

## THE TREND IN HUNGARY'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATO OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS FROM OUR NATO ACCESSION TO THE PRESENT

### MAGYARORSZÁG NATO TAGSÁGÁBÓL ADÓDÓ MISSZIÓS FELADATOK ALAKULÁSA A CSATLAKOZÁSTÓL NAPJAINKIG

The aim of this article is to describe the road leading to Hungary's accession to NATO, the actual joining process and how we have proved our commitment to the Alliance. I wish to describe and analyze the process through which we proved in the territory of the former Yugoslavia – indirectly at first by allowing NATO aircraft to use our airspace, and later directly by contributing Hungarian troops to the operations – that we are capable of playing an active role in performing the collective defence tasks of the Alliance.

Jelen publikáció célja hazánk NATO tagságához vezető út, maga a csatlakozási folyamat majd ezt követően a tényleges szövetséges elkötelezettségünk bizonyításának ismertetése. Bemutatni és elemezni kívánom azt a folyamatot, melynek révén a volt Jugoszlávia területén először csak közvetett szerepben – elsősorban a hazai légtér átengedésével – később már közvetlen formában, magyar katonák részvételével is bizonyítottuk, hogy képesek vagyunk tevékenyen részt venni a szövetség kollektív védelmi folyamataiban.

Before describing the road leading to Hungary's NATO membership and the accession process, I would like to give an overview of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which since its establishment on 4 April, 1949 has been the most important military alliance in the world. I would like to discuss the issue of collective defence within the Alliance in relation to the events in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, in which Hungary took part indirectly at first and later directly as well.

#### THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION

At the time of writing this article the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation,<sup>1</sup> which was formed on 4 April, 1949 in Washington, is an alliance of 28 North American and European states and the most important collective defence organisation of the post-World War II<sup>2</sup> international order. The aim of the alliance was "to promote peace and friendly relations across the region", which in the given political environment meant countering the potential threat posed by the politics and the ever growing military capabilities of the Soviet Union. The first [NATO Secretary General, Lord Ismay](#), stated that the organization's goal was "to keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down". In other words: the Soviet elements, which were alien to the system, had to be kept at a distance using the strategy of containment, Germany had to be reintegrated into the European system and at the same time the leading role of the United States as already a "European power" had to be ensured and recognized, and this role had to be integrated into

<sup>1</sup> *North Atlantic Treaty Organisation*, abbreviated as NATO, in French: Organisation du Traité de l'Atlantique, OTAN, hereinafter abbreviated as NATO in this article. Source: hu.wikipedia.org/wiki (16:20, 28.12 .2013)

<sup>2</sup> *World War II*: The biggest conflict in human history with fighting on three continents, Europe, Asia and Africa. In Asia it started on 7 June, 1937 and ended with the capitulation of Japan on 2 September, 1945. In Europe the fighting started with the invasion of Poland on 1 September, 1939, and the capitulation of Germany on 6 May, 1945 is regarded as the end of the war. Source: [www.masodikvh.hu](http://www.masodikvh.hu) (16:03, 28.12. 2013)

the European structure. The founding document of the Alliance is the North Atlantic Treaty, which was worked out on the basis of Article 51 of the United Nations<sup>3</sup> – hereinafter UN – Charter, which is also called the principle of collective defence.<sup>4</sup> Given the importance of this principle, I am going to describe it separately. [1] – [2] – [3]

#### SELF DEFENCE IN THE UN SYSTEM AND IN THE NATO FOUNDING TREATY

Article 51 of the 111 articles of UN Charter recognizes the right to self defence as follows: *“Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security.”* [4]

The NATO founding treaty consists of only 14 articles. In the preamble the signatories, the 12 founding members of NATO: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States, declared that they would unite their efforts to safeguard the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law, and to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area.

In Article 5, in accordance with the principle of self defence set forth in the UN Charter, they expressed their mutual commitment to defend each other in case of any aggression against any one of the member states. [1]

What does all this mean in the area of international law? Can the states exercise the right of self defence in case of a terror attack? The question arises in connection with the US invasion of Afghanistan<sup>5</sup> after 9/11, 2001 and Israel's offensive against Lebanon<sup>6</sup> in 2006 and against Gaza<sup>7</sup> in 2008. All cases can be regarded as responses to terror attacks committed by terror organisations. [1]

Bearing in mind the main topic of the article, after describing Hungary's NATO membership, I am going to discuss the issue of collective defence with regard to Hungary's NATO membership and our defence tasks, and I am planning to explore the main connections in this area. The next part of the article is concerned with the events leading up to Hungary's NATO membership.

#### THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO HUNGARY'S ACCESSION TO NATO

When discussing Hungary's NATO accession, the date 7 June, 1990 must be paid special attention to because that was the first time that a member of the Hungarian government, Géza Jeszenszky,<sup>8</sup> Foreign Minister of time, visited the NATO HQ in Brussels. Less than a month later, on 18 July 1990 József Antall, the Hungarian Prime Minister himself, paid a visit to the centre of the Alliance. The next milestone was December 1991, when Hungary, together with several former

<sup>3</sup> *United Nations Organisation*, abbreviated as UN(O), in French and Spanish ONU, It was founded in 1945 with the aim of preventing wars and promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts between countries through negotiation. At the time of writing this article the UN has 193 members, including almost all of the recognised independent states. Source: [hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyesült\\_Nemzetek\\_Szervezete](http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyesült_Nemzetek_Szervezete) (17:54, 30.12.2013)

<sup>4</sup> *The principle of collective defence*: this principle is at the very heart of NATO's founding treaty. It binds its members together, committing them to protect each other and setting a spirit of solidarity. Source: [www.honvedelem.hu/cikk/22953/nato-csucs-elott-a-kollektiv-vedelem](http://www.honvedelem.hu/cikk/22953/nato-csucs-elott-a-kollektiv-vedelem) (18:41, 31.12.2013)

<sup>5</sup> *Afghanistan war*: it started in 1980 during the presidency of Jimmy Carter, a democrat, the 39<sup>th</sup> president of the US. Every American administration has been involved in it ever since. The Afghan conflict is the longest the US has ever been involved in, and it is also the most complex security policy challenge in the Middle East. Source: <http://hetek.hu/kulfold/201007/30> eve tart az afgan haboru (04:50, 30.12.2013)

<sup>6</sup> *Lebanon war 2006*: also known as the 34 day Israeli-Lebanese war, which was a military conflict between the Israeli military and Hezbollah forces in South Lebanon. In Lebanon 1187 people were killed and 4092 were injured. The number of civilian casualties was extremely high. Source: [http://www.zmne.hu/kulso/mhht/hadtudomany/2007/1/2007\\_1\\_8.pdf](http://www.zmne.hu/kulso/mhht/hadtudomany/2007/1/2007_1_8.pdf) (21:19, 04.01.2014)

<sup>7</sup> *Gaza Offensive – Israeli Hamas conflict*: On 27 December 2008 Israel launched Operation Cast Lead with the aim of annihilating the alleged armed infrastructure of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, using its air force. Source: <http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki> (21:13 04.01.2014)

<sup>8</sup> *Géza Jeszenszky*: Foreign Minister of the Republic of Hungary between 23 May, 1990 and 15 July 1994. As a member of Hungary's first democratically elected government after the change of regime, he played an important role in forming Hungary's foreign relations. Source: <http://www.parlament.hu/kepviselo/eletj229.htm> (02:32, 03.01.2014)

members of the Warsaw Pact became the founding member of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC),<sup>9</sup> which was established by the Allies as a forum for cooperation and dialogue on security policy issues with their former adversaries. Another important step in the cooperation between Hungary and NATO was our joining the Partnership for Peace (PfP)<sup>10</sup> programme, which was launched at the Brussels Summit on 10-11 January 1994. The most important elements of the Partnership were military cooperation programmes tailored to the needs of the individual partner states. [5] – [6]

Further strong cooperation between Hungary and NATO can be seen in the efforts made to stabilize Bosnia and Herzegovina. The IFOR and SFOR<sup>11</sup> operations lasted from December 1995 to 2004, during which Hungary provided Host Nation Support for the NATO and partner contingents taking part in the operations and also contributed its own contingent. Our participation greatly contributed to the fact that at the Madrid Summit in 1997 Hungary was invited to start accession talks with NATO. [5]

The next most important date is 8 July, 1997, when at its Madrid Summit NATO invited Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic to start accession talks. The final communiqué of the NATO Madrid Summit stated: "Today we invite the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to start accession talks with NATO. Our aim is to sign the Accession Protocol at the meeting of the ministers in December 1997, and to finish the ratification process on time, so that the named countries can be the members of the Organization before the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Washington Treaty." [7]

The above mentioned aim was reached and on 12 March 1999 Hungary became a fully-fledged NATO member. As one of the events leading up to our NATO membership, the referendum held on 16 November 1997 must be mentioned, the result of which was published by the National Election Committee in the 1998/4 issue of Magyar Közlöny. The proposal that the Republic of Hungary should ensure the defence of the country by joining NATO" was approved by 85.3% of voters, 41.50 % of all people eligible to vote, with a voter turnout of 49.2%. [8]

In the forthcoming I wish to discuss the military reform steps following the result of the referendum and preceding our NATO accession.

#### PREPARATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – THE MILITARY TRANSFORMATION IN HUNGARY

The result of the referendum ensured the necessary public support for Euro-Atlantic integration, which was one of the important aims of the regime change. [8]

Our commitment to the Alliance necessitated the acceleration of the military reform, as a result of which on 1 September 1997, a combined Defence Staff as well as General Staffs for the different services of the armed forces were set up, which fulfilled the traditional general staff functions – formulating defence requirements, data gathering, analysis, organisation, cooperation, supervision, advising – in accordance with the practice of NATO countries. The Chief of the Defence Staff<sup>12</sup> was a four-star general with the status of state secretary, who was also the number one deputy of the commander of the armed forces. It can be stated that in the interest of establishing civil control over the military, two

<sup>9</sup> *North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC)*: It was established by NATO in 1991 after the end of the cold war. It was the manifestation of the „hand of friendship” extended to both the former members of the Warsaw Pact and the new states born after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Source: <http://www.nato.int/docu/review/2007/issue2/hungarian/art5.html> (21.40, 04. 01. 2014)

<sup>10</sup> *Partnership for Peace (PfP)*: It was formed by NATO and 23 other states. Activities under the PfP programme include peace-keeping and disaster response exercises and programmes aimed at military-to-military cooperation between the member states. Source: <http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/Békepartnerség> (03:31, 03. 01. 2014)

<sup>11</sup> *SFOR*: Stabilization Force, a NATO-led multinational peace support operation in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It followed IFOR (Implementation Force) which existed for one year. Both operations were among NATO's first peace support operations. Source: <http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/SFOR> (04:39, 03. 01. 2014)

<sup>12</sup> *Chief of Defence: Ferenc Végh* was appointed Commander of the Hungarian Armed Forces and Chief of the Defence Staff on 7 June, 1996. He was followed by Lieutenant General Lajos Fodor on 1 August 1999. Source: [www.honvedelem.hu/cikk/14500](http://www.honvedelem.hu/cikk/14500) ( 06:25, 03. 01. 2014)

years before our NATO accession, a defence staff, NATO-compatible in all respects, was set up, which as a military part of the MoD was ready to be integrated into the ministry. [7] – [9]

Our accession to NATO was facilitated by further measures, all of which had the general aim of improving the capability of the Hungarian Defence Forces to cooperate with NATO, including the development of communications systems, preparation for joining the integrated air defence system and improving the foreign language skills of officers and non-commissioned officers. The main aim of the transformations was no longer the achievement of fully-fledged NATO membership but to create a modern and credible military force which is capable of meeting the challenges of modern warfare and of providing defence for the country more effectively than the previous system. [7]

I would like to discuss what opportunities we were given after our accession to prove our commitment to NATO, firstly through the description of the Kosovo crisis, one of the most challenging conflicts of our times from the point of view of security policy, and then through the analysis of the role we played in managing the crisis.

#### AFTER THE ACCESSION – PROVING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE

##### KOSOVO – THE ANTECEDENTS OF THE CRISIS

The ethnic conflicts in Kosovo broke out in 1987 and started the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia. Besides the approximately 250,000 Serbs nearly 2 million Albanians lived in the province, who declared their independence in 1990 but it was not recognized by any of the states of the world. The Serbian government reacted by starting the process of centralization and 'Serbianized' the administration and education, and also planned to settle even more Serbs in the region. Following the Albanian resistance, the clashes between the Serbian police and the Albanian protesters became permanent. The Dayton Peace Accords<sup>13</sup> did not resolve the problem because they did not offer a solution to the Kosovo crisis. [10]

