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MiG-21 LanceR aircraft on air-policing mission.

Trends in this field include:

- Lowering protection, as a result of new technologies, which allows enemies to reach across geographical boundaries.
- Raising danger of regional conflicts, as a result of WMD and ballistic missile technology development.
- Raising asymmetric threat.
- Increasing danger from ungoverned areas or unreliable political regimes that support terrorist networks.
- Spreading power and military capabilities to fundamentalist non-state actors, who support world terrorism.
- Continuing difficulty to foresee possible locations of future conflicts.

Defence policies and strategies need to be adapted. The force planning process in the ROU AF will be based on both Joint and specialised role concepts as well as on NATO recommendations

considering the role structure at an inter-allied level. The specialising fields must be identified according to commitments and the way they are included in Romania's Reform Planning, with a view to meeting the requirements of the *Prague Capabilities Commitment* NATO initiative.

Given that there is no major territorial threat to Romania and its allies, wider security risks drive ROU AF transformation. Besides terrorism, the current range of risks includes human and weaponry trafficking, an acute state of regional instability, illegal migration, civilian emergencies, WMD proliferation and the means to use them. Determinations imposed by threats, as well as current and future risks, demand the following capability requirements:

- Fast deployment of forces including the means for their self-support in a limited time-frame.

- Ensuring multidimensional protection for own forces against all threats, including NBC.
- Interoperability with Allied Forces.
- Ensuring optimum capabilities based on full options analysis in time.

The Romanian Air Force Requirements

This assessment of the transformation process leads to deductions about the ROU AF capability requirements:

- A lower number of Air Force structures, but with increased action capabilities and full interoperability with those capabilities of the NATO member countries.
- Larger air coverage for the Alliance mission spectrum, according to the Prague Capabilities Commitments, which includes the fight against terrorism and the associated