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Determination of performance criterion for conducting non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO)

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Abstract. Evacuation operations are distinguished from other military operations mainly in the management of the operation, which is carried out with the close interaction of political and military factors, with the direct involvement of the diplomatic representation of the country whose citizens will be evacuated. Planning and organizing the participation of a military formations in NEOs should be based on a quantitative assessment of the expected results of their actions. The paper describes performance criterion for assessment of non-combatant evacuation operation.

1. Introduction

The modern security environment is characterized by dynamic, contradictory and difficult-to-anticipate changes that are reflected at the regional and national level. In such environment negative events in one part of the world rapidly act on another, which lead to creation of a chain of negative phenomena in global politics and economics, and has a destabilizing impact on state development, including security and defense. This necessitates the development of capabilities for adequate response to unexpected crisis situations.

The analysis of the modern security environment shows that the most significant influence on its formation have:

- the processes of globalization;
- unresolved conflicts in different parts of the world;
- terrorism and other asymmetric risks and threats;
- the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- crisis in the financial and economic spheres;
- energy security;
- European and Euro-Atlantic integration;
- maritime piracy;
- demographic, environmental, climate, health and other issues.

The increasing role of globalization poses new risks and security threats. Essential for the security environment, including for Republic of Bulgaria, are asymmetric and other non-traditional risks and threats, especially international terrorism.

Transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking in human beings, drugs and weapons, the increasing number of pirate attacks in the world, climate change, natural anomalies and the spread of epidemics threaten security, including Bulgarian citizens.

All this is a prerequisite for development of abilities to plan, organize and conduct the evacuation of large groups of threaten people within a short period of time.

It is clear that the National Governments' first duty is to protect and defend their citizens nevertheless in which part of the world are they.

The large scale evacuations are extremely complex, requiring tremendous coordination and logistical support. [3] This kind of operations couldn't be successful without military assistance. The armed forces are the only tool which can guarantee the safety of threatened people.

Evacuation operations are distinguished from other military operations mainly in regard to management of the operation, which is carried out with the close interaction of political and military factors, with the direct involvement of the diplomatic representation of the country whose citizens will be evacuated.

Since the evacuation decision is rather political than based on a real military threat, the order to start the operation may be postponed until the last possible moment. In addition, pre-study and investigation of the evacuation area is likely to be banned because it may be perceived as a failure of political efforts to resolve the problem that has evoked the need for evacuation. The commander of the evacuation forces must be ready for unforeseen situations that may arise during the evacuation. The location and timing of the operation will be determined after a political analysis and a review of the real situation. Evacuation operations are very sensitive to politics and will definitely be monitored at the highest level.

In fact, non-combat evacuation operations are military operations conducted to ensure the safe evacuation of non-combatants from a foreign country. The need for such actions can also arise for the withdrawal of military contingents carrying out peacekeeping tasks in a country with a complex internal political environment. In some cases, they will be conducted in a complicate environment and during diplomatic initiatives to prevent conflict.

From the point of view of the operational art NEO may be described as a set of time coordinated tasks which goal is evacuation of civilians whose lives are potentially endangered. This kind of operation will be conducted in limited spatial and temporal frameworks together with a diplomatic mission.

The main characteristic of a NEO is urgency, which demand proper and fast planning and execution in order to reach the goal of operation.

Evacuation operations are characterized by their unexpectedness, which requires the prior development of basic and alternative plans for the different evacuation conditions. They can be held without warning occurred due to a sudden change in the situation of the country, which will evacuate civilians or unexpected enemy action taken by a third party, threatening the lives and health of citizens. If there are signs suggesting the need for evacuation, it is necessary to increase the readiness to carry out the operation. Depending on the environment, the following conditions under which the operation [1] will be performed can be determined:

- a favorable environment for conducting the operation - enabling conditions. Such an environment is characterized or implies the absence of resistance to the evacuation and thus does not require the great number participating forces. The evacuees are collected in the respective areas and it can be assumed that the host country will assist and support the evacuators during the operation. In this case crucial to the success of the operation will be logistical support, including transport of non-combatants, providing medical assistance to the needy, providing administrative and coordination between the Mission and the various agencies and departments involved in the evacuation. It is desirable that the commander charged with conducting the operation should provide minimum forces to protect the security of citizens. The actions of the forces must be cautious, careful, restrained, responding to real threats;
- environment dominated by uncertainty or semi-permitting conditions. Such an environment is present when the troops or the police in the host country, no matter did not act against the forces conducting NEO even sympathetic to them, do not have full control over the territory, population or military - political situation;
- conditions arising from hostile environments. This environment is characterized by insecurity, civil unrest, terrorist acts, the situation may escalate to large-scale and intensive combat. In addition to these unspecified threats, planners must also take into account possible hostile actions by friendly grassroots masses from the local population who may change their attitude for various reasons. At best, there will be a need to control large masses of people (crowds).

The worst case is if the majority of the population turns against the evacuation forces and engages in active actions that endanger people's lives, health and property.

2. Determining Criterion for Effectiveness of Formations Activities in Performing Non-combatant Evacuation Operation

Planning and organizing the participation of a military formations in NEOs should be based on a quantitative assessment of the expected results of their actions. Effectiveness of the actions of the formations in conducting NEO is the degree of achievement of the final results of the actions of the forces. In this sense, the performance criterion should characterize the degree of achievement of the objective, taking into account the factors influencing the results of their actions:

- the mathematically expected part loss of own forces;
- the time to perform the tasks.

The main performance criterion for conducting NEO can be represented in mathematical form with the following formula:

$$GKE = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m MO_{n_i}}{N} W_i \quad (1)$$

The main criterion for the efficiency of the actions of the formations in conducting NEO is the mathematically expected part of evacuated non-combatants from the total number of people to be evacuated.

where: - MO_{n_i} is the number of non-combatants housed on a vehicle of i type;

W_i – the number of places for housing non-combatants on a vehicle of i - type;

N - total number of non-combatants that need to be evacuated;

m - total number of vehicles used for evacuation;

t - time to conduct the operation;

T - maximum allowable time for the operation;

l - loss of personnel

L - publicly acceptable losses.

Δt - estimated real time to evacuate the non-combatants;

The formula shows that the maximum value of the primary performance criterion is 1.

The time for conducting operation is essential. Aspect “time” shows that impacts should be differentiated and focused in particular time intervals when effects on the development of the threat are sharp and intensive. [4].

3. Conclusion

The success of the NEO depends on a large extent on the application of a comprehensive approach using diplomatic, political, informational, economic, financial and legal instruments. The use of quantitative features in the process of assessment of NEO is a prerequisite for accurate, complete and objective evaluation of the results of the operation and is a contribution to the development of contemporary operational art.

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