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for the Doctoral (PhD) dissertation to

Lieutenant Gábor Molnár

Territorial Defence Concepts

– Territorial Defence theories and systems –

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1. RELEVANCE OF THE TOPIC AND SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM

The relevance of researches in the fields, related to territorial defence can be verified by taking into account the events occurred since 2014. Responding to the Crimean and Donbas crisis, one of the first steps Ukraine took was the reorganization of its territorial defence system in order to strengthen its national defence posture. Due to the conflict the NATO, in accordance with Article 3, adopted the decision of strengthening national resilience at the Warsaw Summit in 2016. As a consequence, some member states decided to reorganize their previously disbanded territorial defence reserve forces (Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Germany, Romania), while other nations, where these organisations were active, set forth to develop their capabilities (Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway).

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, again, territorial defence and territorial defence forces has become an essential element of ideas for developing the conventional defence capabilities. However, there is no a unified standing-point of territorial defence at Allied level, as it has always been part of the national responsibility, and the NATO has not laid down precise guidelines for territorial defence since the Cold War. For this reason, determining the role and purpose of territorial defence as well as the principles of deploying territorial defence forces and their capability requirements is the task of the member states. The scientific problem itself derives from this issue, since territorial defence and territorial defence activities differ from nation to nation, so it is not possible to research these topics only within the framework of the traditional Hungarian views on territorial defence. In Hungary, territorial defence means only as a system of different tasks of the national military defence, while some nations regard it as nothing less than a military strategic concept or a strategic military defence operation, based on specific operational concepts and force structures and carried out by the whole armed forces in order to protect the sovereignty of the country. However, it must be emphasized that this issue is not a „simple” terminological problem and the processes, occurred in the background and the military theories that have led to this phenomenon are important.

2. HYPOTHESES AND RESEARCH OBJECTS

I defined the hypotheses, according to the afore-mentioned research problem. These include:

1. terminological contradictions, related to territorial defence derived from the different geostrategic positions and capabilities of individual nations, and resulted different approaches;
2. the examination of territorial defence systems can be carried within the framework of military theories, influencing the creation of the territorial defence systems;
3. the various territorial defence systems can be modelled and grouped on the basis of their common characteristics;
4. during the Cold War, a number of proposals set out in the NATO to strengthen the Alliance's conventional defence, and many of these based on concepts that were similar to the small states' territorial defence systems;
5. territorial defence has been present in some form in the Hungarian national defence since the first establishment of the Hungarian Defence Forces in 1848, therefore the Hungarian territorial defence and the views formed about it are suitable for comprehensive analysis.

The research goals based on the hypotheses that I aimed to achieve were:

1. to review and systematize of the different territorial defence approaches at allied (NATO and WP) and national levels and to analyse the factors, that influenced the formation of these approaches;
2. to examine the military theoretical foundations of the different approaches in the context of military strategic, operational and force organisation theories;
3. to group the various territorial defence concepts and systems according to their common characteristics;
4. to present and evaluate of the NATO's territorial defence posture and the related alternative defence concepts, having aimed to strengthen it;
5. to review, analyse and evaluate of developing territorial defence in Hungary and the domestic views on territorial defence.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

In order to verify the defined hypotheses and to accomplish the research objects, I basically used the method of qualitative comparative analysis and process tracing. In the first chapter of the dissertation, I relied on the comparison of strategic documents, doctrines and regulations

(primary sources) and the conclusions of the professional-scientific community, relevant to the topic (secondary sources), by using the method of (document) analysis. In the second chapter, the comparison was implemented in the context of analysing the related strategic, operational and force organisation theories. By regarding the latter three areas of military theories as system elements, I conducted the grouping of the various territorial defence systems in accordance with the approach of system theory. This means that I examined the different territorial defence systems according to how the strategic theories (system element 1) defines the role and purpose of territorial defence within the military system, what principles of territorial defence operation are laid down in the operational theories (system element 2), and what kind of structural frameworks are envisaged by the force organisation theories (system element 3) necessary to implement. The results of these theoretical activities are materialized in strategic documents, operational concepts or doctrines and force development plans. This is how territorial defence becomes a "system".

Following this system theory approach, I reviewed the NATO and domestic issues related to territorial defence in chapters 4 and 5, now using the method of process tracing. Here, following the classical chronological approach, I examined the views on territorial defence, as well as the pros and cons, and the proposals for transforming the existing systems. Of course, there are some overlaps between the research methods in individual chapters; both comparison and tracing methods can be found in all chapters. Their combined application was necessary because, despite the fact, that the basic principles of territorial defence concepts form a solid basis, they are not static constructions; they always respond to challenges and threats arising from the current geopolitical and geostrategic situations. Since these conditions of the nations differ, their territorial defence concepts do not seek to create identical systems, but they can adapt certain system elements of each other due to interactions and mutually exerted effects.

4. LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH

Due to the complexity of territorial defence and its relations with other sub-fields, I have not had the opportunity to examine all areas. In my dissertation, I basically researched the role of territorial defence in wartime operations related to armed conflicts. For this reason, issues such as the maintenance of reserve forces, social relations or the use of territorial defence forces in operations other than war, have not been analysed.

The range of examined nations basically includes the NATO – including former WP members – and the European neutral countries. Due to lack of resources, language barriers, or the complete absence of a territorial defence system, I did not examine Albania, North Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Turkey. Among the European neutral countries, only nations, following the principle of armed neutrality (Austria, Finland, Switzerland, Sweden) and the former non-aligned ex-Yugoslavia were included in the discussion. In addition to the former WP member states, however, I examined the role of territorial defence in the defence of the WP alliance as well, which was essential for reviewing and understanding the domestic processes.

In terms of time frames, my research has largely focused on the Cold War era, because of the mentioned approach of system theory. During that period, almost every nation had a territorial defence system, having all three system elements, so they could function as a real system. Currently only those NATO states have operable territorial defence systems, which did not abolish them after the Cold War (Denmark, Greece, Norway) or joined the NATO later and started developing their territorial defence already in the 1990s (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania). However, these, as well as the countries currently developing their territorial defence systems, follow ideas aimed at establishing one of the former Cold War-era territorial defence systems, naturally adapting to the requirements of our age. Therefore, in the dissertation I refer to the ongoing territorial defence developments in the chapter 3, where I group the various territorial defence systems, by indicating which territorial defence system a given country strives to develop. Since there have been several changes in the field of developing territorial defence during the time I have been writing my dissertation, it was not possible to elaborate on the current processes in detail, and the aim of my research was not even this, but to compare the characteristics of the working systems. In the annexes, however, I discuss the development and the current situation in the field of territorial defence in case of our V4 partner countries (Poland and the Czech Republic, Slovakia lacks of territorial defence concept yet), as well as the Ukrainian territorial defence. The closing date of the research related to the thesis is December 17, 2022.

5. SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH BY CHAPTER

The dissertation consists of a preface, five chapters, and three appendices. The preface contains the topicality of the research, the scientific problem, the hypotheses, research goals and methods, as well as the introduction of the authoritative literature.

The first chapter contains the various terminological definitions related to territorial defence and describes its different approaches. In doing so, I investigated what background processes lay behind the various terminological definitions and approaches, which resulted in the formation of different views on territorial defence. The foreign and domestic approaches and definitions were presented separately in the chapter, followed by their evaluation in the literature. Based on these, I distinguished two primary approaches of territorial defence; the *comprehensive* and the *particular approach*.

In the second chapter, I examined the *comprehensive* and *particular approaches* in three areas of military theory. First, in the field of strategic theories, where I basically took Thomas Schelling's model of the strategic use of military force and theories related to deterrence as a basis. In the second sub-chapter, I reviewed territorial defense in the context of operational theories. Here, the basis of the comparison was the model of defeat mechanisms found in the JP-5 Joint Planning Doctrine of the US Armed Forces. In the third sub-chapter I analysed the force organization issues related to territorial defence in the context of the „three lines of defence” concept evolved during the 19th century. Based on these, in the fourth sub-chapter I sum up of the differences of the *comprehensive* and the *particular approaches*.

