Bulgaria is getting ready for NATO Membership. The Bulgarian Armed Forces are undergoing profound reform. The purpose is to build professional, mobile, combat ready, NATO compatible Armed Forces. At the same time the Bulgarian Armed Forces fulfills its constant tasks related to the defense of the country and simultaneously it takes an active part in peacekeeping operations in the world.

After the collapse of Soviet Union and the disintegration of Warsaw Pact followed by basic political and social changes in Central and Eastern Europe, most of the former socialist states have remained vulnerable to aggression and coercion. Bulgaria is one of them. The Central and Eastern European region is continuing to accumulate tension and to produce threats based on ethnic and
religious principles. It seems that NATO has remained the only power capable of guaranteeing peace and security in the region. It is simply impossible for Bulgaria to protect its national security and national sovereignty alone. The most reasonable solution to the problem is joining a powerful union such as NATO. But many Bulgarians still cannot look at NATO as a friend and a protector. They still suffer from the consequences of the former ideology. At the beginning of my paper I analyze NATO, including its core functions, its strategic concept, its initiatives for enhancing European security, and how the politicians in Western Europe see the role of NATO for achieving its goals. After that I discuss NATO enlargement as a key for enhancing security in Central and Eastern Europe and the impact of that enlargement on Russia and its interrelations with its previous allies. Next I direct the attention of the reader to the situation on the Balkans and how it affects Bulgarian national security. I examine alternatives to joining NATO for enhancing Bulgarian national security. I answer the question concerning what Bulgaria gains and loses by eventually securing membership in NATO. Finally I conclude that membership of NATO is the best solution for Bulgaria’s national security needs.

"The Bulgarian Air Force is the main type of armed forces for participation in joint and independent operations, both nationally and multinationally. They ensure air sovereignty of the Republic of Bulgaria by monitoring, securing and defending its airspace; they perform tasks on protection of critical infrastructure and strategic sites throughout the country. But the change of political system in the Republic of Bulgaria placed the Air Force in a position to undergo a serious test. The problems of transition deprived the Bulgarian Armed Forces, and in particular the Air Force from the opportunity to adequately modernize and preserve indispensable capabilities for national security. This paper argues that incompatibility between the Bulgarian Air Force and the forces of NATO partners exists, and it is a problem which has to be urgently solved. The overall intent of the paper is to expose problems facing the Bulgarian Air Force caused by the endless reductions and transformations of Armed Forces and propose possible solutions. The paper consequently reveals different stages of development of the Bulgarian Air Force. It starts from its very first days, through World War I and II, continues with the Cold War and presents the current situation. It reveals not only the specific problems with the MiG-29s that need overhaul, but also dangerously insufficient flight hours; inadequate number of qualified pilots; aging of the flight crews; excessive load on the pilots and increased risk of mass retirement of seasoned pilots. The paper also examines the logistic support problems like the lack of funding; exhausted opportunities for aircraft maintenance with our own forces; insufficient number of operational fighters and the time necessary for spare parts delivery and repairs. It also offers options which can fill the enormous gap between Bulgarian and NATO Air Forces. Several inferences and recommendations emerge from this paper, which are intended to help Bulgarian decision makers make an informed and appropriate decision regarding the development of fighter aviation of the Bulgarian Air Force. The proposed solution offers clear benefits for the state, society and the armed forces. It would ensure security, enhance the prestige and greatly evolve the economy of Republic of Bulgaria."

--Abstract.
It examines the changing global security environment and its implications on Bulgarian security challenges in the 21st century. In particular, the global war on terror and the newly acquired NATO membership have posed new challenges for the Bulgarian Armed Forces, including BSOF. This thesis explores Bulgarian security strategy and NATO requirements for special operations, and analyzes how each of these may be satisfied, in part, by BSOF. The shortfalls between Bulgarian and NATO needs and BSOF’s current capabilities suggest that BSOF should be unified under a single joint Special Operations Command directly subordinate to the highest commanding headquarters of the Bulgarian Armed Forces. Moreover, BSOF should be provided with an independent funding program with dedicated air and maritime assets for strategic support, and with advanced SOF-specific equipment. This study suggests the necessity for reorganization and improvement of BSOF in response to the requirements of national security and NATO Special Operations requirements. It posits that a restructuring and enhancement of BSOF is likely to strengthen Bulgarian national security, as well as contributing to an improvement in the global security environment.

