



Course: Security management

Theme: Security system of the Czech Republic

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Introduction

The Czech Republic's security is based on the principle of safeguarding the security of the individual and protecting his life, health and property. The successful practice of this principle relies on the safeguarding of the security of state institutions, including their full operational capability, and the development of processes and tools intended to strengthen the security and protection of the population.

1. Essential terms

SECURITY SYSTEM

What is "SECURITY"?

Security is a state, when risks are lowered at the lowest possible level of threats upon specific object and its interests (*general national state, also international organization*)

- **security** (passive, steps, measures, activities, e.g. safety belt); The state of being free from danger or threat
- **safety** (active, e.g. security guard). The condition of being protected from or unlikely to cause danger, risk, or injury

Security is a complex term – that is related to:

- ✓ *threats.....that danger security,*
- ✓ *measures, instrument, institution.....that should have security ensure and protect,*
- ✓ *objects..... that security should have protect.*

National security

...is a state when object (national state as whole or to its significant attributes) does not suffer great danger of -

- sovereignty,
- territorial integrity,
- basics of political organization,
- internal order and safety,
- life and health of citizens
- property values and environment.

*not even his allies are exposed to threats that would require military or other risky intervention in case of their activation. .

2. The structure and components of the security system

Legal norm

- *Constitution of the Czech Republic*
- laws and regulations:
 - *Constitution Act No. 110/1998 Coll., on Security of the Czech Republic*

- Act No. 222/1999 Coll., on *Securing Defence of the Czech Republic*
- Act No. 219/1999 Coll., on *Armed Forces of the Czech Republic*, as amended
- Act No. 585/2004 Coll., on *Compulsory Military Service and its ensuring*

“Crisis laws”

- Act No. 238/2000 Coll., on *the Fire Rescue Service of CR* and on the modification of certain codes, in latter wording
- Act No. 239/2000 Coll., on *the Integrated Rescue System* and on the modification of certain codes, in latter wording
- Act No. 240/2000 Coll., on *Crisis Management* and on amendments of certain acts (Crisis Act)
- Act No. 241/ 2000 Coll., on *Emergency Economic Measures* and on amendment of some associated Acts, as amended;

Security System consists of individual components:

- legislative,
- executive,
- juridical,
- local and regional government, legal entities and individuals that have responsibility for security ensuring of the Czech Republic.

One institutional security policy instrument is **an appropriate security system**, the basic function of which is to integrate, coordinate and manage its individual components and react flexibly to any threats that arise.



To safeguard its security interests, the Czech Republic creates and develops a comprehensive, hierarchically organized security system which is a combination of the political (domestic and foreign), military, internal security, population protection, economic, financial, legislative, legal and social levels.

The primary basis of this system is to express legislatively the competence and mutual links of the individual components (legislative, executive, juridical, local and regional government, legal entities and individuals:

- President of the Republic
- the Parliament of the Czech Republic,
- the Government
- The National Security Council and its working bodies (The Committee for Foreign Security Policy Coordination, The Defence Planning Committee, The Civil Emergency Planning Committee, The Intelligence Activity Committee)
- Central, regional and municipal authorities,
- The armed forces
- The armed security corps,
- Intelligence services,
- Rescue and emergency services.

As the supreme executive authority, the Government is responsible for the management and operational capability of the entire security system. A functional security system is not only a tool for the effective management of military and non-military crises, but also ensures the prevention of and preparations for potential crisis situations and their early identification and warning.



The Security System of the Czech Republic

= The primary basis of this system is to express legislatively the competence and mutual links of the individual components (legislative, executive, juridical, local and regional government, legal entities and individuals) and their links outside the security system, to establish their duties.

The security system provides an institutional framework/tool for the creation and implementation of the Czech Republic's security policy.

The basic function of the Czech Republic's security system is to manage and coordinate the activities of the individual component parts responsible for safeguarding the security interests of the Czech Republic.