##### HUNGARY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE EFFORT TO SETTLE THE KOSOVO CRISIS

Only a few days after our accession – 12 March 1999 – we had the opportunity to prove our commitment to NATO. At 2000hrs CET on 24 March 1999 the Alliance launched Operation Allied Force, the air campaign in Yugoslavia, in which Hungary provided comprehensive support for the allied forces involved. The armed forces of 13 NATO member states – Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Great Britain and the United States – directly took part in the operation, in the first stages with about 600 aircraft, including 430 fighters. However, the overwhelming majority (90%) of the air strikes were conducted by American aircraft, the involvement of the other countries being merely symbolic or not combat-related. The other six NATO members, including Hungary, were involved in the air operations, which ended on 9 June 1999, by allowing the use of their territory and airspace, providing logistic support and personnel for the allied HQs. [5] – [11] – [12]

*During the war against Yugoslavia Hungary received a request from NATO to take part in the operations indirectly only and that is what Hungary did.* The outline of our participation is as follows:

##### IN THE AREA OF THE USE OF OUR AIRSPACE:

From the beginning to the end of the fighting various types of Alliance aircraft were authorized to use the Hungarian airspace. At first it meant E-3 AWACS reconnaissance aircraft regularly patrolling Hungarian airspace, and later U-2,

<sup>13</sup> *Dayton Accords*: peace agreement signed outside Dayton, Ohio on 21 November 1995 by the presidents of Bosnia (Alija Izetbegovic), Croatia (Franjo Tudjman) and Serbia (Slobodan Milosevic), ending the war in Bosnia. Source: <http://www.mult-kor.hu/cikk.php?id=11359> (12:36, 03. 01. 2014)

Canberra and other types of reconnaissance aircraft also flew over Hungary. After the bombing campaign started our airspace was used by B-52, F-111 and Tornado aircraft, which were deployed from bases in England and Germany. The American F-16s flew sorties from Aviano air base in Italy, also crossing Hungarian airspace. In order to ensure the undisturbed use of our airspace, from 1900hrs on 24 March 1999 NATO started monitoring and controlling our airspace to the south of the Szombathely-Szolnok-Szeged line in the south western part of Hungary, and at the same time closed the airspace between 4,500 and 12,000 meters to civilian air traffic. [12]

NATO used Taszár Air Base and Ferihegy civilian airport for its operations, and a further two airfields – Kecskemét and Pápa – were also assigned as reserve airfields. During the air campaign a total of 210 air strikes were conducted by the F/A 18D Hornets deployed to Taszár, and the aircraft transporting the necessary bombs, fuel and missiles were also received there. Ferihegy played an important role in the air operations because it was used by the KC-135 mid-air refuelling aircraft which were deployed there and served the fighters flying across and back. [12]

NATO did not require any form of Hungarian involvement in combat activities in the course of the airstrikes against Yugoslavia, and no such activities were carried out. For a certain period Hungarian MIG-29 fighters patrolled the airspace along the border with Yugoslavia but it disturbed NATO activities. Our aircraft identification system was not compatible with similar systems of the Alliance, and moreover, the Yugoslavian Air Force also possessed MIG-29 fighters. For these reasons, at NATO's request and in the interest of avoiding serious consequences, patrolling activities by Hungarian aircraft were stopped. [12]

#### HUNGARIAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN BETWEEN 2006 AND MARCH 2013

Since 2003 Hungary has been increasingly involved in the multinational NATO effort in Afghanistan contributing to the multinational stabilization process in accordance with our burden-bearing capabilities. The perception of Hungary within NATO has significantly improved when in October 2006 we took over command of the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT)<sup>14</sup> in Baghlan province from the Netherlands. Full operational capability was achieved by 1 April 2007, the PRT's main objectives being making sure that the population of the province had access to good quality drinking water and adequate health care as well as providing assistance in establishing and operating the structures of public administration, the justice system, the system of education and agriculture and facilitating infrastructural development. The Hungarian soldiers were helped by soldiers from Montenegro, Croatia and Albania. [13] – [2]

The soldiers serving in the PRT did not only perform military tasks but they were also involved in civil-military cooperation (CIMIC)<sup>15</sup> projects in order to improve the living conditions of the population and develop the infrastructure. In the period between 2008 and 2010 Hungary spent more than 1 billion forints on development projects in Afghanistan. The budget allocated for Hungarian development activities came from the ministries concerned and civil organisations, such as the Baptist Aid, the Hungarian Interchurch Aid and the Institute for Democratic Reform. Since the sum allocated by the Hungarian government for development projects was rather modest, foreign partners had to be found to supplement our resources. As a result of the successful international cooperation with Greece and Japan and through the European Commission Support to Provincial Governance Programme another 600 million forints were available for

<sup>14</sup> *Baghlan*: one of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Its capital is Puli Khumri. From 2006 Hungary was the lead nation of the local Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT). Source: <http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki> (14:49, 03. 01. 2014)

<sup>15</sup> *CIMIC – Civil-Military Cooperation*: the coordination between and cooperation of the commander and the civilian authorities, including national and local authorities, international, national, governmental and non-governmental organisations, agencies and the local population in order to achieve the mission of the operation. Source: [http://scsp.hu/test/head/edu/c4/01\\_hu.htm](http://scsp.hu/test/head/edu/c4/01_hu.htm) (15:06, 03. 01. 2014).

the Hungarian PRT. The development projects were tailored to the needs of Baghlan province and the local population as well as to the goals of Afghanistan's Development Strategy.<sup>16</sup> [13]

The Provincial Reconstruction Team in Baghlan province completed its mission in March 2013. Until then the Hungarian soldiers were involved in 387 educational projects, in which they built 8 elementary schools and extended or rebuilt a further 12. They also established 9 hospitals, developed 13 in-patient clinics, drilled 41 wells and laid a 16-kilometre-long water pipeline. They distributed 329 tonnes of food and 20,000 blankets, tents and stoves among the needy, they improved 10 kilometres of electrical network, built or reconstructed 54 kilometres of road and built a 2.8-kilometre-long flood defence using 72,300 sandbags.

Camp Pannonia was the only Hungarian-led base in Afghanistan, where more than 2.500 soldiers did six-month tours, some of them doing not one but three or even four tours. As a result of the fortification and extension works carried out in the last few years, quoting Brig. Gen. László Domján's words, "the base meets all security requirements and at the same time reflects Hungarian military and cultural traditions". The handover was negotiated by an Afghan-Hungarian mixed provincial committee and the camp was taken over by the Afghan National Security Forces, who are still operating it at the time of writing this article. [15]

Starting in March 2013 Hungary transformed its participation in the Afghan effort, and as a result, the Hungarian PRT contingent was withdrawn from Baghlan province and our development activity was completed. The international processes serve as an explanation: NATO troops are pulling out of Afghanistan in 2014. The decision-in-principle about the transformation of Hungarian involvement was already made by the Afghan leaders, NATO chiefs and Hungary at the Chicago NATO Summit<sup>17</sup> on 20-21 May 2012. [14]

In the following I am going to describe Hungary's current involvement in the Afghan effort.

## THE TRANSFORMATION OF HUNGARY'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFGHAN EFFORT FROM 2013

### THE PROTECTION OF KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

From October 2012 to September 2013 specially trained soldiers from the HDF 25<sup>th</sup> György Klapka Infantry Brigade and the HDF 5<sup>th</sup> István Bocskai Infantry Brigade of the Hungarian Defence Forces protected Kabul International Airport. Hungary took over the task, which at the beginning of 2013 was carried by 20 Hungarian and 65 Portuguese soldiers, from the Belgian Army. Col. László Benda, the Force Protection Group Commander said in January 2013 that the preparations for the 2014 withdrawal were already under way, and as a result there was already a significant increase in the traffic at the airport of the Afghan capital. At the time over 5,000 people from 35 countries were working at the airport/airbase and passenger movements could reach 13,000 per month. The airport is situated in the north of Kabul and together with its catchment area it is about 15 kilometres wide and 18 kilometres long. [14] – [16]

As a result of the support provided by the civilian population living in the vicinity of Kabul International Airport, the soldiers protecting the airport could perform their tasks in a safer environment. Similarly to the no longer existing PRT, CIMIC work was carried out and it greatly contributed to the recognition of the soldiers serving there. The responsibilities of the Hungarian CIMIC officer working at the airport did not only include the organization of civil-military events but also

<sup>16</sup> *Afghanistan's National Development Strategy (ANDS)*: it focuses on the establishment of self-sustaining economic conditions, including the creation of jobs, the promotion of the rule of law and the development of education and agriculture. Source: [http://www.kormany.hu/download/0/7b/20000/magyarorszag\\_a\\_NATO-ban.pdf](http://www.kormany.hu/download/0/7b/20000/magyarorszag_a_NATO-ban.pdf) (15:21, 03. 01. 2014)

<sup>17</sup> *Chicago NATO Summit*: It was held in May 2012. The leaders of the NATO-member countries endorsed an exit strategy for the War in Afghanistan and declared their long-term commitment to Afghanistan. Source: [http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012-es\\_chicagoi\\_NATO-csúcstalálkozó](http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012-es_chicagoi_NATO-csúcstalálkozó) (16:33, 03. 01. 2014)

