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SECURITY SECTOR EXPERT FORMATION: ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEEDS IN ROMANIA

1.7 ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY SECTOR EXPERT FORMATION

Talking about security sector matters means talking about the main options of any country in the world. In this respect, Romania is no exception. One of the most important objectives of its policy-maker leaders is to ensure national security at its highest level, in accordance with our resources and needs. As a basis for the assessment of the necessary activities that have to be developed to ensure national security, security sector expert formation extends participation in Europe-wide security sector reform. This is important because the contemporary international system is currently characterised both by changes and continuity in the socio-political processes and economic relationships that constitute the foundation of state and non-state interactions. Post-Cold War *fin de siècle* international politics, rather than producing a new era of global peace, economic prosperity and symmetrical interdependence, is instead characterised by a widening scope and intensity of geopolitical fluidity and socio-economic effervescence which tend to undermine state sovereignty.

In a global environment, weak economies, internal tensions, external impositions and immature civil societies presently constitute some of the most formidable sources of assault on the decision-making autonomy and on the development of democratic practices in former communist states. New and unprecedented concepts appeared in describing the international arena, such as the internationalisation of external intervention, the theories of cultural globalisation, or the ethical liberal theories on international policy. The boundary between internal affairs and foreign policies of a country tends to be vague and the influence of non-state actors is increasing, along with the reconfiguration of the classical world centres of power. The long expected multipolar system has not yet emerged and the present unipolar system is declining.

1.7.1 A Problem of Definition

An explanation of how a country should ensure its own security in this so-called 'post-international system' (Rosenau), presents a difficult task for the main state authority bodies. Because of internal and external pressure, limited resources, generated by the absence of a viable system of alliances as well as an unpredictable environment, the Security Strategy is forced to take into account a large area of options and scenarios in order to evaluate correctly the level of security a country is capable of achieving.

First, let us generally define the meaning of national security. Many studies developed different theories on national and international security, starting with the definition of actors and concepts of power.

Some theories compare national with individual security. This approach ignores the often used distinction between internal and external dimensions of the concept. Other systematic approaches structure security on different levels (individual, national, sub-regional, regional, global) which continuously interact, adapting old theories to a new reality of globalisation with its consequences at micro and macro societies/levels.

Since domestic and international developments are dominated by uncertainty, strategists continually have to re-examine the security environment, goals, strategies, available resources and tools needed to achieve stated objectives. In this perspective, the term strategy could be defined not only as a link between ends and means or a 'game plan', but also as a subsequent, constant effort to identify and correct imbalances among key variables. The national security strategy reflects on the structure of international relations – not merely a country's sense of who its allies and rivals are but also its strengths, weaknesses and the capacity of its political body to accept challenges.

Moreover, conceiving security as a purely military matter in a world where most of the daily interactions between different actors are non-military would be a mistake. The political, diplomatic, economic, environmental and legal aspects are major elements of any long-term strategy to ensure the country's security. The interaction among these dimensions was also an object of research for the academics, which started from the question of transformation of military into economic or diplomatic means after the end of the Cold War. To give an example, Susan Strange wrote about the concept of structural power, involving the system of state power in which the economy could be used as an instrument of deterrence in a successful manner. Consequently, the military classical constraints become unnecessary (case of Japan). Switching from military to economic power, or vice versa, still presents a problem which is under debate.

1.7.2 Romania's National Security Strategy

The existence of an integrated defence planning system in Romania, compatible with the North Atlantic Alliance system, ensures a present overview on the defence resources allotting process, connected with the main goals of the national defence policy.

The system of defence planning at national level was established through the Law 63/2000, modifying the Government Ordinance no. 52/1998, which set up the volume, structure and manner of allotting natural, human, material and financial resources for implementing the fundamental objectives of Romania's national security and military defence.

The law also presents the fundamental institutional chain of decision in this field. In accordance with article 2 of the 'Ordinance on Romanian National Defence Planning',

the Romanian Parliament, President and Government, as well as other public institutions that assume in accordance with the law, security and national defence responsibilities, base the defence planning on political and strategic decisions and options.

