

ASPECTS ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND THE USE OF MILITARY POWER IN MULTINATIONAL OPERATIONS

Dorel MIRON

Land Forces Headquarters, Bucharest, Romania

Abstract: *The need for regional and international stability, which is politico-military in its whole, led to the merger of efforts to maintain a balance of power of the main strongly military industrialized countries. The criteria of accomplishing the alliances went beyond the technological development and have a strong expansion on the “strategic” partners with an economic and military potential which is heavily undersized compared to a widely accepted standard within the alliance. In this context, it is particularly important to review the factors bearing a direct and indirect influence on the operationalization and the use of the military power in multinational operations. It is vital to identify the most optimal solutions and to implement new, innovative concepts that will be able to integrate the spectrum of risk and information uncertainty situations based on a dynamic management of the defense resources. In our research of the manifestation of economic influence on the defense resources, we have identified new lines of approaching the military potential within the land forces participating in the multinational operations in the latest theaters of operations where the Romanian military forces were present. In this sense, we make known our concern for defining an integrator operational environment for expressing the solutions of collaborative workflow within the alliance and beyond.*

Keywords: *security, operational environment, multinational military action, appropriate resources, resource supply flow.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The transformation of the contemporary society as a whole, the inventions and the technological innovations in all fields have led the developed states towards new and new directions in order to meet their own economic and not only economic interests, in the wide range of expression of power.

The needs for representation and affirmation of state or alliance identity have increased considerably and the issue of safety and security of the contemporary socio-economic level has become one of the major issues of the regional and international stability.

The hot spots of political and military instability can be anticipatory identified and isolated in order to prevent and end conflicts, to limit the extension of disastrous effects that could be generated in case they got out of control.

2. ASPECTS ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND THE USE OF MILITARY POWER IN MULTINATIONAL OPERATIONS

2.1 Aspects on the operationalization.

The terrorist actions associated with the outbreak of regional conflicts on a smaller or larger scale, challenge the reaction capability of the military and non-military stability forces, at multinational joint working level. For example, there are well known the efforts to maintain a climate of normality in the air traffic affected by the events of September 11, 2001 or the incident in the Ukrainian airspace with the Malaysia Airlines company on July 17, 2014 and other such events. All these negative circumstances out of control may seriously affect the stability of a branch of the economy, such as air transport. The nature of the means of action and the change of attitude about the multinational joint work have generated new directions on the concept of providing and allocating resources, irrespective of their nature: human, technologic, organization forms, strategies or doctrines.

Therefore, new critical structures are identified which, by their damage, may irreversibly affect areas of economic stability, either socio-political or military, not long ago known as safe areas or fields.

Our research was focused on understanding the mechanisms, the modes of action of the destabilizing factors, especially on the multinational elements, on critical areas and on identifying the similarities at the level of expressing the abnormalities, and on formulating solutions in a personal manner.

The process of planning military action refers directly to a particular way of defining the area of military confrontation, of identifying and appointing the operational environment, which following personal observations is perceived differently at the level of the military structures participating in multinational operations. This different "perception" of the conflict implicitly reflects on defining the framework of the military action that is generated by the so-called "background" of each category of forces and its state affiliation.

The means of approaching a target, of expressing missions, of allocating human, material and time resources are, and are displayed differently depending on the event to be managed from a multinational perspective. The multinational military action requires by its very nature efforts to balance all the elements of the early planning stage until the end of the conflict, meaning the achievement of the desired end state. It is very important to understand the issues related to the joint work at the level of the force, to timely identify the differences at the conceptual level regarding the means of using and logistically supporting the force, of replacing the damaged parts and of regenerating the important elements of the military operation on the whole.

Our observation is the need for understanding and defining the behavior in an operation (combat) of each participant in multinational activities, for defining priorities on specific issues not expressed in general, due to the different way to react to the same category of stimuli specific to the theater of operations. After identifying the particular means of approach of different categories of forces under the same operating conditions, we can proceed to the next step, namely the balancing of the complementarities between the concerned parties analyzed in the matter. In a different context, General Patton expressed the plan of operations as an information plan, in the sense of the plan you build upon as much as you are required and as far as the opportunity allows it.

Therefore, we consider the innovative sequential approach to be appropriate in the multinational operational environment, in the sense of "dosing" the joint effort on the peculiarities identified on the behavior of each component in the first stage: "the identification and the definition of the predictable behavior of the forces participating in multinational operations."

Another guideline that we have identified consists of the means of assigning special resources, not only depending on the specificity of the forces involved but especially on the event that can occur at some time after the confrontation or the interaction with the enemy forces. The anticipation of certain events is not sufficient unless it can be supported by the adequate resources, designed for a specific sequence of the operation.

