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AUTHOR'S SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL (PHD) DISSERTATION

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Technical generation changes and possible development directions of the Hungarian border surveillance

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Description of the scientific problem

Concerning the illegal migration process, which has increased since 2015, it could be seen that the border authorities of the concerned countries did not have such a pre-formulated border surveillance strategy which would have fully been able to quickly and effectively handle the situation.

The European Union and the national legislative framework, furthermore, the internal police norms solely include too general and the most basic aspects regarding border surveillance, more detailed application principles or regularities related to the application tactics are not mentioned in them.

Based on the above, the essence of the scientific problem lies in that, although, these days security is a key question on a European level as well – the important tool of which is the surveillance of Schengen external borders –, there are no recommendations, internal norms, methodological guides or manuals either on European or national level relating to the operation of the border surveillance system and the application methods of technical tools supporting border surveillance. For at least partly filling this hiatus, I considered significant to conduct a scientific research aiming at outlining the development of national border surveillance and its technical support, and through this, the possible directions of further development.

Hypotheses for research

1) Throughout the history of border surveillance, the technological level of a particular era and the financial opportunities of a given state had at least such impacts on the border surveillance system (organisation, location, technical tools, procedures) like those challenges for the addressing of which the border surveillance system was established.

2) The wide-scale application of border surveillance technical tools may significantly improve the efficiency of the policing-related border surveillance system meeting the Schengen requirements and the actual situation at the border.

3) The effective application of border surveillance tools and systems is possible only in accordance with their level of technical development, in a complex system, by providing an appropriate legal background and human resources.

4) Keeping the temporary security border barrier in the border surveillance system should be considered in the longer-term, however, due to its static nature, future technical developments should be planned primarily to supplement the border barrier, moreover, other technical elements of border surveillance would need continuous technical improvement.

Research objectives

Based on the conclusions I drew in the course of preliminary resource analysis which had been carried out at the beginning of the research, I have set myself the objective of conducting a qualitative, less quantitative, systematic research which could identify the relationship between the border surveillance principles, the operation of the border surveillance system and the technical support through the historic overview of the technical-technological aspects of the Hungarian border surveillance.

My general strategic goal was to give a historic overview of the technical support of the Hungarian border surveillance, to examine it from a systematic and technical-technological point of view, furthermore, to identify further possible development opportunities.

My other general objective was to analyse the changes in the applied technical tools and procedures, moreover, the operation of the border surveillance system as a result of the challenges faced by border surveillance at different ages.

My personal goal was to examine my theoretical knowledge and practical experience gained empirically, to examine the naturalisation possibilities of my experience gained abroad and the best practices, moreover, to organise, summarise and disseminate the results of my research in such a format which may be used henceforth.

My personal objective was also that the results of the research should provide an adequate basis for the elaboration of a methodological guide supporting the implementation of border surveillance activities; furthermore, I would also like to build these results into the educational activities of border police officers.

Research methods

In the course of my research, which was mainly qualitative, I have constantly strived for an interdisciplinary approach to the topic. During studying and processing the relevant international and national academic literature, legislation, internal norms, materials of the

Hungarian National Archives and other documents, I divided the whole research topic into theoretical and practical planes applying analysis and synthesis, and then combined the resulting knowledge into a unified whole. In an inductive and deductive way, I formulated general regularities from the data and the results, and drew individual conclusions from general findings.

As one of the researchers of the research carried out within the framework of the Internal Security Fund project titled 'Review of the Border Surveillance System', project ID ISF-2.3.2-201500001, I conducted practical field researches concerning the situation of technical support for border surveillance activities in Hungary's Schengen external border section. In the course of the research, I interviewed those persons serving in the central and regional management, as well as the heads and subordinates of the organisational units performing specific border surveillance tasks at the local level.

In addition to conducting the interviews, I also compiled a questionnaire in connection with the current issues of the technical support of border surveillance. The survey involved 1504 people from the regional and local border police staff of the Hungarian–Ukrainian, Hungarian–Romanian, Hungarian–Serbian, and Hungarian–Croatian border sections. The analysis of the answers obtained during the questionnaire by statistical methods and the processing of the interview materials significantly contributed to the achievement of my objectives as quantitative elements of my doctoral research.

