

**MODERN CHALLENGES AND THREATS TO THE SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF UZBEKISTAN**

A.N. Nazarov

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Sciences (PhD), Professor
University of Military Security and Defense Republic of Uzbekistan

This scientific article analyzes the problems of ensuring military security as the most important factor of stability and development of the state. One of the main conditions for determining the rational vector of military policy is the timely identification, assessment and forecasting of challenges and threats to the military security of the state. The author examines the modern experience of ensuring the security of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Keywords: military security, military policy, conflict, military danger, military threat.

The current stage of global development is characterized by political contradictions and acute socio-economic conflicts, the dynamic development of the military-political situation, and qualitative changes in the structure and nature of military threats.

At the same time, there have been trends in the system of international relations to increase the role of military force to ensure political and economic interests, which cannot but affect the interests of national and military security of any State.

In this regard, the problem of ensuring military security as the most important factor of stability and development of the state deserves the closest attention. One of the main conditions for determining the rational vector of military policy is the timely identification, assessment and forecasting of challenges and threats to the military security of the state.

At the same time, the development of science and technology, the emergence of new types of weapons, including those based on different physical principles, the close intertwining and interdependence of all security spheres, and other changes significantly expand the range of challenges and threats to military security at all levels. These circumstances make it even more difficult to identify the most important ones.

Theoretically, there are various approaches to classifying the levels (degrees) of military danger and military threat, but we will consider only two of them.:

The first approach is that military danger is a general category with the following levels (degrees):

- military security risks;
- military security challenges;
- military threats.

The second approach is that military danger includes only risks and challenges to military security, and military threats are a separate, independent category.

Let's take the first approach as a basis.

The following definitions of these terms are given in the military scientific literature.

Military danger is a state of the military-political situation characterized by the interests, intentions, capabilities, and actions of States (coalitions of States), as well as non-State actors, including terrorist and extremist organizations, which, under certain geopolitical, military-strategic, socio-political, and economic conditions, can lead to a military conflict.

Military security risk is a low degree of military danger, in which the state of the military-political situation is characterized by the ability of other states (coalitions of States) as

well as non-state actors, including terrorist and extremist organizations, to negatively affect the national security of the state in the military sphere.

A military security challenge is an average degree of military danger in which the state of the military-political situation is characterized by the emergence of other states (coalitions of States), as well as non-state actors, including terrorist and extremist organizations, intending to damage the national security of the state in the military sphere.

A military threat is the highest level (degree) of military danger at which the state of interstate or intra-State relations is characterized by the actions of another State (coalition of States), as well as non-State actors, including terrorist and extremist organizations, indicating the real possibility of a military conflict.

The movement from risks to threats to military security has been called the "escalation ladder" in military political science.

The main challenges and threats to the military security of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the medium term are defined in such military doctrinal documents of the country as the National Security Concept (1997), the Law on Defense (2001), the Defense Doctrine (2018) and other regulatory acts of the state.

In these regulatory documents, the following are classified as threats to national security in the military sphere [1]:

1. Military conflicts threatening to transfer military operations to the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The ongoing war in Afghanistan, the ideas of the leaders of illegal armed groups about the creation of a caliphate and the presence in their ranks of militarily trained immigrants from Central Asia pose a real threat to the transfer of hostilities to the territory of Uzbekistan.

2. Demonstrative buildup of troops near the State border of the Republic of Uzbekistan, leading to an imbalance of forces in the region and indicating preparations for military aggression against the Republic of Uzbekistan. In the current conditions of the development of the military-political situation, this threat is hypothetical at first glance, but at the same time, the concentration and activation in the north of Afghanistan of significant forces of terrorist groups "Islamic State", "Islamic Movement of Turkestan" and others in combination with the previous threat clearly demonstrate this possibility.

