

THE CREATION OF AN INTEGRATED STRUCTURE OF RAPID REACTION AT EUROPEAN LEVEL AGAINST TERRORISM

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Abstract: *Having as a starting point the end of the Cold War and the proliferation of terrorism at an unprecedented scale, the threats aimed at national security have become ambiguous, and the potential enemies are either classical structures, units and large units from within military structures, or structures of terrorist or paramilitary organizations which have capabilities that cover a large range of doctrines, forms of organization, equipment, instruction and ideological motivations. For these reasons, the structures must be capable of executing operations during times of peace, crisis, and war and in post-conflict periods, in a collaborative context, multinational, in between departments, on national and international grounds, depending of the situation. The international structured terrorism and also the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are the most dangerous threats that could affect the security of the democratic nations of the world, and of human civilization on the whole. No country in the world could be considered safe taking into account these threats and no democratic state could ignore the responsibilities it has as a member of international community. The purpose of this paper is to emphasize the need for adaptability to the challenges posed by the security environment which is continuously changing, and to create operational structures which ought to be trained and equipped so as to face this mode of action called terrorism, and to benefit from the necessary legislative framework, adapted to given conditions.*

Keywords: *terrorism; unconventional and asymmetric warfare.*

Introduction

Terrorism is considered to be one of the most important threats to global security, and none of the world states is immune to the effects of this phenomenon. The terrorist phenomenon is not recent, but old, manifesting itself during time under all possible forms, being present all over the world according to the degree of civilization in which humankind found itself and depending of the available means. Terrorist threats are of great actuality and omnipresent, narrowing citizen freedoms, consuming and redirecting important resources from the national incomes of each country, or, paradoxically, developing a market for security, with corresponding products and services, managing substantial incomes and cash-flows. Even if starting with the unleashing of war against global terrorism and the liquidation of the Al Qaeda leader (in May 2011) the actions of this organization shrank, and the spectrum of this threat diminished somehow, on medium and long term this global challenge will not stop influencing the security policies. Regardless of the means used, the essence of terrorism has always stayed the same – its aim is to destroy, frighten and kill. And it is not by accident that the leader in the fight against this asymmetrical threat is the United States, sometimes alone, sometimes in coalitions with other states members of NATO, or states from outside the alliance.

It can be affirmed that terrorism holds a whole new nature than the previous one, known to be focused mainly on aspects of physical destruction. Terrorism can be characterized by coalition traits, by deterritorialization and asymmetry. From this perspective, the totality of actions classified as terrorist attacks, contained by the generic notion of "terrorist war", can be characterized as an extremely strong strike back with political motivations. However, no governmental structure is ready for such a strike back from terrorism, because no one ever thought that this phenomenon, which initially was only an extreme form of protest or political disobedience, will become, in such an fast rhythm, a true war, even a world war (Pentilescu 2014).

The force of a terrorist group is counter proportional to its dimensions – the more such a group is small in numbers, the more dangerous it is. Despite the growing attention to terrorism and the number of publications on the subject, the scientific research on the causes, motivations and the determining factors of the terrorist phenomenon remains poorly developed in order to counter it.

TERRORISM: The analysis of the terrorist phenomenon at an international level during the last years shows a tendency of intensification and the more frequent use of violence as a means of promoting and imposing political aims and interests. From a conceptual point of view the acts of terrorism represent different acts of violence, through which people and groups of people: they attempt on the lives and corporal integrity of a social category; they pursue such actions against political groups, social organizations, institutions, group of people meeting in an organized manner or being at random in public or private places (Stanciu 2015).

Depending on the proposed objectives and aims or on the environment in which they act, most of the theoreticians identify the following categories of terrorism: political, of state, informational, economical, technological and financial, cultural, pathological, of vengeance, of identity, religious, ethnical and criminal.

