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Written by

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The role of cultural anthropology in the force

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INTRODUCTION

Military science is constantly evolving due to the rapidly changing environment, the emergence of new technologies, enemies and ideologies. To fight the battle and defeat the enemy in the 21st century, it is first and foremost necessary for the force to react more quickly, to update its knowledge because information and the environment are constantly changing. It is of paramount importance for the Hungarian Defense Forces not only to pay more attention to technical developments, but also to transform the training and education system according to the military challenges of the 21st century, as international tasks and challenges now require military officers with other competencies.

The 21st century soldiers in a professional army must be prepared to meet the challenges of the current task. The task of the trainers is to provide the young officer-candidates, the warrant officers and the staff assigned to the mission task with the information and expertise necessary to fight the battle. As an instructor at the National University of Public Service's Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training, my goal is also to provide a solid knowledge that connects civil societies and soldiers.

In my research I would like to prove that in education, the methodology and the knowledge set developed by me can make the soldier involved in the preparation more prepared and effective. In my opinion, social sciences will play a greater role in military-policy decision-making in the future and will thus have an outstanding function in the training of officers and warrant officers. The reason for this is that the environmental and cultural challenges urge forces of the world to a new type of solution, as today it can be declared as a fact, and in the dissertation I will prove several times that physical and technical superiority is not enough either for a successful war, or even to implement a successful peace operation.

I believe that the training of war actors should be complex and comprehensive, bearing in mind that fighting is taking place in a social environment. In order for a military leader and subordinate staff to be a successful strategic tool in the area of operation, they need to know and understand in detail the local political, religious and cultural backgrounds. One way to do this is to start thinking in a broader context which can be seen in the context of the role of military force in some of the mission areas.

Recognizing this danger, in my doctoral dissertation I present in detail the necessity of the connection between cultural anthropology and the force, the historical background of the cooperation, and how the tools and methods of social sciences was applied and how they are used by the nations to understand and overcome the enemy up to this day. I also pay particular attention to the achievements of the American *Human Terrain System*, and the reasons for closing it.

I present the method of the T.O.M.A.V. system developed by me and its appearance in the Hungarian Defense Forces, which aims to integrate the possibility and necessity of cultural awareness and sociocultural research, as well as the application of the methodology of cultural anthropology into military tasks. In the article published in the 16th issue of *Working Papers on State* in 2016, which was written jointly by József Boda, Gábor Boldizsár, László Kovács, Zoltán Orosz, József Padányi, István Resperger and Zoltán Szenes with the title '*Research directions, priorities and topics in military science*', the need for certain disciplines is formulated. The discipline of cultural anthropology is also mentioned as a proposed discipline, which is necessary for use in modern military education and training.

Together with these experiences and as a cultural anthropologist, I can state that cultural knowledge is a strategic advantage for all those involved in external service. The few hours of cultural preparation that Hungarian soldiers receive during mission preparation today do not contain the knowledge that can be used to resolve conflict situations. This requires a much more serious and complex information transfer which also needs to change at the level of education, training, operation planning and experience processing. The sooner we recognize the shortcomings of our training, the more we can reduce the chances of this type of conflict claiming. Man is determined by his own prejudices that can be improved by learning and practicing. If we understand the depths of other cultures and the cultural differences that result therefrom, it can help us concerning not only the local population, but also internationally, to avoid future conflicts.

After the end of the conflicts that characterize the bipolar world, security is threatened by new types of threats and risks. Instead of a global military conflict, there are fighting in many areas, with completely new dimensions of terrorism open and appearing over and over again. The effects of crises and conflicts are not limited to smaller areas, either directly or indirectly. Hungary's Euro-Atlantic integration has significantly changed our role as we are active participants in peace-support missions and international operations, in accordance with the requirements of joining NATO and the European Union. The processes of the world are not

seen from the background, so our security-related interests, values and tasks appear in everyday life, in politics and as well as in individual perceptions.