This book provides a comprehensive survey of Bulgaria’s transition to democracy from its position as perhaps the most stable communist regime in Eastern Europe.

Bulgaria’s actions and policies on military reform between 1990 and March 1997 left the country’s institutions and military largely unprepared for integration with the Alliance. Bulgarian government and military officials have emerged from the state’s self-imposed isolation lacking an understanding of how far behind they are, as well as what they need to do, to seek integration. Bulgaria’s armed forces are only now starting to reform and downsize. The resultant social and economic pain has yet to be felt, and the state is likely to suffer significant political consequences. Some social and political figures may elect to portray the United States and NATO as the cause of Bulgaria’s social, economic, and political pain. Bulgaria’s citizens, politicians and military need NATO to better define its standards for interoperability.

"In 2004 the Ministry of Education and Science in Bulgaria, in partnership with Rose & Crangle, Ltd in the United States, submitted an Advanced Research Workshop proposal to NATO for the express purpose of exploring how the Bulgarian research, development and policy communities could more closely integrate their science policy and research evaluation practices with those of other European and NATO countries. How do various nations evaluate research and development projects? How do they evaluate the effectiveness of the institutions which sponsor or conduct such projects? How do they set priorities for their science and technology efforts and institutions? From a historical perspective, how have these developments occurred? What methods are countries planning to use to guide their future scientific growth?"

The thesis examines the challenges the Republic of Bulgaria has experienced since 1989 in striving to become a member of NATO. This thesis describes how NATO has addressed the security challenges arising from the end of the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin
Wall, the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact and the emergence of new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. By highlighting the efforts Bulgaria has undertaken to meet NATO membership requirements, this thesis will show the country has been a reliable partner to NATO since 1992, and once included in a future round of Enlargement, Bulgaria will be a viable Alliance member.

Bulgaria’s actions and policies on military reform between 1990 and March 1997 left the country’s institutions and military largely unprepared for integration with the Alliance. Bulgarian government and military officials have emerged from the state’s self-imposed isolation lacking an understanding of how far behind they are, as well as what they need to do, to seek integration. Bulgaria’s armed forces are only now starting to reform and downsize. The resultant social and economic pain has yet to be felt, and the state is likely to suffer significant political consequences. Some social and political figures may elect to portray the United States and NATO as the cause of Bulgaria’s social, economic, and political pain. Bulgaria's citizens, politicians and military need NATO to better define its standards for interoperability.

The transformations of the political relations in Europe at the dawn of the 21st century resulted in deep changes in the concepts of security and redefining the existing systems for collective defense in Europe. NATO becoming the security and defense framework of Europe had to deeply reconsider its raison d’être and to enlarge. In this connection the Republic of Bulgaria deeply reconsidered its political and strategic position in this new environment, started profound reforms in its security institutions and continues to consolidate the democratic statecraft. This thesis analyzes the process of NATO enlargement and advocates the possibilities of membership for Bulgaria at the next 2002 NATO summit. Bulgaria needs a quick entrance, not only for its strategic geopolitical position in Southeastern Europe, but for its efforts to participate in the building of a united Europe and to support the alliance as a reliable partner, committed to contribute and to preserve the peace and stability in the region and Europe and to promote democratic values. The membership will strengthen the process of European integration and create a better climate for economic growth and prosperity in Europe.

