

## MODERNIZACIJA V MADŽARSKI VOJSKI

## MODERNISATION WITHIN THE HUNGARIAN DEFENCE FORCES

**Povzetek** V vsaki državi je najpomembnejša dolžnost vlade zagotoviti varnost državljanov. Skladno s tem se je vlada Republike Madžarske odločila, da z ukrepi o modernizaciji madžarskega obrambnega resorja in njegovega paradnega konja, madžarske vojske, ni več mogoče odlašati. Program za vojaški razvoj Zrinyi 2026 in sredstva, ki so v okviru njega zagotovljena, so tako po dolgem času omogočili nekaj pomembnih izboljšav v zmogljivostih madžarske vojske. V nadaljevanju bomo predstavili nekaj segmentov teh izboljšav. Začeli bomo s kratkim opisom trenutnih varnostnih razmer na Madžarskem in njenih varnostnih izzivov ter predstavili nekaj odzivov nanje. Predstavili bomo tudi glavne mejnike v razvoju vojaških zmogljivosti in opisali korake za izboljšanje organizacije, opreme, kadra in usposabljanja.

**Ključne besede** *Varnost, modernizacija vojske, zaščita območja, madžarska vojska.*

**Abstract** The security of citizens in every country is the main responsibility of the government. By accepting this, the Government of Hungary decided that it was no longer possible to postpone the modernisation of defence and its main attribute, the Hungarian Defence Forces. The Zrinyi 2026 military development programme and the resources alongside it make it possible for there to be tangible improvement in the capabilities of the Hungarian Defence Forces after a long delay. In this article we illustrate some of its segments, starting with a short description of the present security situation in Hungary, its security challenges and possible solutions to them. We will also demonstrate the main developments of the military capabilities, describing the steps in the improvement of organisations, equipment, personnel and training.

**Key words** *Security, modernisation of the military forces, area protection, Hungarian Defence Forces (HDF).*

## Introduction

Despite the fact that we can find more than a hundred different approaches on the internet, it is still difficult to put the notion of security into words. In the following we are going to attempt that, by the illustration of the defence situation in our own country to describe the modernisation of the defence system.

In the many coloured approaches to defence there are some areas where the majority of analysts agree. According to the generally accepted approach the security of some accentuated areas is a determinant when a country's security is evaluated. In this way the nature of the military, political, economic, environmental and social aspects of the security dimensions also illustrates the nature of the security of the examined community.

It is not our aim to introduce a detailed description of the different dimensions of security, so we are simply going to refer to their main components. The objective and subjective characterisation of military security had become quite one-sided in the previous decades<sup>1</sup>. This was good from the point of view that Hungary was not part of military conflicts where regular or irregular military forces participated. We must not forget, however, that there was a civil war in neighbouring Ukraine at this time. The other point of view, which is less self-congratulatory, is that the full illusion of military security, both in the opinion of the decision makers and in the civilian population, downgraded the most important establishment of military security, our Army, the Hungarian Defence Forces (HDF). Development had stopped; the appreciation of the personnel was low. This appreciation had not improved significantly in spite of the hard work of our soldiers during flood defence, water supply and other humanitarian tasks. In the meantime, our work in international missions was appreciated by our allies, but their domestic value remained limited.

## 1 SECURITY SITUATION IN HUNGARY

The Security Strategy of 2012, which still applies today, defines in detail the risks posing a threat to the security of the country<sup>2</sup>. It deals emphatically with the possibility and the danger of the local and regional appearance of conflicts based on ethnic, regional or other causes, not forgetting the wars in former Yugoslavia. It highlights the risk of the uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear weapons and carriers, the threat of terrorism, financial security, cyber security, energy security, the impact of environmental changes, and the presence of organised crime, especially drug-related crime. At this point the security challenges of migration and that of extremist groups also appear.

