

## **The Characteristics and Capabilities of the DF.**

**a.** To start with, they must Ensure Timely Availability of Forces.

(1) The philosophy is that the DF should include the forces required, the suitable planning and the appropriate procedures that would allow the efficient and decisive military presence at the right time. Therefore, they can fulfill any requirement derived from the changes in the strategic environment, as well as be ready to replace forces already involved in operations.

(2) The DF, in particular, because of the readiness criteria and the guaranteed availability, are considered as the most suitable forces to face the new threats for the Balkan countries.

**b.** Another characteristic is Deployability and High Mobility.

(1) In addition to the timely and guaranteed availability, the DF will have the capabilities (planning, procedures and means) required for fast concentration of forces in the Theater of Operations, at the right place and time.



(2) The Theater of the Balkans is considered as a difficult one with a great variation of conditions, both in terrain (from plain flat to extremely mountainous, with interruptions and thick woods), and in the climate conditions (from Mediterranean to continental). It is estimated therefore that the DF, after their full deployment, will have the required mobility to face the operational needs in the Balkan theater.

**c.** We shall now talk about Effective Engagement NATO DF, because of their proper structure and equipment, will have the required capability to effectively use forces, and especially their weapon systems. Thus, they will successfully meet a wide range of possible cases of engagement in the Balkan theater of operations.

**d.** All the above dictate the need for Effective Command and Control (C2) We believe that the large-scale adaptation and integration of modern technology and the results of the "REVOLUTION OF MILITARY AFFAIRS", by NATO military forces, especially by the DF, offers the Alliance the required capability for effective Command and Control.

**e. Another factor is Sustainability of Logistics Support**

(1) Crisis Response Operations (CRO), in which the DF may be engaged in the Balkans, are considered to last a long time (over two years). The previous example of Bosnia and Kosovo enhances this view.



(2) The proximity of the Balkan Theater of Operations with NATO member-states of the Southern region, offers the possibility for maximum use of Host Nation Support, to ensure the continuous and effective Logistic Support.

**f. Survivability and Protection** Survivability and protection of the DF are additional critical factors in order to minimize the effects of any offensive activity. The effects of mass destruction weapons provide, in parallel, freedom of action and effectiveness to the DF.

**g. Modern times impose Interoperability and Flexibility.**

(1) It is considered that NATO DF will adopt common procedures, doctrines, standards and conventional equipment to obtain the suitable interoperability and standardization level.



(2) This interoperability will provide the capability to NATO DF to effectively incorporate various multi-national joint forces, even from non-NATO countries. This fact will positively contribute to the rapid build up and timely deployment of the DF, in order to face any condition in the Balkans.

**h.** Special mention should be made to the role of Rapid Reaction Naval (including Amphibious) and Air Forces. Due to their characteristics, their timely and reliable presence in the initial stage of an operation as well as their firepower and effective engagement during the operations. They can effectively contribute to crisis deterrence and limit the escalation.