PLAN

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	5
I. General Provisions	6
1. Background	6
2. Justification	6
3. Objectives of the Plan	6
4. Scope of the Plan and milestones in the development and reorganization of the Armed Forces	7
5. Assumptions	8
6. Principles and approaches to the development of the Armed Forces	9
7. Role, missions and tasks of the Armed Forces	11
8. Level of ambition related to the missions of the Armed Forces	12
9. Minimum requirements to defence capabilities arising from the tasks of the Armed Forces	14
II. Structure of the Armed Forces	14
1. Functional structure of the Armed Forces	14
2. Organizational structure of the Armed Forces	16
2.1. Joint Forces Command	17
2.2. Land Forces	18
2.3. Air Force	20
2.4. Navy	21
2.5. Fixed communications and information system	23
2.6. Special Forces Brigade	23
2.7. Structures directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence	24

III. Management, Command and Control 28

IV. Size of the Armed Forces 30

V. Equipping the Armed Forces with core and combat equipment 32

VI. Logistic Support 34

VII. Communications and Information Support 37

VIII. Education, Science and Training 38

Deployment and Infrastructure 41

IX. Maintaining the existing and development of new defence capabilities 42

X. Resource provision of the Armed Forces 46

INTRODUCTION

The dynamic and controversial character of the contemporary strategic security environment and the recent years' trend at reduction of the resource provisioning of the Armed Forces has led to imbalance between the planned capabilities and the allocated on their building and maintenance funding. To the end of establishing an acceptable balance between the available resources and the development of the needed for the Armed Forces missions and tasks implementation capabilities, taking into account the changes in the strategic security environment and the mid-term new capabilities acquisition and AF modernization priorities, in 2014 was undertaken a "Review of the Defence Capabilities and the Capacity of the Armed Forces to implement the tasks arising from the three missions".

In the course of the Review, the following areas had been considered: the dynamic and rapidly changing character of the strategic security environment as well as the approaching our borders zones of instability; the political commitment made at the Wales NATO Summit for a progressive increase of defence spending and achievement of 2% of GDP; the capabilities necessary to guarantee the sovereignty, security and independence of the country in the framework of NATO collective defence; the implementation of our commitments to NATO and the EU and contribution to national security at peacetime; national commitments to the implementation of NATO Readiness Action Plan (RAP).

The Plan for the Development of the Armed Forces 2020 is an outcome of the undertaken review and has been elaborated in compliance with the set out in the Programme for the Development of the Defence Capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria 2020 development parameters and guidelines for the build-up of defence capabilities and the Armed Forces until 2020.

I. General Provisions.

1. Background

The Plan for the Development of the Armed Forces 2020[1] has been developed pursuant to Article 62 of the Defence and the Armed Forces Act of the Republic of Bulgaria and in implementation of paragraph 9.2 of the Programme for the Development of the Defence Capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria 2020 (hereinafter Programme 2020), adopted by Decision of the 43rd National Assembly, promulgated in the State Gazette, issue 93/01.12.2015.

The Plan is adopted by the Council of Ministers pursuant to Article 22, paragraph 2, item 6 of the Defence and the Armed Forces Act of the Republic of Bulgaria.

2. Justification

The Plan will ensure the development of the Armed Forces until 2020 with balanced capabilities along all components for the implementation of the full spectrum of tasks arising from the anticipated scenarios and analyses of the development of the military strategic security environment.

3. Objectives of the Plan

- To guarantee the implementation of the constitutional obligations of the Armed Forces and ensure adequate contribution to allied operations;
- To develop an integrated system for effective defence management under permanent civilian control bearing a potential for agility, planning and effective response;
- To support and develop available capabilities, build-up and develop new capabilities and establish environment for the development of the Armed Forces;

[1] Herein after referred to in the text as “the Plan”

- To reach balance between needed capabilities and available resources.

4. Scope of the Plan and Milestones of the Development and Reorganization of the Armed Forces

The Plan covers the main activities in the development of the Armed Forces for the period 2016 – 2020 whereas the part related to the build-up of new capabilities, modernization and rearmament goes beyond 2020.

The development and reorganization of the Armed Forces will be performed in two phases from 2016 to 31.12.2018 and from 2019 to 31.12.2020.

During the **first phase,** the main activities in the development of the Armed Forces will be directed at stabilization of defence, as follows:

- Re-subordination of the military units pursuant to Programme 2020 where the timelines will be specified annually through an Order of the Minister of Defence on organizational and staffing modifications;
- Priority filling the gaps in the personnel roster of declared military units and units subject to certification as contribution to NATO collective defence under the adopted Capability Targets 2013;
- Development and launch of the main modernization investment projects under Programme 2020;
- Advancement of the processes of utilization of surplus ammunitions and disposal of unnecessary infrastructure and demilitarized real estate.

During the second stage, the main activities in the development of the Armed Forces will be directed at their modernization and restructuring, as follows:

- Reorganization of the military units in the Armed Forces;
- Furthering modernization and building new capabilities;
- Disposal of redundant capabilities or replacement of obsolete capabilities after the establishment of new ones;

- Finalization of the processes of utilization of surplus ammunitions and disposal of unnecessary infrastructure and demilitarized real estate;
- Achievement of the set in Programme 2020 proportion among the three main lines of spending.

In 2018 we envisage a Review of the implementation of the Plan. Depending on its implementation, resource provisioning, implementation of modernization investment projects and the rate of disposal of surplus real estate, property, armaments, equipment and ammunitions, the need for reorganization of the military units will be evaluated in the second phase.

In the event of amendments to the normative basis related to the Plan, the same will be amended to reflect such amendments.

The downsizing of personnel will be made contingent with the ongoing modernization, abandonment of redundant capabilities and the process of disposal of surplus in defence.

The implementation of the outlined efforts during the development and reorganization of the Armed Forces phases will be undertaken under the terms and conditions stipulated by a law/act of the Council of Ministers or by an act of the Minister of Defence.

5. Assumptions

To reach the optimal balance between needed defence capabilities and the implementation of the missions and tasks of the Armed Forces, in the period 2016 – 2018 defence spending will be retained at a level not lower than that achieved by the 2014 State Budget Act of the Republic of Bulgaria.

For the period after 2018 until 2024 is envisaged consistent increase of defence spending depending on the growth in the economic capacities of the country, in compliance with the decisions made at the 2014 NATO Wales Summit.

To implement the assigned missions and tasks, by the end of 2020 the Armed Forces will maintain a total size of not less than 37 000 and not more than 40 000 service members.

The National Security Strategy spans a horizon until 2020 and the undertaken in 2015 Mid-term Review reflects the changes in the security environment.

The update of the core and supportive doctrines will be performed every four years (even earlier, if necessary) in compliance with the Plan for the Development of National Conceptual and Doctrinal Documents in the Area of Defence and the Armed Forces.

6. Principles and Approaches to the Development of the Armed Forces

►Principles

- Effective civilian control over the Armed Forces;
- Development of the Armed Forces in accordance with the changes of the security environment through capabilities relevant to emerging risks and threats;
- Building and development of the Armed Forces on the basis of: integration; sufficiency; priority; interoperability; adaptability; modularity of military units; singleness of forces; accountability of resources; undivided authority and organizational hierarchy; continuity and consistency; transparency;
- Capability Targets 2013 coordinated in the course of NATO defence planning process are a key element/starting point of national capability building;
- Defence capabilities planning is based on the internal optimization of the budget allocated to the Ministry of Defence for the period 2016 – 2020 and on the potential possibilities for target funding by the State Budget for priority acquisition of new defence capabilities aiming at building and maintenance of the needed defence capabilities;
- Achievement of an optimal balance between the planned capabilities for the implementation of the role, missions and tasks of the Armed Forces and the available resources for defence.

