

THE OPERATIONAL COMPONENTS OF THE DEFENSE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND PUBLIC ORDER INTEGRATED SYSTEM

Ioan BĂLĂCEANU

The General Inspectorate of the Border Police, Bucharest

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Abstract: *The operational components of the defense, national security and public order integrated system are evaluated by the indicators of their performance. The performance of such a system determines its level of operational or its operating level. The system's high degree of efficiency is given mainly by the professionalism of the human resources and the availability of equipment and performance materials which can provide integration of the system's components. In this article we present some details on the operational components of the defense, national security and public order integrated system that ensure its proper functioning in complex situations caused by the manifestation of crimes, crisis or conflicts, with serious implications for national security.*

Keywords: *organized crime; national security; C4I2SR integrated system; standard operating procedures; preventive action; cross-border threats.*

INTRODUCTION

This short study looks at the operational components of the defense, national security, and public order integrated system attempting to analyze their reaction capacity in different situations generated by cross-border criminal activities. Our research intends to identify and lay out the operational requirements that facilitate the proper functioning of the system's components such as: the command and control, execution, and support.

1. THE COMMAND AND CONTROL COMPONENT

The command and control component is defined in the military literature as the institutional structure which provides the integration of specific actions through planning, organization, coordination, control, and evaluation conducted at all levels. [1]

The command and control component consists of the personnel, communication equipment and networks, standard operating procedures, command posts, and key infrastructure used to coordinate the fight against cross-border criminal activities.

The personnel who works in the command and control components must adhere to the following operational standards: a high level of personal training, especially for those who are employed in the decision, intelligence, operations, communications, and human resources centers; a deep understanding and correct employment of the EU and NATO standard operating procedures for crisis management; promote cooperation in order to perform mission analysis, situation estimate, decision making, and concept of the operation production; high adaptability and ability to cope with unforeseen situations in order to update the orders required in crisis management; a thorough understanding of the orders/plans production process, based on the leadership assignment held; deep knowledge of the command and control posts operating procedures; self-learning ability through participation in academic training sessions and complex practical exercises;

the degree of interoperability between the national leadership and the ones of the EU and NATO members states, at all levels.

It is very important to note that meeting these operational requirements by the leadership will ensure decision superiority in combating cross-border criminal activities. The communication equipment provides the required networks and links among all the components of the national security integrated system.

The operational requirements of the communications systems are: provide continuous communications between all the components, at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels; acquiring and fielding all the components with high performance C4I2SR systems; timely synchronization and integration of the C4I2SR systems in the decision making process; improving the information management process in order to facilitate decision making; employ early warning systems in order to signal any unconventional incident; developing cross-border cooperation networks within EU and NATO.

By meeting these operational requirements the communication systems will facilitate both decision making process and the conduct of operations in the field. [2]

Standard Operating Procedures must meet the following operational requirements: to fill in the national database with information required to plan, organize, coordinate, control, evaluate, and execute the actions required to combat the cross-border organized crime; to be produced for every level of leadership; to include specifications for orders, information reports, and other documents required for that component; to include collaboration procedures among command, execution, and support components, at all levels; to follow the EU and NATO operational planning process steps; to ensure interoperability both at decision and execution levels.

Given the above, we consider that the standard operating procedures provide the theoretical and methodological support required by to ensure the proper functioning of the command, execution, and support components. The command and control posts have to meet the following operational requirements: provide planning and rest facilities for the personnel; provide a classified materiel handling point; employ communication systems and computers operators; ensure security, protection, and support teams for the command post; write and rehears the command post defense plan; provide command post duty personnel; establish the parking lot and the proper operating procedures; enforce access control and procedures in and out of the command posts.

