Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University

A STUDY OF THE THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF RECONNAISSANCE: RECONNAISSANCE CONDUCTED BY PERSONNEL

by

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Thesis resume

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1. THE THESIS ISSUE AS A SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM

The necessity and actuality of an analysis of military reconnaissance, especially tactical reconnaissance, is demonstrated by the following:

1. Over the last forty years, the role and task of military reconnaissance in Hungary, hence the nomenclature of strategic reconnaissance, has been based upon very precise and definite categories and principles. However, a new concept of the use of the Hungarian Defence Forces has lately emerged, and NATO requirements and standards have been introduced. In fact, the old principles of military reconnaissance seem to contradict these new factors.

2. A new aspect of the potential use of the Hungarian Defence Forces has been developed over the last ten years.

3. Other than war operations such as military crisis response operations and peace support operations have become an essential part in the use of the Hungarian Defence Forces.

4. With the preparation for the accomplishment of NATO tasks and the participation in peace support operations, new conditions and requirements have emerged.

5. NATO-wise and in non-NATO tasks, the professional environment of reconnaissance, both domestic and foreign, has changed.

6. With the changes in the military organisations and the departures from the old classical combat operations of the 20th century, military reconnaissance requirements have been modified or new ones have emerged.

So as to answer all these questions, I studied the following fields in my thesis:

1. Nomenclature of (military) operational reconnaissance;

2. Combat support conditions and requirements the change of which has an influence on military reconnaissance;

3. The use of reconnaissance forces and reconnaissance equipment in crisis situations or in conflicts at different levels.

4. The new reconnaissance principles determined by the purpose, significance and conduct of peace support operations.

5. The peculiarities emerging with the conduct of military operations and other than war military operations that create new challanges and requirements for the successful operations of reconnaissance forces.

2. THESIS RESEARCH GOALS

1. To develop a Hungarian nomenclature of military theory and practice in agreement with the NATO reconnaissance nomenclature.

2. To determine the conditions that influence the use of reconnaissance forces, and to determine the new requirements for reconnaissance.

3. To develop a potential use of the HUMINT reconnaissance forces and equipment in the peace support operations, in crisis response operations and in military operations.

4. To determine the new operating procedures and their realistic accomplishment methods in the operation of the reconnaissance system.

As to my thesis research methodology, I applied the following methods: evaluation, conclusion, analysis and synthesis. Additionally, I put some results to use to check their workability. I also applied results of the researches made at Reconnaissance Department of Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University. In studying certain fields, I applied computer simulator support. It is the results I gained through applying these methods that I achieved my thesis research goals by.

In working out my thesis, I based upon the situation existing until the end of 1980s, therefore, upon the regulations and standard operating procedures then in effect. This is due to the fact that the changes in the 1990s resulted in no definitive or scientifically authentic reforms. In fact, these changes were and are considered to be a research effort seeking new ways of the use of the military based upon personnel reduction only. In addition, there has only been an insignificant change in the military vehicle combat equipment,

vehicles, reconnaissance equipment and other assets since then. The Act of June 30, 1995 passed by Hungarian Parliament determines the directions for the mid-term and long-term reforms in the Hungarian Defence Forces. According to the Act, I considered the reforms of the 1990s as part of a process. I based my thesis on the results and effects of this process.

I completed my thesis research in autumn 2003. In the last phase of my research, I took into consideration the main defence review findings as to the purposes, tasks and structure of the Hungarian Defence Forces. However, I could not undertake the scientific study of these, these being beyond the scope of my thesis.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH STUDIES

Chapter 1: The nomenclature of reconnaissance

Basically, Hungary as an alliance member of the Warsaw Pact based its use of the army upon the principles of the Russian Military Science until the 1980s. Thence, the Hungarian military regulation codes essentially contained the requirements and standards of the Warsaw Pact. Similarly, the military organisations and the military combat equipment too were in compliance with the demands of the Warsaw Pact. The very categories, terms and concepts of these documents and regulations were not identical with those used in NATO. Thus, the nomenclature of reconnaissance had become mixed and inconsistent. I worked out the principle on which to base the agreement of the two nomenclatures. Reconnaissance as used in the Hungarian military sciences differed in its concept, meaning and significance from the categories used in NATO.