This approach requires the identification of several response options, taking into account the risks that may appear and the opportunities that may take place at a certain time. Setting the courses of action and conducting the war game seem to be sufficient for the identification of risks and opportunities. The situation is somewhat different in a multinational context because of the danger of fratricide and especially of the inappropriate sizing of resources per unit of event. The approach of the course of operations in a multinational context, from our point of view, requires the development of an algorithm to cover the functional aspects per event. Such an algorithm involves the understanding of the drawbacks, of the differences generated by some peculiarities of the force, by its mode of action in the multinational context overlapped with the interaction with the opponent and implicitly with the effects of the extended battlefield.

2.2 The use of military power in multinational operations. The personnel involved in the process of planning a multinational operation can easily understand the implications of the internal, but also external, determinations of the dynamics of the armed forces. We acknowledge the importance of addressing both types of determinations due to the specific influences that they may generate corresponding to each factor separately, but with a cumulative expression potential due to their interconnection and interaction. In this regard, the external determinations are: the actual process of globalization, the revolution in the field of military affairs and weapons systems, the new features of the contemporary security environment, the changes occurring in most modern states' armies or the reliance on the affiliation to a particular alliance or politico-military "agreement".

In retrospect, the Romanian Army militaries' participation in multinational missions of suppressing terrorism, peace support or humanitarian operations is proof of the professionalism and value shown in all the missions where they participated. These coalition type missions were conducted under NATO, EU and UN and they are expressions of fulfilling the commitments that Romania has assumed as a member of the international community. In the same context, we identified and expressed principles specific to the multinational actions in terms of achieving force training and readiness. Training is designed to take place according to the main principles: compliance with the national and NATO doctrine; achieving all goals of preparation for carrying out the tasks undertaken for collective defense and for specific action outside the national territory; the headquarters' (commanders) assuming responsibility for training the structures under their control; maintaining combat cohesion and high morale of the troops as priority objectives of the training. All forms, procedures, methods and stages of training have a common overall objective, namely to build the capabilities necessary for conducting operations in the multinational environment. Thus, the objectives and the content of training, for all echelons, are developed mainly according to the METT-T list of essential requirements of missions and the level of training of each structure. Training the headquarters mainly comprises a set of activities conducted in a unified design through which the unity of thought and action of the personnel is achieved, the act of leading the forces and training are made efficient in order to solve situations that may arise during some real actions. Under the auspices of the effectiveness of the leadership and the balanced use of force, we assert the need for applying and implementing the best lessons learned and identifying new innovative ways based on understanding the "mechanisms" of generating, distributing and redistributing the defense resources in the national and international context. The technological gap clearly observed between different forces participating in multinational operations, must be crossed in the early planning stage in order to avoid transforming it in lessons learned. In other words, if a certain issue is known from the planning stage, we think it is not necessary to assume the potential risk of encountering a disadvantageous event related to the matter, which would be later transformed into "a lesson learned". We support the idea of planning the resources of the force in the so-called context of interaction.

The identification and formulation of the context is the duty of the military planners and not the special obligation of the performers to formulate lessons learned after taking some identified or not risks during the action (by exploiting the opportunity). Most of the times the efficiency of actions in multinational operations was observed only if behind them there was a thorough planning and if the forces were accommodated within a joint action framework and if the acting routine specific to each participating force was eliminated.

In the variant of algorithm regarding the development of capabilities at the level of the European Union shown in figure 1, we can observe that the central position is occupied by the catalog of requirements for fulfilling a mission, as a result of the detailed dissemination of the necessary capabilities identified on a single planning framework.

The expression of the planning hypotheses summed up in illustrative scenarios can be realistic starting points that contribute to the development of a relevant vision of the size of the resources which need to be assigned on a wide range of requirements in carrying out certain missions. The personal contribution to the interpretation of such an algorithm is to identify the sequence of events associated with the important moment of the military action, starting from the planning stage. The expression of the risks associated with each stage may correspond to the "war game" method, only after more possible courses of action have been developed: "the most likely", "the most dangerous" and "the least likely" and "the least dangerous".

The dimensioning of the multinational force can be established not on the basis of the size of the structure but rather based on the criteria of the cumulative summing up the capabilities of the forces which are planned to be employed.

Another principle suggested to be implemented in terms of planning and use of resources is modularization.

This feature of the modular design of the defense resources' command and control system provides more flexibility in its development and use, in the sense that the force commander activates only those items he needs at some point, according to development of the situation, mentioning the possibility of adding other items that were not initially planned. Another advantage of the modularization is the possibility to deploy in the field and thus achieve greater protection by getting cover from the enemy action on a particular area of interest.

