

ZRÍNYI MIKLÓS NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY
KOSSUTH LAJOS FACULTY OF MILITARY SCIENCE
PhD School of Military Science

An author's overview of doctoral dissertation

**A Comparison of the Logistic System of the Hungarian
Defence Forces and that of the Austrian Armed Forces**

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The outline of the scientific problem

After the regime change in Central and Eastern Europe a gradual closing of the gap could be observed between the security interests of previously adversary countries. Joining the European Union was an objective not only for the former Socialist countries but also for neutral Austria. Today both the Republic of Austria and Hungary are EU Member States and as such they are also participants the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). Common interests and objectives also require the establishment of preconditions for joint military actions thus it can be clearly justified that processes in EU Member States outside NATO should also be monitored.

The neutrality of Austria was also given a new input since the armed forces of the country participates not only in UN missions but also in peace support operations under NATO leadership. Such new dimensions request every country to adjust their armed forces and their logistics to the new challenges.

No research or comparative analysis of various national solutions of logistic support has been conducted by Hungarian military science. The complexity of this task is clearly indicated that today there is research in this field only with regard to a few countries. To date, due to the lack of methodology, there has not been conducted any comparative analysis of the military logistic structure of Hungary and another country.

Another problem is that the comparison of Austrian and Hungarian security policies and defence policies and that of structural changes from Cold War confrontation to current issues combined with the identification of defining tendencies has not been accomplished yet.

Here and now I wish to deny a logical argument stating that specific national systems cannot be copied therefore an analysis of their mechanisms is of no fundamental importance. It may be an opinion but today military operations can hardly be conducted within national frameworks thus in the case of a joint deployment it is reasonable to be familiar with the basics of national logistic of foreign armed forces besides NATO principles. Multinational doctrinal fundamentals can be applied only above a certain level of cooperation therefore oftentimes national solutions can only be encountered at executive level. A clear sign for this is the dynamic development of military cooperation between the Austrian and German armed forces generated by the joint activities in various foreign missions.

For the time being there are too many factors for maintaining national logistic support. These have both objective causes – e.g. different military equipment, different economic opportunities of countries – and subjective ones – various interests of the defence industries of different and sometimes even competing national economies and also the limited options for the political leaderships of individual states in the field of defence spending.

Current international principles related to various military operations prevail and become interpretable through national military science. Irrespectively of the allied or multinational frameworks in which a nation intends to deploy its armed forces the

shaping of their internal system of operation takes several decades. Consequently, the pre-1990 roots of both Austrian and Hungarian military sciences should be taken into consideration which I used as a starting point for my research. I regarded this method justified since it makes the development involving every field of military, inter alia logistics, more sensible. What I consider particularly interesting is the analysis of the process how the Austrian and Hungarian armed forces, previously trained and prepared for fighting one another, arrived to meeting the requirements of multinational operations and capabilities of cooperation.

In the field of logistic support it is obvious that the objective is to establish capacities allowing both international commitments and military support to coalition/allied troops in the framework of host nation support.

The primary objective of my research was to compare the consumer logistic systems of the Austrian Armed Forces and those of the Hungarian Defence Forces. The analysis was complicated by the fact that there are no exact indicators allowing the comparison of two support systems of such complexity. Therefore the establishment of the methodology of comparison became a fundamental objective during my research activities.

Research objectives

1. Identification of the similarities and differences of the security and defence policies of Austria and Hungary and that of the deployment principles and trends in structural changes of the two armed forces.
2. Through the comparison of the consumer logistic systems of the Austrian Armed Forces and those of the Hungarian Defence Forces identification of their development factors.
3. Identification of both the similar and different features of the consumer logistic systems of the Austrian and of the Hungarian Defence Forces.
4. During the comparative analysis the elaboration and presentation of research methodology allowing the comparison of different logistic supports systems.

Research techniques

During the preparation of my dissertation the following research techniques were applied:

1. Historical review to indicate and highlight changes in both the Austrian and Hungarian defence, justifying the transformation processes of the past nearly two decades.
2. Comparative analysis to find the identical and different features of the Austrian and Hungarian consumer logistic systems.
3. Examination of national logistic support systems on the basis of lessons learned from Austrian and Hungarian principles related to multinational peace support and crisis response.
4. Analysis of the theoretical fundamentals and regulations of the Austrian and Hungarian logistic support of operations with the use of research of special literature and analysis of sources.

5. Identification of the practical influence of theoretical fundamentals through both international and domestic consultations; elimination of contradictions in special literature.
6. Practical studies of the Austrian military thinking, of the operation of professional and organisational culture during the conduct of FOURLOG Logistic Training Programme.
7. Drawing summarised conclusions and making proposals.

A brief description of analyses

Because of the working theory, the research objectives and techniques the dissertation consists of three chapters.

In Chapter One I present the shaping of the security and defence policies of Austria and of Hungary from the 1990s to date. On this basis I analysed the stages of the transition of the two military forces and changes in the deployment principles from national defence to the new balance between foreign mission and conventional defence tasks.

