

## **THE MILITARY RESPONSE UP TO THE CREATION OF THE ALLIED FORCE**

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*Unlike the past wars, the modern military conflict is characterized by the fact that its most powerful point may be situated in the initial period. That is why, when the initial objectives are not achieved, you may get to a prolonged state of war and military engagement, to higher human and materiel costs and to unwished consequences for the Romanian state and violent and decisive military confrontations; thus, the military structure should be properly designed for such a situation.*

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As a NATO and UE member, our country enjoys favorable conditions for a long lasting social and economic development, for an active participation to actions of peace and security in some regions and in the world, for efficient countermeasures against both classical risks and threatens and non-symmetrical ones. In the same time, this state represents the Romanian promise to respect the principles of the international organizations, to share both risks and responsibilities and advantages of the mutual defense, to achieve national security objectives by mutual efforts.

Even in the conditions of the membership of this security architecture, the Romanian authorities have the responsibility for the national defense. Therefore, it is likely that, in a situation of an unpredictable geo-strategic evolution, the application of clauses referring to the mutual defense of the country be slightly delayed due to the necessary period for the activation of political mechanisms, of military decisional mechanisms up to the creation of

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allied forces and to the necessary period for the deployment in the theatre of operation on Romanian soil.

Having been already known in the frame of the instruments belonging to the general theory of military arts, the notion "the initial period of the military conflict" has own elements which make the difference among the other conflict stages, but it does not involve a certain period and content as these elements are different from case to case. Different terms are used in the studies to name the beginning period of the military conflict: tension, crisis, initial, gradual response, each of them trying to show the same thing, namely the specific note of the conflict at the beginning. We use the term "the beginning of conflict" to underline the contents of measures, activities and missions developed on political, diplomatic, informational, economic, military and psychological levels leading to a proper Romanian response.

The beginning of an eventual military conflict against the national soil would probably try to paralyze the national defense system and population will, morale, conscience and material support by wide non-symmetrical military actions (technical engagement vectors in the informational era) leading to bad consequences for the behavior and decision of the highest levels of the Romanian state in the same time with a subtle cover of the aggression. This initial step would be followed by all kind of challenges, demonstrations of violence and force, shocking terrorist actions and rapid military actions.

Medium and long term plans referring to the Romanian military structure, in case of a proper financial support, will give the military conflict a modern physiognomy beginning with the first moments of the engagement of the national defense system forces required by NATO and other treaties.

In the case of the classical game, the military conflict was developed following a screenplay known by all parties, relatively easy to be anticipated in its main parts and stages and mainly conducted in that way. In the frame of fight and operation, the art meant to achieve force and material superiority in key moments and points to cause heaviest damages to the enemy in order to take over the initiative in the military theatre and maintain it as long as possible. Therefore, the enemy was not allowed to recover and re-balance the situation and the objective of the conflict was eventually achieved.

The modification of the image of the battlefield referring to the military conflict in the informational era, supported by strategies using forces equipped with modern means and technologies, give the beginning of the military defense of the national soil the image of a military conflict defined by: three dimensions, transparency, dynamics, pulsed features, multi-directions, automation and digitalization; classical lines, uniformity in lanes, lines, regions, depths, etc are not present any more<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *Military Science Manual*, book 1, Military House, Bucharest, 2001, p. 290

The modern character of the military conflict, at different levels in the frame of the initial phase of the national defense is to be assured by a modern military structure, whose evolving tendencies underline the decrease of active military forces, weapons and technologies of all types that should be balanced by the increase of the quality of personnel and technologies, separating operational and administrative departments of the commands, avoiding major differences between the training of operational commands and territorial ones; in the same time, there should be created modular military structures in which the tactical unit is the basic element of action; the mobility and capacity of reaction of active military forces are to be increased and a valid system should be applied to gather active forces and generate reserve ones; the structures are to be equipped with modern technologies in which the units of weapons and technologies used for research-fighting, automated leading and increased power should increase the national units strength.

This type of military structure is necessary taking into consideration that in the national defense in an allied context or in the absence of it non-linear, atypical, non-symmetrical actions, based on effects are to be used; the action against the aggression takes place in all environments, on all the components of the devices by joined and combined operations; this fact increases the role of surgical, selective actions, executed by mobile groups leading to maximal results as a consequence of rapid operations.

Therefore, in most cases, the military conflict in this stage has operative or even tactical character, but its effects get important strategic connotations. The Romanian military response actions in the initial stage of the conflict start by a strong, flexible strike in which the forces activated in the crisis (tension) stage achieve strategic security of the directions (areas) in danger, and the beginning of the imminent danger stage (in fact, measures needed by the initial engagement) represents the development and deployment of area forces in case of crisis. Thus, the strategic actions in this stage look like selective actions, on sequences moments, in which the groups react on directions or on some points in the area. The main conflict area is represented by the strategic security area, but there are also actions and sites in the main resistance area or in the maneuver one in the frame of the theatre of operations.

A modern vision of the aggression would try to destroy the research and anti-aircraft system, annihilate active military capacities, paralyze the command, diminish the capacity of generating forces and support resources and is to be responded by a proper strategy monitoring the space of strategic and reaction interest for the enemy informational and psychological warfare, protecting forces and reaction capacities both during deployment and withdrawal, sequence and selective strikes on enemy fighting vectors and

command systems, absorbing and decreasing the violence of the enemy first strikes, temporizing its actions, activating large units in the frame of the main defense forces, starting selective generation of reserve units.

The enemy air, land and naval strikes, along with diversion operations, require the action of operational forces in time of peace which are not involved in theaters of operations outside the national soil. Their main strategic role is to discourage enemies in time of peace and crisis, and in the initial stage of the military conflict they give a strong, active response all over the theater of operations aiming to: forbid rapid intervention forces entrance or their annihilation in case of entering any of theaters of operations (directions) on national soil; destroy air-mobile forces or paratroops used by the enemy in the initial stage of the military conflict; prepare and protect some strategic areas (sites, objectives, lines) on national soil; assure the activation of the main forces and the generation of reserve forces; prevent the strikes of diversion and/or separatist groups; isolate, block and neutralize diversion-terrorist groups; assure the stability and democracy in some areas of the country; execute demonstrative discouraging actions.

In conclusion, we can say that the role of these forces in the initial stage of the national defense is that of mobile response and maneuver control.

The real military engagement would probably have the aspect of some joined land, air and naval operations, according to the situation, developed on main objectives and missions, on a wide area along with some actions meant to maintain, assure and re-establish public and constitutional order. The general aim of the reaction in the initial stage of the military conflict decided by the Romanian political-military command (military, political-diplomatic, economic, informational, psychological reactions) is to annihilate the aggression and impose a state of peace or, at least, to assure the necessary space and time for the creation and action of the allied Force as a countermeasure to the first enemy operation which attempts to rapidly defeat Romanian forces.

Unlike the past wars, the modern military conflict is characterized by the fact that its most powerful point may be situated in the initial period. That is why, when the initial objectives are not achieved, you may get to a prolonged state of war and military engagement, to higher human and materiel costs and to unwished consequences for the Romanian state and violent and decisive military confrontations; thus, the military structure should be properly designed for such a situation.

Our conclusion leads to the fact that the initial stage of the military defense of the national soil when the activation of clauses stipulated in art. 5 of Washington Treaty is operated after the strike of aggression may be considered the most difficult for the Romanian state in case of a military aggression. The first strikes, usually the most violent, are to be absorbed hardly by the

political-military decision structures and they can have, if unexpected, bad consequences which are difficult to be foreseen. Better studied and properly prepared, the military response given by a modern military structure has, in our opinion, a decisive role for the success of the military conflict.

In a situation in which the aggression overpasses Romanian capacity to manage the problems by itself, according to the provisions of art. 5 of the Treaty and developing established stages and procedures, the mutual defense strategy is to be applied. By passing from the defense using own forces to the mutual defense a new aspect is applied on operations rising new complex problems connected with the political decision of the Alliance, the political decision of its members, the military decision, the operations plans, the deployment of its force group, the establishment of responsibility areas, the relationships of the foreign military structures with the administration and population in the areas of operations, the problems of command at the strategic and operational levels, the logistic problems, the relationship between forces and civilians and many others.

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