

The Latvian Defence Policy of Military Areas in Borderlands

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Abstract: Planning of military areas by Latvian defence policy is performed, in order to ensure purposeful development of the national defence abilities of Latvia, both on a national level, and within the framework of collective defence. The defence system of Latvia is being developed in accordance with the geopolitical situation of Latvia, available resources and the military abilities to be applied within the framework of collective security. Latvian defence policy for planning of military areas in borderlands is made by three stages or perspectives. 1) Land use sustainable development - support local planning and economic development objectives. Related with local authorities. 2) Environmental protection – create development and implementation of the global sustainable development strategy “Agenda 21” and the local strategy “Baltic Agenda 21”, Latvia has demonstrated its position regarding environmental protection. This statement is involved from NATO global policy about military area restructuring. 3) Cultural – military heritage perspective. That means of protection policy of historical military buildings. It is type how to protect historical property that has relevance and importance in illustrating the historical context.

Keywords: Defence policy, borderlands, heritage, military geography, Latvia

1. Introduction

Latvia is the state which is the most historically affected from neighbour states and geopolitical Nazi Germany and Soviet Union. Military conflicts in Latvia are not happened last 67 years. The contemporary reorganization military infrastructure and land use in former military areas are most problematic aim which are transform local regional development in borderlands of Latvia (Alanen, 2004). One of the way how regulate processes of land use recognition is Safeworld programme. Safeworld is developing a program to take forward and build support for the proposals contained in the EU Programme for Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Conventional Arms and to formulate an agenda for the EU member states to implement the program. In particular the program will focus on developing proposals in three main areas:

- Owners of a resource stock select extraction levels that follow a Markov perfect equilibrium path;
- Land use and biomass capacity should to grow up, because Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Environmental protection and Regional development are made statements of collective agreements of directorate political agreements environmental management of Latvian borderlands.
- The former military areas are regionally sustain implement by value of communities and neighbourhoods. Target government funding toward existing communities – through strategies such as transit – oriented, mixed use development, and land recycling – to increase community revitalization, promote walkable areas, increase public health, and improve the efficiency of public works investments. Safeguard intact relationships between communities and neighbourhoods and the natural resources, open space and agricultural landscapes.

The Latvian coastline and inland borderlands are unique and relatively unfragmented landscape, because in Soviet period, when Latvia were occupied, borderland was “closed zone”. This geographical fiction now made new opportunities of researchers and policy makers.

2. Research methods and data

In this research is used scientific literature analysed method and interviews with professionals from military science sight. In this reserch is used GIS (*Geographic Information system*) for military regions analysing. Data is taken from Latvian Defence Ministry data about military object location. Other part of data is analyzed from GIS Server Latvia.

In this paper mathematical appreciation is made on spatial data models. Spatial panel data models can deal with cross – sectional and dynamic dependences among economic units, allowing heterogeinity among these unit. They are generalized from a cross – sectional model, where the spatial autoregressive model by Cliff & Ord (1973) has received the most attention.

Table 1. Defence sector of Latvia (Latvian Ministry of Defence, 2011)

Policy planning	Policy implementation	Environmental protection	Scientific research
Planning Latvian defence policy is performed, in order to ensure purposeful development of the national defence abilities of Latvia, both on a national level, and within the framework of collective defence.	Policy implementation of Latvian defence policy is based in two aspects participation in international operations and Baltic defence cooperation.	By joining international conventions on environmental protection, entering into international agreements for the improvement of the quality of the environment.	As of 2003, the funds for the research work are planned within the framework of the annual budget of the military landfields. The Ministry provides funding for the research projects.

The national security policy is essentially a policy – recommending body, but because of its small size it can respond to crises quickly, and its powerful membership ensures that its decisions are influential. National Defence policy is quite related with EU and legislation of military land use (Table 1). European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) has become one of the most dynamic of administrative interaction in the European Union (EU). This has entailed the creation of several political – military bodies in Brussels as well as functional desks specifically devoted to European security cooperation in member state foreign and defence ministries. There are three stages of global impact of military land use are 1) intergovernmentalism, 2) transnationalism and 3) transgovernmentalism. These three stages affect military land reform of Latvia. The concept of land reform has varied over time according to the functions performed by land itself (Ayoob, 1995): as a factor of production, a store of value and wealth, a status symbol, or a source of social and political influence. Land value reflects its relative scarcity, which in a market economy usually depends on the ratio between the area of usable land and the size of the population. As the per capita land area declines, the relative value of land rises, and land becomes increasingly a source of conflict among economic and social groups in the community.

