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PREPARATION OF A NATIONAL CONTINGENT IN TERMS OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL MISSION

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ABSTRACT

Providing logistical support, the organisation and preparation of a military structure for deployment in a theatre of operations for participating in a multinational operation arise many problems, in particular, due to the factors influencing the conduct of that operation. In this article we intend to present the specific logistical support activities that are carried out during the preparation of a force designated to participate in a multinational operation, as well as the main activities carried out in the line of logistical support management for the preparation of a contingent for the execution of an international mission, all these taking into account the factors influencing this particularly important logistical support activity.

KEYWORDS: logistical, logistical support, management

1. Introduction

After the approval of the mission by the competent authorities of the Romanian state, the specific logistic support activities that are carried out during the preparation of a force (national contingent) designated to participate in a multinational operation are particularly important. Starting from the hypothesis that the success of an international mission is closely linked to the way of creating logistical support and providing logistical support, we consider that the presentation in descriptive form of these specific logistical support activities, by giving a very clear picture of the phenomenon, can be the starting point of an exploratory type of research.

We also believe that without this fundamental knowledge in the field of logistical support in the multinational environment, it is quite difficult to prepare a force (national contingent) that is designated to participate in such a mission. The general tools used in this study, specific to the scientific method, will be especially anlysis and synthesis.

2. Specific Logistical Support Activities to Be Carried Out during the Preparation of a Force Designated to Participate in a Multinational Operation

The creation of logistical support and the provision of logistical support in a multinational operation are influenced by the following factors: *"the great diversity, from one country to another, of the way of ensuring logistical support; deterioration of the transport and economic infrastructure of*

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the host country, with serious consequences on the planning, organization and execution of logistical support activities; the need to supply from the country most of the essential materials and equipment in the early stages of the mission; the deployment of heavy equipment and large stocks of materials, which affect the movement in the theatre of operations, because it involves the use of special loading-unloading installations, means of road, rail, naval, aerien transport, etc" (Pînzariu, 2018).

Taking into account these aspects, we appreciate that, when designing the logistical effort for the benefit of the forces that will be deployed in a theatre of operations, it is necessary, as a rule, to take into account the following aspects: establishing the necessary technique, equipment, materials and products, depending on the state of organization of the structure, the provisions of the norms and the period of the mission; establishing the structure of logistical support formations; establishing the way of carrying out the logistical support; ensuring the necessary baggages for the strategic transport of forces; the level of interoperability of the technique, the method of execution of maintenance activities; arrangements to ensure mutual support between the participating countries; arrangements with the host country for supplies and services (if applicable).

After the approval of the mission by the competent authorities of the Romanian state, the specific logistical support activities that are executed during the preparation of a force designated to participate in a multinational operation for deployment are the following:

"– drawing up the state of organization of the logistics structure established to participate in the mission;

– establishing the place of force establishment and the distribution of the spaces necessary for carrying out the daily activities of establishment and training;

*– establishing the norms of endowment and consumption specific to the geo-climatic conditions in which the mission is to be carried out, with emphasis on the norms of food, equipment and the norms of providing fuels-lubricants and special liquids" (*Benone & Mocanu, 2003).

During the preparation of the mission in the country, the consumption norms are those existing in force at the date of the establishment of the force for the Units of the Romanian Army, so it is mandatory to develop norms for consumption during transport and during the actual fulfillment of the mission:

- *development and framing of the logistics structure with personnel.* The selection of the personnel who will frame the logistics structure is an attribute of the personnel structure, but the logistics specialists must also contribute to this activity. After drawing up the nominal tables with the personnel who opted to participate in the mission, based on a personal report, the medical visit, psychological testing and physical fitness check are carried out. The next stage to be considered, but not the last, is the verification of professional training on the two levels: general military training and specialized training. It is necessary to urgently select and establish the heads of departments and managers, in order to start preparatory activities and supply with materials for the establishment of storage structures.
- *opening the records for the new management. "The procurement of the standard record forms specific to the Romanian legislation in the field involves the urgent allocation of funds, because they must be purchased on the market"* (Udrescu & Oprea, 2009). It should also be borne in mind that besides the specific activities for opening the records for the new management, it is necessary to draw up customs documents for the removal from the country and to introduce in the area of combat actions (mission) the technique and

materials provided for in the states of organization.

