



Contribution to the program of the Gaming initiative meeting Slovenia, 2019



In Czech republic, there are 2 kind of organisations dealing with preparation of population for state defence. The first is authorities of the state administration (especially the Ministry of Defence of the Czech republic), and the second are associations having relation to the armed forces of the Czech republic.

Preparation of the population for the state defence (in Czech republic we use the term POKOS) is a inseparable part of the state defence planning. The statutory duty of the population to defend their homeland did not disappear with the professionalisation of the army of the Czech republic. However, in first years after cancelling the compulsory military service, a sort of vacuum was created, when the political representation was searching a way how to replace the missing training of the reserves and how to ensure this training from the organisational and financial point of view. Last years, the systematic and differential preparation of the population to the state defence is being developed, which is one of the basic conditions for creation of needed abilities to ensure the defence of individuals and the whole society. It is clear that in case of a security crisis, the state has to have a functional system of replenishing its reserves in peace and in particular to have enough prepared (trained) soldiers in reserves.



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In the current rule of law is the preparation of the population for the state defence stated in the law no. 222/1999 Sb., about ensuring the state defence of the Czech republic, wording the later regulations. According to § 52 of this law is the preparation of the population to state defence voluntary and has an educational character, if not stated otherwise by law or other legal regulation. According to law number 585/2004 Sb., about the military service and its ensuring (military service law), wording the later regulations, active reserves were established, as a component of reserves of the armed forces of the Czech republic (§ 1, odst. 7). Soldiers in active reserves devote to the military training few weeks during the year and the rest of the year they devote to theirs civilian job – thus they can combine two professions, military and civilian. To the 1-st May 2019, there were 2990 members of the active reserves, from this, 245 women. From the 1-st July 2016, citizens can voluntarily take over the military service also in the period of peace, if they ask for the attendance in the military training. (voluntary military



training, § 5a of the military service law).

The preparation of the population to the state defence is controlled by the Ministry of defence, but also associations, churches, religious societies and other persons in cooperation with the authorized county and local councils can participate on the population preparation to the state defence.

Concrete steps in preparing the population to the state defence are made through the county military commands, which organize a whole series of lectures in schools for teachers and for students. The problem of state defence is inserted into the educational programs of elementary and secondary level. This step is in line with the concept of population preparation to the state defence 2019-2024, which was approved by the government on 1. st April 2019 by its resolution number 220.

The education on the mentioned field should create a positive value system lean on a historical experience and influence the attitudes of the students in the area of state defence, and protection of the physical and mental health, lives, environment and property in case of different crisis situations and military emergency situations.

Children are thanks to these activities (forums, static and dynamic demonstrations, discussions, etc.) learning directly from soldiers, how our army works, why are we in NATO, they practice the first aid or antichemical overall. In the same time, they can see military technologies, equipment and arms of the members of the Czech army.



The population preparation to the state defence is focused mainly on the medical preparation, preparation to the civil protection, preparation to the self-defence and mutual help in military and non military emergency situations. Students should during the education get basic information about the current security environment, about the advantages and obligations resulting from membership of the Czech republic in international security and political-military organisations, about the principals of the state defence and the role of armed forces of the Czech republic in ensuring the state defence and in solving non military crisis. In the same time, they get familiar with obligations, which they have as citizens of the Czech republic in terms of state

defence according to the laws.

There was a handbook published by the Ministry of defence to help the teachers of the elementary schools and secondary schools, executive management of these schools and coordinators of the school education programs under name „Population preparation to the state defence“. This handbook includes information, which are usable during the preparation of the education lessons, including the problematics of POKOS. This handbook is downloadable from the website of the Ministry of defence of the Czech republic. There is also a methodical recommendation for the education available.