NATO is at a crucial point in its development: on the one hand, the European members are seeking to redefine its mission as the security challenges have radically changed since 1990. Another thorny issue is the security responsibilities of the member states. At the same time, there are nine central and eastern European nations which are seeking an invitation to join NATO: Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. There are general guidelines for evaluating nations seeking NATO membership; however, these guidelines are not a checklist that, when completed, would automatically guarantee membership. NATO members decide on the basis of consensus whether the admission of a state will serve the interests of the Alliance and promote European security and stability. These two issues form the primary parts of this book dealing with NATO.
Bulgaria has faced previously unimaginable pressures over the last two decades, as it struggles to adapt to a post-communist landscape and to reform both state and society in the wake of the fall of the Soviet Union, while facing the challenge of increased efforts by NATO and the EU to expand into this region. In Negotiating Diplomacy in the New Europe, Stefanos Katsikas sheds new light on the mechanisms and factors which have influenced the making and shaping of Bulgarian foreign policy, examining the extent to which both domestic factors and the international environment have affected its trajectory. Rich in primary sources, including personal interviews with key protagonists, Katsikas offers invaluable analysis for researchers of Europe’s post-communist international relations, as well as those interested in the processes of democratization and those of foreign policy formation.

The ITM conference series has always had a strong spirit of cooperation under the NATO/CCMS umbrella, and with the considerable interest from Partner countries to participate in the ITM conferences, it provides an excellent opportunity to create ties between scientists. Whereas all previous ITM conferences have taken place in NATO countries, the 23rd ITM takes place in a Cooperative Partner country, Bulgaria, and is hosted by the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. This fact reflects a general wish for a closer connection and collaboration among scientists from Partner and NATO countries. This volume contains the papers from the 23rd NATO/CCMS International Technical Meetings on Air Pollution Modelling and Its Application, being held September 28 - October 2, 1998, at Riviera Holiday Club, Varna, Bulgaria. It was attended by 120 participants from 30 countries. Thanks are due to all who made it possible to plan, carry through, and follow up the meeting, and to the participants who made the conference so successful. Special thanks are due to the sponsoring institutions: ATO/CCMS EURASAP RIS0 BAS 3M NATO/CCMS - Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society EURASAP - European Association for the Science of Air Pollution RIS0 - Ris0 National Laboratory, Denmark NIMH - National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, Bulgaria BAS - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences 3M Representation office, Bulgaria Prestige Business Ltd., Bulgaria The excellent collaboration with CIM (Company for International Meetings Ltd.

This thesis examines Bulgarian political and economic issues regarding NATO's military intervention in Yugoslavia in 1999. It studies: Bulgarian policy regarding Kosovo crisis; the domestic political attitudes and discussions over NATO’s military intervention and over government’s foreign policy on this issue; the impact of the war in Yugoslavia and post-war order on
Bulgarian economy and Bulgarian domestic and foreign politics. The thesis attempts to evaluate some cost-effective assessments about short and long term consequences for Bulgaria. In spite of the initial highly negative and catastrophic expectations of the Bulgarian public, the country gained significant political dividends. Bulgarian prospects for EU and NATO membership now seem to be much more realistic than ever in the past. At the same time, NATO intervention and the postwar settlements have not solved the ethnic, political, military and economic problem on the Balkans, but complicated them and posed serious new risks for Bulgaria and for the Balkans in general. The war also brought certain negative ecologic effects. The intervention in Yugoslavia and its support by the Bulgarian government complicated Bulgarian- Russian relations, which most probably will have long-term negative effect on Bulgarian economy.

This work examines Eastern Europe’s security situation and specifically explores NATO’s relationship with Slovakia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and the Baltic states - all non-members - but each with its own expectations for membership and relationship to the organization.

