

TASKS AND ACTIVITIES EXECUTED IN THE FIELD OF THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE DEFENSE

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Abstract: The defence infrastructure is necessary element of supporting the state defense and it is formed by the services and activities provided to the Slovak Armed Forces for ensuring effective protection and defense of the state. The defense infrastructure consists of lands, buildings and facilities, telecommunication, energy and transport systems, information networks and supplies of state material reserves. An important part of the defense infrastructure is the services and activities provided to the armed forces to ensure the state defense. These services and activities include financial, medical, veterinary, transport, telecommunication, postal, supply, accommodation, research and scientific services, manufacturing, repair and construction activities. This paper deals with the tasks and activities executed in the field of the support of the state defense.

Keywords: State defense; Defense infrastructure; Slovak Armed Forces; Development Plan; War; State of war.

1 INTRODUCTION

An important part of the defense system of the Slovak Republic is the support of the state defense. Support of the state defense is, according to the proposal of defense strategy of the Slovak Republic prepared and maintained through defense planning and economic mobilization in the field of the state defense [1]. Security is generally associated with stability, certainty, order, reliability, equilibrium, the existence of a subject without threats, state and feeling of security [2].

Security of the Slovak Republic is not a static but highly dynamic state that reflects the development of security environment and security threats associated with security risks at a particular time [3].

In connection with the current development of the security environment, the Slovak Republic undertakes to increase the scope and usability of the support of the state defense by improving its preparation and maintenance.

2 DEFINITION OF BASIC CONCEPTS

Under Act no. 319/2002 Coll. on the Defense of the Slovak Republic, the support of the state defense is formed by the defense infrastructure, services and activities provided to the armed forces for the defense of the state, including their maintenance, development, protection and defense, which are paid from the state budget [4], which schematically illustrates Fig. 1.

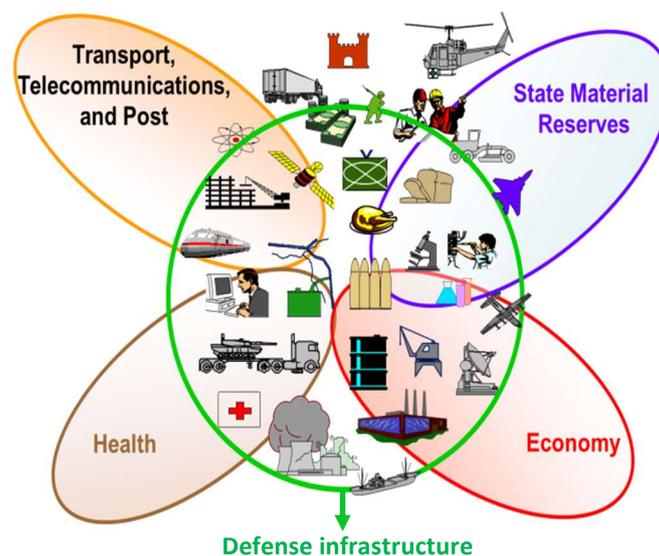


Fig. 1 Support of the state defense and its composition
Source: author.

An important part of the support of the state defense is the services and activities provided to the armed forces to ensure the defense of the state. Under Act no. 319/2002 Coll. these services and activities include in particular financial, health, veterinary, transport, transport, telecommunication, postal,

supply, accommodation, research and scientific services as well as manufacturing, repair and construction activities.

The government of the Slovak Republic, commits itself to prepare, maintain and develop defense infrastructure focusing in particular on transport

networks and transport objects, electronic communication networks, communication and information systems, objects of importance for ensuring cyber security, energy and gas distribution, management and constitutional activities authorities and command posts to the armed forces at the time of war and state of war, water point of supply, water resources and water supply facilities for the needs of the state defense, infrastructure of state material reserves and defense industry infrastructure.

Based on the above, it can be stated that the defense infrastructure is an essential part of the support of the state defense. The aim of this system is to achieve an improvement in the capability of the Slovak Armed Forces to carry out military operations and operations to eliminate the consequences of crisis situations and to support the public authorities.

3 BASIC DOCUMENTS IN THE FIELD OF THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE DEFENSE

Elaboration of the Program Declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the Slovak Armed Forces for 2016-2020 represents the basic political-military document for the management and planning activities in the defense sector, which elaborates the individual tasks of the government's policy statement in the field of the state defense into tasks within the competence of the relevant components. As part of task no. 10 (part of the armed forces), the Government of the Slovak Republic undertakes to support the development of defense infrastructure and to improve the system of supply of goods, provision of services and activities to support the armed forces in defense of the Slovak Republic and allied forces in the fulfillment of collective defense tasks in the Slovak Republic as a host country.

