

## **Discussion Group A: Multinational Training and Force Integration**

### **Introductory Presentation: The Effects of Peacekeeping on the Hungarian Armed Forces**

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As is the case in Austria, the concept of "peacekeeping" has redrawn the elements of security and defence policy in Hungary, including the transformation of training and everyday operations within the Hungarian Defence Forces. *Throughout the last decade the Hungarian armed forces have taken gigantic steps in transforming a basically static, nation-defence oriented force into a mission oriented military.* From 1995 onwards, political conceptions concerning the employment of the armed forces, the challenges of alliance membership (NATO, EU), and the missions and tasks of the armed forces have all undergone changes in a fundamental fashion. The intention of this paper is to review how *the political imperatives of participation in peacekeeping operations, has transformed both the Hungarian armed forces and the concepts relating to their employment.* Today, the all-volunteer Hungarian Defence Forces are primarily peacekeeping oriented, and this, by definition requires an orientation toward deployability.

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## Historical overview

Hungarian participation in peacekeeping operations has historical antecedents stretching back to the end of the 19th century. As members of the Austro-Hungarian armed forces, Hungarian soldiers tried to prevent the escalation of military conflicts in several geographical areas. In 1897, for example, they participated in peacekeeping operations on the island of Crete; in 1901 they participated in normalizing the situation after the Boxer Rebellion in China; from 1902 to 1907 they kept the peace in Kosovo; and between 1902 and 1914, they were doing the same in Albania. After WW II, during the period 1973-1975, a contingent of 750 Hungarian soldiers worked in South-Vietnam under the aegis of the International Inspection and Supervision Committee.

Since 1989, since the change in political regimes, Hungary has ascribed added importance to peacekeeping operations. Ethnic conflicts in the neighbouring Balkans raised awareness in political circles that traditional defence concepts, relying on the capabilities of national armed forces trained and equipped from national resources, are no longer adequate for ensuring national and regional security. Thus, from the beginning of the 1990s, Hungarian participation in peacekeeping operations has continuously evolved and grown.

Initially the Hungarian Defence Forces provided small groups of UN observers, comprising only a few individuals, for service in Africa (including Angola, Uganda, Mozambique), and the Near-East (in Iraq and Kuwait). **However in 1995, there was a significant change in the history of Hungarian peacekeeping**

**operations,** when Hungary deployed armed peacekeeping units into the Sinai, the island of Cyprus, and the Balkans. It is noteworthy, that the first deployment of an entire Hungarian armed unit for peacekeeping operations took place in November 1995 to the island of Cyprus, in close cooperation with Austrian soldiers. Hungarian soldiers continue to participate in peacekeeping operations on Cyprus to this day, conducting patrols and maintaining the cease-fire line on that ethnically divided island.

In 1995, additional important decisions were taken concerning support for NATO IFOR operations in the Balkans. Hungary supported and aided the land and air deployment of NATO forces across its territory, and provided assistance to deploying IFOR/SFOR units and organizations. A Hungarian military engineer unit also supported the establishment of "Camp David". Active Hungarian participation in the Bosnian operations proved important as the country demonstrated her capability to support peacekeeping operations as a nation, and as part of a NATO-led operation. It is a demonstrable historical fact that the extremely successful Hungarian contribution to Bosnian peacekeeping operations provided significant weight to the invitation issued by NATO for Hungarian membership in the organization.

*Beginning in 1996, finding a solution to the Balkan situation has been a top priority of Hungarian security policy and since 1999, Hungary has participated in every NATO-led, land-force-based peacekeeping operation. Hungarian soldiers continue to serve in Kosovo (KFOR), Albania (AFOR), Macedonia (Amber Fox, Essential*

Harvest, Allied Harmony), and in Bosnia (SFOR, EUFOR).