3. Military landfields and spatial structure of Latvia

Military landfills are covered with ~ 1.68% of the Latvia territory. In these areas, works in the Latvian Armed Forces and the general public its closed or restricted (see: Fig 1). Landfill site is used for several decades by the Soviet army and there was intense military action (Ādaži management plan, 2002).

Since World War II, when Latvia was occupied by German and Soviet occupation, foreign military presence has exacerbated the environmental problems. Most marked in that there was a direct troop locations, and military bases. Soviet military units and a network of Latvian was very wide, so large quantities of hazardous substances, and defective unexploded ordnance, mines and drop bomb, as well as a variety of releases to soil and water pollution is still a wide Latvian countryside.

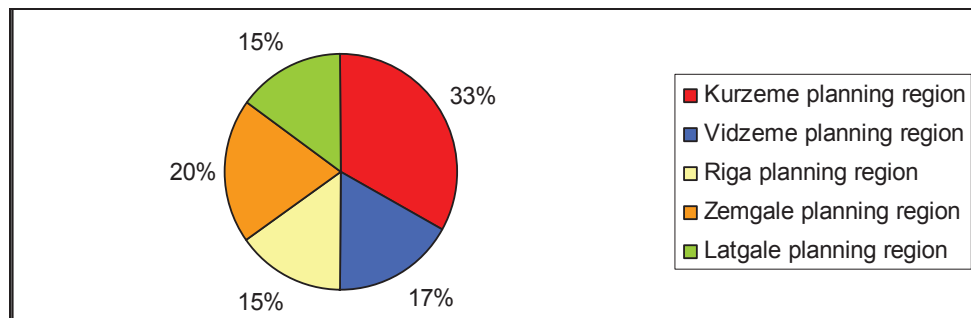


Figure 1. Military territorial proportion by planning region

Most of military landfields of Latvia are concentrated in Kurzeme planning region, because it is related by historical and political reasons. Kurzeme coastline were western border of USSR (Gilpin, 1995). Fortification and security systems of coastline borderland are very disturbed of reason why are these structures located strictly. Former military polygons now are privatized and deeply analyzed by local authorities.

Two institutions Defence ministry of Latvia and Latvian National Agency of Tourism are made data base of military objects. There are compiled information about 100 military heritage sites and interesting strategic geographical exposures. Military secrets have been carefully protected and hidden everywhere and through time eternal. It is no surprise that we still know comparatively little about the Soviet and then Russian armed forces, which only left Latvia and the other Baltic States in 1994. A good example of this is the unique "Little Star" on the Kurzeme seashore – a massive radio reception system with three parabolic antennae that were used to intercept telephone calls and probably to engage in other information processes over a vast region (Celotajs, 2011). It was only recently that we learned that the former Latvian SSR was home to more than 1,000 military units which were posted to some 600 facilities (Laurance, 1998). The total area of these military bases was equal to more than 10% of the Soviet republic's territory. There are a few well known military objects that are open to visitors who wish to get a bit of a sense about what the Soviet era was like. These include the military prison in Liepāja and a hidden bunker in Līgatne (Celotājs, 2011). There is many cultural – military places which now are adapted for military security.

4. Defence policy after accession to NATO

Defence policy of Latvia is related with aspects of military activities in Latvian borderland. It is related between Latvia and internal partners. Division of partners are NATO states and "third neighbours" (Russia and Belarus). In September 2009 Russia held two related military exercises – "Zapad - 2009" and "Ladoga - 2009". These two military operations explain the situations why defence policy for borderlands are very important decision. Security systems are also involvement of development for coastline and borderland counties.

