

MILITARY DOCTRINE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

**Accepted by a decision of the National Assembly dated 8 April 1999, added
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22 february 2002**

General Provision

1. The Military Doctrine of the Republic of Bulgaria is a system of strategic views, principles and approaches to ensure its national security in military-political and military terms.

2. (Amended and added - State's Gazette, issue 200, 2002) The Military Doctrine treats the military-strategic environment, defines defense policy priorities and directions of employment, build-up and development of the Armed Forces in the interest of defence and strengthening of peace and stability in close cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the European Union (EU) including European Defense Force in the period prior to its accession in them.

3. The Military Doctrine has been developed in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, the National Security Concept, and international arrangements and agreements to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party. It is defensive in character, which is implemented through defence policies and defence planning.

4. Transparency and civilian control are obligatory principles in the implementation of the Military Doctrine.

Military-Strategic Environment

5. The Republic of Bulgaria perceives its security in direct relation to regional security and European security.

6. The Republic of Bulgaria recognises that:

a) the end of the political and military confrontation has minimised the threat of a global nuclear conflict and major destructive military actions;

b) conditions have been created to globalise cooperation and interoperation, including the military field;

c) a new all-European security and defence architecture is taking shape based on NATO, the WEU and the EU with capabilities to meet the challenges and threats to international stability;

d) in most of South-Eastern Europe processes are underway to adopt European and Euro-Atlantic values in security and defence.

7. (Amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) The democratic changes and the definition of new foreign policy priorities, the relations with NATO nations as present partners and future allies, the cooperation within the Euro-Atlantic

Partnership Council, and most of all the prospects of NATO membership have led to a situation in which the Republic of Bulgaria does not perceive any country as an adversary.

8. The positive processes and trends are accompanied by the emergence and development of risks and threats, including military ones, which are wholly different in character to what has gone before.

9. Important elements of the military-strategic environment are such risks as the increasing number of states possessing, or developing, nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction; information warfare; policies of genocide towards ethnic minorities and religious entities; settlement of territorial and border disputes by means of military hostilities; armed secessionism; international terrorism, etc. Some of these are features of South-Eastern Europe where there are areas with a high degree of conflict and military tension, which under certain circumstances can evolve into threats to the national security of the Republic of Bulgaria.

10. For the Republic of Bulgaria, the main sources of military risk are the active and potential conflicts in various parts of the region. Its vicinity to conflict areas in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and Caucasus is a risk factor of terrorist acts against Bulgarian strategic facilities.

11. For the Republic of Bulgaria, the military-strategic environment is complicated also by its vicinity to areas threatened by:

a) illegal trafficking of arms and military materials related to armed extremism in various forms;

b) smuggling of technologies and products for production and use of weapons of mass destruction implying a threat of terrorism with nuclear, chemical, biological and missile assets;

c) growth of organised crime destabilising the political and economic situation;

d) likelihood of mass surges of refugees;

e) disintegration of statehood in some countries in the region as a result of internal political and economic collapse;

f) risk of trans-border environmental problems;

g) information risks and threats related to the transition towards an information society.

12. The Republic of Bulgaria does not face any immediate military threat. A war is not particularly likely to engage the entire region.

13. (Added - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) The Republic of Bulgaria takes into account the risks to its security and territorial integrity resultant from the destabilising effect of more limited military and/or armed formations and/or terrorist groups.

14. The Republic of Bulgaria assumes that it might be involved in a military-political crisis or military conflict primarily as a result of expansion or spread of a military or armed conflict close to its state border.

15. The Republic of Bulgaria views the military-political crisis as being related to inter-state relations, which pose military threat to its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

16. When there is a dangerous possibility of the Republic of Bulgaria being involved in a military-political crisis or military conflict, the military threat against the country can be manifested by coercion to make political, and other, decisions under the threat of use of military force; deliberate violations of the ground and sea borders and air space of the country, and conduct of repeated subversive and terrorist acts; systematic support by a foreign country or individuals for secessionist or terrorist organisations; creation of offensive groupings near the state border; conduct of information attacks against national strategic systems by a foreign state.

17.(Amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) Failure to contain a military-political crisis may lead to engaging the Republic of Bulgaria into a military conflict. It can have limited political goals and involve a certain region or one theater of military activities, while large-scale strategic military activities and full mobilisation on the part of the aggressor are with a little degree of probability. Such threats with a lower degree of probability are repelled by a mobilization of the Armed Forces appropriate in scale.

