coherence and perspective in managing the present and future crises situations. Thus, this alliance is gradually changing into a major politic actor of a more and more wiling for peace world.

In Prague, the member states of the Alliance adopted new doctrine-strategic concepts such as: NATO strategic concept, resulted because of reporting the Strategic Concept launched in Washington in 1999 to the new risks and threats in security environment; the concept of defense against terrorism; the new command structures; the new NATO force structure; the NATO Response Force; the Prague Capabilities Commitment; role specialization, etc.

*The defense against terrorism* aims to create some capabilities necessary to overcome this scourge taking different shapes: antiterrorism, counterterrorism and the terrorism actions in the management of consequences operations - within the limits available for the other missions with military specific in coordination and cooperation with civilian authorities in those states.<sup>3</sup>

*The new NATO force structure* is formed of deployable forces with high actionable capacity and forces with reduced actionable capacity, especially combat and logistic support units conducted in operations by the headquarters.

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<sup>3</sup> N. Dolghin PhD, Mihai Dinu, Vasile Popa, NATO, *Between certainties and expectations*, UNAp, Center of Defence and Security Strategic Studies, 2004, p.3.

*The NATO Response Force* is a structure created through the participation of state members with appropriate quick response force in order to accomplish immediate missions due to the proliferation of risks and threats, especially the asymmetric ones, so as to cover the new vulnerabilities of the Euro-Atlantic Space.

*The Prague Capabilities Commitment* defines the willingness of state members of improving their own capacities in essential domains for international military operations such as: strategic means of transport by air or sea and air-land surveillance.

*Role specialization* is an initiative launched as part of PCC implying a new form of cooperation in NATO framework that of roles, considering the aptitudes and real possibilities of each state member.

According to the new conditions of security strategic environment, NATO is attended to be a military-political organization of collective security and defense, which contributes at maintaining the peace and stability in both the Euro-Atlantic and global space, through military actions and other crisis management actions, either on its behalf or under UN's aegis or by collaborating with other international security organizations.

The Alliance has many missions, among which that of security – the participation of the entire NATO operations spectrum (art.5 and non-art.5), with the Alliance Response Force (NRF), the infrastructure and the Host Nation Support (HNS), at PCC; the participation to peace, humanitarian and post conflict support operations. At the Lisbon Summit in 2010 the new “Strategic Concept - Lisbon 2010” was approved and it states, among others, the following:

- the alliance must have the capacity of planning, preparing and deploying activities of reconstruction and development;
- defining and implementing a C4ISR strategy in order to assure measurable, flexible, robust command functions depends on the capacity of the nations of making possible a capability enabled by NATO network (Network Enabled Capability);
- the interoperability represents a multiplying factor which will allow the Alliance to develop in a partnership a capabilities/forces package able to deploy combat actions in any environment;
- the quality of member of the Alliance consists of even the distribution of the roles, risks and responsibilities. (The budget allotted by every nation to defense

domain, respectively the percentage of the GDP allotted to endowment is indicators of the efforts of every state member for the defense domain).<sup>4</sup>

At the Chicago NATO Summit on May, 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012, it was discussed and approved the "Smart defense" concept which actually means building security with less money by working together and being flexible.

As far as we are concerned, the international security environment is in a continuous change, its fluidization causing a ceaseless adjustment of military missions and international political alliances.

We consider that it is an imperative to know in details the characteristics of the present security environment for political and politico-military organizations so as to carry out short and medium term forecasts regarding the evolution of state military organizations.



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<sup>4</sup> Constantin Mincu, *NATO „smart defence” between theoretical concept and reality*, Military Sciences Magazine no.3 (28), Year XII, 2012, p. 11.