



THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES

Basic information





Republic of Croatia





Land area: 56.542 km²

Territorial sea area: 31.067 km²

Geographical position: Croatia is situated on the cross-roads between Central Europe and the Mediterranean, along the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea and its hinterland. It stretches from the hilly sides of the Alps on the North-West to the Pannonian plain on the East.

Population (2001 Census): 4.437.460

Number of inhabitants per km²: 78,5

Official language and script: Croatian language and Latin script

Currency unit: 1 Kuna (100 lipa)

Capital: Zagreb - 779.145 inhabitants

Territorial-administrative structure:

- 21 counties (including the City of Zagreb)
- 122 towns
- 424 municipalities
- 6767 settlements

Length of the coast, including islands: 5.835 km

Number of islands, cliffs and reefs: 1.185 - inhabited 47

Climate:

- Continental in the Northern Croatia
- Mountainous in the Central Croatia
- Mediterranean along the Adriatic Coast (average of 2600 sunny hours per year)

Population:

- majority: Croatian
- national minorities: Serbs, Muslims, Slovenes, Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks, Italians and others

Religions:

- majority: Roman Catholics
- Other Religions: Orthodox, Islamic, Jews, Protestants and others



National flag



Coat of arms



The Croatian Armed Forces



The Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia have grown into a respectable and well-organised armed force during the Homeland War of independence. Many military analysts consider that the defence of the Croatian territory was successful, resulting in final military victory. Military tactics and strategy were carried out directly in practice and that is unique in the world. Croatian Armed Forces carried out many successful military operations such as “Oluja” (Storm) and “Bljesak” (Flash) in 1995 and “Maslenica” in 1994.

The acquired experience and knowledge have been built into the process of the military training and education. Thus they have become interesting to some foreign armies and military institutions. Lining up of the Zbor narodne garde (National Guards Core) at the football stadium in Kranjčevićeva Street on

28 May 1991 marked a turning point in the organisation and formation of the Armed Forces.

The present organisation of the Armed Forces has come into effect as of 1 January 2003 and comprises the General Staff with its units, branch commands of the Croatian Army, Croatian Navy and Croatian Air Force and Air Defence and Joint Education and Training Command and Logistics Command. The Commander-in-Chief prescribes the organisation of the Croatian Armed Forces at the proposal of the Chief of General Staff,

with consent of the Minister of Defence. The Armed Forces consist of peacetime and wartime component. The peacetime component is made of active military officers, civil servants and employees in the Croatian Armed Forces, cadets, and conscripts serving a 6-month national service and reservists when on military exercise. The wartime component of the Armed Forces is additionally made of all other reservists.



Command over the Armed Forces in peace is realised by the Commander-in-Chief through the Minister of Defence pursuant to the Constitution and the law. The Armed Forces today are a guarantee of the stability and peace in the region as well as the existence of Croatia. Conforming to West European standards and especially compatibility with armed forces of NATO members and firm commitment to access NATO, the Armed

Forces are ready for all challenges and additional demands placed in front of them on the way towards membership.

The Croatian Army Forces are additionally proving their readiness and level of training by taking part and by organising international military exercises.

Croatia is also very active in the process of supervision and control of the regional armaments and since 2000 it has been the host of the Regional Centre for help in implementation of the international contracts on armaments control (RACVIAC).

The General Staff





*JETC - Joint Education and Training Command

The Chief of General Staff is general Josip Lucić. The General Staff is a joint body organised within the Ministry of Defence. It is responsible for development, organisation, and equipping, training and functioning of the first strategic echelon (stand-by forces) and the other strategic echelon (reserve). The Chief of General Staff who is superior to commands, units and institutions of the Croatian Armed Forces heads the General Staff. In peacetime he reports to the Commander-in-Chief for the Armed Forces Implementation Plan and military elements of combat readiness. The Chief of General Staff reports to the Minister of Defence for implementation of the orders and reports to him about the implementation. In case of war risk and immediate threat to the Croatian territorial integrity the Commander-in-Chief gives orders directly to the Chief of General Staff and at the same time reports to

the Minister of Defence on given orders.

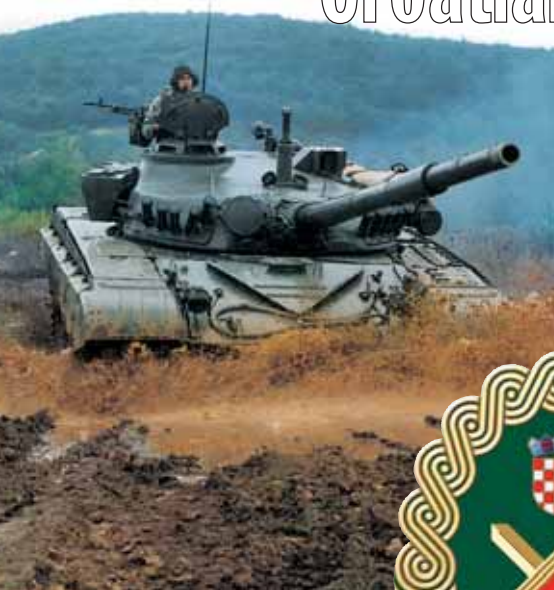
The General Staff and the Air Force and Air Defence, Education and Training and Logistics Command are in Zagreb. The Croatian Navy Command is situated in Split and the Army Command is in Karlovac.

The General Staff Units with command and management function in the Croatian Armed Forces are directly subordinate to the Chief of General Staff.

Armed Forces Ranks



Croatian Army





The fundamental role and purpose of Croatian Army, the strongest of the Army's services, is to promote and protect vital national interests of the Republic of Croatia, defend sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state. The Croatian Army is therefore organizing to be a proponent of the implementation of the war operation, independently or supported by other arms, combating primarily on land but also on the coastland and on islands. The fundamental task is to prevent entry of the aggressor deep in the territory, to preserve strategic facilities, to secure mobilization of the wartime composition and to win the aggressor. Basic tasks of the Croatian Army are:



- Maintaining optimal level of combat readiness of stand-by forces
- Securing development of the wartime composition of the Armed Forces
- Fighting aggressor's main forces on strategic-operational directions and against air and amphibious assaults
- Preventing, in cooperation with other parts of the Armed Forces, entry of the aggressor into depth of the territory and preserving its compactness
- Construction and development of the capability to respond to requests of the non-traditional tasks that are placed in front of the Croatian Army

**Commander of Croatian Army is
Lieutenant General Mladen Kruljac.**

Croatian Navy





The purpose and role of the Croatian Navy (HRM) is to defend the integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia independently and in joint action with other services, to promote and protect its interest in the Adriatic Sea, islands and coast-lands. It carries and organises the naval defence of the Republic of Croatia and has an important role in the total state's military power. The Croatian Navy fulfils its role by preparing itself and carrying out the following main tasks:

- Detering the threat to the Republic of Croatia by maintaining high level of competence, training and technical quality of equipment
- Constant control of the Adriatic Sea and coast-land and monitoring of foreign war ships' movement
- Strengthening of the safety conditions on the Adriatic Sea and preserving the integrity of the maritime borders
- Implementation of the program "Partnership for Peace in the Mediterranean"

Within the scope of command and in the defence responsibility over the area, the Croatian Navy has the territorial sea, islands, internal sea and offshore zone over which the Republic of Croatia realises a complete sovereignty and sovereign rights of exploiting the offshore and the seabed, pursuant to provisions of the Constitution and The Maritime

Navy Ranks



Code. Within its responsibility and beyond in the Adriatic Sea it has to be compatible and ready for accepting, supporting and co-operating with the international combined Multinational Joint Task Forces (CTJF) and to be equipped and trained for tasks within CJTF.

Commander of the Croatian Navy is Rear Admiral (LH) Ante Urlić.



Croatian Air Force and Air Defence





Croatian Air Force and Air Defence are service of the Armed Forces. Their aim is securing sovereignty of the air space of the Republic of Croatia and providing air support to other services in implementation of their tasks in joint operations. It is a proponent and organizer of the Croatian air defence integrated system. This double role of the Croatian Air Force and Air Defence is realized with the following main tasks:

- Inspection and control of the air space security
- Predominance in Croatian air space, over land and sea, with defence and attacks
- Providing help in natural, humanitarian and technological disasters
- Search and rescue operations
- Support to control of the proliferation of people and material goods

Croatian Air Force and Air Defence make part of the stand-by forces that are capable of providing a quick and efficient response to military threat and of taking part in implementation of non-traditional tasks. Such purpose requires an appropriate high technological level of weapons and materiel, quality manning, specialist and permanent education and training

and an adjusted system of mobilization as well as a balanced and harmonious development of all components of the Croatian Air Force and Air Defence. Air defence system is a proponent of its task to protect sovereignty of the air space of the Republic of Croatia. It is being built as a unique, entire and integrated, capable of securing a quality and efficient protection of territory, forces and material goods of the Republic of Croatia against different threats.

Commander of the Croatian Air Force and Air Defence is Brigadier General Vlado Bagarić.



Logistic Command





A new structure of the Armed Forces has placed a requirement of the consolidation of the logistic capacities and resources for needs of the Armed Forces under a unique implementation logistic organization. Logistic Command was structured accordingly. An efficient and economic use of the logistic capacities is used in such way, a unified attitude towards state economy and a unified organization for support to Armed Forces deployed outside Croatia and other armed forces in Croatia. Logistic Command is the highest organization subordinate to Chief of General Staff, responsible for operationalization of the logistic support in operations of the Armed Forces units, for managing logistic support and supply of classes of material for all three services of the Armed Forces and for functioning of the logistic composition, in line with the assigned area of responsibility. With decentralization of the logistic composi-

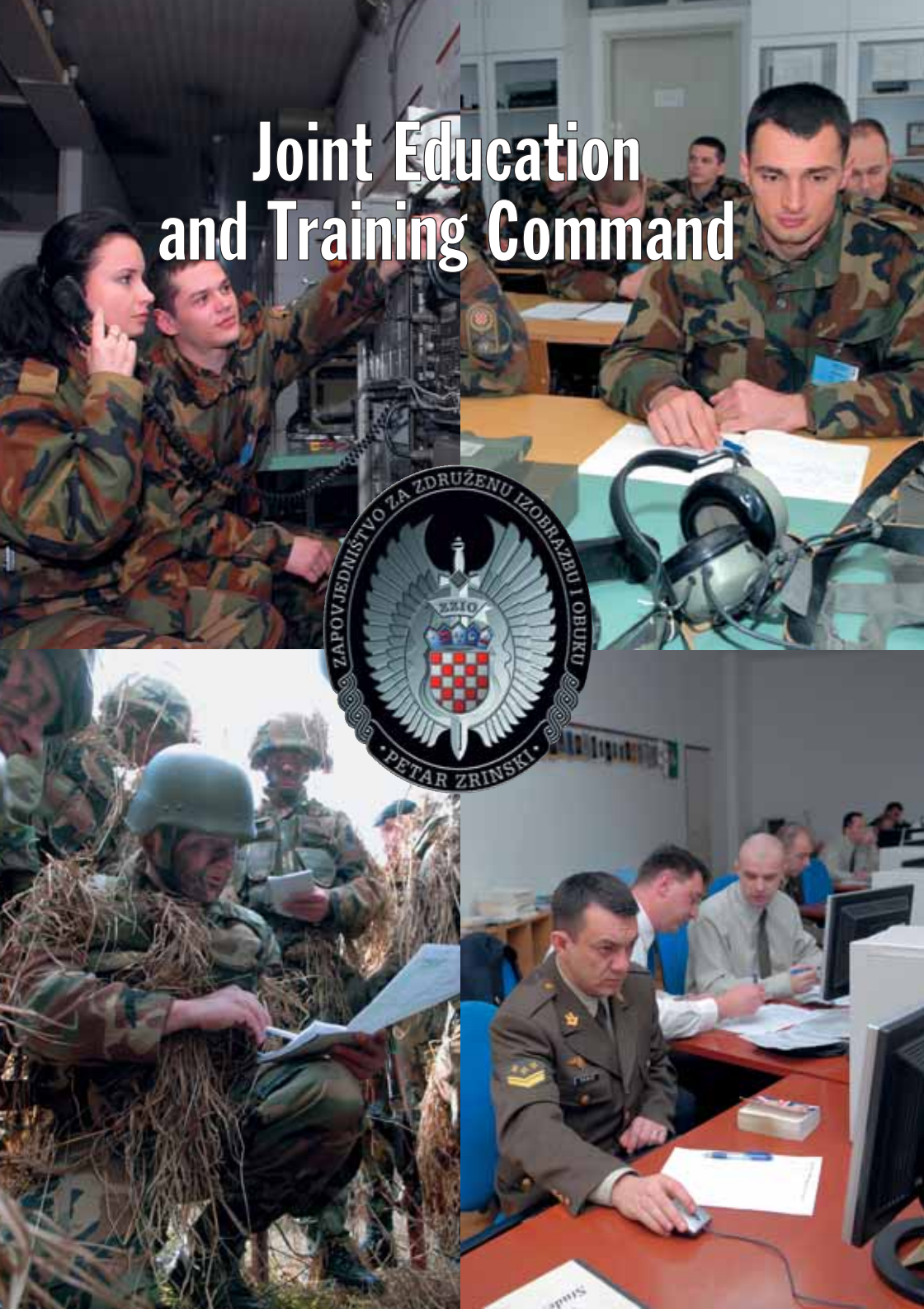


tion, the Command assumes the operational implementation and coordination of the logistic support of the command centres and Armed Forces units, at the highest level.

Commander of the Croatian Logistic Command is Brigadier General Pavao Krpan.



Joint Education and Training Command





Quality support to implementation of the strategic concept and new structure of the Armed Forces, primarily to development of the joint intraservice action, requested structuring of the new organization unit that will provide a new joint education and training and develop a joint doctrine of the Armed Forces. Joint Education and Training Command was structured accordingly under direct command of the General Staff. Its administrative and executive part has the following fundamental tasks:

- Implementing of the intraservice education and training of officers and NCOs
- Proposal and elaboration of the joint doctrine of the Armed Forces
- Taking part in setting unified standards and criteria for education and training in the Armed Forces
- Making instructions for education and training

Commander of the Joint Education and Training Command is Major General Mirko Šundov.



International Missions



At the moment Republic of Croatia participates in 13 peacekeeping missions carried out by UN. Republic of Croatia started it's first participation in UN peacekeeping mission in 1999, when 10 members of CAF of Republic of Croatia in the capacity of military observers went to the peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).

Today, peacekeeping missions in which participate members of CAF are: Eritrea and Ethiopia - UNMEE, India and Pakistan - UNMOGIP, Western Sahara - MINURSO, Liberia - UNMIL, Haiti - MINUSTAH, Cote d'Ivoire - UNOCI, Cyprus - UNFICYP, Georgia - UNOMIG, Sudan - UNMIS, Nepal-UNMIN, Sierra Leone - UNIOSIL, Lebanon - UNIFIL, Burundi - BINUB

Besides of peacekeeping missions of UN, by sending of Military police (MP) platoon in February 2003, Republic of Croatia for the first time started it's participation in NATO mission ISAF in Afghanistan. There are about 200 members of CAF in the mission ISAF at the present time.

Current participation of CAF in ISAF mission including:

- Military Police Task Forces (MPTF)
- Combined Medical Team A-3 (CMT A-3)
- The Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT)
- Infantry Task Forces, HRV Guard (INF TF, HRV GUARD)
- Mobile Liaison and Observation Team (MLOT)

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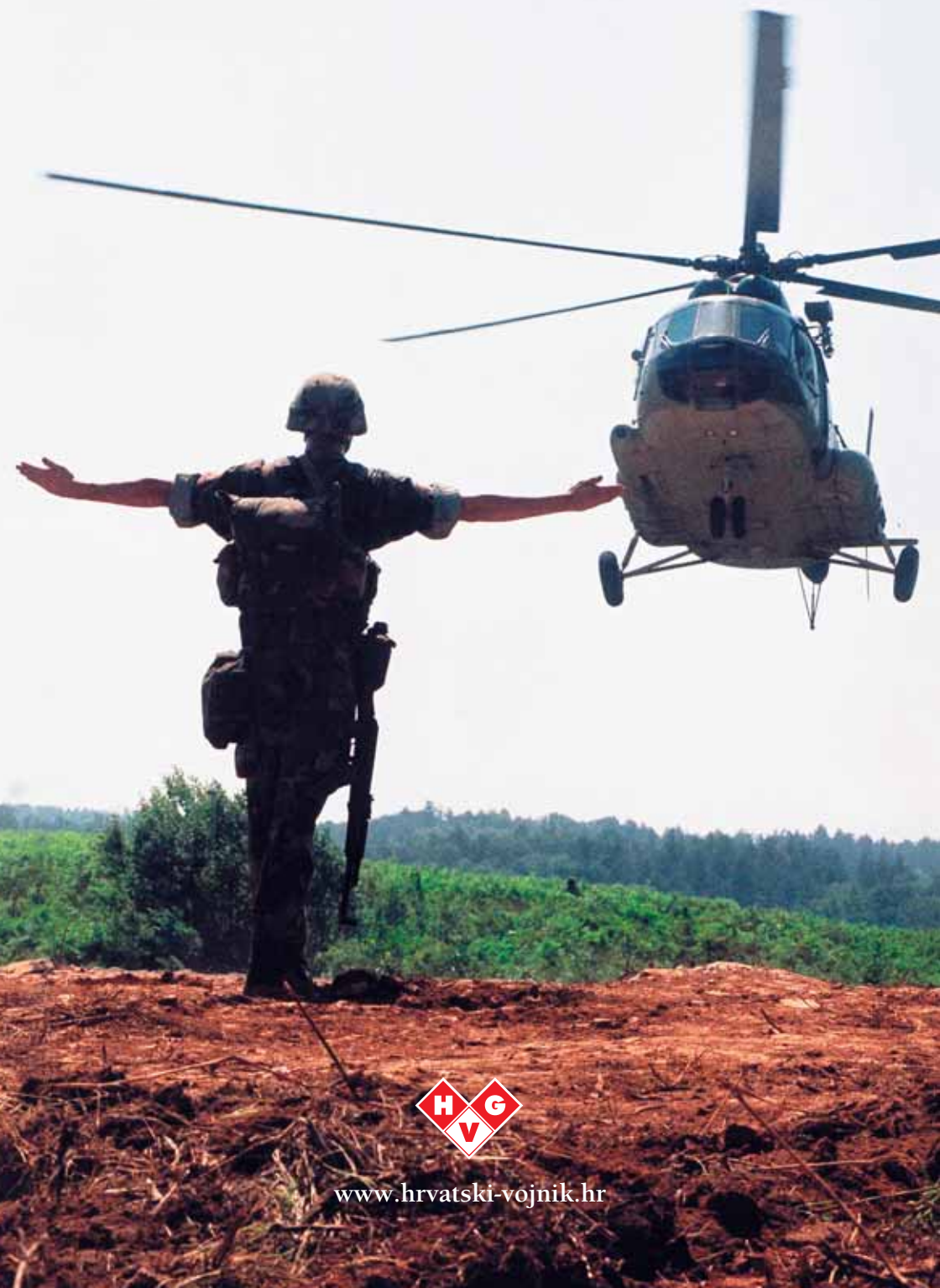
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