►**Approaches:**

Capability-based defence planning;

- Development of the Armed Forces: from structural build-up towards modernization ensured through increase of capital expenditure;
- The modernization of the Armed Forces will be pursued through the implementation of the main investment projects prioritized in the Programme for the Development of the Defence Capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria 2020;
- In the implementation of Capability Targets 2013, the efforts will be directed as a priority on capabilities with commenced or upcoming levels of readiness timelines as well as on targets related to the build-up and training of the declared units and their actual participation in operations;
- Progressive and continuous multiplication of the interoperability of troops and forces;
- The restructuring of tactic level units and formations will be implemented taking into consideration the features of the available and the planned for acquisition (disposal) armaments, equipment and other materiel along with the structure and size of the declared units;
- The process of building and development of the Armed Forces capabilities will be directed at the improvement of interagency interaction to the end of the establishment of an integrated security sector;
- Supportive and ancillary tasks will be implemented only through already existing capabilities;
- Improvement of defence resources management effectiveness and efficiency and optimal spending of the constrained budget funds;
- The implementation of the Plan will be carried out through Defence Programmes endorsed by the Ministry of Defence, the structures directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence and the Bulgarian Army;
- The defence input/output metrics stated in Programme 2020 will be planned and reported in the Defence Programmes of the Bulgarian Army.

7. Role, Missions and Tasks of the Armed Forces

The assigned in the National Defence Strategy role, missions and tasks of the Armed Forces remain in force. Missions shape the rationale for planning, building and development of the Armed Forces for the effective period of this Plan.

Role: the Armed Forces guarantee the sovereignty, security and independence of the country and defend its territorial integrity.

Mission DEFENCE covers the tasks related to guaranteeing the national sovereignty and independence, protection of the territorial integrity of the country and of the other NATO member-states under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty.

Mission SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY involves contribution to NATO and EU crises response operations; conflicts prevention; countering terrorism; participation in UN, OSCE and other coalition formats missions; arms control; non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials for their production; international military cooperation; humanitarian relief; consolidation of confidence and security.

Mission CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL SECURITY IN PEACETIME encompasses maintenance of early warning capabilities for potential risks and threats; control of the air and maritime spaces; participation in operations for countering terrorist activities; protection of strategic facilities; protection and assistance to the population in the event of natural disasters, industrial emergencies and ecological catastrophes; unexploded ordnance disposal; humanitarian relief; support to migration control; search, rescue and evacuation activities; support, when necessary, to other government bodies, organizations and local authorities to prevent and overcome the aftermath of terrorist attacks, natural disasters, ecological and industrial catastrophes and severe infectious disease outbreaks.

8. Level of Ambition related to the missions of the Armed Forces

The national level of ambition for employment of the Armed Forces is:

Mission **DEFENCE:** Pursuant to Article 9 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Armed Forces defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity with all available forces and assets established in accordance with Article 3 of the Washington Treaty. This defence is implemented in the event of invocation of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty and the Armed Forces implement this mission jointly with NATO collective defence assets and forces, as defined in the Alliance defence planning system, part of them being timely deployed in the Bulgarian territory.

In the event of invocation of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty and actions on the territory of other NATO member-states, the Armed Forces provide Land, Maritime and Air Forces from the set of Forces as specified and agreed in advance under the NATO Defence Planning Process. **The core component of this set of Forces is a medium type mechanized brigade of the Land Forces.**

Under this mission the Armed Forces perform surveillance, control and protection of the air space through NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence System; maritime surveillance and defence; keep the early warning and control system in state of readiness; maintain the needed national capabilities operational within the collective defence system.

Mission **SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY:** the Armed Forces maintain state of readiness for participation in multinational allied and coalition crisis response operations. In terms of size this contribution is expressed in participation in prolonged operations with concurrent rotation of **one enhanced battalion (Battle Group) or greater number of smaller units and assets from the military Services within the resource equivalent to the level of ambition (approximately, about 1000 troops).**

The Navy participates with declared forces within the resource equivalent for participation of **one frigate** for a period up to 6 months per year.

The Air Force participates with **transport aviation** without rotation for a period up to 6 months per year with the necessary personnel. The needed logistics and other elements for participation in operations are also ensured.

Mission **CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL SECURITY IN PEACETIME**: the Armed Forces, besides the tasks of Air Policing and control of sea navigation, support the activities of other national agencies committing ready and available units within the available capabilities framework in accordance with the developed plans.

The Bulgarian Armed Forces establish, train and sustain in operational readiness formations that are tasked to prevent and/or overcome the aftermath of natural disasters of relevant type, size, equipment and property to provide assistance to the population in compliance with rescue and emergency recovery plans.

The assigned structures of the Armed Forces maintain their readiness for action outside the territory of the region in which they are deployed as well as in other areas or zones depending on the situation.

The Military Medical Academy and its subordinate hospital bases maintain a military-medical rapid reaction unit that is capable of providing qualified and basic types of specialized medical support.

The Military Police Service carries out tasks in support of the actions of the Armed Forces related to: denying access to persons not involved in the rescue activities in the affected areas and installations; monitoring and gathering of information on actual zones of damage; carrying out safeguarding activities in areas and installations affected by disasters; regulation of road traffic in affected areas; escort of convoys of special vehicles participating in disaster relief and rescue activities; control of transport and distribution of food supplies for the affected population.

Conditions are established for the provision of available infrastructure facilities and bed capacity for the accommodation of people left without shelter in crisis situations.

The forces and assets of the Armed Forces involved in the implementation of tasks under this mission are specified according to set out plans.

The level of ambition for each mission is based on concrete allied commitments and the implementation of other national tasks related to the security of the country.

9. Minimum Requirements to Defence Capabilities arising from the tasks of the Armed Forces

The minimum capability requirements are forces and assets ensuring the successful implementation of the tasks under each mission. They are defined on the grounds of ten planning scenarios illustrating possible situations for the use of the Armed Forces and the developed concepts and profiles to the planning scenarios.

II. Structure of the Armed Forces

1. Functional structure of the Armed Forces

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria build a single set of forces and capabilities needed to ensure national defence and participation in NATO collective defence system, the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and other international agreements, strictly complying with the resource capacities of the country.

With respect to the missions and tasks, the taken political commitments and NATO Force Structure (MC-317/1), the Armed Forces, in the framework of the Single Set of Forces, functionally build Deployable Forces and In-Place Forces.

- The **Deployable Forces** are military units of the Armed Forces with high mobility, high or lower readiness level, capable of participating in NATO operations on the territory of the Alliance or beyond under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty as well as in crisis response operations.

The Deployable Forces involve units declared for the goals of collective defence in compliance with the agreed commitments and responsibilities.

- The In-Place Forces are units of the Armed Forces with restricted mobility, high or lower readiness level, capable of participating in operations on the protection of the territorial integrity of the country or neighbouring countries within the collective security and defence system; protection of the air and maritime sovereignty of the country through integrated systems within NATO common systems contributing to national security in peacetime and countering potential asymmetric threats.

The number of In-Place Forces units with high and lower readiness level is specified in accordance with the requirements of the planning documents, the development of the security environment, the tasks related to the defence of the country and the actual capacities for their resource provisioning.

The Forces include units of the Land Forces, Air Force and Navy, logistics and communications components directly subordinated to the Commander of the Joint Forces Command as well as structures of the Fixed CIS and the Special Forces Brigade. The In-Place Forces also involve structures directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence.

Levels of readiness for the use of the Armed Forces

The Armed Forces units' levels of readiness ensure the needed agility in planning and conducting of operations. The adopted classification of military units of the Armed Forces is in accordance with the established NATO system (MC-317/1) and includes 11 categories with a range of readiness from 2 to over 365 days.