Goals, Principles And Approaches Of Defence Policies

18. (Amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) Defence policies aim at ensuring that, under the existing military-strategic environment, the Republic of Bulgaria possesses the necessary defence potential to neutralise military and/or terrorist threats and to reliably defend its population, facilities, its territorial integrity, and sovereignty. This status is a necessary condition to achieve the national ideals and to protect the vital interests of the country.

19. Defence policies are pursued in compliance with the Constitution and law of the Republic of Bulgaria, and are essential for its national security.

20. The Republic of Bulgaria pursues its defence policies through cooperation, integration, and long-term macroeconomic stabilisation and economic growth. The approaches to achieve its goals combine arrangements for active creation of a favourable international environment, for crisis management of various character, and for defence of the country.

21. In implementing its defence policies, the Republic of Bulgaria:

a) does not consider any nation as its adversary, and settles arising problems and contradictions threatening its sovereignty and territorial integrity with non-military means;

b) views its security and defence as related to the regional, European and Euro-Atlantic security and defence systems;

c) defines its partnership with, and membership in, NATO, the WEU and EU as a strategic priority for ensuring its national security and defence;

d) supports, and takes part in initiatives for disarmament and reduction of the military potentials;

e) is actively involved in international military and military-political cooperation, and contributes to strengthening peace and security in South-Eastern Europe and to shaping the new European and Euro-Atlantic security architecture;

f) reserves its right to seek allies and military assistance upon emergence of a threat to its territorial integrity and sovereignty;

g) supports the work of international organisations to preserve peace, and provides participation of Bulgarian servicemen and units in international military, humanitarian and verification missions compliant with the principles of the United Nations (UN).

22. The primary goals in the field of defence are as follows:

a) (amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) guarantee the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country against threats of military, armed and terrorist nature;

b) ensure favourable military-strategic and military-political conditions to guarantee national security;

c) prepare for and join international security and collective defence organisations, and participate in their work;

d) protect the population in times of natural disasters, industrial accidents, catastrophes and hazardous pollution in the country and abroad.

23. Military policies, as part of defence policies, determine the accomplishment of the above stated goals in the military field, by being aimed at:

a) prevention of coercive involvement of the country in military conflicts, and strengthening international peace and security;

b) creating conditions to ensure the sovereignty, security and independence of the country, and defend its territory with military assets;

c) accession in NATO and the WEU.

24. Military policies are guided by the principles of:

a) building national security without jeopardising the security of other states;

b) respecting the equal security right of each state as a prerequisite of common security;

c) maintaining a defence potential that is adequate to the military-strategic environment and the resource capabilities of the country, while strictly complying with international arrangements in this field;

d) optimal use of military, material and moral resources for defence of the state;

e) taking into account the geographic location, historic, demographic and other realities.

25. The establishment and activation of the Multinational Peace Force for South-Eastern Europe and other multinational forces is evidence of Bulgaria's

resolve and that of the states in the region to pursue policies of good neighbourliness and cooperation.

26. The Republic of Bulgaria considers its membership in NATO and the WEU as an opportunity to share the responsibility of democratic states in defending common values as a prerequisite and guarantee of a stable democratic development of the country and pursuit of effective defence policies.

27. The Military Doctrine reflects the political will to undertake all commitments deriving from future full membership in NATO, the EU and WEU, while the systematic preparation for that is defined as a military policy priority. The Republic of Bulgaria supports the enhancement of the European Security and Defence Identity.

28. In the interest of its integration policies, the Republic of Bulgaria exchanges information, including state and official secrets, with those countries and organisations with which it has signed agreements on mutual protection of classified information following a decision of the Council of Ministers.

29. In NATO and WEU-led operations other than war, in addition to contributing with its units, the Republic of Bulgaria can also participate with providing logistic and other support.

30. (Amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) The military policies support the efforts of the UN and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in the field of arms control, conflict prevention and restoration of peace. The Republic of Bulgaria views its participation with specially prepared military, police and other units in operations and missions of a different character as a long-term investment to ensure its own security and in fulfilling international commitments.

31. Military planning is aimed at: building up and maintaining an adequate defence potential and combat preparedness allowing for effective capabilities to deter and repel aggression; effective operation of the military components of the national crisis management system; participation in international initiatives for peace support and crisis prevention.

32. The responsive character of strategic and operational planning reflects the defensive essence of the Military Doctrine. This rules out the possibility that this country be the first to start hostilities in pursuit of aggressive goals.