The operational plan of the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic for the use of the Slovak Armed Forces at the time of war and state of war, prepared on the basis of the Plan of Use of the Slovak Armed Forces at the time of war, represents another basic document in the field of the support of the state defense. The document defines a new security threat in view of the strategic geopolitical and geographical position of the Slovak Republic, when the eastern borders of Slovakia are part of the borders of the eastern wing of NATO and the EU. The plan states that the enforceability of each operation must be reflected in the requirements of the Slovak Armed Forces to ensure the support of the state defense.

Another important document in the field of the support of the state defense is the Development Plan for State Defense Support to 2024 (hereinafter referred to as "Development Plan"). The Development Plan was elaborated in accordance with Act no. 319/2002, in particular § 26 par. 5, which defines the following: The preparation and

development of the state defense support is provided according to the needs of the state defense on the basis of a plan drafted by the Ministry in cooperation with other ministries, other central state administration bodies, local state administration bodies, municipalities and higher territorial units [4].

The aim of the Development Plan is to implement the requirements of the Slovak Armed Forces to ensure the infrastructure of material, goods, services and activities necessary to ensure the defense of the state. On the basis of this plan, the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic coordinates the application of requirements to those ministries and central state administration bodies directly involved in the defense of the state and support of the armed forces.

The Development Plan was developed in cooperation with the ministries concerned and other central government bodies with the intention to create key prerequisites for achieving synergies of all interested subjects in the limited resources of the state for fulfilling the tasks of the state defense. The plan specifies and elaborates the basic strategic document of strategic defense evaluation - the White Paper on Defense of the Slovak Republic, in the field of the support of the state defense. Financial resources for the fulfillment of the tasks were allocated in the budget chapters of those ministries and state administration bodies that are directly involved in its implementation. For the negotiation of the Government of the Slovak Republic in March 2015, it was submitted with a recommendation of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic.

4 REDISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE DEFENSE

The main objective of the Development Plan is to provide an adequate level of defense infrastructure to defend the state. Its structure is designed to describe the individual segments of the support of the state defense, including the determination of the individual coordinators responsible for performing the long-term tasks with the suggestion of the estimated financial resources necessary to ensure them.

In the area of state preparation for defense, the main efforts of selected ministries and other central state administration bodies are aimed at achieving mutual cooperation with the following aim:

1. With the emphasis on achieving interoperability with NATO and the EU, ensure a gradual modernization of the main and reserve place of the government defense. This task is managed by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic and the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

2. Provide adequate traffic networks or transit of allies within the Host National Support Area for the operational apportionment and deployment of the armed forces. Responsibility for this role lies with the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic, whose task is at the same time to ensure the construction and maintenance of the supporting facilities and the necessary capacity of railway wagons and traction vehicles. The partial role of this ministry is also to create conditions for the transport of military post, fulfillment of tasks in the field of frequency management and provision of electronic communication support.
3. Ensure necessary medical services and bed capacity for hospitalization of members of the armed forces. This role was placed under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic.
4. For the needs of the armed forces, the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic has been designated as the guarantor of the task to ensure the operation and maintenance of the abstraction points for water, designated water resources and water supply facilities.
5. For the needs of the armed forces to ensure to the required extent the food commodities, under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic.
6. Under the logistic support system, the armed forces provide supply, replenishment and usage of power to the armed forces by securing the production and supply of materials and technology. This role is fulfilled in full by the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.
7. Take measures that will lead in crisis situations to create conditions for a stable social environment and to organize social security. This role was placed under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
8. To ensure sufficient stocks of fuel and mobilization reserves, including the need for regular maintenance and replenishment. The Administration of State Material Reserves of the Slovak Republic, as the central authority of the state administration for securing the tasks arising from the Act on State Material Reserves, is directly responsible for this task.
9. To support the state defense and the development of the capabilities of the armed forces to ensure the development of science and research while the task of the task force was assigned to the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic.

Tasks in the field of the support of the state defense are implemented in the Inter-departmental

program of state the defense [5], the aim of which is to coordinate the tasks for the implementation of measures by which designated ministries and other central state administration bodies create prerequisites for securing state defense.

The Development Plan was processed on the basis of the requirements of the Slovak Armed Forces to provide defense infrastructure, materials, goods, services and activities, which are provided by the competent ministries and other central state administration bodies.