In Chapter Two I compare consumer logistic systems through system-based approach. I present a general theoretical system defining research methodology and compare the notion, content, conception and principal fundamentals of logistic support. On the basis of international regulations and principles I compare the tasks and structure of national support systems of missions. I summarise the system of Austrian and Hungarian logistic branches and identified their different and similar features.

In Chapter Three I summarise the conducted research activities and outlined my research findings and proposals.

Summarised conclusions

In my doctoral dissertation I summarise my research conducted in the field of logistic support of both the Austrian and Hungarian armed forces.

In my work I tried to go beyond narrow professional approaches and identify the problems through the disclosure of wider, comprehensive contexts and their impacts – similarly to my attempts in my University PhD thesis work. To this end I conducted research in the field of factors – which I regarded important – having influence on the two logistic systems.

Through the models of Austria and Hungary I prove that today each European state – regardless of its belonging to any alliance – has similar security interests and participates in processes aimed at international security and stability. The two analysed countries shaped their defence systems along two entirely different interests during the Cold War period. From that situation they arrived at participation in current multinational operations: Austria at armed peace support operations and the collective defence of the EU and Hungary at any type of peace support

operations and crisis response operations including war fought in the interests of the Alliance.

The analysis of deployment principles of armed forces proved that current tasks can be approached through an entirely different concept. Not only in Hungary was this process difficult and lengthy but in Austria too.

Through the presentation of the major trends of the transition of armed forces I analysed structural, quantitative and qualitative changes leading up to shaping a structure which meets the requirements of current tasks and missions. The abandoning of independent service commands in both countries indicates the demand for a unified command structure and the focused utilisation of resources. During the restructuring of both armed forces similar requirements appeared but their accomplishment brought along significantly differing results. While the Hungarian Defence Forces focus on the establishment of expeditionary capabilities the Austrian Armed Forces maintains their combined arms capabilities.

For the examination of the system of logistic support I apply a comprehensive theoretical system model allowing the analysis of the entire system.

I based the comparison of the system of consumer logistic on NATO principles and regulations. The fundamental principles of the Alliance was adapted by the EU too and these regulations also apply on Austria as a PfP Member State. I compared the notions, functional fields, and principles of logistic support. On the basis of research I could state that combat service support is more significantly present in the Austrian system as a collective notion, moreover, the Bundesheer is more consequent in adapting fundamental NATO principles than the Hungarian Defence Forces.

The branch support system of the two armed forces has characteristic features which are the legacy of the previous era. To date neither in Austria nor in Hungary can an intention be identified aimed at the unification of the fragmented materiel support system. In my scientific research I compared the branch system of the Austrian and Hungarian logistic support in relation with organisations.

In the field of logistic support of foreign operations both armed forces operate a structure with fundamentally multilevel, national support elements.

In summary I state that the structure of the logistic support systems of the two armed forces fundamentally differs from one another. However, this difference is reduced during the execution phase – that is when the national support subsystem operates – because of the adaptation of NAO principles. In my opinion both the Austrian and the Hungarian armed forces are at a level of interoperability that allows them to participate in any international operation.

New scientific findings

1. I proved that changes in security policy, deployment principles, and structure, generated by the transformation of security environment induce trends offering increasingly similar responses and solutions in different nations.

2. On the basis of a comparative analysis I identified factors determining the development of the system of consumer logistics regardless of belonging to one or another alliance.
3. With the use of system-based approach I disclosed and presented both the similarities and differences of Austrian and Hungarian consumer logistics.
4. I elaborated and applied a system-based approach for the comparison and examination of differing consumer logistic systems of various national armed forces.

The practical usability of research findings

With the use of system-based approach applied in my dissertation different national logistic systems can be examined in a unified structure. The dissertation provides a comprehensive insight into changes and tendencies in both the Austrian and Hungarian armed forces during the past 17 years therefore it can be used as an authentic source by researchers of this particular field. The Austrian solution are in many ways different from those experienced during the restructuring of the Hungarian Defence Forces, making the dissertation a good background material for force planners and experts dealing with further development of the system of logistic support. The dissertation can also be used as special literature in both full-time or distance training at the National Defence University.

List of publications

Articles

1. Az osztrák vadászászlóalj hadtápbiztosítása védelemben [Logistic support of an Austrian light infantry battalion in defence]
In Akadémiai Közlemények 1990/173. pp. 33-60
2. Az Osztrák Szövetségi Haderő (Bundesheer) hadtápbiztosításának néhány sajátossága [Some specific features of Logistic support in the Austrian Armed Forces]
In Hallgatói Közlemények 1991/33. pp.129-132.
3. Ausztria katonaföldrajzi jellemzése, különös tekintettel az ország hadigazdasági potenciáljára [A military geography of Austria with special regard to its war industry]
In Hallgatói Közlemények 1991/35. pp. 103-118.
4. Ausztriai biztonságpolitikájáról [On the Security Policy of Austria]
In Új Honvédségi Szemle 1992/2. pp. 8-17.
Co-author: Colonel Héjja, István PhD
5. Határbiztosítási feladatok az osztrák haderőben [Border Protection Issues in the Austrian Armed Forces]
In Katonai Logisztika 1994/3. pp. 85-116.