The Armed Forces units' categories from 1 to 9 form the Graduated Readiness Forces. The 10-11 division units form the Long Term Build Up Forces.

The Graduated Readiness Forces are divided into High Readiness Forces and Forces of Lower Readiness.

The High Readiness Forces are units of the Armed Forces with categories from 1 to 8 and should be reported with readiness ranges for use from 2 to 90 days.

Part of the High Readiness Forces units form the Immediate Response Forces (IRF). The personnel of IRF needed for the implementation of national tasks is commissioned by the Minister of Defence on a proposal from the Chief of Defence.

The Forces of Lower Readiness are units of the Armed Forces with category 9 and should be reported with readiness ranges for use up to 180 days.

The number of High Readiness Forces and Forces of Lower Readiness units of the Defence forces is specified in accordance with the requirements of the planning documents, the development of the security environment, the tasks related to the defence of the country and the actual capacities for their resource provisioning. The transition of units from one level to another is performed through established procedures and the endorsed plans for multiplication of the readiness of the Armed Forces.

Manning, armaments and assets depend on the level of readiness.

The Long Term Build Up Forces consist of military formations of the Armed Forces with prolonged establishment and multiplication and are to be used in the worst case and most remote in time scenario for large scale Article 5 of the Washington Treaty operations.

2. Organizational Structure of the Armed Forces

The organizational structure of the Armed Forces clearly illustrates the number of main structures and the profile of the Armed Forces in general. The Organizational Structure of the Armed Forces incorporates the Bulgarian Army (Joint Forces Command, Land Forces, Air Force and Navy, Fixed Communications and Information System, the Special Forces Brigade)[2] and the structures directly

[2] After the adoption of amendments to the Law on Defence and the Armed Forces

subordinated to the Minister of Defence which are not subject to the Administration Act. The Armed Forces personnel includes service members at the Ministry of Defence and structures directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence which are subject to the Administration Act.

2.1. The Joint Forces Command (JFC)

The Joint Forces Command (JFC) is a functionally integrated operational level command and control structure and implements the full spectrum of missions and operations of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria. JFC exercises command and operational control over its directly subordinated military units and over the forces and assets of the force services assigned for participation in joint operations.

The JFC integrates and implements joint training; planning and execution of joint operations; joint intelligence; joint logistics; joint communications and information support.

JFC upkeeps and develops the following capabilities:

Mission Defence: planning and conduct of joint operations with its directly subordinated military units and operationally subordinated units of the service branches for covering of the threatened state border section, in accordance with the scenarios, enabling the admission and deployment of allied troops for carrying out an operation under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. In the event of invocation of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty and contribution with national military units from the declared forces for action on the territory of other NATO member states, the JFC exercises national control over the Bulgarian military units participating in the allied operation.

Mission Support of International Peace and Security: training, manning, logistic support, deployment, national control (administrative management), rotation and withdrawal of the national contingents participating in missions and operations outside the territory of the state.

Mission Contribution to National Security in Peacetime: command and control of the assigned and operationally subordinated forces and assets of the services and interaction with local administration and structures subordinated to other Ministries and Agencies.

The organizational structure of the JFC by 2020 will incorporate JFC Command and units for combat service support, logistics and training.

The warehouses and bases of the Logistics brigade storing surplus of the Armed Forces armaments, equipment, ammunitions and other materiel, will be deactivated after disposal of the stored surplus whereas the personnel quota of the deactivated warehouses and bases will be redirected at the building and support of logistic support capabilities in the Logistics brigade, building capabilities for planning and conducting of joint operations by the JFC and the implementation of host nation logistics commitments.

2.2. Land Forces

The Land Forces generate force, train and support Land Forces units, capable of participation in the state's defence to guarantee the state's security and territorial integrity alone or within joint operational forces. They maintain state of readiness and participate with units in international crisis response operations beyond national borders, aid state and local authorities in preparing, supporting and protecting the population, national economy and the territory of the country in the event of natural disasters and crises and address their consequences. They assist in safeguarding state borders and other strategic facilities and countering illegal migration.

To the end of implementation of the assigned to the Land Forces tasks, they maintain and develop capabilities arising from the three missions of the Armed Forces, as follows:

Mission Defence: operational and tactical deployment and defence of the country alone and within the collective defence system; participation in collective defence actions outside the territory of the country; participation in joint operations.

Mission Support of International Peace and Security: participation in international crisis response operations outside the borders of the country reassuring peace and security; arms control and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction; confidence-building and security promotion measures.

Mission Contribution to National Security in Peacetime: contribute to the defence of critical infrastructure; aid state bodies in countering terrorist groups and traffic of people, drugs and weapons; support state and local authorities in other than war disasters and crisis relief.

The development of Land Forces capabilities is related to the optimization of their organizational structure. The new challenges in the strategic security environment, the migration influx, the traffic of people and the fact that 68% of the relief of the Republic of Bulgaria consists of mountainous and semi-mountainous terrains, including terrains along the almost whole southern and western border, justifies the need of multiplication of the Land Forces capabilities for the implementation of tasks in adverse field and weather conditions and in assisting Border Police bodies in securing borders and countering illegal migration.

The new organizational structure aims at ensuring effective command, control and combat actions in operations guaranteeing the security and territorial integrity of the country as well as aligning of the structure with the requirements for deployable Gradual Readiness Forces.

By 2020, the organizational structure of the Land Forces will incorporate Land Forces Command, combat units and combat service support, logistics and training units.

The development of the capabilities of the Land Forces calls for the establishment of conditions for the launch of the Land Forces core investment project “Establishing Battalion Battle Groups within the Mechanized Brigades”. The implementation of this project will allow for their rearmament with new infantry combat vehicle and for actions within the full spectrum of land operations, including such at night time and in extreme weather conditions. Furthermore, the

maneuverability, firepower and mobility of units in operation zones will be improved.

2.3. Air Force

The Air Force guarantee the air space sovereignty and security of the country and together with the other Armed Forces services defend the state's territorial integrity, participate in crisis response international operations outside the territory of the country and provide support to the population in other than war disasters and crises.

To implement the assigned by the three missions tasks, the Air Force maintain and develop the following capabilities:

Mission Defence capabilities: control of the airspace; air interdiction of adversary facilities of operational and strategic importance, close air support to the Land Forces and the Navy, aerial reconnaissance, airlift, personnel and cargo airdrops and special actions.

Mission Support of International Peace and Security capabilities: airlift, personnel and cargo airdrops and aeromedical evacuation in international crisis response operations outside the territory of the country for peace and security reassurance.

Mission Contribution to National Security in Peacetime capabilities: preserve the sovereignty and integrity of airspace (Air Policing) including through joint actions with forces and assets of other states ; provide umbrella over strategic facilities of the critical infrastructure; assess and share aerial situation awareness; aerial reconnaissance ; airlift of personnel and cargo; transportation of organ transplant teams; aeromedical evacuation; unexploded ordnance demolition; support to the population, local and central authorities in the event of natural disasters, industrial emergencies and environmental catastrophes; search and rescue operations and aerial firefighting.

The development of the Air Force capabilities calls for structural changes directed at improvement of the organizational effectiveness, optimization of the functional and administrative interface among the units, advancement of the training of cadets with

diverse flight professional lines as well as training of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of all branches of the Air Force (aviation, anti-aircraft missile troops, radio-technical troops, communications, information and navigation systems and logistics).

Of vital importance to the development of the Air Force is the establishment of background for the implementation of key modernization projects: acquisition of a new type multirole combat aircraft and supply of integrated logistic support and new three dimensions (3D) radars.

