RISKS AND THREATS IN THE CURRENT OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

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The dynamic evolution of the phenomenon of warfare from its classical-conventional physiognomy to a predominantly unconventional one, manifested in extreme environments (cyberspace, electromagnetic environment, informational environment, CBRN environment, human psyche) today and in the predictable future, is the consequence of the continuous adaptation to the complexity of today's challenges to humanity. These challenges are expressed and established in the literature by the terms: hazards, risks, threats, vulnerabilities.

Keywords: hybrid threat; asymmetry; irregular component; unconventional component.

Introduction

Contemporary conflicts display the physiognomy of wars of attrition, in which superior conventional forces are attracted to areas that place them in unfavorable positions, ambushed and then harassed to complete wear. This tactic is applied by an inferior enemy, who has the advantage of knowing the terrain perfectly and is usually supported by the local population. Today, these operations take place in the urban jungle, characterized by continuity and at the same time by the different intensity of hiring the opposing forces by the hybrid adversary.

In the case of hybrid conflicts, the tendency regarding the share of the typology of actions in terms of the dangers, risks, and threats that define them, exhibits a shift from regular, traditional to unconventional and especially to asymmetric ones. They tend to become generalized and manifested throughout the conflict and throughout its spectrum.

They will also express themselves in the future by coordinated actions, especially in low visibility conditions, without a distinct fingerprint, which will lead to an intense and constant rhythm of struggle. In order to fulfill this imperative, the military force will be a carefully proportioned conglomerate of types of units that are capable of engaging the opponent who develops hybrid actions on each component in a distinct but coordinated manner to maintain continuity and a high rhythm of operations.

From this point of view, the armed forces must be prepared to execute a wide range of missions in a joint and multinational context in different regions and a complex operational and consequently uncertain environment. They will face a variety of hybrid threats and simultaneous combinations of actions that will change and adapt permanently.

This fact requires the anticipation, identification, and understanding the goals of a wide variety of actors, with a role in conflict resolution, from the planning phase of the operation to integrate, coordinate and synchronize their efforts.

We consider that hybrid threat is the highest operational risk in the near and medium-term and therefore are the focus on a possible engagement of a joint multinational force.

Aspects of the concept of "hybrid conflict"

Hybrid threats occur where conventional, irregular, and asymmetric threats overlap in time and space. The conflict may involve individual participants, groups, or states operating at the local, transnational, or global level. Such conflicts may include acts of violence within communities, acts of terrorism, cyber-attacks, insurgency, crime, or disorder.[1]

From the analysis of the above, we can synthesize the concept of "Hybrid Threat (HT)".[2] In the perception of American military theorists (analyzing the particular conditions of military experiments in Afghanistan and Iraq), it expresses

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the combination of conventional military forces endowed with sophisticated weapons, complex command and control systems (C2) and combined tactics with irregular elements such as insurgents or criminal organizations.

This combination of both conventional and irregular forces, the ability of these forces to migrate and transform in both directions, resulting in unrestricted violence against weaknesses, makes the hybrid threat extremely effective. In order to attain the "hybrid" frame, these entities (military units, rebel factions, criminal groups, guerrillas, terrorists, insurgents, separatists, partisans) will cooperate in the context of their interests.

It is therefore considered that future conflicts cannot be viewed separately, by types of threats or separate challenges. Most likely, armies must be able to cope simultaneously with all types of threats, to be able to operate successfully against all types of opponents in complex conflicts in all possible environments. This is, according to the authors, the essence of the hybrid war.[3]

As for the theory and practice of hybrid warfare, the Russian approach differs from the American one. In the conflict in Ukraine (2014), Russia applied a range of actions that resulted in the achievement of its political goals, besides a declared classical war. In February 2013, Valeri Gherasimov, Chief of Staff of the Russian Army, wrote in an article published in the VPK Russian Defense Journal, that war and peace are becoming increasingly mixed. Conflict methods have changed and now involve extensive use of political, industrial, information, humanitarian, and non-military measures. All this, he said, can be supplemented by attracting the local population and using the disguised armed forces.[4]

In light of the events which occurred a year later, the statement by the Russian military official demonstrates the premeditation and the conscious application of hybrid actions. These resulted in the urgent annexation of Crimea and the proclamation of New Russia's independence. General Gherasimov continues in his speech: "The rules of employment have changed significantly. The use of non-military methods to achieve political or strategic goals has, in some cases, been far more effective than using force. [...] The widespread use of asymmetric means can help neutralize the enemy's military superiority. This includes the use of special forces and internal opposition to create

a permanent front within an enemy state, and the impact of propaganda tools, forms, and methods that are continuously improved."[5]

