

MODERN ARMED CONFLICTS AND RESERVE MILITARY FORCES

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Abstract: Today, the world is faced with crises and conflicts which, due to the possibility of uncertain development, represent a real threat to global, regional and national security. New-old geopolitical rivalries and Cold War divisions have revived, even within the European Union itself. The development of the scientific-technological and informational factor enabled the networking of various state and non-state actors regardless of time and space distance. Modern conflicts require a more flexible approach with smaller, specialized units that can be quickly deployed to respond to changing situations, as crises and armed conflicts of a local nature are an increasingly frequent threat to security. Especially in this sense, the significant use of reserve military forces organized on the territorial principle, because reserve forces organized in this way do not lack the motive to fight both against regular armed forces of aggressors and against non-state actors and irregular forces.

The authors point out that the modern operational environment is becoming increasingly complex, more dynamic in terms of duration and intensity, but regardless of the type, they represent a great challenge for the cooperation of the parties due to the operational weapons and the multitude of actors present in the area of operations. Therefore, the focus of the work is to point out that in modern wars, in addition to the regular forces, a very important role is played by the reserve military forces.

Key words: defense, army, reserve, replenishment, mobilization

1. INTRODUCTION

The obligations that citizens have towards the defense of the country they live in are certainly the most difficult duties that a citizen has towards the community, because no other obligation of a citizen towards the community requires the sacrifice of the highest values, such as life. The obligation to participate in the defense of the country is often confused with military obligation. The obligation to participate in the defense of the country is a complex duty, which, in addition to the military obligation, if it exists in a given country, includes a whole series of

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other obligations, such as the provision of material resources for the needs of defense, the obligation to perform certain work tasks in favor of the defense of the country, the obligation to participate in protection and rescue organizations and actions, the obligation to train for the execution of defense tasks and many others. Therefore, military obligation is the most important, it is quite a complex obligation and includes a number of elements, but it is certainly not the only obligation citizens have towards defense (Dragisic, 2011). The organization of the armed forces of neighboring states, states that have opted for a military "neutral status" in international relations, and the armed forces of major powers is conditioned by the types and character of security challenges and threats, defense interests, necessary capabilities, and available defense resources.

The armed forces of the states are filled in a similar way, mostly by professional army, less by general military service, but all states rely on the reserve force. The army must have the ability to use the knowledge (military and civilian), skills and abilities possessed by the person in the reserve, to solve the timely selection and quickly fill the missing specialties, the ability to quickly integrate into the war structure, using selective filling and mobilization, and all in order to develop the ability to perform operational tasks. The latest conflicts in Ukraine, and before that in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan show that the reserve military forces played a very important role. So it can be considered that the reserve military forces are actually permanent command units or temporary structures that are mainly filled with personnel assigned to the reserve. No matter how much technology advances and how much the physiognomy of modern warfare changes, one thing remains that wars are won precisely by those forces that have a good reserve composition at their disposal.

2. DEFINING EMERGENCY MILITARY FORCES

The concept of military reserves dates back to ancient times when soldiers were required to serve in the military during wartime but were allowed to return to their civilian lives during peacetime. In the course of the development of military thought and science, no consensus was reached, and no generally accepted definition of "reserve" was determined in the literature. So the interpretations are completely different and as a result there are inconsistencies in the definition of the basic categorical term, but the similarity and essential determination of that term from the military aspect is visible.

According to the lexicon of foreign words and expressions by Milan Vujaklija, the term reserve comes from the French word "reserve" which in general translation means "reserved right, fence, stock, reserve, what is left or what is kept in case of need". In the military sense, the meaning of reserves is that they are soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers who have served their military service, i.e. completed a certain type and level of training, in a peacetime composition, and who are called up "under the flag" only in case of war (commencement and duration of combat operations). state of emergency (states of "imminent and war danger") (Vujaklija, 1980)

According to the dictionary of the Serbian language, "reserve" is a word of Latin origin and has several meanings, depending on the field of application: general meaning, in the military sense, in sports, in grammar and language. In the military sense, it means: a) the status of conscripts who have served their military service or whose active military service has ended and are invited to military exercises as needed, b) a part of the army that engages in combat as needed. (Dictionary of the Serbian language, 2007) According to the military lexicon, similar to the Lexicon of Foreign Words and Expressions by Milan Vujaklija, reserve is a word of French origin and means an element of battle order, combined tactical units, operational formations and strategic-operational groups. In defining the term military reserve, a clearer definition of the term is given it is "manpower and material resources that form one of the

bases of the war potential of a country or a coalition of countries, needed by the armed forces for life, work and armed struggle."

In the definition of the term military reserve, a more detailed definition of the term is given, that is "people and material resources that form one of the bases of the war potential of a country or a coalition of countries, needed by the armed forces for life, work and armed struggle." They represent a special category, so they are also called state war (military) reserves or national defense reserves, in contrast to commodity reserves that are used by the country's economy to wage war..." (Law on material and labor obligations).

3. CHARACTERISTICS OF MODERN ARMED CONFLICTS

The twentieth century, among other things, is characterized by an increasing number of non-traditional forms of conflict. This trend was particularly manifested in the period after the end of the Cold War, when there was an accelerated and, in scope and content, transformation of the conflict.

Modern armed conflict is a constantly evolving phenomenon that requires a flexible and adaptable approach to military operations. Acquiring experience means knowing the wars of the past and their physiognomy. Wars of the first generation (Napoleonic wars) were characterized by mass armies, while wars of the second generation (World War I) were characterized by mass armies, but firepower appeared as a dominant element. . The third generation war (World War II) is characterized by "blitzkrieg", i.e. a quick transition from one maneuver to the next. The fourth generation war (Vietnam, Iraq) is characterized by the "isolation of the battlefield", i.e. the "separation of the main defense forces from reinforcement and support forces, by fire strikes from land, sea and air, and the destruction of the armed forces by elements.

Fifth generation wars are characterized by the disorientation of the enemy. According to William Lind, although he calls it the "fourth generation" war (aggression against NATO in the FRY, armed forces in Syria, the Special Military Operation of Russia and Ukraine), it is characterized by a crisis of state legitimacy, i.e. the loss of the state's monopoly over war, primarily the loss of the loyalty of its citizens, the rise of non-state entities whose loyalty is governed by organizations-states-individuals who wage wars. These entities can be armed criminal, religious, ethnic groups within races, tribes and ideologies. (Lind, 1989) In the last two decades, 95 percent of armed conflicts happened within states, not between them. (Lind, 1989).

Modern armed conflicts are characterized by completely non-linear fighting methods that disorient the enemy and aim at his mental and moral-psychological paralysis. Their aim is to cause the collapse of the enemy from within, not to physically destroy his armed forces. The battlefield of fourth-generation wars does not only include the operational space of the armed forces, but includes more or less the entire society of the enemy.

By analyzing the experiences of modern conflicts from the recent past, we come to the unique conclusion that the state of the economy has been and will remain one of the main drivers of conflicts of various kinds. In modern asymmetric conflicts, the objectives of the participants are not limited to military objectives but include political, social, economic and even psychological aspects. In modern conflicts, they are a logical choice for terrorist groups and other asymmetric participants. The accelerated development and increasing use of information and communication technologies has significantly changed the modern world and the way conflicts are conducted.

Global trends in changing the contemporary environment will affect the sources, causes and ways of resolving conflicts. Applications of artificial intelligence, robots, coordinated and non-contact warfare and mass implementation of actions in the information and cyber dimensions will require the development of new, that is, the improvement of existing concepts of warfare. (www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-soldier-transforming-the-british-army).

In political theory, there are various theories that try to define and explain a political phenomenon or several political phenomena. When explaining war as a political phenomenon, it should be defined to a certain level of abstraction, as well as the determination of all relevant facts that rule in the social reality of the observed phenomenon. According to Dragan Simeunovic, the basic properties of political theory are: comprehensiveness, modernity and having value for contemporary research (Simeunovic, 2002). It is easy to conclude that contemporary armed conflicts are shaped by five key trends: long-range precision weaponry, unmanned and autonomous systems, increasing access to space, conflicts over access to space, conflicts in information space, and growing reliance on nuclear weapons and dual-use capabilities.

Based on the above, it can be concluded that the basic characteristics of modern armed conflicts are reflected in the following: Unpredictability of occurrence; the presence of a wide range of military forces and forces and assets that do not have a primary military purpose; improvement of the command system and transition from a linear command system to a network system; the increasing role of modern effective combat systems; simultaneous use of forces in all parts of the geographical space; the significance of the media and information on the course and outcome of the armed conflict.

It is very important that these characteristics retain their characteristics in modern armed conflicts, for the reason that practice shows us exactly how many the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, and even now with the military operation between Russia and Ukraine are being manipulated. Regardless of the past, present and future, there will always be dominant applications of characteristics in any format of combat.

4. THE USE OF RESERVE MILITARY FORCES IN MODERN ARMED CONFLICTS

Reserve military forces have a long history, and the concept of a citizen-soldier dates back to ancient Greece. Therefore, modern reserve military forces are organized differently and have different roles and functions. Today's reserve military forces are an integral part of the army and can be used in various ways, primarily in the defense of the homeland, as support for regular forces, and can be used in peacekeeping missions. With the change in the nature of modern conflicts, there is also a change in the concept of the use of military forces.

Reserve military forces make up more than half of the military strength of the armies of NATO member countries. The organization, composition, mission, training levels of reserve military forces generally vary within the Alliance. However, common characteristics for all military reserve forces are that they play an important role across the spectrum of national and NATO defense structures and in the event of a crisis they are required to perform tasks alongside regular forces.

Modern conflicts often strive for a more flexible approach; with smaller, specialized units that can be rapidly deployed to respond to changing situations, as crises and armed conflicts of a local nature become more frequent threats to security. Significant use of reserve military forces organized on the theoretical principle, because reserve forces organized in this way do not lack a motive to fight both against regular armed forces of aggressors and against non-state actors and irregular forces.

Examples from the past show us exactly how much the reserve military forces played a significant role in the defense of small countries against the aggressive acts of big powers, especially by using the experience of guerilla and partisan warfare. The war in Vietnam and the protest of the Afghan people against the USSR, and in the recent past, the USA.

An exemplary advantage of reserve military forces is precisely their ability to supplement the regular army in times of crisis or war. Such forces can provide additional forces to support active Army units, ensuring the smooth running of operations. By supplementing these units, the reserve force can ease the burden on regular military units, ensuring that they remain efficient and effective. Although there are challenges associated with the use of military reserves, careful planning and coordination can help overcome these challenges and ensure that military reserves are an effective and valuable asset to modern military operations.

Reserve military forces can be mobilized to provide additional support to law enforcement agencies and first responders during crises or natural disasters. This includes search and rescue operations, public order and medical assistance. And how the use of reserve military forces in the modern age can be useful in response to non-military challenges, risks and threats to the country's security.

In addition to the good side, there are also certain weaknesses or challenges of the reserve military forces. One of the primary challenges is maintaining readiness. For the reason that the reserve military forces mainly consist of individuals who have their regular civil obligations in citizenship, so there is also a responsibility towards their professions, which they deal with professionally. Also, a frequent challenge that appears is the problem of communication and coordination between regular and reserve units, especially in joint operations, or in operations when they are conducted with different compositions of units from different countries, mainly due to different procedures and protocols.

However, for certain challenges, a solution can always be found through improving communication and coordination between regular and reserve military units and through joint training and exercises, which will improve the building of trust and joint work.

In particular, to solve the problem of challenges, it is necessary to create adequate conditions for the reserve military to undergo regular training, and if necessary, additional training, with the aim of integrating with military operations. In the future, the use of reserve military forces is likely to become even more important in ensuring the success of military operations. As the nature of warfare continues to evolve, the military will acquire and exist in the flexibilities in which it finds itself, that is, the performance of its assigned tasks within military operations. From a modern point of view, potential aspects of the use of reserve formations in national security defense will always exist because the environment will change the course of combat and operations.

Almost all reserve military forces in the composition of any armed forces will tend to develop, together with regular forces, the necessary capabilities for use and achieving certain successes in armed operations. In addition to their traditional roles in national defense and security, military reserve forces will certainly contribute to intelligence gathering and cyber security operations. One direction is certainly the increased use of technology and automation to improve the capabilities of reserve units. It can be seen that drones and other autonomous systems can also be used to increase the capabilities of reserve units, as individuals with civilian expertise in these areas will be able to provide critical support and intelligence gathering in various military operations.