The place where National Security Strategy broadly occupies the planning system, arises from the main steps of the defence planning process:

- identification of values and national interests, as well as their risks and threats;
- defining national security objectives, policies for their achievement; counteracting the identified risks and threats;
- establishing state bodies responsibilities in the area of national defence and security;
- determining the required resources and their allocation for the accomplishment of security goals

The main documents issued in the framework of the national defence planning system are the following:

- Romania's National Security Strategy – fundamental document that underlies the defence planning at the national level; it has been put to Parliament by the Romanian President, within three months of when he was mandated; its evaluation scope covers four years, with a long-term view. The strategy establishes the national interests, risks and threats, the defence policy objectives, as well as the ways of acting in order to ensure national security.
- The White Paper of the Government represents an elaborated document with the idea of implementing the provisions of the Romanian National Security Strategy. The White Paper establishes detailed departmental strategies, including the main objectives and tasks of the institutions responsible for ensuring national security and defence, as well as the resources (human, material, financial etc.) that need to be allotted on an annual basis.
- On the basis of Romania's National Security Strategy and the White Paper, the Ministry of National Defence issues the Romanian Military Strategy. This document contains the major military policy objectives and options of the Romanian State for the period the Romanian National Security Strategy is valid. The document establishes: forces structure, missions, organisation, procurement, level of training and readiness, logistic, support, and infrastructure necessary to the military system in order to achieve the national security objectives, as well as the concept of training and engagement in military operations.

In order to promote and defend its fundamental interests, Romania will act by political, judicial, diplomatic, economic, social, military, public relations and intelligence means, as well as by the cooperation with other states and international organisations. Each field of activity is presented in the security strategy with its specific main goals or long-term plans.

Each of the main modalities to achieve national security represents an entire chapter of our broad policy. Some of them need to be analysed here.

In the field of foreign policy, Romania has already been deeply involved in the creation of a European system of cooperative security, based on what was called 'interlocking institutions'. Joining NATO and EU, supporting the development of OSCE initiatives during our presidency, strengthening the subregional networks of cooperation through participation in different Southeast European bodies, and envisaging a process of eliminating in the current security deficit by diplomatic means were different steps in the total process. Without an umbrella of collective defence, Romania can presently face major difficulties in case of a massive attack on its borders.

A long-term policy of integration in the European space is an adequate response to the challenges of globalisation and the risks of fragmentation which has appeared in the Balkans and the CIS territory over the last years. The 'crossroad' metaphor which is used so often to describe the geopolitics of Romania could represent not only a potential risk, but also an opportunity, considering the new Eurasian transportation and energetic infrastructure projects.

In the field of national defence, the key factors of integration and regional stability are preceded by the optimisation of our defence capabilities to present the three main objectives. The main directions identified in order to fulfil these objectives are as follows:

- development of the capabilities of fighting structures;
- ensuring the necessary defence resources;
- development of human resources, intensifying the training of military personnel;
- modernisation of the military education;
- improvement of the procurement system;
- restructuring of the defence industry;
- strengthening the relations to the civil society;
- keeping tight relations to the armed forces of other states and international organisations.

The combination and balance of those modalities serves as a basis to ensure national security. Another main objective lies in the search of necessary resources for the successful implementation of the single steps of the strategy. Furthermore, strategists have to focus on national objectives in order to prevent possible mismatches among the resources available and the associated objectives. A document of that kind should not be a declaration of intents, or a beautiful illustration of what could be, but a clear and consistent concept of what the survival and prosperity of a country signifies.

A well-defined security strategy represents the basic requirement for an accomplishment of the core values of the Romanian people in advancing our leadership goals in the world.

1.7.3 Identification and Assessment of Needs

As the analysis deepens, one can see that, based on the core concepts of the very basic documents ruling our national security sector, one of the main provisions that can be taken separately and developed as another main topic in this field is that of the training of the people acting, working, dealing or planning anything in this sector.

The very basics of national security are taught at the service level academies. Here, the future members of the Romanian military organisation learn what is understood by national security, how it can be achieved, what the main structure of the Ministry of Defence is, what activities are to fulfil the security sector objectives etc. The following subject matters serve as tools to accomplish this task: Defence Policy, Geopolitics and Geostrategy, Defence Resources Management etc. Most students find their way to those studies through some basic social sciences courses such as: psychology, sociology, ethics, pedagogy etc.

