

# Military Responses to Unintentional Threats

Unintentional and natural threats to security (BSSb1194)

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Source: idnes.cz



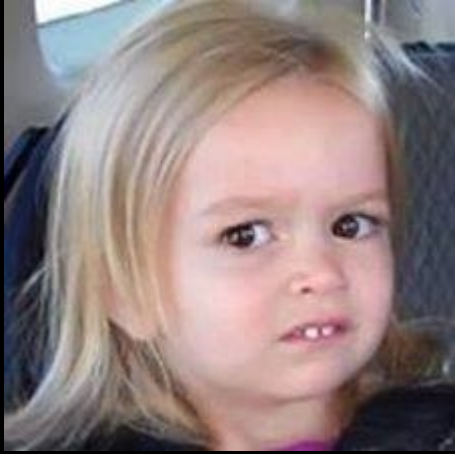
Source: natoaktual.cz

# Outline-ish

- Civil Defence.
- Czech Army – COVID-19; floods, strategic documents, legal framework.
- CIMIC.
- Militaries in (international) humanitarian relief.
- COVID-19 and militaries + positive, negative impacts.



Source: lowyinstitute



# Warm-up

What are unintentional threats?

# Unintentional threats definitions



- 'A threat can be **foremost a natural phenomenon** defined in terms of physics etc., e.g., a **natural disaster**. We call such a threat unintentional' (Zeman et al., 2002, p. 55).
- (Buzan, Waever, De Wilde, 1998, pp. 156-157) - Unintentional threats also as:
  - accidental, one-time threats;
  - 'unavoidable, interlocking, inadvertent' threats due to security conflicts between or among states and their conflicting principles (e.g., definition of Estonia as a threat to Russian minority and Russia).

Where does  
the military  
stand in the  
crisis  
management  
?

*(Alexander, 2002 as cited  
in Coppola, 2011, p. 10)*

*Winkler's (1997) equation of risk as cited in Zeman (2002, p. 63)*



*Source: War on the Rocks*



*Source: iRozhlas.cz*



*Source: Defense Logistic Agency*



*Source: ecns.cn*

# Civil Defence (Protection)

- (Carpet) bombing runs in WWI (zeppelins) and WWII.
- Focus on WMDs during the Cold War era.
- After the CW thought to be outdated...  
...but terrorism, pandemics, climate crisis, rogue states and Russia said nope → increased demand for survival and resilience (Cronqvist, Farbøl and Sylvest, 2022).
- Shift: intentional threats only → incl. unintentional ones.



Internationally recognized symbol of the CD units; rooted in the IHL.

# Czech Civil Defence (SH ČMS, n.d.)

- 1951-1993 (*civilní obrana*)
- 1993 - 'Civil Protection' (*civilní ochrana*)
- 2001 – moved from the DoD to DoI (zákon č. 239/2000 Sb. – Integrated Rescue System) – fire dept (*ochrana obyvatelstva*)
- From original 5 military rescue batalions only 2 companies (under the 15<sup>th</sup> engineer regiment).



Source: Požáry.cz



army operational units		commanded by	
field army (2–5 corps)		★★★★★	general
corps (2–7 divisions)	50,000 to 300,000 troops	★★★	lieutenant general
division (2–3 brigades or regiments)	7,000 to 22,000 troops	★★	major general
brigade or regiment (3 battalions)	2,000 to 8,000 troops	★ brigadier general	or colonel
battalion (2–5 companies)	400 to 1,200 troops		lieutenant colonel
company (2–4 platoons)	100 to 250 troops		captain
platoon (3–4 squads)	20 to 50 troops		lieutenant

Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica

# 15<sup>th</sup> Czech Army's Engineer Regiment



- 3 battalions – 2 in Bechyně, 1 in Olomouc
- (non)combat engineer support for the Czech Army, suppressing enemy's activity, rescue activities, support of the IRS, humanitarian tasks



Source: AČR



# Sweden - 2018

<https://rib.msb.se/filer/pdf/28706.pdf>

Are countries without  
the CD irresponsible  
towards their  
citizens?