33. The Armed Forces maintain readiness and resources for immediate action to protect the population and national infrastructure against natural disasters, industrial accidents and hazardous pollution of the environment. Provision of such assistance to foreign states as well is an important element of Bulgaria's policy of involvement in finding solutions to humanitarian crises.

Defence Of The Country

34. The defence of the Republic of Bulgaria is a system of activities to promote peace and security, to preserve the nation's human and material values

by keeping the economy, Armed Forces, people and defence infrastructure ready for action; it is also a system of activities to safeguard its territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty. It is an essential part of the national security system, and serves the efforts of integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic political, economic and military structures.

35. The defence of the Republic of Bulgaria is ensured through the building up and maintaining of an adequate defence potential and integrated defence planning in cooperation with NATO and the WEU.

36. The leadership and management of defence are administered by authorities and through procedures as set out by the Constitution and the laws of the country with the purpose of making effective use of defence resources in peacetime, in crisis management and during military conflict. The Council of Ministers organises, and the Ministry of Defence controls and coordinates the work of the system for early warning, rapid reaction and integrated defence planning.

37. The preparation of the country for defence encompasses a system of activities preparing the national economy, Armed Forces, population, and the territory of the country. It is implemented through:

a) drafting new and amending the existing regulative norms, concepts and defence plans to meet the requirements of the Military Doctrine and ensure interoperability with NATO, and applying them;

b) research and development activities;

c) building a unified system for information, security, early warning and management of the country and its Armed Forces;

d) unilateral provision of defence resources, and maintaining readiness for combat and mobilisation;

e) activities to protect the population and national economy.

38. The preparation of national economy in the interest of defence includes: development and execution of the military-technical policies of the State; elaboration and update of a General State Wartime Plan; coordination and management of the planning for transforming national economy branches from peacetime to wartime or another state of emergency.

39. The basis of the logistic support is the organised peacetime production of weapons, munitions, combat equipment, personal equipment and spare parts, as well as the construction and maintenance of capabilities for wartime operation of the national economy, national wartime reserve stocks and state reserves. These are established by a decision of the Council of Ministers following a proposal of the Minister of Defence. The norms and procedures of setting up, storage and use of reserves are outlined by the Law of State Reserve and Wartime Reserve Stocks.

40. The preparation of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria is a complex set of activities conducted under the leadership of the Ministry of Defence and the General Staff of the Bulgarian Army. It is part of the process of

their construction and development, and includes operational, combat and mobilisation preparations; planning of force employment; improvement of management and supply systems; command staff training; inspiring and maintaining patriotic motivation and morale.

41. The preparation of the population for the needs of defence includes: upholding national ethos; training of central and territorial administration personnel; drill training; building-up a mobilisation contingent; training for action in civil emergencies and territorial defence; treatment of wounded and sick people, and care for the military disabled and victims.

42. The preparation of the country's territory as a theatre of hostilities includes the activities of Ministries, of central and territorial administration and of the Armed Forces to construct and maintain the infrastructure for defence and civil protection: barracks, bases, posts, ports, airfields, ranges, communications, depots, etc. For the purposes of defence, the national infrastructure is being developed so as to be interoperable with NATO and the WEU.

43. The resource support of defence is a complex set of activities to provide the Armed Forces and the national economy with logistical, human and financial resources. Financial support of defence is executed through the defence budget, and in wartime through the wartime budget.

Employment Of The Armed Forces

44. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria are a basis of the country's defence. They ensure its sovereignty, security and independence, and protect its territorial integrity.

45. In the framework of national security policies, the Armed Forces discharge the following functions: deterring hostile attacks and defence, peacekeeping, humanitarian and search-and-rescue, integration and social.

46. The Armed Forces are an element of the Republic of Bulgaria's integration policy in European and Euro-Atlantic security organisations and for regional cooperation.

47. The Armed Forces are employed in accordance with procedures set out by the Constitution and the laws of the country, in: a) performing the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence as regulated in Article 51 of the UN Charter; b) complying with international legal commitments for the purposes of operations other than war; c) natural disasters, industrial accidents and hazardous pollution of the national territory and abroad; d) international legal arrangements and decisions of relevant authorities for interaction with NATO, the EU and the WEU.