From the study of these attempts to explain and define the "war or hybrid conflict", we consider that it is a strategy that includes both a multitude of different actors (state, non-state actors, sponsor states), but also multiple hazards, risks, and threats (non-conventional nuclear forces, Special Operations Force, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Weapons – ADMCBRN, and Toxic Industrial Materials-TIMs). All these occur:

- In the physical environment, of conventional nature (conventional military forces in the legitimate state service);

- Through unconventional forces and means (such as nuclear forces; special operations forces; chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction – CBRN WMD; Toxic Industrial Materials-TIMs; and improvised explosive devices – IEDs);

- In asymmetric forces (guerrillas, insurgent groups and activated separatists, terrorist, and criminal organizations).

- In the virtual cybernetic (informational) environment that has become a favorite in recent incidents.

All of them are engaged in combat in a combined and coordinated manner, against a superior adversary in military forces and means.

Typology of risks and threats in hybrid conflicts

In general, the phrase "risks and threats" is used without necessarily differentiating the meanings of the two notions. Used together, at first glance, we could understand that the risk relates to the object that could generate a specific hazard at a given time and under certain conditions, the source of the danger – the first one to manifest itself. The threat involves the fulfillment of these conditions and the imminence of hostile event occurrence by an aggressor (the author), an explanation that is not far from the truth.

In our opinion, the risk is part of the threat, the first identified indication of the potential danger concerning the purpose in which it could be used. The "threat" state is generated to the extent to which the identified risks could be exploited as well as

the recognition of the target, in the conditions of gradual amplification of the state of danger or even the direct passage from a very low threat level to one very high. In other words, one or more risks of a specific type can generate a threat of the same nature.

When it comes to risks and threats in the context of the contemporary operational environment, frequently defined as "a system of systems in which each actor involved seeks to realize his interests", in a hybrid conflict, we should also approach issues from this perspective. The strategy adopted by a potential opponent is complicated, complete, and manifests itself in all the variables of the operational environment. It is a conglomerate of conditions, circumstances, and influences that influence the engagement of capabilities and limits the commander's decision.[6]

Concerning the issue of "hybrid threats", the Romanian Army Doctrine uses the construction in the sense of those threats that are generated by an opponent capable of performing both classical and asymmetric actions, in a simultaneous and coordinated manner. It targets the exploitation of the vulnerabilities outside the legal framework, making it difficult to anticipate. [7]

Once these vulnerabilities have been identified, the opponent will try to achieve its goals by any means, using available resources at the right time and place. Thus, this is intended to create effects on vulnerable elements that, once affected, produce the desired changes, and ultimately achieve the objectives.

Depending on their nature, hybrid risks and threats can be split into:
a) Conventional risks and threats;
b) Unconventional risks and threats;
c) Asymmetric risks and threats.

Depending on the environment, hybrid risks and threats may be a combination of:
a) Risks and threats encountered in the physical environment;
b) Risks and threats encountered in the virtual (information) environment.

The overlapping of the risks and threats manifested in these plans and dimensions generates a potpourri of unique complexity, expressed in the literature in the combination of "Hybrid Threats".

Asymmetric (irregular) risks and threats
The last decade of the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st century were stages marked by the two wars in Iraq (1991 and 2003), Afghanistan (2001), Georgia (2008) and Ukraine (2014). These confrontations involved regular forces and proved that, from now on, the wars waged by the direct engagement of conventional armed forces tended to become a matter of the past. We advance this statement because of the disproportionate, irrational nature of the result of the different military potential and the apparent outcome. Therefore, military intervention is not always the optimal or necessary solution for achieving the purpose of the war.

Our analysis of the social phenomenon that is war, from the perspective of its hybridity, leads us to two central judgments, namely:
- When conventional forces have been used to punish leaders or governments for unwarranted actions, policies or divergent orientations, we are dealing with a total physical asymmetry, a net superior advantage in forces and means from the aggressor;
- The percentage of the conventional ingredient in the economy of war tends to decline, becoming a deterrent and intimidating force to achieve goals by other means designed to replace military action.

From this perspective, we consider that currently and in the future, the tendency to express the conventional confrontations is to be replaced by conflicts carried out with unconventional means and methods, asymmetric by nature.