In the dissertation phase, I conducted further interviews and consultations with experts working in the field of border surveillance, and on several occasions, I had the opportunity to observe the 'live' border surveillance system both day and night as an organiser and participant of various border policing exercises and in the course of internships for lecturers.

During the research period, in connection with the research topic, I participated in study trips and conferences abroad a total of 8 times (Macedonia[1], Poland, Italy, Sweden, France, United Kingdom), the experiences of which were incorporated into the dissertation.

Last but not least, I tried to elevate my own empirical experience gained during my 18 years spent in the field of border policing to a scientific level and incorporate it into my doctoral dissertation.

[1] These days it is North Macedonia.

Brief description of the conducted research chapter by chapter

In Chapter 1, I concluded that following the conquest of the homeland until the mid-13th century, the border zone-type so-called 'gyepű' (border guard system in the medieval Hungary) – as a static technical element and physical barrier – was the backbone of border surveillance, the objective of which was to protect the country from external military attacks, i.e. border protection.

In the period of the border fortress system ('végvárrendszer'), border surveillance still was not of a law enforcement nature; therefore, instead of border surveillance, we could still talk about border protection. The technical support of border surveillance could be divided into two main groups: the first was the static elements, the fortresses themselves which people tried to fortify with more and more advanced solutions and architectural techniques. The second group was the armament and equipment of the fortress soldiers. Compared to the border protection system at the time of the Hungarian conquest of the homeland, the most significant technological change was the appearance of firearms.

The purpose of the establishment of military frontiers was basically of a military nature, but at that time, in addition to border protection, the appearance of law enforcement tasks could already be observed. In the context of the technical support for border surveillance, it can be stated that the equipment and armaments suitable for military purposes continued to be dominant.

In the age of Dualism, Hungarian border surveillance already corresponded to the Western European-style border surveillance in that the surveillance of the state border was not carried out as a military but as law enforcement task; and border surveillance lost its former military character which was replaced by a law enforcement character. In the context of technical support, it can be stated that the use of technical tools specifically supporting law enforcement and border surveillance began in the age of Dualism.

Concerning the technical support of border surveillance in the period of the two World Wars, it can be stated that it always met the requirements of the age, however, the purpose and nature (law enforcement, military) of border surveillance played a decisive role in the development of the set of tools, of which the military character dominated.

Following World War II, border surveillance was reorganized under difficult circumstances and, understandably, with extremely weak technical background. The equipment and housing conditions of the established border guard companies were significantly worse than in the previous period, which was only aggravated by the lack of

legitimacy and central management. The vast majority of law enforcement tasks related to border surveillance were assigned to the border police set up under the Ministry of the Interior, which were highly similar to the border guard tasks of the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie.

In 1949, based on a political decision, the construction of the technical barrier began which was accompanied by an increase in staff numbers and a concentration of force on the southern and western borders. The effectiveness of the technical barrier system could not live up to the expectations. In addition to the technical barrier system, only the number and quality of weapons met the requirements of the age in the field of technical support; mobility continued to be weak, and we could not talk about night vision capacity or mass appearance of law enforcement technical devices.

From 1964, also for political reasons, the construction of the SZ-100 type electrical signalling system (hereinafter: ESS) began which, in the given period, was a modern but complicated technical-technological device, requiring a high level of training on the part of the sworn staff, moreover, with exceptionally high manpower demand and disproportionately high installation and maintenance costs. In the period of the ESS, the emergence of law enforcement tasks from the dual (military, law enforcement) ones could be perceived through the technical support of border surveillance; more and more, classically law enforcement-technical tools appeared in the technical equipment. The ESS was dismantled in 1989 based on a border guard initiative but taking into account political and economic aspects as well.

In Chapter 2, it was found that the period following the dismantling of the ESS brought about fundamental changes in the border surveillance activities and the functioning of the elements of the border surveillance system. Within the border guard, it was recognized that the previous technical background of border surveillance needed to be replaced by a more modern, manpower-saving technical background providing a high degree of mobility and reliable communication. Besides, for the modernisation of the organisation, the conditions for the transition to purely law enforcement activities with the sworn staff were elaborated.

However, the process by which border surveillance has become a purely law enforcement activity and the abolition of military-type armaments and equipment were already delayed at the start by the South Slavic events as a result of which the border guard had to re-deploy a task force equipped with military armaments and vehicles as well to carry out the border security tasks, and the creation of a border guard rules of engagement was also required. With the end of the South Slavic crisis, the border hunter companies were fully integrated into law enforcement border control activities, however, the border guard measures introduced as a result of the South Slavic crisis still slowed down the modernisation of the border guard with emphasis on a law enforcement nature.

In a decade and a half, European Union funds have enabled unprecedented technical developments in the Hungarian border surveillance. Systematic thinking and the pursuit of complexity have emerged in connection with technical developments. As a result of technical developments, more intensive and further training of the border police personnel became necessary as more and more valuable equipment with more complex structures and functions was acquired, the application of which sometimes required special technical knowledge and psychological characteristics.

In Chapter 3, it was established that risk factors related to illegal migration in Hungary were realistically assessed in the Hungarian border police strategy developed for the period 2012-2017. Illegal migration was identified as a potential source of danger in the longer term, and a multi-stage and multi-line border surveillance system was set up to effectively deal with it. In the border surveillance system thus established, the striving for the system-wide application of technical tools and proactivity, as well as the appropriate structure and operation of the border surveillance system complying with the capabilities of the technical tools can be recognized.

In 2015, it was recognized that the mass movement of illegal migrants could not be prevented by traditional border surveillance methods and tools. The specific measures introduced eventually culminated in the construction of the temporary border barrier (hereinafter: TBB) for border surveillance purposes and other changes related to it.

The Hungarian TBB is not an unprecedented technical tool against illegal migration; nowadays it is used by other countries of the world, including European Union Member States too, in the field of border surveillance. After the construction of the first single-line version in Hungary, we could witness a continuous process of development and transformation. In addition to the establishment of the TBB and the further development of the technical elements, the other two important pillars of migration management were the legislation and

amendments created in connection with the application of the TBB, and hiring additional staff members to increase the manpower. Together, these three pillars were able to eliminate mass-scale illegal migration flows.

The operating principle of the TBB's basic concept and some of its components is the same as of the SZ-100 type electrical signalling system, moreover, the GHI-K4 type signalling device, which is installed as an additional element, is practically the H-63 type signalling device's copy of the 21st century. At the same time, the TBB, equipped with modern technical devices, has – similar to the SZ-100 type electrical signalling system – a high demand for manpower; and despite the higher technical development, manpower cannot be replaced by technical solutions, and its installation and maintenance costs are high.

According to the statistics, the TBB – together with the related legislative amendments and the use of significant manpower – did not eliminate illegal migration either, but only substantially reduced it. At the same time, based on the strong growth seen in the 2019 statistics and the ever-newer perpetrator methods, I concluded that the maintenance, further development, and manpower-based securing of the TBB shall be considered in the long run.

In Chapter 4, based on the results of my research, I developed a system scheme consisting of six overlapping elements through which the border surveillance objectives and the corresponding technical systems and system elements can be identified effectively. The main components of the system scheme are as follows:

1. observation, field supervision;
2. detection, identification, risk classification;
3. response, intervention, action;
4. deployment management, deployment support;
5. maintaining communication between the constituents of the system;
6. data storage, data analysis.

Based on the system scheme, I concluded that particular sub-processes of border surveillance can be greatly automated; the exclusivity of human presence is mainly reflected in taking measures against human beings. Other European researchers have identified a high degree of technocratisation of the European border surveillance, the secondary effect of which is the dehumanisation and objectification of illegal migrants. Based on my research, I would add that the dehumanisation phenomenon appears on the user side too as the automation of border surveillance processes advances while the border guards, who are using this system, are becoming more and more the operators, hit managers, almost living components of it. Another element of the technocratisation process is that market participants can actually

provide – in addition to the technologies distributed by them – border surveillance as a complex service to a particular ordering state. Beside the technocratisation of border surveillance, we can also speak of the militarisation of border surveillance through the original purpose of the technical devices applied and the use of military forces in border surveillance.