In the third chapter, the territorial defence systems were grouped based on the conclusions of the previous chapter. Here, I distinguished 4 territorial defence subtypes within the *comprehensive* and the *particular approaches*. The presentation of each forms 1-1 sub-chapters. During the presentation, the territorial defense systems of the Cold War era, which were actually in operation, were the main subject of the analysis, but at the same time, for each subtype, I touched upon the territorial defense developments currently in being progress in the NATO that which Cold War area territorial defence systems they are similar to.

The fourth chapter discusses the issue of territorial defense at NATO level. Four eras were distinguished here; the era of the German rearmament, the era of strategies of mass retaliation and flexible response, and the era of developing of the non-provocative defence concepts. These individual eras constitute 4 sub-chapters and it was also presented that what ideas were created in NATO during the various eras at allied level regarding the use of territorial defense forces, as well as what alternative proposals were developed by the contemporary military theorists to modify them. The latter are particularly interesting because, in more than one case, they actually followed the *comprehensive approaches* of the small states, which differed significantly from the official ideas of the Alliance.

In the fifth chapter, a historical overview of our country's territorial defense took place. Here I distinguished five eras; the era of the Habsburg Empire, the period between the two world

wars, the Cold War period, the post-revolution era, and the era after the creation of the Voluntary Reserve System. Here, too, the individual eras form sub-chapters, in relation to which I reviewed the domestic processes in the field of territorial defence of the given era, as well as what alternative proposals were made in this regard. As a result of this historical overview, it is asserted that the Hungarian territorial defence systems based on *the particular approach* in all cases. The *comprehensive approach* in the Hungarian military thinking only appeared in a period of few years, but only at theoretical level. The reason of this phenomenon is that the Hungarian strategic culture has always been influenced by the great power's military thinking, while the comprehensive approach is typical among the small states.

6. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

In my thesis, I strived to analyze the issue of territorial defence from a comprehensive, system theory perspective. The starting point of my research was the assumption that the terminological contradictions and views related to territorial defence in the literature stem from the different geostrategic positions and capabilities of individual nations, which resulted in different territorial defence approaches (hypothesis No. 1). This assumption was confirmed by evaluating of numerous national and allied strategic documents and doctrines, and the literature (research objective No. 1). It was established that, examining the role and purpose of territorial defence in the national defense system of a given nation, two well-defined approaches can be identified. I defined these in the thesis as *comprehensive* and *particular territorial defence approaches*. In the former case, which is primarily a characteristic of the small – and predominantly neutral – states with limited resources and capabilities, territorial defence is the same as the country's military defence, or regarded as a specific military strategic concept, while in the latter case it is only a part of the national military defence. The development of the two approaches have different military theoretical backgrounds. By examining these in the context of three areas, strategic, operational and force organization theories, a theoretical construction can be set up in which each theoretical areas form one system element, and determine the nature of the actually created territorial defence systems (Hypothesis No. 2). According to the strategic theories, including the model of the strategic use of military force, both approaches can be derived from the principle of deterrence by denial, but this denial is implemented in them with different goals and methods.

The basic idea of *comprehensive approaches* is that the potential aggressor/aggressors have such a military advantage that denial can realistically only be aimed at the defence being able to cause loss of time, material and manpower to a degree that is disproportionate compared to realistically achievable benefits on the part of the aggressor, and this way the defence can achieve a deterrent effect. At the same time, due to the asymmetry of capabilities unfavorable for the defence, they are forced to implement this denial according to a basic scenario, assuming that the armed struggle will be limited to their home territory. The denial is therefore necessarily based on the principles of national, armed and civilian unarmed resistance (total defence or popular deterrence). At the level of operational theories, the most important element of this approach is the ideas, informally called defence-in-depth operational concepts, based on the principle, that due to the superiority of the attacker, the defender has to be prepared for defensive operations in the entire depth of its own country. Due to the superiority of the attacker, decentralization and the use of smaller units that can act independently, play a significant role during such operations. This is intended to prevent the attacker from making the further armed resistance impossible already in the first stage of the operation by conducting successful early strikes against the defender's central leadership or larger units. As a result, in the context of the defeat mechanism concept, the operational deployment of troops is based on the combined form of the limited form of conventional attrition and the exhaustion associated with irregular warfare. Following from these operational requirements, in the comprehensive approaches the territorial defence forces in the narrow sense are preferred, established in accordance with the territorial recruitment and territorial deployment principles. The reason for this is that, according to this theory these forces - in addition to the factor of local patriotism - are able to turn their knowledge of terrain into a significant advantage, and are the most suitable to carry out guerilla-type activities against the attacker as stay-behind-forces, which is one of the most common element of the mentioned defence-in-depth operation concepts.

In *particular approaches*, on the other hand, the purpose of denial through territorial defense is aimed at creating conditions to ensure the strategic use of military capabilities capable of achieve the war objective, in accordance with the principles of brute force, coercion, compellence and deterrence by punishment. In this case, denial is only one component of the military strategy. At the level of operational theories, this manifests itself in such way that the basic precondition for the use of forces capable of achieving the objective of war is to have a secure home front, which is considered the source or "base" of their capabilities, allowing the smoothest deployment of own forces in combat operations according to the mechanisms of annihilation and attrition. The primary operational task of territorial defence is therefore the

protection of the home front as well as the protection of the operational rear area in cases the home front and the area of operations are linked on land, further if a portion of the home territory is included in the area of operations, the participation in active defence. Accordingly, force organisation assumes that besides territorial defence in the narrow sense, used for defending the home front, it is necessary to create territorial defence forces in the broader sense, having the same or nearly same capabilities the active forces, thus they are capable to take part not just defensive but offensive operations as well, or occasionally in out-of-area operations too. These approaches are less uniform, as some nations (e.g. France during the Cold War or Poland today) may have some characteristics of the comprehensive approaches. Thus, the principle of denial, resulting from total defence and popular deterrence, and accordingly the mechanism of exhaustion can be appeared in their operational concepts, including elements of defence-in-depth, as well as the greater reliance on territorial defence forces in the narrow sense, but at strategic level these factors are secondary, supposed only to accomplish intermediate goals not the strategic end state.

By implementing the detailed examination of territorial defence in the context of strategic, operational and force organisation theories (research objective 2), has become possible the grouping of the functioning territorial defence systems according to their common characteristics (hypothesis 3). In all I distinguished 8 subtypes of territorial defence systems, 4 comprehensive and 4 particular. Since the comprehensive and particular approaches derive from the strategic theories, the grouping of the territorial defence system subtypes based on their common characteristics or differences (research objective 3), materialised mainly in the form of territorial defence structures and tasks, and the operational principles of deploying these forces.

In case of the comprehensive approaches, since armed struggle is completely confined to the home territory, differences are mainly manifested in the concepts of defence-in-depth operations, influenced by military geographical factors. Although their operational concepts, regarding their basic principles, are identical, but differ in terms of actual implementation. With regard to territorial defence systems established on the basis of particular approaches, operational concepts are less uniform in terms of their basic principles, and the differences can be detected rather in their force structure, as well as in the capabilities of their territorial defence forces. In the comprehensive territorial defence approaches, the majority of forces are built upon militia systems, and territorial defence forces are typically established as light infantry units, while in case of the particular approaches, this is true only for a part of these forces, since usually they have capabilities almost identical to those of the active forces.

By examining territorial defence at NATO level, it has been proved that territorial defence had a great importance during the Cold War. Debates about territorial defence are primarily related to the dilemmas about the credibility and sustainability of nuclear deterrence by punishment. As territorial defence is part of the national responsibility, the NATO determined guidelines and capability requirements for the deployment of territorial defence forces only in connection with tasks related to Allied operations. The NATO's contemporary defence concept based on the principle of forward defence, thus the role of conventional defence was to repel a possible WP attack and/or to contain the enemy forces at the member states' border zones, in order to gain time for preparing the nuclear counterattack. For this, the NATO imposed on the territorial defence of nations the requirement that they would be able to receive the reinforcement troops, primarily from overseas, to secure their advance to the forward defence zone by protecting their lines of communications and providing force protection, or optionally, to take part in the forward defence zone's active defence activities. However, due to the WP's superiority in conventional capabilities, numerous experts disputed the feasibility of the forward defence concept, and because of the theory of mutual assured destruction, it was doubted that whether deployment of nuclear capabilities would be implemented in case of a general war. For this, many military experts and civil strategists set out different alternative defence concepts, which aimed at strengthening the conventional defence capabilities of the Alliance. Several of these were similar to the strategic, operational and force organisation concepts of the comprehensive territorial defence approaches of the small states (hypothesis 4). Although they were not adopted, their introduction and evaluation (research objective 4) are certainly relevant for territorial defence researches; not only from a military history point of view, but also because some NATO nations currently maintain territorial defence systems, followed the patterns of the comprehensive approaches. Therefore, it is not irrelevant how these concepts can fit into the NATO's operational concepts, which are otherwise based on "traditional" operational principles, since in these approaches territorial defence forces are planned to be deployed as guerilla-like light infantry units, so their role in the future operational planning and their interoperability with the active allied forces must be considered an interesting issue. Especially, if we take into account the fact, that the Resistance Operating Concept and the NATO's Comprehensive Defence Handbook also contain some elements of the traditional comprehensive territorial defence approaches, e.g. using territorial defence sub-units as stay-behind-forces.

Finally, as far as the issue of territorial defence in Hungary is concerned, it can be stated that the National Guard, established in 1848, although originally created for other purposes, can be

regarded as the "legal predecessor" of the Hungarian territorial defence organisations. Subsequently, albeit intermittently, all domestic political systems established some kind of territorial defense organizations (hypothesis No. 5). Based on these and the examination of the Hungarian views on territorial defence (research goal No. 5), it can be concluded that, with the exception of the first third of the 1990s, the comprehensive approaches did not appear at all in Hungarian military thinking, so the functioning territorial defence systems based on the particular approaches. Not counting that afore-mentioned short period, territorial defence was considered in Hungary as part of the defence of the home front. This was reflected in the established territorial defence systems' operational tasks, and in the structure of the territorial defence forces as well. This can be explained by historic-political reasons. The traditional Hungarian military thinking has always been influenced by the military theories of great powers, and for this, such a strategic culture and defence system, similar to the small nations, have never been adapted. It is no coincidence that the above-mentioned exceptional short-period, when comprehensive approaches were discussed in Hungary, occurred after the regime change. After long centuries, Hungary found itself in a position that made necessary to assess its defence, relying solely on self-defence capabilities, without any any great power support. It was the time when the professional-scientific circles confronted for the first time with defence dilemmas and challenges the small states have to face. However, as the security environment became more secure and Hungary's NATO accession process started, these disputes ended.

7. NEW SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

1. By analyzing the allied and national level strategic documents and doctrines, I have revealed the factors influencing the various views on territorial defence, and based on this assessment I have identified them as comprehensive and particular approaches;
2. By examining in detail the theoretical backgrounds of the two approaches in the context of strategic, operational and force organization concepts, I have proved that comprehensive approaches must be regarded as strategic concepts;
3. On the basis of analyzing their purpose, realization and organisational framework, I have created a possible variant of grouping the various territorial defence systems, according to their common characteristics;
4. By introducing the NATO's Cold War-era defence concepts and alternative defence proposals, aiming at transforming the Alliance's defence posture, I have demonstrated

that significant part of the latter followed the strategic, operational and force organisation principles of the small states' comprehensive approaches;

5. By describing and analyzing Hungary's territorial defence systems from the historical times to present days, and the domestic views on territorial defence, I have identified the factors made impact on the development of the Hungarian territorial defence approach.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The dissertation may be able to provide an adequate basis for further research on the subject, which is necessary indeed, considering the present changings related to the issues of territorial defence. On the other hand, my work may also provide a base for researching other fields of specialties in military science. The sub-chapters on theories of strategic, operational and force organization concepts can be used for that purpose, and the informations connected to these specialties in some cases may expand the general views or are suitable for reconsidering them. The sources and bibliography I have worked from can be also used by other researchers and experts, especially regarding the fact that the development of doctrines of home front defence and territorial defence has been overdue for years, still the Hungarian Defence Forces does not even have approved concepts. Naturally, without a strategic level guidance, providing a framework for the operational deployment of the territorial defence forces, developing a doctrine can not be accomplished. Although the National Military Strategy 2021 contains references to territorial defence, but due to the Russo-Ukrainian War the security environment has changed considerably and has made necessary to reassess our views on conventional defence. At this point it is important to note that despite the fact that my dissertation has concentrated primarily on the Cold War period, this era is still relevant in the context of territorial defence, since those countries, having existing and operating territorial defence systems, primarily follow the Cold War patterns. While those countries planning to reorganize their territorial defence systems, are also largely relying on that period. The territorial defence systems of that era has been analyzed in the dissertation in details and in cases where they had relevancy to the current developments, it has been noted. In addition, the literature reviewed in the dissertation contains a number of strategic documents, doctrines, manuals and other works which, in my experience, are almost unknown in Hungary, but essential not just for further researches but provide important experiences and informations about the different methods of

developing and operating territorial defence systems. On the whole, I believe that my work allows for a novel approach to the views on territorial defence, which, in my opinion, can be used in the future if we really intend to create a functioning territorial defence system, not just military formations called territorial defence forces.

I recommend my work primarily to those who are engaged in or plan to engage in professional or academic researches in the field of territorial defence. I believe that the content of the dissertation and the literature it contains can provide a solid basis for further researches related to territorial defence. Additionally, the sections on military theory may also be useful in relation to certain fields of study beyond territorial defence, particularly in the context of strategic theories, strategic cultures and warfare.

9. LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

1. Hegedűs Ernő – Vedó Attila – Molnár Gábor: A területvédelmi elven felállított tartalékos katonai erők szervezésének és alkalmazásának történeti előzményei (1944–1945). A Magyar Királyi Honvédség kiegészítő karhatalmi zászlóaljainak rendvédelmi és katonai tevékenysége a hadtápterület biztosítása során. I. rész. In: *Katonai Logisztika*, 28. évf. 2020/3. sz. (pp. 193–217)
2. Hegedűs Ernő – Vedó Attila – Molnár Gábor: A területvédelmi elven felállított tartalékos katonai erők szervezésének és alkalmazásának történeti előzményei (1944–1945). A Magyar Királyi Honvédség kiegészítő karhatalmi zászlóaljainak rendvédelmi és katonai tevékenysége a hadtápterület biztosítása során. II. rész. In: *Katonai Logisztika*, 29. évf. 2021/3–4. sz. pp. 205–229.
3. Hegedűs Ernő – Vedó Attila – Molnár Gábor: A területvédelmi elven felállított tartalékos katonai erők szervezésének és alkalmazásának történeti előzményei (1944–1945). A Magyar Királyi Honvédség Kiegészítő Karhatalmi Zászlóaljainak szervezete. III. rész. In: *Katonai Logisztika*, 30. évf. 2022/1–2. sz. pp. 196–230.
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5. Molnár Gábor: A hadkiegészítés fejlődéstörténete az állandó hadseregek korától a tömeghadseregek kialakulásáig (1648–1870) I. rész (A „régí rend” kora, 1648–1789). In: *Hadtudományi Szemle*, VIII. évf. 2015/1. sz. pp. 109–142.: <http://m.ludita.uni->

nke.hu/repozitorium/bitstream/handle/11410/10473/15_1_hm_molnarg.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y (Letöltés ideje: 2022.03.29.)