Simultaneously with the wars mentioned above, at this stage of transition to a new era of armed confrontations, a series of conflicts of armed groups of different values and origins took place. They aim to achieve their goals by means and ways of gaining the advantage over a conventional superior aggressor, and thus of an asymmetry other than that obtained through technological capabilities, potential or decision-making and action superiority.

The causes which may feed future conflicts are:
- The persistence of social inequalities;
- The adverse effects of the perpetual process of globalization;
- Inequitable distribution of resources and unequal economic development;

- The activation, revival and feeding of the traditionalist and ethnic movements as a form of resistance to assimilation in various forms.

Their asymmetric character results from the lack of visibility, the nature of objectives, and ideas that contradict the generally accepted values, beliefs, priorities, legal and moral constraints, as well as the unconventional methods it uses to overcome the superiority of opponent[8] or to influence and control the masses.

This type of threat refers to those actions that involve the use or threat of use of force by irregular forces, groups or individuals, usually ideologically or critically motivated, to cause change or preservation of a specific state of affairs, which is a challenge for government or state authority.[9] Their specificity is represented by the ambiguity, levels of operations, and the status of the actors involved.[10]

The most representative asymmetric risks and threats are insurgencies, guerrilla, separatism, terrorism, and organized crime. In the following lines, we will analyze the main peculiarities of the most representative of them.

Insurgency/insurrection. The term insurgency comes from the Latin word "insurgent" borrowed in French as "insurgence" used in the sense of insurrection, uprising and rebellion; [11] it is a form of armed struggle, organized by rebellious forces, to change the existing political situation, [12] using subversion and violence [13].

Unlike other forms of asymmetric struggle, the specificity of this type of uprising consists in the support and participation of popular masses or of a significant part of them, against a reactionary political regime, or for the expulsion of an occupying army from the national territory. The overthrow/dissolution of the legally constituted government is achieved through subversive actions and armed conflict.

As a rule, broad popular consensus and support is obtained and mobilized around the idea of social injustice, considered legitimate and often ideological, but may also be based on criminal ambitions. In order to achieve the desired goal, insurgents seek to take full advantage of the operational environment, trying to determine political change through the conviction and coercion of the population, concentrating their efforts on highlighting and exaggerating perceived, real or fabricated injustices.

The insurgency can be considered an irregular activity, carried by a movement or an organized group. This can be included on a broader range of irregular actions, which, as a whole, signifies a threat to states or human society, especially in less stable regions of the world. Insurgency can be considered to be the fundamental irregular activity due to the character and nature of its causes. It can also turn to other types of irregular actions in order to reach the desired end.

Insurgent groups are armed groups belonging to rebel movements with social, ethnic, or religious claims that struggle to determine the political change in a particular geographical or administrative area and benefit from population support.[14]

We consider that uprisings, insurgency, insurrection are different stages of an ideological movement. The uprising is the first stage of expressing a feeling of dissatisfaction with the political situation or government authorities, which is spontaneously manifested and can turn into a violent insurgency movement.

As the popular masses support is gained, while weakening legitimate political power, the insurgency movement fulfills its political goals and acquires the characteristics of insurrection. Therefore, if the uprising is a spontaneous action, manifested at a particular moment and in a specific place, insurgency as a form of struggle gains local or regional character. It tends to grow in intensity and as an area of territory and population up to when it grows at the national level and meets the conditions for producing political changes.

Guerrilla. The term "guerrilla" comes from Spanish, and has been taken in French with the form of "guerilla" and defines those irregular forces operating in occupied or controlled territories by the enemy. These forces act according to the rules of attack by surprise, harassment, destruction and even terrorist means and pursue limited local goals (overthrowing a government, getting rights, state independence, territorial separatism or autonomy, conquering political power).

The name comes from the partisan war in Spain and the Latin American countries, where the "guerrilla" designates a band of partisans, adepts of an idea/doctrine, a fighter for a common cause, in a formally unstructured detachment. [15] Guerrilla war is defined as those militaries, or paramilitary operations carried out in hostile territory held by

the enemy by irregular, predominantly indigenous forces. [16]

Formations of partisans/resistance groups are those groups of fighters who come from civilian or former military personnel from occupied territories. They place the cause of the liberation movement before their interest and act violently on an independent invader or in co-operation with regular conventional forces, through tactics specific to the guerrilla [17].