<sup>1</sup> [http://2010-2014.kormany.hu/download/b/ae/e0000/national\\_military\\_strategy.pdf](http://2010-2014.kormany.hu/download/b/ae/e0000/national_military_strategy.pdf) downloaded: 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> *Government Decree 1035/2012 (21 February) on the National Security Strategy of Hungary, A Kormány határozata Magyarország Nemzeti Biztonsági Stratégiájáról.* [http://2010-2014.kormany.hu/download/f/49/70000/1035\\_2012\\_korm\\_hatarozat.pdf](http://2010-2014.kormany.hu/download/f/49/70000/1035_2012_korm_hatarozat.pdf) downloaded: 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

Today some of the statements in the security strategy have become somewhat outdated, so a new one is being prepared<sup>3</sup>. Among the reasons for this requirement it is indicated that there is a change in the security environment of Hungary, mass migration, and strengthening of the terrorism threat, as well as changes in the system of functions and tasks in the HDF. The working group is led by the deputy Secretary of State, who is responsible for defence policy and defence planning; the members of this group include the Minister of Defence, the Minister of the Prime Minister's Office, the Minister of Foreign Trade, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of the Interior, and representatives of secret services, and as invited guests, the President of the Hungarian National Bank and a person appointed by the Strategic Defence Research Centre at the National University of Public Service.

When discussing the security situation in our country we cannot omit the above-mentioned document, since its wording alludes to the threatening dangers and so it is fundamentally pertains to the answers.

In case of Hungary we must mention in the first place the fact that there is a civil war in neighbouring Ukraine. It is true, however, that this situation does not affect our borders, unlike the Balkan Wars, but the impacts are direct. We are talking about a country where there is a Hungarian minority who are quite often the target of Ukrainian nationalists. These actions include attacks against the symbols of the Hungarian minority, the acceptance of the language law, problems in domestic politics, and economic problems. To veil these problems, the rhetoric of the government became stronger from time to time, with reference to the risks of dual citizenship. All this is in a country where a strong and consequently balanced state is merely wishful thinking.

We cannot forget that in many countries in the Balkans the fire still invisibly glows. There are unsolved problems that make the relationship of the unformed states tense; visibly there are no answers to the questions of minorities and the issue of their territorial belonging comes up again and again. The question of the fate of the Hungarian minority requires special attention. The latest is a source of mutual disagreements even in countries where the governmental structure is strong and balanced.

The situation in some of our neighbouring countries is an opportunity for the appearance of security problems, such as the illegal arms and drug trade, organised crime, money laundering, environmental pollution crossing borders, or the recent problems of the violation of the regulations of animal health and their cross-border impacts.

<sup>3</sup> *Common ministerial decree 57/2016 (24 November) on the formation of a supervising committee for overiewing the National Security Strategy, HM-MvM-BM-KKM együttes utasítás a Nemzeti Biztonsági Stratégia felülvizsgálatára létrehozott munkacsoportról. [https://net.jogtar.hu/jr/gen/hjegy\\_doc.cgi?docid=A16U0057.HM&ti meshift=fffff4&txrefere=00000001.TXT#lj0id906d](https://net.jogtar.hu/jr/gen/hjegy_doc.cgi?docid=A16U0057.HM&ti meshift=fffff4&txrefere=00000001.TXT#lj0id906d) Downloaded: 14 January, 2018.*

The information society highlighted security threats in areas such as cybercrime or the failure of systems directed by computers. Today we are in a situation where we rely on computers every minute of our lives. In my opinion the reprogramming of large dispensing and directing units, even an uncontrolled situation left for just a minute, can produce serious harm to society. Let us just think about possible damage to the banking system, problems with air traffic control, or malevolent intrusion into the system of health protection (Kovacs-Krasznay, 2017).

When we speak about the security of our country we need to emphasise that natural and manmade disasters still comprise part of our everyday lives, even though we pay more and more attention to their prevention (Hornyacsek, 2017). According to the Hungarian National Bank, in Hungary in the first nine months of 2017 a total of 167 million forints were paid out as compensation by branches of the insurance companies excluding life insurance, which was 11% more than the previous year and reached the peak of 2010<sup>4</sup>.

Terrorism and security, both in theory and in everyday practice, are strongly entwined. Many experts have dealt with the concept of terrorism, the ways it occurs, and its characteristics. There have been as many opinions and approaches as writings, but there is one thing that everyone agrees on: of the factors endangering security, terrorism is the main one. It is not necessarily the number of victims, but more the methods of how it is committed that are in the highlights of the news.