➢ *training/verification of the staff framing the logistical structure.* This activity is particularly important and usually consists of: checking the knowledge of a foreign language, as a rule, English; studying the legislation on the basis of which the mission is executed; knowledge of the methods of contracting, acquisition and payment; knowledge of the equipment, of the work with it, of the consumption norms, of the periodic maintenances foreseen to be executed, as well as of the specific exploitation and safety rules; preparing the personnel for battle, given that they will also carry out other missions specific to a conflict zone, in particular, guarding and defending the area of deployment of the logistics structure, protecting its own personnel, etc.

➢ *execution of logistics recognitions in the deployment area of the mission* (Benone & Mocanu, 2003). We consider that it is necessary for the activity of recognizing the mission area to be attended by specialists in the logistics field, in order to carry out the specific logistics recognitions, which, depending on the time available, will have to take into account the following: the duration of the mission, the date of arrival of the Romanian contingent in the operations area, the modes of transport (separately for the personnel and for the technique); the sources of supply of materials at local level and their ability to provide the necessary for their own forces; the possibilities of cartilage in the existing buildings, in the camps already arranged in the area or the needs of the arrangement; the method of contracting products, services and the methods of their payment; the banking institution (branch) through which the banking operations will be carried out; facilities regarding the links with the country of origin and the method of receiving/sending correspondence; the existence of airports, ports, railways and roads in the immediate vicinity of the mission area, their capacity, condition and the possibility of using them for their own use; the characteristics of the terrain in the mission area; the conditions of time, season and state of the weather that could influence the accomplishment of the mission; the epidemiological state of the area; the way of ensuring the necessary bread and water; the existence of drinking water sources, of the electricity supply network, gas, solid fuel, liquid fuel, etc.

➢ *the supply of materials.* The establishment of the necessary materials is made according to the state of organization for the mission and the endowment nomenclatures, in correlation with the specific missions that will be executed in the theatre of operations. "*Depending on the mission and the provisions of the Memoranda of Understanding, stocks of additional materials may be established, especially for long-term agro-food products of preservation, maintenance materials, spare parts, fuels, lubricants and special liquids. It is estimated that these stocks of materials must ensure an independence in terms of logistical support for 30-60 days from arrival in the area until the connection to the logistics system of the mission"* (Udrescu & Oprea, 2009). The activity of providing the necessary equipment for carrying out the logistical support requires solving the following specific aspects: providing refrigeration equipment for food storage and freezing: refrigerated vans, freezers, refrigerated crates, refrigerators, refrigerated containers; the endowment with competitive campaign kitchens and bakeries, which ensure the preparation of food and bread for the entire herd deployed in the mission area; providing water purification installations from surface sources, necessary for household needs; endowment with electricity generators, with equipment and installations for the campaign laundry, with other equipment and materials necessary for the optimal development of all activities.

The equipping of the personnel during the establishment of the force is executed according to the norms in force with the necessary materials on the man, the others being transported centrally in the area. Depending on the area of operation, special equipment stipulated by the rules in force (rain jackets, goggles, mosquito nets, etc.) will be provided. The supply of fuels, lubricants and special liquids for the equipment and the additional stock is carried out by our own forces. During the accomplishment of the mission, the supply of fuels, lubricants and special liquids is made from the area through contracts concluded locally by the multinational force or from other quotas, and the value of the quantities received will be reimbursed. There will be provided fuel-lubricants transport tankers, sheet metal barrels, tapping means, pumps and means of manual and electrical supply, etc. The provision with equipment, spare parts, assemblies and subassemblies is made depending on the state of organization, the missions to be performed, the existence in the units of the Ministry of National Defense and the budgetary allocations, either through acquisitions in the country or from imports, or from other sources made available by NATO, EU, UN or OSCE. This requires that, after the selection of the personnel and its classification on the technique, a thorough training be carried out, priority for those employed on the newly entered technique and for those who enter into the composition of the crews, .in order to standardize the work for fulfilling the missions, simultaneously with the processing of the labor protection norms, fire prevention and extinguishing for the entire staff. In order to carry out repairs and evacuations, spare parts, assemblies and subassemblies, mobile self-boxes and qualified personnel are provided, able to carry out evacuations, repairs of level 1 or as needed even level 2. For the technique that requires level 3 repairs, steps will be taken to urgently repair it. For the technique provided by NATO, the EU, the UN or the OSCE, repair, recovery and evacuation capabilities will be ensured through their care.

