

ZRÍNYI MIKLÓS
NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY
Doctoral Council

An Author's resume of the doctoral (PhD) thesis work

**EXPERIENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN WESTERN SAHARA**

By

Major

JÁNOS BESENYŐ

Budapest, 2010.

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MAJOR JÁNOS BESENYŐ

CONSULTANT-SUPERVISOR: COL. ISTVÁN RESPERGER, ENG.

BUDAPEST, 2010.

At and after the regime change the Hungarian Defence Forces received an increasing number of requests from the United Nations Organisation to take part in various peacekeeping operations. The first of such missions with Hungarian participation was in Angola, nearly immediately followed by a similar mission in Mozambique. That time the Hungarian servicemen conducted only “classical” peacekeeping operations to the satisfaction of the international community. Those missions were followed by several other missions in Cambodia, Liberia, Tajikistan, Nagorno-Karabakh, Cyprus, Rwanda, and Georgia. Our servicemen did outstanding job both in the Area of Operation and in the multinational staffs and commands and also efficiently enforced the interests of the Republic of Hungary. Partly thanks to this our country had the chance to delegate senior officers to the PKO Department of the New York UN Command, who had an insight at peacekeeping at multinational level. Parallel to that the peacekeeping structure of the Hungarian Defence Forces was established (a Peacekeeping Training Centre was set up, training courses were conducted first abroad than in Hungary). The good reputation of Hungarian military and police officers and their achievements and performance resulted in increasing opportunities to participate in peacekeeping. As a result of this the Republic of Hungary was requested to participate with a minor contingent in the peacekeeping operations in Western Sahara. The request came in 1998 and as early as the following year small contingent of seven military officers and thirteen police officers was deployed in the region. Although the police unit was a few years later withdrawn from Western Sahara the military remained there. Moreover, as recognition of their excellent three-year long performance (between 2002 and 2004) the mission was commanded by Hungarian Major General György Száraz, whose job was highly appreciated not only by the UN but also the warring factions, whose professionalism and impartiality were indisputable. After joining NATO and the European Union the Republic of Hungary transformed its peacekeeping training structure in accordance with the new requirements. This involved a nearly complete withdrawal from UN operations with a significant fall in the number of unarmed observers in classical peacekeeping operations, while the number of missions stemming from the allied commitments of the country (participation in operations in the Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan) dramatically increased.

However, due to the impact of a changing political and economic environment the significance of the African continent repeatedly increased for the USA, the EU, and NATO, moreover, new players such as China, India, Japan, and Brazil have also appeared in the region therefore Hungary has to take an increasing role in the region. The importance of North Africa and the Maghreb particularly increased not only due to the migration, drug and weapon smuggling, or the presence of various militant Islamic organisations but also because of the economic potential, the economically natural resources (oil, natural gas, various minerals, fishing, etc.) there. From NATO’s aspect the importance of the region increased because of security policy considerations as the Maghreb countries play an important role not only in the Partnership for Peace program of NATO or in Mediterranean Dialog, but also participate in fighting the North African groups of Al Qaeda.

Unfortunately previous knowledge on the African continent was not systematised, analysed, or processed therefore that it got lost. Between 1990 and 2000 Hungarian military and police personnel participated in 12 different missions in Africa, however, none of the operations generated a serious evaluation or study paper. A few articles were

written but most without any scientific values. Having recognised the deficit the high command established a Lessons Learned Department within the Operational Command Centre, which has not prepared such a material yet.

I have taken part in three multinational peacekeeping operations (Western Sahara, Sudan-Darfur, and Afghanistan) and had to face a similar problem during the preparation to each of the three missions: there is insufficient information on the history and culture of the given region; on the root causes of conflicts; or the warring parties. I was forced to get the missing knowledge in the field, sometimes without any consequences, sometimes at taking unnecessary risks. After returning from Western Sahara I was not satisfied with the knowledge gained there and tried to systematise that and continued research on the African continent. I had classes as a visiting lecturer at several universities, colleges, and international military observer courses. In the past years I have had several books, study papers, and articles published in significant periodicals. In various positions in the Hungarian Defence Forces I further improved my knowledge related to peacekeeping and realised that it should be systematised and made available for all those who represent the Republic of Hungary in African operations, in particular in Western Sahara.

