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Editorial Board address

Akadémia ozbrojených síl generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika

Demänová 393, 031 01 Liptovský Mikuláš

tel. +421 960 423524, +421 960 422620

e-mail redakcie / e-mail board: lubomir.belan@aos.sk; ivan.majchut@aos.sk

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CONTENTS

Jarosław STELMACH CONTEMPORARY METHODS, FORMS AND TOOLS OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION _____	<u>7</u>
Daniel BREZINA STATISTICAL ASSESSMENT OF EMERGENCIES IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC DURING 2013-2020 _____	<u>23</u>
Daniel BREZINA Juraj ŠIMKO THE BASIC FEATURES OF THE PATRIOTISM AND HIS PLACE IN THE SOCIAL LIFE _____	<u>39</u>
Marián ŠIŠKA COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SLOVAK ARMED FORCES AND MOVEMENT COORDINATION CENTRE EUROPE PROJECT: AIR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES _____	<u>56</u>



CONTEMPORARY METHODS, FORMS AND TOOLS OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Jarosláv STELMACH

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ABSTRACT

The article aims to present the nature and typology of terrorist attacks taking into account the contemporary conditions of the security environment of the European Union. The author describes the leading methods, forms and tools of contemporary terrorist attacks carried out on the territory of the Community countries. He bases on the latest reports and analyses of the leading security institutions, both in the national and regional dimensions. These data are complemented by analyses of selected terrorist attacks, which allow us to draw additional conclusions and generalizations. The article is innovative due to the specific approach to the threat of terrorist attacks, allowing the reader to easily recognize the leading methods of terrorist struggle and examples of their use. The value of the article is its topicality and focus on the subject of the modus operandi of perpetrators. Thanks to that, the content of the text may constitute a real source of knowledge on the nature of contemporary attacks and trends in their evolution. Due to the utilitarian character of the content, the text may be addressed both to scientists and practitioners performing tasks in the area of counterterrorist operations. An additional advantage of the work is the use of a wide spectrum of doctrine in the area under study, which translates into the possibility of getting acquainted with a variety of opinions of experts and scientists. In the article, the reader will also find a summary of selected opinions on the development of the phenomenon of terrorism and terrorist attacks, which can be a source of knowledge when designing future anti-terrorism solutions.

KEYWORDS

terrorism, terrorist attacks, methods of terrorist attacks, tools of terrorist attacks.



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INTRODUCTION

The contemporary security threat environment is characterized by high dynamics of change in terms of threats of a terrorist nature, therefore, the phenomenon of terrorism is one of the most important challenges for the entities of the state security system both from global, regional and national perspectives. As an international threat, it goes beyond the framework of traditionally understood armed conflicts and crises, which

further complicates the preparation of structures to counter this threat (BAKIČ, 2021). Brian Michael Jenkins draws attention to several trends in terrorist activity that may be helpful in the initial recognition of the nature and character of the threat. These include the increased bloodiness of attacks (lethality and brutality), the use by terrorist organisations of new and diversified methods to finance their activities, the adoption of different organisational structures, the ability to conduct terrorist global campaigns and the use of new technologies for communication and propaganda, and the drive to implement tactics to the level of terrorist strategy, although no organisation has succeeded in achieving its long-term (Jenkins, 2006) goals. Terrorism is a phenomenon of political violence subject to constant evolution, which is the result of civilisational development and is the response of terrorists to the changing environment of international and national counter-terrorism efforts.

Currently, the fight against terrorism takes place on at least two levels. The first is related to countering the threat and involves multi-faceted activity by states and international structures. These activities include countering radicalisation, prohibiting and penalising travel to conflict zones and joining terrorist groups, sharing information nationally and internationally, increasing the security of the European Union's external borders and countering online (Archick – Martin, 2021, p. 253) terrorism propaganda. The second area of the fight against terrorism is counter-terrorist activities, which cover the successive phases of counter-terrorist activities such as prevention, preparation, response and recovery (Stelmach, 2016, p.464).

For the activity related to minimizing the effects of terrorist activity to be effective, it should be adapted to the nature and character of the attacks carried out. This article aims to describe the nature and typology of terrorist attacks, taking into account the contemporary conditions of the security environment in the European Union. In the author's opinion, this will allow for a better understanding of the essence of the key features of terrorist attacks and may translate into a more effective design of anti-terrorist solutions.

Combined research approaches were used in the preparation of this article. Desk research and case studies were used to investigate the issue. The use of triangulation of research methods provided an opportunity to learn more fully about the issue under investigation and to eliminate potential cognitive errors (Bodziany, 2016, p.308). The synergistic use of the study of statistical documents, literature on the nature of terrorist attacks in Europe and the application of detailed exploration of selected cases made it possible to inductively develop reliable and true generalizations. The conclusions identified in this way became the basis for creating deduction theories and laws on the nature of terrorist attacks.

1. EVOLUTION OF METHODS AND TOOLS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

In recent years, a reduction in terrorist activity associated with terrorist attacks has been observed in the European Union (TE-SAT reports, 2022). In particular, the number of fatalities and injuries in subsequent attacks has fallen. This situation has certainly been influenced by the increasing effectiveness of the special services at the stage of identifying terrorist activity, a reduction in the activity of perpetrators due to the Covid-19 pandemic and an increase in the number of people arrested who preparing attacks.

Table 1. Leading methods, targets and consequences of terrorist attacks between 2016 and 2020 (TE-SAT reports 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020).

Year	Number of attacks (completed, failed and foiled)	Number of fatalities and injuries	Leading methods of terrorist attacks	Places of attacks
2016	142	142/379	This year, a significant proportion of attacks have been carried out using explosives. There was also the mass murder method using firearms, knives and machetes. The bloodiest terrorist attack was carried out with a vehicle (Nice).	Places of interest: police station, airport, metro station, shopping centre, pedestrian zone.
2017	205	68/844	Mass murder by firearms is about 41% of all methods, plus the use of a knife or car. Use of explosive - downward trend - to 30%. Perpetrators mainly act alone.	Places of interest: supermarket, pedestrian zone, railway station.
2018	129	13/46	Mass murder by firearm, knife or car, arson, planting an explosive device - TV station, one hostage situation. Attempts to acquire CBRN agents to carry out attacks were identified - thwarted.	Public spaces: headquarters of the TV station, streets, and public spaces of the Christmas market.
2019	119	10/27	Mass murder by firearm, knife or car, arson, planting an explosive device - this method was most often thwarted or failed. Most often perpetrators act alone.	Public places: restaurants, streets, public spaces and public administration buildings (Paris prefecture attack)
2020	57	21/54	Mass murder by firearm, knife or car, arson, planting an explosive device - this method was most often thwarted or failed. Most often perpetrators act alone.	Public spaces: restaurants, streets, public areas

Source: Own elaboration.

Both statistical snapshots and more detailed cases (Maresova – Kucastudies, 2015) indicate the leading methods and tools of attacks in correlation with the places where they are carried out. The observed trends are not accidental and result from the evolution and strengthening of anti-terrorist systems in European states. Among other things, due to the increasingly strong structures and powers of the special services in individual states, together with their effective international (European Council, 2022) cooperation, the possibilities of preventing attacks organised by complex personal structures have increased. The monitoring of radical and extremist circles has yielded some results by eliminating some terrorist activity at the preparatory stage of attacks (Europolreports, 2022). In a significant number of cases, the services are more effective against perpetrators who make attempts to communicate and prepare attacks by obtaining materials to carry them out. Any activity by members of such an organisation is vulnerable to detection and increases the risk of failure. Terrorist groups perfectly understand the mechanisms of the operational work of the services and adapt dynamically to the increasingly difficult conditions of conducting clandestine conspiracy activities. In an asymmetric conflict, terrorists look for weaknesses in the opponent and opportunities to attack an organised and orderly state or a specific community (Caforio, 2013, p.53-67). Hence the increasing number of attacks carried out by single perpetrators, operating with methods and tools available to the public (knives, machetes, crossbows, vehicles, etc.).

2. NATURE AND TYPOLOGY OF METHODS, FORMS AND TOOLS OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY

The issue of methods of terrorist activity extends far beyond the field of carrying out the attacks mentioned above and therefore requires detailed analysis and discussion. Method, or manner, is a word of Latin origin and means a deliberate way of acting, the application of which is to lead to the achievement of the desired goal (Uniwersalny słownik języka polskiego, 2006, p. 616). Methods of action of members of terrorist organisations consist in choosing such methods of terrorist activity which will correspond with the objectives of criminal groups and ensure maximum media coverage. As the demand for sensation and excitement in communities grows, a new trend in the choice of modus operandi by terrorists is evident each year. It is a particularly worrying phenomenon that the perpetrators are constantly looking for methods to ensure a greater number of victims, and the modern tools they use to fulfil this task perfectly.

K. Jałoszyński (2008, p. 28) lists several methods of terrorist attacks most commonly used by terrorists and these are:

- attacks using combative means;
- bombings;
- hijacking of aircraft or other means of passenger or goods transport;
- hostage-taking;

- attempts on the life of a specific person/persons;
- sabotage;
- assaults using non-conventional weapons - classified as WMD;
- assassinations using remote-controlled models;
- electronic attacks;
- attacks using previously hijacked aircraft;
- robberies.

T. Białek, on the other hand, considers methods as ways of controlling people through various types of pressure and lists four classical terrorist methods:

- persuasion (to persuade, to convince and to raise awareness);
- manipulation (confusion, deception, embarrassment);
- coercion (forcing a person to act by the will of the perpetrator using physical, economic or psychological force);
- violence (destructive use of force, mutilation).

The above are not only methods for carrying out a terrorist attack but are also ways of carrying out terrorist activities in the broadest sense. Terrorists use them very differently, depending on the technological development, availability of new types of weapons and limitations resulting from the imagination of those planning the attack. Terror, on the other hand, according to T. Białek, is a specific "meta-method", which is a result of the interweaving of pure, above-mentioned ways of influence, and its distinguishing feature is aiming at intimidating and paralysing the will of the addressees to fight, by combining elements of deception, violence and coercion (Białek, 2005, p. 21-23).

Henry Prunckun and Troy Whitford regard terrorism as a method of warfare based on the ability to create disproportionate fear - terror - in opponents, thereby overpowering them and increasing their vulnerability to social or political change. Terrorism aims to cause selected groups or even masses of society to turn away from those in power. Through fear, terrorists hope to create a process of disorientation that will lead to the undermining of the social structure. Fear is intended to lead to a situation in which society loses confidence in its elected leaders. Terrorism aims to replace the independence of society, with uncertainty and mistrust. If the law enforcement agencies or the armed forces of the targeted state prove incompetent in the fight against terrorists, the terrorists will have achieved their goal. All according to the principle: "Kill one, scare ten thousand". To cope with this complex task, terrorist methods should be varied and maximise the effect of spreading fear, terror and insecurity (Prunckun – Whitford, 2019, pp. 18-19).

The above analyses and positions of researchers allow us to consider that terrorist activity takes place in two areas. One of them concerns the influence inside the structure of a terrorist group, ensuring its proper organisation, masked structure, effective planning and financing of subsequent attacks. An example of this is the network

structure of Al - Qaeda, the professional manner in which it prepared the attack on the WTC and the Pentagon in 2001 and the effectiveness of this organisation in confusing the fighting forces of the anti-terrorist coalition. Terrorist organisations have developed their standards and procedures for directing and planning their activities along the lines of civilian or military structures. In addition, terrorists use systems for training their cadres - future leaders and soldiers who carry out successive ordered attacks. Thus, it can be said that this activity inside the organisation is specific to terrorists and is characterised by specific methods to ensure the effective realisation of their goals.

The second area of terrorist activity is the external impact on a selected or random opponent. In this area, two methods of activity can be distinguished: carrying out attacks and conducting propaganda and fear-inducing activity. Taking into account the historical conditions associated with terrorist activity and the achievements of the doctrine of security sciences, the author proposes the following division of methods used by terrorists:

- methods of internal influence of the terrorist organisation:
 - indoctrination;
 - planning and organising terrorist activities;
 - financing of terrorist activities;
 - training activities;
- methods of external influence of the terrorist organisation:
 - carrying out terrorist attacks, among them:
- attacks using white weapons or other dangerous tools;
 - attacks with firearms;
 - bombings;
 - hijacking of aircraft or other means of passenger or goods transport;
 - hostage-taking;
 - attacks on the life and freedom of a specific person/persons;
 - sabotage;
 - assassinations using non-conventional weapons - classified as WMD;
 - assassinations using remote-controlled models;
 - electronic attacks;
 - attacks using previously hijacked aircraft;
 - robberies;
 - threats of a specific act or failure to act that could result in loss of life, injury or damage to property;
 - mixed assaults, including comprehensively organised sequential and simultaneous assaults;
- conducting propaganda and fear-mongering activities:
 - poster campaigns;
 - press releases and short-form publications;

- television and radio broadcasts;
- Internet transmissions;
- personal transfers;
- public speeches, proclamations and appeals;
- carrying out charitable and community-oriented activities.