Migration waves have shaken Europe and drawn well-seen demarcation lines on the map of the continent. The population of the target countries have realised that migrants of different cultures do not want or at least are reluctant to adapt to the society of their host country. Conflicts occurring every day in most countries led to the realisation that migration is a security issue. Those countries that prepared for this challenge in time, and filtered and limited or stopped migrants before entering their country, preserving their previous level of security, became wanted tourist attractions. Security is a basic investment issue so this fact also has a direct impact on investments (Ujhazy 2017).

## 2 NEW TYPES OF SECURITY CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS TO THEM

In our opinion the newly appearing security challenges do not necessarily pose threats unknown so far, but it is more that the previously known dangers appear in new forms. We are going to look at two of those now. One of them stems from a summary of challenges caused by overpopulation, while they mutually strengthen each other causing a serious security challenge.

<sup>4</sup> *Disasters: This year (2010) was the third most expensive of all times for the insurance companies, Katasztrófák: minden idők 3. legdrágább éve volt az idei a biztosítóknál. <https://www.portfolio.hu/finanszirozas/biztositok-penztarak/katasztrofak-minden-idok-3-legdragabb-eve-volt-az-idei-a-biztositoknal.271601.html> downloaded: 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.*

The facts and the forecasts of experts show that our planet's population has been growing exponentially. This, expressed in numbers, means that at the beginning of history there were 200 million humans, by 2000 6.5 billion, and by the estimation of the UN the Earth's population may reach 9.8 billion in 2050. The situation is further worsened by the fact that because of rapid urbanisation the estimated number of people living in cities will grow from 3.4 billion people in 2012 to 6.4 billion by 2050. This crisis has developed step by step; the growth in population increases very quickly, but biological resources and supply systems can take the pressure. This is followed by a situation where resources will not be able to satisfy all the needs<sup>5</sup>. Crossing a critical point due to further growth in population, systems will collapse. This will be true of the water supply, production and supply of food, and the depletion of energy resources. This will consequently cause havoc that will lead to enormous dissatisfaction giving way to chaos, violence and eventually lead to the extinction of humankind.

I am not saying that this is where we are now, but in certain ways we are pushing the boundaries. A good example of this is the crises caused by climate change which has generated social tensions at several points of the world due to limitations in the water and food supply. Several experts have stated that the 21st century will be the century of the fight for fresh water. To demonstrate this here are some examples:

- The water supply in Crimea, which lacks natural fresh water sources, appeared immediately after the annexation of the peninsula (18 March 2014). Russian leaders admitted that this is the most serious problem in the peninsula annexed from Ukraine, since its water supply depends on an “outer source”. On 26 April 2014 Ukraine closed the Northern Crimean channel, which supplied the Crimean peninsula with fresh water. The channel connects the main branch of the river Dnieper with the Crimea and provides 85% of the fresh water supply of the peninsula.
- Security specialists agree that in the Iraqi and Syrian conflicts the defining reason for success is the acquisition and maintenance of control over water sources. In areas poor in water, rivers, channels, springs, and water-connected establishments are primary military targets for all belligerents. Potable water is a strategic device; its possession is indispensable for achieving permanent success in military operations.
- Egypt and Ethiopia have been in disagreement for a long time, and the reason for this is the use or diversion of the water of the Nile. The conflict sharpened when, in spite of the continuous opposition of Egypt, Ethiopia started to build the biggest dam and water power station on the Ethiopian part of the Nile. Egyptian leaders stated that because of the situation, which had become very problematic, they were considering an attack against Ethiopia.
- Mao Tze-Tung realised the special strategic importance of the plateau of Tibet, which is in a geographical buffer zone of 2.4 million square kilometres. This area is between China and India, as well as China and Afghanistan. The other reason is

<sup>5</sup> <http://globalproblems.nyf.hu/globalis-problema/a-fold-tulnepsedese/> Downloaded: 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

its priceless water reserve. Its elevation of 4500 metres gives the water excellent quality and keeps it fresh. The biggest water reserve after the Arctic AND the Antarctic is on the plateau of Tibet. This is the reason why it is called the “the third Pole”. There are many rivers which start their long journey here, such as the Honcho, the Yangtze, the Mekong, the Salween, the Sutlej and the Brahmaputra. The plateau of Tibet supplies water to more than half of the world’s population.