The different border fences form an integral part of the European technical systems for border surveillance but they cannot be the only technical solution for border surveillance; I solely consider them one component of the technological system.

Based on the results of my applied research conducted in the framework of the Internal Security Fund project ISF-2.3.2-201500001 – 'Review of the border surveillance system', I have concluded that the Hungarian border police staff considers the applied technical equipment to be only partially suitable for the general technical standard of the age and border surveillance tasks, therefore, it is justified to increase the technological standard of border surveillance. In the field of new generation technical developments, it is necessary to build complex systems and to strive for automation even if, due to the nature of the border surveillance activity, full automation will not be available in the short term. Basic border surveillance technologies that have proven effective in the past or the present may become elements of advanced technical systems if they belong to the latest generation at the time of installation. A general requirement for future developments is to plan system-based developments that represent progress in saving human resources and reducing the workload of the staff.

By synthesizing the results of my qualitative and quantitative researches and my own empirical experience, I have put forward suggestions for the possible development directions of the Hungarian border surveillance system along the operation of the six-element scheme I had set up. However, also by synthesizing the results of my researches, I found that the advanced technological systems of border surveillance may only be effective when providing an adequate financial and personnel-related operational and maintenance background.

In connection with the temporary reintroduction of border control, I outlined a theoretical baseline and a border section. Concerning the technical elements of the surveillance of the latter, I also made recommendations. The aim of my researches in this field was not to review the issues of human resources, training, or cooperation but I managed to draft a gap-filling and realistic model that can be applied in law enforcement practice, at least with regard to the provision of the necessary technical-technological background.

Summarised conclusions

Using qualitative research methods, I found that from the period prior to World War I, border surveillance and its technical background were not affected by the general technical standard of the age but by political decisions (war preparation, external political influence, obligations to comply with the Ally system), even if the resulting border surveillance solutions technically marked a step backwards. The common feature of the changes to the technical tools based on policy decisions is that installation and maintenance costs, as well as other additional economic losses, and negative effects on society were not considered.

Through the outcomes of my researches, I have proved that since the mid-2000s, a strong technical sectorisation could be observed concerning border surveillance in Europe and beyond as well, and the production and distribution of border surveillance technical tools have become sectors generating significant revenue. It can be seen that border surveillance is becoming more and more technocratised, the role of technical equipment and the efforts to automate border surveillance processes are increasing. Technocratisation has a dehumanising effect on both sides of border surveillance; border guards are becoming more and more the operators, hit managers, elements of the large-scale technical systems, and irregular migrants are becoming the objects and targets to be detected. Another phenomenon related to market sectorisation is that some law enforcement tasks to be performed in other segments of border policing have already been taken over by market participants from which the next step is expected to be that they will increasingly be offering border surveillance as a complex service.

Regarding the law enforcement purpose, I brought together all the border surveillance technical means into a system, a six-element operation scheme which was set up by me first. I presented this system component-by-component, as well as in its totality and its synergies. I made a development suggestion for all elements of the scheme relating to Hungary, taking into account the current border surveillance equipment and the results of international research and development. Based on the results of my researches, I concluded that some elements of the scheme set up by me can be greatly automated; however, human presence cannot yet be eliminated with the current stage of development of either AI or robotisation.

I collected and analysed the main directions of technical developments occurring internationally, evaluated the technical properties of the new devices and their possible effects on the border surveillance and the human factor, and I examined the European Union requirements regarding the Hungarian processes and objectives. Based on all this, in connection with the hypothesis, I found that the emphasis in the international arena is

increasingly shifting to the development of surveillance and remote-sensing tools (new technologies are Light Detection and Ranging – LiDAR, microwave detection, satellite forecasting systems). Nevertheless, the basic concept of traditional surveillance technologies has remained unchanged for almost 20 years which – contrary to my preliminary assumption – is not due to the lack of research and development activities but to the fact that these technologies are still considered efficient by users, there are many years of usage experience, furthermore, they have lower and lower acquisition costs and ever-improving operating parameters.

