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REPOSITORY OF CAPABILITIES: REPORT ON THE NON-KINETIC CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE OF THE HUNGARIAN DEFENCE FORCES

It has become almost a cliché to remark that our international environment and, in line with it, the tools of modern warfare have been undergoing changes. The need for modernization and development of the forces is constant, the technological transformation of defence capabilities is continuous, but in the interconnected world the scientific and analytical-assessing capacities essential for understanding the strategic environment are under pressure. The development and interconnection of non-kinetic capabilities and their influence on the security of certain countries, regions and federal systems are sometimes in line with the effects of traditional military interventions, thus the development of effective responses, technologies and strategies has become a top priority. The scientific conference entitled “*Operational Success without Arms: Expanding Non-Kinetic Capabilities of the Force*”, held on November 07-08 2018 organized jointly by the Honvéd General Staff’s Scientific Research Centre of Preparatory and Training Command and Szent István University of Gödöllő, provided an opportunity to gain an insight into a vital segment of changes and the modern trends of their practical implementation.

The primary goal of the conference was to highlight the fact: our strategic vision should be based on data as reliable as possible and information gained from primary sources with the use of modern technologies in line with the knowledge of non-kinetic warfare tools. The intentional online presence, following the tendencies of non-kinetic abilities and the continuous development of our existing capabilities both in cyberspace and in reality, comprises important cornerstones of the success of the defence sector, they will contribute to our ability to effectively accomplish our tasks, to raise the level of understanding between the civil and military sectors and the ongoing and future co-operation to the highest possible level.

In his welcome speech Mr Pál Kádár, PhD, State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, stressed that the changes taking place in the international security situation make it necessary for us not only to respond to the challenges, but also to proactively prevent them. A forum like this will offer a good opportunity to do so. In his view, the “system of the national defence is not capable of standing on its own feet, it is not sufficient to develop the military capabilities in order to defend the country. It is a complex system, some of its elements do not fall within the competence of the Ministry of Defence but the innovative solutions and the ideas this sector is supposed to provide will help the entire national defence to build its capabilities”.

In his opening address Lieutenant General Gábor Böröndi, PhD, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Hungarian Defence Forces, stressed that the resilience of a state and society is best illustrated by the success of its diplomacy, the strength of its economy, and the effectiveness of its intelligence and army. Therefore, in hybrid warfare, the attackers target the population to discourage them from following their leaders. He recalled the operational achieve-

ments of the Hungarian Defence Forces, which had been accomplished without fighting, such as the performance of border guard duties that started in 2015, in which the Defence Forces CIMIC and PSYOPS and military intelligence capabilities were largely involved as, due to their activities, the Hungarian society supported the work of the Hungarian Police and the Defence Forces. Although this work was not of a showy kind, it greatly contributed to the success of the operation.

In the opening remarks, Ferenc Magyar, the Chancellor of Szent István University, emphasized the close ties between the University and the Hungarian Defence Forces stretching back decades, which is further strengthened by the ongoing research programmes. He emphasized that the concept of security is now more broadly understood and goes far beyond the political, military and social approaches and is complemented, for example, by the security of the sustainable environment, economy, food and water. At the same time, he defined the task to establish the security as a common social interest, in which all actors must be involved; the Hungarian Defence Forces will rely on the knowledge accumulated by civilian research centres and universities.

The first plenary lecturer, Major General Prof. József Padányi, DSc, analysed the impact of climate change on the military forces (*"The impact of climate change on military force"*). He explained how some armies contributed to global warming, and he also reviewed that the challenges and tasks the environmental changes pose to the troops are not purely military in nature. As a second plenary lecturer, Colonel Imre Porkoláb, PhD, addressed the relationship between the innovation and non-kinetic capabilities of the Hungarian Defence Forces (*"Innovation and the development of non-kinetic abilities in the Hungarian Defence Forces"*). The last plenary lecturer was Colonel Tibor Rózsa, PhD, who discussed one of the most complex forms of the non-kinetic warfare of our time (*"Theory and Evolution of Information Operations"*). He presented the theory and evolution of information operations in detail, as well as the influence operations in this context, then he covered the topic of the future challenges the information operations will face.

The first of a series of lectures in the special area of competence was held jointly by Lieutenant Colonel Gábor Hangya, PhD, and Major Ferenc Soucz (*"Non-kinetic Abilities from the Perspective of Hungarian Defence Forces – Correlation of Theory and Practice"*). They studied the concept of non-kinetic abilities from the perspective of the Hungarian Defence Forces and the international (primarily allied) conceptual approaches, and demonstrated the possible utilization of the abilities at national level through the work of the HDF Civil-Military Collaboration and Psychological Operations Center by showing practical examples. Then Ferenc Mező, PhD, Head of the Institute of Psychology of Eszterházy Károly University, spoke on the realization of a possible civil-military cooperation and its benefits gained from the database of psychological operations he had developed (*"An example of psychological warfare – roaming through the war, psychology paths, mazes of history"*). Major Márta Pákozdi, researching the career choice motivations of the health care professionals and staff serving in military health system, has shown that, in addition to a secure livelihood, professional and moral appreciation can play a role in the development of the labour force maintaining capability of the Defence Forces. In her lecture (*"The motivation of career choice of the professionals and staff serving in the military health system"*), she highlighted that the career development support in high-quality work continues to play a key role.