Rethinking the concepts of safety, defense and security becomes under these conditions not only a global or regional necessity but also a demand of the affirmation and the preservation of the interests of each state. The establishment of the most adequate forms and methods for counteracting terrorism preoccupies and will continue to preoccupy for a long time the actors responsible with the problems of security. The complexity and toughness of the fight against terrorism will bring about particularly sensible problems for whose solving the International Community must offer balanced and unanimously accepted solutions.

One problem which has serious implications on the international process of expansion and cooperation is represented by the way in which harmonization can be achieved between the responsibility for respecting democratic principles, the freedoms and rights of man, with the legality of measures imposed for countering terrorism. Through their rigidity and consequences, the actions taken for countering terrorism can put at risk some of the rights of man and can weaken democracy and the respect for the law. This imposes the accomplishment of a balance between safeguarding social and individual freedoms, and the necessity for strengthening internal and international security.

As a consequence, the accomplishment of an optimal balance between the need to combat terrorism and the destructive effects which this implies represents the essential condition of the entire undertaking of the international community.

The effort of the combat operations against terrorism must be concentrated against the critical weaknesses, which mostly affects the barycenter of the terrorists. In the process of selecting these weaknesses, it is important to analyze accessibility, redundancy, the impact on civilian population and the balancing of these factors because the freedom of action of forces which execute the operation can be significantly reduced, especially when not considering the impact on the population of the actions taken. Moreover, in counterterrorist operations, the capabilities, the requirements and the critical weaknesses modify permanently according to the execution of actions and according to the reaction of terrorists to these actions.

Anti-terrorist military actions

Terrorist attacks existed and will continue to exist, but by taking different forms they will lack morality and will not respects the elementary rules of peace and war, and the only measures truly efficient will be still found in a global, unitary pallet, but not necessarily just in the military domain, a fact which has been emphasized as well by the a change in the American strategy of fighting against this asymmetrical threat. The essential character is that this "enemy can move

without visibility, has precise, efficient and long lasting connections, an adequate logistics and proofs a special patience and care for choosing targets and executing strikes. Counterterrorist operations can be developed to support operations of counterinsurgency, stability and support, or other major operations or campaigns, especially in non-conventional wars in which military and civilian capabilities must be directed against some state or non-state actors who use terrorism (Contrainsurgency 2009).

Combating terrorism (CBT) includes actions deployed to oppose terrorism and include:

- Antiterrorism – defensive measures to reduce weaknesses in front of terrorist attacks.

This includes preparation and defense measures which offer the needed protection, the mission, the infrastructure, the human resources and the available resources;

- Counterterrorism – offensive measures taken to prevent, discourage and to respond to terrorism; this offers response measures which include prevention operations, punishment and the rescue/release of prisoners.

Antiterrorism as a set of activities represents one of the fundamental requirements of commanders in order to assure the protection of the staff, of resources, of processes, of information, of installations and of systems against possible terrorist attacks. Some programs concentrate on active defense measures which protect force structures, information, military bases, necessary infrastructure and communications against these attacks. Other programs imply passive measures (camouflage, OPSEC – the security of operations, the use of guarding systems) which make difficult the penetration of military objective.

It is important to underline the relation between the protection of forces and counterterrorism. Counterterrorism is not considered only a subcategory of combating terrorism but also an integrated part of the concept of protection of forces. The protection of forces represents a set of preventive measures which moderate the hostile actions against military staff (including family members), resources, facilities and critical information. Still, the protection of

forces does not include actions during disasters or pandemics.

Briefly, AT represents both the collective and proactive effort to detect and prevent terrorist attacks against staff, facilities, installations and vital infrastructure for accomplishing missions, as well as the preparation and the planning of the strike back during the terrorist incident. The AT programs should include at least the following elements: the management of risks, planning, instruction and exercises, the management of resources, public information and the constant revision of plans.



Figure 1. The strategic military approach in counterterrorism (Joint publication 2014).

The USA manuals define this phenomenon as having two main effort directions: a direct one (the counterterrorist intervention) and an indirect one (a partnership with the target states – Foreign Internal Defense, the destabilization of hostile governments or protective of terrorist groups – Unconventional Warfare, PSYOPS, Civil Affairs Operations and others).

