

# VOLUNTEERS AND ACTIVE RESERVE FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Abstract: The article deals with settlement of Armed Forces in connection with voluntary and compulsory military service in history and present days too. It shows on new tasks of Armed Forces and possibilities their solution with utilization of volunteers and active reserve. The contribution designs a certain way for their preparation, training and service. On the other hand shows on financial costs for creation and service. In conclusion states that solution is new qualitatively change in optimalization of safety system Slovak republic.

# Key words: Armed Forces, safety, reserve, transformation, volunteers.

The complexity and uncertainty of the current and future security environment requires constant readiness not only to the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic (AF SR), but the whole state defense system. The fact that our security is enhanced collective defense capabilities of NATO forces does not relieve the responsibility immediately and primarily on their own to guarantee our citizens' security and defense. Especially in recent years and the events in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, but also refugee crisis in Europe and terrorist attacks in France shows the need to strengthen the capabilities of AF SR.

The strategic decision to professionalizing the armed forces brought desirable and expected changes in the rank structure, with the strengthening of the NCO, as well as savings funds. Abolition of compulsory military service, however, besides the unquestionable benefits (professionalization, reduce infrastructure

costs, gear, weapons, equipment, supplies, etc.). Yielded negative that gradually decreases the members of reserve service armed forces having at least basic military skills and their use in case of emergency SR safety. Vigorous reduction in the number of military personnel has a direct effect on the manning of units, level of training, professionalism, scope quality tasks of the armed forces. Their current staffing level (about 13,000 soldiers) and currently represents a compromise between the financial resources and their capacity to ensure the obligations under the Slovak Republic under international treaties as well as the fulfillment of tasks arising from generally binding legislation governing the state defense. Due to expanding the range of tasks of the armed forces they will not be able to fulfill them and therefore it is necessary to seek an adequate solution. Certain solution appears to be the use of

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volunteers for military service and active reserve forces.

#### Volunteers and active reserve forces

Voluntary military service is one of the main sources of the active reserve forces, create the database of reserve forces, resources for the performance of professional services in the armed forces and the civil state service other than the armed forces. Voluntary military service may make, at its own initiative and written request every citizen of the Slovak Republic, to whom, or who voluntarily conscription. Slovak citizens perform voluntary military service will be able to apply for inclusion in the active reserve forces on systemised positions of the armed forces, or for admission to the preparatory civil state service fulfilling the criteria. Voluntary military service will create database to reserve of the armed forces (generation resumes prepared reserves), resources for active reserve forces, resources for service in the armed forces, resources for state services other than in the armed forces.

The objective of creating a system of active reserve forces is to propose a new conceptual solutions in order:

- Use of alternative forms of augmentation of bodies on the positions of the armed forces in a state of security,
- Use active reserve forces to fulfill tasks in crisis situations in non-war situation in state security,
- The training and preparation of selected reserves to perform tasks in crisis situations as constitutional law no. 227/2002 Coll. on State security in time of war, state of war, martial law and state of emergency.

Active reserve forces will form an integral part of replenishment of military units for systemized positions destined for the active reserve service at the positions of peace organizational structure of the armed forces. Make-up will mainly military units and facilities refilled forces.

Military units to immediately combat use and forces to provide the ability to rapidly increase the combat potential will be supplemented by exceptional especially experts of scarce expertise (doctors, paramedical staff, IT specialists, lawyers, interpreters, mediators, domestic staff of special equipment, etc.). Their service will be based on short-term contracts. For short-term contracts will be signed for a maximum of one year. This period can be extended once again to the agreement, but not more than three years from the date of accept to short-term contracts.

Short-term contract will be used mainly for specialists scarce expertise (doctors, paramedical staff, lawyers, IT specialists, interpreters, mediators, etc.) as well as temporary amendment of certain capabilities (eg. driver by a specific vehicles in military units in the emergency phase of the NATO Response Force - NRF and the EU Battle Group etc). Short-term contract will also be used to send troops active reserve forces in operations of international crisis management. They are therefore the type of active reserves as defined and understood in some NATO countries (e g. The Republic of Poland, Republic, Denmark, Czech Netherlands, France etc.), where preparers and use of active reserves on a voluntary basis to perform tasks in a state of security in the within and beyond the country. The issues of reserves in NATO deals the National Reserve Forces Committee (NRFC), which is the only advisory authority of NATO's Military Committee (MC NATO) for the formation and application of reserve forces. Soldiers active reserve forces will be able to be address non-military crisis used situations within the scope of § 70 of Slovak National Council č.171 / 1993 on the Police Corps as amended (the "Act No.171 / 0993 Zz") and 9 § Col.3 of Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No.42 / 1994 Coll on civil

protection of the population, as amended (the "Act No.42 / 1994"). The law No.171 / 1993 in Section 70 enables the Government in the security status for the time necessary to allocate the Armed Forces subordination to the Police if its forces and resources will be insufficient to ensure the protection of state borders, guarding the premises, public policy or the actions of the fight against terrorism and organized crime. Law