Guerilla aims at striking a superior adversary in the identified vulnerabilities, without any logic and ethics, rhythmicity, or other rules. Guerilla acts permanently, day and night, everywhere and by any means against a regular army of occupation, with high fighting capacity, but not by the tactics of an army, but by actions specific to the harassment war (attacks, sabotage, ambush, incursions, raids).

The ultimate goal of the guerrilla is not to achieve victory in terms of decisive defeat of the occupation forces, but to attract and maintain them in a perpetual war, wear and weakness. Undertaking small-scale attacks, specific to the guerrilla, with the fulfillment of limited objectives, should be analyzed from a perspective of judicious planning and coordination so as to have an accurate perspective of the magnitude and effectiveness over time of this type of resistance movement.

Another defining characteristic of the guerrilla is the superiority of knowing the confrontational environment, being covered and supported by the population in the area, which allows it to strike and retreat. This aspect is considered to be operationally significant and distinguishes between this asymmetric threat and all the others. Therefore, the guerrilla is considered to be a phenomenon complicated to control and counteract.

Structured terrorism. Terrorism designates all actions committed by a group or organization by deliberately and systematically using violent means or threats of a kind to cause fear and mistrust, panic and insecurity, ignoring any humanitarian norms.[18]

The aim is to create a climate of insecurity through the practice of terror, directed against the objectives selected based on the representative symbol of a superior adversary, usually a state nation (dignitaries, military commanders, majority or minority population, national symbols, religious symbols, symbols and values of democracy).

Fighting these targets facilitates the fulfillment of political, religious, or ideological goals by non-state actors by acting themselves or coordinated with other actions.

Depending on the motivation it generates, terrorism can be of an ethnic, nationalistic, and ideological nature. Depending on the nature of the exploited risk we identify chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism; environmental terrorism; cyber terrorism; those who practice the assassination; hijacking of planes; abduction of persons; under different motivations.

Terrorist cells are the elements of execution of terrorism. They are, in particular, those who ensure the achievement of the goals of the rebel, extremist, fundamentalist terrorist groups through actions that have a psychological impact on the masses. Their actions lead to political or military constraints in favor of them, by state or leaders.

The defining elements of terrorism are:

- The extreme violence carried out by surprise, directed against highly vulnerable civilian targets on or outside national territory; and

- The devastating psychological impact on human communities, non-discriminatory effects, and the media broadcasting of attacks.

If in the case of other forms of asymmetric manifestation of the hybrid conflict we are dealing with recognized facets of the war, we can say that terrorism has nothing to do with the war, because of its means of acting against civilian targets in a non-selective way.[19]

Organized cross-border crime. The term "organized crime" defines the existence of criminal groups at a given time in society, structured in "branches" on the principle of belonging to one of their illegal activities, in order to obtain significant illicit income.

Criminal organizations are generally built into pyramidal structures (gangs, drug cartels, mafia families, triads, thieves' associations, traffickers, clandestine laboratories and printers and more recently, "academies of criminals"). These organizations are based on strict internal discipline rules and a Code of Conduct, built around the defense of the secrecy and conspiracy at any cost. The roles of the members are clearly established within the hierarchy (strict specialization).

The leader of the criminal group usually exhibits a dictatorial leadership style based on the principle

of total and unconditional loyalty, suppression of freedom of thought, exemplary punishment of deviations from the group's rules and strict access to information on group organization, activity, training and recruitment of new members.

The main representation of organized crime is corruption, as a result of the use of financial means, in order to obtain economic or political advantages by using forms of coercion, blackmail, bribery, buying off, influence or intimidation.

False insurgency or guerrilla movements. Typical manifestations of armed criminal groups in the hybrid conflict often take the form of false insurgency or guerrilla movements. These criminal activities are carried out in failed or underdeveloped countries, in regions rich in natural resources and where the control of authorities is non-existent or inefficient. Violent actions are most often directed against the civilian population in order to terrorize and maintain control over the area and communities, to obtain the material and financial benefits of collecting products and taxes. Unlike the resistance movement, which has as its leading mobile a noble cause, which prevails over the personal interest of fighters, the fight against false guerrillas is based on the personal and group interest of its members. In these circumstances, guerrilla specific actions against security forces aim at surviving the organization and preserving the economic benefits and psychological superiority.