Within regular trainings for ensuring the defence, which are organised for mayors of municipal offices of municipals with extended province, the Ministry of defence of the Czech republic deals also with the problematics of population preparation for the state defence. Public servants of the public sector and clerical workers of the territorial self-administration are generally informed about the problematics of ensuring the state defence within the complex preparation for crisis control. Theirs qualification is deepen by continuous education, voted representatives go through a one-time preparation, which is organized by the directorate-general of the fire and rescue board of the Czech republic. There is a presentation available for download on the website of the Ministry of defence of the Czech republic, which is used on these trainings.



Very interesting and popular are actions organized for the public with presentation of military technologies in civilian area, or in military training areas.

Carry over problem, which restricts the integration of mainly military patriotic associations into the population preparation to the state defence, is a high administrative demand caused by unclear legislation of the Czech republic when requesting the financing of these activities from the side of the state. Smaller associations, which depend only on a member's fee are not able to afford an administrative apparatus, which would process grant requests and after prove the monitor reports, requested by the provider of the grant. That restricts theirs access to financial means and theirs activities.

Referring to the Association of officers and warrant officers of the army of the Czech republic, our association is actively involved in a lot of memorial and pious actions, participates by opportunity of significant anniversaries on wreath laying at memorials and graveyards of the WW II. in Czech republic and abroad, organizes and participates on celebratory conferences and maintains working relations with representatives of armed forces in Czech republic and military missions on prosecution agencies of foreign countries in Czech republic. Our members thus keep and strengthen the historical mind of the population and prevent the forget of these important events. As already wrote an American philosopher George Santayana on the Harvard university in 1906 in his work „The Life of Reason“, „Those who do not remember their past are condemned to repeat their mistakes“.



Significant part of activities of the Association of officers and warrant officers of the army of the Czech republic are shooting competitions and shooting trainings in cooperation with military commands of the army of the Czech republic including international ones (Freyung, SRN), international rides of automobile veterans, sport and cultural actions and lectures in schools.

Association of officers and warrant officers of the army of the Czech republic together with other associations (especially with LIGA LIBE) struggle to neutralise impacts of the anti weapon directive of the European commission on the population of the Czech republic. In Czech republic, we have a tradition of privately keeping weapons since the husits wars, do already 600 years, and this tradition was interrupted only during the nacistic occupation and afterwards in years 1948 – 1989. There is no lawful reason, which could, justify the disarmament of law regardful population, especially in the light of massive migration from outside Europe to Europe. None of terroristic acts of last years in Europe was committed by a legal firearm. These mentioned steps of the European commission are in direct conflict with the requirement of strengthening the defensiveness of the country. Instead of ensuring effective defence of the outside Schengen border, the European commission is collecting legal firearms of the member states citizens. In Czech republic, there are over 300.000 holders of gun license and these holders have legally over 800.000 firearms. These can be in case of need a significant factor in state defence.

In the last years, the Association of officers and warrant officers of the army of the Czech republic created together with the support of the Ministry of education a multimedia tool „Czech society in the modern Europe-destinies, bonds, moving away, integrating 1914 – 2009“. Within this project, hundreds of history teachers of elementary and secondary schools were trained. In the current time the association is preparing requirements for starting web pages where this tool could be continuously updated and made available for the general public.



Next problem the defence associations meet, is the high number of these associations, what complicates the contact with the Ministry of defence of the Czech republic. Therefore the deputy chairman of the Association of officers and warrant officers of the army of the Czech republic genmjr. Ing. Stanislav Chromec processed a proposal for a systematic solution of this problem. This proposal includes that the law process of professionalisation of the army of the Czech republic accompanied also the resignation of the state to support and control half-military organisations for cooperation with the

army. Disturbation of the natural linkage of the army to the Check society called out a row of negative consequences:

- The fitness of the youth dropped down significantly. Significant part of applicants for the service in the army of the Czech republic and in the police of the Czech republic do not fulfil the demands to the required level of the physical readiness;
- Single-minded upbringing of the population to the responsibility for the state defence, mind of the European solidarity and keeping the value of the democracy and civil liberties is missing;
- The army does not dispose with adequate number of trained reserves;
- Termination of the centrally controlled system of the defence training of youth brought a decrease of level of the Czech army readiness to fulfil the obligations arising from the membership of the Czech republic in NATO.

