



New NATO Command Structure

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NRDC's role following to the NATO Command Structure reform and the New Strategic Concept

The new command and control structure recently approved by the Defence Minister on the 8th of June does not seem to have affected the Rapid Deployable Headquarters as they are today. In fact, their reporting line is the same and the mission agreed among the troop contributing nations is still the same. Nonetheless, a deeper analysis is needed to verify the changes in the framework given by the new strategic concept approved in the Lisbon summit last year.

NATO After Lisbon

If we consider the new strategic concept and the Command and Control structure reform as a whole it becomes quite evident that the main challenge is to grant more functions with less resources, military forces are requested to be more effective and flexible.

On one hand the political level continues to put in place military actions with a general mandate by the United Nations, but, on the other hand, with a lower level of international support and a higher level of media confrontation, the operation "Unified Protector" is a perfect



NATO Headquarters, Belgium

example of that. The threats we have been facing so far are taking higher profiles, the paragraph "security environment" of the strategic concept is detailed in identifying a wide range of risks including new ones such as the risks related to the use of technology, climate changes, water scarcity and increasing energy needs that will be new issues to be considered while assessing the situation on the field in a crisis area.

NATO Leaders have clearly indicated the need of the so called "holistic approach" to crisis management.

Doctrinal Challenges

We are at a turning point in which NATO is not just a military alliance in which doctrine and procedures are the core business of military forces working together. Leaders are willing to use a panel of assets able to conduct operations with a lot of

aspects other than the military in the field of diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, state governance, democratization and a lot more.

So far we have had military bodies in charge of liaison functions in these arenas, now a further step is needed. Both civilians and military





people are requested to develop a common culture to put in place a joint effort to accomplish the missions likely to be given by the political level.

NRDC's areas of improvement

The land component of a joint force is the military body with the higher level of interaction with non military actors. Any single check point as well as any element of the Command and Control chain is a place in which local population can ask for support in non military matters.

The doctrinal debate on the so-called "comprehensive approach" should result in significant changes in the Headquarters' structure in order to fully incorporate it in the establishment and the procedures for the staff. Along with that a capability to identify civilian partners to both solve day by day problems and plan the crisis area's future.

One of the most difficult challenges is to ensure communications towards civilian agencies, keeping separate the classified networks from the local agencies and GO's and NGO's networks, but having a Command Post layout in which internet is to be used daily for an effective cooperation with the civilian world.

Interagencies working groups are probably going



NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen



The NATO emblem



Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Adm. ITA (N) Giampaolo DI PAOLA

to be reinforced, meeting on regular basis and with more detailed tasks.

The need to maximise the deployability of the forces requires to strengthen non only the manoeuvre assets, but also the system in place to deploy the various bodies of the HQ. NRDC's have to make all the efforts needed to have the same capability to deploy of their affiliated units.

The future of NRDC's is in the capability to be able to conduct war fighting operations and to support civilian bodies doing stabilization at the same time, taking advantage of any possibility to support the local population.

The challenge is to do that without expanding too much the establishment and avoiding duplications and unnecessary redundancies.

Conclusion

The NRDC Commander is a person that will be requested to take decisions in a lot of fields ranging from kinetic to non kinetic operations, daily liaising with his civilian and military counterparts, and with the need to make sure his Headquarters acts in a coordinated and flexible manner in any issues, including the possibility to face possible crisis involving many different actors.

From the Staff