We want to emphasize the importance of the command posts. These are the infrastructure elements which provide facilities for the leadership required to ensure decision making and orders production. These facilities have to ensure the application of standard operation procedures for handling sensitive information, work compatimentalization, and securing the communication networks in order to push orders to subordinate units and coordinate ongoing operations. These facilities consist of: buildings, communication systems, vehicles, equipments, and materials required by the leadership. Also, they must be included in the development plans in order to ensure the proper functioning of the command components. Constant improvements of the command posts infrastructure will facilitate decision making and execution of operations to combat cross-border criminal activities.

2. THE EXECUTION COMPONENT

The execution component consists of the intervention organizations which transform decisions into actions. The operational requirements of the intervention organizations require the existence of the capabilities to perform the full spectrum of operations in the border areas, cross-border, and on national territory in order to counter the organized crime threat. [3]

In this respect, the most important operational requirements for the execution component are: the capacity to collect and disseminate relevant information from the hostile areas to the command components, using both human and technical sources; the capability to conduct synchronized operations in the border areas in order to control and survey the border-crossing;

the ability to increase cooperation in the rear areas between the intervention organizations in order to identify and prosecute criminal activities to provide security for local communities and citizens; providing adequate equipment and resources needed to conduct successful operations against criminal groups; existence of specialized organizations to counter the psychological operations conducted by the criminal groups and also, to provide correct and timely information for the citizens; develop and rehearse cooperation procedures between the Ministry of Interior, Public Ministry, and Ministry of Defense units to facilitate proper interventions across the full operational continuum; develop common training plans to ensure participation of all the execution components of the national security integrated system.

All of the above requirements ensure proper, timely, and effective intervention of the execution components when demanded by the decision makers.

3. THE SUPPORT COMPONENT

The support component uses specific methods, procedures, and tactics to support command and execution components during all stages of the operations to counter cross-border criminal activities. Therefore, we consider that the support component has to adhere to the following operational requirements: to be included in all the organizations in order to ensure operational independence; to ensure the required facilities to provide transportation, evacuation, and maintenance of the equipment and materials; to ensure proper medical facilities in order to provide medical support for the personnel; to provide the necessary facilities required for work, relaxation, and rest.

The identified operational requirements ensure proper functioning of all the components of the national security integrated system to counter cross-border criminal activities.

Preventive actions consist of information, evaluation, prognosis, and identification activities.

Information activities consist of: surveillance, observation, search, and identification of criminal individuals, groups, and networks; identification of criminal groups key infrastructure and resources; identification of key terrain points used by criminal groups; identification of types of crimes committed by criminal groups and also, their dynamics and evolution over time.

The national intelligence agencies will conduct these operations in cooperation with border police, national agencies of the other states from the area of interest of Romania, and EU agencies. The importance of these agencies is very high because they provide the information about this complex phenomena which is rising in intensity and influence on national security. It is also very important to connect the intelligence agencies with the communication systems in order to provide timely intelligence for command and execution components.

Evaluation and prognosis activities consist of: estimation of numbers, size, potential, and dynamics of the cross-border criminal groups; estimation of the affected areas and countries, and also the possible evolution of this phenomena in space and time; prognosis and identification of the causes which can transform criminal activities into actual crisis or conflicts; estimation of the resources available for criminal networks, their employment within the border areas; identification of local hot spots which contribute to the increase of the cross-border criminal activities.

Evaluation and prognosis of the cross-border criminal activities are key actions in the process of prevention of this phenomena. As a result, we estimate that without a viable prognosis there cannot be any preventive action.

Also, without a proper evaluation of the criminal factors there cannot be any effective planning and execution. Furthermore, we consider that evaluation and prognosis go beyond prevention. They generate the conditions required to effectively counter cross-border criminal activities.

Analysis and identification activities consist of: analysis and identification of types of criminal activities within the operational environment; identification and knowledge of networks, key points, and other organizational structures of the cross-border criminal groups; identification of the center of gravity, key points, and high intensity areas for the criminal activities;

identification and analysis of the operating modus of criminal networks in order to predict the evolution of their activities; identification of connections between different types of criminal activities, especially with terrorism and corruption; identification of the resources available for the criminal networks.