48. In peace time, when there is no crisis, the Armed Forces:

a) build and maintain combat potential and combat readiness, adequate to the risks and threats of non-military character within the framework of the resources allocated to defence;

b) support the efforts of the State power to uphold peace, security and stability through the methods and forms of military co-operation;

c) implement programmes for reform, modernisation and interoperability with the Armed Forces of NATO partners by participating in bilateral and multilateral initiatives and military exercises;

d) participate in the establishment and use of multinational military formations;

e) participate in control activities on the implementation of international agreements and initiatives for strengthening and enlargement of the confidence and co-operation in the military field;

f) participate in the preparation of the population, national economy, war time reserves and the infrastructure of the country for defence ;

g) control air navigation and safeguard the air space of the country;

h) maintain readiness for humanitarian relief and rescue operations on the territory, and in the territorial waters of, the country and outside them in compliance with the national legislation and the international arrangements, to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party.

49. In peace time in cases of crisis of non-military character, the Armed Forces:

a) participate in the preventive and direct protection of the population in cases of threats or incidents, accidents and catastrophes.

b) assist, in compliance with the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Bulgaria, to the security services in their struggle against the proliferation of mass destruction weapons, illegal arms traffic, international terrorism, etc. ;

c) participate in the safeguarding of strategic sites and in operations to prevent international organised crime or terrorist activities, after it is required by the competent organs in the way defined by the legislation.

50. In peace time in cases of international humanitarian crisis, the Armed Forces participate with contingents in humanitarian and rescue operations. The units are re-deployed to the crisis area and carry out save-and-rescue, evacuation, restoration and other activities.

51. In the case of an international military political crisis, in compliance with the mandate given to the country, participate in peacekeeping operations and operations other than war.

52. In operations other than war, the allocated contingents are assigned to and participate in missions in compliance with the relevant agreements.

53. In operations other than war, the contingents of the Armed Forces apply specific forms and means of action in compliance with the approved terms of use of the Armed Forces.

54. The decisions for missions abroad within the framework of a mandate given by an international organisation with such prerogatives, by regular or especially established formations, are taken by the National Assembly upon the proposal of the Council of Ministers, when the missions are of military or

military political character. In other cases, the decision is taken by the Council of Ministers.

55. A Situation Centre in the MoD takes control of contingents during missions.

56. In the case of an escalating military political crisis and direct threats for the country, the Armed Forces support the efforts of the Government to settle the crisis and strengthen stability, and in compliance with the Constitutional and legislative order:

- a) activate the early warning, rapid reaction and control systems;
- b) the troops, deterrence and defence groups are adequately increased;
- c) conduct activities for the protection of troops and facilities.

57. The responsibilities of the state bodies, the central and territorial administration, the trading companies and organisational procedures in cases of crisis are regulated by law. In case of direct military threat or military conflict on the territory of the whole country, or part of it, a "state of war" or state of emergency are declared. The conditions and method of declaring a state of war or another state of emergency are stipulated by a law. When a state of war or a war are declared, or when combat activities commence, the defence and internal order of the country are led by the Supreme Command in Chief.

58. (Amended - State's gazette, issue 20, 2002) In case of a military conflict (war) against the Republic of Bulgaria, the Armed Forces repel the aggression the basic means in the initial period being the responding activities.

59. Combat activities on the territory of the country can start unexpectedly or through escalation of the military political crisis. In the case of an unexpected start of a military conflict, the troops and assets on duty, the control system, the rapid reaction forces and other formations start functioning.

60. When the conflict evolves, the Armed Forces increase their troops involved in combat, undertake operational and, if necessary, strategic deployment and, with active military activities, block any further invasion of the aggressor and, by decisive counteractions, restore the integrity of the state boundary.

61. The use of Armed Forces in a military conflict is based on the following principles: choice of military strategic goals in compliance with the political tasks and the existing potentials; response character of the military activities; launching initiatives in all types of situation; decisive concentration of the forces; preserving the combat readiness of troops and assets; economy of resources; promptness of reaction, taking of an active position and decisiveness, continuous co-ordination and control, logistics.

62. The Armed Forces undertake the defence of the country through the implementation of the military strategic concept for protection of national territory, fighting for information superiority, control over the air and sea space and defence of a threatened combat zone

63. Defence is the major part of the military activities of the Armed Forces. Apart from defence, on the strategic scale the counter offensive is used and on the operational and tactical scale - the counter attack and counter effort. Defence can be undertaken at the strategic, operational and tactical level, independently or within the framework of coalition groups.

64. In a military conflict the Armed Forces lead theater-of-war combat operations and tactical battles.

65. The Armed Forces plan, prepare and conduct defence operation on various directions in one theater-of-war.

66. The Armed Forces do their job independently or within the framework of multinational troops in compliance with national legislation and international agreements.