On the surface this problem does not apply to Hungary, but on the other hand, because of its geographical position, it is very vulnerable when it comes to fresh water. Our main rivers arrive from outside the borders, so we are not the primary owners of them. Our relationship with our neighbouring countries is good, but despite this fact it was not possible to arrange positively either the question of the power plant in Bos (Bős) or that of the cyanide pollution. Both show that we are not in exclusive ownership of the fresh water sources flowing through the country. In times of crisis we depend on the benevolence of others, and let us have no illusions; if it is necessary to make the decision that due to limitations it is necessary to reduce the consumption of water, each government will take its own side.

Another impact that has consequences up to the present day, both for Europe and for our country within it, is the pressure of migration. The majority of migrants started their journey for economic reasons, since in their countries there was a lack of the resources. To tackle the migration situation following 2015, we spent approximately 300 billion forints, which shows that it is impossible to avoid indirect effects. The building of the temporary border sequestration, its maintenance and its guarding requires further expense and considerable efforts from the bodies concerned.

It can be seen that no country can exclude itself from the impacts that multiply themselves even when the problems are outside the borders.

Another challenge worth mentioning is called hybrid warfare. Many people have dealt with this concept in different ways; this is what we have highlighted: *“Hybrid warfare as a complex strategic (system) model is nothing less than a system of devices for states and alliances to reach their goals that, with the limited application of military operations, guarantees to reach geopolitical aims decisively by transforming non-military resources and methods”* (Simicsko, 2017).

It is worth highlighting from the wording that it is definitely not the “military resources and methods” that dominate, but any other means that help reach the desired aims. It is a familiar approach; that there is “nothing new under the sun” in this area too can also be applied to the following:.

Belisarius (13 March 505-565) said: *“The fullest and the happiest victory is the one when you force the enemy to give up their goals without you being hurt”* (Kaiser, 2017).

Sun- Tzu (544-496BC) said the following about the same idea: *“Who wins a thousand of battles is not the best of the best. The best of the best defeats the enemy army without a fight”* (Tokaji, 2015).

The poet and military leader Zrinyi Miklos (1620-1664) was also familiar with this thought: *“A captain does not need to think immediately about a fight, but must try everything possible to fight the enemy either by hunger or by other tricks, because fight goes with luck and luck is uncertain”* (Kovacs, 2003).

These thoughts illustrate that the approach of showing the manifestation of will in a complex way is already well known. This system changed as the time went by, since it depends on the development of technology and on the level of knowledge and of military science. At the time of Sun Tzu there was no way that the arms race in space could even be imagined, and today the race is going on in cyberspace. The regulation “trinity” of the final state of traditional military operations had turned by the time of hybrid operations; in the place of primary success in the old wars “to destroy – occupy – break”, asymmetric warfare’s rule is “to exhaust – break – bleed out” and the rule of hybrid warfare is “to break – cause disfunctioning – occupy” (Resperger, 2017).

The demonstration of the full arsenal of hybrid warfare, in our opinion, has never happened in place or time, even though the USA and Russia mutually accuse each other of this. At the same time some elements are continuously present in our everyday lives, so our country also must prepare for such situations. The critical areas are the strengthening of society and the necessary development of the HDF.

### **3 STEPS TAKEN IN THE DIRECTION OF THE MODERNISATION OF THE HDF**

The strengthening of society is served by the emphasis of patriotic values, their implementation, and their support in every possible way. The government of our country realised the security “gap” that is characterised by the lack of defence capability and the social acknowledgment that goes with it. The visible form of this realisation is the Zrinyi 2026 military development programme<sup>6</sup>.

