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A WAR SCENARIO IN THE BLACK SEA AREA. SECONDARY OPERATION DOBROGEA

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Abstract. *In the course of 2018, on the background of increasing tensions with USA on Ukraine and Siria, Russian President Vladimir Putin decide to liquidate the conflict in Ukraine by destroying Ukrainian army and invading southern part of this country. The aims of the operation, are:*

- Denial of Ukraine access to the Black Sea;*
- Getting Russia's access to Danube.*
- Providing Russia's access from the mainland to the Crimea;*
- Preventing the creation of NATO's bases in southern Ukraine.*

As a Secondary Direction: An attack against Dobrogea in order to distract NATO's main operation and prevent the alliance to intervene before reaching primary objective in Ukraine by Russian troops: conquering the south of Ukraine. We develop this scenario in order to show our defense weaknesses at the Black Sea area.

Keywords: *Russian army, Romanian Army, Ukraine army, NATO, Crimeea, Black Sea.*

The premises of the Russian attack

In the course of 2018, on the background of increasing tensions in Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin decide to liquidate the conflict in this country by destroying Ukrainian army and invading southern part of this country. The aim of the operations, are:

- Denial of Ukraine access to the Black Sea;
- Providing Russia's access to Danube.
- Providing Russia's access from the mainland to the Crimea;
- Preventing the creation of NATO's bases in southern Ukraine.

As a Secondary Direction: An attack against Dobrogea in order to distract NATO from the main operation and prevent the NATO alliance to intervene before reaching primary objective in Ukraine by Russian troops: conquering the south of Ukraine.

For the purpose of employment of the of southern Ukraine it will be mobilized units of the Southern Military District [1](Headquarters Rostov-on-Don) and Central Military District [2] (Headquarters Moscow); The main lines of attack:

- Novoazovsk-Mariopol-Berdyainsk;
- Donetsk-Dnepopetrovsk-Kirovgrad-Kodima
- Armyansk -Kherson -Odessa-Cahul. Our report is focused on the secondary operation: attack against Dobrogea.

¹ **Romanian Society of Historical Science,**

Dobrogea secondary operation. Russian forces

- Black Sea Naval Infantry and Coastal Missile-Artillery Forces.[3]
- 11th Independent Coastal Missile-Artillery Brigade - Anapa, Krasnodar Region: 3x K-300P Bastion-P anti-ship missile system, Bal anti-ship missile system [4]
- 810th Naval Infantry Brigade [5]
- 382nd Independent Naval Infantry Battalion [6]
- Object 100 Utes (near Sevastopol') [7]
- Black Sea Fleet Naval Air Force – HQ Sevastopol [8]
- 1270th Separate Electronic Warfare Center (Kovalevka)[9]
- 7th Guards Airborne Division at Novorossiysk [10]
- 22nd Spetsnaz Brigade in Rostov
- Caspian Flotilla [11]
- Black Sea Fleet.[12]
- 414th and 727th Independent Marine Battalions [13]

The key element of Crimea is the Murmansk-BN systems within a radius of 5,000 km and can jam the tactic shortwave communications of the enemy (the distance between Constanta and Sevastopol is only 391 km). Also, the Russians mounted in sensitive areas EW- new electronic warfare systems Krasukha-4 that can jam radar-hour surveillance on US military satellites family Lacrosse / Onyx, ground-based military radars, the AWACS overhead type, E-8C and the US mounted on unmanned aircraft Northrop Grumman RQ-4 Global Hawk, General Atomics MQ-1 Predator, General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper at distances between 150 to 300 km.

Romanian Army in Dobrogea

- 53th Antiaircraft missile regiment Medgidia [14]
- 9th mechanized brigade Constanta [15]
- 912th Tank Battalion Basarabi [16]
- 341th Infantry Battalion Topraisar [17]
- 911th Infantry Battalion Medgidia [18]
- 346th artillery battalion Medgidia
- 348th Anti-Aircraft Defense Battalion Basarabi [19]
- 168th Constanta logistic battalion [20]
- 307th Marine Battalion Babadag
- 86th Air flotilla Fetești [21]
- Romanian Naval Forces [22]

Conducting major combat operations. Hybrid Operations

5 days before the main operation 3 groups of Spetsnaz in small boats land on the seaside of Dobrogea.

-During this time they perform hybrid operations with the aim of destabilizing the situation in Dobrogea, through hybrid type activities such as:

- Incitement to riot;
- Attacks against the leadership of the two counties or the management of large cities (prefects, mayors, presidents of county councils, etc.)
- Damage to the communication ways (roads, railways, telephone stations)
- Disrupting the supply of water, electricity, heat, food, etc.

