DEFENSE DIRECTIVE 2020

By the end of 2019, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AAF) have successfully accomplished their duties in the field of defense and security, achieving tangible results in all areas of their activity. They are already more consolidated both in terms of equipment and training.

Completion of constitutional obligations in the field of defense, coping with civil emergencies and natural disasters, continuing support for the community or other institutions of the country, expanding the geographical map of participation in international missions, implementing contracts in the field of modernization in infrastructure and equipment , transparency in human and financial resources management, the steps taken to reform the education and training system have enhanced the image and credibility of the AAF in society, as well as expectations and demands on them.

The security environment is significantly changing nature, intensity, including increasingly the dangers of asymmetrical, hybrid and cybernetic nature. The approval of the Republic of Albania Strategic Defense Review (RSM) document, the Law on "Civil Protection" and a number of other documents in the field of defense and security have best addressed these risks, adapting to constant environmental changes of the security environment and consequently adjusting of the response and understanding to this change.

Implementation of projects in the field of modernization, such as: launching the implementation of the NATO project for the modernization of the Kuçova Air Base, the Integrated Aerospace Surveillance System of the Republic of Albania, the improvement of the Integrated Aerospace Surveillance System Naval, full-provision with Land Force individual military equipment and special equipment for the Military Police, full-provision of the EOD Company with modern equipment and systems, Ceremonial Uniforms for the Guard of Honor and Brass Brand of FA, as well as the signing of the agreement with the US side of providing the Armed Forces with Black Hawk helicopters have had a positive impact on successfully fulfilling the constitutional obligations of protecting the country as well as NATO.

Taking the lead of some regional initiatives during 2019 has clearly identified our country's leadership as a factor of stability and security in the region.

The realization of objectives in the field of defense and security, as a comprehensive process, requires and welcomes the contribution of each member of the Armed Forces to face new challenges, to respond to the obligations arising from the constitutional mission.

To all who serve in the Armed Forces

During 2019, members of the Armed Forces have served with professionalism and dedication to dealing with civil emergencies and natural disasters, enhancing the security of our citizens, and for international security and stability in NATO, EU and UN missions. The dedication and professionalism shown in all our commitments have increased our credibility and earned the respect of our society and the Alliance to the AAF.

The year 2020 brings forward new tasks and challenges to the Armed Forces, which will require more commitment, professionalism and dedication from all Armed Forces structures.

I. MAIN DIRECTIONS FOR 2020

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania will develop capacities capable of securing the country's independence, protection of territorial integrity, assistance to the civilian population, and the constitutional order of the country. Given these constitutional responsibilities, the

activity of the AAF will be focused on harmonizing and meeting the objectives set out in the strategic documents, unifying and realizing the planning- programming process, meeting the obligations set out in the Capability Objectives (OK), continuing the reform and consolidation of the education system in the field of national defense and security, increasing the level of training of the effective, as well as the accomplishment of the stated contributions to operations.

Main directions of work during 2020 will be:
1. The security environment and its constant adaption;
2. Improvement of the legal framework;
3. Modernization, Capability Development, Readiness and Operability, Interoperability;
4. Development of defense resources;
5. Establish an effective system to manage the civil emergency and assistance to it;
6. International commitment and cooperation;

II.MAIN PRIORITIES OF WORK FOR YEAR 2020

The activity of MoD and AF structures for 2020 will be focused on these main directions:

I. Security environment and its constant adaptation.

The international security environment continues to become more unstable and unpredictable. The sources of instability globally are numerous, the characteristic of which remains their rapidly spreading beyond the bounds of origin. This dynamic environment significantly stimulates the threats and risks that will continue to affect the regional and international security situation.
Our country is exposed to dangers such as: terrorism, extremism, unfriendly activities of intelligence services, cyber threats, hybrids, conventional, as well as illegal immigration and organized crime.
Given the assessment of the security environment and its evolution, the MoD and Armed Forces structures should take all necessary measures, in co-operation with allies, to implement best practices to prevent all potential threats.
During 2020 will start work to set up the new capabilities of intelligence to enhance the support with AF intelligence and providing decision-makers with the necessary information to support the decision-making process.
The security of personnel, information, physical and industrial personnel continue to be a priority for the Armed Forces structures when planning and development of operations internally, as well as within NATO, the EU and the UN.

2. Improvement of legal framework.

Work will continue reviewing legal and sub-legal acts in order to improve the functioning of MoD/AF structures. Special attention should be paid to legal and sub-legal acts in support of the implementation of "The civil protection'' law, investments in Kuçova base, legal acts related to the rank and career of the military, discipline in the Armed Forces, as well as the legal framework in the interest of improving salaries, food and clothing for the military.

In the framework of approximation with European Union legislation, the work should be focused on the approval of legal and sub-legal acts of the National Plan for European Integration 2019 - 2021, which are part of the area of responsibility of the Ministry of Defense.

3. Modernization, Capability Development, Readiness and Operability, Interoperability.

3.1 The modernization of the Armed Forces aims at providing the necessary capabilities to operate independently and / or in co-operation with allies in military operations and missions, as well as coping with civil emergencies. The process of modernizing should be focused in the development of AF capabilities, in accordance with the AF Long-term Development Plan, continuation of the modernization projects, equipping of the Land Forces with new interoperable armament with allies, provision of the search and rescue structures with special equipment, infrastructure investment to improve workplaces, modernize equipment and computer systems.

3.2 Capability development aims at fulfilling the national obligations in the framework of Capability Objectives Package (OK) 2017, by developing combat capabilities, combat support and combat services.

Main priorities in this direction will be:

- Light Infantry Battalion Group (LIGB), units and sub-units declared in the framework of international commitments of NATO, BE etc...;
- Establishment of Military Cyber Security Unit;
- Creation of operational capabilities for monitoring and monitoring the airspace of the Republic of Albania;
- Providing a Tactical Air Control Group in the interest of deployable land formations at the battalion and/or group-battalion level.

3.3 Readiness and Operability.

Work to ensure the development and readiness of land, naval, air capabilities, as well as logistical support at all levels of command and control (C2), to develop national and collective defense operations, to respond rapidly to emerging crises, coping with civil emergencies / natural disasters.

Aim for full implementation of NATO measures in the national crisis response system, as well as operational planning of the AAF use in the face of asymmetric, hybrid, but also of those conventional threats.

Insurance of operational capability and continuity of AF operational commitments for participation in various operations, as well as their readiness and operability test, aim to meet Alliance-specific requirements for each mission. During 2020, except commitment in current international missions, work on materialization of commitment in ''ADRION'' regional initiative (Adriatic Ionian Initiative)

3.4 Interoperability.

Work will be done to increase interoperability at the national level and with NATO, through the interoperability of human components, equipment and procedures. The continuation of standardization process will be a priority, by selecting for implementation of STANAG/ APs that support Capacity Objectives and AF priorities.

4. Development of defense resources.

4.1. Human resources, recruitment, promotion.

Human resources will continue to be one of the key elements of defense resources.
Their development will aim the consolidation of their management system, implementation of a transparent, reliable and effective process throughout the personnel life cycle: recruitment, education, training, appointment, promotion in rank and career, going on reserve and retirement.

The appointment shall be in accordance with the Tables of Organization and Equipment of the Armed Forces. A particular priority is the quality staffing of the structures declared for NATO commitment, as well as in its command structures.

Collaboration with central and local institutions, educational institutions, professional marketing, based on current and prospective needs, experience gained, should be assessed as key factors in recruiting candidates with high intellectual and physical capacities in the AF, aiming at recruiting young and dedicated staff.

In order to motivate personnel socio-economic policies should be developed, with the aim of improving treatment and living conditions, work and service, increasing care for military families, managing relaxing premises, creating additional facilities for military personnel and their families, as well as exploring all possibilities for the integration of the military into society, after their release.

Work needs to be done in order to achieve and maintain representation with 15% of women in uniform in recruitment and promotion and gender perspective should be part of the policies and plans of the MoD and AFGS structures.

4.2. Education, training and exercise.

Military **education** will continue to be developed and consolidated in accordance with the law "On higher education and research in higher education institutions in the Republic of Albania", the law "On the powers and authorities of the leadership and command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania" and the law on ranks and career, also will be based on the new educational concept, individual and collective training.

The aim is to radically improve the military education system, with all the necessary organizational, structural, conceptual and doctrinal elements, and work should be done to ensure interoperability with the best military education and training systems of NATO member states.

The Armed Forces Academy needs to achieve the full operational capabilities, to take the necessary measures by meeting the criteria for accreditation of all military education institutions, the organization, leadership and management of this institution.

The priority task will be to prepare new officers through the transition to the 3-year education system, in accordance with the "Bachelor" first cycle program. The structures of scientific research, experimentation and simulation in the function of the Armed Forces and other defense and security institutions should be consolidated.

In the field of doctrinal development work should be focused on the preparation of logistics doctrine, communications doctrine, operational planning and training directives, which will aim

at enhancing the quality and professionalism of military and civilian personnel of AF structures at all levels.

Training needs to meet the requirements of AF structures at all levels and needs according to specialties. Particular attention should be paid to training in supporting of Capacity Objectives, staff training and forces that will participate in operations abroad. In the framework of international cooperation, the focus will be on pilot personnel training, technician/ maintenance, air traffic controller, radar operator, specialist and technician of the Integrated Aerospace Surveillance System.

Exercise should aim at enabling personnel to plan and develop operations at all levels of command, in order to accomplish missions and tasks at both national and international level. The 2020 training cycle should enable the preparation, training and operational evaluation of structures in line with NATO standards and methodology. The Albanian Reaction 20 exercise in our country remains a priority during 2020.

Development of inter-institutional exercise should aim at strengthening inter-institutional coordination and cooperation within the development of operations in response to civil emergencies, search and rescue and response to marine pollution.

4.3. Material resources.

The material resources will aim at providing the logistical capabilities needed for the support of daily activities of the Armed Forces, as well as their participation in operations at home and abroad. The focus should be on securing ground vehicle maintenance capacities, developing basic repair capacities and helicopter maintenance.

The MoD and the AAF General Staff and the structures involved specifically should support the implementation of NATO projects to modernize the Kuçova Air Base.

Infrastructure development should aim the improvement of living conditions, education, training, support of operations and command-control, establishment of the Military Meteorological Service's data transmission network, establishment of the Photography Sector at the Institute of Geography and Military Infrastructure, maintenance and the development of Information and Technology Systems, implementation of infrastructure projects.

Efforts should be focused on repairing, rebuilding and restoring the infrastructure damaged by the 26 November 2019 earthquake. Health support should be focused on increasing medical care for military and civilian personnel of the Armed Forces, as well as the certification of the health status of military personnel.

Priority should be given to the health support of priority units and the training of medical personnel. The handling of properties outside the AAF Settlement Plan, handling of redundant materials, disposal, dismantling / disposal of surplus ammunition and outside the Armed Forces needs will be carried out based on applicable laws and regulations. Property management structures should give priority to registration and certification of each property in their administration.

4.4. Financial resources.
The defense budget should aim in fulfilling the tasks of the Armed Forces, at home, international commitments within NATO, commitments within the regional framework and enhancing the training capabilities of the Armed Forces.

Effective budget execution will be achieved by improving the studied planning of the budget structure, based on the development priorities of the Armed Forces, and increasing transparency in its management. Financial resources are to support the development of the Armed Forces' capacities, in order to enhance operational and interoperability with all structures, both nationally, regionally and beyond.

The disciplined use of the annual budget, support of defense programs, synchronization in setting priorities, and timely drafting of projects should be the essential conditions that will enable the defense resources to be more effectively oriented and utilized and execute the budget in time and be qualitative.

5. Establishing an effective civil emergency management system and community assistance.
The adoption of the Law on "Civil Protection" was a significant development in reforming the entire process of access and management of civil emergencies. The November 26, 2019 earthquake truly tested the functionality of planning, coordinating structures, and operational response and support capabilities.
A special priority for 2020 is the completion of the drafting of by-laws for the full functioning of the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA), as well as the upgrading, modernization and upgrading of emergency response structures and operational capacities based on our needs, experience of other countries, as well as lessons learned.

Community support and assistance will focus on protecting people's lives, property, cultural and environmental heritage, community support especially in remote areas. We will coordinate and support the assumption of responsibility by the structures involved in dealing with civil emergencies, in accordance with the obligations set forth in the Law on Civil Protection.
The requirements and needs of local government units for the elimination of potential risks in their areas and for the improvement of infrastructure will be seriously assessed. The clean-up of the Jub-Sukth hotspot, Durres, will be completed by 2020.
The planning of the necessary material reserves aims at improving the legal framework for the use of national and international resources, enhancing transport capacity, continuing to meet the status of goods as required by applicable law, enhancing and improving storage capacities, in order to achieve help for the population affected by various natural disasters at any time and need.

6. International engagement and cooperation.
6.1. International cooperation.
International commitment and cooperation with defense partner countries should be in full harmony with the national and strategic security interests of the Republic of Albania and should be based on building relationships characterized by a spirit of understanding and cooperation, and supporting integration processes of our country in the European Union.

In the framework of the engagement with the Alliance, the NATO Defense Ministers meeting that will be held in Tirana in June 2020 should be the top priority of the work of the MoD / AAF structures. Interaction with NATO will be accelerated to meet the obligations of the Capacity Objective Package.
Work should be done on approximation of Albanian legislation with that of the EU in the field of security and defense and we should orient towards different defense initiatives within the framework of the Common Security and Defense Policy.

6.2 Regional cooperation.
Undertaking initiatives to increase cooperation in the field of defense and security, with the aim of developing regional capabilities and capacities of defense and sustainability (civil protection), as well as full integration of regional countries into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

Regional initiatives in the field of defense and security should continue to promote the "open door policy" for other countries in the region (in particular Kosovo), which aspires to be part of these forums, as the best way to further fostering good neighborly relations, enhancing co-operation between countries and addressing common security challenges.

The chairmanship of the SEDM Secretariat and the fulfillment of its obligations during 2020 should be a top priority in the field of regional cooperation. Work should be done to materialize the joint representation of the A-5 countries in the NATO mission in Iraq.

6.3 Contribution to international operations and initiatives.
Fulfillment of all operational commitments, in line with the three essential tasks of the Alliance: Collective Defense, Crisis Management and Collaborative Security, expressed in its Strategic Concept, should be the main focus of the work in this regard.

Contribution to collective security and active participation in operations, missions and initiatives within NATO, the EU, the UN and will coalitions, in particular in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism should continue, aiming at a promotional, active role, contributor to the consolidation of security, stability and peace in the region and in the world.

III. CONCLUSIONS
The Defense Directive 2020 will guide all the activity of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania in fulfilling its mission and duties.
For the implementation of the Defense Directive 2020, all MoD / AAF GS structures should develop plans and coordinate efforts to ensure the necessary capabilities for the defense, security and prosperity of our country.

MINISTER

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