Particular attention should be paid to the methods used to influence organisations externally in the form of terrorist attacks. Terrorist attacks are defined as extraordinary events, deliberately provoked to create panic, chaos and a public sense of insecurity, through which terrorist groups seek to force their objectives (Zamiar – Wętyczko, 2012, p. 37) to be met.

Terrorist attacks can take many different forms and are the result of the perpetrators using specific methods, forms and tools of criminal activity. They may be sudden (bombings, attacks using firearms, attempts on a person's life) or they may continue over time, usually generating additional consequences (hostage-taking, hijacking of aircraft, attacks using a previously hijacked aircraft).

Zenon Zamiar (2012, p. 37) considers that a terrorist attack is an extraordinary event caused deliberately to create panic, chaos and a public feeling of insecurity, through which the perpetrators wish to enforce their demands.

Due to the development of civilisation and the changing face of terrorism, the catalogue of methods used by perpetrators of attacks is very diverse and is not a closed set. In addition, each of these methods used by the perpetrators comes in many forms, i.e. the external, organisational side of the planned and executed attack. This, in turn, is the result of the technical, tactical and other possibilities available to terrorists (Jałoszyński, 2011, p.28).

The last element related to the methods and forms of carrying out attacks is the tool used by the perpetrators. A tool is defined as a simple or complex device enabling some action or work to be carried out, in other words, an instrument (Uniwersalny słownik języka polskiego, 2006, p. 839). In the case of methods for carrying out terrorist attacks, this definition must be extended from the concept of the device to include the categories of human beings and animals. Suicide attacks are an example of a terrorist act, where the method will be a bomb attack, the form will be a suicide attack, and the tools for carrying out the attack will be an explosive and a human being. Other tools used by terrorists include white and firearms, flammable agents, and weapons of mass destruction, including the chemical weapon sarin used by the Aum Shinrikyo sect in Tokyo in 1995, and biological weapons such as anthrax germs used in the USA in 2001.

Terrorist methods are not the sole determinant of terrorist activity. However, it is precisely on this ground that various manifestations of violence are often mistakenly qualified as a terrorist, simply because of the use of one of the methods most commonly employed by terrorists. The use of explosives by perpetrators in the commission of

crimes will not always be terrorism. It may be, for example, an act of criminal terror or the act of an insane person. If this *modus operandi* is found, it must be verified whether the other necessary conditions are met for the act to qualify as an act of terrorism.

3. TERRORISM AND TERRORIST ATTACKS – TRENDS IN DEVELOPMENT

To understand the nature of terrorism, it is most convenient to use the concept of indirect (Stelmach, 2017, p. 77-81) strategy, which is an indispensable element of the phenomenon and can be the starting point for scientific reflection in this area. This element of the phenomenon is inextricably linked to it and, most importantly, is permanently preserved while the methods, forms and techniques of terrorist attacks continue to evolve. The aforementioned bombing of a shopping centre or attack with a chemical agent in a terrorist strategy is only an indirect target for the perpetrators. The carefully chosen method of carrying out the attack serves to inflict presumed physical damage on the opponent, but this is not the end of the objectives to be achieved by a specific act of terrorism. This use of force is an indirect or instrumental objective of the perpetrators and is intended to lead to the realisation of the main (primary) objective, in the form of forcing the desired behaviour from the terrorists' perspective. In achieving this ultimate goal, the media play an enormous role, being able to maximise the final effect by broadcasting globally and reaching the largest possible target group with appropriate images. Given the complexity of the terrorist act, a certain interdependence between the objectives invoked becomes apparent. The proper planning and selection of the indirect target is a guarantee that it will be attractive from the perspective of media coverage and will ensure that the direct, or primary, target is achieved to the maximum extent (Liedel – Piasecka, 2008, pp. 23-25) possible. Such use of an indirect objective is called an indirect strategy and ensures that the perpetrators of subsequent attacks consistently realise the established primary objective (Ram, 2008, pp. 71-89).

With the development of civilisation in the world, terrorism has also changed its face. The specific evolution of the phenomenon can be seen in the ideological, media and technical. With the successive waves of terrorism (Kaplan, 2022) and the changing socio-political background of attacks, the methods of carrying out attacks have changed. The first wave of terrorism represented by anarchist terrorism was dominated by spectacular attacks on selected targets and individuals. The perpetrators used various types of weapons to kill influential political figures and thus change the course of historical events. The spread of terrorist ideology was aided in this case by all written sources. The second wave of terrorism was linked to the anti-colonial current and resulted in attacks bordering on urban riots, violence and attacks on selected national groups by organised armed units. It was also terrorism directed at persons of particular importance from the perspective of political life. The media tools used by the perpetrators were joined by radio broadcasting, which guaranteed an increasing range of

promotion of criminal activities. The third wave of terrorism, which began in the 1960s and continued for the next twenty years, was characterised by leftist ideology. The most common methods used by the perpetrators of those times included the use of explosives, blackmail, hostage situations and the start of airborne terrorism. The perpetrators had already made effective use of television to spread their ideas and sow fear on an international scale. This wave of terrorism has led to the creation of counter-terrorist units and the development of a negotiating option to complement possible actions at the scene of terrorist (Briggs, 2011) events. The fourth wave of terrorism is linked to religious radicalism, particularly Islamic radicalism. At this time, suicide terrorism is triumphing, giving a special dimension to the terrorist attack - a mission in the spiritual dimension, being at the same time a perfect form of execution of the attack, with protective barriers still being perfected by the services. It is still the use of explosives as the basic tool of the attack and the building of tension during prolonged hostage situations in public buildings or means of transport (Europol, 2022). Today's perpetrators are using the latest in media propaganda - the Internet - to promote terrorism and enjoy unlimited opportunities to communicate and create fear on a global (Borowski – Wiśniewski, p. 214, Piekarski, 2022) scale.

J. Destein believes that the world today is already operating in the era of the fifth wave of terrorism, which he calls the terrorism of revenge radicalism. Revenge is, at its very core, a form of "Targeted Violence," which can be used to carry out an attack anywhere, anytime, and at the hands of anyone. Schools, Houses of Worship, Public Spaces, etc., are now environments that experience acts of targeted violence and revenge terrorism. While most school shootings are not necessarily considered acts of terrorism, these acts of violence are targeted for revenge against someone or some group. Because revenge terrorism does not have to be affiliated with a specific terror group, it can extend to the individual level for any number of reasons. Thus, whether revenge is driven by bullying, jealousy, perceived injustice, greed, or any other reason, it has become so pervasive it has become a new historical wave that is likely to remain a predominant form of terrorist warfare for the next few decades (Destein, pp. 22-26).

In the context of the changing nature of terrorism, it is worth quoting here the most important theses from the results of a study by Meagan L. Smith and Sean M. Zeigler published on the RAND Corporation website, which refutes the commonly held media opinion that the attack of 11 September 2001 was a turning point or a critical point in the evolution of terrorism in the world. Well, the authors of the study found that, firstly, the number of terrorist attacks did not increase after the attacks on the WTC and the Pentagon (they even decreased) and there was a clear shift towards an increase in terrorist attacks in predominantly Muslim countries. Of course, these conclusions find their justification in the general geopolitical situation in the world and require a detailed study of the cited results of scientific (Smith – Zeigler, 2017) investigations.

The UK's latest counter-terrorism strategy identifies three main factors influencing the changing security environment in terms of the threat of terrorism. These are first and foremost the risks associated with radicalisation and extremism, which are nowadays a huge challenge politically and socially. The second area implying an increased terrorist risk is the instability of state structures in Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. The last key factor is technological development. This favours the use of new technologies by perpetrators, thus creating real problems for states and international communities.

In turn, Atilla Kasznar draws attention to the challenges facing the international community in preparing for modern tools of terrorist attacks. He includes the possibility of the perpetrators using weapons or biological, chemical and radiological agents. It points to the real threat posed by drones, which can be used as platforms to carry explosive devices into protected areas of critical infrastructure facilities or during mass events. It stresses the importance of cyberspace as an environment conducive to radicalisation and terrorist propaganda, but also recalls the nature of the threats posed by possible cyber-attack (Kasznár, 2018, pp. 147-148) scenarios.

The analyses presented above show that as the face of terrorism has changed in successive waves, the perpetrators' methods have evolved. As the protection systems of modern states have expanded, the effectiveness of special forces in preventing attacks has increased and the impact of special forces in potential hostage situations has increased, perpetrators have re-evaluated their methods of carrying out attacks. They have begun to build network structures or operate alone at the stage of preparing attacks - to minimise the risk of being discovered by special services. To keep the media coverage attractive, they began to attack more and more spectacularly. The aircraft turned from a target to a tool, and the icon of democracy and economic development disappeared forever from the image of modern New York. Children, who had hitherto been a mere incidental target, became a tool for a terrorist objective at its most gruesome with terrifying premeditation. Modern cities have become fields of almost regular battles, and the perpetrators, realising the professionalism of the special forces, are increasingly using the form of an active shooter to kill as many people as possible before the arrival of the regular anti-terrorist subdivisions.

Despite the increasing proportion of terrorist attacks involving single perpetrators (TE-SAT, 2022), one cannot exclude the possibility of preparing and carrying out an organised attack involving several perpetrators, multiple locations and a variety of tools. What is more, the key factor in such cases is very often the time factor, which can be a determinant of the execution of an attack in the simultaneous formula (several attacks in different places at the same time) or in the sequential formula (several attacks immediately following one another). Such deliberate time management by the perpetrators increases momentum and chaos and disorganises the response of the first on the scene. Kathleen Deloughery points out that organising simultaneous attacks from

the perpetrators' perspective guarantees them more victims, and greater spectacularity and thus translates into greater appeal from a media (Deloughery, 2013, pp. 79-89) perspective. Thus, attacks organised in the formula of several smaller attacks are more likely to ensure the success of a terrorist organisation. From the terrorists' perspective, success is most often understood as the achievement of long-term effects in the form of lasting fear and terror in society and susceptibility to change in the area of the terrorist organisation's objectives.

Homeland Security USA draws attention to the category of "comprehensively organised attacks", pointing out several important features in its report. These are specific techniques, tactics and procedures implemented by those preparing such attacks (Homeland Security US, 2018):

- Use pre-attack surveillance and reconnaissance to gather intelligence for tactical planning and execution;
- Use small teams of well-armed, well-trained individuals employing military or law enforcement style tactics;
- Select soft targets or other vulnerable environments to maximise casualties;
- Strike multiple targets simultaneously or in close succession;
- Strike quickly and move to another location before law enforcement can interdict and disrupt;
- Employ assault weapons, explosives, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and/or fire as weapons; may use/incorporate other non-traditional methods, such as vehicle ramming, knife attacks, and dispersing chemical or biological agents.
- Delay or deny exit by victims and entry by public safety by blocking exits and/or chaining/rigging doors with explosives, using tear gas, and/or using fire/smoke to delay law enforcement response efforts and potentially prolong the incident;
- Take hostages to prolong the incident and/or delay law enforcement response efforts;
- Deploy diversions to slow public safety response, consume responder resources, or
- draw/reorient responders toward or away from specific locations;
- Exploit social media and news coverage to maximise shock value, spread misinformation, instil fear, and promote extreme views;
- Communicate effectively across assault teams, targets, and with outside leadership;
- Coordinate attack timing and methods (e.g., firearms, IEDs, Hazardous Materials [HazMat]) with other attackers and parties assisting assault teams;

- Conduct secondary attacks on first responders, evacuation routes, and/or additional sites, such as medical facilities, that are part of the response;
- Adapt and adjust tactics and/or location quickly based on law enforcement and first responder actions;
- Learn from past law enforcement and first responder tactics and prior CCTA incidents.

The above features of contemporary coordinated terrorist attacks should serve to prepare security structures to respond to potential terrorist incidents in the future. Particularly important in this case are the aspects of organising the system of information management, command and communication, coordination of first actions on the scene(s), media management, and elements of providing medical and psychological assistance. All these mentioned areas were real challenges in the actual implementation of European counter-terrorism (Homeland Security Advisory Council, 2016) forces.