Now the national security programme is based on the three aspects (Muiznieks, 2006):

1. Latvia had their own security strategy of territory which are planned based on official statement from Saeima (national parliament of Latvia). In this strategy is statement how to protect civil zone from abroad attacks. This strategy is called VAK – 2008.
2. Second and most important collective security system – 1) information – 2) land use overview – 3) – information processing. The Latvian Geographic Information Infrastructure (LGII) was created to connect major national spatial information providers to a spatial infrastructure.
3. Internal partners like NATO and Northern alliance are contributors for collective security. 1) Cooperative military strategic regulations are made for military land field studies.

5. The Latvian Borderland and sustainable development processes

Innovation is the process by which an idea or invention is translated into a good or service for which people will pay (Dannhaeuser; Werner, 2008), or something that results from this process. Borderland of Latvia is quite attractive economically zone. In borderland of Latvia have 1083 entrepreneur places, 668 of them are located in coastal administrative units. Latvian coastal borderlands include strict administrative units (110 counties ~ (latvian: *novadi*)) which are established in 2009. Local innovative economy planners are local authorities and entrepreneurs. In a relatively

small economy with relatively immobile capital, high corporate with investors from national and global sight. The paper is organized as follows The research aim is results of calculation how local inovative economy devlope administrative units of Latvian coastal borderlands.

Co-operation practices between coastal municipalities and other local actors of North-Western part of Latvia and UNESCO is created by chair in SCD under the framework of EC LIFE project "Green Coastal Region – 21". Two innovation forms of coatal rural sustainability is 1) social – ecological management of agriculture land use and 2) communating planning (UNESCO Latvia, 2001):

- all environmental and socio-economic development investments - locally planned, lacking co-operation between municipalities and other stakeholders,
- inter-sectorial regional and sustainable planning elements neglected in ongoing sectoral (waste, water etc.) environmental projects.

The spatial processes of Latvian borderland are related with sustainable development indicators like 1) environment condition; 2) number of enterpreuner places; 3) population and 4) urban – rural distribution.

