

Legal and Organizational Aspects of the Role of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic in the Crisis Management System

Daniel BREZINA¹, Jaroslav KOMPAN^{2*}, Marek KRAJČÍ³

¹Security and Defence Department, Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik, Address: Demänová 393, 031 01 Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia

²Vice – Rector for Military Affairs, Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik, Address: Demänová 393, 031 01 Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia

³Simulation Centre, Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik, Address: Demänová 393, 031 01 Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia

Correspondence: * jaroslav.kompan@aos.sk

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to analyze the legal definition, organizational status, and forms of deployment of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic within the crisis management system and during declared states of emergency. Methodologically, the paper is based on a normative analysis of applicable legislation, a content analysis of relevant academic sources, and a synthesis of findings derived from practical implementation experience. The results identify persistent ambiguities in competences and limitations of the legal framework governing the domestic deployment of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, particularly in the areas of command, coordination, and the interpretation of assistance-related tasks. The paper therefore contributes to the professional debate on the need for doctrinal and normative anchoring of civil-military cooperation under the conditions of the Slovak Republic. The findings indicate the need to refine the legal framework in order to increase the effectiveness of crisis management and civil-military cooperation. The main contribution of the paper lies in a generalizable and systematic linkage between the normative and operational dimensions of the deployment and functioning of the armed forces within the state crisis management system.

KEY WORDS: *Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic; crisis management; crisis situations; legal framework; civil–military cooperation*

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1. Introduction

Under the influence of deepening globalization and dynamic changes in the security environment, recent years have witnessed a significant transformation of both global and national security threats [1]. A new operating environment is emerging, characterized by a high degree of complexity, volatility, and interdependence among individual security domains. These developments fundamentally affect the shaping of the state's security and defense policy.

The Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter only “AFSR”) represent a key instrument for ensuring national defense and protecting the population of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter only “SR”). While purely military operations dominated in the past, the contemporary security environment requires a broader spectrum of tasks, including non-military, stabilization, and humanitarian operations. The security of the SR is also inseparably linked to the security of its allies and partners within the Euro-Atlantic security area, which places increased demands on the interoperability, flexibility, and readiness of the AFSR within the crisis management framework.

In current academic discourse, the issue of the armed forces' role in domestic crisis management is increasingly analyzed in the context of a complex security environment, which includes hybrid threats, activities in the so-called grey zone, and the growing interconnection between military and non-military security instruments [2]. The boundary between

military and civilian security challenges is gradually diminishing, thereby increasing the importance of flexible crisis management mechanisms and civil-military cooperation at the national level.

Despite the growing number of academic works addressing crisis management and civil-military cooperation, the legal and organizational status of the armed forces in domestic crisis management remains largely analyzed in a fragmented manner, primarily within individual branches of law or in relation to specific types of crises. A systematic linkage between the normative framework and the practical forms of deployment of the armed forces across various crisis regimes has been addressed only marginally within the Slovak academic environment. The present paper seeks to bridge this gap.

2. Definition of the Legal Framework Governing the Activities of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic within Crisis Management

The legal status, tasks, deployment, as well as management, command hierarchy, and control of the AFSR are regulated by Act No. 321/2002 Coll. on the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic. Pursuant to Section 2(1), the AFSR were established for the purpose of maintaining peace, ensuring the defense of the SR, and fulfilling obligations arising from international agreements and treaties by which the SR is legally bound. Furthermore, Section 4(6) of this Act provides that a commander may decide on the immediate use and deployment of AFSR personnel upon a request submitted by state authorities, municipalities, or self-governing regions [3]. In such cases, the designated commander may allocate the required number of soldiers in order to meet the demands of the relevant requesting entity.

This formulation of the commander's authority enables a rapid response to an emerging crisis situation. However, it also leaves considerable room for divergent interpretations regarding the scope and limits of the AFSR's assistance-related tasks, depending on the specific type of crisis. The AFSR should be employed only in cases where the resources of other rescue components within the Integrated Rescue System (hereinafter only "IRS") are insufficient to address the crisis. In such circumstances, the deployment of individual soldiers and logistical assets to the designated location is both possible and appropriate [4].