In 2003, the Hungarian Defence Forces also began to participate in inherently more dangerous peacekeeping operations. Thus, in 2003-2004, a Hungarian logistics battalion undertook operations in Iraq, supporting the activities of the Polish-led Division Area of Responsibility. From 2003-on, Hungarian soldiers have participated in International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) operations in Afghanistan, where they perform security and guard duties in Kabul, and also provide medical and aviation maintenance support to the NATO ISAF. They also have a role in supporting the German-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).

Since joining the EU (1 May 2004), Hungary provided a Military Police Company to support the EU-led Althea operation, and has provided subject matter experts for the EU Sudan/Darfur AMIS mission, as well as to operations in Macedonia. From 2005-on, Hungary has had a role in the EU mission to the Congo. At the same time, in addition to UN, NATO and EU operations, Hungarian soldiers also serve in OSCE missions, and in EU missions to support the African Union (EU-AU), and other internationally approved peacekeeping tasks as well.

According to current doctrinal concepts, peace-support operations include peacekeeping tasks (observation, separation, transformation and weapons-inspection tasks), peace-enforcement, conflict-prevention, humanitarian-support, and peace-building/construction operations. *To date however, Hungarian participation*

*has been limited to peacekeeping and humanitarian support tasks, and, primarily due to political considerations has held back from participating in peace-enforcement and other combat operations. Preparations have begun for the development and training of units (Special Operations Battalion- SOF, Human intelligence - HUMINT, etc.), which sooner or later will enable participation in "live" counter-terrorism, or counter-insurgency operations. The deployment of a Hungarian Provisional Construction Team (PRT) will further improve the peacekeeping palette of the Hungarian Defence Forces, as Hungarian soldiers take on peace-building tasks for the first time.*

### **Hungarian participation in international peace-operations**

Today, (June 2006), the HDF participates in 28 peace-operations missions, in 14 countries and on 4 continents with a total of **941 soldiers** (Table 1). This presence includes representation by single subject-matter experts, participation on a variety of staffs, and the deployment of battalion-sized units.

Table 1: The Hungarian peacekeeping contribution

International organization	Number of participants	Operational tasks	Type of participation
UN (UNFICIP, UNIMOG, UNMIK, MINURSO)	99	Peacekeeping Company, Observers, Liaison officers	Cyprus: Slovakian - Hungarian Battalion

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Table 1 (continued)

International organization	Number of participants	Operational tasks	Type of participation
OSCE	5	Observers, Consultants	
EU (EUFOR, KONGÓ)	118	MP Company, Staff Officers, Consultants	Serving under Italian IPU (Multi-national) leadership
NATO (NTM-I, KFOR, ISAF, NHQ-s)	672	Security and Guard Battalion, Reaction Company, Medical laboratory	Serving under Italian (MNB SW) leadership.
OTHER (MFO, Tampa)	47	MP Platoon	Participating in multi-national operations
NATO (NTM-I, KFOR, ISAF, NHQ-s)	672	Security and Guard Battalion, Reaction Company, Medical laboratory	Serving under Italian (MNB SW) leadership.

During the last four years Hungary's role in international operations has changed significantly, and the number of personnel supporting peace-operations has risen from 700-720 individuals in 2001, to around 1000 participants today. This number is stable. Hungary is actively striving

to ensure, both nationally and internationally, that this level of its participation can be sustained in the most effective fashion possible<sup>2</sup>. *The majority (71%) of Hungarian peacekeepers serve in NATO-led missions, thus illustrating Hungary's commitment to the Alliance, as well as its intention and desire to participate in allied operations. Our NATO participation is oriented primarily toward the Balkans, where in addition to providing a battalion, we also participate in the work of each of the NATO HQs (Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje, and Tirana). Hungary also wants to play a significant role in the establishment of a NATO-Liaison Office in Belgrade.*

*Afghanistan serves as the second priority in Hungarian foreign and international security calculations.*

Hungarian participation in ISAF operations, (20% of those participating in peacekeeping, and 43% of those participating in NATO-led operations), presently rests on two pillars: participation in the Italian-led combat group in Kabul; and participation by 50 individuals in the accomplishment of medical-support, staff, CIMIC, security and guard, and aviation-maintenance tasks.

