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**SMART DEFENSE – A SOLUTION FOR LIMITED
BUDGET?**

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Abstract:

The actual economic downturn, in conjunction with the risks and threats for the global security environment inevitably lead towards a dramatic re-thinking of the way that NATO member countries have to fulfill their related responsibilities. A common component is the “Smart Defense” concept, referred as real cooperative way for the member states, to reduce/eliminate the useless redundancies, efficiency increase and express the solidarity between nations.

Romania is trying to use the opportunities offered by the “Smart Defense” concept and a good example is the involvement in the Strategic Airlift Capability. Meanwhile, there is also true that “Smart Defense” by itself cannot solve the declining budgets’ problem, being only a component of the whole perspective.

Key words: smart defense, budget, solidarity, capabilities, military co-operation, flagship projects

1. Introduction

The economic crisis called western world seek ways to increase the efficiency of defense systems, while maintaining efficacy demonstrated in recent decades. Requires a compromise between the needs of an often unpredictable security environment and resources increasingly limited which nations allow to allocate. Thus arouse the concept of "smart defense", essentially an extension of free assumed cooperation among states for the common defense.

Officially, a huge milestone of the construction that requires the concept of "Smart Defense" can be considered paragraph 37 of NATO’s Strategic Concept [1]:

“NATO must have sufficient resources – financial, military and human – to carry out its missions, which are essential to the security of Alliance populations and territory. Those resources must, however, be used in the most efficient and effective way possible. We will:

- *maximise the deployability of our forces, and their capacity to sustain operations in the field, including by undertaking focused efforts to meet NATO’s usability targets;*
- *ensure the maximum coherence in defense planning, to reduce unnecessary duplication, and to focus our capability development on modern requirements;*
- *develop and operate capabilities jointly, for reasons of cost-effectiveness and as a manifestation of solidarity;*

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- *preserve and strengthen the common capabilities, standards, structures and funding that bind us together;*
- *engage in a process of continual reform, to streamline structures, improve working methods and maximise efficiency ”*

We will present how this concept developed in recent years, not forgetting to mention that such joint projects were developed long before the NATO Summit in Lisbon.

2. History of the concept

Under the heading "Building security in age of austerity year," NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen presented its call for smart defense at Munich Security Conference in February 4, 2011 [2]. From sharp cutting budgets for European defense, the author says: "The era of one-size-fits-all defense cooperation is over. What matters is to deliver capabilities that allow us to operate Successfully at 28. Smart Defense can do just that. It CAN help nations meet They make two challenges today: how to get more security for the limited resources They devote to defense, and how to invest enough to prepare for the future. "

Picture balancing security situation in the opinion of the Secretary General of NATO is presented in Figure 1.

