

STRUCTURING THE NATO DEFENSE PLANNING PROCESS DURING THE COLD WAR

*Dragoş ILINCA, Ph.D**

Abstract: *Even in the initial stages of NATO establishment, the way in which the necessary resources for sustenance of the defence posture in front of Soviet threat was one of the most important topics. The complexity associated with this objective was even more challenging in the multinational context and common desire to reach an integrated character. From this perspective, the creation of a defence planning system was the adequate solution for managing the Cold War security challenges, while consolidating the interaction between the agreed objectives and their national implementation.*

Gradually, the defence planning system became one of the main instruments through which NATO could translate its capability targets and defence plans into the objectives assumed by successive Strategic Concepts since the establishment of this organisation. Although, fundamental parameters were agreed during the Cold War, their relevance is going beyond the temporal framework of this episode. Today, the defence planning system incorporates typologies and procedures agreed half a century ago demonstrating thus, the viability of thinking and the conceptual premises that were for structuring this system.

Keywords: *NATO, Cold War, USSR, forward posture, Force Goals, capability targets, allied planning.*

Context elements

From the earliest stages of NATO's operation, the structuring of defense resource planning has been one of the pillars on which the defense system dedicated to Western Europe will be developed. The variety of topics associated with the planning process as well as the way in which they are integrated in the response to threats has so far meant that there is no integrative definition of the concept of defense planning. From a NATO perspective, the agreed definition refers to "the military political processes used by nations to provide the capabilities necessary for the fulfillment of

* coordinator of research programs Institute for Defense Political Studies and Military History, dilinca@yahoo.com.