67. The President of the Republic is the Supreme Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria. When a state of war and military situation is declared, he commands the defence of the country and takes decisions for the use of the Armed Forces. Plans for the preparation and conduct of combat operations are developed by the Commander in Chief and are approved by the Supreme Commander in Chief.

68. In times of war, the Chief of the General Staff of the Bulgarian Army is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

69. (Amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) In the realization of their tasks, the Armed Forces provide the best defense within the framework of the necessary and really possible resources.

Build Up And Development Of The Armed Forces

70. The build up and development of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria are activities of the State and military leadership who should establish and maintain military strength capable of guaranteeing the defence of the country. This should be done through the approval of main principles, legal norms and plans for: the structural development; dislocation; training and education; recruitment; military service; mobilisation and demobilisation; combat and mobilisation readiness; generating reserve components and materials.

71. The Council of Ministers approves and leads the implementation of the plans and programmes for the build up and development of the Armed Forces.

72. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria are developed with the potential of conducting defence operations in one combat zone. The formation and command of defence groups for participation in operations other than war are done in compliance with the CJTF concept.

73. The build up of the Armed Forces is based on the following principles: scientific reasoning; centralisation and unity; interoperability; adaptability to the changing conditions; developing of unit modules; efficiency; sustainability;

prospectiveness; mobility and flexibility for multi-purpose usage; mixed principle of recruitment (both for career and conscript entrants); introducing contemporary military technologies; transparency to the society and partners; care for the health and life of servicemen and reservists.

74. (Amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002)The Armed Forces are built and developed in compliance with the role, missions and functions defined by the Constitution of the country, the National Security Concept and the Military Doctrine, thus the military and civilian personnel are united in optimal structures for training and usage, taking into account the specific capabilities the services, branches of services and special troops.

75. The Bulgarian Army is the basis for the defence potential of the country.

76. The peacetime location of the Armed Forces provides for the adequate reaction to a possible aggression from each direction in case of reliable information provision and guaranteed command in all types of situations. It excludes the destabilisation possibility of the military strategic and military political situation in the region.

77. The focus of the development of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria is building them as effective, comprising of modules, compact, flexible, prepared for combat, relatively independent and fully logistically sustained units, able to provide the defence of the country and be a partner in international peace support operations.

78. The Bulgarian Armed Forces are built for implementing different types of missions in national, joint and multinational operations with NATO forces.

79. The troops and assets of the Bulgarian Army are kept ready for immediate or gradual transition from peace into a state of war and achieving combat readiness, matching the military threat.

80. Separate formations can be included in multinational forces, established on a bilateral or multilateral basis.

81. The Bulgarian Army comprises of General Staff, Land Forces, Air Force, Navy, formations and centrally subordinated units.

82. The Land Forces are a branch which comprises of different units and special troops. In peacetime, they are in a permanent combat and mobilisation readiness and are trained for the conducting of swift manoeuvres and effective defence and operations other than war. In case of crisis, they are ready to generate the necessary contingents for operations other than war. In time of war, they respond to enemy attacks, and suppress actions in the zone of operations. With prompt actions and together with the Air Force and the Navy, the Land Forces destroy any enemy formations that have penetrated the country's territory and restore territorial integrity of the country.

83. The Air Forces is a branch which comprises of units of the tactical aviation, the air defence troops and others. In peacetime, they continuously control the observance of the flight regime and protection of the airspace of the Republic of Bulgaria, when required participate in contingents for operations

other than war. In time of war, independently or together with the other services, they carry out tasks related to: gaining and maintaining air superiority; air defence of troops and sites on the territory of the country; isolation of the region of combat activities; providing air support to the Land Forces and the Navy; air reconnaissance and special activities.

84. The Navy is a branch which comprises of different units and special troops. In peacetime, it maintains a favourable operational regime in the territorial waters of the Republic of Bulgaria. When required, navy contingents participates in different types of operations others than war. In wartime, independently or jointly, it responds to aggression from the sea, provides sea communications and supports the sea flank of the Land Forces.

85. (Amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) The troops and assets of the Bulgarian Armed Forces in accordance with the degree of manning are divided into Active Forces and Reserve Forces According to their future employment the Active Forces are divided into Deployment Forces and Basic defense forces. The Reserve Forces are divided into Augmentation Forces and Territorial Defense Forces.