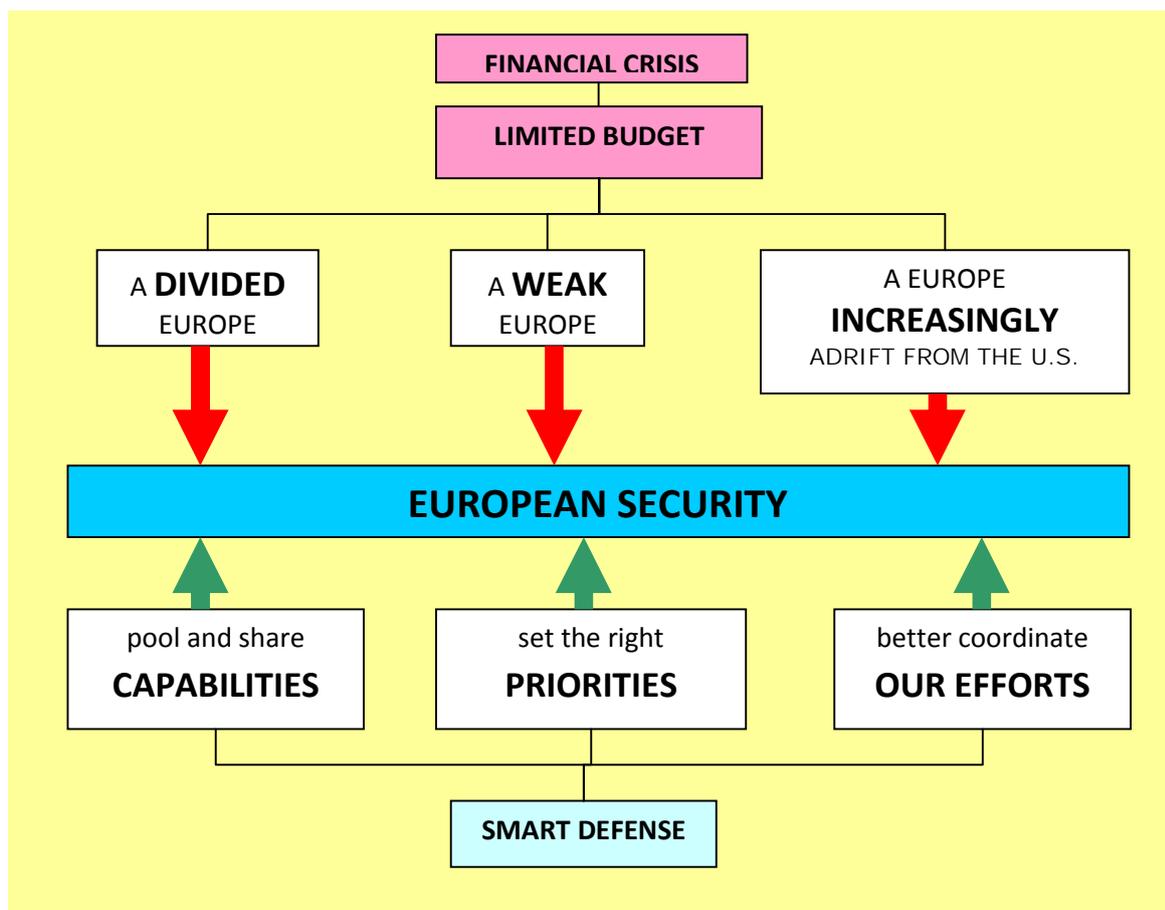


Fig.1. Smart Defense Effect on European Security

The concept was promoted by Secretary General at NATO defense ministers' meeting in March 2011 [3], highlighting the two premises that require a new approach: 1)

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reaffirm the full range of Alliance missions associated with challenges ownership (Lisbon Summit) , 2) difficulties arising from the current economic crisis for the commitments made by Member States.

In short, in order to maintain the Alliance's ability to perform tasks, Smart Defense allows efficient use of resources allocated to defense, based on three lines of action: 1) identifying and prioritizing critical capability requirements, 2) promoting cooperation extended defense, 3) development of innovative capabilities NATO through multinational approaches.

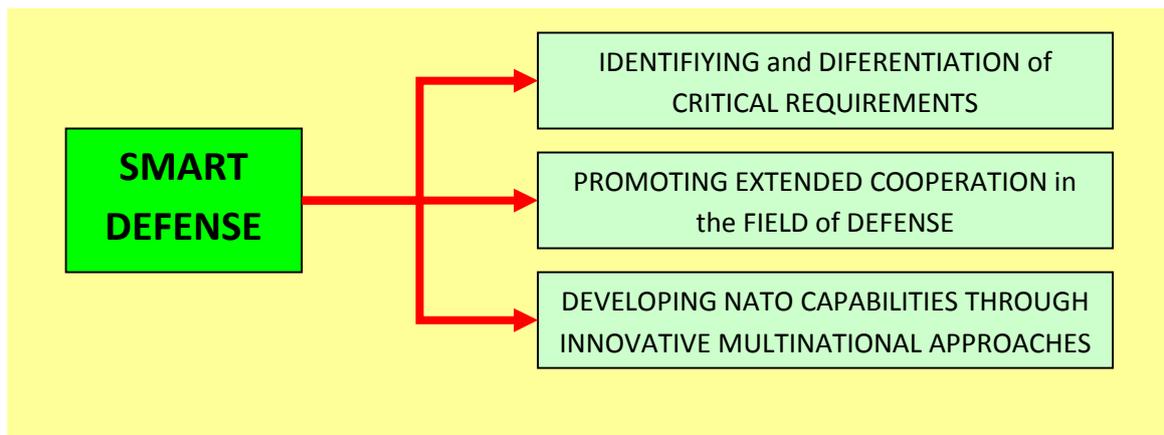


Fig. 2. Strands of Smart Defense

Defence Ministers of the Member States reaffirmed their support for the new approach and stressed the importance for the drastic reduction of duplication and establish clear priorities, during their meeting in Brussels in October 2011 [4]. On the same occasion, NATO Secretary General said: „*Smart Defense is not an excuse for insufficient defense spending. We may not be able to spend more, but we can spend smarter by spending together*”.