We consider important that the valuing of the principles expressed above should be applied sequentially on areas of interest within planning and more than that, we recommend considering the identification of other methods, principles and innovative conceptual models to promote efficiency and the correct sizing of forces in the multinational context. In this regards, we believe that the forms of training having an important impact on the profile of commanders and headquarters are the training courses conducted in the country and abroad, the participation in the planning and conduct of multinational exercises, staff training and the simulation training exercises (SIMEX) in the centers of training by simulation. "The Advanced Distributive Training" was implemented in the Land Forces by developing operational capabilities by extending the forms and methods of conducting the web-based courses, by distributing the constructive simulations in the network (distributed interactive simulation), currently characteristic to the military educational institutions where the commanders and their staffs are trained and specialized.

2.3 Diagrams and charts.

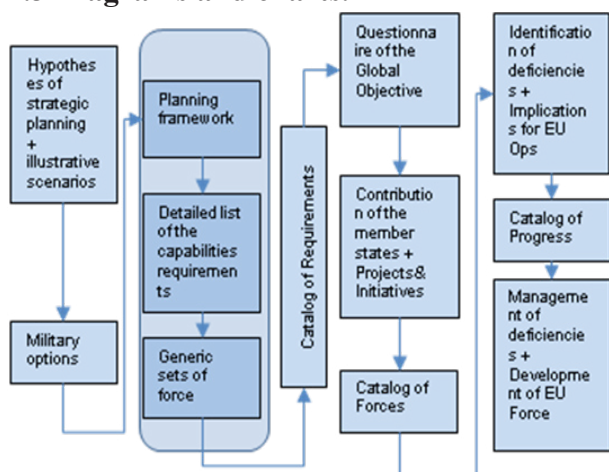


Fig. 1. Variant of algorithm regarding the development of capabilities at EU level

This paper has been financially supported within the project entitled "Horizon 2020 - Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies: Promoting the National Interest through Excellence, Competitiveness and Responsibility in the Field of Romanian Fundamental and Applied Scientific Research", contract number POSDRU/159/1.5/S/140106. This project is co-financed by European Social Fund through Sectoral Operational Programme for Human Resources Development 2007-2013. Investing in people!

3. CONCLUSIONS

As following my thoroughgoing study related to the aspects of operationalization planning military multinational operations it has been drawn a series of conclusions and I had formulated suggestions for planning process improvement, respectively for shaping the behavior mechanism for multinational expectation.

The first aspect is linked to comprehension of the interaction amongst generator of power factors, and certain consequences which may emerge thereafter some failures with major impact. In these direction, I had illustrated the airborne events that have been had an effect on air traffic system, and all restrictive measures as of air and air defense military operations sphere of influence.

Subsequent to multinational operations analysis, it has been confirmed malfunctions for the reason of disparate attitude of actors to the action of the same external stimulation group, manner which has concluded in wastefulness during the cure sequences of disadvantage/crisis situation.

Since different background (technological and approach) of the joint multinational military actors, it can be observed conceptual discrepancies in perceiving the reality of the theater of operations, and the assumptions horizon in planning military operations, especially in stability and support operations.

In this framework, behind conclusions there are realistic suggestions addressed to leaders and planners of joint multinational operations. One of these suggestions is referring to the critical strategic actors' point of view synchronization.

In order to produce realistic scenarios, linked to contemporary technological reality, and placing on the list of priorities the external stimuli group, as socio-economic terrorism – non-military and military, it has to take into consideration rehearsal training for military planners of joint operations, in a crisis situation context.

In the future, for effectiveness, I would recommend a sequential approach of the military operations planning phases for multinational environment, regardless the character, divided by events that could happen or not (likelihood) – due to the dynamic character of influence factors, preemptive to risks assuming, but pursue the favorable situations, and opportunities design for solving problems with different certainty level.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Bari, I., *Probleme globale contemporane*. Bucharest: Economic Publishing House (2003).
2. Băhnăreanu, C., *Factorii de natură economică: factori generatori de securitate și insecuritate*. Strategic Colloquium, nr.14 (2005).
3. Benoit, E., *Defence and Economic Growth in Developing Countries*. Lexington (1973).
4. Diamescu, A. M., *Fundamente economice ale sistemului de securitate națională*. Bucharest: CIDEINCE Costin C.Kiritescu Publishing House (2009).
5. Ispas, L., *Dimensiuni ale modernizării capacităților militare*. Sibiu: N. Bălcescu LF Academy Publishing House (2014).
6. Martin, I., *Raționament și argumentare în planificarea operațiilor*. Bucharest: UNAP Publishing House (2015).
7. Russel, B., *Economie și securitate*. Iași: European Institute Publishing House (2004).