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**USE AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES**  
**IN HYBRID WARFARE**

**SPECIALTY 581.01 – MILITARY ART**

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## CONCEPTUAL LANDMARKS OF THE RESEARCH

*The actuality of the theme and the importance of the research* are expressed by the fact that in the current security environment, the military operations have a joint and multinational character, and the conventional actions are intertwined with the unconventional and asymmetrical ones. Whether we are talking about adversaries such as state actors, non-state actors or a combination of them, in a possible hybrid conflict they will use a wide range of asymmetric actions to exploit the opponent's vulnerabilities. This category includes terrorist, insurgent, separatist and organized crime actions as part of a dynamic and diversified mixture, synthesized by analysts of the military phenomenon in the concept of „hybrid conflict”.

The engagement of the capabilities specific to each type of operations will occur under the influence of a set of factors, conditions, circumstances and particular pressures that define the current security environment. It comprises the belligerents and neutral actors, the physical environment and the (virtual) information environment. Thus, there are several concepts that express the phenomenon of hybridity, highlighting in this respect the notions of multimode, multidimensional, mosaic war and ambiguous warfare.

From the study of some specialized documents it results that in the new geopolitical and geo-strategic context, special attention is paid to hybrid warfare, which generates new forms and methods of actions, with the widespread use of a new forces structure, namely Special Operations Forces (SOF). Special Operations Forces traditionally occupy an important place in the structure of the Armed Forces of modern states and always play a significant role in the implementation of the country's national military strategy. With the change in the character and indices of action of SOF structures over time and space in conflicts of various proportions, there is a need to improve existing forms and the approval of new ways of using them. A profound study of the military conflicts of the last period, allows us to conclude that the development of the SOF component is directed towards the further improvement of the possibilities of integrating their actions with all types of general forces.

With regard to the military body of the Republic of Moldova and its capability to cope with atypical conflicts (including a hybrid war), we believe that political-military decision-makers must pay special attention to restructuring and development of the Special Operations Forces within the National Army. We affirm with full conviction the need to design, develop and substantiate a strategic vision in the National Army that expresses the option to realize and operationalize those military capabilities that ensure the participation of the Armed Forces in hybrid type operations.

***Description of the situation in the field of research and identification of research problems.***

The events of the last decade of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries have confirmed that armed struggle continues to be the means of resolving disputes between conflicting human communities. Analyzing the sources of Western researchers in the field: Frank Hoffman, James Norman Mattis [36], John Jack McCuen [37], Will Nemeth [40], David Kilcullen [39], etc., of the Russian ones: Pavel Țăgankov [27], Mihail Deleaghin [24], Oleg Belikov [22], etc. and of the Romanian ones: Stan Anton, Alexandra Sarcinschi, Eugen Siteanu [2], Valerică Cruceru [4], Mircea Mureșan, Gheorghe Văduvă [10], etc., conflicts become a "hybrid complex of trends" that dilutes the distinction between "local" and "global", and thus amplifies and exponentially complicates the challenges in the operational environment.

In the Republic of Moldova, the concern for the phenomenon of "hybrid war" is a real one, once its negative implications due to the presence of the Transnistrian conflict, corruption, money laundering, drugs, human and arms trafficking, play a significant role in the development of international terrorism. At the present stage, the research of "hybrid war" in the Republic of Moldova is carried out within the academic and research centers by: Svetlana Cebotari [3], Mihai Mogâldea, Vitalie Varzari, Natalia Albu, Victor Juc etc.

Historiography in the segment of several academic environments and historical periods has shown that explaining and defining "hybrid war or conflict" is a strategy of struggle, which includes both a multitude of different actors, as well as multiple dangers, risks and threats.

Military experts from different countries state that the international community is entering a period of war of a new generation and a new type, which will be characterized by non-traditional methods of forces and means use. In this context, it will increase the desire of the belligerent parties not to physically destroy the enemy, but to ensure the deterrence of his military power. Under such conditions, the primary role will be assigned to the Special Operations Forces.

***The aim and objectives of the work.*** To analyze the military confrontations in which hybrid tactics and combat techniques were used, the ways of organizing and establishing the SOF structures dictated by the current international security environment, the radical changes in the conduct of combat actions and the widespread use in operations theater of non-state actors, in order to determine the identification of new methods for improving the training of SOF structures within the National Army both in theory, but especially of the practical one in order to be able to successfully conduct the full spectrum of military operations, both in the national system and in coalitions of forces.

In order to achieve the stated goal, the following tasks were outlined: - contribution to the realization of a theoretical basis of the existing conceptual framework regarding hybrid warfare; - identification of threats and vulnerabilities that may generate hybrid conflicts; - analysis of SOF structures in some modern armies, as a tool for responding to crises and threats to national and international security; - determining and analyzing the principles of engagement in operations of SOF and their missions; - how to apply the SOF by some states, coalitions and alliances of states in confrontation with opponents, who have used hybrid techniques and tactics in combat; - synthesizing and implementing the lessons learned in the National Army as a result of the experience of its partners, participants in missions in the operation theaters; - formulating proposals and recommendations on the way of organizing and using the SOF structures within the National Army.

***Thesis hypothesis.*** The modification of the forms and methods of conducting military operations and the increase of the role of special operations (SO) in the tactics of the armies of some countries for solving problems in crisis situations and military conflicts led to the active implementation of the SOF structures in the foreground, which would be necessary to implement also in the practice of the special forces of the National Army. The Moldovan state needs a modern army with a strong military potential.

***Methodology of scientific research.*** The research methodology used included: the empirical method (the observation of the evolution of the investigated field), the induction and inference method (the logical-inductive reasoning of historical type, the analysis of strategies, concepts, principles and theories, as well as the logical-deductive reasoning starting from generally recognized characteristics to the identification of specific characteristics), as well as the cognitive-structural method (comparison of differences, information processing, semantic analyses and sometimes of terminology, optimization of conclusions).

***The scientific novelty and originality*** reside in the analytical-comparative research on the notions of new generation warfare, which generates new forms and methods of actions and threats of a military character, as well as the risks associated with them. These in turn can affect the security and defense system of the Republic of Moldova, through: the possibility of hostile use of the military and para-military forces of the separatist regime in Tiraspol; the possibility of extending the armed conflict in Ukraine to the Moldovan border; the possibility of information, cyber and terrorist attacks; illicit arms trafficking; illegal migration. Analysis and study of new ways of using military force, establishment and use of new force structures aimed at carrying out special missions, namely the

Special Operations Forces, and the possibility to establish such forces in the National Army by selecting the appropriate model for the Republic of Moldova.

***The important scientific problem*** solved is the determination of the new ways of organization and the perspectives of functionality of the special forces of the National Army of the Republic of Moldova through the prism of the performance and uncertainties of the SOF structures in the modern armies in the contemporary environment of international security, which can serve as strategic considerations for ensuring the national security and defense policy of the Republic of Moldova.

***The theoretical significance of the thesis*** consists in the elaboration of the conceptual-methodological framework necessary for carrying out the scientific investigations connected to the evolving realities and to the tendencies of development of military science. Thus, the work can be a landmark in the current initiatives and projects of reforming the National Army of the Republic of Moldova. The construction of new SOF structures at the level of the National Army makes it useful and even desirable to deepen the study on SOF structures, both at national and multinational level.

***The applicative value of the work.*** From an applicative point of law, the investigation ended with the elaboration of a model of the structure of the Special Operations Forces in the National Army of the Republic of Moldova, a model of doctrine for their use and the elaboration of a program for the selection, training and monitoring of SOF fighters.