In preparation for the NATO Summit in Chicago, it held a meeting of ministers of foreign affairs and defense [5], in April 2012 and they were given two documents unanimously supported by all present: "Defence Package" and "Political Statement on Capabilities." On this occasion, the Secretary General said: “*The Defense Package will not be a one-off, or the end of the story. This is not just about NATO 2012. And it's not just about one summit. It's about keeping our Alliance fit for the long term – for 2020 and beyond.*” Furthermore, it was estimated that more attention should be paid to sensitive political issues, such as increasing specialization through internal consultation between nations, enforcement access to NATO capabilities, reviewing common funding rules, ways of associating partners to Smart Defense.

Declaration of capabilities was signed by representatives of allied states at the Chicago summit in May 2012 [6]. Heads of State and Government agreed on this occasion, for the future: „*we have confidently set ourselves the goal of NATO Forces 2020: modern, tightly connected forces equipped, trained, exercised and commanded so that they can operate together and with partners in any environment*”. [7] Course objectives can be achieved through Smart Defense: „*Smart Defense is at the heart of this new approach. The development and deployment of defense capabilities is first and foremost a national*

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responsibility. But as technology grows more expensive, and defense budgets are under pressure, there are key capabilities which many Allies can only obtain if they work together to develop and acquire them. We therefore welcome the decisions of Allies to take forward specific multinational projects, including for better protection of our forces, better surveillance and better training. These projects will deliver improved operational effectiveness, economies of scale, and closer connections between our forces. They will also provide experience for more such Smart Defense projects in future.”

2. Smart Defense – concrete projects

Under the Agreements between the Allies, sanctioned by signing the mentioned declaration (Chicago 2012), the concept will be implemented through a package of projects organized on three pillars: 1) Featured Projects (projects that have a leading nation and can be implemented in the first phase), 2) possible projects (projects for which the nations manifested a moderate desire to participate and no nation has been identified as leader) 3) Proposals (projects on behalf of industry and nations, which are not yet developed because of insufficient resources and low interest shown by nations). The table below lists several such projects [8]

NATO Universal Armaments Interface	This project will enable fighter jets to use munitions from various sources and nations. It will facilitate the flexible use of available munitions across the Alliance and promote multinational cooperation. The air operation over Libya has demonstrated the importance of such a project.
Remotely Controlled Robots for Clearing Roadside Bombs	Based on experience gained in Afghanistan, the project will identify the best remotely controlled robots for route clearance operations. This equipment avoids exposing military personnel to explosive devices. The project will promote joint procurement of state-of-the-art equipment and facilitate multinational cooperation on deployment.
Pooling Maritime Patrol Aircraft	This project will bring different Maritime Patrol Aircraft from various nations into a multinational pool to be available to all participating nations, and, upon request, to other nations as well, thus enabling a more flexible use of available assets.
Multinational Aviation Training Centre	Building on operational experience gained in Afghanistan, this project will provide top quality training to helicopter pilots and ground crews. The training will focus on the deployment of helicopter detachments in support of NATO operations as well as preparing Aviation Advisory Teams which provide training to Afghan National Security Forces.
Pooling & Sharing Multinational Medical Treatment Facilities	A project to develop standardised modular medical facilities for effective and efficient multinational deployments in support of operations. This will allow Allies to make the best possible use of existing medical assets.
Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR)	Enhanced cooperation will provide for a more powerful network linking national and NATO surveillance assets (such as AWACS and AGS), collaborative training and education programs for intelligence specialists and better procedures for the exchange of information. Cooperation in this area aims at enhancing the collection, processing and sharing of key information in support of political and military decision makers.

Table1. Smart Defense multinational projects (examples)

For half of the recommended projects (from the Pillar 1) Romania expressed the interest to participate, moderate interest being shown for those projects that are part of the

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pillars two and three. Moreover, the country welcomed the first new concept, based on experience of previous multinational projects launched and consecration of this new approach. In September 2012, our country's position was stated again [9]: *„Adapting the Alliance entails conceptual adjustment, transformation and capabilities development under the stressful severe economic downturn. There is no doubt that “the name of the game” is a new mindset in approaching security challenges based on operational effectiveness and economic efficiency. Therefore, a particular focus must be devoted to multinational solutions to make a much smarter use of resources by maximizing operational effectiveness. In this regard, pursuing Smart Defense and thus pooling and sharing our efforts is the way out to develop those capabilities required for the Alliance in order to fulfill its core tasks. With no, or limited additional resources available for defense due to the economic austerity in the foreseeable future, the only choice we have got is to become more innovative to strengthen cooperation in defense procurement, to pool and share capabilities to defend our core values.”*

Multinational cooperation has started thus before launching the concept. In fact, the Chicago Summit nominated several multinational projects which should continue.