**During the fall of 2006, Hungarian ISAF-support resources will undergo significant reorganization, as, by decision of the government, Hungary will assume**

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<sup>2</sup> The variability of the situation is illustrated by the fact that as this article came to fruition (15 July 2006), the HDF withdrew the Security and Guard Platoon from Skopje, Macedonia, which had been performing peacekeeping, and later security and guard duties under NATO leadership since the Spring of 2002. The tasks of the Hungarian contingent has assumed by Macedonia, which is responsible for providing national logistics support for deployed units. Cited: *Magyar Honvéd (Hungarian Military Weekly)*, 7 July 2006.

responsibility for the presently Dutch-led PRT located at Pol-i-Kumri, in Baghlan province, Afghanistan. To support establishment of the PRT, the presently diffused Hungarian forces serving in Kabul will be consolidated, and without changing the original 200-man limit delineated by the politicians, the Hungarian contingent will operate as an independent civil-military organization.

Even following withdrawal of its logistics battalion from Iraq in 2004, *Hungary continues to take an active role in the stabilization of that country.* This is manifested through material support provided to the rebuilding of the Iraqi armed forces, (through donation of 77 T-72 tanks, along with the necessary repair equipment), and participation in the international training mission (NTM-I) with 17 officers and NCOs).

Hungary holds the basic view concerning its membership in the EU, that, commensurate with its national capabilities and interests, it will accept a role in all EU-led military operations. Hungarian participation in EU operations is presently modest, (some 12% of all international participation), although this comprises an MP Company deployed as part of the EUFOR in Bosnia, and the presence of staff officers and subject matter experts in the mission to the Congo.

Finally, the HDF plays a role in peacekeeping operations based on bilateral agreements, namely in the MFO (Multi-national Force and Observers) in the Sinai, and in coordination of the counter-terrorism war in Tampa, Florida. No increase in the resources devoted to these endeavours is anticipated.



Ever changing international mission requirements and the politically mandated level of participation (limited to 1000 individuals) require the HDF, to examine over and over, how Hungarian participation in peacekeeping operations can be improved. It is a matter of record, that participation in international operations during the last several years, (in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Iraqi training mission, Afghani PRT), has improved Hungary's scorecard within NATO, and that our international partners, (EU, UN, OSCE), consider us to be reliable supporters of international security and peace. **However, a reformulation of our security and defence policy priorities, and the development of a medium-range peace-operations strategy is required,** to permit Hungary to assume a more active role in the wider spectrum of international peacekeeping operations. Additionally, a great deal of work is needed internationally, within the Alliance and through bi-lateral relationships to ensure, that Hungary offers up viable, timely and appropriate resources.

### **The emergence of peacekeeping operations as a priority in security and defence policy**

Due to the force reductions that took place following the change in political regimes<sup>3</sup> *in 1989, two principal questions continue to be raised during the recurring*

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<sup>3</sup> Following the change in political regimes, each of the elected governments, independent of political orientation to the right or to the left, had its own military reform concept. Accordingly, sometimes with contradictory goals and objectives in mind, a series of force modifications, reductions took place during the periods: 1990-1992, 1995-1997, 1999-2000, 2002-2003. The Socialist-Liberal government taking office in May 2006 also announced force-reduction reforms.

*political and military debates:* (1) What is the meaning, format, and appropriate size of the politically mandated "smaller, more capable, and more economical" force?; and (2) Within the context of the changing security policy arena, what are the appropriate missions and tasks of the HDF? Clearly, *the tasks determined by the government determine how the military should be "sized", how it should be developed, trained and equipped. However, determination of military missions has a lot to do with how the force should be organized.* As the result of an often painful process concerning the development of national security and defence perceptions and policy in Hungary, the determination of the appropriate level of participation in international peacekeeping operations, and the importance given to international missions, continues to be an evolutionary process.

During the tenure of the first democratically elected government "peacekeeping" was not yet a national policy priority, since debates concerning neutrality and related military doctrines, (specifically the need for a stand-alone defensive capability), elevated all issues of defence to the highest level of governance, and "defence of the nation and of the population"<sup>4</sup> became the most important security policy principle. Thus, the national security policy documents of the era dealt with "peacekeeping" as a theoretical requirement. They decreed, that modernization of the military forces should be performed "in accordance with modern, western military requirements and suitable for participation in international peacekeeping and peace-enforcement".

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<sup>4</sup> Section 10, Parliamentary Decision 11/1993 (III.12). Principles of Security Policy, Republic of Hungary.

And, that the Hungarian military "should possess sufficient forces to participate in UN and other international crisis management peacekeeping and peace-enforcement activities"<sup>5</sup>. As a result, participation by Hungarian peacekeepers in international peacekeeping activities was sporadic and limited.

**Membership in NATO resulted in a fundamental change in political thinking and in determination of military missions.** At the end of 1988, the Hungarian Parliament accepted *new security and defence policy principles*, which stated that the Republic of Hungary based its security on two pillars: its own military forces; and on Euro-Atlantic integration and international cooperation<sup>6</sup>. At this time, during the crisis in Kosovo, Hungary was already acting as a reliable alliance partner. During 1998-1999 the Parliament authorized the use of its airspace and airports for use by allied aircraft, as well as the participation of Hungarian ground forces in a number of NATO operations, including AFOR, KFOR.

*The political consensus concerning participation in peacekeeping operations began to unravel however.* Although the political parties unanimously condemned the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the U.S., the Orban government refused to provide armed forces to support Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), and authorized only a medical contingent to support the International Security Assistance Operation (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

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<sup>5</sup> Section 17, Parliamentary Decision 27/1993 (IV.23). Principles of Defense Policy, Republic of Hungary.

<sup>6</sup> Section 6. Parliamentary Decision 94/1998 (XII.29). Principles of National Security and Defense, Republic of Hungary.

Then, in 2002, for the first time, the government developed a formal National Security Strategy (NSS), which strengthened Hungarian commitment to Euro-Atlantic integration and affirmed its Western European orientation. The NSS further clarified Hungary's position concerning various global challenges and threats. However, the document did not enjoy the support of the four parties in the Parliament<sup>7</sup>, thus it was approved only by the government. The governing and opposing coalitions did not see eye-to-eye on certain elements of the process of force modernization. In 2004 the next government, the Meggyessy- government, reworked the strategy, but also failed to gain consensus for its passage in the Parliament. It became again a governmental document. Nevertheless, despite the serious political disagreements, the Socialist-Liberal government established the goal of creating an **all-voluntary, capability-based and fiscally feasible military**. With this aim in mind, in June 2002, it ordered that a Strategic Review be conducted.

This review reoriented the missions of the Hungarian Defence Forces toward *international peacekeeping operations and most of the missions also included deployment out of Hungary for participation in "foreign" operations*. During conduct of the Defence Review, the political opposition attacked the concept of out-of-country operations and failed to concur with the concepts for reorganizing the armed forces. Despite this, the Parliament finally approved the new concepts and

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<sup>7</sup> The difference in votes between the governing coalition and the opposition coalition prevented the passage of this document. Issues of national importance require a 2/3 vote in Parliament.

embodied them in law<sup>8</sup>. **As a result, the defence forces began to develop the capabilities required to satisfy new mission requirements,** (light infantry, special operations, CIMIC, PSYOPS, water purification, etc.). When in place, the new capabilities were tested through participation in international peacekeeping operations.

