

**THE TRANSFER OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY BETWEEN
ALLIES, HIGH WEIGHT INDICATOR IN THE
QUANTIFYING THE IMPACT OF THE INTEGRATED
DEFENSE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ON THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**

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Abstract

One of the decisive conditions to ensure the interoperability with the armed forces of the NATO countries is having similar technique, and this can be achieved primarily through the transfer of military technology. The need for maximum efficiency joint action is paramount in international military missions, where technology transfer is in fact the transfer of technique, ammunition and fuel in the most difficult moments of the battle when one or more of the allies can no longer provide the necessary supplies from their own sources as a result of the blockade created by the enemy, ammunition depletion due to the intensity of the fight and so on. We believe that the technology transfer is a reality of the contemporary world and a need inside NATO in order to make possible a joint action of the NATO countries armed forces.

One of the fundamental conditions for joint efforts of the armed forces belonging to alliances or coalitions is their mutual access to equipment, ammunition when needed. Such situations are frequent and the underlying causes are the great losses inflicted in the battlefield, the impossibility to access

own supplies as a consequence of enemy actions, lack of ammunition as a result of fight intensity, etc

What we actually witness is technology transfer among allies during the integration process or as a result of adhoc decisions.

The technology that can be transferred is, in my opinion, expresses numerically as a percentage indicator that assesses the efficiency of the military actions.

A short remark needs to be made concerning the level of interoperability, compatibility, communality and interchangeability in terms of endowment and procedures. In this respect, I wish to insist upon the idea that the transfer of technology can be made at any of the four levels, and not only at the last one, as we may believe. The underlying reason for making this statement is given by the fact that it is very difficult to reach interchangeability. Thus, from this point of view, none of the NATO member countries succeeded due to the great differences in terms of endowment between the uS and the other NATO member countries. For an improvement of this situation the performance of national defense industries needs to be increased. In this respect, some specialists believe that ‘For other states than the USA the command and control digitization process could take decades because of the financial efforts and of the difficulties in advanced military technology transfer. In the future, the potential members of a coalition headed by the USA are expected not to be able to fully bridge the technological gap, which is to negatively influence cooperation in the theatre of operations’.¹

The USA advanced technological head start was attributed to the revolution in the military that led technical, doctrine, operational, organizational changes. The following factors can be identified as underlying them: strategic changes that require capable forces able to respond quickly and efficiently to an

¹ http://leader.viitorul.org/public/595/ro/tehnologie_si_inteligenta_in_conflictele_militare.pdf

array of conflicts; technological advance based on civil information technology; a decrease in the number of military and defense budget cutbacks that led from quantity to quality; population training in order to increase tolerance to losses.

In terms of percentages, defense industry is a small part of a nation's industry. However, its role is a major one due to its high technology, long-term outlook and impact on civil environment. Consequently, military state of the art technology influences the level of civil production. All this are arguments supporting the idea that the defense industry plays a major role in overall industry at a national level.

The more performing the defense industry, the more achievable and important technology transfer. However, even among allies, there are limitations in this transfer, most of them rendered by factors such as economy.

Defense market shrinkage to the national defense can have a major impact upon budget planning. Therefore, all the more necessary military technology transfer.

Compared to other defense industries, especially those belonging to an alliance, the national industry is at a disadvantage, especially because of the protection mechanisms of the allies. Thus, defense industries need to keep up with market economy. Therefore there agreements of industrial cooperation or even mergers in order to meet the high technological standards as well as the objectives ensuing from the planned cooperations with the partner countries. However, it is a fact that even in the case of cooperation in the field of armament, armament export is still restricted. In this respect, the SIPRI is a well known example and it maps the most important military technology transfers in the last five years. The USA is the greatest armament producer and exporter with a quota of 45% of the overall world armament expenditures and with exports estimated at 14 billion out of 45.6 billion totaled worldwide in terms of armament exports in 2006. Preferred destinations of USA exports are South Korea, The United Arab Emirates, and Greece. The second armament exporter is

Russia with destination countries such as China (45% of the overall armament exports), India, Venezuela and Algeria, closely followed by France, Great Britain and Israel².

The USA exports both to NATO and non- NATO countries which upholds the idea that economic interests come first. Pressure has been made to compensate for research and development costs by exporting directly instead of endowing the military forces.

However, at present, technological domains from many defense industries are on the verge of extinction because of the request decrease at a national level. Defense production depends on certain features with a say in establishing collaborations. Moreover, since the states monopolizes requests, there are few specialized technology providers. Moreover cooperation may lead to similar requests from beneficiaries and hence to competition among providers.

Globalization has had a major impact in Europe in defense industry after the Cold War due to the limited deployment capabilities of some of the allies.

However, defense expenditures of some of the NATO member countries total approximately 60% of the sum allocated by the USA for similar purposes.

In conclusion, defense industries and markets are changing.

Defense industry is being restructured and commercially reoriented through joint ventures, takeovers, strategic partnerships, etc.

Latest research in the field of armament commerce points out that the latter is under the influence of geopolitics, state expansion, of the changes in military technology and innovations. Thus, the final conclusion is that the discontinuities and stratification of the expansion process are at a global level.

Even our country is an exporter of armament. According to some experts 'Commerce or international armament transfer carried out by Romania even during socialist times is considered technology transfer and it refers to private

² <http://www.capital.ro/articol/china-si-india-se-intrec-in-cursa-importurilor-de-arme-110094.html>

or state owned export- import of military equipment, spare parts and services, etc. armament is considered light armament, whether individual or collective including antitank and anti-aircraft missiles; major, sophisticated armament such as planes, tactical- operational missiles, armored vehicles, ships, etc.; different types of ammunition; transportation, communications, radar, etc; equipment for ports, overhaul military bases, airdromes; spare parts for armament and battle technique; licenses for certain armament and spare parts, etc.’³

The globalization of armament and battle technique production and commerce involves a globalization of responsible usage. While the community trying to control nuclear weapons proliferation decries the likely disappearance of treaties keeping in check world armament commerce, its supporters are striving to achieve non- proliferation. Political consensus concerning limiting armament sales during the Cold War was replaced by norms that only partially meet agreement. Nowadays, armament commerce is influenced by market requests, political and security interests and mostly by economic interests. In conclusion, technology transfer is a fact and a necessity within NATO if the common endeavors of the allies are to be successful.

³ http://www.armyacademy.ro/buletin/2_2000/articol18.html

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