6. Az osztrák haderő anyagi-technikai biztosító szervezeteinek jellemzői és funkcionális felépítése [Some Typical Features and the Structure of Materiel-Technical Support Organisations of the Austrian Armed Forces]
In Katonai Logisztika 1995/3. pp. 92-121.
7. Az anyagi biztosítás sajátosságai az Osztrák Szövetségi Hadseregben [Some Characteristics of Materiel Support in the Austrian Armed Forces]
In Katonai Logisztika 1996/2. pp. 99-135.
8. A technikai biztosítás és az egészségügyi biztosítás sajátosságai az Osztrák Szövetségi Hadseregben [Some Typical Features of Technical and Medical Support in the Austrian Armed Forces]
In Katonai Logisztika 1996/3. pp. 130-145.
9. A „logisztika” történelmi kialakulása és a fogalom tartalmának fejlődése [Shaping Logistics and the Development of its Content]
In Bolyai Szemle, 1998/3. pp. 59-68.
10. Az új osztrák biztonsági és védelmi doktrína [The New Security and Defence Doctrine of Austria]
In Hadtudomány 2002/2. pp. 27-35.
11. Az osztrák biztonságpolitika és a hadsereg alkalmazási elveinek változásai a Második Köztársaság megalakulásától napjainkig [Some Changes in the Security Policy and in the Deployment Principles of the Austrian Armed Forces since the Establishment of the Second Republic]
In Katonai Logisztika 2002/4. pp. 16-39.
12. Az Osztrák Szövetségi Hadsereg és a Magyar Honvédség szervezetének alakulása a '90-es évektől napjainkig [Development of the Structures of the Austrian Armed Forces and of the Hungarian Defence Forces since the 1990s]
In Katonai Logisztika 2005/3. pp. 52-75.
13. Az Osztrák Szövetségi Hadsereg és a Magyar Honvédség logisztikai rendszere [The Structure of Logistics in the Austrian Armed Forces and in the Hungarian Defence Forces]
In A védelemgazdasági és katonai logisztikai kutatások aktuális irányai (nemzetközi konferencia kiadvány), An international publication of the contributions at the conference on “Current Trends in Defence Economy and Military Logistic Research”, Budapest, ZMNDU, 8th December 2005
14. Some Austrian and German solutions for Peace Support Operations
AARMS 2007/1. pp. 109-120.pp.

University course book

Ausztria katonaföldrajzi adottságai és katonai doktrínája közötti összhang [The Harmony between the Military Geography and Military Doctrine of Austria]
ZMKA course book, 1994, Ref. No.: 841/072/ea

Student Scientific Research paper

Az osztrák vadászászlóalj hadtápbiztosítása védelemben [Logistic support of an Austrian light infantry battalion in defence]

First prize winning research paper at the 20th National Student Scientific Competition

Study paper

Az ország honvédelme és a honvédség modernizációja útjainak és fejlesztési irányainak vizsgálata osztrák és magyar törekvések összevetésével [An Analysis of the National Defence and of the Ways of Modernisation of the Hungarian Defence Forces through a Comparison of Austrian and Hungarian Trends]

Award winning study paper at the competition of Hungarian Society of Military Science 1997.

Co-author: Colonel Héjja, István (Ret.) PhD

Lecture

1. Az Osztrák Szövetségi Hadsereg és a Magyar Honvédség logisztikai rendszere [The Structure of Logistics in the Austrian Armed Forces and in the Hungarian Defence Forces]

A lecture in German delivered at the international conference on "Current Trends in Defence Economy and Military Logistic Research", Budapest, ZMNDU, 8th December 2005

CURICULUM VITAE

Education

1979–1983	Zalka Máté Military Technical College, Department of General Logistics, supply and transport branch
1983	Graduated as logistics officer, financier-economist
1988 – 1991	Zrínyi Miklós Military Academy, Department of Logistics
1991	Graduated as logistic officer at tactical-operational levels
1992	Staff officer training at Bundeswehr School of Ground Forces Supply
1992	Materiel-management training course at Bundeswehr School of Logistics
1995	Staff Officer Training, Bundeswehr Leadership Academy,
1996 – 1999	Staff Officer Training, Military Academy of the Austrian Armed Forces

Military career

1983–1985	Commander of transport company of 120 Supply Battalion, Tata
1986	Planning organising officer in the staff of the 11 Tank Division Tata
1987 – 1988	Teacher of tactics and logistic support, Department of Logistics and Finances, Zalka Máté Military Technical College
1991 – 1993	Assistant College Professor

1993 – 1994	Group leader
1994 – 1995	Deputy Head of Logistic Department
1995 – 1996	Acting Head of Logistic Department
1997 –	Head of Logistic Department

Foreign languages

1991	German – advanced level State Examination
2001	English – STANAG 3.3.3.3. Examination

Scientific career

1991	First prize in the Section of Military Science of Department of Tactics and Operations at the 20 th National Conference of Scientific Student Societies, Pro Scientia Gold Medal
1994	Degree of Doctor Univ.

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