**On 3 November 2004, after 136 years, military conscription in peacetime was suspended in Hungary.**

The human capital of the new, all-volunteer force is better prepared to meet the challenges of long-term peace-support operations. Although complete political consensus concerning the employment of Hungarians out of the country failed to emerge, the debate concerning this issue seems to have died down. As the new government program states, the Hungarian Defence Forces, in concert with our allies, will be prepared to meet the new threats and challenges. By the end of the present government (2010), the Hungarian military will have a more effective structure and improved interoperable capabilities. The intent is to terminate the political debate concerning international deployments by creating deployable capabilities. The only additional requirement is to have the Parliament approve these capabilities and embody them in law.

### **Legal Requirements in Support of the Mission**

Evolution in the political acceptance of peacekeeping missions can best be seen through the changes that have been made in the national body of law. *Through 1999, Hungarian law basically prescribed national defence as*

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<sup>8</sup> Law CV. 2004. Concerning the Hungarian Armed Forces and Home Defense.

*the primary mission of the armed forces and all out-of-country deployments required a vote of the Parliament.* The changes in law necessitated by membership in NATO, (1998-2000), assisted in many ways, and indeed laid down the basis for out-of-country deployments. At the same time, the process for gaining political approval of other deployments, established in the early 1990s, remained difficult and cumbersome. *This created a number of difficulties when decisions were required for participation in NATO operations.* For this reason, efforts to modify pertinent laws during the last five years have concentrated mainly on creating a new legal framework allowing participation in international operations, and on defining the conditions under which such operations will be carried out.

Previously only the Parliament had the authority to approve out of country military deployments, so the first step was to modify the Constitution. *At the end of 2003, and again in February 2006, the Parliament modified the Constitution to enable the government to decide concerning the deployment of Hungarian troops in support NATO and EU operations.* These changes increased the flexibility of the authorization methodology and also reduced the time necessary for making operative decisions.

In addition to changing the politico-legal decision making process, the *HDF leadership significantly amended the laws and regulations dealing with military service.* **Traditionally, Hungarian law forbade the deployment of conscripts outside of the country without their consent.** Consequently, the HDF was unable to deploy established units, and had to rely on

extensive reassignments from other units at the battalion, company and platoon levels. The effectiveness of the consequent ad hoc peacekeeping units was relatively low, and upon the return of these units they were disassembled and dissolved. Thus, the effort, time and money spent on their preparation, as well as the lessons learned from these international deployments, were largely unexploited by the HDF. This problem, among many, others, was one of the reasons for the creation of an all-volunteer military.

The military service law was modified by the Parliament several times during the period 2002-2004.<sup>9</sup> The legal changes made it possible to **deploy soldiers without having to get them to volunteer for deployment.** Although the HDF continues to rely on volunteers to man units deployed outside of the country, the capability to plan rotational replacements, and the ability to determine and assign units in a relatively timely fashion, ensures the more effective accomplishment of mission goals. New **Service Regulations**, enacted on 1 January 2006, and detailing the conditions of international service based on international rules of engagement and agreements, also serves to improve the expeditionary capabilities of the HDF.

Within NATO and the EU, *agreements concerning strategic air and sea transport issues have gained added prominence.* To support ISAF-related operations, the MOD signed a number of air-bridge related agreements with various international partners.

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<sup>9</sup> Modification of Law XCV. 2001, concerning the legal status of professional and contracted soldiers of the HDF.

Thus, a continuous process for modification of laws, regulations, and governmental and parliamentary decisions, and agreements continues to reflect the lessons learned, and the changing requirements of peace operations. The objective of creating, expanding, improving and implementing the necessary legal framework for participation in international peace operations remains in effect.

### **Internationalization of the HDF**

Peace-operations have completely altered the everyday life, (the battle rhythm), the conditions of service, the training, and the tasks of the Hungarian armed forces. Due to the challenges, extra pay, and the variability of the tasks performed, out-of-country service is attractive to the average soldier and serve as an important recruiting tool.