Simicsko Istvan, the Minister of Defence, stated the following at a conference: *“The security of Hungary is based on three pillars: on the preparedness of the HDF and their knowledge, capabilities and spirit; on our NATO alliance; and on the patriotic commitment of our citizens.”*<sup>7</sup> Thoughts referring to military security appear in the points of the development programme. The essence of the programme is that the HDF can provide answers to new challenges if it itself approaches the problems in a new way, whether that be migration or the appearance of hybrid warfare.

<sup>6</sup> <http://abouthungary.hu/zrinyi-2026/> Downloaded: 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.orientpress.hu/cikk/2017-09-29\\_simicsko-magyarorszag-biztonsaga-harom-pilleren-alapszik](https://www.orientpress.hu/cikk/2017-09-29_simicsko-magyarorszag-biztonsaga-harom-pilleren-alapszik) Downloaded: 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

The government accepted an anti-terrorism package accordingly: the notion of terrorism was included in the main law. Thus with this law the prepared military units can assist the work of the law enforcement services. These aims are strengthened by the creation of the Military Police Centre, which serves the strengthening of the country, and besides that, it can be offered for working abroad, possessing the capabilities necessary for international missions<sup>8</sup>.

Taking part in border guarding is part of the complex approach. Approximately 13,000 soldiers have been in service at the southern border in recent times, and in parallel to that, our participation in international missions with the strength of 1000 personnel has not lessened. We participate in various missions in different places in the world, in about 15 countries.

An important breakthrough is that “the 1298/2017 (VI.2.) government decision concerning the accomplishment of the Zrinyi 2026 programme of defence and military development” opens new dimensions for the improvement of the HDF<sup>9</sup>. The defence and armed forces programme planned for ten years to modernise the HDF is the biggest venture of the past few decades.

A new national security strategy is being developed for the Zrinyi 2026 programme which is organised according to the new challenges, and on its basis the military strategy also changes.

It is obvious that these changes require resources. It is accepted by the government that the Hungarian military budget will reach 2% of GDP. Another important goal is that the budget’s expenditure profile is optimal: 40% should be spent on operations, 30% on wages and 30% on development. With the Hungarian 2018 budget of about 428 billion, which in terms of GDP is about 1.2% in the budget planning, we are approaching this optimal rate expected by NATO.

The important elements of the Zrinyi 2026 programme are the following:

To strengthen air transport capability, i.e. to change the An-26 and Jak-52s: Air transport capability is strategically important both for the security of our country and for the defence forces. As the first step two A-319 Airbuses arrived in February 2018. They are multifunctional, troop transport aircraft. It does not mean that the existing An-26s will be decommissioned; while they can still be safely used and have combat value, they will be used.

The short term and long-term establishment and maintenance of the equipment with rotating blades (helicopters): We are going to lengthen the operating time of the existing Russian helicopters, and we will modernise them as necessary, firstly the

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<sup>8</sup> [https://honvedelem.hu/szervezet/mh\\_krk](https://honvedelem.hu/szervezet/mh_krk) Downloaded: 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2018.

<sup>9</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=A17H1298.KOR&txtreferer=00000001.txt> Downloaded: 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2018.

four Mi-17s. After considerable refurbishment and upgrading they will be able to operate for another seven years, approximately until 2025. This does not mean that there is an aim to get new or new-ish helicopters.

The acquisition of devices, from small aircraft to fighters, on domestic basis, helps our pilots to train and develop.

An important part of the development is the strengthening of air defence capabilities, including the acquisition of the smallest aircraft up to the development of Grippen fighter planes.

Besides the above mentioned developments, and because of the continuously growing threat, the HDF is committed to the continuous development of cyber defence capabilities<sup>10</sup> with the application of informatics experts, high-level related education and training, and the procurement of the latest hardware.

Concerning land forces, the development of the special purpose artillery and armoured engineer troops, as well as that of the field command system, is the main aim. To be able to maintain the special operational capacity of the HDF to meet the rapidly changing international challenges, it is necessary to re-examine the organisational structure, too. Part of this is the reorganisation of the regiment of special purpose into a brigade that, based on the experiences of the past and international feedback, enables it to establish a unit which better meets the international and domestic requirements for special operational capability. From the point of view of its professional makeup, similarly to other units, the present military organisation comprises a wide spectrum of soldiers of different branches who will remain after the enlargement. During the reorganisation, with the establishment of the brigade, the staff will grow only by one third of the present number and will not exceed 1500 people<sup>11</sup>.