As we can notice, the military objectives in counterterrorism have as an ending point the neutralization/annihilation of terrorist groups and the creation of a unhospitable global climate for this sort of actions.

The countering of the diversionist-terrorist phenomenon must be regarded as a permanent action in which are employed of the state institutions empowered by law.

The analysis of the terrorist phenomenon makes obvious the fact that the destined forces to combat it are surpassed by the actions of terrorist forces which are hard to identify and counteract. As a consequence, the planned prevention and protection measures against terrorism can reduce but not eliminate the danger of producing such actions.

Hence, the combat system must be flexible and have an adequate speed of reaction in order to reduce to a minimum the effects of surprise. In the framework of protection measures against terrorism, permanent formations have a gradual mode of action: the normal guarding activity; surveillance and protection; the attainment of reinforced protection; the action of defending objectives on a variety of interventions.

According to the stipulations in the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Terrorism and of the General Protocol for the Organization and Functioning of the National System for Preventing and Combating Terrorism, the National Ministry of Defense carries specific activities, individually and in cooperation, for preventing and combating all categories of terrorist manifestations, as well as against the elements which can generate, sustain or favor terrorism.

Most of the military leaders have been more and more preoccupied to know the way in which the terrorist incidents which took place during the 20th century and at the beginning of the 21st century were solved. Each of these incidents had as an effect the changing of law or regulations, and the establishment of a series of measures of prevention and counteracting of this phenomenon. At the same time, each incident allowed the states to evaluate gain the necessity for financing, equipping and training some specialized structures for the intervention in these cases.

It is vital for each structure to understand its role within possible scenarios, in such a way that cooperation, coordination and leadership to be executed without human errors.

At a national level, there are structures strictly specialized to act in almost all possible borderline cases, starting with war and continuing with natural, ecological, industrial disasters, and also with terrorist actions. It is important for all of these structures – very well specialized – to act in an integrated, coherent, complementary and efficient manner,

More so, taking into account the terrorist attacks which took place in more European countries starting with the 21st century as a result of the changes taking place in the Middle East, and of the immigrant flow from this area, there has been a need for these European states to cooperate in this area in order to prevent other terrorist actions, to identify those cells which hold the intention to prepare attacks and to block their freedom of action.

We consider that it is necessary an integration of parts, without the taking apart of already existing entities, which function individually in an outstanding manner, have coherence, an integrated rapid intervention, flexibility and maximum efficiency. Hence, comes the necessity to have an integrating concept, for assuring inter-operability and the connection of control rooms, without creating superior hierarchical structures, except for those with strict duties in this area.

From our point of view, the creation of an integrated European structure would be useful and necessary in order to prevent the duplication of effort in many countries in

preventing and combating terrorism, for a good coordination of the exchange of information on the activity of terrorist cells/organizations present in Europe, and, even considering the integrated use of European capabilities in this area. Certainly, by creating such a structure, there can be achieved a filling of those gaps which exist in the coordination of actions of neighboring states, gaps which can be exploited by terrorist attackers.

We consider it useful that this integrated European structure to deploy a permanent and continuous activity, to have a freedom of action guaranteed by all European states and have the necessary and sufficient capabilities.

Conclusions

By acting alone or integrated within big range operations, the human factor from the structure of sensorial, decision and executive networks will try to find solutions in order to rapidly counter the enemy, will develop decisive actions against its gravity centers, will paralyze it and forbid/limit its actions.

The establishment of a response mechanism to the terrorist incident represents an essential element in the protection of military and civilian objectives. It must be mentioned that for each task in the mission of countering terrorism there exists the necessity of a strong planning and training, and the equipment must be aligned with the latest existing technological requirements, regardless of costs.

A cooperation of all responsible structures is necessary, at any given time, in order to update tactics, techniques and used procedures in such interventions. These exercises at national and international level are necessary because the involved structures must set out their place and role in the development of actions within military objectives during emergency or normality times.

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