3. Encroachments on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The geopolitical interests and rivalry of the leading actors in world politics and non-regional states, combined with intraregional problems and threats, can have a significant impact on Uzbekistan in a short time and affect its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

4. Creation, training and equipping of illegal armed formations for their deployment directly to the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan or to the border areas of neighboring states. The events in the cities of Tashkent and Andijan, in the Tashkent and Surkhandarya regions, and on the territory of neighboring Tajikistan historically clearly confirm the viability and relevance of this threat.

5. Cross-border and international organized criminal activities related to drug trafficking, smuggling of weapons, ammunition, toxic and explosive substances, and other means used to carry out sabotage and terrorist activities. The concept of cross-border threats, as a rule, includes political, military-political or military threats to the interests and security of the state, which combine the features of internal and external threats and, being internal in form, are inherently external (in terms of sources of occurrence and stimulation, possible participants, etc.). The nearby sources of these threats are located on the territory of Afghanistan, where a huge number of weapons and ammunition are concentrated, drugs are produced in large quantities, and one of

the world's largest drug traffickers originates. Citizens of many countries are involved in this criminal system, and some of these "products" are likely to end up in Uzbekistan.

6. Ideological and psychological actions in the information and communication space directed against the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Uzbekistan and posing a threat to the peaceful life of the population. The post-industrial era of human development is reflected in the high degree of informatization of the entire life of society. This is reflected in the constant informational and psychological impact on the cognitive (spiritual) component of the population of the country with different goals. In the military sphere, this impact has taken shape in the form of information operations and wars. The effectiveness of the new type of warfare was clearly manifested in the collapse of Yugoslavia, in the "color revolutions" in the north of the African continent, the Middle East, etc.

Along with these external challenges and threats to the military security of the Republic of Uzbekistan, there are also intra-regional ones, the main of which include:

incomplete settlement of issues of delimitation of State borders between the countries of the region;

interethnic issues;

water and energy and other problems.

Certain aspects of intra-regional and intra-state challenges and threats to the country's military security were voiced in the report of the Chairman of the State Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan at a meeting of the Oliy Majlis on April 1, 2018. These included the following:

The return of citizens of Uzbekistan and other Central Asian states who were in the ranks of militants in Syria, Iraq, etc. (according to the SCO Anti-Terrorist Intelligence Structure, in 2018 up to 5,000 militants were on their way back to Afghanistan from Syria and Iraq, and by that time there were about 750 militants in the IRA itself, natives of Central Asian countries [2]);

The opening of borders with neighboring countries, an increase in the number of tourists and investors entering Uzbekistan, significantly increases the likelihood of the import of destructive religious literature, narcotic drugs and weapons;

activation of various separatist forces "funded by foreign intelligence services";

increased religious fanaticism due to "misinterpretation" of religious freedom;

attempts by the non-governmental opposition parties Erk and Birlik to legalize their activities (appeal to the Ministry of Justice) with a promising goal to disrupt peace and tranquility in Uzbekistan;

attempts by foreign intelligence services and extremist movements to attract Uzbek labor migrants for the subsequent realization of destructive goals within the Republic of Uzbekistan;

the intensification of the activities of international organizations in neighboring countries that participated in the organization of the "color revolutions";

attempts by foreign structures to implement "harmful and useless" investment projects in various fields that can "cause great damage to our economy" [3].

Naturally, the presented list of challenges and threats to the military security of the Republic of Uzbekistan is incomplete, its range in the military and other spheres is constantly expanding, acquiring new forms and combinations.

These circumstances require government and military authorities to identify and respond to them in a timely manner.

The direct solution of these complex tasks is within the competence of the military organization of the state and represents its practical side of activity.



Literature

1. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. ZRU-458 "On the Defense Doctrine of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated January 9, 2018.
2. https://uz.sputniknews.ru/tags/organization_RATS_SHOS.
3. The head of the State Security Service – on the external and internal threats of Uzbekistan. // Газета.uz. <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru> / 2018/04/01/