The thesis materials have an important didactic order. They can be used to teach normative and special courses held at the Military Academy of the Armed Forces, in the process of training licensees, master's and doctoral students in higher education institutions. Also, the thesis materials can be used by the General Staff and the employees of the SOF structures, as a support for the elaboration of the military doctrine, doctrines and regulations regulating the activities of the SOF structure of the National Army.

***Implementation of scientific results.*** The scientific results obtained were reflected in seven international conferences and forums, both on the territory of the Republic of Moldova and abroad, of ten national conferences, in 19 articles and scientific abstracts published in thematic editions and national and international scientific journals.

***Approval of results.*** The investigation is part of the research directions approved within the doctoral school of the Military Academy of Armed Forces „Alexandru cel Bun”. The thesis was discussed at the Doctoral School "Military and National Security Sciences" within the Specialized Scientific Commission on October 6, minutes no.1 and November 18 minutes no.2. As an approval of

the results of the thesis, also serves the author's activity as a university lecturer at the Military Academy of Armed Forces „Alexandru cel Bun” since 2012 until now, as an officer from the special forces of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Moldova during seven years, as an officer of the special service within the State Protection and Guard Service of the Republic of Moldova during five years and graduation of the military school of airborne troops the city of Ryazan, Russian Federation.

***Publications on the topic of the thesis.*** The results of the research were exposed in 19 articles and scientific abstracts within the thematic editions and national and international scientific journals.

***Volume and structure of the thesis.*** The thesis consists of annotations (in Romanian, English and Russian), the list of abbreviations used in the thesis, introduction, three chapters, thirteen paragraphs, general conclusions and recommendations, bibliography, annexes, declaration of responsibility, CV of the author.

***Keywords:*** National Army, threats and vulnerabilities, conflict, armed confrontation, non-traditional conflicts, special forces, special operations forces, special operations, hybrid warfare, theater of operations.

## **THESIS CONTENT**

In **chapter 1 CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES TO HYBRID CONFLICTS**, a detailed study is carried out on the scientific materials published in the country and abroad, dedicated to issues of hybrid conflicts in the new strategic context and the assessment of its potential impact on the training of the National Army. The analysis of scientific publications in the field, gives us an overview of the history of the concepts of hybrid warfare, which is considered a global problem to national and international security.

The assessment of the notion of hybrid warfare, which was introduced in the terminology specific to conflict theory in the early 2000s, but came to the attention of the general public only in 2014, with the outbreak of the security crisis in southern and eastern Ukraine.

The promotion of the concept of "hybridity" proposed by western military experts in the public discourses of US Army officials Frank Hoffman, James Norman Mattis [36, p.18-19], has potentiated the spread into the public space, in parallel with other relatively similar perspectives on the "wars of the present and the future". While the existence of an innovative adversary is not a new issue, the "hybrid perspective" approach to the recently concluded and ongoing conflicts obliges the military



structures to prepare for a wider range of challenges, which require the realization of requirements, which until recently were not specific to the military field.

Colonel John Jack McCuen (U.S. Army) defines hybrid warfare as the quintessence of asymmetric warfare, fought on three decisive battlefields:

- among the population of the conflict zone;
- in front of one's own nation;
- of the international community [37, p.107-113].

Lieutenant Colonel Will Nemeth (U.S. Marine Corps) defines hybrid warfare as "the contemporary form of guerrilla warfare, which uses both modern technology and modern methods of mobilization" [40, p.24-29].

David Kilcullen, author of "Accidental guerrilla: Fighting small wars in the midst of a big one", stated in an interview launching his book that hybrid warfare is the best explanation for modern conflicts, but points out that it includes a combination of irregular war, civil war, insurgency and terrorism [39]. The author analyzes today's conflicts, as representing a complex of associated elements:

- local social networks;
- global movements;
- traditional and postmodern cultures;
- local insurgencies seeking autonomy and a broad pan-Islamic campaign.

In Sean McWilliams' view, hybrid warfare has also been defined as a complex war, with both physical and conceptual dimensions: the former is aimed at fighting an armed enemy, and the latter a more complex struggle for the control and support of the indigenous population of the combatant zone, supporting the internal fronts of the intervening nations and the international community [38, p.107-113].

British military doctrine has also retained, since 2011, the elements that characterise the notion of hybrid conflict: violence, intercommunal competition, terrorism, insurgency, widespread crime and widespread disorder; convergence of tactics, techniques and technologies of opponents, which quickly adapt to gain advantage and influence, including through economic, financial, legal and diplomatic means. For the British Army, "hybridity is aimed at a change in the way of thinking of opponents, who want to exploit the weaknesses of the population, using a wide variety of sophisticated and rudimentary asymmetrical techniques" [42].

In the view of Russian experts in the field, according to Professor Pavel Tsygankov, one of the elements of "hybrid warfare", which significantly differs from those of conventional warfare, are based on the capabilities of information technologies, which become means of deliberately distorting information, falsifying history, disseminating false information, as well as using dirty social technologies. They manifest the multidimensional orientation of the phenomenon: "... hybrid warfare attracts the entire population into antagonism and covers all spheres of social, political, economic, social and cultural development" [27, p.15].

Mikhail Deleaghin also emphasizes the geopolitical orientation of "hybrid warfare" which, in his opinion, is a euphemism used to cover the phenomenon of global competition: "It is a struggle to destroy the enemy, to completely eliminate the autonomy of the management system and its full control. As a result, full control of the state is achieved, which gradually turns into territory." It highlights the complexity of the phenomenon, which includes: propaganda, bribery, political activities, recognition, murders when necessary and the organisation of mass uprising, if this is the most effective [24].

Russian scientist O. Belikov argues that the term "hybrid warfare" "... it is not an operational concept. This characteristic form of war does not contain clear and unambiguous indicators that reveal its specificity" [22, p. 139]. Therefore, according to the author, it is impossible to plan the preparation of the country and the Armed Forces only by a possible "hybrid war", the plan should be comprehensive and take into account the full range of possible conflicts, "color revolutions" and a total nuclear war.

In the Republic of Moldova, the concern for the phenomenon of "hybrid warfare" is a real one, once its negative implications due to the presence of the Transnistrian conflict, corruption, money laundering, drugs, human and arms trafficking, play a significant role in the development of international terrorism. At the present stage, the research of "hybrid warfare" is carried out within academic and research centers, including by organizing various national and international conferences, round tables, international symposium, but also publications.

In our view, hybrid threats arise where conventional, irregular, and asymmetric threats overlap in time and space. Conflict may involve participants at the individual level, groups or states operating at local, transnational or global level. Such conflicts may include acts of violence within communities, acts of terrorism, cyber-attacks, insurgency, crime or disorder.

From the analysis of the above, we can summarize the fact about the concept of "hybrid threat", that a combination of conventional military forces, endowed with sophisticated weapons, complex command and control systems (C2), combined weapon tactics and the actions of irregular forces, such as insurgent ones or criminal organizations. It is therefore considered that future conflicts cannot be viewed separately, by separate types of threats or challenges. Most likely, the military body must be able to simultaneously cope with all types of threats, to be able to successfully operate against all types of opponents, within the framework of complex conflicts, in all possible environments. This synthesis constitutes, the essence of hybrid warfare [4].

Today, in the structure of the European and international system, interstate conflicts no longer remain merely an exclusive matter of the parties to the conflict, but have become the subject of legitimate concern for the entire community of states, a contemporary European phenomenon. Thus, the problem of the study is that hybrid-type actions require changes in the structures of the armed forces, namely: the conduct of special operations (SO), the use of special operations forces (SOF), as a tool for responding to threats and crises that have come from a structural, political and military point of view.