No.42 /1994 . in § 9 paragraph. Coll 3 allows the armed forces to fulfill tasks in the field of civil protection, meaning the elimination of consequences of emergency.

Emergency situations under the cited act, is the threat period or period of exposure to major emergencies. Incident means a natural disaster, accident, disaster, danger to health II. degree or terrorist attack.



# Resources for the formation of active reserve force

The source for recruiting to active reserve forces will be the first order soldiers in reserve. Another source for active reserve forces are Slovak citizens who have made voluntary military service. An important source of well-prepared and trained soldiers active reserve forces on the executive and management positions will be professional soldiers after the state service. The draft agreement on inclusion in active service forces will be professional soldier submitted before the end of the

Acceptance service. of this state undertaking will be on a voluntary basis. A special category may be students of civil universities, which would be allowed to undergo voluntary military service in parts of University Studies (weekends, holidays and the concluding military camps). Active reserve service will have a regional character. Use of soldiers of active reserve forces outside the region will be possible, with their agreement in the short-term contract in the armed forces.

# **Financial Provisions:**

- Monthly flat fee for emergency throughout the duration of the agreement is paid annually,
- Remuneration for the performance of active military service,
- Reimbursement of travel expenses from the place of residence to the place of active military service and the back if the place of active military service is not the same from place of residence,
- Compensation for the difference between the employee's salary and rewards for performance active military service if is lower, up to the amount of average gross wage in the national economy (except for professionals scarce specialties, eg. Doctors),
- Monthly for 1,000 people, this is a category of team 7,000,000, EUR category of non-commissioned officers at 7,200,000, EUR category of officers to 7,700,000, EUR.

# **Material requirements**

- Free accommodation during active military service,
- Free kit and equipment,
- Free meals during their active military service.

#### Health care

- During the period of his active military service will be active reserve forces soldiers are entitled to health care in scope than professional soldiers.

### Preparation and training

Preparation of active reserve forces is realized in the following forms:

# 1. Regular military exercise

The aim of regular military exercises is preparation, improvement and deepening of military knowledge and skills of soldiers active reserve forces aligning capabilities and the ability to fulfill tasks with professional soldiers according to the functional classification of the body, in units of the armed forces.

Organized and carried out in the course of a calendar year in the state of security in the total duration of 30 days within and outside Slovakia. Planning, organization and carrying out regular military exercises governed by commanders of formations and units of the armed forces. As part of regular military exercises will beonce every three years accomplished examination of the unit harmonization.

# 2. Special military exercises

Special military exercise active reserve forces is unscheduled military exercises. It may be performed in two cases. In the first case, special military exercise allows soldiers active reserves to participate in solution of non-military crisis management operation. Organized and carried out is irregularly in a state of safety on the basis of the situation and needs at any time during the calendar year a total length of one exercise within 30 days. Exercises in a given calendar year may be repeated.

In the second case non-routine military exercise is to increase and deepen the readiness of soldiers active reserve forces fulfill their obligations under the function positions and create the necessary conditions for performance of duties for the deteriorating security situation in front of a state of emergency.

Organized and carried out irregularly in a state of safety on the basis of the situation and needs at any time during a calendar year for a total duration of up to six months. Particularly military exercises may under certain circumstances change for specific tasks (e g. patrol of buildings and objects of special importance at the time of crisis). Carrying out exercises ordered emergency Government. In the case of performing extraordinary military exercise its duration deducted from the period of regular military exercises in a given calendar year.



### **Conclusion**

Volunteers and active reserve represents some form or alternatively to the tasks of the AFSR, especially in the case of operations of National and International crisis management. But they also creates certain reserve for the armed forces in case of military conflict. Providing a way to proceed even other NATO or EU countries. The real substitute for regular forces or thousands of conscripts in the past will never be.

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