The activities of analysis and identification are key factors which support decision at all levels. Besides the existing databases, constant analysis and identification of the criminal activities factors represent a top priority for the specialized components of the system in order to provide situational awareness and decide on a course of action.

Cross-border criminal activities counter operations consist of activities and actions which have a big impact on causes which generate such phenomena, on actions of criminal networks, and on outcomes.

Activities which impact on causes consist of: political and diplomatic preventive actions; creation and application of economic and social measures designed to reduce inequality among people; identification and analysis of possible causes of the cross-border criminal activities; activities of assessing, preventing, monitoring, and reducing the impact of causes generated by the organized crime groups; activities of informing, investigating, assessing, preventing, and eliminating the causes and impact of criminal activities on citizens and local communities.

Actions which impact on networks and infrastructure of the cross-border criminal groups consist of: identification, localization, and disruption of resources along with annihilation of causes of criminal activities; identification, localization, and annihilation of criminal groups along with reporting the data to the neighbouring countries and EU agencies;

identification, localization, and annihilation of computer and communication networks used by criminal groups along with reporting the data to the neighbouring countries and EU agencies; execution of complex actions by the units of External Intelligence Service, Romanian Intelligence Service, Ministry of Interior, Public Ministry, Finance Ministry, and Ministry of Defense in cooperation with other agencies against cross-border criminal groups.

Activities which impact on effects refer to the full spectrum of missions executed in the operational environment, in border regions, cross-border, and rear areas in order to neutralize criminal networks and disrupt their actions. [4] These activities require the existence of plans, cooperation procedures, and firm execution of operations.

We consider that this study identified the components of the national security integrated system, highlighted the operational framework required for preparation and execution of operations, and also, identified the types of preventive, sanctioning, and countering of cross-border criminal activities operations. But, we have to consider that the national security integrated system has limitations in its functioning.

Preparation and execution of operations to counter cross-border criminal activities fall into the responsibility of the political and military leadership who establishes the levels, objectives, and limits of the operations depending on international constraints. Countering the cross-border criminal activities is no different from the military operations. Therefore, in all the situations objectives are set, resources are allocated and operational structures are configured.

While in the field of national defense military operations are conducted, when referring to counter cross-border criminal activities operations we could consider that they can be executed independently, in cooperation with other agencies, and in conjunction with a military operation. Another important note here is that at these types of operations all the components of the national security integrated system are involved, to include the Ministry of Defense forces.

These factors determine that any type of military, civilian, or civil-military operation must adhere to the following operational requirements: ensure legitimacy and legality, based on national and international rules in the field; provide force protection, according to the law provisions; ensure flexibility and adaptability; protect participating states suzerainty when multinational operations are conducted; ensure predictability and proportionality with the crisis; prevent collateral damage and side effects; protect population, infrastructure, and institutions. [5]

Operational planning for counter cross-border criminal activities operations becomes very complicated when limitations and restrictions are imposed. Therefore, the planners must ensure that the legal limitations are obeyed. This becomes even more complicated during undercover operations, intelligence collection operations, and operations against criminal groups conducted by militarized units. As a result, we consider that the proper functioning of the national security integrated system must be constantly evaluated in order to identify and fix any malfunctions in combating the cross-border criminal groups activities.

CONCLUSIONS

We presented the main operational requirements of the national security integrated system and consider that the following conclusions could be drawn: the process of designing and implementing the national security integrated system is part of the national security system which ensures operational success against cross-border criminal groups; national security comprises of actions executed in different public fields (political, diplomatic, economic, cultural, morale, environment protection, judicial, humanitarian, democratic, and military) by the public and state authorities across the entire operational spectrum; implementing the NATO procedures in order to ensure operational success of the national security integrated system facilitates effective management of the system in order to contain and counter the cross-border criminal activities.

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