Later, at a different stage of their career, the Romanian officers pass through a series of long-, medium- or short-term courses, based on their career interest and/or leaders.

The highest level of training courses in the field of national security, as far as the Romanian Ministry of National Defence is concerned, are offered by the National Defence College (NDC), the Partnership for Peace Regional Training Centre (PPRTC), and the Defence Resources Management Regional Centre (DRMRC). A short presentation of each of those institutions is given in Appendix 1.2.

To ensure total transparency and civil control over the military, all three institutions provide highly qualified training in the fields of their curricula for several categories of personnel. That includes Parliament and parliamentary staffers; political secretaries of the ministries of defence, the interior and justice; intelligence agencies; leading representatives of the executive; representatives of civil society; journalists and non-governmental experts (working in NGOs), both Romanian and from abroad.

The National Defence College educates people at the highest level of training in the field of national security. The core subject matters of the curriculum mostly deal with the concept, documents, structure and development of national security itself, both from an internal and external (accumulated with foreign opinions) point of view.

The other two centres of which the PPRTC was already accredited, whereas the DRMRC is on its way to accreditation, are both members of the Partnership for Peace Consortium of the Defence Academies and Security Studies Institutes. In this respect, their curricula consist of different percentages of specific topics concerning national security and applicable strategies. The two institutions deliver training at the same level as the NDC. The length of courses varies according to the main qualifications of the participants.

In conclusion, there are courses ranging from one month (RDRMC) to one year (NDC) in time, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Different degrees are offered in the field of national security topics, starting at 8 per cent for the short course offered by the RDRMC, and 100 per cent in the case of NDC.

There still exist other forms of training in the security sector field. Those seminars, held at national and international level, take place on a non-periodic basis in different locations whenever the situation it requires. They usually last for the duration of one week and consist of a series of lectures and discussions, which are delivered by well-known experts, both Romanians and foreigners.

There exist periodic long- and medium-term courses, which offer initial training. Further, enhanced training is offered through non-periodic seminars and other activities where Romanian experts are involved. Since the latter activities take place on a non-periodic level, they cannot be considered enhanced forms of training. In my opinion, a continuous formation of experts that graduated from one of the previously mentioned institutions should be based on a regular/periodic (quarterly) training system. The curricula should consist of very short seminars and courses (one or two weeks), which are to be delivered in a specific location. The more neutral the place, the better. That way each participant has equal options. A series of such courses would update all current issues of discussion at the international level and enhance the abilities of the participating experts in identifying, assessing, and negotiating any issue of importance for the national security sector. This type of training offers several advantages, most of them dealing with the enhanced level of communication among the members of the national and international security community.

I could list further details on the issue of implementing this specific form of education into practice, but there is no chance for me to additionally document this topic in this report.

1.7.4 Possibilities for Expert Formation

Appendix 1.2 details ideas on the general objectives, types of courses, graduation papers and the duration of the above mentioned courses.

1.7.5 Recommendations

There is a certain need for future training of young officers and civilians in the field of national security, due to Romania's evolution towards the NATO and the country's involvement in a great number of international activities. Therefore, a training and enhancement system for experts in the national security field, both at a national and international level, should be enacted as soon as possible.

As previously described, there is a possibility of filling the identified gap in the continuous formation of experts. However, one should think twice before coming to a decision when choosing the course of action. We should carefully watch the people involved in the formation of experts and make sure that they are equidistant and European, with no connection to local parties and/or other affiliations.

Furthermore, there is a need to predict what future training stages should contain and how to prepare students that start right after graduation. In my opinion, the training periods resemble a cooperative teaching activity where teacher and student develop together the modelling and simulation of real-life situations.

I do not question the work and presence of foreign advisors at different levels, not only at the MoND level. I just ask them to act better with regard to the improvement and understanding of the very basic concepts of the national security in the wider European and international context.

A diversification of the national security forms of training would be beneficial to anybody in this area. The more means of education we use (internship, advanced distributed learning etc), the closer related and more cooperative experts we will get in terms of international cooperation.