The security of the Czech Republic cannot be just a matter for those components which are explicitly designated for this, but should also involve central and local government bodies, legal entities and individuals to the extent set out in law.

The President of the Republic

The second summit of the executive power in the Czech Republic beside the Government is the President. The role of the President in the constitutional system of the Czech Republic is relatively weak. From the point of view of security and defence policy, the President has the only significant authority – he is the commander-in-chief of the armed forces and his competence covers commanding the Military Office and the Castle Guard.

The Military Office ensures the performing of administrative tasks connected with the executing of the function of the commander-in-chief and the Castle Guard is an autonomous unit, in fact independent on the Army of the Czech Republic, and its obligation is defence of the president and carrying on the ceremonial functions.

The President is bound to respect the decisions of the Government and the Parliament in the security and defence area, still, his role of a representative of the country is irreplaceable.

The Government

According to the Constitution and its novelization, primary responsibility for security and defence of the country is entrusted with the Government as a supreme executive organ. The Government is responsible for preparation and securing the defence of the country. In order to secure the defence of the country in peace time, the Government:

- a) Assesses the risks of threat to the country which might be a cause for armed conflict and takes necessary measures to reduce and possibly eliminate such risks
- b) Passes strategic concept of the country's defence (in the form of documents which will be treated of later),
- c) Directs the process of defensive planning,
- d) Decides on basic measures for preparation for defence,
- e) Decides on basic directions of construction, preparation and use of armed forces and securing the defence of the country,
- f) Passes the concept of mobilization of armed forces,
- g) Passes the concept of preparation of citizens for defence of the country,
- h) Assigns tasks to ministers and heads of other administrative offices and municipalities to carry out its decisions,
- i) Decides on other unforeseeable tasks necessary to secure the defence of the country.

In order to secure the defence of the country in emergency or war time, the Government:

- a) draws conclusions from military-political assessment of international relations and decides on realization of necessary measures to avoid armed conflict and increase the country's preparedness for defence,
- b) decides on measures to ensure effective functioning of the defence system,



- c) decides on priorities in performing tasks connected with ensuring the defence of the country,
- d) decides on measures necessary to wage war.

The Government also decides on sending out armed forces of the Czech Republic outside the territory of the Czech Republic and deployment of other countries' armed forces on the territory of the Czech Republic for maximum period of 60 days in the following cases:

- a) fulfilling the bonds of international contracts of common defence against aggression,
- b) participation in peace operations according to decision of an international organization of which the Czech Republic is a member with the agreement of the receiving country,
- c) participation in rescue operations during natural disasters and industrial or ecological emergencies.

Likewise it decides on other countries' armed forces transport across the territory of the Czech Republic and on participation of armed forces of the Czech Republic in military trainings outside the territory of the Czech Republic and on participation of other countries' armed forces in military trainings on the territory of the Czech Republic

The Parliament

The controlling role and decisive power in security issues of high importance is entrusted with the two-chamber Parliament of the Czech Republic. The Government is obliged to inform both chambers of the Parliament about all important decisions. The Parliament can rule out the Government's decision in case of disapproval.

The Parliament decides to declare the state of war if the Czech Republic is attacked or if it is necessary to fulfil international bonds of common defence against aggression. Further on it decides on participation of the Czech Republic in defence systems of international organizations of which the Czech Republic is a member and passes consent with sending out armed forces of the Czech Republic outside the territory of the



Czech Republic and deployment of other countries' armed forces on the territory of the Czech Republic unless such a decision is exclusive to the Government.

Both chambers of the Parliament have specialized organs dealing with the security and defence policy and their main task is assuming standpoints towards discussed legislation dealing with security and defence.

From the point of view of constitutional delimitation, bigger importance lies with the Chamber of Deputies which has more members and can rule out prospective veto of the Senate. The members of the Senate are voted for differently, the Senate has a different structure and less authority. Its role is still irreplaceable, especially in emergency situations. Due to different manner of voting into the Senate when only one third is being renewed at a time, the upper chamber is actually never dissolved and hence plays the role of a safeguard for such occasions when it is necessary to pass important decisions and the lower chamber is dissolved or defunct.