Special operations require unique methods of engagement, tactics, techniques, equipment and procedures. These operations are carried out in hostile, harsh and politically or diplomatically sensitive environments, characterized by one or more factors: limited in time, clandestine or covert, of reduced visibility, with, or by native forces, with the needs of increased regional orientation and cultural and high-risk expertise. Special Operations provide discrete, precise and scaling options that can be synchronized with the actions of other partners, in order to meet the objectives of the decision-makers. These operations are carried out in a culturally adjusted manner, in order to create immediate and lasting effects, to prevent, stop conflict or achieve superiority in war, evolve and modify the foreign political-military environment into a unilateral manner, or jointly with the Host Nation (HN). Based on the above, special operations can be carried out independently, but most of them are coordinated with conventional forces and multinational partners, and a collaboration with local forces, insurgent and irregular being possible.

The definition of "special operations", presented in the "Glossary of NATO terms and definitions", seems to be the reference term by which most NATO Allied countries characterize or define the concept of SO: *„Military activities conducted by specially designated, organized, trained and equipped forces using operational techniques and modes of employment not standard to*

*conventional forces. These activities are conducted across the full range of military operations independently or in coordination with operations of conventional forces to achieve political, military, psychological and economic objectives. Political-military considerations may require clandestine, covert or discreet techniques and the acceptance of a degree of physical and political risk not associated with conventional operations” [28, p.S-37].*

The missions that characterize special operations range from unilateral, small-scale actions to large-scale joint, multinational activities. Special Operations are materialized by the performance of basic missions by SOF fighters, across the entire spectrum of the conflict. Within the Alliance, they may be carried out, as part of "Article 5" collective defense operations or as "non-Article 5" crisis response operations (NA5CROs) [29, p.1-2], as follows:

- military engagement in peacetime can be effective when carried out in the context of specific activities in peacetime and can directly contribute to strengthening collaboration, ensuring the early identification and evaluation of a crisis situation, training of friendly forces and development of military ties;
- peace-support operations. Depending on the nature of the peace support operation, the SOF structures may carry out the following basic activities: Special Reconnaissance (SR), Direct Actions (DA) or Military Assistance (MA). Military assistance can provide targeted support in conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, while special research may materialize efforts to create the conditions for peacekeeping, imposition or peacekeeping;
- operations to counter irregular threats. During preparation for asymmetric threat counter operations, SOF structures may provide immediate area assessments and command, control, and communications capabilities. They can also support response options for using the instrument of military power under NATO regulations.
- major operations specific to armed combat. During the conduct of armed combat operations, SOF structures focus mainly on special reconnaissance missions and direct actions. Once hostilities have been completed, they can carry out military assistance missions in support of the host nation.

The issue of the Special Operations Forces is a complex one both from the point of view of their constitution and especially of their use in military operations. The special operations forces, from our point of view, are no longer a luxury, a fad, but a necessity, a reality of the contemporary military phenomenon. In some armies, considered modern, the special operations forces have acquired such

an important role that they are considered a category of forces in their own right. In this respect, we intend to present the organization and structure of the forces for special operations in some armies that we consider advanced, from the perspective of the endowment and experience of their use in situations of direct clashes and crises within modern armed confrontations.

### **U.S. Special Operations Forces**

In the process of studying the normative acts related to the U.S. armed forces, we found that the United States of America possesses, without denial, the most complex and specialized system of special operations forces designed to solve specific problems, with the purpose of achieving political-military, economic and psychological objectives on the territory of foreign countries and in geographical areas of particular political interest for it.

These structures represent specially created, trained and equipped units, which are in a state of permanent combat readiness, ready for immediate use in the preparation and conduct of various operations in peacetime and wartime, are able to solve tasks together with regular forces and independently. Often, the actions of SOF operators are non-conventional, secretive, carried out under the direct control of the Political-Military Leadership of the US.

Based on the beneficial economic situation, the U.S. possesses SOF structures specific to each category of forces, with combat units and command and support capabilities, but also leadership capabilities of joint structures such as:

- United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM);
- United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC);
- Naval Special Warfare Command (NAVSPECWARCOM);
- Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC);
- Marine Corps Special Operations Command (MARSOC) [32, pp.9-39].

From the point of view of the U.S. military leadership, the role and place of the SOF structures, to respond to the upstart threats to the national security of the state will increase. The Special Operations Forces are considered to be the most effective U.S. crisis response tool in various regions of the world and an effective means of creating favorable conditions for the realization of U.S. national interests.

### **United Kingdom Special Operations Forces**

From the open sources studied, the British Special Forces were established in 1987, when the Special Purpose Group of the Special Aviation Service (SAS) and the Special Boat Squadron (SBS)

was created [21, p.72]. At the moment, the UK Special Purpose Forces are being reorganized into the United Kingdom Special Forces (UKSF) [42, p.15], which are under the strategic leadership of the Chief of Defense Staff and the operational leadership of the Chief of the Special Forces. Also, if necessary, the operational management of certain units and subunits can be transmitted on behalf of the commanders of the operational and tactical forces of the Armed Forces.

Currently, the UK Special Forces component includes:

- Special Aviation Service (SAS);
- Special Reconnaissance Regiment (SRR);
- Special Boat Squadron (SBS);
- the 18th Signal Regiment of the UKSF;
- Joint Special Aviation Wing (JSAW).

The British special forces are the most trained units, in constant combat readiness and are an important component of the SOF structures in NATO member countries, capable of carrying out important missions in any part, on their own or in collaboration with similar forces of its Allies.

### **Special Operations Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany**

The German state has one of the oldest national schools for special forces with an extensive history of their practical application in real conflicts and in large-scale single operations. Beginning in September 1973, contemporary German special forces established a federal anti-terrorist police unit (Grenzschutzgruppe 9) GSG 9 [20, p.104]. In order to increase the capabilities of the German Armed Forces, in military operations, in crisis situations, local conflicts and peacekeeping activities, in early 1996 all special forces of the Bundeswehr were subordinated to the KSK Special Operations Command.

In the early 2000s the German Armed Forces reached the next stage of reform. On the agenda to discuss the creation of the NATO Rapid Reaction Forces, which included the decision was taken to include German airmobile forces and KSK under a unique organizational structure. As a result, in April 2001, as part of the Bundeswehr appeared the Special Operations Division (SOD), in which, in addition to KSK, the 26th and 31st Airborne Brigade joined.

In 2011, when the Bundeswehr moved to the next stage of the armed forces' reform, the need arose to create a new unit, the DSK (Division Schnelle Kräfte), which also included army aviation units. In June 2014, the 11th Airmobile Brigade of the Dutch Army was included in the DSK. The number of personnel of the division about 11.3 thousand people, including 2.1 thousand Dutch.

After all the changes the DSK includes: The Special Operations Command, the German 1st Airborne Brigade, the 11th Dutch Airmobile Brigade, two 10th and 30th Transport Helicopter Regiments and the 36th Combat Helicopter Regiment.

### **Special Operations Forces of the French Republic**

From the open sources at its disposal, in the early 1970s, specialized anti-terrorist units were formed in France, with the loss of the French colonies in the Arab part of the African continent, which led to serious threats to address of the internal security of the country [20, p.380]. According to sources, France, following the example of the United States and the United Kingdom, in early 1992, created the Special Operations Command (GCOS), as part of the Armed Forces.

The Special Operations Command met under its command the units and formations of the Armed Forces intended for reconnaissance behind enemy lines, performing acts of sabotage, other special missions and securing combat units. This combination allowed for more effective coordination of actions, carrying out unified planning for the application, training and endowment of these unions. Until the formation of the Special Operations Command, the special purpose and airmobile units of the Land, Navy and Air Forces were part of the Rapid Reaction Forces (*Forces de Réaction Rapide*).

The component of the elite units of the Special Operations Command, colloquially called the first round, is:

1. Separate Special Command Units (GSA):
  - 1st Marine Parachute Regiment (*1<sup>er</sup> Régiment de parachutistes d'infanterie de marine*).
  - Aviation Detachment for Special Operations (*Detachment Aerien des Operation Speciales*). The detachment ensures aviation operations carried out by the subunits of the first regiment.
2. Five naval commando units of the Marine Command and Special Units (COFUSCO).
3. Subunits of the Air Force Commando Group:
  - Unit 10 paratroopers' commandos (CPA 10);
  - Special Operations Helicopter Squadron (EHS);
  - Air Division for Special Operations (DOS).

The SOF units of the French Army can have a supporting role in the anti-terrorist effort on their own territory, where the authority rests with the Paris Police Prefecture, which also coordinates the special unit of the gendarmerie (GIGN).

### **Israel's Special Operations Forces**

Israel's Special Purpose Forces are a component of the defense forces. There are special forces as part of the Shabak counter-espionage service and Mossad reconnaissance. The Israeli „Tanhan“ („parachutist“ in Hebrew) enjoys enormous popularity in the country, eclipsing the fame of other, no less dignified, branches of Israel [20, p.118].

The first airborne unit was formed in 1948, during the war waged by Jewish settlers with the Arabs and the British administration. The real triumph of the paratroopers became June 7, 1967, when they occupied east Jerusalem. On July 3, 1976, the „red berets“ released hostages at Uganda's Entebbe airport - the passengers and crew of a French A-300 aircraft, captured by Palestinian terrorists. Israel now has five airborne brigades at its disposal.

The origin of the commanders of the Israeli Navy dates back to 1943, 5 years before the formation of the State of Israel, when within the Jewish paramilitary formations were created *Palyam* marine units, which recruited the inhabitants of the fishing villages. In 1948, naval units became part of the Israeli Navy, and commando units were formed under them. The marine commanders carried out hundreds of operations against Egypt, Syria and Lebanon. Currently, there is a navy commando unit and a group of combat divers.

Secret Service Mossad [19, p.126] (comes from the Hebrew acronym of the "Institute of Safety and Special Tasks"). The history of the formation of the service is an integral and very significant part of the history of the establishment of the nation state of Israel. In the world there was no espionage organization, which would have influenced so much the development of the profession of intelligence. The Mossad is the intelligence and the anti-terrorist monster, the muscles of which can only be comparable to those of the FSB, CIA and MI-6.

### **Special Operations Forces of the Russian Federation**

About the Special Operations Forces of the Russian Federation, specific legends circulate from the beginning of their existence, such as that they are not people, but simply a fiction. However, sources within the Ministry of Defense on condition of anonymity confirmed that the SOF structures exist and are active, and the geography of their activities is strictly secret. The SOF subdivisions are completed with the best of the best, a combined unit of supermen (special forces of the MVD, FSB, GRU, airborne troops, Marines) in the service of the state [26]. SOF structures began to be talked about transparently for the first time in 2008, a year before their official appearance, when SOF operators began to act on their own, by suppressing Georgian anti-aircraft defense elements. The report on the efficiency of the use of SOF operators in 2008 formed the basis of the order to create



them in 2009. From that moment begins the historical tab of the Special Operations Forces of the Russian Federation.

According to some sources, it was only in 2011 that the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation began the selection and enlistment of officers in service, on a contractual basis [22, p.31].

Composition of the SOF of the Russian Federation:

1. Special Operations Command;
2. Special Operations Centre „Senej”;
3. Specialist Training Center;
4. Special Operations Centre „Zazabore”.

### **Swiss Special Operations Forces**

As in most other European countries, the Swiss Special Forces are directly subject to a single command, in order to improve coordination between subunits and to successfully perform the assigned tasks.

The tasks of the Special Operations Forces Command are: - ensuring the security of public authorities; - carrying out special recognition and direct actions in the interest of public authorities in the event of rising threat levels in Switzerland; - searching for sources, providing consultancy services and protecting public authorities abroad; - rescue and evacuation operations of Swiss citizens from foreign countries in case of danger; - provision of military assistance [41]. The SFC command is directly subordinated to the Chief of Staff of the Swiss Armed Forces. This allows the federal government to use SOF units immediately in case of crisis or danger and to exercise the command without unnecessary bureaucratic links.

#### *SOF component of Switzerland*

Special forces include: - Joint General Staff of the Armed Forces (AFJS) and the Special Operations Center (SOC).

Operational units:

- 10th Armed Forces Reconnaissance Detachment (ARD 10);
- Special Military Police Detachment (MP Spec. det.);
- Grenadier Battalion (gren bn.);
- 17 paratroopers-scouting company (Parascout Coy 17);
- Special Forces Training Centre (SFTC).

The Special Operations Forces Command guarantees a high professional level of its employees. Particular attention in the training of SOF fighters is paid to sniper shooting, airborne training, the ability to survive in extreme conditions, special explosive methods of penetration, amphibious methods of evacuation of combat groups, etc.

### **Special Forces of the National Army**

At the moment, within the National Army, we cannot talk about Special Operations Forces, only about Special Forces. In fact, even if the name is different, the current special forces can carry out missions like those of the special operations forces. At the level of the National Army, they are represented by a battalion, forces that, from our point of view, are insufficient to cover the entire range of specific missions on the national territory.

The special purpose battalion „Fulger” is a military unit within the Land Forces of the National Army of the Republic of Moldova. The historical tab starts with the date of October 16, 1992, when, according to the order of the Minister of Defense of the National Army of the Republic of Moldova no.171 in the structure of the National Army, reconnaissance and diversion forces were designated in the composition of the Airborne and Assault Battalion. The battalion took the oath of allegiance to the Republic of Moldova on November 1, 1992, which became the birth day of the unit. Subsequently, by the decree of the President of the Republic of Moldova no.124 of August 11, 1993, the battalion is renamed in the Independent Special Purpose Battalion „Fulger” with the handing over of the battle flag. During 25 years of activity, the Special Purpose Battalion has undergone several reorganizations in accordance with the conditions dictated by the current situation in the world.

The modification of the forms and methods of conducting military operations and the increase of the role of special operations in the tactics of the armies of some countries for solving problems in crisis situations and military conflicts have led to the active implementation in the foreground of the SOF structures in their deployment, which would be necessary to implement also in the practice of the National Army. The rapid adjustment of the methods, tactics, techniques and procedures of operation of the National Army to the actions of the adversary is a condition of its effectiveness.

In **chapter 2 SCENARIOS OF THE USE OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES IN MODERN CONFLICTS** we conducted a study, analyzing the role and place of SOF in various military confrontations in which hybrid tactics and combat techniques were used.

Contemporary conflicts in Eastern Europe (Ukraine), Africa (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger), the Asian Pacific region (disputed territory Jammu and Kashmir between India

and Pakistan, ongoing operations in Afghanistan) and the Middle East (Libya, Syria and Iraq) for the clear definition of current requirements for SOF structures. Today, more and more countries recognize SOF structures as a means of strengthening combat capabilities, capable of executing a wide range of missions, including the fight against insurgents, rapid reaction, special reconnaissance and military assistance. In particular, these traditional opportunities of SOF structures are currently expanding due to a special attention to informational operations, including psychological and cyber warfare. In this respect, SOF structures require a constant expansion of the variety of professional skills and competences, which contribute to the performance of specific combat missions against governmental and non-state forces.