The relevance of the theme

As I have already mentioned the two alliances (NATO and the EU) of which Hungary is also a member state, takes an increasing role in the resolution of the problems occurring in the African continent, which present a serious challenge the allied nations including Hungary. In 2011 Hungary, taking over the EU presidency, cannot neglect the increasing participation in Africa, preferred by the EU. This can mean that more soldiers will have to be deployed in African peace operations. Currently there are consultations on the Hungarian contribution with up to a company-level contingent to peace support operations. The potential countries are as follow: Chad, Congo, or Somalia¹. NATO has also submitted its requests related to Africa (Sudan and Somalia), which have not been realised yet.

Although Hungary has significantly reduced its contributions in the framework of the UN our country applied for an elected membership in the Security Council, indicating the intention of Hungary to play a more active role in the world organisation, which expects the country to do so anyway². This is proved by the fact that in September 2010 our country was requested to take over the military commander position of MINURSO again for not less than one year. Currently there is a seven-strong Hungarian contingent in Western Sahara, which cannot be withdrawn for the above reason, moreover, the option of a potential increase of its strength has been recommended. Those in the field have no sufficient preparation material; their knowledge is acquired in the area of operation.

It would be reasonable to have the lessons learned based on existing or previous missions with the participation of the personnel of the Hungarian Defence Forces forwarded to those who can use them in their activities.

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The objective of my research is to provide useably and practical information to those who plan to deploy in Africa, more precisely Western Sahara, as peacekeepers. I sincerely hope that my research and the precise processing of the theme will prove to be a useful tool for both trainers and trainees in the process of mission preparation.

During my research I set up the following hypothesis and analysed its content and components:

As a result of Hungary's NATO and EU accession participation in missions mostly in regions outside of Europe have become increasingly important. At the same time – stemming from the increased participation – more and more missions are expected in the African regions as well. However, the fact should not be disregarded that in 2011 Hungary will take over the EU presidency for six months. This further highlights the fact that more importance should be given to the resolution of the problems in the African continent and the peaceful conflict management. Thus the analysis and research of this conflict region, with making conclusions, and the processing of mission lessons learned should become a priority. Moreover, in my opinion, it should be integrated into the teaching material of Hungarian military education in order to allow officers and non-commissioned officers selected for deployment in a region or a country of the African continent.

During the structuring of the study paper the following reductions were applied:

I did not analyse other peacekeeping or peace support operations in Africa and did not process lessons learned from such deployments.

As only a minimum amount of material has been written in Hungarian on the Western Sahara (most of them by my person) I used mainly English literature during my research activities.

In the study paper I integrated my personal experience and lessons learned in the field and the information gathered from interviews with military personnel having been deployed in the region.

My objectives during the preparation of the study paper:

- To analyse and evaluate the geopolitical and geostrategic situation of the conflict in Western Sahara; its geographic and military topographic features; the background and root causes of the conflict; the census data. To present the events leading up to the escalation of the situation in Western Sahara then the breakout of the conflict. Conclusions to be drawn from the history of the conflict.
- To present and process the structure, organisation, and mission of MINURSO; to draw conclusions for the personnel of the Hungarian Defence Forces involved in mission activities; to outline recommendations for the military high command on the type and appointments of a potential Hungarian participation in such types of peace support operations.
- To give a detailed analysis and to present the conditions of living in the refugee camps of the region; to present the political and charity organisations in the area

- and their missions with their impact on military and law enforcement activities. To outline recommendations on the type, methods, and tools of potential military missions.
- To analyse the conflict of the region; to make recommendations on a better integration of the experience of those deployed in missions of the Hungarian Defence Forces, in order to increase the integration of lessons learned in the training.

For my research objectives I applied the following techniques:

- I studied the Hungarian and foreign special literature, official documents, study papers, analyses, and publications;
- I personally participated in several foreign mission preparations (Greece, Sweden); studied their materials, drew conclusion.
- Consulted Hungarian experts (International Training and Civilian Crisis Management Centre Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy) and foreign specialists (Tony Hodges, Richard Knight) interviewed military and police personnel having served in the region recently, and drew the necessary conclusions.
- I participated in professional experience exchange in the training centres of the Swedish, Greek, Finnish, and Serbian armed forces.
- I systematised my mission experiences from my mission in Western Sahara and other knowledge; I published the partial findings of my research, I also taught them and used them in various types of training (Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University, ELTE, Corvinus University, Pécs University, Zsigmond Király College, International Training and Civilian Crisis Management Centre Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Military Observer Training Courses in Hungary and Serbia).
- I presented my conclusions at various professional conferences, and had my opinion compared with those of the experts on the given field.
- During the research and elaboration of the theme I applied synthesis, induction, deduction from general research techniques, while from the special techniques of military science historic method.

I finished collecting special literature for the dissertation in July 2010 therefore later publications and events are not enclosed in my study paper.

During the preparation of the study paper I examine the following areas and themes, drawing conclusions:

Chapter 1: I process information on the geography, climate, economy, and history of Western Sahara; I present the ethnic groups in the region, their allied systems, and relations between each other and the colonisers. I also focus on the root causes of the conflict.

Chapter 2: I present the breakout of the conflict; the early activities of the UN related to the region, the decolonisation processes, the verdict of The Hague International Criminal

Court, and the subsequent events (green march, the occupation of the Sahara territories by Morocco and Mauritania, the spread of fighting).

Chapter 3: I present the role of the UN in the elimination of the conflict, the processes leading up to the peace agreement, then the establishment of the peacekeeping operation (MINURSO). I deal with the structure and organisation of the mission – with special emphasis on the battle order, equipment, and operations of the opposing parties – with the situation of people living in refugee camps and on the occupied territories, and the future of the region.

Chapter 4: I conclude my partial findings, outline my new scientific results, then make proposals on their utilisation and recommend further research tasks.

Summarised conclusions:

The region is of increasing importance for both geostrategic and economic reasons (oil, natural gas, various minerals, fishing, etc.) to the USA, China, the European Union, NATO, and Hungary. This fact was not known at the time of the breakout of the conflict as it is the result of processes that took place during the occupation and following the changes in global policy.

The borders of Western Sahara were drawn by Spanish and French colonisers in the frameworks of several treaties. Although the UN Decolonisation Commission accepted the borders established by the former colonisers the borders are often disputed by the countries themselves. This happened in the case of Western Sahara too, where both Morocco and Mauritania disputed the borders which already had the encoded option of a potential armed conflict. The Sahrawians established their own organisations of struggling for their independence, which were recognised not only by the international community but also by the players in the conflict.

The UN compiled the lists of those entitled for voting on the basis of the 1974 census conducted by the Spanish authorities. Although not without debates and discussions these lists were accepted by the opposing parties and the people in the lists are entitled to participate in a referendum in the future.

Although the UN managed to successfully mediate between the opposing parties after the cease fire agreement was concluded the initiative went to the Moroccan side and it is nearly the only player with influence on the events. The UN representatives more follow than influence the events in Western Sahara. The activities and strength of MINURSO are very limited and its task is merely to enforce the cease fire agreement and maintain status quo. For the UN this is a dormant mission with the only positive factor of maintaining a fragile peace even though it is fairly costly and the results are minimal.

In the recent past there were unfavourable changes both in the area and in the leadership of Polisario (increasing involvement in weapons and drug smuggling, illegal migration, and dominance of extremist Islamic groups, etc.) which makes a potential AL Qaeda-supported terrorist act or a new breakout of the conflict a potential threat. The refugee camps present an increasing problem not only for the Sahrawians but also for the receiving Algerian authorities. During a mission preparation this should be more highlighted because the “dormant” status of the operation can easily change any time and a deployment in the region may grow more risky.

Although Hungarian military personnel have taken part in several peace support missions in Africa the lessons learned have not been integrated into the training and education system of the Hungarian Defence Forces and they were utilised only at personal level.

New scientific findings:

During the preparation of the study paper I kept focusing on the fact that the Hungarian Defence Forces have been involved in an increasing number of peace support operations recently and the areas of operations are in regions increasingly far and present an increasing threat. In my opinion, the sharing and recording of information related to the area of operations is not properly emphasised during the mission preparation. The scientific results in my dissertation are closely connected to the peace operations of the Hungarian Defence Forces and to the activities evaluating, processing, and integrating the lessons learned into the training process.

As a result of my studies and research activities conducted in the framework of my PhD studies at the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University I consider as new scientific findings of my dissertation:

- I analysed and evaluated the geopolitical and geostrategic situation of the conflict in Western Sahara; its geographic and military topographic features; the background and root causes of the conflict; the census data of the region. I presented the events leading up to the escalation of the situation in Western Sahara then the breakout of the conflict. I drew conclusions from the history of the conflict.
- I presented and processed the structure, organisation, and mission of MINURSO; I drew conclusions for the personnel of the Hungarian Defence Forces involved in mission activities; I outlined recommendations for the military high command on the type and appointments of a potential Hungarian participation in such types of peace support operations.
- I gave a detailed analysis and presented the conditions of living in the refugee camps of the region; I presented the political and charity organisations in the area and their missions with their impact on military and law enforcement activities. I outlined recommendations on the type, methods, and tools of potential military missions.
- I analysed the conflict of the region; I made recommendations on a better integration of the experience of those deployed in missions of the Hungarian Defence Forces, in order to increase the integration of lessons learned in the training.

Recommendations:

On the basis of the conclusions and summarised conclusions at the end of the chapters of the dissertation I consider as potential areas of the utilisation of the research findings and of the independent analyses of certain partial fields as follow:

I recommend the use of the dissertation for the mission preparation of military personnel to be deployed in Western Sahara; for the training at the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence

University primarily for the training in security and defence policy, and defence administration; and in security policy or African studies training courses at civil universities and colleges.

I regard it important to pay special attention during mission preparations to “theatre knowledge” and to involve experts having deployed there in the training process.

I regard it reasonable to establish a data base which would contain the data, experience, and capabilities of personnel with mission deployment history. Such a data base would be a help with selecting the right persons for the right missions and the threat of making ad hoc decisions could be significantly decreased.

Within the structure of the “Lessons Learned” Department at the Operations Centre a system would be reasonable to establish for the “re-filtering” of military personnel returning from all missions. Such a procedure would involve written and oral data upgrading, debriefing, and then the collected information would be processed for further use. In the process relevant experts from the Military Intelligence Office, Department of Defence Policy, Military Health Service, Legal Department, and in certain cases those from other armed branches or ministries (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy) could also be involved. The collected information should be integrated into the training system of the Hungarian Defence Forces.

Due to the changes in peace support operations the long-delayed Hungarian military “Peace Operation Strategy” should also be elaborated.

Areas requiring further research:

It would be reasonable to prepare a comprehensive questionnaire for those deployed in Western Sahara, focusing on their experience related to their mission, and to interview all those who have deployed there. The findings of the survey could be processed with the help of the experts of the Hungarian Defence Forces (with the focus on health, logistic, training, analysis and evaluation, and intelligence aspects) then published and the lessons learned should be integrated in future mission preparation.

I recommend that similar study papers are made on all operations with the involvement of the Hungarian Defence Forces, regardless of their actual status, with the involvement of their personnel – active or retired – before their knowledge becomes inaccessible. Such studies would also be reasonable to publish then use for further preparations or other research activities.

My publications in the theme of the dissertation:

Books, chapters in books:

1. **Western Sahara** (published in English) Publikon Publishers, Pécs, 2009, 197 pages, ISBN: 978-963-88332-0-4
2. **A Katonai Logisztika** – [Military Logistics] in the series *A Tervezéstől a Műveletekig* – Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University, Budapest, 2009, 123 pages, ISBN: 9789637060670, (I participated in writing Chapter 4.)
3. **Homok, Hőség, Nyugat-Szahara** – [Sand, Heat, Western Sahara] in the series *Magyar Katonai Missziók*, Zrínyi kiadó, Budapest 2010, ISSN 1789-8390, ISBN: 978-963-327-495-8, 88 pages

Study papers, articles:

1. **A békefenntartás-békekiképzés kérdései [Some Issues of Peacekeeping and Peace Training]** in *Katonai Logisztika* – Vol. 12. Issue 2, 2003. pp. 258-262.
2. **Magyar logisztikusként az ENSZ nyugat-szaharai missziójában [A Hungarian Logistician in the Western Sahara UN Mission]** in *Katonai Logisztika* – Vol. 13. Issue 1. 2004. pp. 208-223.
3. **Az ENSZ nyugat-szaharai missziójáról (MINURSO), [On the UN Mission in Western Sahara (MINURSO)]** in *Új Honvédségi Szemle*, Vol. LVIII, 9/2004, pp. 22-36.
4. **Polgári cégek alkalmazása katonai műveletek logisztikai támogatása során, különös tekintettel a biztonság kérdésére [The Employment of Civil Companies in the Logistic Support of Military Operations, with special regard to Security Issues]** in *Katonai Logisztika* – Vol. 15. Issue 2. 2007. pp. 93-115.
5. **Logisztikai szerződések [Logistic Contracts]** In *Katonai Logisztika* – Vol. 15. Issue 3. 2007. pp. 168-173.
6. **A nemzetközi terrorizmus veszélye Észak-Afrikában [The Threat of International Terrorism in North Africa]** In *Új Honvédségi Szemle* Vol. LXI. Issue 12/2007 pp. 41-50.
7. **Leszerelési, demobilizációs és a civil életbe való visszaillesztési programok Afrikában, [Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Programs in Africa]** *Kapu*, Vol. XXI. Issue 1. 2008, pp. 30-33.
<http://members.chello.hu/kapu/biztonsagpolitika/besenyo.htm>
8. **A nyugat-szaharai őslakosok függetlenségi törekvései, [The Independence Ambitions of the Sahrawians in Western Sahara]** *Kapu*, Vol. XXI. 2/2008 pp. 24-27.
9. **Marokkó és a Polisario Front ismét tárgyalásokat kezdett a nyugat-szaharaiak önrendelkezése ügyében, [Morocco and the Polisario have Resumed Talks on Western Saharan Autonomy]** in MoD web site (02. 04. 2008.)
http://www.hm.gov.hu/hirek/kulfoldi_hirek/nyugat-szaharaiak_onrendelkezese
10. **Az Egyesült Nemzetek Szervezete békefenntartó műveleteinek logisztikai rendszere (különös tekintettel a költség-visszatérítésre), [The Logistics Structure of the UN Peacekeeping Operations – with special regard to reimbursement issues]** *Katonai Logisztika*, 10. 04. 2008.04, published in the MoD web site in two parts.
<http://www.hm.gov.hu/files/9/9988/14.pdf>

11. **Hungarian logistics specialist working for UN's Western Sahara mission**, AARMS (Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University), Volume 7, Issue 1. 2008, pp. 155-165.
12. **Az ENSZ nyugat-szaharai missziójáról (MINURSO), [On the Western Sahara Mission of the UN (MINURSO)]** University Student-Conference Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University, Special Prize of the Commanders of Operation Center MoD (2006.– Rector Resolution 545/2006)
13. **Az ENSZ nyugat-szaharai missziójáról (MINURSO), [On the Western Sahara Mission of the UN (MINURSO)]** 28th National Student-Conference 10th (Defence) Section, 2nd Place, and Special Prize of the Commanders of Operation Center MoD (18-19 April 2007.– Rector Resolution 132/2007)
14. **A nyugat-szaharai spanyol népszámlálás és az ENSZ**, [The Spanish Census in Western Sahara and the UN] in Afrika tanulmányok (IDResearch Kutatási és Képzési Kft), 2008, Vol. II. évf. Issue 2. pp. 18-29.
15. **Nyugat-Szahara - Homok, Hőség, Honvédelem**, [Western Sahara – Sand, Heat, Defence] in A Földgömb (The journal of the Hungarian Geographic Society) Vol. XXVI. Issue 5/2008 July – August, pp. 2-15.
16. **Öngyilkos merényletek Algériában, az Al-Kaida megerősödése a Maghreb régióban, [Suicide Attacks in Algeria, the Growing Strength of Al Qaeda in the Maghreb]** in the MoD web site (09. 09. 2008.)
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17. **Az Afrikai konfliktusok és kezelésük sajátosságai, a békefenntartó műveletek során szerzett tapasztalatok, [African Conflicts and the ASpecific Features of their Management, Lessons Learned from Peacekeeping Missions]** Felderítő Szemle, Vol. VII. Issue 3 September 2008. (The Scientific Journal of the Military Intelligence Office of the Republic of Hungary), pp. 5-15.
18. **Nyugat- Szahara-a helyzet változatlan? [Western Sahara – No significant Changes?]** Sereg Szemle, (Professional Scientific Journal of JOC HDF) Vol. VI. Issue 3. December 2008., pp. 18-26.
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19. **The society of the Sahrawians**, AARMS (Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University), Volume 7, Issue 4. 2008, pp. 667-677.
20. **Az ENSZ leszerelési, demobilizációs és reintegrációs programjai Afrikában, [UN Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Programs in Africa]** Honvédségi Szemle, Vol. 63. Issue 1. January 2009. pp. 24-26.
21. **Az EU haderő változó szerepe, [The Changing Role of the EU Forces]** in the MoD web site (09:9. 04. 2009.)
http://www.hm.gov.hu/hirek/kulfoldi_hirek/eu_hadero_valtozo_szerepe
22. **Új trend az afrikai békefenntartásban, [A New Trend in Peacekeeping in Africa]** Sereg Szemle, (Professional Scientific Journal of JOC HDF) Vol. VII. Issue 2. April-June 2009. pp. 54-62. http://www.hm.gov.hu/files/9/11022/seregszemle_2009_02.pdf
23. **Nyugat-Szahara: A „zöld menet” és az azt követő események, [Western Sahara: The Green March]** Szakmai Szemle, Issue 2 2009. pp. 196-203.
http://www.kbh.gov.hu/publ/szakmai_szemle/2009_2_szam_2_resz.pdf
24. **A Magyar Honvédség víztisztító századának lehetséges szerepvállalása az afrikai kontinensen, [A Potential Participation of the Water-purification Company of the Hungarian Defence Forces]** Sereg Szemle, (Professional Scientific Journal of JOC