To support rotational peace-operations, the land forces introduced a three-cycle training program beginning in 2004. This includes six-months of training and preparation, six-months on deployment, and six-months of reconstitution, as well as NATO Article V.-related training. Increasingly the training includes the "bottom-up" lessons learned during operations; including task-oriented solutions and a "warrior training" oriented approach. Branch (light-infantry, NBC, Engineer, Medical, Logistics, etc.) subject-matter experts and trainers who have "been there", regularly participate in all aspects of the training provided to units preparing for deployment. Peacekeeping training is coordinated by the Land Forces Command, while the preparation of staff officers deployed to support UN, OSCE, EU and NATO



operations falls within the purview of the HDF Peace-Support Training Centre.

The military training continues to become more "internationalized", since Hungarian forces generally operate under international or multinational command when participating in peacekeeping operations. In a number of cases the mission was international from the start (Cyprus: Austrian-Hungarian, then Slovak-Hungarian; KFOR: Italian-Hungarian; EUFOR: Italian-Hungarian, ISAF: Italian-Hungarian, etc.) and thus required combined training from the inception. During the last two years, the Hungarian-Italian-Slovenian Multinational Land Forces (MLF) staff and assorted forces have conducted combined peacekeeping operations in the Balkans. This represents a step forward in the creation of the EU Battle Group, coming into being in 2007. The international aspect of training is also supported by the fact that units assigned the NATO Reaction Force (NRF) and the EU Combat Group (EUCG) are regularly employed in peacekeeping operations soon after rotation from a state of high-readiness. Thus, experiences gained in one international mission become useful in another.

Needless to say the capability to interoperate is indispensable for successful international operations and the HDF has considered this to be an important requirement since entry into NATO. Thus, units participating in international operations are generally provided with *new (often the newest) equipment, new or renewed combat equipment, as well as new communications and information systems*. A portion of the funds set aside for modernization is also expended to

support the general and specific tasks derived from peacekeeping missions. The amount of money expended to support of international missions by the HDF continues to grow annually.<sup>10</sup> Taking into account the amounts spent on technology modernization and logistics, estimates exceed 10% of the defence budget.

*Due to the distance of proposed peacekeeping operations from Hungary, the logistics support required for these deployments has also required substantial modification.* Support for IFOR/KFOR missions was provided using national resources, (all logistics support was provided directly from Hungary), but elements of multinational logistics support and procedures were already in evidence. In Iraq, a multinational (primarily American), logistics system was in place, supported in part, by the deployed Hungarian logistics battalion. In Afghanistan *logistics support* (with the exception of nation-unique items), *is provided entirely by a multinational contribution system (Canadian, German).* The logistics re-supply of Hungarian units stationed increasingly further from the national borders proves to be an exceptionally difficult task, a problem solved through employment of an entirely international system, including NATO/EU transportation committees, foreign transportation companies, etc. Deployment of peacekeeping units is accomplished not only by land transportation (rail, road) and by air, but, in our case, for

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<sup>10</sup> The MOD continues to spend more and more on peacekeeping operations: In 2002 personnel costs were 6.3 Bn HUF; and for 2006 it planned 11.6 Bn HUF. It is probable, that due to deployment of a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) to Afghanistan this amount will increase substantially. Source: Fapál, L. (ed.) (2006). A honvédelem négy éve, (The last four years of national defense), Budapest: HM Zrínyi Kht. p.121.

the first time since WW I, by seaborne transportation as well.

*During the last decade command and control of peacekeeping operations within the armed forces has evolved on a continuous basis.* At the beginning of the 1990s, the planning, organization, information gathering process necessary for peacekeeping operations was accomplished by an ad hoc group. Later, the HDF Operations Centre was established to provide oversight of operations. This was followed by the Joint Force Operations Centre (MH ÖHK). During the 2005 reorganization of the MOD, the JFOC was integrated into the MOD Defence Staff J3 Operations Group, which, under the title of MOD Defence Staff Operations Division, provided the command oversight for peace-support operations of all kinds. As part of the latest reorganization of the system of military leadership, the new MOD structural concept intends to create the MOD Operations Command. This organization will serve however only until an HDF Joint Command can be established in 2007. In 2004, the NATO model of "supported" and "supporting" command relationships was also adopted, which employs a mutually cooperative horizontal system of support for all types of military operations.