86. (Amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) The Deployment forces include land forces, air force and navy component. These forces are built with capabilities to be transported by air, by land and/or by sea; they have a high degree of logistic autonomy; they are manned with professional personnel; they maintain high combat-readiness, survivability and interoperability. They are manned with no less than 90% of personnel and 100 % with armament and equipment and have materiel for independent logistic provision. A part of the Deployment Forces are assigned as Immediate Reaction Forces manned with 100% personnel, armament, equipment and materiel. They are built and prepared to be fully interpretable NATO Immediate Reaction Forces and Rapid Reaction Forces. In peace-time they participate in rescue and humanitarian operations, in peace support operations outside the territory of the country and struggle with armed terrorist groups.

87. (Amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) The basic defense forces include the Active forces - with the exception of the Deployment Forces. The Basic Defense Forces include formations from the Services manned up to 70 % but no less than 49% with personnel and 100% with armament and equipment.

88. (Amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) The Augmentation forces include formations from the Services having a low degree of manning and they are used to conduct the maintenance of the equipment and the armament at long term storage and to prepare reservists for all specialties envisioned for the personnel of the wartime formations.⁸⁹(Amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) For the Territorial Defense Forces, no peace-time personnel from the Bulgarian army is allocated. They are formed in wartime by a territorial principle. The formations of the Reserve Forces are manned by 80-100% with armament and equipment maintained at long-term storage.

89a. (New - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) The Basic Defense Forces within the Active Forces and the Reserve Forces form National Territory Defense Forces. When operations for the defense of the country are conducted all formations of the armed forces are included.

89 b. (New - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) The Reserve of the Bulgarian Army is intended to further man the peacetime and wartime personnel, for the deployment of wartime formations, and to maintain the manning at times of mobilizations, in the course of crises and military activities.

90. The military formations outside the Ministry of Defence are demilitarised and transformed into state enterprises by law. These enterprises maintain readiness and carry out some mobilisation and territorial defence functions in wartime.

91. By decree of the Council of Ministers, the Armed Forces generate, train and maintain ready to act contingents of troops and assets for participation in peacekeeping operations and operations other than war. Their personnel is selected on a volunteer principle and signs a special contract. They are provided with resources and equipment and are trained in a way that ensures inter-operability with NATO forces and which is in compliance with the requirements of the international organisation giving the mission mandate.

92. A centre for the development of inter-operability and a centre for the training of contingents to participate in operations other than war are established in the Ministry of Defence. The personnel who have attended such training are in the reserve and a special record.

93. Amended - State's Gazette, issue 20, 2002) The military strategic environment, the goals in the sphere of defence, the new missions and requirements for the Armed Forces, as well as the resources of the country, define the need of optimisation of the personnel of the Armed Forces, so that their manpower does not exceed 45 000 people in peace time. The transformation is done through a Plan for the organizational build up of the Armed Forces by the year 2004, and the professionalization of the armed forces will be completed by 2010. The mobilization plans of the Armed Forces are developed envisioning personnel up to 100 000 people.

94. The troops and assets are trained to realise tasks independently and within the framework of multinational forces of a temporary or permanent character.

95. In the training of troops and HQs, simulations and computer-assisted forms of training are used together with traditional methods. A priority in their training is foreign language learning to a level reaching NATO standards.

96. The recruitment and modernisation of the Armed Forces with contemporary samples of armament and equipment is done through special programmes, taking into account the requirements for inter-operability with NATO and in compliance with the resource capacities of the country.

97. A priority in the modernisation of the Armed Forces is that they have the control, command, surveillance, intelligence, communications, mutual

identification, computerisation, navigation, (including with airspace systems, means and technologies), that would enable interoperability with the Armed Forces of the NATO countries and take into account the country's transformation to an information society.

98. The principles of development of the Armed Forces are: 'reengineering' processes, consolidation of activities, getting rid of excess articles and non typical activities and introducing the principle of competition when assigning orders.

99. Human resources are the most important element of the Armed Forces. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria establishes conditions and guarantees to provide for the social and other needs of those citizens engaged in the Armed Forces, in accordance with the importance, complexity and difficulty of the defence goals realised by them, as well as the optimum capacities and conditions for social adaptation of those leaving the Armed Forces.

100. The Military Doctrine reiterates the will of the Republic of Bulgaria to fully contribute to regional and international security and to the recognition of the country as one of the key factors of stability in South Eastern Europe. On that basis, we are conducting our integration policy with NATO, the EU, and the WEU, with which the reform and modernisation of the Armed Forces are connected.

101. The clauses of this Doctrine are updated in parallel with the changes in the military political environment and military strategic visions. In case of Amendments to the Military Doctrine, corresponding changes are made in the documents, regulating the national defence and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria.