

Summary

In today's security environment, there are many diverse threats. Their frequency, intensity or range of impact is increasing. This results in the need for a comprehensive and coherent system of Territorial Defence, of which the Territorial Defence Forces (TDF) are an important component.

The development of this new type of armed forces in our country in 2017 was a driving force for an author of this dissertation, to examine the functioning of the TDF from a time perspective spanning more than five years. The aim of this paper was to evaluate the performance of the TDF to date, to define its role in the national security system, to identify its strengths, but also its shortcomings and, on this basis, to indicate the desired directions of changes that may contribute to increasing the effectiveness of the formation.

In order to achieve the aim of the dissertation, a structure including: an introduction, five substantive chapters thematically related to the research problems solved and a conclusion was devised. The introduction presents the general problem situation, as well as the content of the individual chapters of the dissertation.

Chapter 1 is entirely devoted to the research methodology.

Chapter 2 characterises the contemporary security environment and assesses its impact on our country's national security.

Chapter 3 contains a diagnosis of the process of formation and preparation for operations of TDF units.

Chapter 4 focuses on the evaluation of the TDF's functioning to date during the permanent defence readiness of our state. In particular, the essential tasks performed by the formation for the non-military subsystem in crisis situations.

Chapter 5 diagnoses the TDF's preparedness for military operations. The last chapter (Chapter 6), based on the results of own research, presents the place and role of the TDF in the national security system, the author's forecast of the formation's future and the desired directions of changes. The conclusion contains synthetic general conclusions and areas of further scientific penetration.

In the research process, the author used empirical methods in addition to theoretical methods, which increased the value and reliability of the research results obtained. In the exploratory research, the diagnostic survey method was used as the main one, both with the questionnaire technique and the interview technique, with the involvement of numerous respondents, including TDF managers. Complementary methods were the observation method and the document examination method.

The research shows that the TDF plays an important role in every area of security: protective, defensive, social and economic, and therefore is one of the most important components of the national security system. The formation currently has a high degree of readiness to function efficiently in all states of defence readiness of our country, thus greatly influencing not only the increase of security, but also the sense of security of Poles. The widespread character of occurrence and constant readiness predispose the TDF to the implementation of defence tasks, but also within the framework of crisis management. The formation's activities to date, especially during various crisis situations, have demonstrated its flexibility, versatility and good preparation of soldiers.

Hence the hypothesis that our society declares trust and expresses strong support for the continued functioning of the TDF and its expansion. The priority should be to continue building a formation adapted to the real operational needs of the state, taking into account the economic factor. The TDF should develop its capabilities to operate in various domains

of the contemporary operational environment, primarily in the land domain, but also in cyberspace or in the information domain.

The dissertation is an analytical study of both theoretical and practical nature. Its value stems from the holistic treatment of the issues related to the functioning of the TDF, which is particularly important in terms of the security of our state.

Keywords:

Territorial defence, Territorial Defence Forces, national security system, security environment, non-military system, crisis situations.