Unusual methods of terrorist activity include state-ordered attacks. Such activity is highlighted in the 2020 Europol Report. The European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Law Enforcement Agencies (Europol) highlights the existence of a new form of terrorism, sponsored and carried out by states through special services. In this case, acts of terrorist violence are even carried out to intimidate and eliminate - in opposition to state governments - the diaspora living abroad. The report highlights, inter alia, the murders of persons of Chechen nationality recorded in France, Austria and Germany, and the planned attacks on gatherings of the Iranian minority, whose activities are contrary to the interests of their countries of origin. In this context, the Agency pointed out, among other things, that in 2020, the German Federal Public Prosecutor indicted Russian citizen Vadim K. for the murder of a Georgian citizen of Chechnya in Berlin in August 2019. The indictment stated that the crime was committed on behalf of government institutions of the Russian Federation. The perpetrator, to commit the crime, took advantage of the possibility of free and unfettered movement through the Schengen Area. As Europol indicates, for this purpose he travelled from Moscow via Paris to Poland, from where, after leaving his hotel in Warsaw, he travelled to Berlin, where he murdered a Chechen.

Contemporary terrorist attacks make it clear that in many cases the terrorists' only direct objective is to instil fear and to enslave the public with a lasting sense of insecurity and insecurity in both public and personal terms. In recent years, it has become increasingly rare to speak of specific demands by terrorist organisations directed at selected governments or organisations. Examples of terrorist incidents from Paris (2015) and Brussels (2016) make the trump cards of terrorists (Goralnicki – Trimpont, 2017) painfully clear. Hitting soft targets, and using the relationship of time weakens the ability of reactive services to respond. Simultaneity and sequentiality are concepts permanently embedded like modern terrorist attacks. In addition, the use of the media,

including at the level of the ubiquitous Internet, makes the actions of terrorists the character of a carefully directed performance in which panic, terror and violence play the main roles.

SUMMARY

All the features of terrorist methods and tools described in the text prepare the security structures of modern states as a huge challenge in both national and international (Stelmach, 2021, pp. 20-24) dimensions. The dynamics in the changeability of attack methods and the extraordinary ability of terrorist perpetrators to adapt to subsequent anti-terrorist activities make terrorism still a leading and extremely challenging threat, despite the statistically decreasing number of attacks and fatalities and injuries.

The synergistic use of the study of statistical documents, literature on the nature of terrorist attacks in Europe and the application of detailed exploration of selected cases made it possible to inductively develop reliable and true generalizations. The conclusions identified in this way became the basis for creating deduction theories and laws on the nature of terrorist attacks.

The findings developed in the course of the research prove that modern terrorist attacks have a complex nature and that the perpetrators can dynamically and flexibly adapt their attack methods to the changing circumstances of counterterrorism operations. The trends shown indicate a changing proportion of attacks using simple tools to those in which perpetrators use explosive devices or the most advanced technologies. The increase in the number of least complex methods is a natural response of terrorists to the intensified and increasingly effective counter-terrorism efforts of states and is also a practical conclusion of momentous importance for the practical dimension of responding to attacks. Since the number of assaults with simple tools is increasing and are being carried out in the form of mass killings, it is necessary to reduce the time of arrival of the first responders on the scene to begin neutralization efforts as soon as possible. Lessons should be learned from the nature of modern terrorist attacks and taken into account when planning counterterrorism operations in European countries.

Another important feature of modern terrorist attacks is that they are carried out in most cases by single perpetrators. This is a critical feature and a conclusion for special services responsible for preventing terrorist attacks. The lack of cooperation between the perpetrators of attacks at the stage of their preparation reduces the possibility of effective operational work and detection of terrorist activity even before the attacks. On top of that, their use of simple tools like vehicles, knives or machetes does not require any preparatory work. Therefore, it is difficult to detect such activities and identify the intention to carry out an attack. All this affects the unequivocal assessment and forecasting of the reality of the threat of terrorist attacks, which cannot be effectively eliminated from the rhythm of the functioning of modern states. Therefore, it remains to

prepare, taking into account the nature of attacks and the methods and tools used by the perpetrators.

The research undertaken by the author of the publication is also of theoretical value since its general and broad scope can provide a starting point for posing further, more detailed and targeted research hypotheses and for studying the nature of terrorist attacks in a variety of conditions and using different methodologies.

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mjr rez. dr inż. Jarosław STELMACH

The University of Public Safety and Individual "Apeiron" in Krakow
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4936-9231>

Telephone: 531 419 151

E-mail: jastelmach@wp.pl



STATISTICAL ASSESSMENT OF EMERGENCIES IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC DURING 2013-2020

Daniel BREZINA

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the author identifies which emergencies occur most in the conditions of the Slovak Republic and specific parts of the country. The article's main aim is a statistical assessment of emergencies in the Slovak Republic during 2013-2020. The findings were then compared with the views of domestic authors and experts. This statistical assessment has not been processed in the literature. The content of the methodology is the creation of tables for classifying emergencies according to the established criteria and assessing the dependencies between qualitative signs. The association and contingency express the dependence between the qualitative signs.

KEYWORDS

emergency, association, contingency, statistical assessment, dependence



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INTRODUCTION

Despite thorough preventive measures and extensive crisis planning, it is impossible to avoid developing crisis events, especially those of the natural character, e.g. floods, fires, earthquakes, windstorms, landslides, etc. Adequate knowledge, both in the process of prevention and reaction, affects the future development of the events and connected decision-making processes and statistical variables. Integrating the statistical elements into the management system becomes a more and more actual trend. Various statistical methods, techniques and procedures, including the modelling and simulation methods, are utilised by crisis management to support the decision-making process and make them more efficient.

1 ACTUAL STATUS OF EMERGENCIES IN SLOVAKIA

1.1 Floods

The emergencies, especially of the natural character, e.g. floods, whirlwinds, fires and landslides, occur in Slovakia, the European Union but also worldwide more and more frequently. The torrential floods due to short-lasting but intensive rains are Slovakia's most common type of floods (Neumannová, 2017). Table 1 shows an overview of the most significant floods in Slovakia.

Table 1 The most significant floods in Slovakia

Year	Locality of Flood
1965	Flood of the river Danube
1974	Extreme flood of the rivers Hron and Slaná
1997	The rivers Morava and Váh
1998	Torrential flood of the river Malá Svinka
2002	100-year flood of the river Danube
2006	Snow melting – the river Morava and the eastern territory of Slovakia
2010	1,000-year flood of the river Handlovka
2011	Torrential flood in the location Píla
2012	Ice flood in the Kysuce region
2013	Floods of the river Danube

Source: Author

Based on the website data of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, the size of the flooded territory was 136 118 hectares from 2001 - 2018, and damages caused by the floods amounted to 750 316 872 EUR (Strategy, 2015).

1.2 Landslides

The construction of the building and engineering works with a still higher rate of urbanisation is realised in the areas endangered by the mass movements. According to Blišťanová (2017), landslides and other mass deformations are the most spread, from the social-wide point of view to the most formidable geodynamic phenomena. The total area threatened by the mass movements is 257 560 hectares in Slovakia. From the point of view of the territorial division of Slovakia, the most endangered parts are the Prešov and Žilina regions, where the area of the threatened locations exceeds 80 000 hectares (Ministry of

Environment, 2014; Ministry of Environment, 2019). Extreme downfalls in these regions have caused a lot of severe landslides since 2010. The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic ensures registration of the landslides and, according to their seriousness and available data, also the geological operations to avert, mitigate or remove the consequences of the natural disaster. The record-keeping of these landslides is primarily aimed at registration, engineering and geological research and reconstruction of the landslides at selected priority localities (Blišťanová, 2015).

Table 2 The most extensive landslides in Slovakia

Year	Locality/extent
1960	Handlová (the landslide's length was about 1 800 m, and the mass of more than 20 million m ³)
1962	Riečnica in the Kysuce region (the landslide's length was 950 m, the mass of about 900 thousand m ³)
2010	Nižná Myšľa (the most severe landslide during last 50 years)
2014	Rock avalanche in Vrátna connected with torrential flood

Source: Author

1.3 Fires

The fires are another phenomenon threatening lives, health and property, including cultural and historical objects. Moreover, it is also necessary to mention their negative environmental impact (Šovčíková, 2004). In spite of the constantly improving techniques and technologies with an emphasis on monitoring the formation of fires the number of the fires is growing (Šimák, 2016). Between 2009 and 2016, 81 059 fires were registered in Slovakia, and the highest number of the fires occurred in the eastern part of Slovakia, in the Košice and Prešov regions (Statistical, 2020).

Table 3 The most severe fires in Slovakia

Year	Place
1992	Forest fire due to the strong wind – an area of 1.171 hectares (Lozorno, Malacky, Bratislava)
2000	Fire of the forest cover - an area of 67 hectares (Hrabušice, district Spišská Nová Ves)
2005	Fire of salvage felling timber - area of 52.4 ha (Heľpa, Závadka)

Source: Author

The emergencies connected with the snow calamity are specific to the Slovak Republic. They test the capabilities of the crisis management bodies, especially at the level of the local state administration, to respond effectively during the reaction phase. The range of the consequences of the snow calamity depends on the growing altitude of the affected territory. The Žilina region is the most endangered territory – the areas of the Kysuce and Orava regions. From 2nd January 2019 to 17th January 2019, emergencies were declared in 77 self-government locations, including three districts. In the remaining seven regions, the emergency connected with the snow calamity was declared only in 20 self-government locations. The seriousness of the situations in some self-government units in 2019 can be proved by the fact that a helicopter of the Ministry of Interior squadron that helped remove the snow from the trees was used for the first time in Slovak history. Compared with 2014 – 2018, it means a significant growth in the number of declared emergencies connected with the snow calamity (Dritomský, 2019). According to Hollá (2010), from the point of view of the anthropogenic causes of the crisis events development or emergencies caused by human activity, industrial accidents and traffic accidents connected with leaking hazardous substances predominate. The overall number of SEVESO establishments belonging to the A and B categories is 77 in Slovakia (category A – 35; category B – 42). From the point of view of the regional division of Slovakia, the majority of the SEVESO establishments can be found in the Bratislava region, and the highest number of the B category SEVESO enterprises is in the Košice region (Enviroportal, 2019). In Slovakia, major industrial accidents occur only sporadically; however, their consequences affect the general public, lives, material values and the environment (Šovčíková, 2005). The events during 1995 – 2007 that occurred in Slovakia belong the most significant major industrial accidents. In 1995 there was a technological accident in the company VSŽ Košice. Due to the blast furnace gas leakage, 13 people died, and more than 240 people were hospitalised. In 2007 the premises of the Military Repair Company Nováky were almost destroyed by three explosions of the ammunition in the ammunition disposal hall. One of the most severe major industrial accidents claimed eight lives, and more than 30 people were injured (Hollá, 2010).

1.4 Summary

Based on the statistical data and conclusions of the investigations by several risk management experts, the occurrence of emergencies and their consequences have a growing tendency. From 1990 to 2018, the Slovak Republic registered a growing number of emergencies and their seriousness in nature and those caused by people. The increase was significant, especially in the case of natural disasters (World, 2017). According to Dritomský (2019), 2017 and 2018 are an exception. In 2018 there were 251 emergencies, while in 2017 only 124 ones. In the case of extraordinary situations, in 2018, there were 37 of them – 20 cases less than in 2017.

2 DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The main aim of this paper is to assess the emergencies that happened in Slovakia during 2013 – 2020 in a statistical way. To realise this aim, it is inevitable to fulfil the following individual partial tasks:

- creating tables for classifying the emergencies according to the type, the highest amount of emergencies (at the level of self-governments, districts and regions) and other determining criteria through descriptive statistics,
- assessing the dependence between evacuation and negative consequences, losses of lives, health, and citizens' property, including the impacts on the environment,
- Assessing the dependence between the types of the emergency and activating the warning and information network, realising the evacuation, information about the requirements on providing aid, including the negative consequences on life, health, citizens' property and the environment.

The association and contingency express the dependence between the qualitative signs. The dependence between the evacuation and negative consequences on life, health, citizens' property and the environment is carried out through an association because the subject of investigation is the dependence between two verbal signs with two possibilities. The contingency was utilised in the process of assessing the dependence between the type of the emergency and the activation of the warning and information network, carrying out the evacuation, and the information about the requirements on providing aid, including consequences on life, health, citizens' property and on the environment. The function COUNTIFS is utilised for calculating the association and contingency in the MS Excel environment. In the framework of the Chi-Square Test, it is inevitable to state the zero and alternative hypotheses. If the variables are independent, there is a zero hypothesis. If the variables are dependent, the hypothesis is an alternative. In the case of the association, we continue according to the testing formula of dependence (1), and in the case of contingency, according to the testing formula (2) of dependence (Chajdiak, 1999).

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{j=1}^4 \frac{(a_{ej} - a_{oj})^2}{a_{oj}} \quad (1)$$

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{((a_i b_j) - (a_i b_j)_0) * ((a_i b_j) - (a_i b_j)_0)}{(a_i b_j)_0} \quad (2)$$

The last step is to compare the calculated values with the critical value through statistical tables for the determined level of importance. The Pearson Contingency Coefficient (r) is the most frequently utilised non-parametric gauge of the association of two random variables. The Pearson Contingency Coefficient is calculated by the formula (3) (Wang, 2012).

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{\chi^2}{n + \chi^2}} \quad (3)$$

The Pearson Contingency Coefficient determines the linear relation between two variables. Its value moves from -1 (there is a perfect negative linear relation) to +1 (there is a perfect positive linear relation). The closer this value to 0 is, the lower the level of the linear relation is. The coefficient value depends on the size of the table (the number of lines and columns). The Pearson Contingency Coefficient is only used if we compare tables of the same size (Hair et al., 2005).

Table 4 Intervals of association values and their interpretation

The measure of association value	Degree of association
0.0	Perfect independence
(0.0 - 0.1)	Trivial association
<0.1 - 0.3)	Small association
<0.3 - 0.5)	Moderate association
<0.5 - 0.7)	Large association
<0.7 - 0.9)	Very large association
<0.9 - 1.0)	Nearly perfect association
1.0	Perfect association

Source: Faul (2009)

The Tschuper's coefficient (T) is one of the indices based on which it is possible to calculate the dependence rate between two characteristics. The results have to be calculated by the contingency table $r \times s$. The Tschuper's coefficient (T) is calculated according to the formula (4) (Markechová, 2011).

$$T = \frac{\chi^2}{n * \sqrt{(m - 1) * (k - 1)}} \quad (4)$$

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The author utilised data from the statistical information provided by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic that comprehensively processed the data about all emergencies occurring in Slovakia during 2013 – 2020. At the same time, this data is also a statistical file. An emergency represents a statistical unit. The statistical signs of the given statistical unit in the area being solved are – the year when the emergency happened, the type of the emergency, its location (municipality, district, region), including the information about a warning on the radio, warning by alarm sirens, impacts on life, health, property, environment as well as information about requirements on evacuation. The reason for selecting these statistical signs is that they are the bearers of the emergencies' attributes. The representative character of the statistical sample is emphasised by the fact that the data from the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic's statistical information includes 1,882 records about emergencies occurring in Slovakia during 2013 – 2020.

The first and primary step while processing the statistical data is to detect the characteristic of the level and characteristic of the variable number of emergencies occurring in Slovakia during 2013 – 2020.

Table 5 Table of descriptive statistics – characteristics of the level and variability of the total number of emergencies

Descriptive statistics	Value
Mean	9.789166
Standard Error	0.575341
Median	2
Mode	1
Standard Deviation	24.96609
Sample Variance	623.3057
Kurtosis	10.81644
Skewness	3.496715
Range	108
Minimum	0
Maximum	108
Sum	18.433
Count	1.883
Largest	108
Smallest	0
Confidence Level (95 %)	1.128373

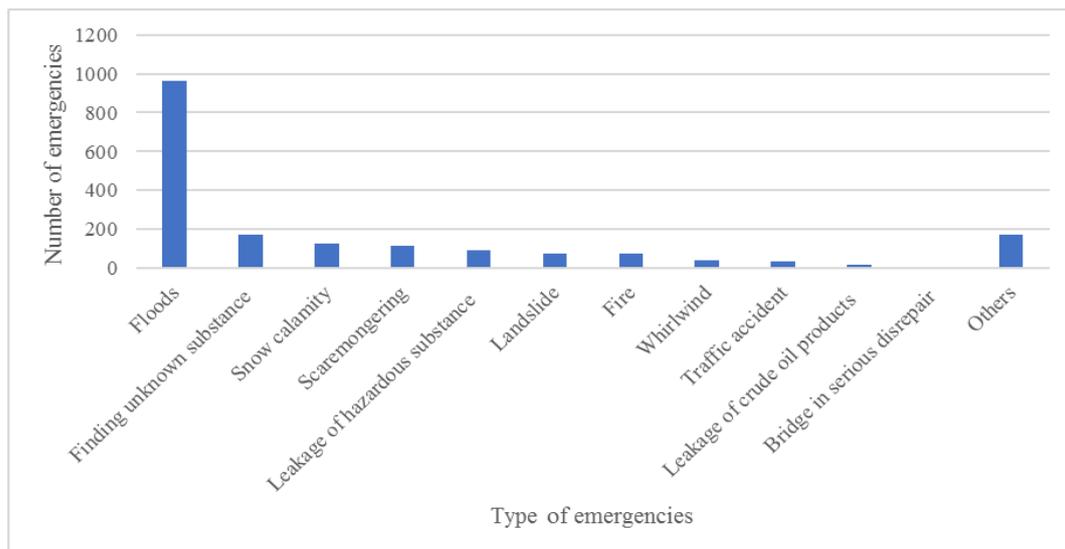
Source: Author

In this case, the selected statistical sign was the total number of emergencies in all self-governing regions of Slovakia. Table 5 shows that in a particular self-governing region, an emergency happened even 108-times during 2013 – 2020. This self-governing region is Bratislava, where the probability of developing an emergency is the greatest due to the town's area and the number of inhabitants.

Table 6 A simple classification of the emergencies according to the type

Type of emergency	Number	Percentage share of emergencies
Floods	961	51.04
Snow calamity	124	6.59
Fire	74	3.93
Whirlwind	40	2.12
Landslide	75	3.98
Traffic accident	36	1.91
Finding unknown substance	174	9.24
Leakage of hazardous substance	90	4.78
Leakage of crude oil products	20	1.06
Scaremongering	114	6.05
Bridge in serious disrepair	1	0.05
Others	174	9.24
Total	1883	100.00

Source: Author



Graph 1 Number of emergencies according to the type – graphical depiction

Source: Author

The simple classification consists in detecting the number of values of a particular statistical sign – the type of the emergency. The simple classification according to the type of emergency is aimed at the relative number expressed in percentages.

Table 6 and graph 1 show that floods dominate the emergencies – they occurred in 961 cases from 2013 – 2020, 51.04% of the total share of the number of emergencies. Different types of emergencies occurring frequently fall into the category “Others”. A relative enormous range of emergencies belongs here, e.g. the unforeseen acoustic sounding of the sirens means of transport with an increased radioactivity level, breakdown of the water pipelines including the interruption of water supply. The emergencies “Leakage of hazardous substance” and “Others” occurred 174 times – this represents 9.24 % of the total share of the number of emergencies. The whirlwinds, traffic accidents and leakage of crude oil products are the most rarely occurring emergencies during the last seven years. The case of a bridge in serious disrepair happened only once in 2013 in the village Veľká Maňa (Nitra region, district Nové Zámky).

In the framework of the statistical assessment of the emergencies that happened in Slovakia during 2013 – 2020, the relative number of emergencies in the individual self-governing units, districts and regions has its place. The self-governing unit, district and region will be the statistical signs. Due to the extent of the criteria of the statistical signs of the self-governing units and districts, as well as to the extent of this paper, the author introduces only the essential conclusions and results of the relative number of emergencies in the individual self-governing units and districts.

Already table 5 has shown that the self-governing unit with the most frequent occurrence of emergencies is Bratislava (108 cases, i.e. 5.73 % of the total number of emergencies). Based on the results of simple classification of the emergencies according to the self-governing units, the Košice unit occupies the second place (36 cases, i.e. 1.91 % of the total number of emergencies), followed by Prešov (27 cases, i.e. 1.43 % of the total number of the emergencies). All regional towns in Slovakia registered more than ten emergencies during 2013 – 2020. The results prove that emergencies occur more frequently in the towns than in villages. The village Mútne is an exception (Žilina region, district Námestovo). It registered 14 emergencies during 2013 – 2020. In all cases, it was the snow calamity, but 2015 was the most critical one when the snow calamity hit the village nine times.

From the point of view of the relative number of emergencies in individual districts, the Prešov district is the most threatened one in Slovakia (even though the town of Bratislava registered the highest number of emergencies, territorially, it is divided into five districts). During 2013 – 2020 the district of Prešov registered 93 emergencies; it represents 4.94% of the total share of the number of emergencies. Except for 39 cases of floods, Prešov was also dominated by the number of fires (4 cases), landslides (8 cases of the total number of 75, i.e. 10.67 % of the total share of the number of landslides), scaremongering (9 cases)

and other emergencies belonging to the category “Others” (13 cases). The districts of Poprad (59 cases, i.e. 3.13 % of the total number of emergencies), Námestovo (59 cases, i.e. 3.13 % of the total number of emergencies; out of which 39 cases of the snow calamity – up to 31.45 % of the total number of the snow calamities) and Žilina (58 cases, i.e. 3.08 % of the total number of the emergencies) belong to the most threatened districts in Slovakia. During 2013 – 2020 three neighbouring districts Stará Ľubovňa, Bardejov and Kežmarok in the Prešov region, were hit by the highest number of floods. During the following period, there were 133 floods in these three districts out of the total number of 961 in Slovakia (13.84 % of the total number of floods in Slovakia) and 556 floods in the Prešov region – 23.92 % of the total share of the floods in the Prešov region.

Due to the relative number of emergencies in individual regions, the statistic sign is the region through a simple classification.

Table 7 A simple classification of emergencies according to the region

Region	Number of emergencies in the given region	Percentage share of number of emergencies in the given region
Bratislava	196	10.44
Trnava	142	7.57
Nitra	113	6.02
Trenčín	115	6.13
Žilina	287	15.29
Banská Bystrica	233	12.41
Prešov	556	29.62
Košice	235	12.52
Total	1,877	100.00

Source: Author

Table 7 shows that from the relative number of emergencies in individual regions, the region of Prešov was the most impacted one during 2013 – 2020 – 556 emergencies, i.e. 29.62 % of the total share of the number of emergencies. From the point of view of the occurrence of emergencies, the Žilina region is in second place (287 cases, i.e. 15.29 % of the total share of the number of emergencies). The Nitra (113 cases, i.e. 6.02 % of the total number of emergencies) and Trenčín (115 cases, i.e. 6.13 % of the total number of emergencies) regions are the least endangered ones.

The author aimed at the statistical assessment of activating the warning and information network (through sirens or radio), at realising the evacuation, requirements on providing aid including the negative consequences of emergencies between the years 2013 – 2020, i.e. the impacts on life, health, property and environment. According to the verbal

signs, the simple classification method was implemented in the case of three natural disasters that threatened the Slovak territory during the following period (flood, snow calamity, and fire).

Table 8 Simple classification of selected emergencies according to stated criteria

Type of emergency / Criteria		Floods	Snow calamity	Fire
Warning by radio	yes	143.00	8.00	12.00
	no	746.00	116.00	50.00
	Total	889.00	124.00	62.00
Warning by siren	yes	5.00	3.00	0.00
	no	862.00	121.00	62.00
	Total	867.00	124.00	62.00
Evacuation	yes	50.00	0.00	3.00
	no	812.00	124.00	59.00
	Total	862.00	124.00	62.00
Requests on providing aid	yes	91.00	4.00	8.00
	no	787.00	120.00	51.00
	Total	878.00	124.00	59.00
Impacts on life	yes	14.00	0.00	3.00
	no	832.00	124.00	56.00
	Total	846.00	124.00	59.00
Impacts on health	yes	28.00	2.00	3.00
	no	815.00	122.00	56.00
	Total	843.00	124.00	59.00
Impacts on property	yes	135.00	2.00	10.00
	no	70.00	122.00	49.00
	Total	840.00	124.00	59.00
Impacts on environment	yes	22.00	4.00	3.00
	no	780.00	120.00	56.00
	Total	802.00	124.00	59.00

Source: Author

We determined eight criteria for three selected emergencies (flood, snow calamity, fire) as follows: warning by the radio, warning by sirens, evacuation, requirements on providing the aid, consequences on life, consequences on health, and consequences on the property and the environment. Table 8 clearly shows that warning the citizens by the radio is realised more frequently than warning the inhabitants by sirens. From the point of view of warning on the radio, requirements for providing aid and consequences on life, health,

property and environment, the fire seems to be the most severe emergency. 5 % of the fires caused consequences on the life and health of the inhabitants. During 2013 – 2020 there was not a single case when the warning network had to be activated through the sirens during a fire. The evacuation had to be realised even in 50 % of the cases out of 812 floods (5.8 % of the total share of the number of floods). The consequences on the property caused by the floods developed in 135 cases out of 705 (16.07 % of the total share of the number of floods). Based on the results from table 8, the snow calamity represents the type of natural disaster of the least serious character (according to the stated criteria). During the following period, there was no case of the snow calamity when evacuation occurred, or it would have claimed any lives. Only two calamities (out of 122) claimed consequences on health or property (1.61 % of the total share of the number of the snow calamity).