Constitutional Act No. 227/2002 Coll. on State Security in Time of War, State of War, State of Emergency, and State of Crisis provides, in Article 1(5), an obligation for the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic (AFSR), as well as other security forces, to perform tasks aimed at maintaining peace and security [5]. Act No. 42/1994 Coll. on Civil Protection of the Population, in Section 3b (2), stipulates that following the declaration of an emergency situation, the following measures shall be implemented [6]:

- rescue operations using forces and resources from the entire territory in which the emergency situation has been declared,
- evacuation,
- emergency supply and emergency accommodation,
- deployment of the basic other components of the Integrated Rescue System.

Upon arrival at the site of a crisis situation, AFSR personnel automatically fall under the authority of the incident commander. This arrangement is established by Act No. 129/2002 Coll. on the Integrated Rescue System [7]. The incident commander is the person responsible for coordinating the activities of all rescue components at the scene and is typically a member of the Fire and Rescue Service. Following a thorough assessment of the situation, the incident commander issues instructions to the individual components of the IRS, while refraining from intervening in their professional and technical activities. Deployed AFSR personnel therefore carry out their tasks in accordance with the orders and instructions of the incident commander. A key aspect remains coordinated cooperation with other rescue components. Once the situation at the site has been managed and stabilized, the incident commander may issue an order to terminate the operation.

In academic discourse, the position of the armed forces as a supporting element within the crisis management system is understood as part of the principle of subsidiarity, according to which the armed forces are deployed only when the capacities of civilian authorities and rescue services prove insufficient [8]. The deployment of the AFSR in a crisis-affected area consists primarily in providing assistance to other rescue components. An important implication of this principle is that the AFSR must, as a priority, perform tasks for which they have been explicitly requested, or tasks of a securing and supporting nature. Other entities may not employ soldiers to perform activities that are unrelated to the core intent of the managing authorities. The principle of subsidiarity implies that, within the domestic crisis management system, the AFSR primarily fulfil an assistance and support function rather than a substitutive one.

The increased media visibility of AFSR deployments generates additional requirements for legal precision and the legitimization of their activities. An important accompanying obligation is the timely and accurate provision of information to the public. Representatives of the armed forces should communicate clearly and transparently with the civilian population, explain the reasons for the intervention in the affected area, and thereby build trust and public understanding. Such communication may serve as an effective instrument for preventing negative consequences and for supporting long-term recovery in the affected area.

As Section 9(1) of Act No. 129/2002 Coll. on the Integrated Rescue System defines the AFSR as other rescue components, their role is to participate in the implementation of measures pursuant to Act No. 42/1994 Coll. The tasks of other rescue components under Section 9(2) of Act No. 129/2002 Coll. on the Integrated Rescue System include [7]:

- providing professional, medical, technical, and other necessary assistance in emergencies upon request by a coordination center or an emergency call operations center, or on the basis of an instruction issued by their own dispatch unit,
- providing, upon request, information to the coordination center on available forces and resources that may be deployed for response operations, as well as information on activation procedures for the purposes of preparing assistance plans and potential deployment,
- implementing measures related to their integration into the information and communication network of the Integrated Rescue System, including the provision of communication means,
- participating in professional training.

In cases where the forces and resources of the Police Force of the Slovak Republic are insufficient to protect the state border, guarded facilities, or to ensure public order, the Government may, pursuant to Section 70(1) of Act No. 171/1993 Coll. on the Police Force, allocate professional soldiers for these purposes for a necessary period of time [9]. The deployment of the AFSR in response to non-military threats is also enabled by Act No. 7/2010 Coll. on Flood Protection and Act No. 314/2001 Coll. on Fire Protection. Pursuant to Section 40 of Act No. 7/2010 Coll. on Flood Protection, flood protection authorities, district offices at the regional level, district offices, and municipalities may request assistance from the AFSR. Act No. 314/2001 Coll. on Fire Protection, in Section 44(5), provides for cooperation between fire brigades and AFSR units and facilities in fire suppression operations [10,11].