- HDF) Vol. VII. Issue 3. July-September 2009. pp. 75-92. (co-authored with Péter Jagadics) http://www.hm.gov.hu/files/9/11022/seregszemle_2009_3.pdf
25. **A nyugat-szaharai konfliktus, az önállósodási küzdelem kezdete – a Nemzetközi Bíróság döntése és a „zöld menet,”** [The Conflict in Western Sahara, the Beginning of Struggle for Independence] *Kül-Világ*, the Journal of International Relations, Vol. VI. Issue 2/2009 pp. 37-57. <http://www.freeweb.hu/kul-vilag/2009/02/200902.pdf>
 26. **Békefenntartó műveletek sikere és kudarca Afrikában,** [Success and Failure of Peacekeeping Operations in Africa] in the MoD web site (06. 01. 2010.) http://www.hm.gov.hu/hirek/kulfoldi_hirek/bekefenntarto_muveletek_sikere_es_kudarc_a_afrikaban
 27. **Privát Béke, Az afrikai békefenntartás és a magánszektor,** [Private Peace – Peacekeeping] *Magyar Honvéd*, Vol. XXI. Issue 2/2010. pp. 12-14
 28. **A Magyar Honvédség részvétele az angolai béketeremtésben,** [The Participation of the Hungarian Defence Forces in Peacemaking in Angola] *Sereg Szemle*, (Professional Scientific Journal of JOC HDF) Vol. VIII. Issue 1. January-March 2009. pp. 134-143. http://www.hm.gov.hu/files/9/11022/seregszemle_2010_01.pdf
 29. **Törvényességi kételyek az EU halászati politikájával kapcsolatban: Ki rendelkezik Nyugat-Szahara természeti kincseivel?** [Legal Doubts Regarding the EU Fishing Policy: Who Possesses the Natural Reserves of Western Sahara] in the MoD web site (04. 03. 2010.) http://www.hm.gov.hu/hirek/kulfoldi_hirek/nyugat_szahara_termeszeti_kincsei
 30. **The Occupation of Western Sahara by Morocco and Mauritania,** Periodical of the Scientific board of Military Security Office, 2010, Special Issue, pp. 76-94
 31. **Az Al-Kaida térnyerése a Maghreb régióban,** [Al Qaeda Advance in the Maghreb] *Seregszemle*, (Professional Scientific Journal of JOC HDF) Vol. VIII. Issue 3. July-September 2009. pp. 148-154. http://www.hm.gov.hu/files/9/14046/sereg_szemle_2010_3.pdf - the secondary, edited version was published in the online version of Honvédségi Szemle 1/2010.
 32. **Kultúrtörténet: Nyugat-Szahara,** [Cultural History: Western Sahara] in *A világ te vagy - Spektrum*, September – October 2010. Vol. II. Issue 4. ISSN: 2061-0297, pp. 12-18.
 33. **A nyugat-szaharai menekültkérdés és az algériai menekülttáborok,** [The Refugee Issue in Western Sahara and the Refugee Camps in Algeria] in *Afrika Tanulmányok*, 2010. Vol. IV. Issue 3, pp. 74-85

Scientific lectures held in the field of the theme of my dissertation:

1. ***Crisis management in the Conflict Regions of Africa (Western Sahara, Darfur, Congo, and Chad)*** delivered at the conference on “Africa and the Crisis” held by the Institute of International and Political Studies of Zsigmond Király College on the Days of Hungarian Science on 11th November 2009.
2. **Lessons Learned from European Security and Defence Policy Operations in Africa** held at the Conference “Introducing European Security and Defence Policy”,

organised by the ministries of Defence, of Foreign Affairs, of Justice and Law Enforcement (16-18 November 2009.)

