

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



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Notes

The role of the militaries in facing Non-traditional threats.

Non-traditional threats are not easy to define as the perception of the threat may differ from country to country and region to region. Surely these threats are more traditional than they appear. Eminent military Officers and philosophers throughout the centuries have contemplated the concept of non-traditional threats :

Sun TZU - Supreme excellence consists of breaking the enemies resistance without fighting...

Homer: Force vv cunning / Direct vv indirect Achilles and Odysseus (Mars and Minerva)

Clausewitz the trinity of Government, Army and People – greatest effect is through combined effort.

We then come to nowadays where countering non-traditional threats have become a priority in all relevant security and defence fora.

In the EU we have to bear in mind that countering non-traditional , or hybrid, threats is mainly a Member State responsibility. However the Council Of Ministers of foreign affairs last 18 May , in light of the increasing use of hybrid strategies and operations by state and non-state actors, notably in the immediate and wider EU neighbourhood, invited the High Representative to craft by the end of 2015 a joint framework with actionable proposals to help countering hybrid threats and foster the resilience of the EU and its Member States as well as partners.

The framework will take into account relevant work regarding cyber defence, early warning, strategic communications, relevant internal and external EU policies and assess the implications for capability development and the need to further strengthen the links between external and internal security.

The aim is to increase synergies in the EU response to priority horizontal issues such as terrorism, organised crime, foreign fighters, smuggling and trafficking in human beings, irregular migration, hybrid threats, border management, energy security and cyber security, taking into account i.a. the ongoing revision of the European Agenda for Security.

Where and how military expertise could have a role in tackling this issue?

Area : Understand vulnerabilities and build resilience

- Military non-executive Training, Mentoring and Advisory missions could have the effect not only to enhance a threatened state's capacities in important Security and Defence areas; Cyber and Space. There is a military dimension to both cyber defence and space that needs to be considered; expert advice from the Military should be contributed.
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence. The military has a great deal of experience and subject matter expertise which can be contributed in this area. This is an area that the military in fact could take a leading role.
- Contingency Planning. With considerable experience in planning the Military can offer advanced skills in contingency planning.
- Support to Border Control efforts.

Area : Improve Situational Awareness

EU Conflict Prevention through the Conflict Early Warning System:
Assessment of structural risks possibly triggering a violent conflict and military support to enhance the abilities to identify possible hybrid dimensions/scenarios.

Intelligence: Permanent Intelligence monitoring of crisis areas according to the EEAS Intelligence Priorities. Identification of actors, their intent/capabilities incl. hybrid

Area: Tailor responses

Response Forces. A credible capability to provide a conventional military intervention in a timely manner is significant when supporting a threatened state.

Area: Deterring Aggression.

- Exercising and Training. More generally the Exercise and Training area can be exploited in traditional fashion to send powerful supportive signals of solidarity with a threatened state. Timing and geographical location are key.

Area: Responding to attack.

- Response Forces. A credible capability to provide a conventional military intervention in a timely manner is significant when supporting a threatened state. The EU military has such a capability via CSDP mechanisms; BGs, Rapid Response etc.
- Non-Combatant Evacuation (NEO) Operations. On a smaller scale than that envisaged above one can imagine at time of crisis a conventional EU military force activated under a CSDP operation to undertake a NEO operation to evacuate EU citizens perhaps stranded in a crisis situation.
- Special Forces / Counter Intelligence. The EU military might contribute SOF capabilities in CSDP missions and more generally in counter terrorism/ counter intelligence efforts.
- Military Civil Defence Assets. EU's Civil Protection or Humanitarian Assistance mechanism/s, to which the military contribute effectively when activated.