## HADTUDOMÁNYI SZEMLE

BEKES Katalin

Budapest, 2014.  
7. évfolyam 1. szám

establishing good relations with the local population. In the Malik<sup>18</sup> meetings held in May 2013 the representatives of the local communities asked the contingent to support the agriculture in the area – it being their only source of income – and through this support the local farmers were given pesticides. [17]

I think it is important to note that the ROLE-3<sup>19</sup> field hospital at KAIA<sup>20</sup> North, with a Hungarian doctor and two Hungarian nurses on the staff, provides medical treatment basically for the sick and wounded of the NATO forces, at the same time trying to help the local population as much as possible. [17]

Now I would like to answer the following question: How much did the Hungarian involvement in the Afghan effort cost the Hungarians, the Hungarian state? In answer to this question I am going to rely on the statement made by Csaba Hende, Minister of Defence in August 2012 and published in HVG magazine, which gives a rough answer.

## AFGHANISTAN – ON THE STATE’S EXPENDITURE SIDE

According to August 2012 data, the Afghan involvement cost the Hungarian state on average 10 to 12 billion forints per year. The minister of defence also emphasized that the Hungarian Defence Forces would continue to carry out training and advisory tasks in Afghanistan – in accordance with our previous commitment – and from 2015 for three years we offered to contribute 500,000 dollars annually to the development and modernisation of the Afghan forces. [14]

## AFGHANISTAN – WHAT MAY BE THE FUTURE?

Afghanistan is an extremely complex country both in terms of politics and religion, and it is also characterized by very unfavourable geographical conditions. The barren central regions, which are difficult to access, have managed to preserve their relative independence and autonomy even though empires and dynasties have changed over history. The tribal system has remained almost unchanged in spite of the various attempts to conquer the country or to create a central power. Many centuries of traditions, tribal customs and laws have been sustained, and the lives of the population are determined by an entanglement of alliances and armed conflicts. [18]

The questions for me are the following: Are NATO and its allies able to make peace in this ethnically complex country, where tribal relations and many centuries of customary laws prevail? Did Hungary’s involvement in the multinational efforts contribute to the creation of an internal equilibrium and balanced development of the country? Only the future can answer these questions. [18]

## SUMMARY - DEDUCTIONS

Lt. Col. Mohammad-Salim Ahmadi (ANA<sup>21</sup>) said in an interview at the beginning of December 2013: “The Hungarians are better than the others – they are kinder and treat people with respect. They don’t behave as oppressors”. This and all the other positive feedback that I have not mentioned suggest that the Hungarian soldiers are capable of international involvement and of high level representation of common interests within NATO. I am convinced that the experience gained and the capabilities acquired in Afghanistan have to be utilized even after the end of our mission there, and they have to be passed on to the next ‘generation’. I think that – in accordance with what was said at the NATO meeting in Budapest last year – the West Balkan and the region of Kosovo could be those areas where Hungarian soldiers could be deployed in the interest of maintaining security. [19]

<sup>18</sup> *Malik*: local tribal chief in Afghanistan, the representative of local communities; in this case the local chiefs living in the vicinity of the Kabul Airport. Source: [www.honvedelem.hu/cikk/38707](http://www.honvedelem.hu/cikk/38707) (17:06, 03. 01. 2014)

<sup>19</sup> *KAIA*: Kabul International Airport. Source: <http://www.ourairports.com/airports/OAKB> (18:01, 03. 01. 2014)

<sup>20</sup> *ROLE-3*: civilian or field hospital care. If there is a civilian hospital in the area, it will be turned into a field hospital, and if it is not possible, treatment will be carried out in the army’s own hospital. The injured receive specialized care and also postoperative care, which can even last 3 to 4 weeks. Source: <http://www.katonasuli.hu/cikk/85> (18:00, 03. 01. 2014)

<sup>21</sup> *ANA* – Afghan National Army

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BEKES Katalin

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*Key words: NATO, UN, collective defence, IFOR/SFOR, Dayton Peace Accords, PRT, CIMIC, Kabul International Airport*

*Kulcsszavak: NATO, ENSZ, kollektív védelem, IFOR/SFOR, daytoni békemegállapodás, PRT, CIMIC, Kabul Nemzetközi Repülőtér*

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