Analyzing my experience, I have found that modern, technically well-equipped armed forces are not the only condition for successful military operations and victory. Although the military force is still preparing for the complete destruction of the enemy and remains its instrument, but based on experience there are now more and more operational situations that require civilian support for military victory, and hence contact with them and cultural knowledge has become vital. These types of challenges are often assigned to the CIMIC, but the Hungarian CIMIC is not able to develop cultural competencies, carry out sociocultural research, evaluate and analyze them, or provide cultural support to the military, as it has other military capabilities, personnel and tools.

SETTING THE SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM

I find the scientific problem that at the moment, the preparation of foreign defense engagements of the Hungarian Defense Forces is not in balance with the challenges of the age and the operational environment. In a domestic environment of safety it is vital to plan the "danger" inherent in foreign culture, with which special attitudes, methodologies and thinking are needed, a combination of knowledge that is provided only by civil society education courses. The inclusion of such training in military training is not feasible. According to this structure, there is no time and opportunity for the training of social scientists in military training, but it is necessary to apply the expertise of social scientists at civil universities. The Hearts and Mind concept is just as important in the army as the soldier, the knowledge of the use of the weapon, the functionality of combat equipment and the development of the right strategy.

The main problem I see is that the lack of cultural knowledge in the training and education of the Hungarian Defense Forces poses a serious security threat and a strategic disadvantage for the subordinate staff coming to the area of operation, because in the absence of this, the Hungarian soldiers are not well prepared or informed about the risks of the lack of cultural awareness.

On several occasions I have experienced conflicts arising from different cultural habits - whether they are religious, lifestyle, communication, or relationship-to-life - caused by differences. However, the expansion of tolerance, the development of the ability to accept the

different culture of a soldier or local resident from another nation is not present in the training of the Hungarian Defense Forces or in preparation for missions.

In military tasks, especially in special positions in the area of operation - and now in border protection - there is a need to pay close attention to the dangers of cultural differences in the service of a soldier. Attitudes of people from other cultures can trigger very extreme emotions. However, the resulting number of conflicts can be reduced by increasing tolerance and developing competencies arising from foreign cultural knowledge. Such skills include intercultural communication or intercultural competence.

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

In my dissertation I investigated how the forces of different nations used the discipline of cultural anthropology at the time of certain major conflicts and how an alliance was formed. It also discusses the ways in which the competences of the discipline can be applied at different levels of the Hungarian Defense Forces, especially in peace operations. During my research, I have shown that what level of training the troops of the Hungarian Defense Forces assigned to foreign service receive in the course of mission preparation, and how relevant it is in each operation area and position.

My research on the chosen topic was based on the following objectives:

1. To summarize in a systematic way the unified framework of the relationship between the force and the anthropology;
2. To demonstrate how the results of socio-cultural research become an indispensable skill in each military task;
3. To present the results of my empirical research and the possibilities of applying the information contained therein;
4. To include the framework of the theoretical foundations of the T.O.M.A.V. system;
5. To introduce the effectiveness and preventive effect of cultural competence;
6. To formulate the ethical dilemmas that employ the anthropologist society of the world on the correctness of the cooperation and to prove the positive effects of this relationship;
7. To develop the basis for military anthropology as a new social science sector to support military operations of the military;

8. To prove that in the asymmetric warfare one of the most effective indirect means of fighting insurgents in the 21st century is the application of social sciences (eg philosophy, political science, psychology and anthropology).
9. With the experience of anthropological use of each nation's armed forces, I would like to prove that the positive results of the co-operation also prove that the socio-cultural mapping of each conflict zone helps allied forces close the war faster.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

The basis for formulating my research hypotheses was that the emergence of cultural knowledge in the training and education system of the Hungarian Defense Forces could reduce the conflicts that could be clearly demonstrated from international experiences, thus creating a safer environment for Hungarian soldiers. The development of cultural knowledge and cultural competences is a strategic advantage for all those involved in peace operations. Better cooperation and confidence building with the civilian population is essential for more efficient work and a reduction of enemy power in the 21st century military operations environment. Military thinking has undergone significant changes over the last 40 years and there is a commitment among the leading nations to social sciences, especially to cultural anthropology.

