CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE PLACE AND ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE FPR NATIONAL SECURITY

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The place and the role of intelligence within national security are determined by the capabilities of the inter-institutional structures specialized in planning and directing, collection, processing and disseminating information and data from areas of interest.

Against this background, data and information represent the primary components of the intelligence sub-system, without which one cannot carry out an efficient activity to assess and disseminate this information to the decision makers.

Thus, the place of intelligence within the system of national security is important, because it provides the necessary conditions for efficient decision making process and augments the capability to act of the inter-institutional structures.

In the current security environment, the role of intelligence has grown considerable, given the participation of Romania in missions overseas under various mandates and the need to provide early warning, the identification and evaluation of risk factors, the counterintelligence protection of operations, which all are the core tasks of the intelligence structures present at national level or deployed in the theaters of operations.

Keywords: information, security system, intelligence system, information superiority, integrated intelligence system

National security is a complex concept that expresses the capability of the state to evaluate the strategic environment, to identify the main risks and threats and project the values, interests and national objectives.

The accomplishment of these goals requires the set up of a security system, which would include the inter-institutional structures with competences in this field.

Within the security system there are specific subsystems for the fields of activity regarding internal security, good governance, and economic development, the modernization of the institutions with responsibilities in the field of national security, the development and the protection of infrastructure.

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Against this background, the intelligence subsystem, comprising inter-institutional specialized structures, represents the integrating element designed for the collection, dissemination and assessment of the information relevant for the field in question, in order to identify the characteristics of the geopolitical and geostrategic situation and ensure the efficient decision making at the politico-military, strategic, operational and tactical levels.

Thus, we consider that the intelligence subsystem includes a network of specialized structures that act according to a unitary concept, using specific methods and means in order to ensure the necessary conditions for the evaluation of the strategic environment, the identification of symmetrical and asymmetrical risks and threats and the prevention of the all array of military and non-military manifestations against the national security.

The elements of the intelligence subsystem act during peace time in the area of strategic interest for Romania, and augment the specific missions during crises and wartime, providing timely and efficient data and information to the decision makers regarding the potential risks and threats at national and transnational level.

In this sense, there is a permanent flow of information within the intelligence subsystem, which came from various sources: technical and human, official and public.

Data is a notion (entity) represented conventionally by number, size, relationship etc. which is used to solve a problem or which is obtained as a result of a research activity and which subsequently undergoes a process of processing at various time intervals. The significance transmitted after the process represents the information. Thus, one care realize the function of the intelligence system, materialized in the collection of data about the led system (operational system) and providing the intelligence to the decision making system (leadership).

The notion of information is defined as a „communication, news, which updates one regarding a situation; knowledge about a person or about a thing; the totality of the material to inform and document, sources; each of the new elements, compared to the already existing knowledge, which are included in a symbol or a group of symbols (written text, spoken message, images, indication of a instrument)"[1].

Information is the „fundamental object in the communication of knowledge. Any information may be considered under two aspects: one of significance (semantic content) and one of structure (syntax)"[2].

It results the fact that data and information represent the primary components of the intelligence system, without which there can be no

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[1] *Romanian dictionary*, Editura Univers Enciclopedic, Bucureşti, 1998, p. 491.
[2] *IT dictionary*, Editura Niculescu, Bucureşti, 2000, p. 162.

efficient process of evaluation and dissemination of the information to the decision makers.

The capability of the leadership structures from all hierarchical levels to obtain, process, evaluate and disseminate data and information of interest in real time is the core task of these structures.

Against this background, we consider that the need for data and information obtained, processed and transmitted in real time about the area of interest led to the augmentation of the role of intelligence and the importance of the intelligence products.

At a decision making level, the concept of *informational superiority* is defined as „the capability to collect, process and disseminate information on a permanent basis, in parallel with the exploitation or mitigation of the intelligence support capabilities of the enemy forces"[3]. The processes of collection, processing and dissemination must ensure relevance, timeliness and accuracy of the information for the proper functioning of the subsystems comprise the system of national security. The ultimate goal is to have a continuous operational picture of the security environment.

Another function of the intelligence is its capacity to formulate forecasts, prognoses, and estimates regarding the security situation in a certain geographic area of interest, in order to adopt the most suitable decisions regarding the prevention and action in order to prevent conflicts and manage crises.

Presenting these problems is a confirmation of the fact that the *place of intelligence* within the system of national security is important, because it provides the necessary conditions for taking efficient decisions and it increases the capability to act of the inter-institutional structures.

In other words, all the processes regarding planning, organizing, control and evaluation of activities and actions in the field of national security are based on the use of information and intelligence and their products, obtained and transmitted via the communication and information technology systems to the structures that are included in the operational plans.

From this point of view, we consider that, given the current security environment, the *role of intelligence* has grown considerable, since the participation of Romania in overseas missions under various mandates and the need to ensure the timely warning, the identification and evaluation of the risk factors, the counterintelligence protection of the actions, those being the core missions for which the intelligence structures at national level or deployed in theaters.

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[3] Gl.conf.univ.dr.ing. Sergiu T. Medar, *Military intellgigence against the background of the current security environment.*

The last military conflicts pointed out the importance of the intelligence in the prevention of surprise, the correct assessment of the situation, the decision making, the planning and carrying out successfully of the joint military actions.

Against this background, the *role of intelligence* in the management of the national system involves:

a) *integration of the elements* which trigger at the level of the manager the reaction *decision-action*;

b) *the bi-univocal relationship* of this with human resources, technical and logistical means, objects, time, space and functional relationships;

c) the existence of a novelty or a piece of news about forces, events, actions, ideas, opinions, experiences etc, all of them compared to the past, present or future;

d) *the reflection of interests and will* of the decision makers;

e) establishment of direct contact of the decision makers with those who act directly to accomplish the predetermined objectives.

The most evident expression of the determining role of information is the early warning.

The need for a thorough analysis of the results of the intelligence, as well as the correct interpretation of the information, corroborated with the main indicators of reporting and early warning, represent an important activity of the prevention and reaction mechanism, in order to take all the appropriate measures according to the type of crisis forecasted by the situational assessment process.

In the situation when the information confrontation is the key of the conflict, its role is decisive. This is expressed by the fact that the strategic objectives of the respective actions are carried out through the success of the operations developed by the intelligence structures, which prevent the escalation of the conflict and ensuring the maximum reduction of the confrontation via violent means.

Following the analysis of the role and place of intelligence within the national security system, one points out to the following specific activities carried out by the specialized structures:

a. the ongoing evaluation of the risks and threats symmetrical and asymmetrical, conventional and no conventional, military and non-military, in the area of strategic interest for Romania, in order to evaluate and model the security environment at national and transnational level;

b. the timely warning of the decision makers at all level of hierarchy, but especially at the politico-military and strategic level about the risks and threats against the national security;

c. providing data and information of interest in order to avoid surprise in the specific domains regarding national security, especially in the economic, technology, diplomatic and military domains;

d. processing and disseminating information to the management structures in order to base and render more efficient the activity in the fields specific to national security;

e. ensuring informational superiority in order to increase the reaction speed and the capability to act of the intervention structures and the protective and proactive capabilities;

f. gathering, processing and disseminating the intelligence in order to prevent the situations that can be created by the terrorist phenomenon and by the cross-border organized crime.

It results the extended array of activities developed by the inter-institutional intelligence structures so that their products will be used successfully by the decision makers in order to anticipate crises or conflicts in the area of strategic interest for Romania and act proactively to solve the situations created.

This is the motivation we consider in order to design and turn operational an integrated intelligence system that would ensure the decision making advantage in solving the situations which can affect the national security of Romania or EU and NATO interests in the area of responsibility.

The integrated intelligence system is, in our opinion, an inter-institutional structure, modular and flexible and sustainable, which ensures the collection, evaluation, processing and dissemination of data and information of interest to support and inform the decision making process in military and non-military actions at national and international level.

This system includes the command and control subsystem, the execution and support subsystem, which act, normally, at the politico-military level, and so, some of the management and execution modules can participate in the development of specific missions nationally or overseas.

The efficient action in the process of gathering, processing and disseminating information takes into account the implications of information technology development and evolutions, which implies transformations of the operational environment which changes into an informational environment.

In conclusion, we consider that the place and role of intelligence within the national security present on one hand advantages in the processes of forecast and decision making and, on the other hand significantly contributes to the transformation of the operational environment into an informational environment, where the information and its products have a decisive role in achieving victory.

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