During the process of acquisition of a new type multirole fighter, the performance of combat duty will continue to be carried out with part of the active MiG-29 crews while at the same time the other part will be training on the new fighter which aims at avoiding the "vacuum" in Air Force capabilities. The acquisition of the new main multirole fighter will practically replace the three types of presently used aircraft – MiG-21, MiG-29 and SU-25 which will lead to downsizing of the Air Force personnel and will reduce the funds needed for the support of the whole combat aviation of the country while the operational capabilities will be considerably enhanced. This will also solve the problem with the frequency spectrum; operational and informational interoperability with NATO and EU member states Armed Forces will be achieved and capability shortfall will be overcome.

The organizational structure of the Air Force by 2020 will incorporate Air Force Command, air bases, anti-aircraft missile base and bases for combat service support, logistics and training taking into consideration the disposal of surplus armaments, equipment and the downsizing of personnel after the implementation of the Air Force key investment projects.

2.4. Navy

The Navy protects the interests of the Republic of Bulgaria in its maritime space, guarantees the state's maritime sovereignty and trains formations for participation in international peace and security reassurance operations, aids the population in the event of disasters, emergencies and catastrophes. To implement the assigned by the three

missions tasks, the Navy maintains and develops the following capabilities:

Mission Defence capabilities: deployment and integration in NATO and EU units within designated timelines; combat actions against air, overwater and underwater adversary; attack coast-based targets; conduct mine warfare; employ special forces; conduct electronic warfare; escort commercial and military vessels; control sea navigation; undertake combat search and rescue operations, if necessary with deck-based naval aviation; provide situational awareness and perform resilient, permanent, secured operational control of forces in "stand-alone" and joint operations.

Mission Support of International Peace and Security: participation in joint multinational counter-terrorism operations, prevention of illicit trafficking of people, goods and weapons by sea, participation in embargo, humanitarian, evacuation and rescue efforts.

Mission Contribution to National Security at peacetime: interaction with other agencies, government, non-government and international organizations; control of sea navigation; aid the population in the event of disasters and emergencies; protection of important strategic facilities and maritime critical infrastructure; maritime search and rescue operations, humanitarian and evacuation operations, contribution to countering organized crime and drugs, people and arms trafficking.

The development of the maritime capabilities requires the building of a peacetime structure of the Navy that is as close in character as possible to the combat one following the principle "the ships of one division/detachment to be of the same branch of the Navy forces".

By 2020 the Navy structure will incorporate Navy Command, a fleet of battle and support ships, two naval bases, coastal anti-ship missile and artillery division and combat service and logistic support units.

To develop maritime capabilities, it is necessary to provide background for launching the major investment projects: modernization of Class E-71 frigates and acquisition of multifunctional modular offshore vessel. The implementation of the

projects will enhance the capabilities for fighting overwater, underwater and air adversary, controlling marine navigation and countering maritime asymmetric threats.

Along with the development of warships, it is necessary to acquire a modern command and control system, improve anti-mine warfare capabilities and special operations efforts and acquire tugboats and minelayers for the Navy.

2.5. Fixed Communications and Information System

The Fixed Communications and Information System (FCIS) is designated to ensure secure communications and information support for the command and control system in the implementation of the full spectrum of missions and tasks of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The FCIS is the main provider of communication and information services for the Armed Forces Services and the Joint Forces Command and develops capabilities for communications and information support and security of information according to the implementation of tasks arising from the missions of the Armed Forces.

The need for building a cyber defence capability of the command and control system requires organizational and staffing changes of the FCIS establishing a cyber defence structure.

2.6. Special Forces Brigade

The Special Forces Brigade incorporates specially established, organized, trained and equipped units employing methods and techniques different from those of the conventional forces. The Special Forces Brigade is tasked with the conduct of special operations in the implementation of specific strategic and clearly defined operational goals. The Special Forces Brigade supports capabilities adding to the available capabilities of the Armed Forces through an effective tool of response to asymmetric and hybrid threats, contributing to the multiplication of the common military capabilities to guarantee

national security and defence and achieve full participation in NATO and EU collective defence system.

2.7. Structures directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence

- **Military Information Service**

The Military Information Service ensures the early detection and warning of security risks and threats to the Republic of Bulgaria and provides strategic intelligence information to the state and military leadership, the Bulgarian contingents abroad, NATO, the EU and partner services.

The Military Information Service supports, builds and develops capabilities in the Information Support area related to collecting and submitting to the state and military leadership of timely and reliable information contributing to political and managerial decision-making in the area of security and defence of the country in compliance with the implementation of the tasks arising from the missions of the Armed Forces.

An important accent in the activity of the Military Information Service is the elaboration of analytical overviews on global and regional issues and of intelligence expertise in the processes of defence and operational planning.

In the period until 202, the organizational build-up and functioning of the Military Information Service will be performed pursuant to the adopted Military Intelligence Act and the due to be developed and adopted Rules of organization and operation of the Military Information Service and other by-law acts.

The aim of the reorganization and modernization of the Military Information Service will be the development of existing and acquisition of new capabilities for strategic intelligence; reconnaissance data processing and analysis; fast and flexible redirection of intelligence and analytical resources in the event of crises; effective interaction with NATO and EU intelligence structures, the intelligence bodies of NATO and EU member states and partner services;

delivery of quality intelligence information products and their timely submission; integration and optimal use of resources; effective management.

- **Military Police Service**

The Military Police Service supports and develops capabilities for the implementation of tasks arising from the missions of the Armed Forces and the Military Police Act.

The restructuring of the Service will be related to assigning additional tasks on safeguarding strategic facilities of the Ministry of Defence, the Bulgarian Army and the structures directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence and the joint facilities; guaranteeing the security of foreign military units during trainings on the territory of the country, etc.

- **Military – Geographic Service**

The Military-Geographic Service (MGS) maintains and supports capabilities aimed at providing geographic information/products (maps, diagrams, terrain analysis, digital information on the locality etc.) for the armed forces, state agencies and organizations.

The current structure and staff of the MGS does not allow for the development of capabilities aimed at maintaining the geodesic and cartographic fund; for introduction into operation of the system providing public access to spatial data of the Ministry of Defence and maintaining the system's life cycle; for production, maintenance, provision and protection of the integrity of digital geographic data. We need highly qualified specialists able to fulfill tasks in the sphere of geodesy, cartography, photometry and poligraphy.

In this line of thought, we plan to conduct organizational-staff changes in the MGS, and on the basis of existing units we plan to establish a new structure tasked to preserve the existing and develop new capabilities related to maintaining geodesic and cartographic fund and providing public access to the spatial data of the MoD (MGS) through WEB-based information system.

- **The National Guards Unit**

The National Guard Unit (NGU) maintains and develops capabilities aimed at fulfilling specific tasks such as:

- organizing and conducting the state ceremonial;
- representative and protocol activities of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Chairperson of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence;
- Provision of events of national importance organized by other ministries.

The current organizational structure of the NGU provides for maintaining and developing the capabilities required for the execution of these tasks.

- **Military Medical Academy**

The Military Medical Academy (MMA) is a modern center for medical treatment, diagnostics, and education whose mission is to preserve and restore the health of servicemen and civilian employees to the Ministry of Defence, the Bulgarian army and the structures directly subordinated to the Minister of the Defence, and to assist national healthcare.

The development of the MMA's capabilities will provide for fulfilling the tasks resulting from the missions of the armed forces and the Law on medical institutions, and from commitments made in the sphere of medical provision in accordance with Capability Targets 2013.

With the goal to prepare medical specialists for the needs of the armed forces, we plan to establish a Center for professional education which will gradually develop into Military Medical College and Military Medical Faculty within the framework if the Military Medical Academy.

These organizational-staff changes are directed not only to developing capabilities, but also to increasing the MMA's revenue.

- **Central Office of Military Districts.**

The central Office of Military Districts maintains and builds capabilities for organizing the manning of the armed forces with personnel and equipment, peacetime and wartime reserve, training and preparation of Bulgarian citizens in courses aimed at acquiring initial and/or specialized military training and social adaptation of the servicemen discharged from military service.

- **Central artillery-technical test range.**

The Central Artillery-Technical Test Range (CATTR) maintains and develops capabilities for fulfilling tasks related to accurate measurements, analysis, assessment, tests conducted at the range and laboratory tests of armaments and munitions, issues conclusions, recommendations and certificates of quality and of the tested item's technical state.

The current organizational structure of CATTR provides for the maintenance and development of the capabilities required for the fulfillment of these tasks.

- **Departmental Service Support.**

The Departmental Service Support - MoD a structure directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence and is a military unit of the armed forces which provides for the commitments of the Ministry of Defence related to Bulgaria's participation in the NATO Crisis Management and Disaster Response Center of Excellence and in the NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU); supports the courier connections aimed at conducting deliveries and distributes NATO cryptographic means and materials for the Republic of Bulgaria; administers and supports the operation of the Automated Information Document Processing System for classified information and conducts specialized deletion of material carriers used for saving classified information; conducts training of employees from the armed forces tasked to conduct functions in the sphere of information protection; organizes the activities on planning the needs for goods and movables, and conducts material-technical provision required for the activities of the Ministry of Defence; plans and conducts the provision of transport; organizes catering and feeding, library services and making copies of documents for the needs of the employees to the Ministry of Defence and to the Departmental Service Support; conducts the public utility services and sanitation and hygiene-related activities, and provides for fire safety; announces the current construction and repairs activities and supports the rooms and halls in the Ministry of Defence's buildings at 3 Dyakon Ignatii Streer and at 12 Ivan Vazov Street.

• **G.S. Rakovski National Defence Academy, Vasil Levski National Military University and Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy are military schools of higher education which conduct activities on:**

- Training aimed at acquiring higher education in accredited professional sectors;
- Training of specialists having higher education to acquire post-graduate qualifications;
- Professional training of servicemen having secondary education;
- Conducting scientific research;
- Training in the sphere of the country's security and defence related to other tasks assigned by the Minister of Defence.

The organizational structure of the military-educational system will be preserved, and we will develop mechanisms aimed at assessing the educational capabilities and projects with respect to their implementation as well as provision of opportunities to acquire complex aviation education.

III. Management, command and control

1. Management

The management of the armed forces comprises a series of activities and is a responsibility of the political and military-political leadership of the country; it is expressed in their ability, right and obligation to: establish, maintain and improve the legal base for the development and operation of the armed forces; defining the defence resources (human, material and financial resources); decision making as to when, where and how the armed forces will be employed.

2. Command and control

The command and control system allows the Commanders/ Chiefs and their staffs to fulfill the tasks, resulting from the armed forces' missions.

The levels of command and control are a unity of management units which hold identical places in the hierarchical makeup of the management structure.

Three levels of command and control of the armed forces are identified: strategic, operational and tactical.

The Strategic Level of command and control includes the President of the Republic, the Minister of Defence, and the Chief of Defence supported by the Defence Staff, general and specialized administration of the Ministry of Defence.

The Strategic level is responsible for the execution of the armed forces' tasks resulting from the missions assigned to them.

The Operational level of command and control includes the Commander of the Joint Forces Command, the Commanders/Chiefs of the Land Forces, Air Force and Navy supported by their staffs.

The operational level of command and control is responsible for planning and conducting operations on the territory of the country and outside its borders in definite spatial, time and resource frameworks aimed at achieving the strategic goals. This level achieves the connection between the tactical and the strategic level.

The Commander of the Joint Forces Command commands the military units directly subordinated to him as well as the operational command and control of the added military units of the armed forces Services in conducting joint operations.

The Commander/Commanders of the Land Forces, Air Force and Navy conduct command and control of the military units subordinated to them. In conducting single-service operations, the Commander/Commanders of the Services command and control the tactical units subordinated to them. In case of joint operations, they form staff elements of the Land Forces, Air Force and Navy components tasked to control of the forces and means participating in the joint operation.

The Commander of the Joint Forces Command and the Commanders/Chiefs of the Land Forces, Air Force and Navy are directly subordinated to the Chief of Defence.

The Tactical Level of command and control includes the commanders (chiefs) supported by their staffs which conduct the tactical command and control of the military units subordinated to them, including:

- Units of the Joint Forces Command;
- Units of the Services;
- Units the Special Forces Brigade;
- Units of fixed CIS;
- Units of the structures directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence.

The tactical level of command and control of the armed forces is responsible for conducting combat, combat support and combat service support activities by units with the goal to fulfill the tasks assigned to them.

The commanders of the fixed CIS and the Special Forces Brigade are directly subordinated to the Chief of Defence.

3. Command structure and Chain of command of the armed forces

The command structure of the armed forces is a unity of structural elements forming a hierarchy. It defines division of rights in the process of the command and control system's operation, and is expressed in the formal and informal connections and relations between the command and control levels and units in their unity and subordination.

The command structure of the armed forces includes the Ministry of Defence, the Joint Forces Command, the Commands of the Land Forces, Air Force and Navy, military units directly subordinated to the Chief of Defence, and structures directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence.

The Chain of command of the armed forces is a component part of the command and control system which illustrates consistency and order of subordination from the most senior to the most junior commander/chief through which command and control is executed by observing the principles of organizational subordination, integration, undivided authority and hierarchy of the commanders' and chiefs' rights.

IV. Size of the armed forces and distribution of the personnel under force structures

The armed forces will maintain total size of not less 37 000 and not more than 40 000. As a result of the profound reforms in the defence system and personnel downsizing conducted during the years, as of 2015 the size of the armed forces has reached a critical level under which it will be impossible to fulfil some of the core tasks. The non-fulfillment of the investment plans for modernization and the slow rate of releasing of excess properties, assets, armaments,

equipment and ammunitions do not allow further personnel downsizing without losing major defence capabilities.

Through modernization and acquisition of new platforms of armament and equipment, as well as in cases of releasing of excess defence articles (material resources, infrastructure etc.), the size of the armed forces will be decreased phase by phase from the upper threshold to reach a level of not less than 37 000 personnel. Thus, the expenses for the personnel's subsistence will be decreased, and through establishing new legal mechanisms, we will ensure that the decreased expenses for the personnel will be reinvested in defence for modernization and combat training.

The rapidly changing security environment and armed forces' personnel downsizing as well as the limited financial defence resources necessitated to upgrade and develop the vision for the voluntary reserve of the military units. With a view to improving the voluntary reserve's operation, we envision making an analysis of the vacant positions, and if necessary, to redistribute them among the military units. We envision establishing individual voluntary reserve structural units in the lists of positions of the military units with size of detachments, platoons and companies, which will be responsible for activities related to assisting and providing for the execution of the tasks assigned to the military units. On the other hand, it becomes necessary to increase the mobilization capabilities of the armed forces, and in this line of thought, we envision for the voluntary reserve to be treated as the core of forming the wartime units. The size of the voluntary reserve of the armed forces of the Republic of Bulgaria by 2020 will be up to 3 000 reservists.

As of 31 December 2018, the correlation of the peacetime personnel, without the voluntary reserve, under categories of servicemen and civilian employees will be as follows:

- servicemen/civilian employees – **78** percent/**22** percent;
- categories of servicemen - officers/officer candidates/noncommissioned officers/soldiers – **23** percent/**2** percent/**28** percent/**47** percent;

- officers having ranks - Colonel/Lieutenant Colonel/Major/junior officer ranks – **7** percent/**13** percent/**20** percent/**60** percent[3].

The relative share of the Bulgarian army's size is as follows:

- Joint Forces Command – **10,7** % of the Bulgarian army's personnel;
- Land Forces – **46,2** % of the Bulgarian army's personnel;
- Air Force – **23,1** % of the Bulgarian army's personnel;
- Navy – **12,2** % of the Bulgarian army's personnel;
- Structures directly subordinated to the Chief of Defence – **7,8** % of the Bulgarian army's personnel.

The rights and obligations of the citizens and of the leadership bodies of the armed forces' reserve, the public relations related to the armed forces' reserve, the service in the reserve, and the military roster of Bulgarian citizens are arranged by the Law on reserve of the armed forces of the Republic of Bulgaria.

As for wartime, the armed forces will be supplemented with military units and structures in accordance with a decision made by the National Assembly on defining the military units and structures for supplementing the armed forces in wartime, and for defining the size of the Reserve dated 25.10.2013 (Promulgated in State Gazette, Issue 96 dated 05.11.2013). The wartime units are manned with mandatory reservists and mandatory reserve equipment in accordance with the Law on reserve of the armed forces of the Republic of Bulgaria.

[3] In the officers' correlations with regard to ranks, the servicemen of Military Information Service, Service Military Police, Defence Academies and military schools of higher education are nor included.

V. Equipping the armed forces with core and combat equipment.

Equipping the armed forces with core armament and combat equipment is implemented in accordance with the table below:

TABLE

on equipping the armed forces with core armament and equipment

Core armament and equipment	as of 31 December 2020
Joint Forces Command	
Armored fighting vehicles	7
Land Forces	
Tanks	90
Armored fighting vehicles	404
Artillery systems above 100 мм	190
Air Force	
Fighter aircraft	29
Transport aircraft	8
Trainer aircraft	17
Attack helicopters	6
Transport helicopters	18
Trainer helicopters	6
Air defence missile systems	17
Radio systems	20
Unmanned aerial vehicle system (UAVS) *	1

Navy	
Combat ships	7
Combat support ships	10
Auxiliary ships	6
Naval means and facilities	18
Helicopters	3
Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy	
Auxiliary ships	1
Vasil Levski National Military University	
Tanks	12
Armoured fighting vehicles	24
Artillery systems above 100 мм	32

* One unmanned aerial vehicles system includes four Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV).

VI. Logistic support

The armed forces' logistics will develop as a complex activity aimed at building the physical component of the armed forces on the basis of the scientific achievements and technologies with the goal to ensure the provision of the troops and forces with the necessary means and service activities for preparing and conducting operations and peacetime activities. Logistics will be the component connecting the capabilities of the national economy with the needs of the armed forces.

The logistic support of the armed forces will be conducted through optimal combination of the national economy's resource potential with the armed forces' needs. We will use more actively the capabilities of NATO Agencies and the opportunities related to

participation in the Alliance's and EU programs, projects and initiatives as well as cooperation with Allies in bilateral or multilateral format.

The limited financial defence resources and the joint nature of the future operations direct the efforts towards building focused logistics in the armed forces with a capability of providing the military units with the required armament, equipment and material resources at the precise point on the precise time with the exact quantity required for the execution of the tasks assigned to them.

As a priority, we will develop logistic capabilities related to:

- maintaining the required stocks of material resources, their distribution and deliveries;
- support and repairs of the core armament and equipment;
- movement and transportation;
- support of the military infrastructure;
- increasing mobility of the declared formations and provision of timely and effective logistic support in as the operation progresses;
- providing military assistance in supporting the Republic of Bulgaria as a host nation to allied forces and organizations;
- modernizing the existing medical structures, optimizing the interaction between them and the management of system for military-medical support of the armed forces.

In accordance with the established management, command and control levels of the armed forces, we build the logistic system at three levels: strategic, operational and tactical.

The basic management body of the logistic support at strategic level is Directorate Logistics to the Defence Staff. The directorate is a body responsible for the preparation of military-expert assessments in the sphere of logistics. The directorate assists the Minister of Defence in formulating the policy on logistic support of the armed forces in the framework of the processes of preliminary planning and crisis response planning at strategic level.

The logistic support management in the Bulgarian army at operational level is conducted by Logistics departments in the Joint Forces Command and the Commands of the Services. The Logistics

departments in the Joint Forces Command, the Land Forces, Air Force and Navy support the activities of the Commander of the Joint Forces Command and the Commanders/Chiefs of the Services in planning, organization and management of all activities related to logistic support of the military units subordinated to them.

At tactical level, directly subordinated to the Commander of the Joint Forces Command and to the Commanders/Chiefs of the Land Forces, Air Force and Navy, logistic units are built which have capabilities ensuring the execution of the functions and tasks assigned to them. In the military units of the Joint Forces Command and the Services, executive logistic bodies and units are built in line with the specificity of the functions and tasks fulfilled by these units.

The diagram of the armed forces' logistic system is included as an appendix to the Plan.

The changes in the security environment and the Alliance's increased requirements towards the Republic of Bulgaria with respect to provision of Host Nation Support (HNS) for the Allied troops and forces necessitate the establishment of new structural units at strategic and operational levels tasked to coordinate the timely and high-quality execution of the activities on providing military assistance as a component part of the HNS, and at tactical level it is required to maintain and build executive structures, having capabilities which support these activities.

After restructuring the stocks and releasing (through disposal or utilization) of the excess material resources, we will make changes at tactical level. They will influence most profoundly Logistics Brigade, which will be reorganized in the period 2016-2020 as a result of releasing of excess capabilities and disbanding a part of the bases subordinated to it. The deadlines for disbanding the military units are in agreement with the actual execution of the activities on their releasing of the excess material resources.

The logistic system management will be conducted by using automated information system for exchanging logistic information and logistic provision planning. In order to execute the activities related to development, putting into practice and operation of the information system "Logistics of the Bulgarian Army" in the Joint Forces

Command, we are building a staff unit, directly subordinated to the Commander of the Joint Forces Command, which is intended to execute the functions and tasks of an Office to the system.

We will continue to maintain and develop the required medical capabilities and structures in order to achieve the expected level of medical support for the armed forces.

In order to implement effective medical support for the armed forces, we have built a unified system, which includes medical support planning bodies in the staffs at the three levels of the command and control system of the armed forces and the Military Medical Academy (MMA). The forces and means assigned to medical support are formed on a mixed principle – of the MMA personnel and in the armed forces' units.

The basic efforts for optimizing the medical support until 2020 are directed towards establishing new diagnostic, medical treatment and evacuation capabilities both on the territory of the country and during operations outside its borders.

VII. Communication Information Support

The communication information system of the armed forces provides for maintaining effective and reliable operation of the command and control system through timely delivery of the required information at the precise point in the whole spectrum of the armed forces' missions and tasks. It is composed of CIS control points; CIS control bodies, and communication-information networks.

In order to provide for the planned resources assigned to communication-information support, a series of structures function at strategic, operational and tactical levels.

At strategic level, the CIS structure is responsible for planning and provision of the resources for communication-information support of the armed forces' command and control system. This structure defines the policies on building and development of CIS, provision of services, protection of information, training and preparation of personnel for the needs of CIS.

At strategic level, we will continue to maintain in a state of readiness and develop CIS at fixed control points of the Supreme Command. Operational centers of the integrated communication information system tasked to conduct control over the country, will be deployed at these points and will be kept in a state of readiness to provide protected connectivity and ensure working conditions for the operational groups of the state's wartime command and control bodies.

The basic forces and means are concentrated in the Fixed CIS which is subordinated to the Chief of Defence and provides communication-information support for the command and control system at strategic level as well as connectivity of the control points at operational and tactical levels in the areas of combat employment.

The CIS structure at operational level plans and controls the communication-information system in a joint operation's preparation and progress.

At operational level, the basic forces and means are concentrated in the mobile CIS which is subordinated to the Commander of the Joint Forces Command and fulfills tasks in its interest.

At tactical level, the basic forces and means are concentrated in the CIS units which are subordinated the Commanders of Services, and fulfill tasks in their interest.

The CIS bodies of the structures directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence plan and build CIS for fulfillment of the basic tasks, and if necessary, use resources of the Fixed CIS.

VIII. Education, science and training

The military-educational system is built as a centralized subsystem of the system for personnel preparation of the armed forces of all categories of servicemen for the strategic, operational, and tactical units, and it has at its disposal the required infrastructure, buildings, academic staff, educational-material facilities and training range facilities.

The elements of the military educational system are directly subordinated to the Minister of Defence and include:

- **G.S. Rakovski National Defence Academy**;
- **Vasil Levski National Military University;**
- **Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy;**
- **Defence Institutre "Prof. Tsvetan Lazarov".**

G.S. Rakovski National Defence Academy, Vasil Levski National Military University and Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy, as basic elements of the military educational system, are accredited and assessed by the National Assessment and Accreditation Agency (NAAA); they have operational quality control systems and meet the national and European requirements for acquisition of higher education. These educational institutions maintain and develop capabilities for executing the following activities:

- Training for acquisition of higher education in accredited professional areas;

- Training of specialists already having acquired higher education for acquisition of postgraduate qualifications;
- Professional training of servicemen having secondary education;

- With a view to manning the wartime units with junior officers, an opportunity is provided for the cadets receiving training in the military schools of higher education to complete military preparation and acquire the professional qualifications "Reserve officer".
- Conducting scientific research;
- Training in the sphere of the country's security and defence related to other tasks assigned by the Minister of Defence.

The Defence Institute "Prof. Tsvetan Lazatov" is a scientific organization, conducting scientific research, scientific-applied activities and scientific-technical support in the interest of the country's defence by maintaining and building capabilities for the execution of the following core tasks:

- Scientific research, scientific-applied, test, trial and design-related tasks in the sphere of armament, C4I systems, defence equipment and military-technical assets;

- Assisting the integrated project teams through participation in the preparation, scientific support and in the overall implementation of programs and projects in the interest of defence;
- Laboratory, functional, acceptance tests and tests conducted at the training range of the armament, C4I systems, defence equipment and military-technical assets, expert assessments, analyses and suggestions;
- Activities ensuring the life cycle of defence items – preparation of technical requirements, trials and control measurements, quality assurance and provision of flight ability;
- Quality control and certification of military and special production, assets and other items as well as quality management systems in accordance with the standards and with NATO allied and EU publications;
- Standardization and protection of intellectual and industrial property of the Ministry of Defence;

The National Defence Academy, the military schools of higher education and the Defence Institute are unique centers of personnel training and preparation in the sphere of warfare, national security, natural and social sciences. The cadets receiving education at the National Defence Academy and at the military schools of higher education fill the free capacity as to complete the number of students established by NAAA, through which additional revenue is earned, the requirements for academic load of the lecturers are met, and the financial expenses for individual preparation of the servicemen are relatively decreased.

With the goal to be in line with the trends to develop competitive specialists as well as to participate in international and national scientific research and educational projects, in the Rules for the structure and activities of the G.S. Rakovski Defence Academy and the military schools of higher education, we will suggest an addition and an amendment, regulating the possibility to open auxiliary positions for civilian employees up to 20% of the size distributed among the basic lists of positions, and the financial provision will be at the expense of the educational institution's own earned revenue.

It is not required to make changes in the organizational structure of the Military-educational system.

The efforts will be directed towards regulating the process and methods of providing for and acquiring military training by Bulgarian citizens on a voluntary principle. The training will be conducted by following unified programs in the "Unified training center for initial military training".

In order to improve the system for selecting candidates for military service as well as for service in the voluntary reserve, we envision introducing a requirement for all Bulgarian citizens, willing to participate in competitions, to have completed initial military training.

The preparation for acquiring special military training will be conducted under the leadership of the Commanders of Services. The persons appointed with a contract for military service or service in the voluntary reserve have to complete special military training, and the persons, willing to pass this special training on a voluntary principle, will complete it at the request of the Central Office of Military Districts.

We envision that in the period until 2020 we will undertake activities on establishing a more effective approach and provision of stimuli for the persons willing to receive military training on a voluntary principle.

IX. Deployment and Infrastructure

The organizational structures of the armed forces are deployed in troops areas, in which elements of the defence infrastructure (buildings, warehouses, workshops, garages as well as military airports, naval ports, training ranges, educational centers, firing ranges etc.) are located; the above elements service the everyday activities and the combat training of the military units. Totally, the elements of the core infrastructure include total unfolded built-up area (UBA) of approximately 3 155 000 square meters.

In the progress of restructuring, by the end of 2020, the troops areas will be decreased, which will lead to reducing the area of the core infrastructure elements by approximately 50 550 square meters, and to economy of financial means for repairs and maintenance.

The units subordinated to the **Joint Forces Command** are dislocated in 42 troops areas.

The Land Forces are deployed in 17 garrisons in which 70 troops areas and 7 garrison canteens are dislocated.

The available infrastructure of the **Air Force** is deployed in 77 troops areas and parts thereof, of which 31 are basic ones, while in the remaining areas facilities supporting the troops' activities are dislocated (inner and outer markers, communication nods, electrical sub-stations, pumping stations).

The infrastructure facilities of the **Navy** are deployed in 42 troops areas: 21 of them are barracks, 6 are warehouses, 2 are naval ports, 1 is an airport, and 12 are of another type.

The Special Forces Brigade is deployed in 5 troops areas.

The defence infrastructure of the other structures (Service Military Police, Military Information Service, the elements of the educational system and the training centers) will not undergo significant changes with respect to deployment and the unfolded built-up area,

X. Maintaining the existing and development of new defence capabilities.

In order to maintain modern and combat-efficient armed forces and to implement the policy in the sphere of defence and security in compliance with the process of NATO defence planning and the process of building EU defence capabilities, we will maintain and develop effective and efficient capability-based defence planning tasked to build, develop, maintain and employ the required capabilities for the armed forces to fulfill the tasks related to the country's defence, to fulfill the Republic of Bulgaria's commitments in the collective security and defence system as well as to make a contribution to the national security in peacetime.

In compliance with the level of the national ambition, we will build, develop and maintain balanced capabilities of the three Services with the goal to plan and effectively conduct operations with a priority in the spheres combat efficiency, information provision and support, command, control and communications.

On the basis of the formulated missions and the tasks resulting from them, with the goal to define the required capabilities of the

armed forces, we have developed and adopted planning scenarios. These are prioritized through "Methods for prioritization of capabilities characterized by deficit". The national defence capabilities are structured in the "Catalogue of the capabilities for development of the armed forces of the Republic of Bulgaria" in accordance with the basic spheres adopted in NATO, namely:

- Training (Prepare);
- Strategic deployment (Project);
- Combat effectiveness(Engage);
- Sustainability (Sustain);
- Command , Control and Communications (Consult, Command and Control);
- Protection and mobility (Protect);
- Information provision (Inform).

Training – requires capabilities aimed at increasing the efficiency of the armed forces and of training immediately before participation in operations which includes: training and preparation, conducting exercises, operation planning, development of concepts and doctrines, studying the lessons learned from practice, experimenting, standardization, acquisition, research and development activities, conducting negotiations on the status of the multinational units, multinational capacity building.

We will continue to develop the NATO Crisis Management and Disaster Response Center of Excellence.

We will continue to develop the Connected Training Initiative and we will proceed with the implementation of a project with NATO common funding on connecting the joint facilities at Novo Selo training range with the training ranges Hohenfels and Graffenwoeher, Germany, and Bydgoszcz, (Poland).

We will continue to develop a unified training plan on using the Joint facilities on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria including training with the participation of NATO member countries and partner countries, and transition from bilateral to multilateral exercises, preparations and trainings.

We will continue our participation in the NATO Connected Forces Initiative and we will look for additional opportunities to develop capabilities on bilateral and multilateral basis and on the basis of the Framework Nations Concept. Our priority will be accession to

the group of countries with Germany as Framework Nation, and to the command in Szczecin, Poland, as basic for Eastern Europe.

Strategic deployment – requires strategic deployment capabilities in a zone designated for joint operations. We will continue our country's membership in the NATO strategic airlift capability program C-17 and in the Multinational Sealift Coordination Center through which we will meet the requirements for strategic deployment capabilities in a zone designated for joint operations.

Combat effectiveness – requires capabilities for effective combat impact (direct or indirect) on the enemy by application of physical or cognitive effects through a combination of joint maneuver and fire power, and when appropriate, through other operational methods, measures and mechanisms of imposing our will upon the adversary.

In order to meet the requirements in this sphere, the major contribution will be the acquisition of a new armored fighting vehicle furnished with appropriate equipment, the training of and equipment for three battalion battle groups in the mechanized brigades; the acquisition of new fighter aircraft and integrated support provided for it; acquisition of a module patrol ship and modernization of navy ship platforms by equipping these with anti-ship complex, air defence system and torpedo armament, 3D radar, a remote controlled drone and combat information system.

Sustainability – requires capabilities for planning and conducting activities aimed at maintaining the fighting efficiency of the troops and forces, including movement and transportation, engineering support, medical support, delivery management, support and servicing of armament, combat equipment and material means.

We will continue our participation in the NATO Multinational Integrated Logistic Unit.

Command, Control and Communications – require capabilities ensuring effective command, control as well as control over the troops and forces for the execution of the tasks assigned to them.

We will build the capabilities in the sphere of communication-information systems (CIS), navigation and cyber defence systems. A priority will be the development of the Center for surveillance, analysis, response and restoration of the communication and information systems within the framework of the project "Cyber

defence", parallel to the development of the automated information system as well as adaptation of the field control systems within the framework of NATO Federated Mission Networking (FMN).

We will continue to develop the Joint facilities infrastructure, including through financing by NATO common funds. A priority will be the building, development and improvement of the road infrastructure, maneuver training ranges, live fire, and training of mechanized, tank and artillery units; a permanent warehouse for ammunition storage (for Novo Selo training range), airstrips, service facilities and facilities for aviation equipment repairs (for the airports Bezmer and Graf Ignatievo).

Protection and mobility – require capabilities for protection of personnel, facilities, equipment, installations, and activities under threat of all nature and in all situations with the goal to ensure freedom of operation and contribution to the operation's success.

Through the execution of Capability Targets 2013 in the sphere of surface-based air defence, cyber defence, means for anti-mine warfare, we will meet the requirements for protection of the personnel, facilities, equipment and activities against threats of any nature. The substitution of the surface-based air defence means will be implemented through NATO and EU multinational projects at a pace dependent on the available means.

Information provision – requires capabilities for information support and provision of timely, expedient and accurate reconnaissance information.

We envision achieving an increase in the capabilities in this sphere through modernization of the surveillance systems by acquiring 4-6 3D radars.

We will continue our country's participation in the NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance Initiative. Building capabilities for joint reconnaissance, system surveillance, and active reconnaissance will contribute to meeting the requirements in their entirety.

In long-term perspective, it will be necessary to acquire key capabilities for modern operations: aerial reconnaissance and surveillance; building and maintenance of common operational picture; communication-information support; mobile logistics; operations in urban environment, night operations and operations under extreme climatic conditions; critical infrastructure protection.

XI. Resource provision

According to the "Program for the development of defence capabilities of the Bulgarian armed forces 2020" adopted by the National Assembly, the basic source for financing the armed forces' defence capabilities is the state budget and, respectively, the Budget of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

The financial provision of the activities in the Plan for the development of the armed forces of the Republic of Bulgaria 2020 is in line with the two stages in the implementation of the Plan.

First stage

The financial macro-frame on the execution of the first stage of the armed forces' building and development is in accordance with the Law on the state budget of the Republic of Bulgaria and the updated medium-term budget forecast for the period 2016-2018 (Decision of the Council of Ministers № 847/ dated 30.10.2015).

The financial means allocated to the Ministry of Defence during the First Stage are as follows:

- 2016.

The budget of the MoD for 2016 (including the means from the central budget and the transfer allocated to the state funded military schools of higher education) amounts to 1 187 173 thousand Levs which constitutes 1.35 % of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The budget allows for appointing servicemen in order to reach the personnel roster as of 01.07.2015 – as a priority in the declared military units and launching investment projects which require considerable financial resources.

- 2017.

The defined ceiling on expenses for the MoD (including the means from the central budget and the transfer allocated to the state funded military schools of higher education) amounts to 1 172 548 thousand Levs which constitutes 1.28 % of GDP. In order to reach 1.35% of GDP, it is necessary to increase the ceiling on expenses for the MoD by 55 000 thousand Levs which will allow for appointing 500 servicemen to vacant positions, and will reflect the planned increase in the minimum pay, acceleration of the processes related to utilization of excess ammunitions and provision of a level of training for the declared units in accordance with NATO standards.

We continue the execution of investment projects for the acquisition of new fighter aircraft, multifunctional module patrol ship and wheeled armored fighting vehicles.

- 2018.

The defined ceiling of expenses for the MoD (including the means from the central budget and the transfer allocated to the state funded military schools of higher education) amounts to 1 214 323 thousand Levs which constitutes 1.28 % of GDP. In order to reach 1.35% of GDP, it is necessary to increase the ceiling on expenses for the MoD by 64 000 thousand Levs which will allow for appointing 800 servicemen to vacant positions in order to decrease the insufficient level of manning; to continue the processes related to utilization of excess ammunitions and preserve the level of training of the declared units in accordance with NATO standards.

We will continue the implementation of the investment projects for acquisition of new fighter aircraft, multifunctional module patrol ship and wheeled armored fighting vehicles.

Second Stage

The budget of the MoD is envisaged to rise to 1.5% of the GDP in the period 2019-2020, which is the value used in the planning assumptions. In line with the decisions made at the 2014 NATO Summit in Wales, the MoD budget is expected to gradually reach 2% of the GDP by 2024. Such financial resources will for the scheduled filling of vacancies until the planned number of personnel of the designated structures, as laid down in the endorsed establishment plan, is reached (incl. the standing reserve).

Towards the end of the second stage, the objective to which we should aspire is attaining a ratio of personnel costs to ongoing subsistence to capital expenditure of 60:20:20, which corresponds to the average for EU countries.

The share of the capital expenditure is set at 20% of the total budgetary expenditure and allows for the implementation of investment projects launched during the first stage, as well as for the launching of further priority investment projects included in the Project Portfolio. This will result in reducing the armed forces' dependency on non-NATO and non-EU countries.

During the period 2019-2020, the estimated financial resources will provide for the functioning of the armed forces and the execution of the missions and tasks assigned to them, and will create opportunities to pursue income policy, conduct training, take the modernization process further, and acquire new armaments and equipment.