

# **GEOPOLITICAL POSITION AND RISKS OF THREAT TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

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Demographic, geographical and geopolitical parameters and economical potential rank the Czech Republic (CR) among the countries the international and political position of which is determined namely by their economical, social and political stability, democratic system, active involvement in the international economical relations, quality of their home and foreign policy and credible demonstration of ability and determination to defend themselves with the support of the bonds of alliance in the area of security.

Security of the CR is influenced primarily by the international political and military political situation in Europe as well as in the world. The CR is not threatened with an open armed aggression at present. Further stabilization in Europe is connected with the success of the European integration process and relations between the major world powers.

Security environment of the CR is characterized by a growth of new external and internal risks of not only military but, first of all, non-military and mixed character. These risks prove to be important namely because they are difficult to be foreseen.

## **Armed Forces of the CR**

Basis of the CR defense is a sum of measures having an objective to ensure the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the CR, principles of democracy and legal state and to protect the lives of its citizens and their property.

Ensuring of the CR defense is a duty of all governmental, self-governing bodies and legal entities.

Main emphasis of ensuring the defense is laid on the Army of the Czech Republic (ACR) as a basic force which can be used for the defense of the CR in planned time periods. The main way how to use the ACR is an active defense having an objective to repel aggression and to preserve sovereignty and integrity of the state.

The ACR will continue to be based on general conscription, the conscript's service duration being 12 months. At the same time, there will be a parallel process of increasing the professionalization level of the ACR. The ACR will comprise 55,000 soldiers (25,000 professional soldiers and 30,000 conscripts) plus 13,000 civilian employees.

## **Organization of Armed Forces**

Ministry of Defense is a central institution of the state administration for ensuring the CR defense. Its basic missions are as follows:

- a) It participates in the elaboration of a draft of the state defense policy.
- b) It suggests necessary measures for ensuring the state defense to the President of Republic.
- c) It prepares a conception of operational preparation of the state territory.

General Staff is an institution of the Ministry of Defense for ensuring the CR defense and management of the ACR. Its basic missions are as follows:

- a) It ensures professional building up and development of the ACR.
- b) It coordinates the activities of central institutions, self-governing bodies and legal entities at the preparation for the defense in the area of conscription and defense of the country.

- c) It coordinates and provides a peace-time and mobilization replenishment of the armed forces.
- d) It controls Logistic Support and Medical Support.
- e) It controls Military Police.

Civil Protection is a professional institution of the Ministry of Defense for the management of administration concerning the matters of the population. Its basic mission are as follows:

- a) Liquidation of the consequences of natural disasters and operational accidents.
- b) Liquidation of the consequences of the contemporary means of destruction in a wartime period.
- c) Providing protection for the population, warning and information of the population about the effects of the catastrophes and natural disasters.

Castle Guard is a unit to provide protection for the President and Castle.

Ground Forces are the main forces of defense and they are divided as follows: Field Troops, Territorial Defense Forces, Rapid Deployment Forces.

Air Forces are determined to defend airspace, to destroy ground targets, to support combat activity of the Ground Forces, to perform an aerial reconnaissance and air transportation. They are divided as follows: Air Force, Anti-aircraft Missile Troops, Radiotechnical Troops.

Logistics provides the armed forces with supplies and services. Military Intelligence is determined to acquire and gather messages, data and information. Military Medical Service is determined to provide troops with a complete medical support. Military Police is determined to perform a police protection of the armed forces.

### **Use of Reservists during National Defense Readiness**

All the men (males), citizens of the CR, of the age less than 60 who are physically fit to serve in military service are kept in military records of personnel in the CR.

The required number of reservists (the reservists resources) to replenish the units of the armed forces (Field Troops, Logistics, Air Forces, Ground Forces and Civil Defense) during mobilization is planned in advance in the peacetime.

The reservists who are fit (suitable) for the replenishment of units but they are not needed for the replenishment during mobilization are left as a "reserve" to replenish the losses during the war.

Specialists needed for a war industry in civilian factories and in administration institutions are released from the obligation to take up their duty in military service during mobilization or in wartime.

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