NATO's Missile Defence Capability	At the Lisbon Summit in November 2010, NATO Heads of State and Government decided to develop Ballistic Missile Defense as a collective capability for the Alliance. Through multinational cooperation, Allies can achieve more and better protection from ballistic missiles than any one Ally could provide alone. The United States is providing the majority of assets at this stage. Several European Allies have agreed to host elements of the US system. European nations will also provide complementary assets such as Patriot missiles and radar-carrying ships. And NATO as a whole is providing the communication network and the missile defense command within its Air Command in Ramstein, Germany.
Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS)	13 Allies are coming together to provide a capability which will benefit the whole Alliance. This is a system that will employ drones with sophisticated radar systems to provide a picture of ground conditions from high altitude. No single nation in Europe can afford such a capability on its own. The system will be made available to the Alliance in the 2015-2017 timeframe.
NATO Air Policing	Building on NATO's experience including in the Baltic States, Allies will promote air policing on a regional basis. Cooperation in this area offers an example of Alliance solidarity through avoiding additional defense spending on capabilities already adequately available in the Alliance. It allows economies of scales through the pooling and sharing of existing or future air assets. This approach is of particular importance for Allies faced with the replacement of ageing aircraft in the coming decade.

Table2. Continued multinational cooperation in strategic programmes

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3. “The Strategic Airlift Capability”, a success story

NATO option for "Smart Defense" was based on past experiences in multinational cooperation, as presented in the following table. They are now operational, and one of them will be subject to a short description.

Air Policing in the Baltics	NATO Allies take turns to provide peacetime air policing over the Baltic States. By doing so, the Baltic Allies do not have to spend money on fighter aircraft and can invest in other capabilities in support of NATO operations.
The Strategic Airlift Capability	The initiative has brought together 10 Allied and 2 Partnership for Peace nations in a consortium to procure and operate C-17 heavy transport aircraft. By doing this together, these nations have acquired an important capability that individual members of the consortium could not obtain individually.
The Strategic Airlift Interim Solution (SALIS)	A multinational consortium of 14 NATO member countries and 2 partner nations pooled resources to charter special aircraft that give the Alliance the capability to transport heavy equipment across the globe by air. The airlift consortium charters Antonov An-124-100 transport aircraft capable of handling ‘outsize’ (unusually large) cargo.
AWACS	NATO operates a fleet of seventeen Boeing E-3A ‘Sentry’ Airborne Warning & Control System (AWACS) aircraft, which provide the Alliance with an immediately available airborne command and control, air and maritime surveillance and battle management capability. This is one of the few military assets owned and operated by NATO.

Table3. Past experience with multinational cooperation

"The Strategic Airlift Capability" is a project designed to meet the needs of the NATO strategic airlift. The proposal was initiated by NATO’s Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Marshall Billingslea, consisting in the acquisition and sharing of three aircraft C - 17. Noting opportunity for such problem-solving for the national strategic airlift issue, the Romanian authorities decided to participate in the project since 2004, at the NATO Summit in Istanbul. Timelines worth mentioning signing of a Letter of Intent to join the Initiative (2006), the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (2008) and, obviously, the reception of the three aircraft (2009). Finally, on May 17 2010, Heavy Airlift Group - HAW declared initial operational capability is reached and became fully operational in 2012.

Currently, the SAC Initiative is consisting of 10 NATO countries (Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, USA and Hungary) and 2 PfP partner countries (Sweden and Finland). Note that, amongst Central and Eastern European countries, Romania has allocated most hours (over 5% of total). The three aircraft are deployed in Hungary, at Papa Air Force Base. Moreover, Romania is active in the capability both as a contributor and user, with the effective participation of crew and support staff, or specific activities with MoD structures involved. A special role is held by the Directorate of Defense Integrated Planning, Department of Defense Policy and Planning Department, that ensures Policy and Finance Committee chairmanship.

Through this project has been demonstrated the advantages of multinational cooperation to ensure the capabilities necessary to carry out so as to avoid resource wasting on national projects whose capacity cannot be fully used. SAC, should be emphasized, that meant for Romania an effective option, first comparing the alternatives: purchase or lease

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aircraft. But more important than efficiency seems validating the idea of cooperation between the participating countries. For the near future the initiation, participation and performance of such initiatives as more multinational, bilateral, even in areas where purely national capabilities are not justified are highly important.

5. Conclusion

"Smart Defense" is the way to maximum effectiveness and efficiency defense. To be put into practice, "Smart Defense" needs the correct identification of required capabilities, availability multinational and, especially, of trust between partners.

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