Subsequent lectures explored the various aspects of security and the factors influencing them. First, a complex rural security approach based on the security concept of the Copen-

hagen School was given particular attention to in the lecture held by Colonel Prof. Tibor Szilágyi, PhD, and Colonel Gábor Boldizsár, PhD, (*“Operational Success without a Weapon or Rural Security Alert”*). In connection with this, Csaba Bognár analysed the latest trends in bioterrorism (*“Bioterrorism, The Latest Trend in Bioterrorism”*) and finally Péter Miletics presented the population movements triggered by climate change in the Carpathian Basin (*“Chapters of the Climate Change-driven Migration History of the Carpathian Basin”*). Examining and understanding these ongoing processes that are currently taking place and affecting the communities will allow them to timely prepare for the challenges they will face.

The most crucial lectures delivered on the first day of the conference addressed the topics of non-kinetic threats, such as social media and data analysis that are popular even with the laic audience. György Körmendi depicted the latest techniques and trends in the analysis of unstructured data sets generated by law enforcement by using some case studies (*“Artificial intelligence and data analysis are going to be deployed”*). In this context, Gergely Takács presented how different data mining methods can be utilized in the sphere of national security (*“Big Data Analysis Methods in the National Security Sector”*). At the end of the section, Second Lieutenant Balázs Lóderer, PhD, presented (*“SOCMINT”*) how to exploit the methods of analysing and defending social media in modern warfare such as creating a noisy dataset, application of different structures, and separation of data systems.

The first lecture on the second day of the conference was delivered by Péter Balogh, PhD, (*“Armed Forces (Development) and Trust (Building): Capability Building as a Social Embedding Operation”*). He discussed how the Defence Force was being (re)embedded into society and how this process was taking place as a specific non-kinetic operation affecting the inclusive society. András Jung, PhD, presented the latest tools of mobile spectral imaging, their international and domestic applications, and their possible uses, with the title *“Spectral Imaging Systems in Remote Sensing and in the Field Data Collection”*, underlining that the gap between data collection and decision making will be decreased by making the remote sensing data chain more closed, therefore more accurate results are expected.

Colonel Zoltán Jobbágy, PhD, in his lecture entitled *“Non-War Operations, Non-Kinetic Skills: The British Mission Command”* presented the British characteristics of NATO’s mission-oriented leadership philosophy. Subsequently, László Szelke, PhD, presented Operation Bodyguard, a disinformation operation which sought to divert the attention of the German General Staff from operation Overlord and as part of it, he presented the actors and the plans of operation Zeppelin and the plans of the Balkan invasion, (*“Information and Disinformation Operations in World War II”*). The closing lecture was held by Lieutenant Colonel Norbert Hegedűs, aiming to optimize the operation of the territorial reserve system (*“Geographical aspects and projections of the voluntary territorial reserve system”*).

Subsequently, Lieutenant Colonel Csanádi outlined to what extent intelligence affects the success of military activity and the seriousness of cybernetic blasts on which they are based (*“How Painful Weapon is Information?”*). Colonel László Keszely, PhD, presented the co-ordinated and joint use of civil, military and law enforcement capabilities as a non-kinetic ability of national defence, emphasizing the importance of the role of national defence management (*“Cooperating with Civil and Law Enforcement Agencies as Non-Kinetic Defence Ability”*). In the closing contribution of the conference (*“The link between cryptocurrencies and terrorism”*), Major Klára Fekete-Karydis (Res.) outlined the features of cyberspace and the stages relevant to cyber defence in the international security architectures, including the regulations that are in force in Hungary and the requirements imposed

on them. In addition to presenting the background, she sought to find out whether, besides the financial sector and terrorism, there could be other points of attachment between the new technology and Armed Forces Development Program.

SUMMARY

The presentations at the conference reflect the importance of witnessing a slow change in attitude in which military and civilian capabilities that used to be strictly separated are now not only complementary but also in most cases an indispensable combination of crisis management tools, creating a complex operational environment. The symposium provided an excellent opportunity to share the knowledge accumulated during the application of non-kinetic capabilities of the defence forces, it allowed to renew, develop and update the strategic background, as well as presented new areas that came to the fore last year and the Hungarian Defence Forces can have a practical benefit from. The research, focusing on these issues, professional plenary sessions and discussions were and are useful because within the framework of National Defence and Armed Forces Development Program Zrínyi 2026, the portfolio's core aim is to summarize, process and implement the theoretical and, in particular, practical lessons learned during the modernization process. In addition to the representatives of military sciences, the researchers of diverse interdisciplinary areas and the participants of the private sector were involved in the conference. This event was a great example of civil-military cooperation since it is essential for the Hungarian Defence Forces – as an integral part of the society – to look for new alternatives of the cooperation in order to carry out its missions and activities and to achieve its objectives in the most efficient way possible.