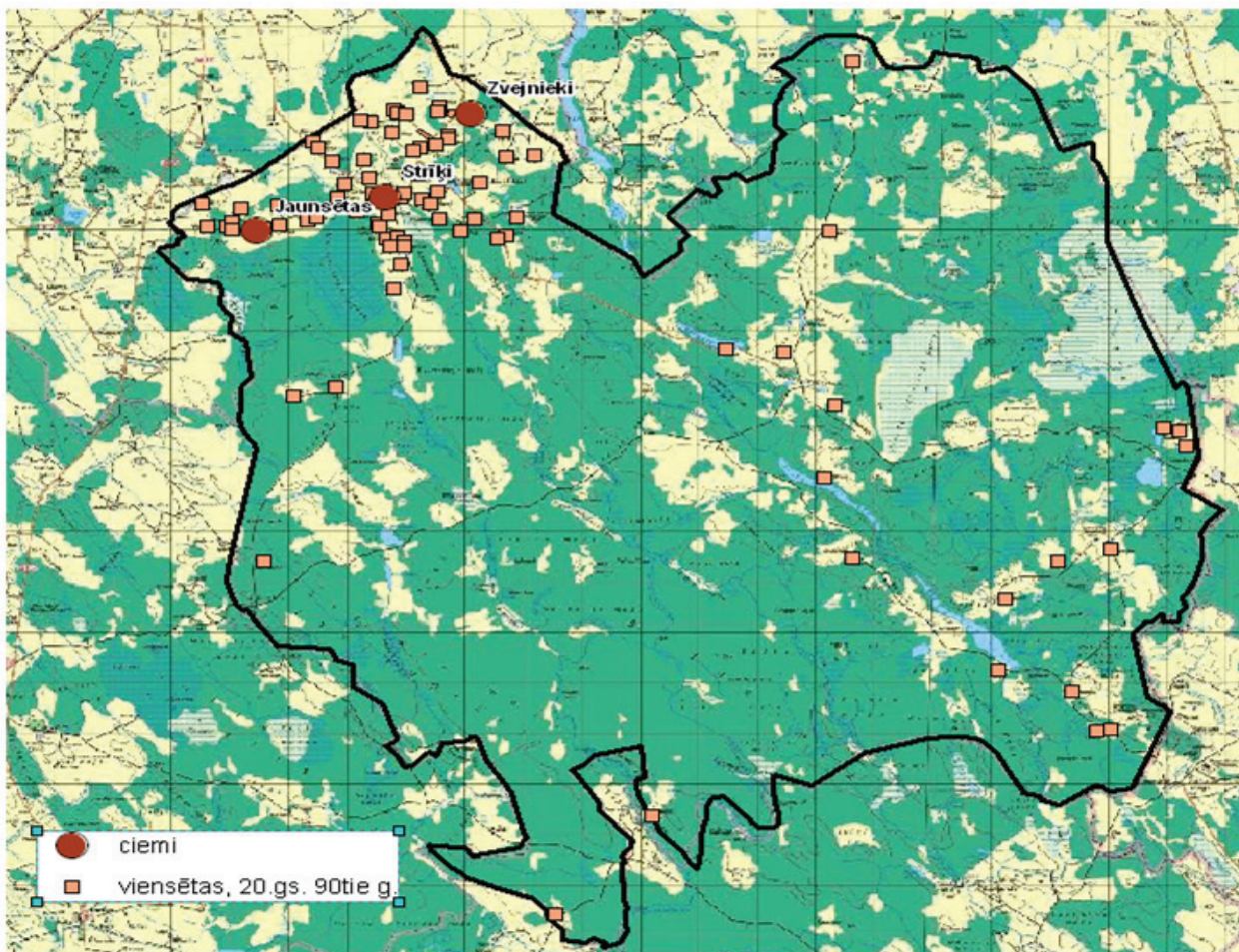


Figure 2. Populated places in Zvārde parish in 20th century 90 years (Balodis; Beneža, 2011)

Zvārde is former military parish, where is located smaller counties. Comparing the age structure Zvārde parish 2007th year, it can be concluded that all of Zvārde local residents 66.1% are of working age, which is different from the age structure of the country as a whole (see: Fig 2). Zvārde parish has a greater proportion of population under working age - 18.6%, which is the Parish of human potential and the potential workforce in the future as the national average before the working age is 15.4% (CSB, 2011). After working age population ratio Zvārde parish is less than the country as a whole (national average 21.8%) - 15.3% (CSB, 2011), it shows a favorable age structure.

6. Military geography of Latvia

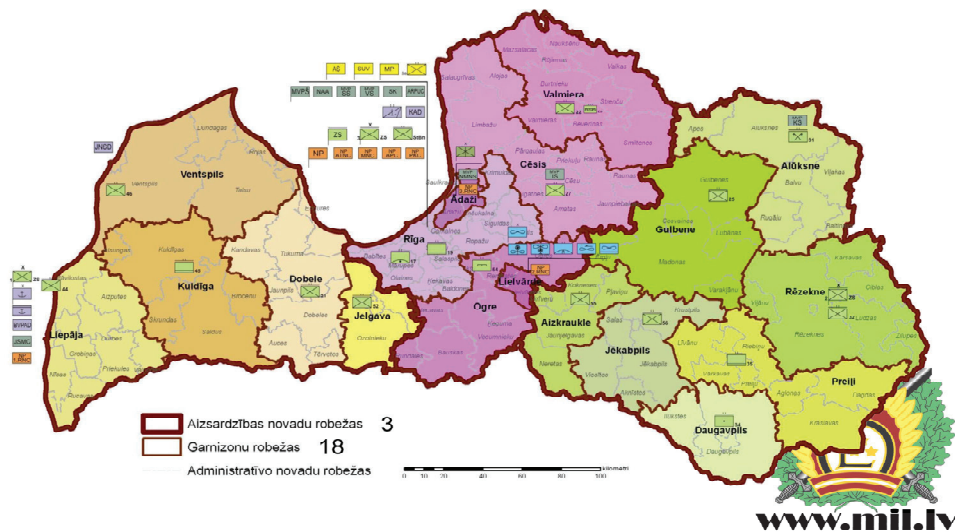


Figure 3. Military geographical division of Latvia (Latvian Ministry of Defence, 2011)

Contemporary theories of place provide a framework within which geographers and also military scientists can bridge society – wide processes, such as state building, with local actions, decisions, and experiences. In this view military places of Latvia are widely conceptualized as networks, rather than simply the local – scale settings, or containers, in which social relations occur (Lejins, 2004).