Such measures are e.g. declaring the state of emergency, state of security threat or state of war. Such states are declared if the sovereignty, territorial integrity, democratic foundations of the Czech Republic or to a large extent internal order and security, lives and health, material values or environment are in danger or if it is necessary to fulfil international bonds of common defence.

National Security Council

An important institution from the point of view of creating and carrying out security and defence policy is the National Security Council.

....is a standing body of the Government responsible for coordinating the Czech Republic's security issues and preparing draft measures to ensure the country's security.

The council was set up under Article 9 of Constitutional Act No 110/1998 on the security of the Czech Republic.

The National Security Council comprises the Prime Minister and other members of the Government in accordance with a Government decision.



The members of the council are:

1. Prime Minister
2. Minister of Labour and Social Affairs
3. Minister of Foreign Affairs
4. Minister of the Interior
5. The First Deputy Prime Minister for the Economics, Minister of Finance
6. Minister of Defence
7. Minister of Transport
8. Minister for Industry and Trade
9. Minister of Health
10. Minister of Agriculture
11. Minister of the Environment

The agenda proceedings of the council also involve the Governor of the Czech National Bank and the Chair of the Administration of the State Material Reserves.

Regularly invited are also the Chief of the General Staff – General of the Armed Forces and the Police President.

The President of the Republic is entitled to attend meetings of the National Security Council, demand reports from the National Security Council and its members and to discuss issues with the National Security Council or its members which fall within their remit.

Central Crisis Staff

...as a working body of the Council for providing solutions to crisis situations or other serious situations concerning the security interests of the Czech Republic

- a) within the sphere of control of the Minister of Defence - in the event of an external military threat to the Czech Republic, in fulfilling allied obligations abroad and in the participation of Czech armed forces in international operations for the restoration and maintenance of peace,
- b) within the sphere of control of the Minister of the Interior - in the event of other types of threat to the Czech Republic, in the provision of large scale humanitarian aid abroad and in engaging the Czech Republic in international rescue operations in the event of major accidents and natural disasters.

The fundamental obligation of the Council is to participate in creating a reliable security system, to ensure coordination and control of measures to safeguard the security of the Czech Republic and international bonds. The Council coordinates and evaluates the issue of security of the Czech Republic and prepares propositions of measures to safeguard it for the Government. National Security Council is also an organ which proposes basic documents of security and defence policy to the Government.

- **The Committee for Foreign Security Policy Coordination** – for internal coordination of the foreign security policy of the Czech Republic, within the sphere of control of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs,
- **The Defence Planning Committee** – for the coordination of the planning of measures to safeguard the defence of the Czech Republic, within the sphere of control of the Minister of Defence,
- **The Civil Emergency Planning Committee** – for the coordination and planning of measures to safeguard the internal security of the state, the population and economy and co-ordination of the requirements for civil resources, which are necessary to safeguard the security of the Czech Republic, within the sphere of control of the Minister of the Interior,
- **The Intelligence Activity Committee** – for the coordination of the activities of the intelligence services of the Czech Republic and planning measures to secure

intelligence activities and co-operation with the state bodies that gather and evaluate information necessary for safeguarding the security of the Czech Republic, within the sphere of control of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Committee does not develop any intelligence activity on its own.

3. The Integrated rescue system

The Integrated Rescue System

...is determined for co-ordination of rescue and clean-up operations in case, where a situation requires operation of forces and means of several bodies, e.g. firefighters, police, medical rescue service and other bodies, or in case, where the rescue and clean-up operation is necessary to be co-ordinated from the Ministry of Interior or by a leader of region's level, or by mayors of municipalities with extended responsibilities.

As the Integrated Rescue System are therefore considered the co-ordinated proceedings of its bodies during preparations for emergencies, and during rescue and clean-up operations.

Basic IRS bodies:

- Fire Rescue Service of CR and fire units, based on fire cover,
- Police of CR,
- Medical Rescue Service.

Other IRS bodies:

- Specified forces and means of armed bodies,
- Other armed security services,



- Other rescue services,
- Public health protection authorities,
- Emergency, stand-by, specialized and other services,
- Civil Protection establishments,
- NGOs and civil associations, which can be used for rescue and clean-up operations.

As permanent authorities for coordination of Integrated Rescue System bodies are considered the operational and information centers of the Integrated Rescue System, i.e. the operational centers of regional Fire Rescue Services and the Operational and Information Centre of the General Directorate of the Czech Fire Rescue Service.

State of Emergency

State of emergency is declared by the Government of the Czech Republic in cases of natural disasters, ecological or industrial emergencies, accidents or other danger to lives, health or material values of internal order and security. It is declared for a limited area or the entire territory of the country. If there is a danger of delay, state of emergency can be declared by the Prime Minister.

He Government confirms or rules out his decision within 24 hours since. The Government immediately informs the House of Deputies which can withdraw the declaration. If the House of Deputies is dissolved, the decision of prospective prolongation or lifting the state of emergency is passed over to the Senate. The state of emergency can be declared only while stating the reasons for a certain period of time (for the maximum of 30 days) and for certain area.

It can be extended after prior consent of the House of Deputies or Senate, respectively. The state of emergency ends after the expiration of the period for which it was declared unless the Government or the Parliament do not decide on lifting it before this period expires. The last case of declaring the state of emergency was in mid-August of last year in several regions stricken with the catastrophic floods.

State of Security Threat

The Parliament (both chambers) can declare the state of security threat to the state on the proposal from the Government, if the sovereignty or territorial integrity or the democratic foundations of the state are in danger. It is declared for a certain area or the entire territory of the country.

State of war

The state of war is decided on by the Parliament in case of aggression against the Czech Republic or if it is necessary to fulfil contractual bonds of common defence against aggression.

To pass a resolution of declaration of the state of war and to pass a resolution of consent with sending out the armed forces of the Czech Republic outside the territory of the Czech Republic or with the deployment of other countries' armed forces on the territory of the Czech Republic as well as to pass a resolution of participation of the Czech Republic in defence systems of international organizations of which the Czech Republic is a member the consent of clear majority of the deputies and of clear majority of the senators is necessary. It is declared for the entire territory of the country.

For the period of the state of security threat or the state of war, the Government can demand that the Parliament discusses the Government law propositions in short proceeding. Resolution of such a proposition is passed by the House of Deputies within 72 hours and by the Senate within 24 hours since being passed on by the House. If the Senate does not pass the resolution within this period, it holds that the proposition is passed. For the period of the state of security threat or the state of war, the President is not allowed to return the laws passed in short proceedings (in other words, the President is left out of the legislative process in order to accelerate the passing of laws) nor can he propose constitutional laws (i.e. amend the Constitution).

The decisions of state of emergency, state of security threat or state of war are published in mass media and are declared the same way as laws. The declaration of state of emergency, state of security threat or state of war allows temporary partial or bodily limiting of human rights and freedoms of the citizens (e.g. restricting freedom of movement, forced evacuation, work engagement of citizens, temporary confiscation of technical equipment etc.)



Police Forces of the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is a member state of the European Union, and being responsible for the safety of the state and its citizens, it must react to the same challenges as the other EU members do. The globalization and integration processes are accompanied by an increasing number of threats to safety, concerning both the country and the population. The most serious threats are terrorism, organized crime, illegal distribution of mass destruction weapons and illegal migration, along with industrial accidents, natural disasters or disease epidemics.

The external security of the state is provided, in cooperation with NATO, by the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic (ACR). The Police Forces of the Czech Republic are responsible for order within the country and provide the internal security of the state together with the Municipal Police of each city and town. In addition, there is also the Military Police.

a) Police of the Czech Republic

The Police of the Czech Republic are an armed security corpse, a law enforcing agency of the Czech Republic, with competences for the whole territory of the state. The main responsibilities are internal security and order within the country. The emergency phone number of the Police CR is 158. The Police of the Czech Republic are subordinated to the Ministry of Interior CR.

The scope of responsibilities of the Police of the Czech Republic: protect citizens' property and safety, provide public order, combat terrorism, take care of the safety and continuity of road traffic, cooperate in the control of road traffic, reveal crimes, criminals, etc.

b) Specialized bodies within the Police of the Czech Republic:

- ✓ Institute of Criminalistics Prague
- ✓ Air Rescue Service
- ✓ Czech National Drug Centre (National Drug Squad)

- ✓ Alien Police Service
- ✓ The Office of the Documentation and the Investigation of the Crimes of Communism (of the Office of Service of Criminal Police and investigation)
- ✓ Unit for Combating corruption and Financial Crime of the Office of Service of Criminal Police and investigation
- ✓ Organized Crime Unit of the Office of Service of Criminal Police and investigation
- ✓ Unit for Protection of the President CR
- ✓ Unit for Protection of Constitutional Authorities
- ✓ Rapid Response Unit
- ✓ Unit for Special Operational Tasks of the Office of Service of Criminal Police and investigation.

c) Municipal Police

Municipal police units are administered by cities and municipalities. Their scope of activities is limited to the city or the municipality. The municipal police closely cooperate with the Police of the Czech Republic. The municipal police unit is controlled by the mayor or another authorized member of the municipal council. The emergency phone number of the municipal police is 156.

Municipal police have jurisdiction over misdemeanors, supervise and protect the safety of citizens and properties, public order, collaborate within their competence with the Police CR in terms of safety on the roads, deal with offences and other wrongs, etc.

d) Alien Police Service

The Alien Police is the unit of the Police of the Czech Republic with national competence and specialization. Their main duties are connected with investigation of illegal migration of citizens from other countries and with residence permits for



foreigners in the Czech Republic. In addition, the Alien Police supervises the state border, and deals with criminal activities related to crossing borders.

Military Police is a special police unit that operates within the army. Their duties are connected with protection of the armed forces, military premises, military equipment and supplies, etc. You can find more detailed information about the tasks and powers of the Military Police [here](#).

Conclusion

The functioning of the security system, the construction and development of the capabilities of its components, and economic and financial backup all constitute a long-term, demanding process drawing on lessons learned from the management of various crisis situations and from systematic preparations (e.g. in the form of various exercises) and preventive activities by the individual components.

The security system must constantly react to the changing circumstances and changes in the security environment and to newly emerging threats. For this reason, the security system of the Czech Republic should be viewed as an open and dynamically developing system

Literature:

1. Act No. 240/2000 Coll., on Crises Management and on amendments of certain acts (Crisis Act) as amended by Act N. 320/2002 Coll., Act N. 127/2005 Coll., Act N. 112/2006 Coll., Act N. 267/2006 Coll., Act N. 110/2007 Coll., Act N. 306/2008 Coll., Act N. 153/2010 Coll. and Act N. 430/2010 Coll.
2. Act No. 239/2000 Coll., on Integrated Rescue system, as amended.
3. Security Strategy of the Czech Republic. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Prague, 2011. ISBN 978-80-7441-007-9.
4. FRANK, L. Institutional and Documentary Framework of the Czech Security Policy.

Self-assessment tasks:

1. To study

- Act No. 239/2000 Coll., on *Integrated Rescue system*, as amended.
- Act No. 238/2000 Coll., on *the Fire Rescue Service of CR* and on the modification of certain codes, in latter wording

2. Acknowledge with Population protection concept up to 2020 with prospect horizon 2030, *Prague: Ministry of Interior – General Directorate of Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic*