

SUPPORTING TRANSFORMATION

This is the second of two volumes of proceedings of “Using Models and Simulations in Support Of Force Transformation” (UMSSOFT) – a three-day international conference, hosted by Bulgaria’s Ministry of Defence at the “G.S. Rakovski” Defence and Staff College in Sofia, 26-29 June 2007.

The conference brought together over 80 participants from 14 countries – civilian and military decision makers, other representatives of governmental agencies, and scientists. Among the distinguished participants were the First Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine HE Leonid Polyakov, HE Sonya Yankulova and HE Simeon Nikolov – Deputy Ministers of Defence of Bulgaria, the Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Bulgarian Armed Forces Vice Admiral Emil Lyutskanov, most senior analysts from the NATO Allied Command Transformation, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Norway.

Thus, UMSSOFT 2007 conference provided opportunities to share experience from the implementation of methods, tools and latest research results in support of force planning and management, new concepts of operations and operations planning, as well as training, all in support of the development of defence, emergency management capabilities and capabilities for protection of critical infrastructures. Importantly, and a feature that distinguished UMSSOFT 2007 from the typical scientific conference, is that it aimed to substantiate the need and the benefits from the implementation of objective, rational decision-making frameworks and examples of organisational arrangements for effective and efficient decision support.

At the end of the conference the participants concluded that these specific objectives were successfully met. The conference provided both compelling evidence on how operational analysis contributes to force transformation and Twenty-first Century operations and organisational models that could be applied by new NATO members and partner countries who embark on the road of defence transformation. We can only hope that Bulgaria—the initiator for this conference and its first host—will find ways to utilise the knowledge acquired during the conference and accompanying events. The final section in this volume presents part of the related information that may be of use to all readers of “Information & Security.”

The conference was organized in two plenary sessions and two parallel tracks – one dedicated to decision support to operations planning, crisis management and training in a multinational, interagency setting, and the other – on decision support to defence and force planning and acquisition management. In its entirety, the conference allowed to identify some key implementation challenges and priority research areas in support of the transformation of armed forces, as well as other security sector organizations. It also contributed to the development of a common knowledge infrastructure of concepts, methodologies, methods, and tools in support of transformation.

This volume features selected papers from the plenary sessions and the second track of the conference under the general theme of “Analytical Support of Transformation,” while the previous volume of I&S included the papers from the first track.

The first issue in the volume addresses three themes. As could be expected, the first theme—transformation policy, strategy, and initiatives—is covered by most senior presenters: two deputy ministers of defence, a deputy chief of the “Strategic Planning” of the General Staff of the Bulgarian Armed Forces, and the head manager of the U.S. Department of Defense modeling and simulation efforts.

The second theme—security strategy and planning scenarios—presents novel developments from The Netherlands and Bulgaria. The common challenge under examination in the three papers is how to provide agility of the armed forces, other defence and security sector organizations so that they could be able to adapt in a timely and efficient manner to changes in the security environment or other factors with major impact on security and defence policy.

The third theme—decision support to defence planning and force development—features four papers. The first three papers present rigorous analytical decision support frameworks and tools, while the fourth paper describes a structured gaming approach that has been widely used not only in the training of senior civil servants and military officers, but also in support of decision making in the practical, and always challenging case of defence resource allocation.

The second issue of the volume also covers three themes. The first theme—organizational design and management processes—is covered in four papers. Dr. Ching-Pu Chen was not among the conference participants, but the Editorial Board decided to include his paper in this volume since it nicely fits the topic and presents an approach undertaken in rather different security and cultural settings. The issue of culture is also addressed by Major-General Evgeni Manev, then Commandant of the “G.S. Rakovski” Defence and Staff College, while the author of the third paper is currently Director for “Planning, Programming and Budget” in the Ministry of Defence of Bulgaria. The final paper under this theme treats the acquisition management process and

shows how advanced modelling frameworks and tools can contribute to streamlining defence management processes.

The second major theme is risk. It features three papers that provide analytical foundation and examples showing how risk can be assessed, and how that assessment can—and should—be incorporated in defence and capability planning, in acquisition decision making, and in the management of force development programmes.

The final theme, organizing analytical support, summarizes analytical support challenges and presents national and international examples in the organization of analytical support to defence transformation.

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