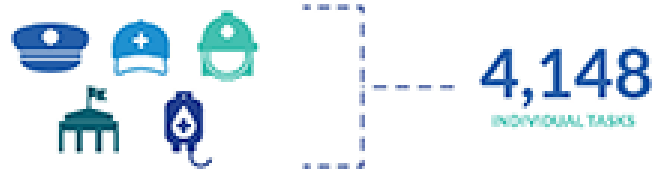
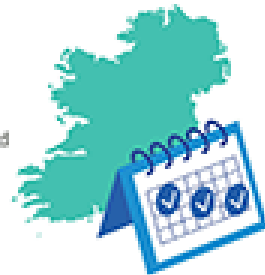
# Case 1: Irish Civil Defence during COVID-19

## 2021 Civil Defence Response to Covid-19 Pandemic

From  
1<sup>st</sup> January 2021  
- 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Civil Defence completed 4,148 COVID-19 related taskings while providing sustained support to communities throughout the country.

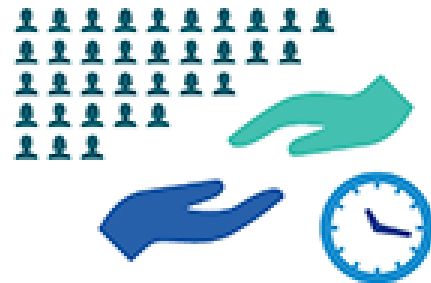
Support was also provided to the Irish Blood Transfusion Service.



A total of 4,148 individual taskings were undertaken in support to the Principal Response Agencies, and the Irish Blood Transfusion Service.

DURING  
THIS 365 DAY  
PERIOD:

A daily average of  
**23**  
Civil Defence  
volunteers  
provided a daily average of  
**114**  
volunteer hours.



A total of  
**41,721**  
volunteer hours  
were provided by over  
**900** different Civil  
Defence volunteers.



These volunteers  
were supported by a  
fleet of Civil Defence  
Vehicles including:

**54**  
FOUR WHEEL  
DRIVE VEHICLES



**13**  
VANS



**27**  
AMBULANCES



**10**  
MINIBUSES



An Roinn Cosanta  
Department of Defence

# Case 2: Czech Army during COVID-19 (AČR, 2021)

- Around **15,000** personnel deployed → the largest Czech military op.
- Over **13 ops** – border patrols deployment, IRS support, logistics (incl. 'Condor flights'), deployment in homes for the elderly, clever quarantine, Litovel area lockdown, mixed police-army patrols etc.

# Czech Army floods mitigation efforts

- 2009 – aftermath liquidation with 8020 deployed personnel and 2047 vehicles.



Source: idnes.cz



# Relevant Czech legal framework

- The Armed Forces Law (zákon č. 219/1999 Sb.)
  - Main task for the AF defined as the defence against external threats.
  - **Rescue and humanitarian international missions.**
  - AČR can be tasked with helping the police, with a **response to a natural disasters** and other serious events that can result in **significant public health risks** or property damage.
  - BTW - What do the Czech Armed Forces consist of?
- Marginal mention in the z. č. 240/2000 Sb. (430/2010 Sb.).





# Relevant Czech strategic security documents

- Conception of Civil Protection until 2025 (up to 2030) – HZS ČR.
  - Does not mention Czech AF.
  - Previous version (...until 2020): AČR as a potential part of the rescue system and as liquidator (its role is regulated by a framework agreement between the DoD and DoI).
- Czech Army Doctrine 2004 - 'Support ops' - humanitarian relief to the citizens, civil administration and organizations.



Source: [army.cz](http://army.cz)

# Relevant Czech strategic security documents

- Long-term Prospect for Defence 2035 – emphasis also on civil support during states of crisis and support for the IRS (especially the engineer corps).
- The POKOS programme (and its conception 2014-2024).



Source: [army.cz](http://army.cz)

Militaries  
and  
(international  
)  
humanitarian  
relief



Source: [cgdev.org](http://cgdev.org)

- Humanitarian assistance as identified as MOOTW (mil. ops other than war).
- Contribution to humanitarian supply chains and logistics – main roles:
  - security and protection;
  - distribution;
  - engineering. (Barber, 2012)
- Civil-military cooperation/coordination (103rd Centre CIMIC).