Criminal insurgency differs from the classical insurgency. The criminal insurgency can be defined as the activity of groups with economic interests that create their production facilities, transport, and markets for illegal products. This type of insurgency deals with illegal activities such as arms trafficking, narcotics, human beings trafficking, kidnapping, slavery, blackmail and any other profitable criminal activity. Transnational criminal groups, organized in cartels, create self-supporting and complementary networks with other criminal groups with which they cooperate to control illicit product markets. Aspects related to the work of false insurgency groups are linked to the illegal economic nature, clandestine, extremely violent criminal activities of punishing and intimidating the civilian population and government authorities. They have to demonstrate their determination, influence, corruption and undermining political power, the ability to control regions and law enforcement agencies.

Risks and threats in the virtual (information) environment
Information Operations (INFOOPS). This is a component of the spectrum of military operations and includes the military actions directed, planned, and conducted to influence the decision-making process of a potential adversary. They facilitate the achievement of political and military objectives by influencing the will of the leaders. [20]

This type of operation affects the quality of information and the information process of the enemy, while at the same time operating safely and protecting the own system. They involve the integrated engagement of a wide range of capabilities, tools and techniques to achieve specific effects in support of operations. This type of action will be integrated at all levels of operations and will be applied across the entire spectrum of missions. Effects in the information environment can be created through a variety of coordinated military actions that will contribute to the overall goal of the operation.[21]

INFOOPS are conducted in order to maintain the decision-making and acting superiority against the existing or potential external influences of the opponent and are accomplished by actions of:

- Influencing the perceptions and attitudes of the opponent or potential opponent (influencing activities);

- Information protection focused on maintaining freedom of maneuver in the information space by protecting data and information supporting decision-making (information protection activities);

- Attack the data and information delivery system that supports the enemy or potential enemy C2, information, surveillance and target acquisition systems (activities directed against command and control system).

The objectives of the information operations are achieved through the planned and coordinated synchronization of military capabilities, tools and techniques that influence, and protect information or information systems. These are psychological operations:

- presence, attitude and posture;
- information security operations (OPSEC);
- information security (INFOSEC);
- deception;
- electronic warfare;
- physical destruction;
- engaging key leaders;
- computer network operations (CNO).

Psychological Operations (PSYOPS). There are non-violent actions of psychological nature, planned and conducted to influence attitudes and behaviors in the sense of facilitating the achievement of political and military objectives. Psychological operations can be considered a real "war of mind against the mind".

Psychological operations (PSYOPS) seek to discredit or, on the contrary, improve the image of governments or leaders, sometimes creating confusing situations, easy to exploit, discouraging some initiatives and encouraging others. Psychological operations are based on a vast database of geographic, political, economic, cultural, religious, psychosocial, history, tradition, habits and infrastructure information regarding a theater of operations.

Psychological operations also involve the diffusion of tampering adverse documents in order to discredit opponents and produce conflicts and disagreements among them. Misinformation (the manipulation of information), an essential element of psychological warfare, begins in peacetime before the conflict itself and has very complex objectives, generally pursuing psychological destabilization and polarization of the population. Manipulation intensifies with the preparation and initiation of the first phases of the conflict.

PSYOPS retains direct control over content, dissemination and audience. The effectiveness of psychological operations requires the early preparation of resources such as linguistic support, graphic and print capabilities, radio and TV broadcasting capabilities and other dissemination mechanisms.

Propaganda is a frequent political practice of peace among nations, as a form of indirect aggression instead of military aggression. In the Doctrine of Psychological Operations of the US Armed Forces of 2003, one of the few official definitions of propaganda in a military doctrinal document can be found. It is defined as "any form of communication in support of national goals to influence the opinions, emotions, attitudes or behaviors of any group of people, for the direct or indirect benefit of the sponsor of this communication." [22]

Here, propaganda is classified into:

- *Black Propaganda*, in which it is understood that the information would emanate from a source other than the real one;

- *Gray Propaganda*, where the source is not identified;

- *White Propaganda*, where either the source or sponsor is known to the public.

The International Court of Justice cannot rule out the protection against psychological aggression because they cannot be legally incriminated. The only defense is the use of the same means of psychological warfare. Because the propaganda targets a foreign adversary, it is up to each government to defend its state against the aggression of propaganda. [23]

From the above, it follows that the opponent who develops hybrid actions uses the tactics of terror, aiming to identify and exploit those uncovered parts and vulnerabilities of the opponent, that is superior in military terms. The hybrid enemy aims to provoke a sense of insecurity and mistrust in the government's ability to secure the nation's protection and thus apply pressure on the political factor to achieve "victory", without engaging the military forces.

