

ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES IN THE FIELD OF CONSEQUENCES MANAGEMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, BY PREPARING THE ECONOMY AND THE TERRITORY FOR DEFENSE

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Abstract: *This article presents some lines of effort to reach the specific objectives, for a topical area of collective security, the management of consequences. Conceptual correlations in this spectrum are highlighted between emergencies, critical infrastructures, community resilience. Theoretical research is accompanied by examples taken from practice, the case study at national level being focused on the contribution made to the efficient management of the consequences of the processes specific to the preparation of the economy and the territory for defense. It is emphasized, based on the experience of the specific events of the Covid 19 dynamics, the role and importance of this sector of administrative activity in the critical infrastructure security plan.*

Keywords: consequences management, economy preparation, resilience, territory

1. The need to approach the conceptual correlations between the consequence management and the preparation of the economy and of the territory for defense

The periods of crisis present in different fields of security (economic, military, social, etc.) bring to the attention of the communities of specialists (practitioners and also, the academic environment) of the respective activity sector or the interdisciplinary sector, the fragility of the existing managerial approaches, representing the best way of testing and validation. This is also the case of the problem regarding the territorial infrastructure, as a component of vital importance for the sustainable development and the assurance of the security that helps to the success of the economic activities and to the raising of the quality of life, an aspect underlined in detail by a national

reference work of the authors F. Repez and E.V. Popa [1].

The very questionable concept from the point of view of the present explanation, and of the increase of significance in the current context generated by the Covid pandemic, is that of the consequence management. In this framework, as a way of understanding and approaching the concept, we will also use and mention with regard to the present work the aspect according to which, within the consequence management process, a series of measures is adopted to ensure the protection, safety and public health, the restoration of essential government services and the provision of emergency assistance to the governments of the federal states, companies and individuals affected by the consequences of a situation in which chemical, biological, nuclear and/or highly

explosive substances were used [2]. The concept entails and employs theoretically and factually other terms that are part, generically said, of the same

proximate gender, the specific explanatory differences of each, actually enhancing the meaning of each term (table 1).

Table 1 Complementary approaches in the field of territorial infrastructure security

Concept	Approach	Source
Consequence management	<i>“measures taken to restore essential operations and services in a permissive environment. It includes measure to protect public health and safety, restore essential government services, and provide emergency relief to governments, businesses, and individuals affected by the consequences of terrorism.”</i>	[3]
Critical infrastructure	<i>“the physical and cyber systems and assets that are so vital to the United States that their incapacity or destruction would have a debilitating impact on our physical or economic security or public health or safety. The nation’s critical infrastructure provides the essential services that underpin American society.”</i>	[4]
Community resilience	<i>“a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations”.</i>	[5]
Civil preparedness	<i>“means that basic government functions can continue during emergencies or disasters, in peacetime or in periods of crisis. It also means that the civilian sector in Allied nations would be ready to provide support to a NATO military operation.”</i>	[6]
Crisis management	<i>“one of NATO’s core tasks for which it employs an appropriate mix of political and military tools to manage crises in an increasingly complex security environment.”</i>	[7]
State of emergency	<i>“the set of measures of a political, economic, social and public order nature, set up throughout the country or in certain areas or in some administrative-territorial units, in the following situations: the existence of threats to national security or constitutional democracy, which makes it necessary to defend the institutions of the rule of law and to maintain or restore the state of legality; the imminence of producing or the occurrence of disasters, which makes it necessary to prevent, limit and eliminate their effects.”</i>	[8]

Although the approaches to dealing with consequence management most often include references to CBRN attacks, with weapons of mass destruction or terrorists, a convergence of the concept’s use, perhaps even standardization, is needed, at least in the sense of broadening the range of threats in which it applies. Events that generate disruptions or even crises, formerly

classified as *black swans* (in the language of Nassim Taleb), now increase the list of certainties in the spectrum of security, demonstrating the need previously stated, for the benefit of communities but also of institutions with responsibilities in the field of security, defense and public order. In support of this observation, the approach proposed by Emergency Management

Victoria [9] highlights that consequence management aims to deliver the best possible outcome for the community through: consequence thinking, consequence management strategy development, communications, readiness, operations, and relief and recovery plans. Therefore, the goal of consequence management is to restore the functionality of the processes specific to the society/community, in special situations that endanger the security, using resources destined for this purpose. Basically, based on planned capabilities in this regard and the ability to use them properly, there are effects necessary to restore the capacity of certain assets with social impact.

