

## SYNTHESIS

### **of the Habilitation thesis entitled *Communicative foundation of national security*, author: LtCol AssocProf Adrian LESENCIUC, PhD**

The thesis written for the purpose of achieving the Habilitation, entitled “*Communicative Foundations of National Security*”, belongs to the area of military sciences, intelligence and public order, and focuses on *Intelligence and National Security* and the fluctuating boundaries of these sciences when they intersect other scientific areas, especially the area of communication. By the current Habilitation thesis I aimed to value the necessary academic premises: scientific results, professional achievements and future directions of development able to outline and to recommend myself as a PhD supervisor under the auspices of the ‘Mihai Viteazul’ National Intelligence Academy.

My career and scientific results reflect the concern for understanding the current security environment, its openness for dialogue in dialogue with the external environment that summarizes a certain degree of interoperability and ability of the national security system to adapt itself to the current challenges, and implicitly, to adapt the needs for education to the new projective context of security culture. Therefore, the fundamental motivation of the academic development towards unification the areas of intelligence and national security, more precisely on the one hand, and of communication sciences, on the other hand, was that of a rigorous design of the graduate student, i.e. the starting point in the convergence of these two areas. Analyzing these formative fundamentals and taking into account my double specialization through doctoral studies, in military sciences and intelligence, respective in communication studies, I considered useful to focus through the current habilitation thesis on the topic *Communicative Foundations of National Security*. My professional and scientific achievements and my directions of career development justify this choice.

In summary, my teaching and research activity focuses on a large field of interest, providing ways of interconnections between seemingly dissonant areas that could intend efficiency in action in an integrated, synergistic manner. On the one side, the national security, including in its core the structures of defence, public order and intelligence, and in the peripheral areas the systems of education, health, economy, finance, environment and critical infrastructures, needs reinterpretation and adaptation of study based on ‘physiological’ reasons: the functionality of the critical communicative networks and flows, in order to

provide an integrated management and synergistic effects in security system. The analysis based on 'anatomic' structures – the analysis of different subsystems, components of national security system – is routinely done. The interconnections, the functionality, the modularity, and the flexibility are characteristics that are not usually subject of detailed analysis in within any depth research neither in doctoral studies, nor in postdoctoral ones. On the other hand, in a world where the national security means firstly the engagement on *soft* level, through the agency of political, economic, and/or symbolic powers, and after the engagement on *hard* level, as *ultima ratio* - use of the army (in collaboration with other components of national security system) for its coercive functions imposed by the force of weapons, the centre of gravity of national security system analysis cannot be its 'anatomic' structure, but its 'physiological' one. In this reality of national security system transformation into an organic and functional system, based on fluid communicative/informational flows, through this habilitation thesis – corollary of the research in this are in recent years – I intend to enlighten the 'physiology' of this system, based on my double specialization: 'military sciences and intelligence', and 'communication sciences'. The habilitation thesis aims at channelling the efforts on two main directions: communication fundamentals of security culture, and communication fundamentals of the national security and intelligence system. Also, the thesis aims at proving expertise in the general area of national security, and at focusing on its functionality according to the two major trends in the paradigm change: overall comprehension of national security system as organic and indivisible structure, for the engagement of its organic state and indivisibility, and shifting the emphasis from the actor, entity, structure on the functionality guaranteed by the communication/ information flows.

The first chapter highlights my most relevant scientific and professional achievements, starting from professional and scientific achievements in this area. Following my graduation from the "General Bungescu" Military Institute for Artillery and Anti-air Missiles, from Brasov, there were the post-graduate studies (Master's degree) in the field of *Communication and Public Relations*, at the NSPSA. In 2008 I competed for and won a seat at the doctoral school in the field of *Military Sciences and Intelligence* within the 'Carol I' National Defense University, from Bucharest. I completed my doctoral degree in 2011, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, when I defended my PhD thesis *The Development of Intercultural Communicative Competence in Romanian Officers Participating in Peacekeeping Operations*. In 2010, I competed for and won a seat at the doctoral school affiliated to the NSPSA, in the field of Communication Sciences. I completed my doctoral studies in this field in 2014, the 19<sup>th</sup> of

March, with my PhD thesis *Patterns of Intercultural Communication within the Romanian Village*. I was conferred the scientific title of Doctor in *Communication Sciences* through an Order issued by the delegated Minister for Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Development no. 377/15.07.2014. The PhD thesis was published in 2015 at the Romanian Academy Publishing House.

Following the completion of my doctoral studies in *Military sciences and intelligence*, I continued my activity as a Higher Education teaching officer at the Air Force Academy, I published books and chapters in books, both in Romania and abroad, I published scientific papers and I defended scientific papers at international conferences, I was a member of the scientific committees of some relevant Romanian publications and the member of the scientific committees of some conferences organized in Romania and abroad, including an academic organization specialized in organizing conferences, Global Academic Network. My professional prestige resulted in my professional recognition and affiliation to scientific fora, among which the European Society for Transcultural and Interdisciplinary Dialogue (ESTIDIA), Malmö, Sweden, in 2012 (founding member) should be mentioned. At the Air Force Academy I competed for and won the didactic positions up to the Associate Professor position, which I currently occupy. I am also the Chair of the Academic Senate. In 2014 I was appointed coordinator of the Master's study program *Security of the Airspace*.

The topic of the current Habilitation thesis is focused on studying the interaction area of the fields of intelligence and national security and communication sciences, as follows: at MA degree: *The National Security System, The Influence of Mass-Media on the Security System and Informational warfare*; at BA degree: *Theory of Communication and Public Relations and Fundamentals of Military Art*. Benefitting from a double expertise in these two fields and implicitly, from a dual formation, as a professor and an officer, I managed to create consistent interdisciplinary connections. Most of my scientific papers are placed at the interaction zone of these two fields of knowledge and this reality constitutes the strongest feature of my entire professional activity. The topics of my didactic career until this moment may fall under specific nuclei, or, diachronically looking at them, under two main research axes: 1. *the axis of studies regarding the forming and development of interpersonal/intercultural communicative competence in Romanian graduate students of the national system of security*, which I will further refer to as the *Communicative foundations of security culture*, and 2. *the axis of studies regarding the communicative foundations of the national*

*security system*, which I will further refer to as *Communicative foundation of the national security and intelligence system*.

Based on these axes, the scientific achievement in this field were summarized in the first chapter, as follows:

#### 1.2.2 communicative foundations of security culture

1.2.2.1 the projective framework of security culture; from identity fundamentals to communicative fundamentals: A. identity fundamentals; B. professional fundamentals; C. communicative foundations

1.2.2.2 the development of communicative competence within national security high education; A. the interpersonal communicative competence design in the model of the graduate student; B. the communicative competence design as *transferable skill*; confirmations of previous researches; C. the extension of the interpersonal communicative competence to the intercultural communicative competence;

#### 1.2.3 communicative foundation of the national security system

1.2.3.1 communicative foundations of influence operations: A. the normative framework of mass-media operations; B. the convergence area of military and media logics: mediation through intelligence; C. from the discursive engagement to the possibility of setting up an *intelligence of redundancy*

1.2.2.2 communicative foundations of the informational warfare

1.2.2.3 communicative foundations of the contemporary warfare: A. the new framework of defining conflictuality; B. for a communicative foundation of security;

In a nutshell, the most important achievements in relation to this projection of my research, bring in the foreground some premieres within the Romanian academic environment, of international fame, among which: a cartography of communication theories and models relative to epistemological basis; projection of and completion of the first ample study with regard to the ethnic, professional and communicative profile of the graduate students within national security high education; analysis of activating/inhibiting factors of intercultural communication during peacekeeping operations; projection of the development

of interpersonal and intercultural communicative competence through a judicious projection of the finalities of education (reality confirmed by later practice), respectively, through continuing education courses; organization of the first conference under this profile, in Romania - *Redefining Community in Intercultural Context* – (all evaluated editions, 2011-2014, indexed in Thomson Reuters data base), now at its fourth edition; communicative substantiation of joint operation and of military art; placing together the main research axes in a synthesis paper related to the communicative foundations of military sciences, widely visible within the international academic environment.

The career advancement and development plan is organized in accordance with two directions: directions regarding the advancement perspectives and academic and professional development, and directions regarding the innovative research in the area of intelligence and national security. The perspectives of academic and professional development are configured in relation with three personal development objectives: continuing education and adjustment to the latest research in the field of study and other connected areas; diversification of didactic methods and strategies and their adjustment to the proposed themes, respectively, the perpetuation of good professional relationships with students, the students' guidance throughout their didactic activities and academic research and the achievement of performance at both national and international levels. The academic and professional development involves six further directions of development, among which I would mention: the continuous cognitive and pedagogical development; the upgrading of academic courses and proposals for new ones; the analysis of the proposal opportunity for new study programs; the continuation of cooperation with the teaching staff and researchers in the area of intelligence and national security and communication so as to consolidate a professional community; the optimization of research results dissemination and initiation and development of new scientific research projects, with national and European financing, so as to converge the main research direction toward the interference area of intelligence and national security and communication.

In what concerns the directions of innovative research, I have established a series of objectives on short, medium and long terms. On a short term basis, I intend, in what concerns the axis *Communicative foundations of security culture*, to publish a book treating the elements of nonverbal communication, useful in collection (and subsequent interpretation) of unintended nonverbal data, using human being as a platform for gathering data (HUMINT), a scientific tool with practical application in military intelligence. Regarding the axis *Communicative foundation of the national security system*, I intend first to publish the course

notes entitled *The national security system*, useful for the homonymous course from the MA study program *Security of the Airspace* at 'Henri Coandă' Air Force Academy. At the same time, I intend to design, based on the requirements of "physiological" order of national security system adaptation to challenges and transformations of the current informational environment, an outline of communicative flows, starting with the requirements of response in crisis or conflict situations. On a medium term basis, I intend to continue the research directions development, so as to be able to achieve a communication course centred on the national security system, with the necessary openness toward the intercultural communicative competence, and to extend the research in the field of communicative foundations of military actions, in order to design the first coherent and complex study with regard to the communicative foundations of joint operations. On a long term basis (15 to 20 years), I aim to put together the two research axes within an ample work on the topic of communication within the national security system, able to become a unifying theoretical frame for the interference zone of intelligence and national security and communication sciences, for an accurate deepening of the issue, for continuous updating and organizing actions to prove the interest of both the theoretical foundation and of research from simple inferences arising from professional working experience. The quality of Habilitated doctor can facilitate the achievement of these goals through organizing teams of young researchers, interested in the area of the previously mentioned scientific domains, and can provide the possibility to future PhD students to benefit from my experience in theoretical mapping of communication. My double specialization through my studies and my professional activity could offer the possibility to access the research both of the entire system (the national security system) through a comprehensive and synthetic perspective, rather analyzed at the level of its components structures than based on its organic physiology, and of the areas of continuous interference between different domains, focusing on the military intelligence.

The validity of the research that has been carried out, its scientific relevance and the prestige that I achieved after the dissemination of my research results, to which the relevance of objectives related to the career advancement and development, are significant arguments in rapport with my aim to obtain the habilitation certificate, which, in its turn may constitute the impulse for the further accomplishment of the necessary synergy for achieving the research objectives, the innovative development and theoretical integration of studies in the interference zone of military sciences, intelligence and public order / intelligence and national security and communication sciences.