The role of the Special Operations Forces is diversified and bears the imprint of the intended purpose for them. These forces can be used in times of peace, tension (crisis), during conflict (war) and in the post-conflict period (after the war). SOF structures are an invaluable tool in all the diversity of military actions. They are capable of unilateral actions or can be used in decisive, long-range actions, but also for limited operations in remote regions. The actions of SOF operators give depth to the campaign and force the opponent to use significant combat forces to protect rear of the front. Organizes, trains, equips and guides the resistance forces in guerrilla warfare, in subversive actions, of sabotage. On order they search, save the wounded and prisoners in the enemy lines. In special situations, special operations forces are used to free the hostages and annihilate terrorist actions or formations. The wide range of objectives envisaged for SOF structures directly contributes to increasing their role, given the obligation of the senior management to resort to certain elements of success in increasingly risky actions. At the core of the establishment of SOF structures are principles such as flexibility, mobility, reaction speed and strike force, conspiratorially and legitimacy.

*Flexibility* consists in the ability to adapt to missions with different specifics, arising from the support actions of different types of Armed Forces, from the need to intervene in a limited time that does not offer the possibility of thorough preparation of actions.

*The high mobility, the reaction speed and the hitting force* of the SOF operators allow the retrieval and processing in real time of the information for decision-making purposes, the informational and combative coverage of a large area of the targeted territory.

*The principle of conspiratorially* provides protection to SOF structures, while ensuring the surprise of the enemy.

*The principle of legitimacy* in the use of SOF must ensure the legal protection of the participants in certain actions, which may generate attitudes from various international organizations.

An enlightening example of the use of non-state formations by states as a means of solving the political-military diversification, is the situation that prevailed in the Middle East. In 2011, NATO-allied countries relied on indirect armed intervention, using SOF operators during Libya's civil war, which eventually led to the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi's regime [23]. At the same time, the level and spectrum of resources involved in supporting the Libyan rebels were extremely broad. The so-called „no-fly zone” was secured, which deprived the government troops of an advantage over opposition forces. The SOF operators of alliance countries member performed instructor functions, provided support and management of rebel detachments, and participated in the planning. In this operation, such an instrument was involved as private military companies, which, in their essence, are also non-state actors of military operations [35]. All these episodes are only part of the facts that illustrate the deliberate use of non-state actors in armed conflicts by third countries.

In the interest of achieving the political-military and military-strategic objectives of the state or coalition of states, both in peacetime and in wartime, as well as in order to support operations in TO (in wartime), special strategic operations are carried out. Thus, during the active phase of operation „Neptune's trident” for the liquidation of terrorist No.1 Osama bin Laden (Pakistan, May 2011) SOF groups were involved, with limited personnel (28 soldiers), which lasted no more than 40 minutes, but in the opinion of American experts, in its importance it was a strategic operation.

Another enlightening example of the use of SOF structures is the crime in the Crimean Peninsula in February-March 2014, where they secretly secured the beginning of the Operation of the Russian Armed Forces to block Ukrainian military objects on the peninsula. The rapid and victimless capture of the most important military and state targets, the selective blocking of communication systems, determined the success of the operation as a whole. The events in the Crimean Peninsula, which brought to the modern Russian Federation an interesting phenomenon of „green men”, have already been evaluated from different points of view and will be evaluated in the future. The military operation carried out in the Crimean Peninsula according to its character does not correspond to the usual hypothesis about the army of the post-Soviet period, which deserves a separate examination [25].

The events start chronologically on February 23, 2014, in response to the coup d'état in Kiev, the rally in Sevastopol proclaimed Alexei Cealîi as mayor of the people, and in the city and in the

surrounding areas began recruitment for the formation of self-defense units. At the time, there were no questions about Russia's plans for Crimea. Only then, after Vladimir Putin's statements that the question of Crimea's return came on the night of February 22-23, that we understand how events evolved [25]. According to Western analysts, the operation was executed extremely quickly. The blocking of the main military units and airfields took less than 24 hours. All objects were taken under control without the use of weapons. The well-elaborated planning, the preliminary psychological processing of the local population and the exceptional strength of the herd involved, led to the lack of victims during the operation.

For the first time, discussions on Russian SOF structures appeared in Syria, during the rescue-evacuation operation in northern Latakia province (western Syria), after the shooting down (November 24, 2015) of a Russian Su-24 bomber by an F-16 (Fighting Falcon) fighter aircraft belonging to the Turkish Air Force [26].

Thus, the analysis of the conceptual opinions of the US, NATO and Russian political-military leadership regarding the use of SOF structures in recent conflicts allows to conclude that the main form of SOF application is a Special Operation, which in the near future will undergo adaptations, namely, the diversification between strategic, operational and tactical operations will be gradually lost. There will be a clear distinction between defensive and offensive operations and will in principle have an offensive orientation (force strike). Division into traditional and irregular operations will continue in the coming years, and in many cases the shares of SOF structures will be a combination of both forms „hybrid actions“. Action methods will undertake a mixed character, combining both combat actions and non-combat actions, but at the same time they will be constantly improved. This trend will be sustainable.

In **chapter 3 NEW WAYS OF USING SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES IN THE NATIONAL ARMY** we aim to analyze new models of organization and use of special forces in the National Army and to present, with arguments, a variant of our own variant of what the National Special Operations Forces should mean.

The special operations, carried out in south-eastern Ukraine and the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula, demonstrated the need to develop SOF structures as a tool to achieve the political goals and interests of the state.

The Republic of Moldova is situated at the interference of four strategic evolutions developed in the spaces: Central-European, South-East European, Eastern (former Soviet area) and the Black

Sea area, the last three being generating instability and representing, both an area of strategic importance for the North Atlantic Alliance's eastern flank and a transit space for energy resources from Asia to the European Union (EU).

The main risks, threats and vulnerabilities of a political, economic, social and military nature, capable of endangering the citizen's safety and the national security of the Republic of Moldova, its values and interests as an independent state are: international terrorism structured in cross-border networks; the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; regional conflicts; transnational organized crime; inefficient governance. In this context, the military forces must be prepared to respond to the challenges of the XXI century, which manifests itself especially in the area of strategic military interest of the Republic of Moldova.

As a strategic means, SOF structures are of course seen mainly through the prism of national interests. They are defined as strategic means due to the ability to achieve military, political, psychological and informational goals that are the fundamental tools of national power. The need to improve SOF is the burden of the mandate „not to fail”. The policies of the Republic of Moldova in the field of ensuring national security are based on the evolution of existing and possible threats to the security of the country. In the process of their elaboration, the interests of the main international political actors are taken into account, since national security can only be conceived in the context of international security. The European Union, NATO, the Russian Federation and the US today are important elements in the continental security architecture.

We aim to make a cost-benefit analysis and to examine the usefulness of new force structures for special operations in order to become aware of the politico-military factor to understand why a small unit of SOF operators, with an appropriate level of skills, capabilities and experience, is preferred to a much larger, lower quality force. Such a capability of SOF operators requires a relatively small percentage of total defense costs. The European Union, NATO, the Russian Federation and the US today are important elements in the continental security architecture.

Through a small investment, the Republic of Moldova can equip and prepare an elite military structure and thus activate a significant national strategic capability. There is a critical difference between this investment and the capability achieved with anticipation in the current security environment, which demonstrates that such a decision is pragmatic and more than prudent. The transformation and modeling of SOF trends at the level of the National Army of the Republic of Moldova in our vision we present it below. Following the analysis of the peculiarities of the SOF

structures (not including those in the black ops category) in the armies of NATO and partner countries, and their role in countering terrorism on the national territory, 3 different models can be detached [5]:

1. The American model: command structure on the same level as those of the categories of forces, with attributions in countering terrorism (in addition to other missions) outside the borders: USA, Canada, France, Poland, etc.

2. The British model: command structure subordinated to the Ministry of Defense, without similarities to those of the categories of forces, with duties in countering terrorism (in addition to other missions) and internally: Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand.

3. The SOF model with the command structure subordinated to other counter-terrorism structures (in addition to other missions) abroad.

It is obvious that, proportionally, the British model is the least representative. SOF are means of strategic importance and of course, their peculiarities are dictated by the state's own vision.

Considering the complexity of the missions, their amplitude and relevance, we present our own version of the command, operative and training structures, which in our conception are necessary for the Republic of Moldova.

At the level of the General Staff of the National Army (strategic level), a command structure: ***The National Component for Special Operations.***

This command model must be responsible for:

1. Advising on the line of the SOF structure by the Minister of Defense and the Chief of the General Staff;

2. Developing the vision, policies, long-term strategies and doctrine for the SOF structure, in order to integrate and harmonize the SOF units, and to activate their capabilities;

3. Identification of operational requirements and necessary resources (equipment, means, logistical support, etc.);

4. Establishment of a viable and deployable management element for the command and control of national special operations;

5. Management of programs and acquisitions for the equipment of the SOF structure, imperatively necessary and the rapid purchase of specific equipment for the mission;

6. Identification of resources, planning, coordination and joint or combined management of the training and exercises of the SOF structure in order to standardize tactics, techniques and procedures;

7. Establishing the evaluation criteria for the certification of the abilities of the SOF units to achieve the necessary standards in the execution of the specific missions intended;

8. Establishment of an educational system suitable for SOF staff.

The fulfillment of these responsibilities must provide the critical ingredients: guidance, authority and coherent and long-term direction for the SOF structure at national level.

At the operational level, land special operations force: two special operations Battalions, organized as follows:

- two special operations Companies;
- Parachute company;
- Special reconnaissance company;
- Logistics company;
- Squadron of combat-transport helicopters.

From the analysis carried out on the component, with all conviction, we propose that each battalion should have in its composition four combat companies, which in turn include 7 operational detachments, a logistics insurance company and a squadron of combat-transport helicopters. From the study carried out in the work on the composition of the operational detachment in the armies of countries with tradition, the number of SOF operators varies from 10 to 22 fighters. We are of the opinion that the national operational detachment should consist of 12 fighters, each of which has a specific function, but all military personnel must undergo cross-training.

In our view, the livestock of the operational detachment should be completed as follows:

detachment commander – the position of „captain”. The detachment commander is responsible for ensuring and maintaining combat preparedness and other indicators of the detachment. It can command or consult the forces of resistance up to the battalion level;

deputy detachment commander – position of „first lieutenant”. He receives the command in the absence of the detachment commander, represents a tactically and technically trained person in all spheres of activity of the SOF operators: coordinates the activities of the general staff, is empowered to carry out psychological operations (PSYOPS), liaison officer with the civilian population (CIMIC), has knowledge in the field of regional culture and traditions, and knows the country's language of communication. Performs medium and long-term planning. It can handle the recruitment, organization, training, supervision of insurgents' combat units up to the battalion level;



operational sergeant – function of „chief sergeant”. The team sergeant is responsible for overseeing all detachment operations and staff. He usually leads the team directly. He can recruit, organize and supervise the military units of the insurgents up to the company level;

operational sergeant helper – function of „sergeant major”. The reconnaissance sergeant helps the operational sergeant in leading the team. It plans, coordinates and directs the collection of information by the group staff, analyzes it, also produces and disseminates information. He interrogates the prisoners of war. Train resistance patrols. Can train, consult or manage resistance forces combat units up to the company level;

armaments specialist – the position of „sergeant major” and aid specialist in armaments – the position of "first class sergeant". Have knowledge in the field of weapon systems, the rules for firing and servicing them, also use in support of the actions of the group mortars, machine guns, anti-tank grenade launchers. They can train the forces of the resistance in the use of weapons. Two arms specialist sergeants implement the tactics and techniques of unconventional actions as the leader of the mission. They are responsible for ensuring the tactical safety of the detachment. Each of them is able to teach, consult or lead combat units of resistance forces up to the company level;

engineer specialist – the position of „sergeant major”, and professional specialist helper – the function "sergeant class I". Specialists in destruction, explosions, engineering and construction, erection of fortifications and dams. Each of them is able to teach, consult or lead combat units of resistance forces up to the company level;

specialist doctor – the function of „sergeant major” and help specialist doctor – the function "sergeant class I". Field doctors. Prepare to perform surgery and emergency assistance in field conditions. Familiar with the basics of human and veterinary medicine. Each of them is able to teach, consult or lead combat units of resistance forces up to the company level;

communication specialist – the function of „sergeant major” and helper of the communication specialist – the function "sergeant class I". They are trained in the use of communication equipment, such as short and longwave transmitters, satellite communication systems, the Internet. Familiarize with encryption and signaling methods. Each of them is able to teach, consult or lead combat units of resistance forces up to the company level.

Based on the fact that the territory of the Republic of Moldova has an area of 33846 km<sup>2</sup>, and from a strategic point of view it can be divided into two areas of action: the Northern and the Southern area, we propose the establishment of the two battalions, respectively the I battalion „Alfa” deployed

in the North area, the Râșcani district and the II battalion „Bravo” deployed in the South area, Cahul district. At the basis of this reasoning is the fact that an operational detachment is entrusted as an area of responsibility and action with an area of 600 km<sup>2</sup>. Given that each company has a number of seven detachments, and at the battalion level there are 28 operational detachments, it follows that a single battalion can only cover 16800 km<sup>2</sup>, which represents half of the national territory. Therefore, the appearance of the second battalion justifies the variant proposed by us. The Training Center of special operations fighters, we propose to have its headquarters in the Military Academy „Alexandru cel Bun”, in Chisinau. It will carry out its work according to the model of selection and training program that we will present in the next subchapter.

Based on the data provided in this paper, it can be stated without the risk of making mistakes, that the SOF component will be an example of military innovation. Following the proposed reforms, the SOF structure of the National Army will undergo fundamental organizational restructuring and will increase its capacity for action in the contemporary battlefield. In our opinion, the proposed models will lead to a substantial increase in the defense capacity of the Republic of Moldova, and our scientific approach is enough to be considered a military innovation.

The existence of a new structure in the National Army of the Republic of Moldova also requires the appearance of an official document regulating its organization and functioning. Therefore, we present a model of doctrine for the use of the SOF component, a model that is based on the doctrines of the USA and Romania. Through our approach, we try to make available to the political-military factors in the Republic of Moldova a reliable, modern and interoperable model.

Regarding the selection and training mode, we present a model of a *manual for the selection, training and use of the SOF component*. This manual is addressed to the instructors from the Training Center of SOF fighters, being necessary in the process of selection and training of future fighters from the special operations forces.

As regards the military body of the Republic of Moldova and its capability to cope with atypical conflicts (including a hybrid war), we believe that the political-military decision-makers must pay special attention to the development of the Special Operations Forces within the National Army.