Source: CIMIC-COE



Source: válka.cz

# Recognize this unit?



Source: [seabeehf.org](http://seabeehf.org)



# United States Naval Construction Battalions



# A military definition of logistics (Barber, 2012)

‘The **science** of planning and carrying out the movement and maintenance of forces... those aspects of military operations that deal with the design and development, acquisition, storage, movement, distribution, maintenance, evacuation and disposition of material; movement, evacuation, and hospitalization of personnel; acquisition of construction, maintenance, operation and disposition of facilities; and the acquisition of furnishing of services’ (p. 124).

- Rapid response (capabilities to distribute, shelter, sanitize, evacuate, construct, liquidate etc.) → main characteristic ‘capacity for preparedness’ (p. 128).
- Military logistics are mostly appreciated in the early stage of a crisis situation.
- 2005 Hurricane Katrina – large military supply convoys for New Orleans.



Source: czdefence

# CIMIC in Humanitarian Relief

- Not so smooth – differences among various militaries.
  - Principles, doctrines, agendas, SOPs etc.).
- CIMIC humanitarian dimension not new - Napoleonic Wars, WWI/II (Marshall Plan), Berlin Airlift, Yugoslavia, Rwanda etc.
- conceptual confusion - the 'C' in CIMIC
  - 'Collaboration: working with others on a joint project.
  - Coordination: integrating diverse elements in an harmonious operation.
  - Cooperation: promoting assistance or awillingness to assist' (OED, 2000 as cited in Heaslip, 2012, p. 152).



(Too) many actors

Humanitarian Aid Supply Network (Kovács and Spens, 2008, p. 223 as cited in Heaslip, 2012, p. 151)

# Challenges (Heaslip, 2012)

1. Coordination with other actors.
  - Parallel activities, and duplication avoidance, time-sensitive tasks, military sense of precedence etc.--> planning and negotiation.
  - → (non)UN cluster groups (e.g., Haiti earthquake aftermath):
    - Water, sanitation and hygiene – chaired by UNICEF.
    - Health cluster – chaired by WHO etc.
2. Culture – military and civilian especially.
3. Resource and capability gap – how to get relief resources to the disaster area?
  - Elements of uncertainty and randomness of disasters.
  - UNJLC – UN Joint Logistics Centre – logistics information services.



1. Financial and human resources.
  - Focus often on short-term funding.
  - Donors negligent towards strengthening organizational capacity and capability.
  - → available aid, no one to deliver.
2. Infrastructure degradation.
3. Comms (e.g., incompatible radios).
4. Personality
  - Success of collaboration depends on the field-level personnel rather than SOPs
  - high rate of staff turnover, differences in cultures and chain of command, comms breakdown, absence of communication procedures, refusal of military aid due to independence and impartiality, threat of use of force by military.



Source: L3Harris



**COVID-19 and militaries + how  
did the pandemic impact the  
armed forces?**



Intro  
(Michaud et al., 2019;  
Kleiner, 2022)

- Wartime rhetoric (Macron, Trump, Babiš etc.) → massive deployment of militaries.
- WMDs protection units, research facilities etc.
- Usually medical assets deployed after a disaster.
- Need to separate infected and uninfected can be a challenge → need of close communication with local authorities – can be also challenging (CIMIC).
- Military is driven by defence and security objectives – can be problematic in global health issues.

# Ramification S

- Austerity cuts – defence ministries often come first (Zandee et al., 2020).
  - Why are ad hoc defence budgetary cuts harmful for the military (see Kufčák, 2015)?
- Regular military activities harder or impossible to perform (Kalkman, 2020).
- Mental toll on deployed personnel (Gupta et al., 2020; Lázaro-Pérez et al., 2020).
- Personal toll (families – children).
- Enforcement of public-restraintment measures.

# Positive impacts (Kleiner, 2022)

- Public opinion – PR campaigns (e.g., British – see Kennard and Glenton, 2020).
- Also after floods – public support of 33% (1997) → 74% (2019) (STEM, 2021).
- Kalkman (2020) – the worth of taxpayers' money.

# Wrap-up

- Civil Defence (Protection) units still operational
- Military as an actor in all phases of the Crisis management cycle.
- Military as a capable fast-responder (mainly logistics, but also combat engineers, scientists etc.).
- Military has its own interests (dealing with ramifications of a crisis, PR campaigns, defence and security).
- The importance of CIMIC (among other things mitigating ramifications of the military-civil cooperation during humanitarian relief efforts).





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Thank you for your  
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Questions?

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