The legislative framework governing the use of the AFSR for assistance-related tasks in support of other components of the IRS defines their position within the area of domestic crisis management. This framework entails a broad range of potential tasks for which the AFSR allocate forces and resources, provide capabilities, and conduct training in order to ensure readiness for deployment. The current legal environment is highly flexible and does not strictly define the scope of activities and tasks of the AFSR within domestic crisis management. This can be regarded as a positive feature, as overly detailed statutory specification of tasks and competences could significantly hinder, or even prevent, the deployment of the AFSR in response to unforeseen, unique, and legally unregulated situations. Under such circumstances, constant amendments to legislation would be required, which would substantially impede the timely management of crisis situations. A more precise delineation of tasks therefore arises from the actual needs of the specific component of the IRS to which the AFSR provide their capabilities in an assistance role, depending on the nature of the crisis situation.

3. Aim and Methodology

The main objective of this paper is to analyze the legal definition, organizational role, and forms of deployment of the AFSR within the crisis management system, with particular emphasis on their tasks in domestic crisis management and during declared states of emergency. The purpose of the analysis is not merely to provide a descriptive overview of the applicable legislation, but to identify systemic limitations, ambiguities in competences, and implementation-related challenges that affect the effectiveness of civil-military cooperation.

From a methodological perspective, the paper is designed as a normative legal analysis, complemented by a content analysis of relevant academic sources and an interpretative synthesis of findings derived from practical implementation experience. The research is primarily based on an analysis of the valid legal regulations of the Slovak Republic governing the activities of the AFSR, crisis management, and the functioning of the Integrated Rescue System, as well as relevant constitutional and international legal documents. The analytical method was applied to break down the legal framework into individual normative subsystems (national defense, crisis states, civil protection, and the Integrated Rescue System) and to identify their interrelations. Through synthesis, these partial findings were integrated into a comprehensive understanding of the position of the AFSR within the crisis management system. Abstraction enabled the identification of the essential elements of the examined issue and the elimination of marginal aspects that do not have a direct impact on the analyzed phenomenon. The comparative method was applied in examining individual legal regimes governing the use of the AFSR in different types of crisis situations and crisis states, as well as in comparing national legislation with selected allied and doctrinal approaches. In addition, the method of qualified personal communication with representatives of selected crisis management institutions was used to enhance the understanding of practical implementation problems related to the application of legal norms under real conditions.

The outcome of the applied methodological procedures is the identification of key legal and organizational factors influencing the deployment of the AFSR in crisis management, as well as the formulation of analytical foundations for a discussion on the need for further development of the legal and doctrinal framework governing the assistance-related tasks of the AFSR. The selected methodological approach enables not only the identification of normative frameworks regulating the activities of the AFSR, but also the assessment of their internal coherence and practical applicability under the conditions of real crisis situations.

4. Deployment of AFSR Forces and Assets within Domestic Crisis Management

As the SR participates in fulfilling commitments within the framework of international crisis management, it must also carry out tasks within domestic crisis management. It is important to note that these tasks are of a different nature and

involve other types of units and technical resources. Domestic crisis management is characterized by the fact that the AFSR serve as a secondary element within the hierarchy of the IRS and are not deployed in every crisis situation, but only in the most severe cases. Therefore, it is necessary to define and specify the scope and level at which the AFSR may intervene.

Internal security can be defined as the resilience of the state to destructive phenomena of social, technical, and natural character that arise within its internal environment and have the potential to trigger crisis situations [12]. The AFSR may be employed in ensuring internal security in accordance with national law. Their participation typically consists of providing assistance to the police and other state rescue components in addressing and mitigating the consequences of the following types of situations (Fig. 1):

- crisis situations of a social nature caused by terrorist acts or large-scale civil unrest involving physical attacks on state authorities, or on the lives and property of citizens. In such cases, the use of force by deployed soldiers may occur, but only at a very low intensity;
- crisis situations of a technical or technological nature caused by accidents in state infrastructure facilities with societal-wide consequences;
- crisis situations of a natural character caused by natural disasters or epidemics.

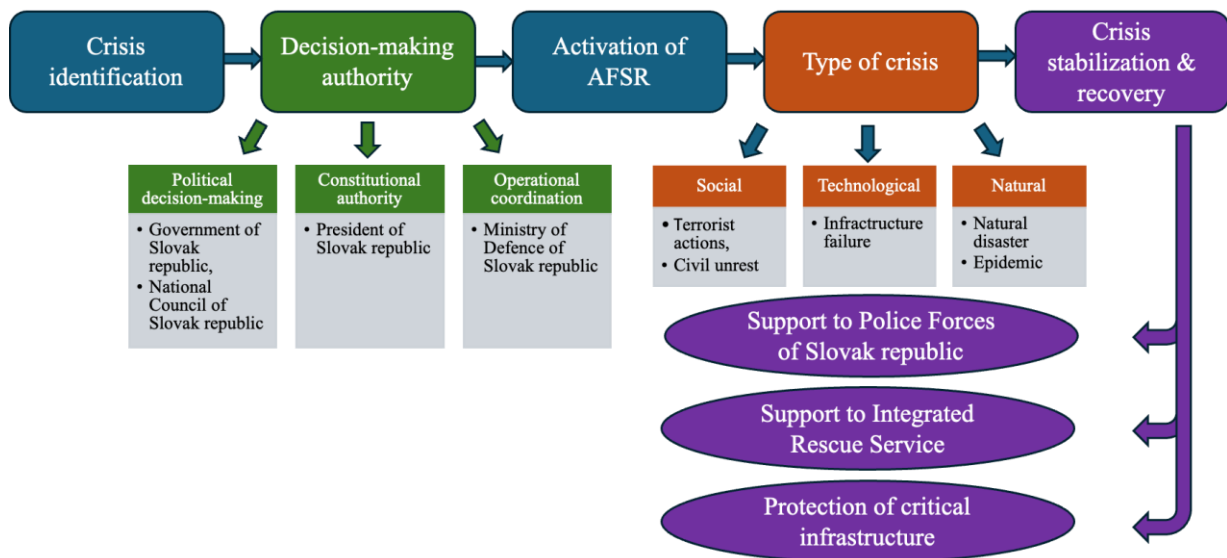


Fig. 1. Stages of assistance tasks by the AFSR. Source: own processing

The use of the AFSR is governed by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, Constitutional Act No. 227/2002 Coll. on State Security in Time of War, State of War, State of Emergency, and State of Crisis, and Section 4 of Act No. 321/2002 Coll. on the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic [3,5,13]. The deployment of the AFSR to address a crisis situation within the territory of the SR (Table 1) occurs:

- based on a decision of the highest state authorities when the crisis situation reaches an intensity that warrants the declaration of a crisis state. Depending on the nature of the crisis, the crisis state is specified in Constitutional Act No. 227/2002 as war, state of war, state of emergency, or state of crisis [5];
- based on a request from local state administration authorities or self-governing territorial units in the event of a non-military crisis situation of local scope.

Table 1.
Variants of Possible Deployment of the AFSR in Crisis Situations within the Territory of the SR

No.	Nature of Crisis Situation	Possible Purpose of AFSR Deployment	Political Objective of AFSR Deployment	Legal Basis
1.	Military aggression	• defense of national territory • facilitation of NATO member states' forces deployment into a joint operations area	• to defeat military aggression in coordination with NATO forces	Decision of the National Council of the SR to exercise the right to self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter [14], implemented by the President through the declaration of war against the aggressor

2.	Serious military provocation (border incidents, repeated airspace violations by military aircraft)	• protecting the state border • air operations against military violators of airspace	• to prevent attempts at military provocation • to demonstrate the SR's determination to defend its sovereignty	Government decision to deploy the AFSR following the President's exercise of the authority to declare a state of war on the territory of the Slovak Republic in accordance with Article 102(m) of the Constitution of the SR [13]
3.	Terrorist attack / large-scale civil unrest (involving attacks on public authorities, looting, or other mass violence)	• providing assistance to security and rescue institutions • maintaining public order • searching for perpetrators • isolating unrest areas • conducting rescue operations	• to contribute to stabilizing the security situation in the affected area of the SR	Government decision to deploy the AFSR following the President's exercise of the authority to declare a state of emergency in the affected area in accordance with Article 102(m) of the Constitution of the SR [13]
4.	Natural disaster / large-scale industrial, transport, or other operational accident (with significant societal consequences)	• providing assistance to rescue institutions • evacuating the population • emergency supply • saving lives and property	• to contribute to mitigating the consequences of a technological, technical, or natural crisis situation	Government decision to deploy the AFSR following its decision to declare a state of crisis in accordance with Article 119(n) of the Constitution of the SR [13]
5.	Extraordinary event in the form of a natural disaster, industrial, transport, or other operational accident of smaller scale (with territorial limitation to one or several municipalities within a district)	• providing assistance to local state administration authorities and municipal offices in rescue operations	• to contribute to mitigating the consequences of the extraordinary event	A request by local state administration authorities or territorial self-government bodies for the provision of assistance in addressing an extraordinary event, in accordance with Section 4(5) of Act No. 321/2002 Coll. on the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic [3].

Source: own processing (data from [3,13,14])

In the context of domestic crisis management, the fourth, fifth, and partially the third of the above-mentioned variants are applied. The variant use of the AFSR indicates the need for a broad spectrum of external/military activities through which the objectives of AFSR deployment are achieved. Accordingly, the following types of external/military activities are distinguished:

- combat activities,
- stabilization (non-combat) activities,
- enabling activities,
- assistance activities.

Each type of external/military activity is further divided into a set of related activities of a tactical nature, which in the NATO doctrinal environment, specifically in the Allied Joint Doctrine for Land Operations (AJP-3.2), are referred to as "land tactical activities" [15]. The attribute "land" indicates that these activities are conducted on the land surface and may be carried out not only by land forces units, but also by naval, airborne, and special forces units. External/military activities, with the exception of assistance activities, may be conducted:

- concurrently, for example when forces assigned to an operational formation conduct combat activities in one part of the area of operations, while in another part, already secured by friendly forces, they carry out stabilization activities by providing food assistance to the local population;
- sequentially, for example when forces transition from enabling activities, such as the execution of a movement or march, to the conduct of combat activities.

Assistance activities, also referred to as “assistance tasks”, are in certain aspects related to stabilization and enabling activities, such as reconnaissance, security and control, or the initial restoration of basic services. The fundamental difference lies in the fact that they are carried out exclusively on the national territory of the state, by designated units of the AFSR. Their content is not universal but is specified in the legislation of the respective state. Under the conditions of the SR, assistance tasks are focused on providing support to police authorities, the IRS, and local state administration and territorial self-government bodies in managing non-military crisis situations. The execution of assistance tasks is generally not associated with the application of standard combat functions but primarily consists of “ad-hoc” logistical, guard, and policing activities. The authors state in their previous publication [16] that assistance tasks are typically conducted in five basic phases (Fig. 2), which are described in detail therein.



Fig. 2. Stages of assistance tasks by the AFSR. Source: [16]

5. Role of the AFSR during Crisis States

Crisis states do not arise through the escalation of threats or crisis situations but must be formally declared by law. The authority to declare a crisis state in a given area rests exclusively with the competent crisis management body. The declaration of individual crisis states enables authorized authorities to expand and legally legitimize their competences and powers in order to overcome a crisis. For the purpose of managing a crisis situation, the constitutional authorities of the SR may declare a state of war, a state of war threat, a state of emergency, or a state of crisis. During these four states, the state may restrict certain rights of citizens. The rights and obligations of citizens during a state of war, a state of war threat, a state of emergency, and a state of crisis are regulated by Constitutional Act No. 227/2002 Coll. on State Security in Time of War, State of War, State of Emergency, and State of Crisis [5].

In a state of security, the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic (AFSR) consist of:

- professional soldiers,
- reserve soldiers called up for regular training or task performance,
- soldiers undergoing voluntary military training.

In time of war or during a declared state of war, the AFSR consist of:

- professional soldiers,
- reserve soldiers called up for regular training or task performance,
- soldiers undergoing voluntary military training,
- reserve soldiers called up for extraordinary service,
- registered citizens called up for extraordinary service following conscription procedures.

During a state of emergency and a state of crisis, the AFSR consist of:

- professional soldiers,
- reserve soldiers called up for regular training or task performance,
- soldiers undergoing voluntary military training,
- reserve soldiers called up for extraordinary service.