6. Molnár Gábor: A személyi kiegészítés fejlődéstörténete az állandó hadseregek korától a tömeghadseregek kialakulásáig (1648–1870) II. rész (A francia háborúk időszaka 1789–1815). In: Hadtudományi Szemle, IX. évf. 2016/4. sz. pp. 154–182.: https://epa.oszk.hu/02400/02463/00033/pdf/EPA02463_hadtudomanyi_szemle_2016_04_154-182.pdf (Letöltés ideje: 2022.03.29.)
7. Molnár Gábor: A személyi kiegészítés fejlődéstörténete az állandó hadseregek korától a tömeghadseregek kialakulásáig (1648–1870) III. rész. In: Hadtudományi Szemle, X. évf. 2017/3. sz. pp. 78–106.: http://epa.oszk.hu/02400/02463/00036/pdf/EPA02463_hadtudomanyi_szemle_2017_3_078-106.pdf (Letöltés ideje: 2022.03.29.)
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11. Turcsányi károly – Hegedűs Ernő – Bán Attila – Molnár Gábor: Haderők és hadviselés az elöltöltő fegyverek korában. A fegyvergyártás, a fegyverzet és haderőszerzés hatása a hadművészet fejlődésére. HM Hadtörténeti Intézet és Múzeum, Budapest, 2015.
12. Turcsányi Károly – Molnár Gábor: A független ukrán állam kialakulása és az orosz-ukrán háborúk történeti háttere. In: Katonai Logisztika, 30. évf. 2022/1–2. sz. pp. 5–40.
13. Turcsányi Károly – Molnár Gábor: A 2022-ben kirobbant orosz-ukrán háború történeti és geopolitikai hátterének orosz megközelítése. In: Katonai Logisztika, 30. évf. 2022/3–4. sz. pp. 5–45.

10. CURRICULUM VITAE

Gábor Zoltán Molnár was born on April 5, 1984 in Budapest, Hungary. He graduated in the Bródy Imre Gymnasium Újpest in 2002 as a sports student. After graduation, in 2005, he obtained a vocational qualification as a legal assistant at the Athéné Vocational School for Tourism, Information Technology and Business. He continued his higher education at the Department of History of the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Pécs, where he obtained a degree in History. During his university studies he specialised in military history.

After his higher education, he worked in the public administration, at the Pest County Government Office for Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management, and later at the Pest County Government Office. He continued his research and publication activities as a historian alongside his work. He was a co-author of a book on military history, funded by the National Cultural Fund. The work was published in 2015 by the HDF Institute and Museum of Military History under the title "Armed forces and warfare in the age of muzzle loading weapons ". Parallel to the preparation of this work, he has published several papers, mainly in the field of military recruitment, where he has mainly focused on militia systems as the predecessor organisations of modern territorial defence reserve systems. In 2016, he was admitted to the Doctoral School of Military Science at the National University of Public Service.

In the same year, he began his military career as a private soldier at the HDF Military Police Centre, alongside his doctoral studies. Here he completed courses in operations forensics, investigation, combat lifesaving, advanced military police and various combat courses. As a military police soldier, he mainly performed tasks related to armed security, close protection and force protection. In 2021, he was assigned to the HDF Territorial Defence and Support Command, Home Front Defence Directorate (later: Territorial defence Directorate). The same year he was promoted to Lieutenant. In 2022 he attended a combat leadership training. In April 2023 he was assigned to the Planning Branch of the newly established HDF Territorial Defence Forces Command.

He has an advanced level language exam in English, an elementary level in German, a basic university-level in Latin not equivalent to state-recognised language certificate. He also has basic knowledge in French, Danish, Norwegian and Swedish written military language texts.