

The Romanian Armed Forces and the Adaptation to NATO Demands

By Radu Tudor, Jane's Defence Weekly Correspondent, Bucharest

Joining NATO remains Romania's top foreign policy objective. Romania is confident that it will be invited to join the Alliance on the occasion of the 2002 NATO Summit in Prague. Preparations for meeting the requirements of being a NATO member will be speeded up, building on the progress achieved so far. Respecting previous commitments while better correlating objectives with resources will be at the core of Romania's preparation for NATO membership.

NATIONAL ANNUAL PLAN (NAP)

By complying to NATO's objectives, as defined by the New Strategic Concept, Romania will be ready to meet the Alliance's expectations and to directly contribute to diminishing the security risks at regional and sub-regional level.

Preparation for joining NATO is a catalyser in the reform process, aimed at the modernisation of the Romanian society and institutions. From the military reform viewpoint the 3rd Cycle of the National Annual Plan (NAP), dedicated to the preparation for joining NATO, is grounded on more pragmatism and on the qualitative dimensions of the goals. The NAP-accomplishment will be a progress in ensuring necessary capabilities for national security, for participation in crisis reaction operations and for developing a package of forces for collective defence missions, including those aimed at fighting terrorism. The final goal is to achieve, by the end of 2003, a downsized, flexible force structure, capable of properly facing the national security risks, with a strength of 112,000 military and 28,000 civilian personnel.

The 3rd NAP Cycle prioritise focus on the restructuring of the forces' and their operationalisation, on continuing the measures that remained unfinished in the preceding cycle and on assuming additional

objectives in the fields of compatibility with NATO, participation in PfP activities and NATO-led operations, human resources management, military education reform, efficient defence planning, air space management, communications and information systems, logistics and infrastructure. Romania's relation to NATO is ripe enough to include new dimensions and to develop cooperation in the field of crisis management. Romania's contribution to the stability of Europe through conflict- and crisis-management and through promoting stability and observance of human rights is an essential aspect of its security policy.

Through cooperation with NATO, the efforts to achieve a credible defence capability – based on flexible, inter-operable structures and on an organisation which is similar to those available to NATO member nations (rank pyramid) – are better controlled, with beneficial results on the military reform.

The career development of officers, NCOs/warrant officers and contract-enlisted sergeants is based on the Military Career Guide. The principles regulating their evolution were defined in accordance with the «Concept on human resources management in the Romanian Armed Forces»: for NCOs/warrant officers in November 1998, for officers in June 1999 and for contract-enlisted sergeants in late 1999.

AIR SOVEREIGNTY OPERATION CENTER (ASOC)

By the acquisition, in 1995, of 5 FPS-117 long-range tri-dimensional Lockheed Martin radars for civil and military applications, Romania made the first step in the modernisation of the integrated air traffic control system and in setting up the technical and operational requirements for joining NATO structures.

In 1996, Romania was among the countries participating in the Central and East-European air space management programme initiated by the USA and funded within the Warsaw Initiative. As a result, the acquisition of an Air Sovereignty Operation Center (ASOC) was launched in cooperation with the ESC/USAF (US Air Force Electronic Systems Center). Participation in this programme allows for the regional cooperation with other Central and East-European nations through an exchange of information on the air space management and will ensure interoperability with other NATO members.

The use of the ASOC by each partner-country encourages regional cooperation with other partners in the exchange of air space management information. The goal of the ASOC programme is to field a system that is capable of:

- achieving the unique national air image through the integration of the data collected from military and civil radars in the air traffic control system;
- modernising the air surveillance systems through providing interoperability with civil and military pan-European structures, such as EUROCONTROL and NATO;
- contributing to regional stability and cooperation by sharing the management of the air space information through using standard message patterns.

PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM (PPBES)

The Romanian Armed Forces are now implementing the new Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Evaluation

System (PPBES). The programme follows Western patterns and the initiative has the endorsement and encouragement of NATO and, specifically, of the United States and Great Britain.

The Romanian Armed Forces' PPBES reflects the classical approach to planning, programming and budgeting. The principles of Romania's defence policy results from the National Security Strategy and the White Paper on National Security and Defence which was issued by the Government in 1999 and elaborated in further detail in the Romanian Military Strategy, issued by the Ministry of National Defence in 2000. These documents are currently under review and shall be submitted to the Parliament for approval in compliance with the Romanian Constitution.

So far, the following documents have been issued at MoD level:

- Defence Planning Guidance no 2 for Planning Cycle 2002-2005;
- PPBES Regulations.

A training facility to cover the need for training experts in this field entered service late September 2000.

PLANNING CYCLE 2002-2005

The Romanian Armed Forces programmatic framework for the Planning Cycle 2002-2005 includes eight programmes. They cover the broad categories of structures and functions that require resources, and are intended to provide a manageable framework for the 2nd Planning Cycle. The fields covered by the eight programmes are:

- Army
- Air Force
- Navy
- Communications and Automated Data Processing
- Central Administration
- Logistics
- Intelligence
- International activities

Each programme has a programme manager and, in the case of the Services, the Chief of the Service Staff is the manager of that programme. Each Service Staff is responsible for the resource planning/programming

aspect in the PPBES management and execution at that Service level. The draft programmes for Planning Cycle 2002-2005 have been drawn up and are now being studied. When this process is completed and all issues raised by programme managers solved, the defence programmes will be submitted to the Parliament for approval.

A PPBES test effort was carried out in 2000. The advantages of an integrated defence programme were demonstrated. In 2001, the PPBES is being implemented on a trial basis in the MoD. The new defence planning system will be refined as experience is gained and its full implementation is planned starting 2002.