## **GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The study of the proposed theme for the research „*USE AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES IN HYBRID WARFARE*” allowed the solution of the scientific problem submitted for support. As a result of the research carried out, some theoretical concepts have

been identified through which a correct understanding of the notion of hybrid warfare can be established, as well as it is possible to assess its potential impact on the national security of the Republic of Moldova and the training of the National Army. The solution of the approached scientific problem is argued by the innovative character of the presented work, by the theoretical significance and the applicative value of the performed study. The theoretical research carried out allows us to identify and analyze the characteristics, requirements, principles and missions of the SOF structures, and the impact of their application on the training and training of the special forces within the National Army. The methodology elaborated and applied in the present work highlights its theoretical significance in the development of strategic studies of security and defense through the theoretical-conceptual and analytical-applicative approach of the systemic analysis of the characteristics of hybrid threats in modern conflicts; analysis of the SOF structures of the armies of developed countries and their use as a tool for reacting to such threats in the context of the current security environment; identifying the main lessons learned from the military actions of a hybrid nature in which SOF operators participated. The conceptual approach, based on the research methodology, led to conclusions on the role and importance of implementing the SOF component within the National Army as a viable solution for responding to current hybrid threats. The applicative value of the work resides in the evaluation of the specificity of the manifestation and functionality of the structure model of the Special Operations Forces proposed to be established in the National Army of the Republic of Moldova.

The results obtained allowed the following conclusions to be drawn:

1. From the assessment of conventional, unconventional and asymmetrical risks and threats, a new concept called "hybrid risks and threats" emerges, which manifests itself in the contemporary operational environment and involves complex approaches in terms of information, decision-making and shareholder. Hybrid threats are a real challenge for the National Army of the Republic of Moldova, because they combine advantages of using unconventional means and methods in combat, becoming very difficult to anticipate.

2. The current international security environment can be characterized by three phenomena that are in interdependent relations: multipolarity, technology and globalization. The dynamics of the changes in the evolution of these phenomena directly influence the prospects of hybrid warfare. The trends of evolution of the security environment of the Republic of Moldova in the coming decades will be characterized by an instability at global level, the increase in the share and

importance of non-state actors, the diversification of hybrid threats and the acceleration of global competition for the possession of vital resources.

3. As a result of the analysis of the confrontations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Ukraine and Syria, the global war declared to cross-border terrorism, as a whole, revealed the need to use in the fight against insurgent movements (Al QAEDA, ISIS), a new type of forces: mobile, well-trained, equipped in accordance with the requirements of modern technologies - Special Operations Forces. These forces are the specialized component of timely, discreet and precise intervention, ready to execute a wide range of missions directed against political, military, economic or diplomatic objectives of the adversary.

4. Based on the study of the Special Operations Forces in modern armies, we have determined that their role is diversified and bears the imprint of the intended purpose for them. In the conception of foreign specialists, the role of special forces is constantly growing. SOF structures can be used in times of peace, tension (crisis), during conflict (war) and in the post-conflict period (after the war). They are an invaluable tool in the full range of military actions. They are capable of unilateral actions or can be used in decisive, long-range actions, but also for limited operations in remote regions. SOF actions give depth to the campaign and force the opponent to use significant combat forces to protect rear of the front.

5. The modification of the forms and methods of conducting military operations and the increase of the role of special operations in the settlement of disputes in crisis situations and state-of-the-art military conflicts, led to their active implementation towards their deployment. Under the term SO is meant a complex of measures for the use in combat of SOF operators and irregular units in ensuring the realization of the interests of countries or their partnerships: direct actions, special research, actions with the use of special weapons and tactics, psychological operations, anti-terrorist actions, humanitarian assistance, search and rescue operations behind the enemy, etc.

6. As a result of the detailed analysis of the forms and methods of use of the SOF structures in some modern armies, we conclude the need to establish such specialized structures in the composition of the National Army of the Republic of Moldova, as a tool for responding to the risks, threats and vulnerabilities of a political, economic, social and military nature, capable of endangering the safety of the citizen and the national security of the Republic of Moldova, its values and interests as an independent state, with the drawing up of normative acts for their use.

7. The capabilities and freedom of action at the strategic level that SOF structures provide to a state are adequate to address irregular threats that unbalance the current and anticipated security situation at regional and global level. The main trends in the creation of SOF are the centralization of forces with the creation of an organizational structure with the rights of a kind of armed forces (the kind of troops); extending missions to the full range of threats in times of peace, crisis and wartime; recruitment solely on a voluntary basis; differentiation of individual training and training of units, the provision of the most modern samples of special weapons, military equipment and technique.

Based on the conducted study and the conclusions drawn, which confirm the topicality and importance of the research issue, we propose the following recommendations:

1. The governing structures of the Republic of Moldova are to initiate an analysis to identify the reconfiguration of the military body of the National Army of the Republic of Moldova in order to deal with atypical conflicts (including a hybrid war), with a special attention to the development of the Special Operations Forces and special operations in the complex of measures to ensure national security.

2. The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, the Government and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Moldova to contribute to the amendments of the Decision No. 679 of 23.11.2001, for the "Approval of the general structure and personnel of the National Army and of the institutions of the Ministry of Defense", namely in the chapter general structure of the National Army by introducing the Special Operations Forces Component in this structure.

3. The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with the General Staff of the National Army to designate in the organizational structure of the National Army, the Component of the Forces for Special Operations with the proposed structures until 2029.

4. The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with the General Staff of the National Army to endow the structures of the Special Operations Forces Component of the National Army with unique special, modern, state-of-the-art equipment, which will essentially raise their combat capabilities in the implementation of the country's national military strategy.

5. The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with the General Staff of the National Army to elaborate the normative acts that could regulate the activities of the structures of the New Special Operations Forces Component formed within the National Army of the Republic of Moldova, namely a doctrine for the use of forces for special operations and a manual for selecting and training candidates for SOF structures.

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## ADNOTARE

**la teza de doctor în științe militare „Modalități de organizare și întrebuintare a Forțelor Pentru Operații Speciale în Războiul Hibrid”, autor Octavian DACIN.  
Specialitatea 581.01 – Artă militară.**

**Chișinău, 2018.**

**Structura tezei:** introducere, trei capitole, concluzii generale și recomandări, bibliografia din 200 titluri, 27 anexe, 117 pagini de text de bază. Rezultatele tezei au fost expuse în 19 articole publicate în culegeri și reviste de specialitate din Republica Moldova și străinătate.

**Cuvintele-cheie:** război hibrid, amenințări și vulnerabilități, război iregular, conflicte netradiționale, forțe speciale, forțe pentru operații speciale, Forțele Armate, Armata Națională, forțe neregulate, actori non-statali, teatrul de operații, operații speciale.

**Domeniul de studiu:** Științe militare.

**Scopul lucrării** constă în analiza confruntărilor militare în care s-au utilizat tactici și tehnici de luptă hibride; necesității dezvoltării, instituirii și întrebuintării SOF dictate de mediul de securitate internațional actual; schimbărilor radicale în ducerea acțiunilor de luptă și folosirii pe scară largă a actorilor non-statali în TO. Acest scop este îndreptat spre identificarea unor metode noi pentru îmbunătățirea instruirii SF din cadrul Armatei Naționale atât sub aspect teoretic, dar mai ales al celui practic, pentru a fi în măsură să desfășoare cu succes întregul spectru de operații militare atât în cadrul sistemului național, cât și în cadrul unor alianțe de forțe.

**Noutatea științifică și originalitatea rezultatelor obținute** constituie cercetarea analitico-comparativă privind noțiunile de război de generație nouă, care generează noi forme și metode de acțiuni, cu întrebuintarea pe scară largă a unei structuri noi de forțe și anume Forțe pentru Operații Speciale (SOF) în contextul transformărilor paradigmatică ale sistemului internațional și a mediului de securitate internațional contemporan, care continuă să producă efecte nemijlocit asupra statelor și politicilor de securitate și apărare a acestora. Demersul nostru științific are ca finalitate identificarea următoarelor: o structură SOF corespunzătoare cerințelor Republicii Moldova, o doctrină de întrebuintare a structurilor SOF a Armatei Naționale și o programă pentru selectarea, instruirea și monitorizarea structurilor SOF din cadrul Ministerului Apărării al Republicii Moldova.

*Noutatea științifică și valoarea tezei* sunt determinate de scopul și obiectivele ei, de rezultatele, concluziile și recomandările înaintate.

**Problema științifică importantă soluționată** o constituie determinarea modalităților de organizare și perspectivelor de funcționalitate a forțelor speciale ale Armatei Naționale a Republicii Moldova prin prisma performanței și incertitudinilor SOF din armatele moderne în mediul contemporan al securității internaționale care pot servi drept considerente strategice pentru asigurarea politicii naționale de securitate și apărare a Republicii Moldova.

**Semnificația teoretică** derivă din contribuția autorului la dezvoltarea studiilor ce privesc conflictele de generație nouă, amenințările și vulnerabilitățile ce pot genera astfel de conflicte și aprofundarea studiului referitor la structurile SOF, atât la nivel național, cât și multinațional.

**Valoarea aplicativă a lucrării.** Sub aspect aplicativ, investigația s-a finalizat cu elaborarea unui model de structură a Forțelor pentru Operații Speciale în cadrul Armatei Naționale a Republicii Moldova, un model de doctrină pentru întrebuintarea acestora și elaborarea unei programe pentru selectarea, instruirea și monitorizarea luptătorilor SOF.

**Implementarea rezultatelor științifice** sunt reflectate în cadrul a șapte conferințe și foruri internaționale și a zece conferințe naționale, în articolele publicate în reviste naționale de specialitate și internaționale, în lecțiile susținute, precum și în activitatea în calitate de lector universitar la Academia Militară a Forțelor Armate „Alexandru cel Bun”.



## АННОТАЦИЯ

к диссертации на соискание ученой степени доктора военных наук „Способы организации и применения Сил Специальных Операций в Гибридной Войне”, автор **Октавиан ДАЧИН. Специальность: 581.01 – Военное искусство.**

**Кишинев, 2018.**

**Структура работы:** введение, 3 главы, общие выводы и рекомендации, библиография из 200 источников, 27 приложений, 117 страниц основного текста. Результаты диссертации были изложены в 19 статьях в различных научных журналах.

**Ключевые слова:** гибридная война, угрозы и уязвимости, иррегулярная война, нетрадиционные конфликты, спецназ, силы специальных операций (ССО), Вооружённые Силы, Национальная Армия, иррегулярные войска, негосударственные актёры, театр военных действий, специальные операции.

**Область исследования:** Военное искусство.

**Цель работы** состоит в анализе военных конфликтов, в которых использовались тактики гибридных военных действий; необходимость развития и боевого применения структур ССО в условиях роста дестабилизации международной обстановки; широкого использования негосударственных актёров в вооружённых конфликтах государствами в решении обширного спектра военно-политических задач. Данный опыт следует учитывать военно-политическому руководству нашей страны для модернизации сил специального назначения Национальной Армии.

**Научная новизна и оригинальность** полученных результатов заключаются в аналитическом и сравнительном исследовании концепции войн нового поколения, которые характеризуются нетрадиционными методами использования сил и средств; детально рассматривающие современные методы ответа на такие угрозы путём использования ССО; представлены теоретические концепции, подтвержденные фактической реальностью для решения и генерирования ответов на необходимость создания структур ССО в Национальной Армии, как инструмент для разрешения возможных сценариев использования гибридной тактики в вооружённых столкновениях; также разработан проект доктрины использования ССО и программа селекции, обучения и мониторинга структур ССО в Министерстве Обороны Республики Молдова.

**Важная решенная научная проблема** заключается в определении организационных форм и функциональных перспектив Сил Специальных Операций Национальной Армии Республики Молдова, с точки зрения эффективности применения структур ССО в современных условиях для обеспечения международной безопасности в развитых государствах, которые могут послужить как стратегическими критериями в обеспечения политики национальной безопасности Республики Молдова.

**Теоретическое значение работы** вытекает из вклада автора в разработку исследования конфликтов нового поколения, угроз и уязвимостей, которые могут порождать такие конфликты и углубленное изучения структур ССО как на национальном, так и на многонациональном уровне.

**Практическая значимость исследования** состоит в разработке структурной модели сил специальных операций, которая соответствовала требованиям Национальной Армии Республики Молдова, моделью доктрины для их использования и разработкой программы отбора, обучения и мониторинга бойцов ССО.

**Внедрение научных результатов** представлено в тезисах на национальных и международных конференциях, в научных статьях, а также в работе в качестве преподавателя Военной Академии Вооружённых Сил имени „Alexandru cel Bun”.

## ANOTATION

to the doctoral thesis in military sciences „ Ways of organizing and using the Special Operations Forces in hybrid warfare”, author Octavian DACIN.

Specialty 581.01–Military art.

Chisinau, 2018.

**Thesis structure:** introduction, three chapters, general conclusions and recommendations, bibliography consisting of 200 titles, 27 appendixes, 117 pages of main text. The results of thesis were shown in 19 published articles, collections and specialized magazines from Republic of Moldova and outside the country.

**Key words:** hybrid warfare, treats and vulnerabilities, irregular warfare, non-traditional conflicts, special forces, special operation forces, armed forces, National Army, irregular forces, non-state actors, operation theatre, special operations.

**Study domain:** Military Science.

**Scope of the work** consist in the study of military confrontations in which were used hybrid tactics and techniques; the necessity in the development, institution and use of SOF inspired by the actual international security environment; radical changes in the warfare and the use of non-state actors in TO. This scope is used to identify new methods for the improving of SF training in National Army from theoretical and practical aspect, for this force to be able to conduct the whole spectrum of military operations in national and coalition security system forces.

**Scientific newness and the originality of the obtained results** constitutes the analytic- comparative research of the notion „new generation war”, that gives rise to new forms and methods of action, with the widespread use of a new force structures, namely the Special Operations Forces (SOF) in the context of paradigmatic transformations of the international system and the modern international security environment, which continues to produce direct effects on the States and their security and defense policies.

*The scientific novelty and value of the thesis* is determined by its purpose and objectives, results, conclusions and recommendations.

**The important scientific issue that was solved** consist from the determination of the organizational methods and perspectives for the functionality of the special forces of the National Army of the Republic of Moldova in terms of performance and uncertainty from modern armies SOF structures in the contemporary international security environment that can serve as strategic considerations to ensure the national security policy and defense of the Republic of Moldova.

**Theoretical significance** derives from the author`s contribution to the development of study about the new generation conflicts, threats and vulnerabilities that can be generated by this type of conflicts and the improvement of study about SOF structure, on national and international level.

**The applicative valor of the thesis.** Under applicative aspect, the study was finished with the elaboration of a model of SOF structure in the Republic of Moldova`s Armed Forces, a doctrine model for the use of this forces and the elaboration of a program for the selection, training and monitoring the SOF war fighters.

**The implementation of scientific results** is reflected in seven international conferences and forums, ten national conferences, in articles published in national and international specialized magazines, lessons and the activity as a university lector at Armed Force Military Academy „Alexandru cel Bun”.

**DACIN, OCTAVIAN**

**USE AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES  
IN HYBRID WARFARE**

Summary of the thesis of the doctor in military art

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