In conclusion, this type of training should be offered by both national and international experts and for both national and international expert teams. It should serve as a tool to remove experts from their familiar environment once every two years, to expose them to new and different situations, forcing them to adjust to unusual situations and to apply their knowledge to problem-solving processes. According to any scientific theory of pedagogy, this strategy would prove most useful and be of greatest benefit for any country investing in this training.

I hereby state that everything I have said so far is based on my personal opinion only and has not been influenced by any other person. However, I would like to express my thanks to my colleagues in the Romanian MoND: cpt. Dorin Moldovan and cpt. Mihai Iancu.

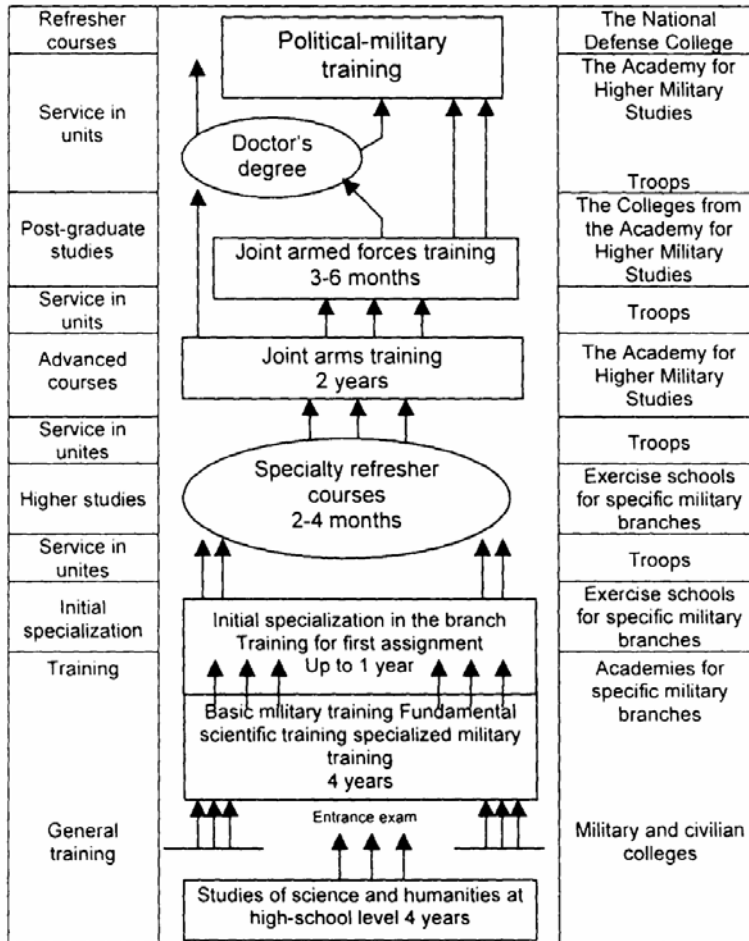
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APPENDIX 1.1

