

**HEADQUARTERS MULTINATIONAL CORPS SOUTH-EAST
LOCAL IMPLICATIONS IN SIBIU**

Abstract:	<p><i>NATO is the most enduring and successful military alliance in history, which has ensured peace in Europe and North America for nearly 70 years. As we witness some of the most tumultuous changes since the end of the Cold War, NATO is undoubtedly more important than ever. The interconnected nature of these challenges in an unpredictable security environment reminds us that nations alone cannot solve these problems.</i></p> <p><i>Due to the need for more in-depth research and due to our military past, we will try to develop the idea that in the near future we will have a 3-star NATO Command in Sibiu, which is why we chose this topic. Given that it is an ongoing action, the materials can be found online, often referring to the sources of official sites.</i></p>
Keywords:	Sibiu; NATO; investment; security
Contact details of the authors:	E-mail: dumitru.dumitrascu@ulbsibiu.ro
Institutional affiliation of the authors:	Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu Department of International Relations, Political Science and Security Studies
Institutions address:	550324 Sibiu, Romania, Calea Dumbrăvii nr. 34 Tel. / Fax: +40-269-422169

Mobilizing institutions locally

On 21 of May 2020, the Romanian Government approved a project of the Ministry of National Defense which specifies that the headquarters of the NATO South-East Multinational Corps Command will be built in Sibiu, the investment being estimated at over 500 billion lei and the allocation of funds and its construction will extend over a period of 4 years. The Government adopted, in this sense, a Decision of the economic indicators of the investment objective in the construction of the infrastructure necessary for the Command of the South-East Multinational Corps in the 562 Sibiu barracks.

The President of Romania Klaus Iohannis specified that in accordance with the provisions of art. 3, of Law no. 291/2007¹ on the stationing, entry, operation or transit of NATO allied armies on Romanian territory, updated, at the request of the Minister of National Defense with the agreement of the CSAT, wishes to propose to the Romanian Parliament to approve the establishment of the Southeast Multinational Corps Command under the name of Headquarters Multinational Corps South-East (HQ MNC-SE), as a military unit, on the Romanian territory, in the Sibiu garrison, with the temporary location in Bucharest until the completion of the construction works of barracks 562 and the related annexes from a logistical point of view. By completing the objective of allocating funds for modernization and real estate construction, the agreed basis will be ensured for the development under the conditions imposed by NATO standards of command and control activities in the Black Sea region.

In accordance with our NATO defense and security doctrine, in accordance with the treaties to which Romania is a party, there must always be a middle ground where the two can win. Given the geographical position vis-à-vis the Black Sea and our position in relation to NATO, Romania will host one of the most important strategic points in the region, a 3-star command that will serve security in this region.

Reaching a consensus between the two sides, the decision was made for the new NATO structure to be established on the Romanian territory, in Sibiu, a city with a long military tradition. The Romanian Government has decided to establish the Command of the South-East Multinational Corps (Headquarters Multinational 2 of 8 South-East Corps / HQ MNC-SE).

At the Brussels Summit in 2018, Romania expressed its desire to host on its territory a ground command at the level of an army corps. Based on this decision, the Supreme Council of National Defense (CSAT)² approved its construction. The command will be able to fulfill the mission of coordinating in time of peace or war the NATO member military forces that will be directly subordinated to this structure. This HQ is competent to lead in operations all forces under direct subordination either Romanian or foreign military according to the NATO protocol.

The Minister of National Defense, Nicolae Ciucă, had a discussion with Mark Esper, the Minister of Defense of the USA, about the increase of the presence of the American military on the Romanian territory, in the idea of the new NATO structure that will take place in Sibiu. Being of great importance for security on the eastern flank of NATO, the Southeast Multinational Corps from Sibiu must ensure, together with HQ MND S-E and MNBDE-SE, thus increasing the level of security in the Black Sea region.