By achieving membership in both the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU), post-communist Bulgaria has achieved two major political objectives as well as accomplished long sought - after strategic goals. These memberships have already placed new demands and requirements upon the development of the Bulgarian Armed Forces. Bulgarian accession into these organizations came as a consequence of the efforts made by both the government and its people. It emblemizes everything that Bulgarians stand for. Successful accession to the European Union provides a good opportunity for a retrospective view on the key events that occurred during this long transition toward democracy. This research paper intends to shed light on some of the key aspects of Bulgaria’s post communist transition from communist to democratic rule, its accession into NATO, and a brand new challenge-membership in the EU. Analysis will also focus on the implication of these challenges for the Bulgarian Armed Forces.

NATO is acutely aware of its increased status as a force for stability in a drastically altered Atlantic community. The number of its initiatives is on the increase just as a new political, economic and military Europe emerges. The Cold War’s end has wrought as many changes as there are continuities in the security environment. Eastern and Central European states, especially NATO and PfP members, enjoy an increasing importance to NATO, both as trading partners and as new participants in the civil society. While the literature on relations between NATO and the East Europeans is rather limited, the study of the overall posture of those states in the international system is almost non-existent, so that the consequences of their posture for NATO’s renewed concept are unknown. The study of these countries’ security posture and strategic interactions with Central European states in general promotes the renewed role of NATO. This book shows that each of the long-term relations with Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania and Bulgaria is subordinated to the goal of entering the European Union, and that their different values will makes relations difficult. This will test NATO’s new strategic concept to the limit. It also shows the importance of strategic thinking.
After the revolutionary changes in 1989 and following dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, Bulgaria remained alone and unsecured on the Balkan Peninsula. On 17 February 1997 the Bulgarian Government approved a decision on the country’s full membership in NATO. This decision was reached after carefully considering of the possible strategic choices for Bulgaria's national security. All possible consequences (political, military-strategic, financial-economic, and social and legal) from this decision were taken into account. This thesis presents the real situation on the Balkans: economic conditions within Bulgaria and its neighbors, the countries’ military expenditures, their armed forces, and arms transfers. In order to evaluate the costs and benefits for Bulgaria joining NATO and to show the advantages of integration, a model of NATO enlargement on the Balkans is created. The simulation of the model clearly shows that independent of the scenario of Bulgaria's integration in a system for common security on the Balkans, all of the countries included in this integration process benefit from it. These benefits include considerable drops in countries' military expenditures and increases in their national security. The methodology presented in the thesis could be used for further study in which the model would be expanded to incorporate the costs of membership and international advantages.

Modern Bulgaria is building its presence and future as part of the democratic societies in the world. Bulgarian interests, ratified agreements and conventions are the foundation of the country’s structure and policy. Priorities of the Bulgarian policy are loyalty and the mutual benefit in relation with other countries and international unions. That attitude confirms Bulgaria as a source of security and common defense. The will expressed by it for NATO membership is with the purpose of guarantee of the security and is not aimed against third countries. The membership in the European Union (EU) expressed the will of the Bulgarian society to share the values and responsibilities of the western family. The intent of the Bulgarian society is, with the help of EU and USA, to ensure future prosperity of the country and to serve as a key partner of the democratic processes in Eastern Europe. In stability and predictability to our allies NATO and EU, Bulgarians see their future and their contribution to the region and the world.

Bulgaria and NATO Handbook

This thesis studies how NATO and the EU influenced the process of Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Romania and Bulgaria after the Cold War. Therefore, the process of reform was analysed using Timothy Edmunds' framework of strategies that external actors might use to encourage SSR, which was applied to elucidate how influencing strategies were used on the international level by the EU and NATO.

This book embodies documents, articles and essays dealing with the rediscovering and reestablishing of chaplaincy ministry in
Bulgaria after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, including the envisioning and establishment of the Bulgarian Chaplaincy Association and its proposal for the reestablishment of chaplaincy within the Bulgarian Armed Forces submitted to NATO's Manfred Wörner Foundation in 2006, which subsequently led to the envisioning and establishment of the Master's Program in Chaplaincy Ministry via the Bulgarian Evangelical Theological Institute and New Bulgarian University of Bulgaria in 2009.

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