Former military territories are now new type of developed areas (see: Fig 3). Just as geography is essential to the military establishment, so it is valued in the public, civilian sector (Buchan, 1968). Thus, that most fundamental of human geographical distributions, population itself, is of the greatest interest to census bureaus of various countries and internationally (Lovell, 1970). Population and economical indicators also show, how to military areas are affected development of military areas (Weber, 1978). The military region Zvārde and Ādaži in comparison with other regions particularly affected by closing of barracks of the Latvian Armed Forces. Strongly concerned are the locations in Carnikava, Kadaga and Garkalne as well as the circle district Ādaži, which communities of the circle decided and with participation of the counties Ādaži and Garkalne to promote the regional management conversion under the responsibility of the Latvian Armed Forces.

In Latvia have 3 military counties and 18 garrisons (see: Table 2). The military – administrative division of Latvia is from 1992. Taking into account that Latvia has one of the smallest military budgets within NATO in both- percentage of GDP and real money investment level, NATO “Smart Defense” initiative is of utmost importance for this country defense system and military capabilities. 16 military exercises are being organized in Latvia in 2010 including three high level international military exercises. Soldiers from the Latvian National Armed Forces (NAF) are participating in 42 military exercises in Latvia.

Table 2. Military administrative structure

<i>Military county</i>	<i>Administrative division type</i>	<i>Name of military structure</i>
Western county	Liepājas garrison	Land armed forces of Kurzeme
Western county	Ventspils garrison	Military navy logistic centre
Western county	Dobeles garrison	51th infantry battalion
Western county	Kuldīgas garrison	45th safeguard battalion
Western county	Jelgavas garrison	51th infantry battalion
Centre county	Valmieras garrison	22th armed battalion of Valmiera
Centre county	Cēsu garrison	Military instructor school of Cēsis
Centre county	Rīgas garrison	NBS united staff
Centre county	Ogres garrison	54th technical battalion
Centre county	Ādaži garrison	Military supportance battalion
Centre county	Lielvārdes garrison	Air armed forces base of Lielvārde

Eastern county	Alūksnes garrison	Eastern unit of home guard
Eastern county	Gulbenes garrison	25th infantry batallion
Eastern county	Rēzeknes garrison	2th county stuff
Eastern county	Aizkraukles garrison	55th infantry batallion
Eastern county	Jēkabpils garrison	56th infantry batallion
Eastern county	Daugavpils garrison	34th artillery batallion
Eastern county	Preiļu garrison	35th safeguard batallion

6. Conclusion

Defence policy of Latvia is based on national strategic interests and NATO official statements. The new military geographical aspects are now based on Latvian borderland and coastline.

Latvian large numbers of the former Soviet armed forces and part of the infrastructure. Identifying, evaluating and managing the military objectives, it is possible to develop rural tourism, thereby contributing to the area of sustainable development, protecting nature and biodiversity.

Latvian military territorial structure is divided in three major military regions and in 18 military districts.

This research argues for increased critical attention to the role of territory and territoriality in framing sociospatial courses in the context of spatial plan making. Even if such interactions and connections seem to be less present, a(ny) region depends partly on, and takes shape relation to, networked connections and flows and territories „elsewhere”.

Border zones are areas near borders of states that have special restrictions to movement. Governments may forbid unauthorized entry to border zones and restrict property ownership in the area (Stüre, 2004). Borderlands of Latvia in nowadays is understandable of border zone with 15 km distance from border to borderlands. Now we can describe in Latvia borderland more than 900 military buildings and structures. More than in any other area, military remains have been the subject of complementary approaches to designation.

Generally, listing has been applied to buildings in use: scheduling to those monuments where re-use is inappropriate, ruinous condition. In practice, there are listed inert buildings in ruinous condition, and scheduled monuments in use. The most appropriate designation regime (Wates, 2006) will be applied to all candidates, and in some cases a review of the existing designation may be warranted. Principle of rarity are being a rare survival of its type will strengthen the case (Petraikos; Maier; Gorzelak, 2000). In some cases, for example with experimental sites, many buildings are by definition rare or unique.

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