Due to the limited extent of the paper, the author introduces only results in the area of association and contingency. The association was utilised to assess the dependence between the evacuation and negative consequences on life, health, and citizens' property, including environmental impacts. After substituting the data from four association tables for assessing the dependence into equation (1) and comparing it with table 4, the dependence between evacuation and negative consequences on life, health, and citizens' property, including the impacts on the environment, is shown in table 9.

Table 9 A simple classification of emergencies according to the region

Type of association	Value	Assessment of dependence
Dependence between evacuation and impacts on life	0.38	Moderate association
Dependence between evacuation and impacts on health	0.13	Small association
Dependence between evacuation and impacts on property	0.39	Moderate association
Dependence between evacuation and impacts on environment	0.03	Trivial association

Source: Author

We can conclude that there is a moderate association between evacuation and negative consequences on life and property. Dependence between evacuation and impacts on health is a small association. Dependence between evacuation and impacts on the environment is a trivial association.

Contingency was utilised to assess the type of emergency type and activate the warning and information network, realising evacuation, information about requirements on providing aid including negative consequences on life, health, citizens property including the impacts on the environment. After substituting the data from 8 contingency tables for

assessing the dependence into the equations (2), (3), (4) and comparing with table 4, the comparison of the dependence between the type of emergency and activating the warning and information network, realising evacuation, information about providing aid including the negative consequences on life, health, citizens property involving the impacts on the environment is shown in table 10.

Table 10 A simple classification of emergencies according to the region

Type of contingency	Value of Pearson contingency coefficient	Assessment of dependence	Value of Tschuper's coefficient	Assessment of dependence
Dependence between the type of emergency and warning by radio	2.2692	No dependence	0.06904	No dependence
Dependence between the type of emergency and warning by sirens	0.03214	No dependence	0.00099	No dependence
Dependence between the type of emergency and realising evacuation	1.6173	No dependence	0.0499	No dependence
Dependence between the type of emergency and requirements on providing aid	6.06959	No dependence	0.18318	No dependence
Dependence between the type of emergency and consequences on life	0.35594	No dependence	0.0111	No dependence
Dependence between the type of emergency and consequences on health	0.68951	No dependence	0.0215	No dependence
Dependence between the type of emergency and consequences on property	2.1228	No dependence	0.06621	No dependence
Dependence between the type of emergency and consequences on the environment	0.46763	No dependence	0.0149	No dependence

Source: Author

We can conclude there is no dependence between the type of emergency and activating the warning and information network, realising evacuation, information about requirements on providing aid including negative consequences on life, health, citizens, property including the impacts on the environment.

CONCLUSION

The statistical assessment results of the emergencies in Slovakia during 2013 – 2020 show the importance of integrating the statistical elements into the crisis management system. The chapter Actual Status of emergencies in Slovakia is created based on selected professional bibliography by various authors dealing with the area of crisis management in Slovakia. The chapter Results of Discussion introduces the results and conclusions of the statistical assessment of emergencies in Slovakia from 2013 – 2020. The author finds specific penetrations between these chapters. According to Reitpís (2004) and based on table 6 and graph 1, floods dominate the emergencies in Slovakia. According to Titko (2016) and based on table 6 and graph 1, the occurrence of the whirlwinds is rare in Slovakia. According to Šovčíková (2005) and based on table 6 and graph 1, major industrial accidents occur only sporadically in Slovakia. According to the data from the websites of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (Ministry of Environment, 2014; Ministry of Environment, 2019) and the results from table 7, the most affected regions are the Prešov and Žilina regions. From the point of view of the relative number of emergencies in individual districts, the Prešov district is the most threatened in Slovakia. According to Dritomský (2019) and the relative number of emergencies in individual regions, the Žilina region is the most endangered, particularly in Kysuce and Orava. The results of the statistical assessment of the emergencies that happened in Slovakia during the years 2013 – 2020 show that emergencies occur more frequently in the towns than in the villages. Table 8 enables us to say the individual facts. The author considers the most severe facts to be: warning by the radio is carried out more frequently than a warning by sirens, during floods, evacuation is often carried out, and there are significant consequences on the property, in the framework of the fires, the crisis management bodies and inhabitants have to cope with a relatively frequent occurrence of impacts on life and property. The conclusions from table 9 show a moderate association between evacuation and negative consequences on life and property, including a small association between evacuation and impacts on health. The conclusions from table 10 show no contingency between the type of the emergencies and activating the warning and information network, realising evacuation, information about the requirements on providing the aid including negative consequences on life, health, citizens' property including the impacts on the environment.

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Ing. Daniel BREZINA, PhD.

Demänová 393, 031 01 Liptovský Mikuláš 1

+421 960 423 951

daniel.brezina@aos.sk



THE BASIC FEATURES OF THE PATRIOTISM AND HIS PLACE IN THE SOCIAL LIFE

Daniel BREZINA, Juraj ŠIMKO

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ABSTRACT

The authors in this article are discussing about different problematic areas in terms of patriotism, including legal environment, forms and ways of education, as well as about the negative manifestations and consequences of misunderstanding principles in patriotism from the individuals point of view. The main aim of the article is the assessment of the basic features of patriotism via analyses the mentioned areas and spheres of patriotism mainly in the conditions of Slovak Republic. In the publication process the authors consulted the given facts with a lot of experts, not only from academic environment but as well as from the environment of public authorities and institutions, for example Matica Slovenská and Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters.

KEYWORDS

patriotism, nationalism, radicalization, educational activities, legal environment



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INTRODUCTION

Existence of the human being is characterized by group coexistence which is about securing living needs. Securing living needs is for the human characterized not only in individual level but also within the group. The group sets goals for its surviving and the values are the starting points for the setting social goals.

One of the social values is patriotism which thus becomes one of the basic documents for the functioning of the social system.

We meet with the different forms of social organisation from the beginning of the civilization. Over time it has taken various forms. From the ancient antic civilization, the specific forms of social organisation have appeared where the wider sections of the population have been involved on the life of society. As Zamarovský (1990) stated, in the conditions of Greek polis, who gave up the activity for society, or didn't participate because

of physical or mental disorder, was in the eyes of others second-class citizen. From this indication we can deduce that a certain degree of social activity or activity oriented in the interest of the prosperity of the society was and still has been related to patriotism. This situation persists to this day and the preparation for life in society is given to the individual by upbringing in the family from the childhood. According to Mikuš (2013), the family creates the conditions for the correct formation of opinions and attitudes of its members in relation to the homeland in which they were born, had their ancestors, in which they live and create values for future generations. Patriotism represents the manifestation of the civic activity and quality. The culmination of this social preparation, as stated by Konfršt (2010), is the connection of the process of education with politics.

1 DEFINITION OF BASIC TERMS AND THEIR CONCEPTS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF PATRIOTISM

In the introduction of the article it is necessary to determine the basic terms and define the concepts that are related to the issues addressed.

The choice of individual terms and their concepts was influenced by several facts. Various forms of individual patriotism have accompanied humanity since beginning. Over time, along with the development of the society, the frequency of war conflicts increased with emphasis on the aspect of patriotism. The issue of patriotism is quite complicated.

The definition of the term **nation** is relatively complicated to clarify unambiguously, as its various forms and shapes have been significantly influenced mainly by geopolitical conditions, as well as the global security environment. According Kolečka (1967), the term nation in the Middle Ages represented all members of the tribe, the inhabitants of the territorial political groups, as well as belonging to the place of birth. Tazzer (2018) in his publication discusses one of the most important personalities in Slovak history – General Milan Rastislav Štefánik. He considered the nation as an association based on 4 basic pillars: idea, program, parties and laws. There is a more specific and complex definition of the term nation in Universum publication: General Encyclopaedia (Ambros, 2001). According to this definition, the term nation can be characterized as a unity of the people, which arose from the action of various nation-building factors, whether economic, geographical or political.

The term nation is then associated with the term **identity**. Bačová (2008) expresses selected characteristics of individuals or communities through identity. Among these characteristics we can include, for example, authenticity, integrity, continuity, awareness of differences, or affiliation with human communities. A specific form of identity is an identity of national character. Jandourek (2001) describes national identity as a deep sense of one's own identity based on one's own community. Carey (2002) understands national identity as a collective social identity in which an individual has a positive attitude towards his or her own nation, a sense of belonging to that nation, including the definition of nations and

cultures perceived as potentially threatening its own culture. According to Walterová (2005), spiritual culture, value orientation, as well as belief in a common future and a national perspective are important for national identity.

Another concept closely related to the subject matter includes **patriotism**. In his publication, Blackwell (1995) describes patriotism as a love for his homeland, which also includes a readiness to stand up for its defence. Unlike nationalism, it is an emotion rather than a political idea. According Petrussek (1996), patriotism is an expression for enlightenment public opinion with an interest in the public good and human rights.

According to Bodolló (2018), under the term patriotism denotes virtue, love and devotion to the homeland, pride in its past and present, efforts to protect the interests of the homeland. A patriotist is a person who feels national pride. Manifestation of patriotism is, for example, the singing of the national anthem. Unlike patriotism, it is not tied to the nation, but to the territory (country), or political nation (inhabitants of the country). According to Nathanson (1993), patriotism is based on four basic pillars:

1. Special affection for one's own country,
2. Feeling of personal identification with the country,
3. Special interest in the welfare of the country,
4. Willingness to sacrifice for the good of the country.

Nationalism is a relatively strong and lively concept related to the issue of patriotism. Breuilly (1994) divides nationalism into three basic areas, namely nationalism as doctrine, nationalism as emotional attitudes, and nationalism as politics. The beginning of nationalism is associated with the transformation of consciousness and the gradual acquisition of nationalist ideas in certain segments of society. Jandourek (2001) understands nationalism as an ideology of exaggerated national consciousness that diminishes the value of other nations. Nationalism is often associated with the demand for the creation of its own sovereign state. One of the most famous British writers, George Orwell (1968), contrasted nationalism and patriotism in terms of aggressive and defensive attitudes. Nationalism is about the power, his supporter wants to gain as much power and prestige for his nation as it is possible. While nationalism is correspondingly aggressive, patriotism is defensive. It is a devotion to a certain place and a way of life that one considers the best but does not want to impose on others.

2 LEGAL ENVIRONMENT DEALING WITH PATRIOTISM IN THE CONDITIONS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Legal regulations of the Slovak Republic dealing with the issue of patriotism are created by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, constitutional laws, laws and lower legal regulations. The system of legal regulations creates a legal environment that governs public

and state administration bodies, legal entities, but also natural persons. Within the legal environment of the Slovak Republic containing (at least marginally) the issue of patriotism, there is a number of legal regulations.

At the beginning, it is necessary to focus primary on the legal environment dealing mainly with the issue of supporting the education of the population of the Slovak republic to patriotism. Before the establishment of the Slovak Republic in 1993, the term patriotism is more significantly mentioned in the basic law of the state of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, The Constitution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, where Article 16, par.1 sounds *“All cultural policy in Czechoslovakia, the development of education, upbringing and teaching are conducted in the spirit of scientific knowledge and in accordance with the principles of patriotism, humanity and democracy.”* In addition to the Constitution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the issue of patriotism has received attention in the teaching of physical education and military education. According to Act no. 68/1956 Coll. on the organization of physical education § 1 par. 2 is *“the role of physical education primarily to maintain and improve the health of the people, increase their physical fitness, work performance and military readiness, educate to determination and bravery in defending the homeland and its democratic establishment in the spirit of socialist patriotism and thus contribute to the struggle for world peace.”* Later, this legal regulation was repealed by Act no. 173/1990 Coll. repealing Act No. 68/1956 Coll. on the organization of physical education and laying down certain other relations concerning voluntary physical education organizations . According to Act no. 73/1973 Coll. on military education § 3 par. 1 is *“the content of military education on the basis of Marxism-Leninism to systematically shape, deepen and strengthen socialist patriotism, proletarian internationalism and the conscious attitude of citizens to the defence of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the necessary professional and technical knowledge, skills and habits, physical fitness and mental resilience.”* Later, this legal regulation was repealed by Act no. 217/1991 Coll. on the repeal of Act no. 73/1973 Coll. on military education, as amended by the statutory measure of the Presidency of the Federal Assembly no. 17/1976 Coll.