The declaration of war is vested in the President of the Slovak Republic on the basis of a decision of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and applies to the entire territory of the SR. War may be declared only in the event of an armed attack against the SR by a foreign power that has declared war on it or violated its security without a declaration of war, or where the declaration of war is required in order to fulfil obligations arising from an international treaty on collective defense or from membership in international organizations. A time of war constitutes the period from the day of the act of declaring war until the day peace is concluded. During this period, the President of the Slovak Republic may, upon a proposal by the Government [5]:

- order professional soldiers, reserve soldiers called up for regular training or task performance, and soldiers undergoing voluntary military training to perform extraordinary service,
- call up reserve soldiers and registered citizens conscripted through conscription procedures to perform extraordinary service,
- call up registered citizens and reserve soldiers who refused to perform extraordinary service in a state of security to perform alternative service,

- order the mobilization of the AFSR, either partial or general.

A state of war threat represents the period from the day of its declaration until the day of its termination, the expiration of the period for which it was declared, or the declaration of war. A state of war threat may be declared by the President upon a proposal by the Government in the event of an imminent threat of war against the SR or a threat posed by a foreign power without a declaration of war. As in the case of a declaration of war, the declaration of a state of war threat applies to the entire territory of the SR. During the duration of a state of war threat, the President of the Slovak Republic may, upon a proposal by the Government [5]:

- order professional soldiers, reserve soldiers called up for regular training or task performance, and soldiers undergoing voluntary military training to perform extraordinary service,
- call up reserve soldiers and registered citizens conscripted through conscription procedures to perform extraordinary service,
- call up registered citizens and reserve soldiers who refused to perform extraordinary service in a state of security to perform alternative service,
- order the mobilization of the AFSR, either partial or general.

A state of emergency may be declared by the President upon a proposal by the Government in the event of an imminent threat of terrorism, the outbreak of street riots, or other forms of mass violent unlawful conduct that, by their scope, threaten state security or disrupt public order, where such threats cannot be eliminated by the activities of public authorities using statutory means. A state of emergency may be declared only for a specific affected or imminently threatened area and only for a necessary period, with a maximum duration of 60 days. In the event of new circumstances related to the reasons for declaring the state of emergency, it may be extended by a maximum of 30 days. Measures corresponding to the scale of the threat may be employed in order to restore a lawful state. During the duration of a state of emergency, the President of the Slovak Republic may, upon a proposal by the Government [5]:

- order professional soldiers, reserve soldiers called up for regular training or task performance, and soldiers undergoing voluntary military training to perform extraordinary service,
- call up reserve soldiers to perform extraordinary service.

A state of crisis is declared by the Government in the event that there has occurred, or there is an imminent risk of, a threat to the life and health of persons as a result of a pandemic, a threat to the environment, or extensive property damage caused by a catastrophe, natural disaster, or transport, operational, or industrial accident. A state of crisis may be declared only for the affected or imminently threatened territory and only for a necessary period, with a maximum duration of 90 days. During the duration of a state of crisis, the President of the Slovak Republic may, upon a proposal by the Government [5]:

- order professional soldiers, reserve soldiers called up for regular training or task performance, and soldiers undergoing voluntary military training to perform extraordinary service,
- call up reserve soldiers to perform extraordinary service.

For clarity, a comparative Table 2 has been prepared, summarizing the key characteristics of the individual crisis states.

Table 2.
Comparison of the Key Parameters of Crisis States for the Possible Deployment of the AFSR in Crisis Situations within the Territory of the SR

Crisis State	War	State of War	State of Emergency	State of Crisis
Declared by	President of the Slovak Republic on the basis of a decision of the National Council of the Slovak Republic	President of the Slovak Republic upon a proposal by the Government of the Slovak Republic	President of the Slovak Republic upon a proposal by the Government of the Slovak Republic	Government of the Slovak Republic
Conditions	Armed attack against the SR by a foreign power	Imminent threat of a declaration of war against the SR or an armed attack by a foreign power	Occurrence or imminent threat of a terrorist attack or other mass violent unlawful acts which, by their scope or consequences, endanger or disrupt public order and state security	Occurrence or imminent threat to life and health of persons, the environment, or property as a result of a natural disaster, catastrophe, or industrial, transport, or other accident
Territorial scope	Entire territory of the SR	Entire territory of the SR	Affected territory or a part of the territory of the SR	Entire territory of the SR or only the affected and

				threatened territory
Duration	From the day of the declaration of war until the termination of war	From the day of declaration until the termination of the state of war, the expiration of the period for which it was declared, or the declaration of war	Necessary period, up to a maximum of 60 days (with a possible extension of up to an additional 30 days)	Necessary period, up to a maximum of 90 days (extension in the case of a pandemic or serious public health threats requires the consent of the National Council of the Slovak Republic)

Source: own processing (data from [17])

It follows from the above that different legal regimes of crisis states create distinct operational conditions for the AFSR, which place increased demands on command flexibility and on the ability to rapidly adapt to changing legal and organizational frameworks. In 2025, Act No. 150/2025 Coll. on Measures for Resilience and Defense Obligation entered into force. This Act supplements certain rules governing national defense and defense obligations, including adjustments related to the conduct of the AFSR during crises and their activation processes [17]. However, the Act did not repeal the fundamental rules governing the declaration of crisis states as laid down in Constitutional Act No. 227/2002 Coll.; rather, it complements them primarily with respect to the AFSR and defense reserves.

6. Discussion

The discussion on the status and role of the AFSR within the crisis management system highlights several systemic issues that go beyond the scope of legislative regulation alone. An analysis of the legal environment suggests that, although the normative framework is relatively comprehensive and enables flexible deployment of the AFSR, in practice it also creates space for interpretative ambiguities, particularly in the areas of competence allocation and command arrangements during non-military crisis situations.

One of the key issues is the dual status of the AFSR in domestic crisis management: on the one hand as the state's sovereign armed force, and on the other hand as an "other rescue component" within the IRS. While this model is functional in terms of operational flexibility, it may in certain situations lead to ambiguity with regard to responsibility, command, and decision-making authority, especially in the case of prolonged or complex crises. Unlike existing approaches that focus either on the legislative dimension or on the operational aspects of crisis management, this paper emphasizes their interdependence as a critical factor for the effective deployment of the AFSR.

The degree of legal specification of the AFSR's assistance tasks also remains a matter of debate. The absence of detailed definition enables rapid responses to non-standard situations, but at the same time places increased demands on the quality of civil-military coordination, the preparation of commanders [18], and the ability to correctly interpret legal norms in real time. From this perspective, it is evident that the effectiveness of AFSR deployment in crisis management is conditioned not only by the legislative framework, but also by the level of inter-institutional cooperation and the professionalism of decision-making processes [19]. Therefore, it is critically important to examine the evolving security identity of neighboring countries through the lens of their responses to contemporary geopolitical challenges [20,21].

In comparison with allied approaches, such as the Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA) concept or NATO's Comprehensive Approach, it can be concluded that the Slovak model places strong emphasis on subsidiarity and civilian leadership of crisis management, which is consistent with democratic principles of civilian control over the armed forces. At the same time, however, there is a lack of systematic doctrinal reflection on the assistance-related tasks of the AFSR in the domestic context, which limits opportunities for their further development and standardization.

7. Conclusions

The present paper analyses the legal definition, organizational status, and forms of deployment of the AFSR within the crisis management system and during declared crisis states. The results of the analysis confirm that the AFSR possess a broad legislative mandate to perform assistance and support tasks in the domestic environment, particularly in situations where the capacities of civilian components are insufficient.

At the same time, the findings indicate that the current legal framework, although providing the necessary degree of flexibility, does not eliminate the risk of competence-related ambiguities, especially in the areas of command, coordination, and responsibility during non-military crisis situations. The effective engagement of the AFSR in crisis management is therefore conditioned not only by normative regulation, but also by the quality of civil-military cooperation, the level of training, and the ability to apply legal norms within a dynamic operating environment.

Based on these findings, further research should focus on the development of a doctrinal framework for the assistance-related tasks of the AFSR in domestic crisis management and on comparative analysis with foreign models of civil-military support. Such an approach could contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of crisis management, strengthening state resilience, and improving the utilization of the AFSR's potential in support of population protection.

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