In this subchapter, I described the system of reconnaissance in use in Hungary until the 1990s. I conducted an analysis of the characteristics of "reconnaissance data sources" and "reconnaissance types" so as to eliminate the possible contradictions. In NATO doctrines, reconnaissance categories are classified in a way that is diverse from the Hungarian system. The most significant difference is in the determination of the reconnaissance data (information) sources. The clarification of the reconnaissance data (information) sources is essential since they include most of the terms of tactical and strategic reconnaissance.

By the agreement I developed between "reconnaissance types" and "reconnaissance data sources", I made a modification in the nomenclature of reconnaissance while embedding the NATO standards as well.

Chapter 2: The impact of the changes in the 1990s on reconnaissance and the new challenges in reconnaissance

I determined the new conditions among which to conduct reconnaissance. In terms of reconnaissance, I also determined the tasks of the armed forces, the obligations assumed to ensure the collective defence of NATO member states. In addition, I determined the effects of the participation in peace support operations, crisis response operations and humanitarian operations under international agreements, especially, under UN, OSCE and EU mandate. With Hungary's NATO membership, reconnaissance services are to fulfil new tasks. The definitions of the "object" of reconnaissance and "enemy" are new now in that the data related to the strength, arsenal and operating procedures of the enemy are now different from those included in the old image of foe. Owing to the new circumstances, new demands in terms of reconnaissance have been developed.

Chapter 3: Reconnaissance support of other than war military operations

I described the use of reconnaissance and HUMINT in a conflict or crisis situation in the territory of Hungary. I also described the peculiarities of the reconnaissance forces. I gave an analysis of the potential use of reconnaissance forces as well as reconnaissance procedures. I described the HUMINT tasks of conducting data processing in the staff. In my work, I focused on the reconnaissance support of peace support operations and the peculiarities of HUMINT actions. Included in the above is my analysis of the peculiarities of the preparations of reconnaissance forces, the tasks of reconnaissance, and the potential use of reconnaissance forces and reconnaissance procedures. Surveillance by aerial vehicles (equipment with hovering capability and VTOF capability, equipped with rotor; UAV) has special importance.

Chapter 4: Use of HUMINT in the preparation and the conduct of defence operations

In the first part of the chapter, I made an analysis of the deployment of reconnaissance forces. I also included the peculiarities of the conduct of reconnaissance in defence operations, which is a special procedure in the territory of Hungary. This combat activity can be performed in co-operation with NATO troops outside Hungary. In this chapter also included are the peculiarities of the deployment of the reconnaissance forces and the reconnaissance procedures (surveillance, observation post with a team of a section, observation post with a team of platoon) in the defence operations. Reconnaissance procedures and other procedures for HUMINT task accomplishment are as follows: survey, procedures for handling sources, reconnaissance liaison operation/co-operation, interrogation, mobile reconnaissance, undercover passive surveillance and other reconnaissance procedures. Apart from these, HUMINT is provided with even further information to supply reconnaissance data.

A SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

The analyses and studies conducted as part of my thesis can be summarised as follows:

1. In the 1990s, decisive changes occurred in the basic home defence issues, in the strategic–tactical principles, and in the conditions of the use of the Hungarian Defence Forces. These changes and Hungary's NATO membership basically influence the theories and the practical aspects of strategic–tactical reconnaissance. Therefore, crisis management and the handling of conflicts below war threshold are of great importance; also, participation in the peace support operations is essential. During these periods, reconnaissance is run amid new circumstances.

2. With the new procedures and in the new context, clarification and completion of the nomenclature of reconnaissance is demanded. In this, it is a must to seek the introduction of the standards of the Alliance as well as the adaptation of the NATO principles.

3. The requirements occurring over the last couple of years make a basic influence on the Hungarian Defence Forces and the operation of the reconnaissance services. Besides, the preparation and the use of the reconnaissance forces have had a basic change due to the priority of crisis response operations and the peace support operations.

4. It is a consequence of the thoughts treated above that the battlefield conditions of reconnaissance have undergone a basic change. The same holds true in terms of the assessment and the handling of the local population, and the contact and communication with civilians.

5. By NATO reconnaissance principles, HUMINT operation and HUMINT data-collecting forces and reconnaissance procedures have an important role. Therefore, among the description and the principles of the use of the Hungarian Defence Forces reconnaissance, HUMINT procedures must be included, especially, in the reconnaissance support of crisis response operations and peace support operations.

The new tasks of reconnaissance necessitate a new philosophy of reconnaissance. The new reconnaissance philosophy is to be based upon the modification of the old reconnaissance mentality developed in old wartime activities. Reconnaissance personnel have to operate in a new environment. The new reconnaissance environment, especially in the event of peace support operations, is basically an urban area, which demands an approach different from that of the war theatre. Here the old tactical mobility procedures, close protection procedures and reconnaissance procedures and methods cannot be applied anymore. New procedures are to be acquired while the old ones need to be modified.

In the planning and the organisation of the activities related to the communication and contact with the local populations, brand new principles and procedures are to be worked out. These locals are part of the environment of the reconnaissance activities, and, simultaneously, are considered an object of reconnaissance and data source.

The majority of the old regulations on the movement and manoeuvring of the reconnaissance forces is changing. In many cases, it is not an aim to conduct hidden movements or carry out clandestine activities, either because it does not help achieve the purpose or because it is impossible. The classifications of "own territory" or "enemy territory" seem to vanish, what

is more, the classification of the territories of the opposing forces have become totally dubious for the reconnaissance forces. Paralleling this phenomenon, it will necessarily follow that there is no knowing who the enemy is and where he is. The traces for the identification and localisation of the enemy appear in no regular echelons. In addition, the predictable procedures differ from the regular military procedures. Meanwhile, for unpredictable terrorist act and surprise attacks and atrocities, preparation needs to be done. Thus, at all levels, commanders are to conduct thorough reconnaissance of the immediate environment, close protection, and fire control and communication.

It is a new factor that the newly developed theories and practices, the principles and the procedures, can be put to test, modified and corrected among real circumstances in peace support operations. As a consequence of the above it follows that the preparation, the equipment and the principles of the use of reconnaissance forces need to be thoroughly reviewed. Hopefully, the elements, principles and conclusions in my thesis will actually contribute to the execution of this process.

In order to support the thorough planning and organisation of reconnaissance and to perform an effective command and control of reconnaissance, it is a must that we have a reconnaissance service run well. According to what has been experienced in "live" operations and planned exercises, it can be stated that the reconnaissance system cannot successfully operate without HUMINT. This means that no military operations in progress now or in the future can be executed without HUMINT reconnaissance. In accordance with this, HUMINT forces are to be used in all phases of the reconnaissance operations. HUMINT reconnaissance also have an important role in reconnaissance data collection in the event of low-level conflicts and in other than war operations. Apart from HUMINT, other types of reconnaissance forces such as SIGINT, OSINT, RASINT must be employed. In fact, it is also significant to ensure the co-operation and data traffic among these different types of reconnaissance forces.

The definition of HUMINT now in use is different from the one that has been with us according to what the profession in Hungary has had in mind about the field. The presently used definition of HUMINT includes the reconnaissance forces and reconnaissance procedures that obtain information and data in immediate contact with the enemy. On the other hand, it will also cover the procedures of obtaining intelligence (information), data processing

and data evaluation in the staff. In both cases, it is essential that the intelligence (information) is obtained as a result of the process of the reconnaissance activity conducted by the reconnaissance personnel. HUMINT operation procedures are executed at all levels – tactics, operation and strategy. In fact, there is overlapping, especially in other than war operations, among these levels. Still, in all of the cases, the information is obtained so as to meet reconnaissance demands.