One of the first legal regulations at the beginning of the establishment of the independent Slovak Republic in 1993, which included support for patriotic education, was Act no.63/1993 Coll. on state symbols of the Slovak Republic and its use. The state symbols of the Slovak Republic are defined and characterized in § 1 of the Act in question. According to par. 2 § 1 *“everyone is obliged to maintain respect for the state symbols of the Slovak Republic. Education for patriotism and respect for the state symbols of the Slovak Republic must be included in the state educational program of schools.”*

Primary and secondary schools play a significant role in the process of carrying out preventive educational activities. Pursuant to § 29 par. 1 of Act no. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (School Act) and on the amendment of certain laws *“In accordance with the principles and goals of education and training of this law, the primary school*

supports the development of the pupil's personality based on the principles of humanism, equal treatment, tolerance, democracy and patriotism, in terms of intellectual, moral, ethical, aesthetic, work and physical." This Education Act repealed a legal regulation, which was the Decree of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Slovak Republic no. 80/1991 on secondary schools. § 3 of this Decree also provided essential information on the establishment and abolition of secondary schools, while par. 4 reads: *"The head teacher of a secondary school may lease the school's premises and equipment to other organizations for activities that do not run counter to the principles of patriotism, humanity and democracy."* In § 13 it was possible to find specific rules of behaviour of students, while § 1 letter b characterized the basic obligations of students, such as *"to master the principles of patriotism, humanity, democracy and to act according to them, to be disciplined, to follow the instructions of pedagogical staff, instructors and other school staff and to behave inside and outside the school so that they honour the school and themselves"*. These relatively important parts no longer exist even marginally in the subsequent school law.

In addition to primary schools, the legal environment of the Slovak Republic also contained provisions on the relationship of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic to patriotism. According to Act no. 99/2014 Coll., Amending Act no. 321/2002 Coll. on the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, as amended, § 4 is supplemented by paragraph 12, which reads: *"The Armed Forces participate in the preparation of the population for the defence of the state in the education of the population for patriotism, in the development of military traditions and in the provision of cultural, educational, sports and social events organized for this purpose."* However, this relatively important supplemented paragraph was later amended by Act no. 477/2019 Coll., Amending Act no. 321/2002 Coll. on the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, as amended, and which amends certain laws. Pursuant to this Act, in the present § 4 par. 13 delete the words *"to educate the population for patriotism"*. This adjustment can be considered a significant mistake in the issue of educating the population of the Slovak Republic to patriotism. On the other hand, we can perceive the effort to extend patriotic education to a wider sphere of social preparation than just reducing it to the conditions of the armed forces, so as not to misinterpret that only the armed forces are responsible for its implementation.

Act no. 435/2010 Coll. on the provision of subsidies within the competence of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic in § 2 deals with the purpose of providing subsidies, within which pursuant to letter a) the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic may provide a subsidy to support the education of citizens of the Slovak Republic to patriotism.

The legal environment of the Slovak Republic in the area of support for patriotic education also includes historically important institutions of the Slovak nation, which place emphasis primarily on cultural, social as well as scientific actions and activities. It is primarily the Matica Slovenská and the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters. § 2 Act no. 68/1997 Coll.

on the Matica Slovenská defines the specific tasks entrusted to Matica Slovenská by the state:

- a) *to strengthen Slovak patriotism,*
- b) *to deepen the relationship of citizens to the Slovak statehood,*
- c) *to do basic Slovak research,*
- d) *to participate in the development of local and regional culture,*
- e) *to work on young people in particular in the spirit of national, moral and democratic values,*
- f) *to increase the national awareness of Slovaks in the linguistically mixed territories of the Slovak Republic,*
- g) *to strengthen the relations of the cultures of citizens who declare themselves to national minorities and ethnic groups in the territory of the Slovak Republic with the Slovak national culture,*
- h) *to bring together creators and supporters of Slovak culture and science in the world,*
- i) *to encourage the promotion of the Slovak Republic also through its own information and cultural centres set up abroad,*
- j) *to develop contacts with European and world organizations on issues of culture, national identity, spiritual life and the protection of universal values,*
- k) *to establish foundations and funds at home and abroad to support the national and cultural life of Slovaks and to reward the most important creators from the defined areas of creative activity,*
- l) *to co-operate with state authorities and local self-government bodies in the development of culture and social life,*
- m) *to publish original Slovak works of art, scientific works and journalism,*
- n) *to co-operate in the creation of course books and textbooks of certain subjects of social sciences for primary and secondary schools on the basis of the authorization of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic.*

Act no. 487/2013 Coll. on anti-fascist resistance, position and competence of the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters in § 3 par. 1 specifies what tasks the union performs and carries out:

- a) *promotes the democratic and human legacy of the Slovak national emancipation movement started by the "Štúr group", whose process, which continued during the Second World War in the struggle for national liberation and against fascism, culminated in the Slovak National Uprising,*

- b) *takes care of a true explanation of the history of the struggle for national liberation, against fascism and nazism,*
- c) *organizes reverential and commemorative events on the occasion of important historical anniversaries and memorial days of the Slovak Republic, especially celebrations of the Slovak National Uprising, celebrations of the liberation of Slovakia in individual regions, Dukla Pass Victims Day, as well as seminars and discussions for the young generation and their teachers,*
- d) *initiates permanent care in the bodies of state administration and local authority for the protection and maintenance of monuments, memorials, memorial plaques and war graves of fallen heroes of the national liberation struggle,*
- e) *maintains, establishes and develops friendly relations with resistance organizations abroad,*
- f) *publicly opposes extreme forces promoting nationalism, chauvinism, racism, anti-Semitism, neo-fascism, neo-Nazism, inhumanity and xenophobia.*

According to Act no. 219/2006 Coll. about anti-communist resistance is *“The National Council of the Slovak Republic, driven by the will to appreciate and respect men and women, who fought for their homeland, personal freedom and preparedness for the highest sacrifices, defended the values of freedom and democracy.”* On the basis of this will *“The National Council of the Slovak Republic, is determined to permanently remind the ideals of patriotism, honour and bravery to future generations of our citizens.”*

3 EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ACCESS TO PATRIOTISM

The preparation of the population in the conditions of the Slovak Republic in the field of patriotism is ensured within the organization and implementation of preventive educational activities. These activities take various forms, and are provided by several organizations and institutions.

According to Mikuš (2013) it is necessary to create a space for teaching patriotic education in all types of schools, the aim of which must be to educate strong, passionate and conscious patriots in proportion to the most important role of the school, by deepening the knowledge base for students. This can happen in many ways, but two strategies have proven to be effective: the first is contact with your homeland, your nation, your roots, and the second is education. In his publication, Matúš (2013) states that patriotism is the basis of our cultural identity, an important source of historical consciousness and education, and at the same time an instrument of tolerance and civic cohesion and understanding among nations. Therefore, education and training for patriotism and national and Christians traditions, together with education for democracy and human rights, represents an important component of education in terms of profiling a moral and at the same time professionally competent and responsible citizen of the Slovak Republic.

Primary and secondary schools perform the basic function within the implementation of preventive educational activities. At the beginning, it is necessary to acquaint the pedagogical public with the issue of patriotism through regular discussions, quizzes and debates, as well as to define the degree of acceptability of the risk associated with the problems of too strong patriotism leading to extremism and radicalism. The main goal of these activities for the pedagogical public is to minimize the risk associated with the increasing incidence of extremism in the young generation of the population of the Slovak Republic. Education of teachers in the field of patriotism is the task of representatives of selected institutions, such as **The National Institute for Education** and **The Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters**. In 2017, the director of the National Institute for Education Ľudovít Hajduk (2017) stated the main goal of practical cooperation between these institutions: *“The National Institute for Education is responsible for the content of education, especially in primary and secondary schools, and in this connection we agreed with the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters very practical cooperation in order to capture our students from an early age, to internally adopt real human values and be able to transform them into their practical attitudes and actions This is necessary to prevent extremism from the outset by the fact that students can distinguish what is good, human and, vice versa. what can hurt us all”*.

In addition to the basic activities mentioned, such as discussions, conferences and discussions with teachers, these institutions also support various types of competitions and exhibitions, seeking to promote them through regional media, including the websites of these organizations and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic. The director of the National Institute for Education Ľudovít Hajduk (2017) further states: *“Knowledge of one’s own past and healthy patriotism is a necessary condition for the success of prevention against extremism, therefore we support the practical activities of the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters in individual regions of Slovakia. I am convinced that through topics such as the Slovak National Uprising, World War II in Slovakia and in the world, resistance in the regions of Slovakia will spread positive values among the people that convey to us important events and personalities of our national history.”*

The National Institute for Education and the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters also cooperate significantly in improving the content of civic education, ethics, history and homeland studies in primary schools in clarifying the difficult periods of our national history, such as the resistance and the Slovak National Uprising. The National Institute for Education assists the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters in creating professional and methodological materials for teachers in the field of access to patriotism.

In 2009 the National Institute for Education prepared a document entitled “Proposal for the provision of teaching patriotism, including national and Christian traditions as a system of teaching “. The aim of the document was to suggest to teachers the possibilities of developing students’ respect for their homeland, nation and Christian traditions in individual areas of education through the content of subjects at all levels of education. This document

analyzes specific subjects influencing education for patriotism, national and Christian traditions, such as the media (radio, television, newspapers, magazines, books, brochures, the Internet, CDs, DVDs, advertisements, trailers, advertising space), cultural institutions (museums, theatres, galleries), including churches and religious societies. The document points out that respect for the homeland, the nation, and cultural values is not the privileged domain of only some subjects in the school, but it can be adequately developed in all subjects so that students gain basic skills to perceive and develop values. Among other things, this document proposes specific methods and forms of education for patriotism and national and Christian traditions. Such methods and forms include, for example, various competitions (literary, geography, history, civics...), lectures (on the beauties of Slovakia, on Slovak regions – regions, on historical figures of Slovakia, on historical events concerning Slovaks and Slovakia...), patriotic trips and excursions (to the school surroundings, within the region – observation, development, discovery and evaluation of the state in the environment of geographical excursion with topics of physical and human geography, history, biology, art and culture, to memorable places in Slovakia to craftsmen's workshops, visits to museums, galleries...), as well as school wide activities (The School Day) (Hauser, 2009).

Since 2014, the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters has been organizing almost 1,200 anti-fascist events a year, which are increasingly attended by the young generation. The Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters also takes care of the restoration, maintenance, cleaning of memorials and memorial plaques, bunkers (e.g. bunkers Mor ho below Stag rock, Jankov vršok, Vernár, Krčahovo, Pohronský Bukovec, Kyjov), war graves and their surroundings, for which also spends certain resources. In cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic, military and sports events are regularly organized. Since 2014, there has also been a permanent exhibition of the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters, a library and a club of war veterans in the building of the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters in Bratislava. The specific tasks that the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters performs and carries out are described in the previous chapter in § 3 par. 1 of Act no. 487/2013 Coll. on anti-fascist resistance, position and competence of the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters.

In addition to the National Institute for Education and the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters, the **Slovak School Sport Association** has also its justification in the process of preparing the population in the conditions of the Slovak Republic in the field of patriotism. This member of the international school sports organization organizes various types of education, especially for the sports pedagogical public, or physical education teachers. One of the last activities was, for example, a lecture entitled "Patriotism and civic pride through sport." The focus of the lecture was on pride and patriotism through sport.

Ondrušek (2017) prepared a relatively interesting handbook for teachers called „History-Methodical handbook for history teachers in the 9th grade of elementary school“. The third chapter of this publication, dealing with the issue of patriotism, consists of two

parts – What we are proud of and the Personalities of Slovakia. The overall aim of the methodological manual is also to contribute to the reflection on sensitive issues that concern each of us (how to maintain and develop democratic values, how to prevent youth extremism and radicalization, how to strengthen tolerance, resilience to media manipulation, how to lead youth to freedom and responsibilities).

One of the oldest institutions that builds awareness and at the same time encourages literary work about patriotism is **Matica slovenská**, founded on August 4, 1963 in Turčiansky Svätý Martin at the founding general meeting of Matica slovenská. In terms of the date of establishment, in the conditions of the Slovak Republic, a commemorative day of the Slovak Republic – Matica Slovenská Day – is commemorated every year. The specific tasks entrusted to Matica slovenská by the state are described in the previous chapter in § 2 of Act no. 68/1997 Coll. about Matica slovenská. Apart from organizing regular conferences, seminars and discussion meeting of the representatives of the Centre for National Relations, concerts and exhibitions related to patriotism are also organized under the auspices of Matica slovenská. Part of these activities is also the publication in periodicals and historical anthologies. Matica slovenská allows you to rent various types of national dresses, costumes, accessories and props of hire service “Šatnica Matica slovenská.” The main purpose of this “Šatnica” is to support amateur, semi-professional and professional theatricals in the presentation of cultural heritage and memories of important personalities and events of national history of Slovakia. The specialized public archive and central professional workplace for the preservation of the cultural heritage and history of Matica slovenská is the Matica slovenská Archive, which receives and obtains written, photographic, multimedia or museum and gallery documents from the organizational units of Matica slovenská and from personalities of national and public life at home and abroad. These documents are subsequently registered, protected, professionally processed and, last but not least, made available to the public. According to Tkáč (2013), the presence and the future of Matica slovenská is in cultivation of the patriotism in a form worthy of the beginning of the third millennium. The pillar of “Matica’s patriotism” is the care of history, language, education, culture in the broadest sense of the word.