¹ *Law on the entry, stationing, conduct of operations or transit of foreign armed forces on the territory of Romania*, <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/86736>, (09.08.2020)

² Consiliul Suprem de Apărare a Tării, <https://csat.presidency.ro/>, (29.05.2020)

The project will be estimated to build on an area of about 5 hectares. By materializing the real estate investment project, constructions proposed for consolidation and rehabilitation, there will also be new constructions, strategically positioned, but also the need to modernize the infrastructure to ensure operation at the highest NATO standards, while respecting the rules and legislation in force.

The level of finishes and endowments of each building will be at the highest standards imposed by NATO, and the project will include construction of new buildings, demolition, access roads, modernization of the water / sewerage network, their diversion where appropriate, as you can see Calea Dumbrăvii, where the modernization work has already started.

The headquarters of HQ MNC-SE will operate inside Cazărmi 562¹ Sibiu located on Calea Dumbrăvii Street no. 28-32 and being a former military unit, it benefits from all the connections necessary for the renovation and prior operation. Also, the land lease contracts from the former helicopter unit (UM 1989) also known as the 58th Sibiu Helicopter Air Base on the Alba Iulia road that were given for use to private economic agents will return to the possession of the Ministry of National Defense and will be proceeds to the demolition and redevelopment of the premises to accommodate the staff that will serve HQ MNC-SE.

Aeroportul Internațional Sibiu va necesita o transformare, mai exact un terminal militar necesar zborurilor cu profil militar, totodată fiind nevoie de un regim special aferent transporturile cu nivel de risc ridicat cum ar fi documente clasificate, armament, etc. Acesta zonă Cargo va fi posibilă datorită implicării Consiliului Județean care va aloca fondurile necesare construirii terminalului.

The contribution of the local administration: City Hall, Prefecture, County Council

From the perspective of local authorities, they are involved from a logistical and financial point of view with the support of the Romanian Government in terms of funding and directions to be followed. The Ministry of National Defense is involved from a military point of view, providing security, logistics and know-how for setting up such a major project.

Each local authority makes collective and sustained efforts to meet the deadlines imposed by NATO, while not compromising on the quality of work. Sacrifices will be made, infrastructure will be modified, buildings will be demolished on the properties and lands of the Ministry of National Defense rented to commercial agents, new buildings will be built, current constructions will be renovated, but last but not least the airport will adapt to NATO requirements and standards. a new cargo terminal will materialize once the works are completed.

Head of NATO HQ MNC-SE Command, Gen. Mr. Tomiță-Cătălin Tomescu, returned to the city to meet with the representatives of the local

¹ Școala Militară de Maiștri Militari și Subofițeri pentru Comunicații, tehnologia Informației și Apărare Cibernetică, <https://www.smcis.ro/index.php/desprenoi/desprenoi>, (06.06.2020)

authorities, before completing the transfer of the headquarters of the Command to the Barracks 562.

The mayor of Sibiu Astrid Fodor, the president of the Sibiu County Council Daniela Cîmpean and the prefect of Sibiu county Mircea Crețu talked with Mr. Gender. Mr. Tomescu on “the implications on the local community, from a socio-economic point of view, of the presence of a NATO command, identifying opportunities for cooperation at local level and establishing the necessary measures to complete the body infrastructure works and to integrate as quickly as possible in the Sibiu community both of the Romanian and foreign military personnel who will hold positions in HQ MNC-SE, as well as of their family members”¹.

After a thorough analysis, it was concluded that there are several important points of setting up the command in Sibiu. It is about a few hundred people, officers, non-commissioned officers, who will work with their families in the locality. Work on the headquarters requires the support of local authorities. The activity of the command, a real self-sustaining city will need good collaborations with local and private institutions in Sibiu.

At the meeting on 02.02.2021, the authorities offered the public a date when this HQ MNC SE will become operational in Sibiu: in 2021. This aspect should be noted and suggests that by the end of this year it should be operational in Calea locations. Dumbrăvii and Str. Swimming School. At meetings with Mrs. mayor, mr. the prefect and the president of the County Council also participated Gen. Br. Ghiță Bârsan, the commander of the “Nicolae Balcescu” Land Forces Academy in Sibiu, who will be the main partner of HQ MNC S-E, in Sibiu, as well as other heads of the Sibiu institutions with which the Ministry of National Defense will collaborate.

According to the prefect Mircea Crețu², following the meetings with the commander of HQ MNC-SE, Gen. Mr. Tomiță-Cătălin Tomescu, reconfirmed his position and that of the institution he leads and gave assurances again that everything will be operational within the deadlines set in the contracts concluded by the Ministry of National Defense and local authorities. At the same time, Mr. Crețu stressed that it is an honor to have MNC-SE HQ in Sibiu, which is currently the newest corps command that will be part of the NATO military structure. "The command is currently going through the development stages in order to reach the initial operational capability (IOC) according to NATO standards, in order to be able to defend and discourage any aggression against the Alliance in the region”³.

¹ Mediafax, *Discuții despre condițiile necesare dilcocării structurii militae a NATO la Sibiu*, <https://www.mediafax.ro/justitie/discutii-despre-conditiile-necesare-dislocarii-structurii-militare-a-nato-la-sibiu-in-acest- an-19895438>, (12.04.2021)

² *Prefectura Sibiu*, <https://sb.prefectura.mai.gov.ro/media/presa/page/61/>, (02.02.2021)

³ Mediafax, *Discuții despre condițiile necesare dilcocării structurii militae a NATO la Sibiu*, <https://www.mediafax.ro/justitie/discutii-despre-conditiile-necesare-dislocarii-structurii-militare-a-nato-la-sibiu-in-acest- an-19895438>, (12.05.2021)

CSAT estimates that from September 2021, HQ MNC-SE should start its activity in the permanent location in Sibiu. Mayor Fodor stated during the same meeting: “We all want Sibiu to be as well prepared as possible for the integration of Romanian and foreign military personnel who will be in positions in this Command, as well as their families. Equally, we expressed during the discussions the entire openness of Sibiu City Hall in terms of collaboration with the leadership of the Command of the South-East Multinational Corps”¹.

Sibiu, security beneficiary, regional security provider

With a number of 12 active military units, the Sibiu garrison carries out complex activities of training and preparation of military personnel, but also of coordination, command and control of military activities of high interest carried out in the area, in partnership with international structures.

At the same time, the strategic importance of the area, expected to emerge as an important command and control center between both national and foreign military structures, especially from NATO member countries, recommends the achievement of objectives that meet the operational requirements imposed by concluded cooperation treaties at the international level, designed to increase NATO's regional security.

Based on Law no. 346/2006² on the organization and functioning of the Ministry of National Defense, republished, and of Law no. 415/2002 on the organization and functioning of the Supreme Council of National Defense, with subsequent amendments, as well as the international commitments assumed by Romania, the Ministry of National Defense elaborated the proposal to establish on the Romanian territory a multinational command and control capacity in the field will be made available to NATO.

After completing all that means infrastructure and logistics in terms of modernization and construction for the locations that will serve the Command, we will move to the operationalization of HQ and we will see a real show of strength in relation to troop movements in the Black Sea region . This Command will play a very important role in the Eastern European region, being a good standard of surveillance for everything that means tracking the strategic movements of the Russian Federation, currently the biggest threat in the area.

Given the unstable situation in our region and the paradigm shifts in our area of interest, we can say that once operational this Command will be a point of reference in terms of security and strategic security. The construction of such a structure inside the country will have a major influence in the geopolitical sphere, although this command is faster to react than a full force such as the one in Izmir, will have the unconditional support of other HQs in the immediate vicinity.

¹ Mediafax, *Pregătiri pentru deschiderea Comandamentului NATO la Sibiu*, <https://www.mediafax.ro/justitie/pregatiri-pentru-deschiderea-comandamentului-nato-la-sibiu-19898986>, (02.05.2021)

² *Legea nr. 346/2006*, <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/73882> (15.06.2021)

The decision to build the Sibiu Command was made possible by the decision of the Supreme Council of National Defense under the name of the Command of the South-East Multinational Corps by the Decision of the C.S.A.T. no. S-131 of 11.12.2018, according to Memorandum no. I.S. 1339 of 27.11.2018¹.

The place where the physical headquarters will be located will be in the former Barracks 562 and will undergo a total modernization process to accommodate its new "tenants" within the HQ MNC S-E. At the end of the renovation works, this building must meet all the requirements and standards imposed by NATO, information security being at the forefront.

The Brussels summit predicted the location of the new NATO HQ and since then the authorities have started preparing the ground, this showed that Sibiu is quite receptive to host this 3-star Command. One of the decisive factors in choosing Sibiu was the impeccable organization of the 2019 EU Summit. This was the decisive moment when the city showed that it is able to organize itself impeccably, without incidents and with a very high level of security.

For starters we can talk about the military tradition of the city, which was a strong point in making the decision to accommodate HQ MNC SE, geographical position, where we can say that the city is well "guarded", framed in the Carpathian arch, the highway that makes connection with Western Europe and also Sibiu is an economically developed and stable city.

The benefits that the city will benefit from are unlimited, from the development of infrastructure to the provision of new jobs both in the military and in the civilian area for service providers, thus raising the economy in these sectors that have been hard tried lately.

Although the study is in its infancy, we can analyze the variables and conclude that in terms of security and safety, the town will have the same level as it had in May 2019, a stability and balance unmatched so far in Romania. This can only make the city happy and develop new capabilities.

Considering the multitude of military units with multiple purposes and specializations that are located on the territory of Sibiu County, we can say that a large part of the needs are covered from a tactical and logistical point of view.

This chapter is the strength of the paper and requires a brief from the perspective of security and local economy, analyzing the working hypotheses I want to make a projection of data already public and I will use a SWOT analysis to propose recommendations on how to actions must be taken. At the same time, I wanted to emphasize the importance of this operation in our city, offering a possibility of development at the local level and not the name, being a source of military security in the Eastern region of Europe. This HeadQuarter (HQ) also

¹ *Nota de fundamentare, HG nr. 403/21.05.2020, pentru aprobarea indicatorilor tehnico-economici ai obiectivului de investiții Realizare infrastructură necesară Comandamentului Corpului Multinațional de sud-est în cazarma 562 Sibiu, <https://gov.ro/ro/print?modul=subpagina&link=nota-de-fundamentare-hg-nr-403-21-05-2020>, (28.06.2020)*

entails a real opportunity to develop the economic zone from the small businesses that serve the Military Units to the infrastructure, which will need to be modernized according to the standards of the Alliance.

Variables 1. -The capacity of the city of Sibiu to accommodate and make available the location for HQ MNC-SE

- Infrastructure and security of the region, logistical access to the locality.
- Involvement of local authorities - Prefecture, City Hall

Variables 2. - The capacity of the Ministry of National Defense to budget the investments necessary for the development of the HQ MNC-SE.

- Increasing security measures in the county
- Proper management of security-guard and defense systems.

Hypothesis 1. Local management and the involvement of local authorities in accommodating HQ MNC-SE from a logistical point of view is imperative to meet the NATO deadline, both in terms of housing and infrastructure.

Hypothesis 2. The allocation of money from the state budget in order to modernize the building on Calea Dumbrăvii, as well as the construction of new buildings and annexes in order to accommodate the new Command. Increasing and implementing security measures in the locality and beyond.

1. These data show the need for the local authorities to compete in completing the works on time and to modify the infrastructure in the locality in order to facilitate access to the area.

2. We note that at NATO level the security requirements and rigors for the establishment of the new HQ MNC-SE are at the highest standards and must be fully complied with.

Hypothesis 1. The interdependence between the variables is represented by the need for some to develop their efforts at local level and the collaboration of the Romanian state with the local authorities, so that the works do not exceed the imposed deadline and the modernization works are at the highest standards. .

Hypothesis 2. The need to collaborate with NATO for the development in the area of Sibiu County of security hubs in order to defend the integrity of HQ MNC-SE, at the same time ensuring the infrastructure and access by land and air in the area.

Hypothesis 1. The budget allocated from the local level for the completion of the renovation of the already existing locations is approximately 462 million lei, without VAT, the works having a completion deadline in 2021. The locations where the buildings that will serve the new HQ MNC-SE will be located are provided by the Municipality of Sibiu and the Ministry of National Defense.

Hypothesis 2. NATO will make an important contribution to the development budget in the Sibiu area, out of the need to accommodate the area for the implementation of physical, military, cyber security measures, etc. At the same time we can relate to the fact that we can talk about an economic development considering the fact that about 1000 soldiers will come to the area, the need to ensure their welfare and the allocation of their personal services.

Hypothesis 1. Analyzing the data we managed to gather shows the need for local authorities to get involved with all the resources that can be allocated to the development of the city, in terms of logistics and infrastructure, as well as the allocation of human resources to serve the new jobs that will be created with the arrival of HQ MNC-SE in Sibiu. It will be necessary to rethink access to the area, the need to develop the transport of logistics materials, personnel and services for command employees.

Hypothesis 2. Close collaboration between Romania and NATO for the establishment and implementation of the new security measures required after the installation of HQ MNC-SE, being imperative to build a regional security strategy from all points of view, from the physical security of the personnel serving the command until data protection. Supporting the ideologies and operating principles of the MNC-SE HQ are necessary to establish security on NATO's SE flank. The possibility of stability in the SE region and the establishment of defense criteria and assurance of allies that Romania is the strategic ally on which NATO can rely.

<p>Internal environment (+)</p>	<p>(CAPABILITIES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Romania's capacity to manage the necessary level of security - MApN has the resources to support the development of HQ MNC-SE - Accommodation HQ MNC-SE in Sibiu, a town with a rich military history - Access to the locality is via motorway, international airport 	<p>(OPPORTUNITIES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New security systems in the locality - Economic development of Sibiu County - Infrastructure development - Creation of new jobs in the military/civilian field - Financial support from NATO 	<p>External environment (+)</p>
<p>Internal environment (-)</p>	<p>(VULNERABILITIES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traffic in the area is overcrowded - Local budget for small infrastructure - Lack of surveillance systems 	<p>(THREATS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terrorist attacks - Cyber attacks - Threats from the Russian Federation 	<p>External environment (-)</p>

Conclusions

It should be noted that the action to activate HQ MNC SE in Sibiu is in full swing at the time of this research and it should be noted that the analytical product is intended to be a future projection of public data analysis for the new entity NATO in the city of Sibiu.

From a military point of view, Sibiu is ready to face this challenge, the Command having the capacity to increase physical security in the region, but especially in the locality, the infrastructure is already under scrutiny and some aspects related to traffic in the area will be improved.

From an economic point of view, the Government has allocated the necessary sums of money for the renovation modernization/construction of the buildings that will serve this Command.

From the perspective of the new challenges, one aspect to be mentioned as a recommendation for Sibiu is the fact that with the beginning of the activities on Romanian territory of the Command, the safety and security of citizens will increase, but also will increase the threats that the city does not. It was common. The monitoring/surveillance/public surveillance measures, organized by the Sibiu City Hall towards a “safe-city” will contribute to the physical security of the citizens. Like any HQ entity, MNC S-E will be a brand in Sibiu, which will favor a wider dynamics of several sectors, being a vector of credibility with objective and subjective nuances. The military command sector will experience a gradual increase, but also that of military education.

We consider that such an honor and such a privilege in terms of landing this Command on the territory of Romania can only bring added value to this locality, given the critical period we have gone through due to the global health crisis. The challenges at the local level will barely make their presence felt, but what we see so far is that the authorities are mobilizing and doing everything possible to reset the deadlines.

According to official sources from the Ministry of National Defense, we can say that the development of the airport in Sibiu is underway, where a strict terminal will be set up for military use, also in the Dumbrava forest blocks of flats will be built to accommodate the staff that will serve HQ MNC SE.

Our safety and security as inhabitants of the city will increase, the entrances and exits in the locality being carefully monitored considering the level of security that will be mandatory in case of an objective of such strategic importance. Since the threats constantly exist, we cannot talk about a precedent where such a Command has been physically attacked, but we can refer to another kind of cyber or espionage threats, where in this case our secret services will have to intervene.

Bibliography

Books

1. Bădălan, Eugen, Teodor Frunzeti, *Forțe și tendințe în mediul de securitate european*, Editura AFT, Sibiu, 2003

2. Chifu, Iulian, *NATO- New Strategic Concept, Romanian Approach*, Centrul pentru prevenirea conflictelor și early warning, București, 2010
3. Chirieac, Bogdan, *Romania în NATO: de la Madrid la București*, Historia, București, 2008
4. Morgenthau, J. Hans, *Politica între națiuni. Lupta pentru putere și lupta pentru pace*, Polirom, București, 2007
5. Tudor, Radu, *NATO. 70 de ani de apărare și securitate euro-atlantică*, Meteor Press, București, 2019
6. Walt, Stephen M., *Origins of Alliances*, Institutul European, Iasi, 2008.
7. Waltz, Kenneth N., *Omul, statul și războiul*, Institutul European, Iasi, 2001

Documents

8. Memorandumul nr. I.S. 1339 din 27.11.2018, *Alocarea bugetului pentru HQ MNC S-E*
9. Manulaul NATO, *Office of Information and Press NATO* , Brussels, 2001.
10. Rezoluția 1244, *Privind principiile, prioritățile și condițiile cuprinse în Parteneriatul european cu Serbia, inclusiv Kosovo, Consiliul de Securitate al Națiunilor Unite rezoluția 1244*

Legislation

11. Legea nr. 291/2007, *Privind intrarea, staționarea, desfășurarea de operațiuni sau tranzitul forțelor armate străine pe teritoriul României*, 2 noiembrie 2007
12. Legea nr. 346/2006, *Privind organizarea și funcționarea Ministerului Apărării Naționale*, 21 iulie 2006
13. Legea nr. 362/2004, *Aderarea României la Acordul dintre statele părți la Tratatul Atlanticului de Nord cu privire la statutul forțelor lor*, 8 septembrie 2004
14. Legea nr. 415/2002, *Privind organizarea și funcționarea Consiliului Suprem de Apărare a Țării*, 27 iunie 2002
15. Legea nr. 6/2017, *Bugetului de stat pe anul 2017*, 16 februarie 2017

Websites

16. www.agerpres.ro
17. www.anaf.ro
18. www.caleaeuropeana.ro
19. www.consilium.europa.eu
20. www.csat.presidency.ro
21. www.defenseromania.ro
22. www.dw.com
23. www.eulex-kosovo.eu
24. www.europarl.europa.eu
25. www.forbes.com
26. www.gov.ro
27. www.legislatie.just.ro

28. www.mae.ro
29. www.mapn.ro
30. www.mediafax.ro
31. www.militarytimes.com
32. www.mndse.ro
33. www.monitorulapararii.ro
34. www.nato.int
35. www.nfiu.ro
36. www.profit.ro
37. www.sb.prefectura.mai.gov.ro
38. www.senat.ro
39. www.sibiu100.ro
40. www.smcis.ro
41. www.stirileprotv.ro