I proved that on the basis of domestic statistical data and international trends, as well as the National Integrated Border Management Strategy issued by a Government Decree in 2019, the long-term maintenance and further development of the temporary border barrier for border surveillance purposes shall be expected. The Hungarian temporary border barrier is not a unique border surveillance solution. Due to the global spread of teichopolitics, it can be seen in the case of European countries as well that they typically see the solution to the challenges affecting the border sections between border crossing points in the construction of border fences with different technical equipment. Furthermore, I also proved that the border barrier for border surveillance purposes has caused profound changes in the Hungarian border surveillance system which manifested themselves in the implementation of border surveillance principles, changes in border surveillance procedures, and the emergence of new forms of border surveillance duty service.

In connection with the temporary reintroduction of border control, I outlined a theoretical starting point and a border section. Concerning the technical elements of the surveillance of the latter, I also made recommendations.

New scientific results

1. In the course of my research I concluded and proved that from the period prior to World War I, border surveillance and its technical background were not affected by the general technical standard of the age but by political decisions (war preparation, external political influence, obligations to comply with the Ally system), even if the resulting border surveillance solutions technically marked a step backwards.

   The common feature of the changes to the technical tools based on policy decisions is that installation and maintenance costs, as well as other additional economic losses, and

negative effects on society were not considered. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the research, I have partly rejected hypothesis No. 1.

2. I have found and proved with scientific methods that throughout history, the effectiveness of the operation of different border surveillance systems was significantly increased by the system of border surveillance technical support.

3. I have examined and revealed with scientific methods that the effectiveness of a law enforcement-type border surveillance system that complies with the Schengen requirements – while also being proportional to the prevailing border situation – can significantly be increased by the widespread use of technical border surveillance tools. Based on the results of the research, I have confirmed hypothesis No. 2.

4. Using qualitative and quantitative scientific methods, I have found that a single instrument or a single type of equipment cannot be as effective as complex systems. However, the use of complex systems at the current state of technical development does not automatically lead to the saving of human resources; the appropriate human background must be provided despite the efforts of automation. Based on the research results, I confirmed hypothesis No. 3.

5. I brought together all the border surveillance technical means into a system, a six-element operation scheme which was set up by me first. I presented this system component-by-component, as well as in its totality and its synergies. I made a development suggestion for all elements of the scheme relating to Hungary, taking into account the current border surveillance equipment and the results of international research and development. Based on the results of my researches, I concluded that some elements of the scheme set up by me can be greatly automated; however, human presence cannot yet be eliminated with the current stage of development of either AI or robotisation

6. I have proved that in the future the long-term maintenance and further development of the temporary border barrier for border surveillance purposes, moreover, the continuous development of border surveillance technology must be expected. Based on the research results, I have confirmed hypothesis No. 4.

Recommendations for the practical application of the research outcomes

I consider the research results to be well-suited for the foundation of future technological developments and the identification of the objectives of further applied research related to the topic. I consider the research outcomes to be suitable for establishing the technical

developments to be implemented within the framework of the next seven-year EU funding instrument starting from 2021 under the name of Integrated Border Management Fund.

At the beginning of the research, the police did not have any internal police norm regulating border surveillance and the use of technical devices in border surveillance. This situation remained unchanged at the end of the research; with the exception of one technical tool (GHI-K4 type signalling device), no internal regulations have been laid down, and basic subtasks are defined in several regulations concerning other technical tools. In connection with the TBB, comparing the legal background and the internal police norms, I found that the name of the TBB itself is mentioned in several ways and the principles of the application, the tasks of the border surveillance based on the TBB have not been published in a single document. The results of the research conducted by myself may provide a basis for the development of a uniform border surveillance code or at least a methodological guide on the implementation of border surveillance and its technical background on both TBB-protected and unprotected border sections.

Nor has a regulatory, methodological guide related to the technical background of the temporary reintroduction of border control been issued at the level of an internal police norm. In my opinion, my research outcomes are suitable for establishing the elaboration of such a document.

Most of the research results can already be used in the subject "*RHRTM53 Application of Modern Technologies in Border Surveillance and the Tendering Activity*" in border police higher education; moreover, I recommend the use of the research outcomes in other bachelor's and master's degree subjects and the preparation of university teaching materials.