In this situation of the army of the Czech republic, the association addressed the deputy of the minister of defence for defence policy and strategy of the Ministry of defence of the Czech republic with a proposal for building a system of centrally controlled care about the defence preparation of the population of the Czech republic and to delegate a responsibility for the control of the defence preparation to the Ministry of

defence of the Czech republic. The association proposed to renew the confederation of the defensive power in Czech republic, which was established by president Beneš in October 1945 and cancelled by after February Communistic government in June 1949.

Organisation structure of the initial (military) version of confederation of the defensive power of the Czech republic:

- Chief of the confederation of the defensive power of Czech republic (general of army of Czech republic);
- Staff of confederation of the defence power of Czech republic (officers of army of Czech republic);
- Association of war veterans:
 - chief and staff of the association of war veterans;
 - section of cz. legionnaires;
 - section of veterans from missions;
- Association of military professionals:
 - chief and staff of association of military professionals;
 - section (gunnery, aerial, connecting, IT,.....);
- Association of military preparation:
 - chief (officer of army of the Czech republic);
 - staff of association of the military preparation (officers of army of the Czech republic);



We recommend to establish branches of confederation of the defensive power preparation specialized on defence power trainings in regions significant for the activities on the armed forces. To integrate functioning defend power associations into the defend power confederation. These associations should concentrate mainly on health care, first aid, self-defence, parachuting, hams, kynology, shooting sports, diving, orientation in terrain, working with maps, aerial sports, modelling, motorism, military history, and to create

branches oriented od other activities connected with preparation for homeland defence.

We recommend to establish branches of the defence power preparation especially in areas of military training and educational elements dislocation and in army units of the Czech army. Commanders of military facilities in areas of branches dislocation should provide logistics and organisation support to branches.

The Association of officers and warrant officers of the army of the Czech republic recommends to the Ministry of defence of the Czech republic to develop working on building up the target form of the confederation of the defence power in Czech republic, which is ready to ensure defence power preparation of the population for service in all kinds of armed forces of the Czech republic and to start negotiations in this field with the Ministry of defence of the Czech republic, Ministry of interior of the Czech republic, Ministry of education, youth and physical education of the Czech republic and with Ministry of Justice of the Czech republic.

Because of the worsening international situation, the sense of multilateral preparation of population increases for actual and future security risks and together with that, also the sense of cooperation of military associations increases on this task. Even the best weapons do not ensure victory, if nobody will be able to operate them and if the whole population will not be ready to fight for their land – mentally and professionally.



Public servants of the public sector and clerical workers of the territorial self-administration are generally informed about the problematics of ensuring the state defence within the complex preparation for crisis control. Theirs qualification is deepen by continuous education, voted representatives go throught a one-time preparation, which is organized by the directorate-general of the fire and rescue board of the Czech republic.



Thus, as we know very well, in current conditions of our Association of officers and warrant officers of the army of the Czech republic, in contrary with the primary Association of Czechoslovak officers, it is not possible to evaluate its role in recruiting and training of the reservists (in terms of the current topics),because for this task, the Association is not adapted from the organisation and technical point of view and does not have even competences. Despite of that, it does not leave this field of activities, which is evident from real stories of enthusiasts for defence power and patriotism activities, who firstly entered into the Association of officers and warrant officers of the army of the Czech republic, after they continued

to real service at armed forces of the Czech republic as soldiers in active reserves, or entered into a regular service of professional soldiers. Branches of Association of officers and warrant officers of the army of the Czech republic in regions of its actions use in those cases a possibility of cooperation with the recruitment centres of the army of the Czech republic, which are created at the regional military commands.

Thank you for your attention.