The most valuable characteristic of HUMINT lies with its capability that it has a direct contact with the object of reconnaissance, through getting the necessary information personally. Based upon personal impacts and impressions, HUMINT personnel uncover enemy intentions, identifies the weaknesses and the strong sides of the enemy. Thus, HUMINT also has a chance to apply a full range of reconnaissance procedures, information obtaining methods and means. In addition, HUMINT can therefore evaluate unexpected situations and can flexibly give reactions to the changes in the enemy activities. HUMINT flexibility also means that it can answer reconnaissance problems and needs, in the reconnaissance operations, by the application of newly developed procedures. Another strong point in HUMINT is the fact that the person obtaining the information is identical, or is in direct contact, with the person reporting (providing) the information. HUMINT professionals can provide reliable and up-to-date data by their personal experience. Being those obtaining the information, they can also suitably modify their activities related to a certain situation, and they are capable of immediate decision-making and taking action immediately.

It is a must, as being the message of my summary, that modifications take place in the theory and practice of military reconnaissance in Hungary. The first step on the way to realise these changes would be through working out a Joint
Reconnaissance Doctrine. The conduct of the necessary studies, analyses and documentation is the professional duty of all reconnaissance personnel.

5. SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OF MY THESIS:

1. Relying on theoretical and practical skills and experience, I developed an expanded nomenclature of the reconnaissance of land forces.

2. I demonstrated the influence of the new requirements and standards, which occur due to Hungary's joining NATO, on reconnaissance theory and practice.

3. I worked out the use of HUMINT and reconnaissance forces in crisis, in peace support operations and in military operations.

4. I adapted the meaning of HUMINT to the situation now in Hungary. I also adapted data-obtaining to the Hungarian Defence Forces in terms of peculiar differences and new opportunities.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

My purpose is to contribute, by my thesis results, to the enhancement of reconnaissance application and reconnaissance efficiency. For the accomplishment of this enhancement, my recommendations and suggestions are as follows:

1. My thesis can contribute, at different levels, to theoretical and practical studies on reconnaissance.

2. The principles and analyses included in my thesis can be utilised as training materials for students of Reconnaissance. I recommend that trainers of Reconnaissance should rely on the new definitions of reconnaissance when compiling new training materials. On the one hand, this primarily pertains to university training and sub-unit commander training, while this can have an influence on soldier training, on the other.

3. I recommend that the thesis research results should be utilised in crises and in peace support operations by Reconnaissance Organising Professionals and Reconnaissance Conducting Professionals.

4. I recommend that the results of the nomenclature study should be utilised by those participating in doctrine development or in compiling training materials and textbooks, and by theoretical experts so as to have a starting point to rely on.

5. I recommend that the results of my study and research should be tested by experiments and be computer-modelled in order to verify or correct them.

Finally, I must acknowledge the several years' help of my consultant Colonel István Héjja, and the useful ideas and opinions of those taking part at the workshop debates. I also appreciate the help on the part of my seniors, colleagues, critics and consultants, by giving me advice and by providing the conditions for me to work out my thesis.

RESUME

I graduated as a reconnaissance expert from Lajos Kossuth Military College in 1974. I also got a teacher's diploma. Then I got my first assignment, posted as reconnaissance sub-unit commander with the 24th Reconnaissance Battalion in Eger, Hungary.

In 1984 I got a diploma in Reconnaissance, accomplishing my studies with distinction at Miklós Zrínyi Military Academy in Budapest, Hungary. While still attending the Academy, every year I was among the awarded students of national students' contests. Then I started instructing Reconnaissance at the Troop Reconnaissance Department of Lajos Kossuth Military College of Budapest. First I taught Reconnaissance subjects, then I became head of Reconnaissance Section.

In 1989, I got my appointment as associate professor (of college) from Defence Minister of Hungary. In 1991, I became a member of College Council of Lajos Kossuth Military College of Budapest. By the recommendation of College Council of Lajos Kossuth Military College I got appointed as Head of Reconnaissance Department. Over the years I have been part of Reconnaissance Department, I have prepared 14 training materials (textbooks for college studies, and a simulator program), and I prepared two materials for army-level demonstration. I am a founder member of the Hungarian Society of Military Sciences, and I have been taking part in its work since its very beginning.
In 1996, I got a "summa cum laude" doctorate degree at Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University.

In 1998, I was appointed as assistant professor (of university) and was assigned to head Joint Reconnaissance Department.

I have been deputy head of Reconnaissance Department since 2000.

Since September 2003, I have been attending the Staff Officer Course at Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University.

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