My research and analysis on this topic focused on verifying or refuting the following:

1. My hypothesis is that military engagement in multidimensional space, in a multicultural environment requires that we do not only use traditional tools and build on the experiences of the past to win the wars of the future, because it poses a serious threat to our own soldiers, beyond civilians. It also causes severe losses among residents, causing escalation of a conflicting environment. I suppose that the integration of social sciences at deeper levels of military operations is necessary to avoid all these dangers.
2. Over an enemy with a different cultural background, in a foreign cultural environment and without the support of the civilian population victory can only be achieved through great material and human losses. My assumption is that the provision of intercultural competence is indispensable to gain support for the civilian population of the operation area.
3. Some of the Green-on-Blue attacks occur due to a lack of cultural information, a lack of understanding of the motivations and traditions of the enemy and the local population, as well as the armed attacks by cultural misunderstandings.

4. By increasing the role of cultural anthropology in military education and training, it can reduce the number of conflicts resulting from different cultural differences.

5. The daily tasks of the Hungarian Defense Forces, contracted and professional, can be made safer, especially in mission areas, by using military anthropology and the T.O.M.A.V. system.

RESEARCH METHODS

In order to justify my hypothesis, I mainly use my own experiences and researches which I have gathered during my ten years of military career and more than two years in total in foreign service. In addition, as a university lecturer and formerly a cultural expert at the HDF CMPC staff, I held trainings and lectures for the foreign service staff, especially in Kosovo and Afghanistan, and last but not least I participated in several foreign conferences on the subject which also helped to collect data and to get a broader understanding and insight into the subject I am analyzing.

Naturally, I have extended my own experiences with second analyzes, so I have also carried out researches of Hungarian and foreign literature, and I maintain contact with foreign social scientists on the topic because of the wide-ranging cooperation required for the international recognition of military anthropology as a new discipline. In the course of processing the literature, my aim was primarily to explore the historical background of the topic and to analyze the experiences and case studies where anthropologists presented the results of their research.

I have placed great emphasis on building up the vertical and horizontal relationships of my dissertation, maintaining the cohesion of goals, methods and scientific results. During my work, I mainly used the following methods of induction and analogy:

I have analyzed and processed my own experiences in my NATO and UN missions, as well as in my specific training.

My research is based on a qualitative method. It was essential to create questionnaires that were able to give an adequate answer to the problems that I formulated, so it was a basic requirement that I formulate only clear and precise questions. In the technical editing, it was important to record the purpose of the research, guaranteeing anonymity and attracting interest.

I have consulted with domestic and foreign actors on the subject. I actively participated in field research, lectures, conferences, and worked on the knowledge and experience gained there.

I have used comparative methods when examining several questions; this has proved to be effective primarily in studying the practices of NATO member states. I have systematized my acquired knowledge, published the partial results of my researches, taught and integrated it into the training.

STRUCTURE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DISSERTATION

During the preparation of the dissertation, the following areas and topics are examined and conclusions drawn:

THE FIRST CHAPTER

In this chapter, I present the experiences of the foreign and Hungarian literature I have processed and the reasons for the split of the American anthropological community, as well as the scientific work of the two individuals who, either intentionally or unintentionally, have become the role models of these two groups. While Montgomery McFate became a model for the supporters, David H. Price became a role model for the opponents.

THE SECOND CHAPTER

I present the areas of social science whose knowledge is indispensable in the research of the civil environment, the concept of culture, the discipline of cultural anthropology and the applied anthropology discipline, which are the basis in the formation of military anthropology, both in methodology and philosophy. However, it requires a separate scientific classification due to the specialty of its task which I will present in detail in this chapter.

CHAPTER Three

I reveal the historical aspects of the relationship between social sciences and the military in this chapter in the light of the First and Second World Wars. I also detail the reasons and needs of some intelligence organizations that contributed to the use of social sciences. I also present the motivations of the Nazi German and American anthropologists and the initial support of the American Association of Anthropologists.

CHAPTER Four

In this chapter I examine the social science support and the widening of cooperation in the post-WWII major conflicts. The Vietnam War and the 21st century military challenges in the Middle East including the events in Iraq and Afghanistan will be discussed in detail, complementing the experiences of several nations, giving a more holistic view of the social science aspects of world troops.

CHAPTER Five

In this chapter I present the international programs that worked in each nation's armed forces, or are still in operation, and assist military operations with social science research and professionals. Through American, British, German, and Russian examples, I demonstrate the need for a relationship between force and anthropology.

CHAPTER Six

In this chapter of the dissertation, I present the competence development programs that the allied military forces are trying to develop purposefully and consciously through the experience of the past period. Thus, to reduce the extent of conflicts arising from cultural misunderstandings and the resulting high resistance from residents. I also analyze case studies in this chapter which proves the need to develop cultural competencies in the Hungarian Defense Forces. In addition to the American examples, I present the British and German, Canadian, Australian and French experiences and programs that each promotes to better prepare their own military personnel and develop their own assessment and analytical systems with the cooperation of cultural anthropology.

CHAPTER Seven

In this chapter, I will discuss the T.O.M.A.V. system that I am currently developing, and I propose its possible areas of use in the Hungarian Defense Forces, as well as the development of specialized training related to this system which I also visualized. In this chapter I also deal with the creation of a database which is one of the evaluation-analyzing parts of the system's operation and it deals with the transmission of information and its rapid evaluation. I make suggestions for changing the training and education system and I demonstrate the importance of higher education in social sciences for undergraduate and graduate students at the HDF NCO Academy and the National University of Public Service's Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training.

In the conclusion of my dissertation, I formulate my partial results, new scientific results, and make suggestions for usability and further research tasks. I will also outline the areas and actions that will require further observations in the future. At the end of the dissertation you will find a list of the most important abbreviations, appendices, a list of used literature and a list of my scientific publications.

For reasons of scope, or as other studies have already summarized them, or are not closely related to the subject of the dissertation or are subject to further research, I will deal only partially with the following topics in my work:

- CIMIC / PSYOPS capability; the military dimensions of COIN and counter-terrorism operations,
- for reasons of scope and lack of knowledge of the different language I cannot investigate the military appearance of the anthropology surrounding the countries around Hungary,
- presentation of the structure of the Hungarian Defense Forces,
- the depths of culture and its parts, the effects of cultural shock on the dangers of cultural differences, the presentation of the close relationship between religion and culture.
- I do not intend to present in detail the role of other social sciences and disciplines in the light of the forces of the individual nations. Such social sciences are sociology, pedagogy, psychology, whose strategic role is very prominent in the cooperation of the past and present forces and during the war period,
- presentation of strategic analysis frameworks used by military and intelligence.

COMPARING THE HYPOTHESES WITH THE RESULTS

1. Based on my research, I have proved that the methods of cultural training of the military personnel of the Hungarian Defense Forces cannot be discarded but new methods must be applied to the new challenges which are built on the elements learnt earlier in college. There is a greater need to learn and practice the knowledge of foreign culture in individual training, exercises and training.

2. From my own practical experience and the search and analysis of foreign systems, the necessity of reforming the officer and warrant officer training in the Hungarian Defense Forces was confirmed. First of all, I see the first stage of competence development in school education

proved as there is a possibility to practice in addition to the theory, where they can deepen and practice what has been said. Here there is opportunity to expand cooperation with other universities. I have shown that co-operation with the named Hungarian universities is necessary in the education and training system of the Hungarian Defense Forces. I have fully developed the content of the lessons of military anthropology which I have successfully tested at the University of Miskolc and at the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) for a period of 1 year at each place.

3. By analyzing my personal experiences, domestic and foreign literature and international case studies I found that conflicts arising from cultural habits increase the security risk in the area of operation, reduce the build-up of trust between different peoples and increase the number of hostile forces. I have proven that the development of cultural competence can increase the co-operation of civilian populations with military forces but requires training and trained instructors.

4. I proved the necessity of the use of cultural anthropology, its role in increasing the effectiveness of military operations, and I formulated the fields of cultural anthropology, including the use of military anthropology, its purpose, target groups, elaborated its new system, the requirements of preparation and defined its content.

5. The T.O.M.A.V. system that I developed as a tool is not yet a fully developed and deployable methodology. Currently, the conditions for applying anthropology are not at the level of acceptance and understanding that can be integrated into everyday military tasks. Continuous consultation about the possible use of my system and my research at the former General Staff of the Armed Forces of Hungary have encountered unexpected problems -until writing the PhD-, so in the structure of the Hungarian Defense Forces (training, education, experience-processing, appearance in operation, operation planning, etc.) cannot be planned. However, I recommend reviewing the efficiency of the T.O.M.A.V. system.

NEW SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

Based on my research and analysis, I formulated the following scientific results:

1. Based on my research, I have defined the new science field of military anthropology, its potential, the system and content of military use.

2. I proved that the integration of military anthropology knowledge and the development of cultural competence is necessary in military basic and master education and in the education of the HDF NCO Academy and the National University of Public Service's Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training.
3. I developed the requirements and content of the military anthropology course and prepared the basics of the training package for practical implementation which I attached in the appendix.
4. I have developed a proposal for the use of the T.O.M.A.V. system, with particular regard to the tasks related to the external service and their replacement to the education and training system.

USE OF RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OF THE DISSERTATION

Presentation of case studies and strategic documents analyzed and evaluated in the chapters of the dissertation, as well as the demonstration of the achievements and achievements of international forces may be of interest for the appearance of cultural anthropology in the Hungarian Defense Forces.

In my opinion, the dissertation can be utilized well for the programs of primary and master courses organized by the National University of Public Service's Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training and the Faculty of International and European Studies, as well as by the Institute of National Security. The dissertation and the research results contained therein can be used for educational purposes in military basic and master training, at the Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training of HDF NCO Academy and the National University of Public Service, in the field of security policy studies, social sciences studies and military science. I also recommend the thesis to the students, researchers and experts involved in the topic at civil universities. The theses described in the dissertation can help to prepare the commanders and staff officers of the Hungarian Defense Forces, the work of the government's foreign relations and defense policy organizations, as well as the open and human resources of the Hungarian military and civilian security services.

PRESENTATIONS ON THE THEME AT SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

(In order of performance)

Pres.	The conference			
	Title	Language	Location	Time
1.	The experiences and future of the civil–military cooperation and the psychological operations in the Hungarian Defence Forces	English	Miklós Zrínyi National Defense University	10-11.12.2007.
2.	The Role of Applied Anthropology in Military Operations of the 21st Century	Hungarian	University of Miskolc, Department of Cultural and Visual Anthropology	13.05.2010.
3.	The Opportunities of Cultural Anthropology in Support of International Operations	Hungarian	National University of Public Service	31.05.2012.
4.	MHTT Conference: The Asymmetric Warfare - Cultural Awareness in Asymmetric Warfare	Hungarian	National University of Public Service	12.11.2014.
5.	Good State - Effective Force: Anthropology and Warfare	Hungarian	National University of Public Service and ELTE Faculty of Social Sciences	30.11.2015.
6.	Good State - Effective Force: Anthropology and War Studies 2.0	Hungarian	National University of Public Service and ELTE Faculty of Social Sciences	11.20.2018.

MY ARTICLES ON THE TOPIC

(In order of appearance)

	Title of the article	Language	Place of publication	Year
1.	The Role of Cultural Anthropology in Military Operations	Hungarian	<i>Military Science Review</i> , 3 (4), pp. 1-5.	2010
2.	Application of cultural anthropology in ISAF mission	Hungarian	<i>Hungarian Defence Review</i> , 140 (2), pp. 38-39.	2012
3.	The relationship between civil-military cooperation, psychological operations and cultural anthropology	Hungarian	<i>Military Science</i> , 22 (10), pp. 1-7.	2012
4.	Cultural anthropology in the war on terror	Hungarian	<i>Military Science Review</i> , 6 (1), pp. 187–192.	2013
5.	Cultural Intelligence (IC/CULTINT): i.e. the place and role of cultural anthropology in intelligence	Hungarian	<i>Military Science Review</i> , 6 (3), pp. 131–137.	2013
6.	Psychological Risks of Foreign Missions	Hungarian	<i>Military Science Review</i> , 7(1), pp. 289–295.	2014
7.	Place and role of cultural anthropology in the Military	English	<i>ARMA</i> , 13(1), pp. 113–117.	2014
8.	The emergence of social sciences in intelligence	Hungarian	<i>Felderítő Szemle</i> , 13 (3), pp. 64-72.	2014
9.	Cultural awareness in asymmetric warfare	Hungarian	<i>Hadtudomány</i> , 25 (1-2), pp. 104–105.	2015
10.	The role of cultural awareness in asymmetric warfare	Hungarian	<i>Army Review</i> , 13(1), pp. – 87–91.	2015
11.	Dangers of cultural misunderstandings in the area of operation and presentation of a new, effective system to reduce it	Hungarian	<i>Hungarian Defence Review</i> , 143 (5), pp. 150-160.	2015

12.	Possibilities of applying cultural anthropology in the force	Hungarian	<i>A hadtudomány és a 21. század 2015: Tanulmánykötet</i> , pp. 25–44.	2015
13.	Green-On-Blue: The dangers and long-term effects of internal attacks on operations	Hungarian	<i>Honvédségi Szemle</i> , 2017/6. pp. 47–80.	2017
14.	The necessity of applying social sciences in the Hungarian Defense Forces	Hungarian	<i>Military Science Review</i> , 11 (1), pp. 253–269.	2018
15.	Experiences of military application of social sciences	Hungarian	<i>Military Science Review</i> , 11 (4), pp. 286–301.	2018
16.	The indispensability of social sciences in the training of the future	Hungarian	<i>Military Science Review</i> , 12(1), pp. 216–232.	2019

PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC CV

Krisztián Sztankai was born in Miskolc in 1979. He graduated from secondary school in Miskolc at Eötvös József Secondary Grammar School. After graduating from secondary school, he was admitted to the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Miskolc, to the Department of Cultural and Visual Anthropology. In 2006 at the University of Miskolc he graduated as a secondary school teacher in cultural and visual anthropology and social science. After two years he joined the Hungarian Defense Forces Civil-Military Cooperation and Psychological Operations Centre as a chief speaker, and in 2009 he was sent to Kosovo as a contracted lieutenant and as a subordinate officer of the KFOR force stationed in Peja. Here he was commissioned to lead the Italian Brigade Tactical PSYOPS Group.

In 2011, he was sent to Afghanistan as PRT-10 as one of the subordinate officers of the Hungarian contingent as a CIMIC officer. His main activity was to support CIMIC in the districts of Baghlan-e Jadid, Dahana-i-Ghuri and Talawa Barfak. In 2016 he served in the Central African Republic for 1 year as a military observer of the UN MINUSCA teams in the Berberati province. His main task was to maintain contact between its local population and the local allied forces. The doctoral program started in 2012 at the National University of Public Service at the Doctoral School of Military Science. He obtained an absolution from the Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training at the National University of Public Service in the autumn of 2015. He passed an intermediate language exam in English and basic language proficiency exam in French.

Main areas of his research are the place and role of cultural anthropology in the activities of the armed forces, with special regard to the role of the Hungarian Defense Forces in peace operations. In his publishing activity he wrote 13 studies on the various aspects of the relationship between cultural anthropology and force - its preventive effect, the role of reducing the dangers of cultural differences, its effects on peace operations - twelve of them in Hungarian and one in English.

From December 2013 he served in the Department of Military History, Philosophy and Cultural History at the Faculty of Military Science and Defense of the National University of Public Service, and since 2015 he has served as an assistant lecturer at the Department of Military Leadership and General Subjects at the Institute of Military Leadership Training.

Budapest, 14 March 2019