Another direction is reflected in the integration of reserve forces in cyber defense and cyber security. Cyber security is becoming an increasingly important part of national security and

defense, and reserve personnel with expertise in this area could be used to enhance the military's capabilities in this area. Which provides the opportunity to specialize for the proper use and inclusion of persons in the reserve composition?

5. THE EXPERIENCE OF USING RESERVE MILITARY FORCES IN MODERN CONFLICTS

The use of reserve military forces in US military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria was critical to the success of these campaigns. The US military reserve forces consist of soldiers who have civilian jobs, but serve in the army part-time, providing the US military with the necessary human resources, that is, strength and skills to carry out its missions. These forces are critical to sustaining unified ground operations. The U.S. Army Reserve provides the active military with operational capabilities and strategic depth to augment its collective capabilities.

Since 2001, the US Army Reserve has mobilized and deployed more than 300,000 troops to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, while providing approximately 15,000 troops to support missions around the world. (www.armypmil) The National Guard and Reserve provide more than half of the total capacity of the US Army. Although all components of the military share the same standards of training, doctrine and equipment, each is distinct, interdependent and intrinsic. It is planned to increase the reserve composition to 200,000, and the National Guard to 343,000 (www.armypmil). There are a number of important career fields in the Army Reserve, including civil affairs, medical, maintenance, religious service, military intelligence, military police and logistics support (Cancian, 2021).

Higher education is a key developmental step for reserve officers, and more than 34 percent have a higher education. The army as a whole is dominated by a high percentage of highly educated members of the reserve (about 75 percent are masters and doctors of science).

In Afghanistan, since the beginning of the operation called "Enduring Freedom 2021", the USA has mainly used reserve forces. Reserve soldiers are deployed in various roles including combat and logistical support as well as intelligence. According to the official website "Army Reserve" from September 2021, over 35,000 reserve soldiers have been mobilized in Afghanistan since 2021 (Wale et al., 2015) and provided key support to regular US forces in conducting operations (clearing road communications, providing medical support and conducting intelligence operations).

In Iraq, the Army Reserve played a vital role in operations called Iraqi Freedom and Inherent Resolve. In these operations, reserve military forces were deployed in different units, but they mainly performed tasks in combat and logistical support units, as well as military police units. According to the already mentioned website "Army reserve" from September 2021, these units provided support to the US forces in providing security for convoys, medical support and security and enforcement of the adversary. The military reserve forces also played a key role in the training of the Iraqi security forces, which was essential for promoting stability and security. (Wale et al., 2015)

In Syria, a reserve unit was deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (Wale et al., 2015). Reservists are deployed in a variety of roles including intelligence, logistics and military police. Over 8,000 reserve soldiers have been mobilized in Syria. The Army Reserve has played an important role in the execution of US Army operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. The Army Reserve has provided tremendous support to the US armed forces in various roles, in combat operations, logistics support operations, and intelligence operations.

In addition to the USA, which uses reserve military forces for its operations outside its territory, the Israeli armed forces are no less behind them. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

relies heavily on its army reserves. Reservists are citizens who have served their mandatory military service and are then called up to serve periodically throughout their lives.

6. CONCLUSION

The development and progress of society and the state largely depends on the ability to recognize and adapt to global trends. Threats, as well as opportunities, should be recognized, adapted to them, and accordingly find ways to realize one's own potential.

Undoubtedly, there will be times when states will consider the interests that caused the conflict to be so important that they are willing to accept the costs of going to war. But the frequency of conflicts where a state sees its vital interests at stake and where war is seen as an acceptable means of promoting or protecting these interests is declining as the 21st century progresses. Regardless of the above, no matter how modern technology is, it can only come if it has human resources that are personified. In addition to the regular composition, the success of the war depends on the filling of the reserve composition, which requires training and competence.

The reserve composition of the defense forces of countries in the world essentially consists of military personnel who are not obliged to serve continuously full-time, except in the case of compulsory mobilization, which is usually reserved for the defense of the country.

The use of reserve military forces varies considerably between countries. In some countries, the mobilization and use of reserve military forces is limited to national defense. In others, it is available to respond to domestic natural disasters. It is widely recognized that an integrated, appropriately dedicated, motivated and ready reserve force provides a good strategic expansion opportunity for current military capabilities. Almost as important, the military reserve forces create a vital civil-military link between the regular forces and the civilian community at large, especially in the area of specialized skills that are difficult to develop in a military organization.

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