The use of the products resulting from these programmes, as well as the budget, will enhance financial control and transparency:

- the defence programmes will be submitted to the Parliament for approval;
- their budgetary allocation is the responsibility of the programme managers;
- expenditures have to be transparent to make sure that money is properly spent;
- continuous flow of information on budgetary issues with NATO countries will be improved.

MULTINATIONAL MILITARY STRUCTURES

Romanian participation with forces in multinational military structures within regional political-military cooperation initiatives will contain:

- Multinational Peace Force, South-Eastern Europe (MPFSEE/SEEBRIG): the 341th Infantry Battalion, 1 Engineer Company, 1 Reconnaissance Platoon, 1 Transportation Platoon, 1 staff officers and NCOs group and, in the Standing Nucleus Staff, 3 officers and 2 NCOs.
- Joint Romanian-Hungarian Peacekeeping Battalion: one 191th Infantry Battalion's national modular structure, including personnel necessary for setting up

the joint command.

- Multinational High Readiness Stand-By Forces Brigade for UN Operations (SHIRBRIG): 1 Infantry Company and up to 11 staff officers and NCOs, Deputy Chief of G4 (Logistics) Division - permanent position, 2 officers and 1 NCO in the HQ - non-permanent positions.
- Naval Cooperation Group at the Black Sea (BLACKSEAFOR): 1 ship assigned during the periodically common activation of naval force.

As a novel element, the new force structure includes units to be prepared for collective defence missions:

- Army: 1 Infantry Battalion
- Air Force: 4 MiG-21 LANCERS
- Navy: 1 frigate, 2 armoured river ships (artillery), 1 EOD/SEAL diving team.

The offer of forces for NATO collective defence missions will annually increase, based on the level of operationalisation of the forces, as a whole, and the available financial resources.

ROMANIA 'S «FORCE 2003» UNDERWAY

The Chief of General Staff from the Romanian MoD, general Mihail Popescu announced in January 2002 that he has drafted a more compact, more performing, more efficient and flexible structure of forces, compatible with NATO standards, to be operational by the end of 2003. It will include 112,000 military (18,000 officers, 40,200 NCO's and warrant officers, 22,300 contract-enlisted sergeants, 31,500 conscripts) and 28,000 civilians. According to gen. Popescu, «Force 2003» structure will be as follows:

Active Forces, called «High Readiness Forces» (HRF) manned with 80-90% of the total strength, including: Army : 1 Army Corps-like operational HQ, 1 division-like HQ; 6 combat brigades, 3 combat support brigades, 1 logistics Brigade Air Force: ASOC, 6 air combat squadrons, 6 combat element squadrons, 1 transport flotilla, 1 Air Defence brigade and 1 Air Defence regiment, 2 training bases, 2 air bases, 1 radio relay center, 3 signal regiments Navy: 1 naval fleet HQ, 1 river fleet HQ, 1 frigate, 5 ship squadrons, 1 EW center, 1 diving center, 1 Marine Corps



battalion. The level of spending for those kind of forces will be 12-14.000 US\$ for each military per year.

Territorial Forces, called «Low Readiness Forces»(LRF) manned with 30-70% of their strength, including: Army: 2 Army Corps-like territorial HQs, 9 combat brigades, 5 combat support brigades, 2 logistics brigades ; Air Force: 2 division HQs, 1 Air Defence missile regiment, 1 engineer regiment, 1 training squadron ; Navy: 1 coast missile battalion, 1 fast boat squadron, 1 naval base, 1 river base, 1 signal regiment.

Reserve Forces, called «Long Term Built Up Forces» (LTBF) manned with less than 30% of the total strength, including: big units and units established in case of mobilization. They will be operational on a 180-day notice.

The new force structure will meet the following requirements:

- achieving a force potential capable to deter through intelligence and engagement strength;
- ensuring the security requirements at a minimum level;
- ensuring the reaction capability at the level of assumed commitments;
- enhancing the capability of the forces available for PSO's;

Popescu said that «our commitments to NATO of the available forces for peace support operations have been reviewed».

The following package of Romanian forces is available for NATO-led PfP operations: Army: 3 Infantry Companies, 1 Engineer company, 1 Mountain Company, 1 Paratroops Company, 1 Military Police Company, 1 Demining Detachment; Air Force: 4 MiG- 21 LANCER, 1 C-130 B transport aircraft. Navy: 1 frigate, 1 maritime tug, 1 river tug, 1 diving intervention ship, 2 armored river ships, 1 EOD/SEAL diving team. Part of this force is already joining the ISAF in Kabul.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

After the hard legacy of communism, Romania's national identity is defined by an unwavering commitment to pluralistic democracy, free markets, respect for human rights and the rule of law, good relations with neighbors and complete dedication to EU and NATO integration. With their mixed religious and ethnic populations, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are a bridge between the West and the Islamic World.

Romania and Bulgaria are the most populous of the new European democracies. Romania is a tested partner in Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia and a partner in the war against terrorism. From a geo-strategic perspective, including Romania and Bulgaria in NATO will consolidate the southern flank of the Alliance and strengthen its ability to address current security needs.

Challenges remain in the western Balkans. Surrounding the territory of the former Yugoslavia with stable and democratic NATO members will increase the prospects for economic and political success in the region. The Southern Dimension of enlargement will also strengthen NATO's pro-active action against asymmetrical threats. Romania is already working cooperatively in the region against trans-border crime. The Regional Center against Trans-border Crime located in Bucharest, for example, has seen success in dismantling regional human and drug trafficking networks.

The inclusion of Romania and Bulgaria will bring NATO to the Black Sea and provide the Alliance with permanent forward bases for air, land, and maritime traffic towards the Middle East and Central Asia. Romania have already proven our utility in the campaign in Afghanistan, by opening air, land and maritime space, and placing port and airport facilities at the disposal of the United States and its allies.

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