2. Preparing the economy and the territory for defense

At national level, these capacities are constituted administratively under the institutional authority of the field of internal affairs and are grouped under the name of state reserves, within the specific processes of preparing the economy and the territory for defense. According to the national legislation in this field [10], preparing the national economy and the territory for defense includes the set of measures and actions that are established and carried out in time of peace, in order to use the economic and human potential of the country, to meet the defense needs and ensuring the continuity of economic and social activities in case of mobilization or war. The same legislative framework presents the capabilities for defense as follows: production lines or specialized services, the assets they serve, specific technological arrangements, existing in the fields of industry, transport, communications and information technology, health protection, as well as state reserves storage areas and mobilization, used to meet the vital needs of the forces of the national defense system, in case of mobilization or war. Much closer to the subject of the article is the concept of

state reserves that are constituted as material reserves, intended for operational interventions for the protection of the population, the economy and for the defense of the country, in exceptional situations that affect a major public interest, determined by natural calamities, epidemics, epizootic diseases, terrorist attacks, industrial and/or nuclear accidents, social phenomena, malfunctions of the economy, external circumstances and in case of war [11].

Covid pandemic events brought to the attention of the structures of the national defense system, public order and national security, due to their magnitude and consequences, more than ever in the last years, the need for the functionality of a robust system of creation and supply with stocks of individual and institutional necessities, which finally ensure an acceptable level (especially under technical and systemic conditions) of the society's resilience to the crisis created.

An example of good practice conveyed in this context [12] was considered that of the Nordic nations, which, after the end of World War II, began to make stocks of medical resources and equipment. For decades, these states have made supplies of medical materials, raw materials for the manufacture of ammunition, medical and military equipment, fuel and food. A special case is Finland, which has an enviable stock of medical and survival equipment, which has facilitated, in the context of the national pandemic management, access to emergency stocks for the first time after World War II.

As an institution with attributions in the field, the National Administration of State Reserves and Special Issues (ANRSPS) has been involved in supporting efforts at national level to combat the pandemic through concrete actions of support granted to the authorities and the population. As an example, it can be mentioned how, according to art. 52 of the Decree no. 195 of March 16, 2020 regarding the

establishment of the state of emergency in the territory of Romania, ANRSPS transported to Arad, by its own means, 150 beds, 150 blankets, 150 mattresses and bed linen (300 sheets and 300 pillow cases) at the beginning of April this year, thus supporting the county administration's decision to operate a mobile campaign hospital in the EXPO Arad pavilion, where locals with mild symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 infection will be admitted [13].

Considering the importance of the field of preparing the state reserves for the

management of the consequences and the functional attributions of the ANRPS, it is important to ensure the functionality of this field through an integrated management, a feasible option being offered by approaches based on the project management, as summarized in figure 1 (the conceptual model was developed using the template provided by Mindjet MindManager software).



Figure 1: Highlights of preparing the economy and the territory for defense as a project

The main topic addressed in this study, with all its additional details, is a topical one, being emphasized in the Military Strategy of Romania of 2016, when there were mentioned the missions of the Romanian Armed Forces, carried out through specific actions and tasks: “Support for central and local public administration authorities in emergency situations in providing assistance to the population and consequence management of disasters will be achieved by: rescuing and evacuating the population from areas in emergency situations; participating in disaster relief

interventions in the case of natural disasters, extreme weather conditions, and technological accidents; transporting first necessity goods for the population affected and for specialized intervention teams of NSS institutions” [14]. Also, in the National Defense Strategy for the period 2015-2019, the following crisis lines of action were highlighted: “preparing institutions and the population for crisis and civil emergency situations, including through mobilization training and drills, as well as through international cooperation; preparing decision-makers to take action

and make decisions during crisis situations; ensuring material and human resources required by institutions with competence in crisis management, in line with a planning process” [15].

3. Conclusions

The consequence management is a factual interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary component of security (as a state and process) that will know new transformations, conceptual and operational, according to the changes in the security spectrum. The attention that will have to be given derives first from the diversification of the threats to the company and secondly from the fact that it produces results in the civil area of the company, in terms of ensuring the provision of essential services, based on predefined institutional resources and mechanisms. Recent events regarding pandemic

management and implicitly the security of the medical infrastructure and the management of medical supplies stocks needed to combat it, will surely increase the need to redefine the consequences management, in a robust way, with a much more proactive component. An essential condition in achieving the consequences management objectives remains a quantitative one, as demonstrated in the recent crisis, related to ensuring in an optimal volume (in terms of minimizing the negative effects of the triggering event) of resources specific to the interventions for the restoration of vital functions of some essential service providers. Last but not least, it is necessary to recalibrate public-private partnerships and educate the population in the field of civil emergencies.

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