5 CENTRAL REGISTER OF DEFENSE INFRASTRUCTURE OBJECTS AND FACILITIES FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE DEFENSE

In accordance with the Development Plan and Section 26 of Act 319/2002 Coll. the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic, in cooperation with other ministries and other central state administration bodies with national competence is responsible for:

1. Regular maintenance and control of the functionality of defense infrastructure objects and facilities in the field of the support of the state defense;
2. Yearly refinement of defense infrastructure objects and equipment in the field of the support of the state defense;
3. Maintaining and regularly updating the central register of defense infrastructure objects and facilities for the support of the state defense.

The Development Plan defines tasks in the field of defense infrastructure also for the Chief of General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces. He, through the Operational Planning Department of the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces, approves annually "Regulation of the Chief of the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces for Maintenance and Control of Defense Infrastructure Objects and Facilities in the Slovak Armed Forces", in accordance with:

- the Development Plan;
- the Guidelines on the establishment of permanent special equipment on road structures and on the objects of railway transport roads [6];
- the document Ensuring tasks of the support of the state defense in the field of the defense infrastructure [7].

The Strategic Planning Staff of the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces manages the field of defense infrastructure maintenance in the Slovak Armed Forces, processes requirements and coordinates their implementation within its scope.

The central register of defense infrastructure objects and facilities for the support of the state defense is headed by the Operational Planning Department of the Strategic Planning Staff of the

General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces on the technical device of MILSEC Type 2. This technical device is located in the classification area, room no. 125, Building No. 8 of the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic. The Operational Planning Department ensures for individual users the sharing of a unified central register in the defense sector through the intranet portal SHAREPOINT, managed by the Base of Stationary Communication and Information Systems Trenčín.

The central register is maintained through the software application of the defense infrastructure objects and facilities OBJEZA, in which the defense infrastructure objects necessary for securing the support of the state defense during the war and the state of war maintained by the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with other ministries, central state administration bodies, local state administration bodies, municipalities and higher territorial units.

The objects and facilities of the defense infrastructure for the support of the state defense, kept in the central register in the software application OBJEZA, are controlled and maintained by:

1. Slovak Armed Forces;
2. Other central state administration bodies.

In the central register, the following objects and facilities of the defense infrastructure are maintained by the Slovak Armed Forces:

A. *Reinforced concrete shelters:*

- built in the last century with regard to the tactics of the army in the battle to hide the living force;
- destined to hide the living force at the time of war and state of war;
- adequately protect the living force from the destructive effects of nuclear weapons, in particular against pressure wave, light radiation, penetrating radioactive radiation;
- inadequately protect people against the effects of chemical and toxic substances.

B. *Ford crossings:*

- predetermined at the time of the war and the state of war to deal with the substitute transport of the Slovak Armed Forces through watercourses while performing combat tasks;
- located close to the building bridges with the possibility of connection to public paved roads;
- at the time of security, there is the possibility of their use in training by engineer units, which are subordinate to the Land Forces of the Slovak Republic.

C. *Multi-purpose hardened helicopter surfaces:*

- are intended for use at the time of war and the state of war to load and unload persons,

materials and equipment for supply units and units deployed in combat by helicopters;

- at the time of safety they are used for transport by helicopters during international exercises, visits to foreign delegations and visits to the highest constitutional officials of the Slovak Republic (President of the Slovak Republic, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic and Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic);
- possibility of their immediate use for transporting injured persons to medical facilities - for example, training trainers.

Defense infrastructure objects and facilities kept in central register maintained by other central state administration bodies:

- A. *Airport sections;*
- B. *Airport networks;*
- C. *Special facilities on designated car road;*
- D. *Special facilities on designated railway lines;*
- E. *Drinking water supply points;*
- F. *Emergency service stations;*
- G. *Surrogate bridges;*
- H. *Technical assistance station;*
- I. *Multi-purpose hardened helicopter surfaces.*

In addition, objects of special importance and other important objects are kept in the central register of defense infrastructure objects and facilities.

The exact number of objects and facilities of the defense infrastructure for the support of the state defense, kept in the central register in the software application OBJEZA, represents the classified information of the level "RESTRICTED" and therefore it is not possible to mention it in this paper.