The development of secondary operations

-0.00 am; jamming facilities in Crimea start to jam Romanian communications and radar stations.

-0.15 am; 12 Kalibr missiles fired from submarines strike Medgidia AA defense regiment and AA battalion from Basarabi; 24 other Kalibr missiles fired from corvettes hit the American base at Mihail Kogalniceanu,[23] Constanta mechanized brigade headquarters, 307 marines battalion;

-0.15 am; 18 Onix missiles fired by Unit Object 100 strike Navy ships in Constanta port.

-0.55 am; 12 Iskender missiles [24] hit tanks Battalion 912 and 911 Battalion Topraisar.

-1.00 am; Malachite missiles fired from corvettes Tarantul class hit Romanian ships left and the 3 sites of anti-ship Termit P15 sites.

-1.15 am; 16 Su-24 bombers, and 10 Tu-24 M3 will bomb on nine brigade units, AA Medgidia Regiment, Mihail Kogalniceanu American unit, 307 Battalion Marines.

-1.15 am; Elements from 22nd Spetznaz Brigade are parachuted in Macin and Cernavoda in order to hold crossings over the Danube and prohibit any aid sent by 2nd Division Dacica. They fight with gendarmes' unit at Cernavoda.

-1.20 am; the airfield Fetești departing 12 Mig 21 Lancer and 6 F-16 with the mission to intercept and shoot down enemy bombers. When crossing the Danube are taken as the target by the system S-300 Fort from the cruiser Moskva and possible with a squadron of Su-30. Suffer losses and are forced to retreat.

-1.30 am; 12 transport aircraft Il 76 and begin landing 7th Airborne Division. call. 287 Regiment's mission is to occupy Medgidia and 117 regiment's mission to occupy Mihail Kogalniceanu airfield (Tulcea) and the other. They will employ the 307th marine's battalion of Babadag.

-2.30 am; 810th Marine Infantry Brigade with a battery of Buratino and one of MTSA start landing in Constanta under the protection of naval artillery. They face the resistance from the garrison troops aided by gendarmes.

-3 am; 346th Battalion Topraisar is regrouping and trying to execute an attack on direction Topraisar – Medgidia.

-3 am; 912th tank Battalion are regrouping and trying to execute an attack-on direction Basarabi-Constanta. They are under heavily attacked from air and rejected.

-5 am; Mihail Kogalniceanu airport is under the control of Russian forces and they start landing aircraft AN 124 bringing troops from battalions 414 and 727 marines and 8th artillery regiment. They also bring MI-28 attack helicopters.[25]

These forces can move between 6 am to 7 am, to employ Constanta garrison and cease resistance in the city.

-8 am; Basarabi town garrison resistance falls.

-8,30 am; Topraisar garrison resistance falls.

-9 am; Medgidia garrison resistance falls.

-9 am; 307th Babadag battalion stops its resistance.

Between 10.30 am to 13.00 pm. After destroying the port facilities at Mangalia the Russian troops entering the defense alignment on two strategic lines Cernavoda- Măcin and Cernavodă -Medgidia -Tuzla.

-12 am; emergency NATO meeting in Brussels.

-15 am; 2nd Division Dacica [26]finish mobilizes forces on the line Fetesti-Galati. But they do not attack and prefer to expect NATO reinforcements

-17 am; At NATO headquarter is decided the creation of a NATO intervention forces.

At 18, 387th Marines battalion landed at the port of Constanta.

May 4, 2017, 18 pm, NATO finish operation to mobilize three brigades and are ready to attack Russian forces.

-May 4; 24 pm Russian troops in Ukraine reach Chilia.

5 MAY 1 am; In Dobrogea Russian army begin withdrawing on the Danube Chilia- Chiscani alignment.

Conclusions and recommendation

- Dobrogea defense is vulnerable to a Russian aero-naval attack.
- Romanian Air defense forces and naval forces have obsolete weapons and the current structure cannot cope Russian air and naval attack.
- Ground forces are insufficient to ward Russian land.
- Mihail Kogalniceanu airport area in the county of Tulcea is poorly defended and its defence looks like an invitation for the Russian airborne landing forces.

Recommendations:

- Purchase of 1 battery of Patriot missiles [27] and the permanent presence of a squadron of F 16 at air base Fetești;
- To buy 4 multirole corvettes and presence in the port of Constanta of a NATO flotilla consisting of 2-3 frigates, 1-2 Aegis destroyers [28] type, and 3-4 diesel attack submarines, operating under Romanian flag in order to avoid the provision of the Montreux Convention .
- Creation of a second brigade of marine infantry.

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