- *the preparation and packaging of materials.* Within the materials preparation activities, the following are performed: the selection and division of materials by classes of materials, according to NATO or US standards and of the military professional standard STPM 40022-99; temporary arrangement of spaces and storage of materials by class; analysis of the volume of materials, their weights and establishment of the necessary packaging and specific packaging materials for packaging; design and realization of non-standard packaging; preparation and realization of non-standard packaging; preparation and production of non-standard packaging; preparation and production of materials by class; submission for approval of the list of strategic materials to be exported.
- *the preparation of the technique.* Within the technical training activities, the following operations are performed: checking the technical condition and maintenance and drawing up the sheets for finding and remedying the deficiencies; executing the technical maintenance and fixes corresponding to the volume of works necessary for the operation of the vehicles during the mission; analyzing the turnover reserve and taking measures to ensure the technique with the largest reserve; equipping the vehicles with means to increase the operation of the vehicles during the mission; the ability to pass and with means to prevent accidents at work and fires; the construction of attachments to the transport platform by rail, air, river or sea; painting and inscription of the technique according to the masking needs in the area of operations; weighing and establishing the centre of gravity for each military equipment and materialising it on the technique by inscription or labelling. The inscription or label must necessarily include the distance of the centre of gravity from the front axle and the weight on the axles.

➢ *the arrangement of materials in containers.* The packaging of the materials is made according to the classes of materials, in compliance with the conditions imposed by the domestic and international regulations for the packaging of various products. The general conditions imposed for the packaging of products and materials and for their disposal in containers The materials shall be disposed in ISO 20 containers, by class, observing the following conditions: *"materials of different classes, which are incompatible, shall not be disposed in the same container; the weight of the container loaded shall not exceed nine tonnes; the weight of the materials placed in the container shall be apportioned evenly over its entire platform; class III materials (fuels-lubricants) will be placed in the container, after it has been arranged in advance for the absorption of possible leakage of petroleum products with absorbent materials (sawdust, sand, etc.); ammunition for lighting and low thermal stability will be disposed in separate containers"* (Art. 5 of L-15, 2000). The means of fire shall not be placed in the same container as the explosive materials; all materials placed in the container will be insured against the movement of wooden wedges and anchors; for hazardous, explosive or flammable materials, the anchors shall be made of anti-incantation materials. The loaded containers shall be weighed and the centre of gravity shall be established, which shall be inscribed on it. For each container, the inventory of the materials entered (in Romanian and English) is drawn up, which includes: the current number; the name of the material; the class to which it belongs (according to NATO or US standards); group and class (according to STPM 40022-99); quantity; the weight and type of packaging. For the packaging, palletizing and containerization of materials, storage and transport of materials, the following aids can be used: packaged slings; straps; wires and baling strips; special binding systems; covers; simple fastening/lifting devices; mobile ramps; fuel supply installations.

The activity of preparation, establishment and endowment of the unit, subunit/logistics formation deployed to participate in the multinational operation, ends with the front magazine.

Also, the unit/subunit/formation can be evaluated, before leaving for the mission area, by the representatives of the UNITED NATIONS, NATO, EU or OSCE.

3. The Main Activities Carried Out in the Line of Managing the Logistical Support for the Preparation of a Quota for the Execution of an International Mission

Below, we will present the main activities carried out in the line of managing logistical support for the preparation of a contingent for the execution of an international mission.

In this respect, in our opinion, the first measure is aimed at nominating the participating structure and sending by the category of forces to which it belongs the "Operationalization Order" on the basis of which the "Preliminary Order of logistic support no. 1" on the general measures in the line of logistical support to be taken: establishing the technique and materials, checking and preparing them, presenting a clear situation of the structure on the logistics line, etc.

Following the recognitions carried out in the theatre of operations for the preparation of the mission, the *"Preliminary Order of Logistical Support No. 2"* includes concrete tasks, in the fields (Mocanu, Rizea & Scrieciu, 2006): *supply/replenishment* – armament, ammunition, technique, engineering materials for the safety of the camp, with emphasis on the insurance line: *with equipment*, concrete specifications, specific function; *with fuels-lubricants:* calculation of stocks, storage capacity, handling and transport possibilities; *maintenance:* execution of technical