Achieving surprise. In the context of the hybrid conflict, the achievement of surprise becomes a critical condition. It is accomplished by performing some specific, precise actions on well-defined objectives with decisive effects on the morale of the forces and the leadership. Special forces, the elite structures (teams or detachments of special forces or commandos), prepared to execute actions with high power of destruction, will have an essential role in achieving success.

Terror tactics are the most effective combat methods used by the enemy who develops hybrid actions against opponents as part of the concept of "total war". Affiliated or independent terrorist groups can attack their opponent anywhere, anytime. Special Forces can also use the terror tactics for which they are well equipped, armed, trained and motivated.

The sensitive elements primarily targeted by the hybrid enemy are the civilian population and the environment. Therefore, the key to counteracting this type of threat is to adopt those education, supervision, monitoring, protection and active measures to reduce their vulnerability.

Peculiarities of asymmetric operations

The forces and actions specific to irregular warfare create favorable conditions for the emergence and development of asymmetries, which are often manifested in the context of conventional confrontation. These have the effect of defeating the opponent's forces. Some armed forces, especially those belonging to totalitarian regimes or states with defective governments, can cooperate with asymmetric, complementary actions in support of conventional military objectives. The effect of major combat operations can be exacerbated, perpetuated or exploited through asymmetric actions to keep instability through insurgency, terrorism, crime and social disorder.

Asymmetric operations comprise a broad range of military and paramilitary forces, which are usually supported by the indigenous population. Irregular forces can demonstrate the combined capabilities of separatist, insurgent, guerrilla, and criminal elements.

Irregular forces favor indirect [24] and asymmetric approaches. This form of war can engage the entire range of military actions and capabilities in order to erode the strength of their adversaries, their influence and their will. The typically irregular warfare is a wear and tear that erodes state and non-state regional opponents, and may have ramifications and connections with transnational actions as a result of political, economic and financial globalization.

Its purpose is to gain the legitimacy of actions and influence on the relevant population. Different types of irregular forces can use different levels of violent and non-violent actions to exert their influence. Access to technology will have an impact on irregular forces operations. In the context of the hybrid conflict, especially at the tactical level, they can apply standard techniques, tactics, and procedures to regular forces but will use asymmetric means and applications.

The conventional component of the hybrid threat, even under defeat conditions, can be reactivated or can be favored and sustained through irregular and asymmetric actions. Asymmetric operations aim at attacking the abstract components of the adversary's effort, against the hybrid threat, such as: the motivation to fight and trust the soldiers and commanders, political and diplomatic decisions, public opinion, the interests of private institutions, the nation's will to fight and support the war effort, will and collective involvement of alliances and coalitions.

One of the most dangerous aspects of the hybrid threat is the ability of its components to become "inside" and "outside" in extremely varied forms. For example, native military forces can strip their uniform, signs and other indicators of their state and belonging, and they can mix and hide among the local population. The insurgent forces can abandon the weapons and innocently protest in the opposite direction.

Criminals can wear the uniform and harness of local police forces to gain access to essential targets. Hybrid threats will benefit from the difficulties of a clear identification of the actors, threat as a threat, a situation that is to their advantage. The operational environment abounds in actors doing activities against the interests of member states of the supporting force, but without a visible, clear signature of their status as a threat. Often these actors will leave the imprint impression similar to the opposing or neutral forces.

In conclusion, we consider that opponents of hybrid threats will encounter severe difficulties in identifying and separating the "set of problems", specific to each type of threat. They will be forced to apply force-building measures to cover more lines of operation. The hybrid opponents will continue to move their effort and permanently point out that whatever option they choose as inappropriate.

Conclusions

From the conventional, unconventional and asymmetric risks and threats, a new concept called "Hybrid Risks and Threats" emerges, which manifests itself in the contemporary operational environment and involves complex approaches to information, decision and action.

From the analysis of the specific properties of the risks and threats that occur both in the physical space and those in the virtual environment, they can affect national, regional or global security, and can lead to planning, preparation and execution of hybrid military actions.

The great military powers of the world – such as the US, Russia or an international coalition of states – can now be easily challenged against a conventional opponent. The major challenge of today and the predictable future is not this, but

rather the way in which the potential opponent will organize assets, adapt and fight, developing unique capabilities such as weapons of mass destruction or asymmetric crime and environmental terrorism. They will be directed against people and their living environment to counterbalance and achieve their strategic goals.

NOTES:

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