In the area of logistic support the improvement in personal operational equipment, and placement in barracks is an important development aim. In 2018 we spent 11 billion forints on the development of the bases in Hodmezovasarhely, Tata and Szolnok. Another important area is the procurement of new vehicles, which will also invigorate the Hungarian military industry. In cooperation with the MD Currus private company and Ikarus Vehicle Technics Ltd. the CURRUS ARIES-VOLVO type buses were made for the HDF, and 15 items were provided in the first phase. The VOLVO chassis-based new buses were supplied by a Euro VI engine. The vehicles are capable of transporting 40 people or 12 casualties. The 15 buses of 2018 will be followed by 40 more this year, and according to the plans, there will be 100 for the HDF by 2019<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> [https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/52074\\_a\\_jovo\\_egyik\\_fo\\_feladata\\_a\\_kibervedelem](https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/52074_a_jovo_egyik_fo_feladata_a_kibervedelem) Downloaded: 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2018.

<sup>11</sup> [https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/65132\\_dandarra\\_alakult\\_a\\_kulonleges\\_rendeltetesu\\_ezred](https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/65132_dandarra_alakult_a_kulonleges_rendeltetesu_ezred) Downloaded: 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2018.

<sup>12</sup> [https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/109382\\_atadnak\\_az\\_uj\\_katonai\\_buszokat](https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/109382_atadnak_az_uj_katonai_buszokat) Downloaded: 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2018.

We acquired 27 Raba trucks for approximately 3 billion forints, 8 mobile checkpoint kits, 4 kits of trailers used for the quick laying of wire obstacles and one forklift truck. We changed 20-25 year old freight vehicles to the Hungarian Raba H14s. At the acquisition an important point was that, unlike before, the products of only one manufacturer must be in the system; in this way operation and maintenance is much simpler. The mobile checkpoints will be used mainly in mission tasks, but they could be applied in the event of a terrorist attack<sup>13</sup>.

The modernisation of logistic support has also begun. Accordingly, the HDF established a field supply point, and bought automobiles with special devices for the military police; 49 new minibuses; Raba type trucks, some of which are supplied with NBC protection, and others are capable of transporting hazmat, ammunition, and explosives; trucks capable of lifting 18 tons; and telescopic loading machinery. One part of the recent acquisitions is a Mobile Autonomous Fire Range Kit element, which, thanks to its computer-led managing and evaluating system and target-moving equipment is capable, even without an established firing range structure, of carrying out infantry and special firing exercises<sup>14</sup>.

Another important step is the modernisation of the car pool. A visible result is the acquisition of 250 Suzuki cars, with which the revamping of the old car pool of 20-year-old cars has begun. With the acquisition of these 120 BHP, 1600 cm<sup>3</sup>, petrol- engine vehicles (with EURO6 environment protection qualifications), the MoD bought the best quality and best equipped cars. The new cars have everything necessary for safe driving such as ABS blocking obstruction, ESP electric movement stabilisers and a tempomat<sup>15</sup>.

One of the highlighted elements of the developments is the improvement in the personal equipment of the soldiers. The new uniform is more comfortable and it serves better for the new challenges ahead. Among other things it is supplied with light reflection, which aids better camouflaging. According to the plans the entire change in uniforms will take place in the next three years.

Another thing that serves the purpose of changing the personal equipment of soldiers is that soon the manufacture of infantry small weapons will commence in Hungary, based on a Czech licence: the first step is assembly, and domestic production will begin on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019<sup>16</sup>.

The new voluntary reserve system, based on territorial defence, is one of the important pillars of improvements, and consequently we are going to discuss it

<sup>13</sup> [https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/109291\\_a\\_magyar\\_honvedseg\\_folyamatosan\\_fejlodik\\_minden\\_eszkozbeszerzes\\_az\\_oroszag\\_es\\_a\\_magyar\\_emberek](https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/109291_a_magyar_honvedseg_folyamatosan_fejlodik_minden_eszkozbeszerzes_az_oroszag_es_a_magyar_emberek) Downloaded: 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2018.