For the sake of clarity about the objects and facilities of the defense infrastructure, the Department of Operational Planning of the Strategic Planning of the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces maintains an overview of the maps at a scale of 1: 200,000, where it is stated:

- (a) the name of the site;
- (b) the military registration number of the building;
- (c) the name of the user of the facility;
- (d) the name of superior (headquarters);
- (e) responsibility (for non-departmental institutions).

In order to ensure the centralization of information in the relevant area, the central register kept in the software application OBJEZA also includes the maintenance of project documentation processed by the building designer to the buildings on which the special facility is built.

6 DISCUSSION

After a comprehensive analysis of the researched issue, with an emphasis on the state of preparedness of objects and facilities for the support of the state

defense, we state that the current situation in the field of the support of the state defense is not sufficient and does not pay attention to it.

In accordance with the Development Plan, the preparation and development of the support of the state defense is provided according to the needs of the state defense on the basis of a plan prepared by the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic, in cooperation with other ministries, other central state administration bodies, local state administration bodies, municipalities and higher territorial units.

The Development Plan implements the Slovak Armed Forces requirements to ensure the infrastructure of material, goods, services and activities necessary to ensure the defense of the state. These requirements are then applied to those ministries and central administration bodies directly involved in ensuring the state defense and support for the armed forces. Based on the analysis of the current state of affairs in the field of the support of the state defense, we believe that cooperation of top defense management in the defense sector with other central state administration bodies is not sufficient and does not create the conditions for maintaining adequate defense state of the defense infrastructure.

The keeping and regular updating of the central register of defense infrastructure objects and facilities for the support of the state defense is within the meaning of paragraph 7.2. of the Development Plan and Section 26 of Act 319/2002 Coll. in the competence of the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic, in cooperation with other ministries and other central state administration bodies with national competence.

After carrying out an analysis in the field of the support of the state defense, we state that the management, updating and refinement of central records in co-operation with other ministries and other central state administration bodies is not currently being specified and it does not create conditions for improving the quality and effectiveness of fulfilling the tasks of the support of the state defense and the international commitments of the Slovak Republic in ensuring the defense of the state and supporting the armed forces.

The Development Plan further defines the tasks of the Chief of General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces, which is, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic, directly responsible for the control and maintenance of defense infrastructure objects and facilities maintained by the Slovak Armed Forces. After a detailed examination of the current situation, we believe that the responsibility and competences between the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic and the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces in the field of the support of the state defense are not exactly defined, especially in the area of keeping, updating and comparing the central register of defense infrastructure objects and facilities, performing

internal and external controls of defense infrastructure objects and facilities, carrying out own and takeover procedures of defense infrastructure objects and facilities and assessing projects to include new objects and facilities in defense infrastructure (special devices, airport sections, substitute bridges, water resources, etc.).

After a detailed analysis of the current state in the field of the support of the state defense, we note that another shortcoming in this area is the absence of the necessary legislative support from the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic and the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces, especially the absence of medium-term plans, short-term plans, guidelines that would increase the effectiveness of fulfilling the tasks in the field of the support of the state defense within the Slovak Armed Forces and would also create a starting point for further investigation of this area. At the same time, we add that the database of defense infrastructure objects and facilities in the field of the support of the state defense has not been updated for a long time in terms of their technical condition, location and real use, and therefore these objects and facilities may currently be completely devoid of purpose.

On the basis of these shortcomings, we believe that the current situation in the field of the support of the state defense with the emphasis on the state of preparedness of objects and facilities requires a more comprehensive analysis and proper scientific research, which has not been done so far.

For this reason, we are convinced that further scientific research is needed. Based on its objective conclusions, systemic changes will be proposed, leading to improvement of the quality and effectiveness of fulfilling the tasks in the field of the support of the state defense in ensuring the defense of the state and support of the Slovak Armed Forces.

7 CONCLUSION

Given the current security risks and the worsening security situation in Central Europe, it is necessary to address the issue of defense infrastructure protection as a priority [10]. Indeed, its disruption, destruction or malfunctioning would cause a partial or complete failure of state security. That is why it is necessary to conceptually address and ensure readiness to protect and defend defense infrastructure in all areas of security.

The security environment will also be characterized in the future by increasing complexity, high dynamics of change and mutual interconnection of political, military and economic factors [8]. These impacts will also be reflected in the changes in the concept of effective implementation of defense planning and design [9].

However, it is important to realize that the protection of defense infrastructure is not a one-time activity, but a process that requires ongoing attention.

This means that the sectors responsible for each defense infrastructure sector must pay close attention to this issue and continually develop its methods and include the latest trends and knowledge in this area.

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