maintenance I.Th.-1/I.Th.-2 and, where appropriate, of level 1 repairs; verification and adjustment of artillery equipment and armaments; verification and commissioning of installations at special vehicles; provision of masking panels, materials necessary for the organization of the park with military equipment in the theatre of operations; painting of the technique in the colors established for the mission; *movement and transport:* restoration of transport requests, of the railway transport plan (on echelons, on trains), of the embarkation and disembarkation plan, etc.; *medical support:* providing preventive and curative medicine services, dental services, replenishment with medicines, blood, medical supplies, NBC medical protection, evacuation of the injured/sick, etc.; *the state and viability of the transport infrastructure; protection of logistics structures:* avoidance of surprise attacks of insurgents, prevention of the danger of attack with chemical, bacteriological, radiological and nuclear weapons, protection against their effects; *campaign services,* with emphasis on the line of feeding the herds: providing cold food during transport; providing other facilities on this line (isothermal materials, portable kitchens, etc.), accommodation of herds, provision of campaign laundries, ecological toilets, building materials, etc., provision of drinking water, leisure materials, etc.; *contracting* – obtaining access to local resources and other materials and services necessary for the forces deployed in the theatre of operations; *Host Nation Support – HNS:* civil or military assistance provided by the Host Nation to Romanian military structures deployed outside the national territory; *related fields*, with emphasis on the line of environmental protection, occupational safety and health, technical surveillance and metrology, transport activities when arriving in the theatre (general and on-the-job training, specific training, etc.); *civilian-military cooperation*; *ensuring civil emergencies; strategic deployment, reception, stationing, continuation of movement and integration of forces; labor protection; return and extinguishing of fires*.

After the concrete knowledge of the mission as a whole, we proceed to the elaboration and transmission of the *"Logistic Support Order"*, as an annex to the *"Order of Operations",* which specifies: *the organization of the records and the financial insurance of* the mission, according to the technical provisions transmitted by those in law (Order M 128/2004); *logistical support* in the theatre of operations during the mission: feeding the personnel (how much it feeds, how much it costs); equipping the military; campaign services (washing of equipment, personal hygiene materials, postal services, care of the military's frieze, etc.); feeding the personnel; providing and supplying with fuels-lubricants (supply, costs, etc.); *the level* of stocks of ammunition, materials, fuels-lubricants, food and water rations; *logistical support* during the transport of personnel, equipment and materials in the theatre of operations; *maintenance of technique and armament*: operation of the technique; provision of spare parts by own resources; specifications regarding the technical maintenance; maintenance of transmission equipment; maintenance of weapons and artillery equipment; execution of repairs and evacuation of damaged equipment; *medical support*: dental care; execution of medical evacuations; medical staff who will provide medical assistance

ROL 1 (provides primary health care to the staff, consisting of first aid / qualified medical aid activities, triage, resuscitation and stabilization. It must be accessible to all staff. In multinational operations, it is a national responsibility;) the way of providing medical assistance ROL 2 (ROL 2 is the mobile military medical formation, capable of both receiving and triaging patients, as well as performing resuscitation and combating/treating the shock at a higher level ROL 1. It has in its composition surgical trauma control teams together with the specific elements of anesthesia-intensive

care) and ROL 3 (The Medical Formation of Rol 3 is the medical formation designed to provide secondary medical assistance at the division / army corps level, having the ability to receive and retain inpatient the traumatic or seriously ill patients, for complete diagnosis, of the administration and/or completion of the qualified/specialized medical-surgical treatment and of the recovery for the fight of the patients, depending on the permanent operating procedures in force, possibly of the evacuation towards Rol 4, being framed with staff from the basic medical-surgical specialties/surgery, anesthesia – intensive care, internal diseases, infectious diseases, ophthalmology, neurology, etc. and properly equipped, depending on the particularities of the general mission) (Md-2 – Doctrine of Medical Support, 2016) (Regulation of logistics joint operations , section 4).

Subsequently, the *"Logistic Support Order No. 3"* on ensuring the logistical support during the movement of the transport echelons is elaborated and transmitted, in which the last specifications are made on this line, down to the smallest details.

4. Conclusions

In multinational operations logistics can be considered as an indivisible part of the cycle of planning and executing a military action. Multinational logistics can include ways to address planning requests and requirements from the tactical level to the strategic level and to overcome, effectively, budgetary limitations. In order to cope with the effort necessary to support such an operation, the logistics units must be financed, equipped and trained in a timely manner and in a sustained manner.

In order to participate in multinational operations under the aegis of international security bodies, a series of solutions for logistical support of the participating forces are established at the level of the organization (NATO, EU, OSCE). Every nation participating in such a multinational operation adheres to one or a combination of logistical support solutions. After the optimal logistic support solutions have been established, we will proceed to the preparation of the mission taking into account all the aspects presented in this article, both in relating to specific logistic support activities, as well as to the activities carried out on the line of logistic support management.

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