<sup>14</sup> [https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/60900\\_mi\\_a\\_katonat\\_latjuk\\_az\\_eszkoz\\_mogott](https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/60900_mi_a_katonat_latjuk_az_eszkoz_mogott) Downloaded: 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2018.

<sup>15</sup> [https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/109414\\_atadtak\\_az\\_uj\\_honvedsegi\\_szolgalmi\\_gepjarmuveket\\_a\\_fovarosban](https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/109414_atadtak_az_uj_honvedsegi_szolgalmi_gepjarmuveket_a_fovarosban) Downloaded: 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2018.

<sup>16</sup> [https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/109462\\_uj\\_merfoldko\\_a\\_haderofejlesztesben](https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/109462_uj_merfoldko_a_haderofejlesztesben) Downloaded: 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2018.

in detail. The HDF will transform and renew the voluntary reserve system and, as a new element based on the support of the local communities, will establish a voluntary territorial defence reserve service system.

The aim is the establishment of voluntary territory-protecting reserve companies in each county within the country, so that in the event of necessity there would be a well-trained applicable force. The members of the area protection reserve company, during their training, will get theoretical and practical knowledge which strengthens the defence capability of the local community, whether it is a defence or a disaster management situation. Since the soldiers may have protocol tasks as well, their presence may elevate the quality of local commemorations.

Contracts for the reserve service can be signed only by physically and mentally healthy people. The applicants must undergo the 2<sup>nd</sup> type of aptitude test, which examines their capability to acquire and keep small hand weapons, ammunition, gas and other non-lethal weapons. The examinations are financed by the HDF. Reservists have the right to be paid for the contract signing, for being available, for the training time, and according to the payment category, they receive a basic salary, accommodation in the barracks, free meals and free clothing and travel expenses.

In the event of actual military service (even for 1-2 days) there is payment according to rank, free clothing, food, and travel expenses.

It is very important that the training of reservists must be carried out where they live, mainly in their home district, or at least in their county. The training takes 20 days in a module system; in this way each training session is no longer than 4-5 days. The task of the personnel is to participate in different emergency situations such as flood defence, security at various events, further reservists' recruitment and parade tasks at different district and county events.

The aim of the development is that by 2026 there will be approximately 20,000 reservists in the forces, and there will be reserve units in all 197 districts<sup>17</sup>.

During the development of the military life model, the salary of the soldiers will rise by 5% in 2018, so between 2015 and 2019 their income will have risen by 50%. Another sign of the appreciation of soldiers is the introduction of the labour market bonus. This bonus applies to the crew besides the compulsory salary rise, and it depends on their school qualifications.

Assuring the trained human resources of each organisation, including the HDF, for the next generation is a determined aim. This is helped by the establishment of the Defence Sports Alliance, which helps to popularise military-type sports,

<sup>17</sup> [https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/109389\\_ujabb\\_merfoldkohoz\\_erkeztunk](https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/109389_ujabb_merfoldkohoz_erkeztunk) Downloaded: 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2018.

strengthens the relationship between the military and society, and reorganises the system of military education. The main aim of the establishment of the Defence Sports Alliance is the development of a new generation of healthy patriotism leading to a healthy lifestyle.

The above-mentioned aims are also served by the establishment of the Military Sports Centres. Their aim is to include as many members of society as possible in the programme of defence education, through sport, on a voluntary basis. The programme does not only support fighting sports, but it aims to attract young people's interest in sports, including their health protection. This programme is not for schools; it is more for outdoor and free-time activities, and thus it allows organised sport activities. Consequently the facilities of the sports centres are not in schools. The provision of voluntary defence education for citizens is a public task and so the centres will provide opportunities for sports that give useful knowledge of defence.

The planned centres will be established as multi-functional, and usable for several purposes. They will be able to introduce sports such as shooting as a free time activity, and provide practice in safe, organised circumstances; practise sports important for defence such as martial arts, fencing, shooting and others; and teach first aid and navigation. At the same time they will provide a place for the programmes of the Defence Sport Alliance, social events connected to defence education, and function as a community area for different social events.