3. The role of the AU in crisis management, Challenges in African missions held at the **Civilian Crisis Management Basic Course of the International Training Centre of the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement**
4. Hungarian peacekeepers in Western Sahara, held at **AFRICA: 1960–2010–2060** (international conference in African studies), Pécs, 27-29 May 2010.

Curriculum Vitae

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Personal data:

Date of Birth: 30th September 1972
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Education

- 2009. Crisis Management Basic Training Course based on EU standards (International Training Centre of the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement, Budapest)
- 2008. Defence Administration Manager, Defence Administration Department, Bolyai János Military Technological College, Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University (diploma with distinction)
- 2007. NATO Logistic Training Course (Belgrade, Serbia)
- 2007. Course in European Security and Defence Policy (Budapest)
- 2007. NATO TACEVAL Logistic Training Course (Oberammergau, Germany)
- 2006. NATO Staff Officer Military Terminology Training Course (Terminology course-Budapest)
- 2004. Senior-PfP SOC/NATO-PfP, Swedint, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2003. Junior Staff Officer Course, Kristoni, Greece
- 2002. Intensive English Language Course, Borden, Canada
- 2000-2001. Intensive English Language Course, Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University
- 1994-1997. Studies in teacher-theology Szent Pál Academy (diploma with distinction)
- 1994-1998. 1987-1991. Catering NCO Training School, Hungarian Defence Forces, Budapest

Current assignment:

Since 16th May 2010 unassigned due to the cessation of previous assignment and simultaneously posted to the Defence Health Centre for temporary duty assignment.

Career:

2009. Head of Cooperation Department, Military Health Centre of Excellence of MoD
2008. Head of Materiel Sub-department, Logistic Department, Support Contingent of HDF
Radó György Military Health Centre
2007. Senior Officer at Department of International and Institutional Economic Management, Agency for Development and Logistics, MoD
2006. Senior Logistics Officer of the Afghanistan PRT preparation group (Relocation Coordination Group)
2005. EU-delegated Senior Officer (military advisor) in AMIS (African Union Mission in Sudan) peacekeeping mission – Commander of Camp Supply Section (catering, water supply, hygiene, fire department, establishment, operation and logistic supply of camps)
2004-2005. Organising and Planning Officer, Economic Directorate of the JOSCH HDF
2003-2004. Catering Chief later 2iC of Camp Mehaies of the UN Mission in Western Sahara (MINURSO); later Catering Chief of the Mission and Deputy Chief of Logistics
2001-2003. International relations and protocol officer of VTO HDF
1997-2001. Senior Protocol Officer, Protocol Directorate
1992-1997. Head of Catering Service, acting Head of Clothing, POL, and NBC services, Commander of Supply Platoon, acting 2iC Coy, K-9 patrol leader at 1st Repair Battalion HDF
1991-1992. Head of Catering Service of Válvölgy POL Depot of HDF

Foreign languages:

- English – advanced level (STANAG 3.3.3.3 and Advanced National state examination)
Hebrew (Basic)
Greek (Basic)

Appreciations:

- Cross of Merit (Republic of Hungary) – Bronze
Officer Service Decoration – Gold (upon merit)
Officer Service Decoration – Silver (upon merit)
Medal for Courage (Awarded by the Minister of the Interior)
Meritorious Award by the Minister of the Interior
Correctional Service Decoration, silver
Correctional Service Decoration, bronze
Flood Control Decoration (2010)
Officer Service Decoration II. degree (after 20 years in service)
NCO Service Decoration (10 years)
Plaquette and diploma for the Civil Defence of Budapest
Meritorious Service Medal (USA - South Carolina Governor - NG)
UN Service Medal (MINURSO – Western Sahara)
AMIS Peacekeeping Service Medal (Sudan - Darfur)
EU Peace Support Service Medal (ESDP)
Peace Support Service Medal (twice)