Publication list of the author of the doctoral dissertation on the topic

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Scientific-professional biography of the candidate

Name and rank: Pol. Lt. Colonel László Kui

Position: since 2016 Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Border Policing of the Faculty of Law Enforcement, National University of Public Service

Former positions: (altogether 18 years, from these 10 years in leader positions)

2013 – 2016 Senior Desk Officer
Division for Border Policing and Compensation, Border Policing Department, Directorate General for Law Enforcement, Hungarian National Police Headquarters

2012 – 2013 Head of Division of Administration, then Head of Subdivision
Beregsurány Border Police Office

2004 – 2012 Head of Border Policing Division
Beregsurány Border Police Office

2003 – 2004 Head of Office
Beregsurány Border Traffic Office, Nyírbátor Border Guard Regional Directorate

2002 – 2003 Senior Executive (‘M’ category)
Border Guarding Division, Nyírbátor Border Guard Regional Directorate

1998 – 2002 Deputy Head of Border Guard Office
Beregsurány Border Guard Office, Nyírbátor Border Guard Regional Directorate

Education:

- 1994 – 1998 Bachelor Degree, Border Guard Officer – Teaching of Engineering, Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University Faculty of Military Science (full-time student)

- 2000 – 2003 Master's Degree, Border Policing and Defence Management, Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University Faculty of Military Science (corresponding student)
- September 2016 – National University of Public Service, Doctoral School of Law Enforcement (fee-paying, corresponding PhD student)

Language proficiency:

- military English exam, elementary (C)
- military Russian exam, advanced (C)

Further trainings:

- Special courses and further training with regard to the different positions laid out in the respective Act on the Service Status of Professional Members of Law Enforcement Agencies (Hszt.)

Lecturer experience:

- since 2003 Giving several lectures and preparing professional materials for domestic and foreign professional delegations on the topic of border surveillance and border traffic control, regular training of own subordinates.
- 2015 Professional lecturing activity at the Department of Border Policing of the Faculty of Law Enforcement, National University of Public Service (NUPS).
- 2015 Professional teaching activities in the preparation of graduate officers.
- 2015 Participation in the thesis evaluation committee at the Department of Border Policing of the Faculty of Law Enforcement, National University of Public Service.
- since 2016 Teaching activity as an assistant lecturer in BA and MA education at NUPS.
- since 2019 Participating in qualified trainings accredited in the further education system of the Directorate General for Personnel Development of Public Service, Ministry of Interior

Conferences:

- since 2003 regular participation and holding presentations at national and foreign professional and scientific conferences

Study trips abroad:

- since 2013: in Romania, Macedonia, Poland, Italy, Sweden, France and United Kingdom, altogether 10 trips.

Tendering activities:

- 2013-2016: Being a border policing expert in the border policing-related tenders of the EU External Borders Fund and the Internal Security Fund carried out by the Border Policing Department of the Hungarian National Police Headquarters
- 2016-2017: Carrying out research activities in the project of the Internal Security Fund titled 'Review of the Border Surveillance System', project ID ISF-2.3.2-201500001
- 2016-2017: Conducting research and teaching activities in the project of the Internal Security Fund titled 'Prevention of International Child Abduction', project ID ISF-2.4.2-2015-00003
- 2017-2018: Carrying out research activities, event and travel management tasks in the research titled 'Temporary Reintroduction of Border Control at Hungary's Schengen Internal Borders', research ID KÖFOP-2.1.2-VEKOP-15-2016-00001, in the framework of the Ludovika Research Group
- 2016-2019: Conducting research activities in the project titled iBorderCtlr (Intelligent Portable Control Devices), project ID 700626 – iCROSS – H2020-BES-05
- 2018-2020: Carrying out border policing expert and conference organizing tasks in the project of the Internal Security Fund titled 'Developing the Cooperation between the National Authorities in the field of Border Control', project ID ISF-2.5.2/6

Publication activity:

- Altogether 37 scientific publications, from these 30 published in Hungary in Hungarian, 2 published in Hungary in a foreign language, 5 published abroad in a foreign language

Memberships:

- Board Member, National Association of PhD students in law enforcement
- Secretary of Border Policing Section, Hungarian Association of Police Science