In addition to the mentioned institutions, the individual self-governments of towns and municipalities also play an important role in the process of population preparation in the conditions of the Slovak Republic in the field of patriotism. An example is “Hodža Days” (Hodžove dni) It is a traditional event in the Turiec region, which is focused on strengthening historical awareness and patriotism through science, culture and education. During this event, various tourist ascents are organized (for example to Malý Fatranský Kriváň), including a reminder of the personality of a prominent native, statesman and politician Dr. Milan Hodža.

As part of his editorial and publishing activities Guťan (2013) considers the fact that there is no one to write books on patriotism to be a relatively significant problem. Slovaks traditionally have a weaker historical and national consciousness. The decisive role in

shaping historical consciousness (rather unconsciousness) is no longer played by political elites, school or family, but by the media. The views of those who could shape it more significantly, for example historians, are marginal in the media. According to Gbúrová (2013), the topic of patriotism in recent times is not the centre of media or political attention in the conditions of the Slovak Republic. Patriotic education does not always take place in a natural way. Usually only the state form of patriotism is specified, while in the educational process thematic material illustrating the history of the state idea comes to the fore. Thus, the language of knowledge dominates, which affects the pupil or student in the form of a set of knowledge of a historical nature, not in the form of perceptually creative approaches to the interpretation of a historically demanding subject.

4 NEGATIVE MANIFESTATIONS OF PATRIOTISM IN THE CONDITIONS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Within the framework of building the awareness of the population of the Slovak Republic about patriotism, it is possible to find a number of problematic areas with an emphasis on propaganda and disinformation campaigns. These are often presented by various forms of organizations operating, whether in a virtual Internet environment or in personal contact with the population. According to Brezina (2018), since the establishment of the Slovak Republic in 1993, politicians and leading state officials have underestimated these threats and have not paid them the necessary attention. The polarization of society on many important issues is compounded by the increasing radicalization of the population. If political populism is associated with this polarization of society, it may result in the emergence of far-right political parties and movements. Kluknavská (2012) states in her publication that far-right movements in the conditions of the Slovak Republic are not homogeneous. Although the individual movements differ in program and ideology, they are all based on radical nationalism, which in Slovakia often turns into racism aimed mainly at the Roma population and the defense of patriotism, especially from the period of the Slovak state. According to Lichner (2020), extremist movements are characterized mainly by views that the majority society rejects. These are usually quick and easy solutions that may seem acceptable. However, only until individuals realize what the consequences will be. Awareness of the consequences is a factor for some individuals to stop doing these activities. However, for some individuals, even awareness of the consequences is not a reason to stop such proceedings. This is especially the case if he integrates into the structures of a radical, extremist group, or into the structure of a sect or cult. Therefore, it is necessary to know the basic characteristics of these groups, for which they are attractive to at risk-individuals

One of the most famous organizations of this kind is the **Slovak Conscripts** (Slovenskí branci). Kandrík (2018) describes Slovak Conscripts as an independent, non-state group of paramilitary character. The group first appeared in public in 2012. During this period, it had

ties to the Slovak Revival Movement and contacts with the Russian military patriotic associations Národný Sobor and Dobrovoľník. The organization gained wider attention by participating in the commemoration of the anniversary of the Slovak state and the laying of wreaths at the statue of Jozef Tiso. In the past, Slovak Conscripts implemented activities such as military days at schools. This in itself would not be problematic, the problematic is the content, which in some moments was clearly politicized with an orientation towards the Russian Federation. In addition to training, Slovak Conscripts also take part in various volunteer events, such as helping with natural disasters or eliminating the consequences of natural disasters. With their props and philosophy, they are reminiscent of Hlinka's guard and movements to the extreme right. The "Educational activities" of the Slovak Conscripts do not provide the external observer with many reasons to positively and confidently evaluate the loyalty of the Conscripts to the current establishment and foreign policy orientation of the Slovak Republic. In the case of this organization, the purposeful veiled and interconnection of the roles of declared civic activism, political activity and paramilitary structure is extremely problematic. Such a combination grossly transcends and denies the principles of apolitical forces, democratic control of the military and other mechanisms limiting the possibilities of abuse of the state's forces. Currently, the divisions of Slovak Conscripts operate in several Slovak regions, and the organization itself does not take the form of an officially registered civic association.

Another controversial organization is the group **Defiance of Kysuce** (Vzdor Kysuce), which advocates the ideas of radical nationalism and neo-Nazism. The members of the group undergo paramilitary training, which they also present through videos on the Internet. It consists mainly of training in nature four to eight times a month, training is mainly strengthening, boxing and once a month training of combat systems of krav maga and combat systema takes place. The group also organizes tourist marches on a regular basis. The group is active, as the name suggests, especially in the north of Slovakia in the region Kysuce. In addition to training members, the group is also involved in other activities, mainly various volunteer work in the region, the group has its own charity project called Slovak to Slovaks (Vzdor, 2015).

One of the most well-known far-right political parties is the **Kotlebovci – People's Party – Our Slovakia**, which Mihálik (2016) describes as fascist, as the sympathies of some party members are precisely the fascist state and system. According to Kluknavská (2016), this party had been relatively well known in the Slovak Republic for a long time, mainly due to the organization of anti-Roma protests. However, it came to the attention of the media and politicians in 2013, when party chairman Marián Kotleba won the second round of regional elections in Basnká Bystrica. Kotlebovci – People's Party – Our Slovakia publicly subscribes to the legacy of the Slovak state represented by its president Jozef Tiso. Despite the existence of a number of personnel links to the organizations Slovak Conscripts and Vzdor Kysuce, the political party carries out almost no "educational activities" in the field of building an effective approach to patriotism. In the past, various controversial activities of

this political party took place in the school environment, where they promoted their program among young people. This procedure violated the legal environment of the Slovak Republic in the field of education, as according to section 151 of Act 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (the School Act) and on the amendment of certain laws „*the activities of political parties and political movements and their promotion are prohibited in schools and school facilities*“.

Lichner (2020) among the non-parliamentary actors in the territory of the Slovak Republic, whose activities show extreme right-wing signs, advises the **Slovak Revival Movement**. In the past, the association became more prominent by organizing a petition banning the Hungarian Coalition Party, which was signed by 5702 people in three months in 2004. Together with Matica slovenská, it organizes cultural and social events and memorial celebrations on the occasion of the anniversary of the birth or death of Slovak historical figures or representatives of the Slovak state. According to Mesežnikov (2016), from the point of view of the theory of extremism, the Slovak Revival Movement is a moderate nationalist association that is engaged in cultural activities and does not have an elaborate political program. On the pages of their own magazine called “Právo národa”, they are positive about the war-torn Slovak state. It focuses on building cooperation between Slavic countries and presents the idea of Slavic reciprocity.

CONCLUSION

As stated in the article, the concept of patriotism is closely linked to society in a very broad process of socialization of the individual, especially in the creation of a value system. This is associated with a wide range of activities that affect individuals throughout their lives. It intervenes in the field of ethics, culture, folklore, education and the education system, as well as in political life. However, in addition to the description of the existing legislative and organizational framework, it is also necessary to talk about the specifics of negative action, when in the process of creating a value system, both individual and society, there is an undesirable reduction and distortion of the interpretation of patriotism with all negative effects. For this reason, it is clear that the public interest in the issue of patriotism and patriotic education is a long-term process that requires its sensitive control and guidance.

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Ing. Daniel BREZINA, PhD.

Demänová 393, 031 01 Liptovský Mikuláš 1

+421 960 423 951

daniel.brezina@aos.sk

Mgr. Juraj ŠIMKO, PhD.

Demänová 393, 031 01 Liptovský Mikuláš 1

+421 960 423 951

juraj.simko@aos.sk



COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SLOVAK ARMED FORCES AND MOVEMENT COORDINATION CENTRE EUROPE PROJECT: AIR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Marián ŠIŠKA

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ABSTRACT

The air transport environment is very complex, and in its nature ever changing and evolving. Capabilities and capacities in transport are dynamic and dependent on many factors including the world happenings and situation. It's as well crucial to note that characteristics of the transport conditions are subject to compliance with the national and international agreements, laws, and other regulations.

On the top of that, most of the militaries around the world have limited operational budget, so there is a notable need in finding cost-effective solutions for transportation. That's one of the main reasons why international military transportation projects, such as Movement Coordination Centre Europe project, are progressively growing and expanding their scope.

KEYWORDS

transportation requirements, military transportation projects, transport costs, air transport, transportation assets.



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INTRODUCTION

Slovak Armed Forces currently deploy their personnel and military assets in the multinational operations on three continents. The air transportation assets, available to the Slovak Armed Forces that support deployment of troops to operations can be defined as secured. However, from one point of view, it can be said, that Slovak Armed Forces have access to all necessary transportation means to support their transportation needs; on the other hand, execution of transportation requirements is not always utmost effective and cost efficient.

Slovak Armed Forces mainly, with a few exceptions, deploys relatively small troops to operations which creates a challenge in finding the most efficient method of transportation and in maximizing the transport cost savings. Transport to areas of operations depends on

various factors, such as time, destination, unit size, equipment, countries political situation, international regulations and restrictions, and others. Having to fulfill and take into consideration all factors, most of the available efficient and often cost-effective widely available options for ensuring the transport requirement are in many times unfitting due to the limited capabilities or capacities.

In recent years, the usage of own military air assets for securing transportation needs is becoming trend in armed forces. Even though it doesn't appear as the efficient means of transport, it is often inevitable. As an example, the Slovak Air Forces personnel have a set minimum practice flying hours fund, even if flying an empty flight. Those practice flights personnel and assets can be utilized for actual military cargo/personnel transportation purposes and thus the organization-wide transportation costs are at the end more efficient.

Assessing and applying military transportation trends to the current ways of working and operation procedures can improve flexibility, rapidity, and effectiveness of air transport in Slovak Armed Forces. Currently, the most effective strategy to maximize the use of transportation assets and minimize financial costs is cooperation in the international military transportation projects, such as the Movement Coordination Centre Europe project (hereinafter referred to as "MCCE").

The main objective of this article is to develop proposal for specific measures, which if put to practice, can strengthen accessibility, interoperability and flexibility of the transport options of the Slovak Armed Forces within international project MCCE. MCCE is currently the most effective tool for maximizing usage of Slovak Armed Forces transportation assets as well as costs minimization.

The article will primarily use scientific method of analysis for parsing individual researching elements as well as method of comparison to compare currently used processes with proposed measures.

1 MOVEMENT COORDINATION CENTRE EUROPE PROJECT – MCCE

Movement Coordination Centre Europe project was established on 1st of July 2007 by merging two transportation organizations European Airlift Centre and Sealift Coordination Centre. MCCE is independent international organization, consisting of 28 member states. It's stationed in Eindhoven Air Base in the Netherlands.

The main purpose of MCCE is to optimize transportation costs through sharing of the transportation assets spare capacities between the member states. Member states benefit in having access to transportation assets of other countries, including the assets resulting from partnerships in various projects and national contracts.

The main principle of MCCE is voluntariness. Member states send information on their planned transports and requests to the MCCE head-office, where that information is incorporated into the database and shared between the member states. Member states can

access the information and react by either sending a request to share transportation or offer to support their request.

As an example, member state A has a planned transportation of cargo to Mali by their own transportation asset, with unused capacity for total 15 tons of cargo. State A would send this information to MCCE and offer spare capacity to other member states. Member state B would in our example need to transport 7 tons of cargo to Mali, sending the request to MCCE, looking to share the transportation. MCCE office reviews the information, informs, and connects both member state A and B on the possibility to share transport together. After acceptance/confirmation from both member states, MCCE coordinates the cooperation between the states.

Coordination of transportation usually requires flexibility and fast decision process from the requesting member state, in our example state B. Offering member state rarely changes their transportation plans to meet the requesting state preferences. It is the requesting member state, who needs to make concessions and changes in their plans to meet conditions set by offering/providing member state.

After execution of transportation, supported member state (requester) is obligated to pay agreed price to the supporting member state (provider). Price for transportation is always negotiated prior to the execution of transport. Payment can be provided either by financial payment or non-financial settlement (exchange of services). MCCE uses several non-financial payment methods, as ATARES, mutual agreement known as Letter of Acceptance (LoA) and assets exchange in program SALIS.

Many member states don't accept financial payments for their services for various reasons; due to that MCCE established a system ATARES (Air-to-Air Refueling and Exchanges of other Services), which is based on providing and gaining spare air transport capacities. It uses a "currency" Equivalent Flying Hour (hereinafter referred to as "EFH"). One EFH is equal to costs of one flying hour of Lockheed C-130 Hercules plane. In our example, if a member state A provide transportation to member state B using C-130 Hercules, and total flight length will be 12 flying hours, member state A will gain 12 EFH and member state B is obligated to pay 12 EFH in system ATARES. Every member state has various transportation assets with different cargo or passenger capacity and costs for one flying hour. For that reason, each country sets EFH coefficients for their assets.

The second non-financial payment method used between members states in MCCE is using the asset exchange in project SALIS. Strategic Airlift International Solution project (referred to as "SALIS") is a multinational initiative of 9 member states founded to provide strategic airlift of oversized and overweight cargo through contracted carrier. A principle of the project SALIS is applying multinational approach to joint purchase of large volume transport services, for lower prices as if each country would have purchased them on their own. Contract is based on purchase of flying hours of 5 cargo planes (Antonov AN-124) from German company Antonov Logistics SALIS. The main advantages of project SALIS are access to

cargo planes AN-124, that can transport 100 tons of load to long distance and a continual assured access to 2 same planes that have to be on disposal to the member states on a very short notice from any suitable airport.

Third, and the last, non-financial payment method used across MCCE is a Letter of Acceptance (hereinafter referred to as “LoA”). LoA is a mutual agreement between two parties regarding support of transportation needs, whereas the conditions of each LoA can differ. Basic principle in LoA’s is exchange of transportation assets between the member states; either member state owned, contracted, or resulting from a membership of one member state in another transportation project. The common purpose of LoA is a direct exchange of transportation assets between the member states.

2 COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SLOVAK ARMED FORCES AND MOVEMENT COORDINATION CENTRE EUROPE PROJECT

Slovakia is a member of the project MCCE since 1st of January 2015 and member of the system ATARES from 11th of March 2015. Since its accession to MCCE and ATARES, Slovak Armed Forces were involved in execution of 138 transports. In 95 cases, in the position of receiver of service and in 22 cases in the position of provider. 21 transportations were executed through the LoA with the other member states. While providing services for other member states, Slovak Armed Forces used all of their available assets except of Slovak Air Forces planes.

Communication with MCCE and coordination of transports is in full competence of the National Movement Coordination Centre of Slovak Armed Forces (hereinafter referred to as “NMCC”). Slovak NMCC creates and sends requests for transportations and analyses options to provide transportation for the other member states. It is also in competence for confirming incoming and outgoing payments in system ATARES, setting coefficients for usage of Slovak available assets, and attending MCCE steering and working boards.

Although the main principle of project MCCE is sharing of transportation assets between member states, Slovakia has limited number of assets available to offer. The main source of Slovak EFH income consist of offering prepaid flying hours in program SALIS. Besides that, Slovakia can offer its Air Forces assets, government planes and, in future, services of contracted carrier.

Slovak Air Forces currently has 2 tactical planes Alenia C-27J Spartan and 7 passenger planes L-410 Turbolet. Their usage for other member states is coordinated by Slovak NMCC but has to be approved by the Chief of the General staff of Slovak Armed Forces. The NMCC monitors requests from other member states and evaluates the Slovak planes being suitable and available for transport. Whenever NMCC finds a request that Slovak Air Forces is able to support, NMCC requests information on the availability of planes in requested dates from the planning department of the Slovak Air Forces. After the planning department confirms plane

availability, NMCC requests a usage of the Slovak Air Forces planes in favor of other MCCE member state. Once request is approved by the Chief of General staff, the commander of Slovak Air Forces orders execution of requested transport. Following that, the NMCC sends an offer to MCCE to support required transportation with the preliminary price calculation and proposed flight plan. If requestor member state accepts the offer, NMCC coordinates transportation with the Slovak Air Forces, MCCE and requesting member state. The process of gaining all necessary approvals can be in practice very time consuming and surely offers much room for improvement.

Second Slovak Air transportation asset being offered to the MCCE member states, the Slovak Government flying service (GFS) is in competence of Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Their fleet contains following planes: Airbus A-319 VIP – with capacity 90 passenger, Airbus A-319 VIP – with capacity 34 passenger, FOKKER 100 – with capacity 32 passenger, FOKKER 100 – with capacity 31 passenger. Usage of government flying assets is defined in agreement between the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Whenever Slovak Armed Forces need to use government planes, approval from the Minister of Internal Affairs is required prior to flight. Only the Minister of Defence or person appointed by him is authorized to request the government planes. In Slovak Armed Forces, the request competence is appointed also to the Commander of Slovak NMCC. Similarly, as for the Slovak Air Forces assets, also for the GFS assets the process of gaining all necessary approvals is in practice very time consuming.

Third, and the last Air transportation assets the Slovak Republic currently offers to the MCCE member states, is Slovak pre-paid flying hours in the multinational project SALIS. Slovak Armed Forces rarely need to transport overweight or oversized cargo, which is the main advantage of SALIS planes, but at the same time need to have assured access to that capability. According to contract with German company, Slovakia has 20 prepaid flying hours each year. Those flying hours can be used to support Slovak transportation needs or, more frequently, offered to support transportation requests from the other MCCE member states in exchange for EFH in ATARES. Usage of SALIS flying hours in favor of other states is pre-approved by Minister of Defence on yearly basis; and their spending is in competence of the Commander of Slovak NMCC. Usage of prepaid flying hours in project SALIS for other MCCE or SALIS member states is the main method how Slovakia is obtaining EFH in system ATARES.

Until the summer last year, Ministry of Defence had framework agreement with the civilian sector to ensure its transport requirements. Framework agreements provided the Slovak Armed Forces with access to all means of transport available throughout the world. Currently, Slovak Armed Forces are in process of procurement of new suppliers from civilian market to fulfil gap in availability of transportation assets. Once the procurement process is completed and new contract signed, Slovak Armed Forces will be able to offer services of contracted carrier to MCCE member states.

3 AIR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Slovak Armed Forces processes within MCCE are specified in national standard operational procedures for system ATARES. It can be said that these processes are set up in an effective manner, yet in practice we can identify several pain points and improvement opportunities, especially in the area of streamlining the decision and approval processes. In order to increase effectiveness and interoperability between Slovak Armed Forces and project MCCE, it is crucial to speed up the end-to-end process from receiving of request from the MCCE member state to providing an offer using national transportation assets.

As mentioned in the previous chapters, the opportunities for improvement of the cooperation between the Slovak Armed Forces and the MCCE project are an outcome of analysing the current processes of Slovak Air Forces, GFS and potential contracted carrier assets usage in prospect of MCCE member states.

3.1 Air Forces

Slovak military SOPs - Standard Operational Procedures, recognises two options for usage of Air Forces planes in favour of other MCCE member states. The first being merging planned Slovak military flight with part-load from another member state, and the second executing the direct flight for MCCE member state (either cargo or passenger transport).

The merging of planned military flight with other MCCE member states part-load is not possible without informing NMCC about planned flights. According to the current procedures, Slovak Air Forces is not required to share information about planned flights with NMCC. The revision of national SOPs to define the requirement for Slovak Air Forces to mandatory share information on all planned flights with NMCC. This change would deepen the cooperation between NMCC and Slovak Air Forces and would result in improving of the gaining and saving funds of Slovak Armed Forces within MCCE project.

The execution of air transport for other MCCE member states using Slovak Air Forces assets is possible, however for it to work in practice, it is critical to eliminate some of the crucial pain points. Main identified pain points include the time-consuming approval process and the need to simplify diplomatic permissions granting process. To increase the interoperability and streamline the end-to-end processes the following improvements are recommended:

1. Delegate the power to approve MCCE air transports to commander of the Slovak Air Forces directly, omitting the mandatory Chief of the General Staff approval. Alternatively, delegation of authority to approve MCCE air transport could be replaced by the pre-approved usage of the Slovak Air Forces aircrafts in prospect of other MCCE member states, similarly to the existing pre-approved usage of SALIS flying hours. In this case, Chief of the General Staff would pre-approve an amount of flying hours for each month/year that could be used for MCCE member states in exchange for ATARES EFH's. The cost of the transportation would be financially

covered from accounting budget dedicated to pilots training. Current approval of transport request process, with regards to military SOPs, usually takes 7-14 days. Implementing proposed measures, the duration of the end-to-end process could be reduced to 2-3 days.

2. Streamline process of requesting diplomatic permissions for overflights and landing between the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Main pain point are many handoffs between the various departments in both ministries, which often result in requests arriving to the concerned Slovak embassies in a non-timely manner. The process can be streamlined by delegating authority to Slovak NMCC to directly communicate and request diplomatic clearance from Slovak embassies all over the world, keeping the currently involved departments only informed. The rationale is that in practice the departments “in the middle” are mainly acting as messengers and don’t add much value. Implementing proposed measure, the duration of the process would be significantly reduced.

3.2 Contracted Carrier

Slovak Armed Forces can, as mentioned, offer assets to the MCCE member states resulting using the contracted carrier. At this point Slovak Armed Forces is in negotiation with carriers and the tendering process is not yet completed.

The usage of contracted carrier in favor of other MCCE member states is predicted to be guaranteed by the future framework agreement. From past experience, there is a critical restriction where according to the current Slovak SOPs, each order above 10.000 EUR has to be approved by the Minister of Defence. In practice, as nearly every air transport is above 10K, it results in each transport needs to be approved. The approval process is long and involves many handoffs between various department.

The recommendation is for the Minister of Defence to pre-approve an amount of 300.000 EUR per year, for the execution of transportation requests in prospect of other MCCE member states. The proposed 300K/year is based on the statistical data from the previous framework agreement. Abovementioned recommendation would significantly reduce duration of the approval process and would enable NMCC to react faster to the MCCE requests and gain funds by offering available assets.

3.3 Slovak Government Flying Service - GFS

Currently, Slovak NMCC can offer government aircrafts to other member states only within planned own military flights as a part-load or to use empty leg during transportation. Every GFS transport for Slovak Armed Forces has to be approved by the Minister of Internal Affairs,

which makes execution process time consuming. This also applies when transporting for other MCCE member states.

Revision of agreement between Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Internal Affairs could bring new possibilities for extension of cooperation between Slovak Armed Forces and MCCE. Removal of the mandatory Minister of Internal Affairs approval and direct flight booking between NMCC and Government Flying Service could improve flexibility and speed up the process. An alternative option is to gain Minister of Internal Affairs pre-approval for flights requested by the Slovak Armed Forces, including those executed in prospect of MCCE member states. In practice, the flights would be approved directly by the Director of Slovak Government Flying Service, based on availability of the aircrafts.

As a result, NMCC could set ATARES coefficients for GFS aircrafts and could offer them in prospect of other MCCE member states, which would result in gaining ATARES EFHs, fostering experience for pilots and crew, and deepening relations between Slovakia and MCCE member states.

CONCLUSION

The main purpose of this article was to present and propose measures for Slovak Armed Forces to improve the interoperability, flexibility, and cooperation with Movement Coordination Centre Europe project.

In a rapidly changing military transport environment, there is not always ample time for detail planning, so being fast and flexible is a must. That is the reason to why national decision, approval procedures and end-to-end processes have to be set in the most unobstructed way. A good example was the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic, when every country had to react in a rapid manner to meet their nation medical equipment requirements and the transport complexity was brought to the center mainly due to the existing regulations not predicting such situation and the world transport capabilities and capacities becoming limited. As seen, many transports have due to the inadequate national processes often resulted in disproportional and at cases utmost transport costs.

Although Slovak Armed Forces are an active member of MCCE project, there are still improvement opportunities that can be explored. Slovak Armed Forces are regularly in the role of transport receiver, but also take on the role of provider. Being a provider and sharing national assets with MCCE member states has a positive impact not only on membership in the project, but also on development of the national capabilities. Gaining experience, presentation of Slovak Armed Forces in the multinational environment and saving funds are only a few advantages of active membership in project MCCE – and the proposed measures would help to ensure just that.

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Mgr. Marián Šiška

701. centrum vojenskej dopravy Bratislava

Za kasárňou 3, Bratislava,

0910 400 194,

marian.siska24@gmail.com

Information for authors

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