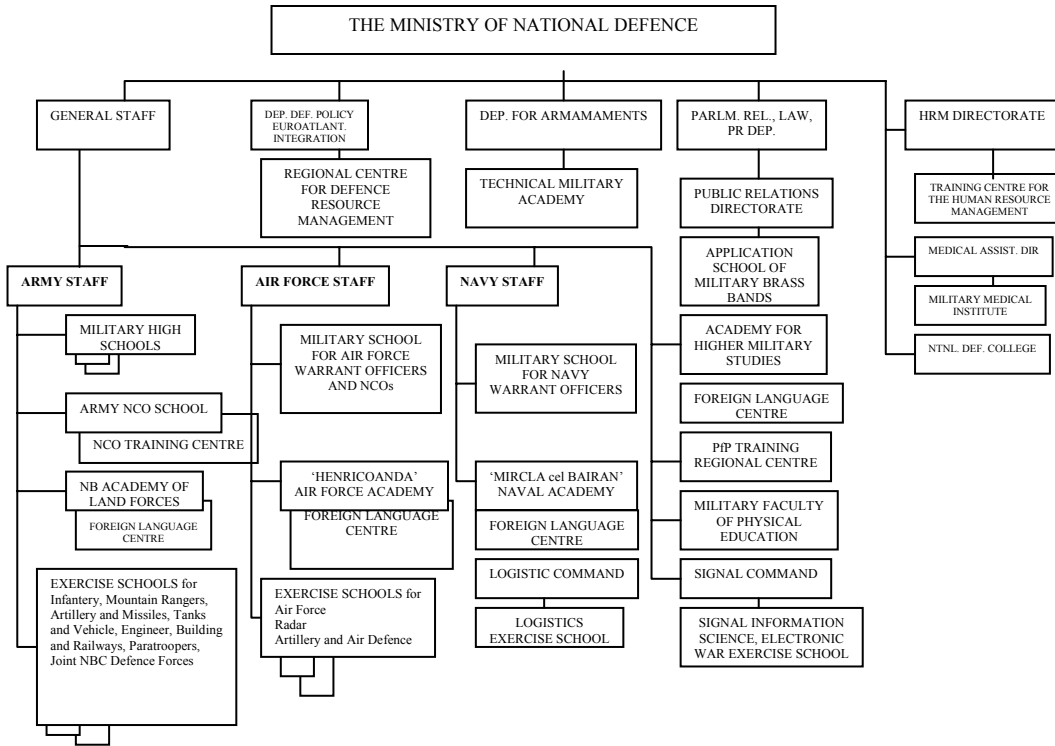
ANNEX No 1

THE STRUCTURE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Age Stages of training Structure of training The institution where training takes place

THE NETWORK OF MILITARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR SUBORDINATION



APPENDIX 1.2

A The Academy for Higher Military Studies

Type: institution of higher education.

Aim: to upgrade officer training in various fields by means of postgraduate studies.

Objectives:

- To form joint service staff and HQ officers through courses for MD in military sciences
- To improve the operational-strategic ability for the strategic and joint-force levels through postgraduate courses
- To train doctorates in military science

Graduation:

- Postgraduate diploma
- Attendance certificate for refresher postgraduate and specialised courses
- PhD in military science (diploma)

Duration:

- 2 years for advanced studies
- Up to 6 months for advanced and specialised postgraduate courses
- 4–6 years for non-resident PhD studies

B The National Defence College

Objectives:

- To prepare military and civilian defence management specialists
- To provide political and military training for decision-making personnel in public administration, political parties, armed forces, media, independent institutions etc.
- To develop capacities for political, military and geostrategic analysis and decision-making in the context of Romania's integration into European and Euro-Atlantic security structures

Graduation:

- Certificate of attendance, after the candidate has presented his or her paper in a public viva voce session

Duration:

- 6 months

C The Training Centre for Human Resources Management Personnel

Objectives:

- To upgrade and specialise teaching and command personnel in military education and human resources management
- To conduct scientific research in the fields of human resource management and military education
- To coordinate student training within the departments of teaching staff training in the institutions of higher military education

Types of courses:

- Advanced postgraduate courses on education management
- Postgraduate courses for teaching staff training
- Advanced courses on human resource recruitment and selection
- Advanced and specialised courses on human resource management
- Basic and advanced courses for office management and computerisation specifically designed for human resources management

Graduation:

- Certificate of attendance for postgraduate, advanced, and special courses
- Certificate of completion; graduated from the department of teaching staff training

Duration:

- Up to 4 months
- 1-2 weeks, for office courses

D The PFP Regional Training Centre

Objectives:

To improve the training of military and civilian personnel in operations, defence planning, development of joint military operations, multinational peace-support operations, as well as civilian-military cooperation during campaigns by using NATO command general staff procedures.

Types of courses:

- Advanced courses on NATO-compatible command and general staff procedures for land-force brigades
- Advanced courses on joint command and general staff procedures and multinational operations
- Advanced courses on general staff activity

Graduation:

- Certificate of attendance

Duration:

- 8–14 weeks, advanced courses, command and general staff procedures
- 2–3 weeks, advanced and guidance courses on military operations (multinational operations planning)

E The Regional Centre for Defence Resource Management

Objectives:

To provide and improve military and civilian personnel training in defence planning, defence resource management, and technical as well as logistical systems.

Types of courses:

- Advanced postgraduate courses for leading personnel
- Postgraduate courses for specialists

Graduation:

- Certificate of completion for postgraduate courses

Duration:

- 4-6 weeks for leading personnel

- 11-14 weeks for specialists