Inclusion of peace-operations as one of the central elements of military missions also changed how we treat the family members of deployed soldiers. From 2003 on, the MOD annually arranges a Christmas party for all family members and is working to create a wider system of family support. New military decorations recognizing service in peacekeeping operations have been

established, and emphasis has been given in recruiting to opportunities for such service. From 29 May 2005 on, the MOD officially celebrates International Peacekeeping Day, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2002.

## **Future Challenges**

The new government program continues to consider peacekeeping operations to be important, and resolves to support international peacekeeping and security operations during the period 2006-2010 through deployment of a maximum of 1000 Hungarian soldiers. Holding to this level of ambition will not be easy, since the conditions of military peacekeeping operations may undergo substantial change in the near future.

It is possible, for instance, that peacekeeping in the Balkans will evolve into a policing, legal, administrative and reconstruction mission, which requires the deployment of fewer soldiers. It is possible, that as the requirement for military forces is reduced, and our now significant presence in the Balkans will no longer be assured. If Hungary continues to hold to the principle that NATO operations have priority, then the expected reductions in the Balkans can only be compensated by increasing our presence in Afghanistan, or elsewhere. If it decides to increase the presently marginal Hungarian participation in EU operations, then it cannot legitimately avoid a decision to permit the HDF to participate in African operations with armed units.

Maintaining the present standard of deployment, and improvement in the quality of participation requires that the common goals and objectives be strengthened. We

need to explore the possibilities of cooperation and coordinated action (for example cooperation by the smaller nations of Central and Eastern to exploit national peacekeeping capability) within the framework of CENCOOP, or other bi- and multi-lateral agreements.<sup>11</sup>

Future participation in peace-operations will also depend on *how the process of offering up capability changes*, including the willingness to accept genuine combat missions (and the resultant risks), in the international war against terrorism. Preparation for these tasks within the MOD has begun: a Special Operations Battalion (SOF) has been created; the expansion of HUMINT capabilities is underway; and light-mixed infantry (light, motorized) units are preparing for combat. We must also consider the possibility that in the future the demand for a civilian-based capability (police, economic experts, HR and engineering experts, CIMIC, etc.), will increase and this may require the establishment of complex civil-military units.

Acceptance of future peace-operations will inevitably impact on the fiscal resources of the defence portfolio. Since attainment of the so-called Maastricht Objectives is a strategic governmental objective, an increase in the funds allocated to support peace-operations is unlikely. For this reason, HDF participation in high-intensity (and high-cost) operations will be a rare occurrence, and limited to operations similar to those conducted today. An increase in deployable forces to a total of 1200 is possible only after the Euro is introduced into Hungary.

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<sup>11</sup> Magyar Honvéd (Hungarian Military Weekly) (1 June 2006). Interview with Gen Roland Ertl, Chief of Staff of the Austrian Armed Forces. Budapest, MOD Press.

At the same time, as we execute the new government program, the size of the Hungarian military will likely be reduced, which means that the rotation of units will have to increase.

We also need to ensure that the government continues to recognize the importance of participation in international operations. We need to do everything possible to ensure that our deploying soldiers receive the best equipment and the best support, and further, that their families are taken care of back home. We also need to ensure that those coming back from deployments return to meaningful assignments, and that their hard-gained knowledge and experiences are exploited to improve the Hungarian armed forces. Due to the reduction in forces we also need to reconsider the role of volunteer reserves in our-of-country deployments, and therefore we need to rebuild our reserve forces.

**Without a doubt, participation in peacekeeping operations has been the most successful endeavor of the Hungarian Defense Forces during the last decade.** Hungary continues to take its part in solving international crises, and in meeting its international responsibilities. It continues to make progress, and to move forward. We need to ensure that the transformations that will take place within the next several years continue to build upon, rather than to diminish what has already been accomplished.