In the first phase of the new programme, in the budgetary years of 2017 and 2018, sports centres will be established in 40 sites in district and county centres, spending 17.5 billion forints. During the second phase the development will continue in a further 67 places. The establishments will be organised according to the local circumstances, and completely new facilities will be built or existing ones will be restructured, enlarged or modernised<sup>18</sup>.

Even though it is not a part of the Zrinyi programme, we must mention here the modernisation of the facility pool of disaster protection, since in the event of a natural or other disaster the army plays a crucial role. With the cohesive support of the EU, and with the financial association of the state, the development will take place within the Szechenyi 2020 programme, affecting 25 military groups. Eighteen of them will get capacity enlargement, and at the same time it will be possible to establish seven new groups.

The project "Development of the Capability of the HDF to Intervene in Disaster Management" mainly deals with the extension of the tool park necessary for defence against flooding. The 2,215 billion forint investment, with the aim of enriching the HDF, includes modern information and communication devices, broad band radios,

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<sup>18</sup> [https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/66541\\_uj\\_elnoke\\_van\\_honvedelmi\\_sportszovetsegnek](https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/66541_uj_elnoke_van_honvedelmi_sportszovetsegnek) Downloaded: 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

amphibian transport capacity, large capacity petrol-operated portable fresh water and tainted water pumps, 300m<sup>3</sup> elastic fuel supply containers, damage protection canvases, equipment for field kitchens, equipment for diving, special portable chemical detection instruments, protection clothing, lifebelts and life vests, heavy land machinery and heavy machinery transportation carriages.

The result of this development will be that the effectiveness of those taking part in the flood defence will increase, as well as the security of the civilian population. The primary aim of the development is to maintain and enlarge the capacities for the present disaster relief tasks. The implementation of the programme is continuous. It is likely that further appliances will arrive in the second quarter of 2018<sup>19</sup>.

Last but not least, we must mention the renewal of the officer training of 2012. In that year the National University of Public Service was established, and one of its faculties is responsible for officer training. The Faculty of Military Science and Officer Training is the successor to all military further education establishments, such as the Zrinyi Miklós National Defence University. The Faculty is the only such facility in Hungary, and stems from the traditions of Hungarian officer training, following in the footsteps of our ancestors, yet it is modern, scientifically based, and at the same time leads practical training according to the military profession.

The educational units are organised into four institutes (leader training, operational training, logistic training and air force training institutes) and they envelop almost all military areas. The military science and military professional training at the faculty enables that young people who chose a military career get to the special area they are most interested in. From armour to artillery, from signals to IT, from military supply services to technicians, from air traffic control to air force technicians, there is a broad range of professions to master.

In the past six years the Faculty has continuously developed its educational and research capabilities following the needs of the HDF, adapting to the changing security environment. Education includes BSc, MSc, and PhD levels, but the Faculty also offers advanced leadership education, courses and language teaching.

The main part of the PhD education is the Doctorate schools. In the Doctorate School of Military Science and the Doctorate School of Military Technology, both civilians and the military can get a PhD.

This modernised military education provides committed, loyal, highly trained specialists in different units to the HDF.

<sup>19</sup> [https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/109089\\_kapacitasbovites](https://honvedelem.hu/cikk/109089_kapacitasbovites) downloaded: 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

## Summary

In previous decades several armed forces reforms began but stalled due to the lack of resources. The Zrinyi 2026 programme is the first comprehensive modernisation programme that envelops the entire military, and there are available resources for it. However, most of the development funds go to the procurement of equipment of a non-combat nature, which will play a key role in capability enhancement. The accomplishment of a modern combat mission and operability of a modern armed forces, besides many other factors, is based on technological advancement and superiority. The state and effectiveness of the logistics system can sometimes make the difference between success and failure. Mobility and manoeuvrability are also key components, e.g. airlift capability is necessary to take part in international operations and humanitarian and crisis management tasks. The developments that have started show that if the programme is successful, the HDF will be ready to meet national as well as NATO requirements, and face the newly appearing security challenges.

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