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# **FORMATION OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE THIRD REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

## **ARTSRUN HOVHANNISYAN Summary**

The research is the first step to discuss the process of the formation of the Armenian armed forces in the early 1990s, which ran parallel with military actions, in hard economic situation which was also due to the blockade (imposed by Turkey and Azerbaijan), and, on the whole, during the reestablishment of the Armenian state after proclamation of the Republic of Armenia and the Artsakh Republic (NKR). In addition, the descriptions and military actions, different battles and operations, and also the peculiarities of the Armenian military culture and the ways of thinking are presented in the book. In the separate chapters of the scientific research the stages of development of the army and the main post-Ceasefire processes are studied - in short, the way from fighting forces to the organized army and the process of a transition to an army of the new epoch. It was a difficult period for the Armenian people. But the hardships were overpowered and the Armenian people was victorious and the Armenian Army has become an object of the Armenian national pride..

The research consists of three chapters.

1. "The process of the formation of the Armenian Army".
2. "The Preparation of the command staff and cooperation with international structures in the context of the reforms"..
3. "The militarization of Azerbaijan and the reforms of the Armenian Army".

In the I chapter "The process of the formation of the Armenian Army" is discussed the need of creating a regular army after the liberation movement. In the last period of the USSR, thanks to those steps, even partly semi-official and illegal from the point of view of the legislation of the still existing USSR, the Armenian side was ready to resist the aggression of Azerbaijan, so the Armenian genocide of 1915 had not been not repeated.

By the way, the war can be introduced as a combat process of the armed forces formation. From the point of view of military history and operational arts the separate operations are very important, as the particularity of the war are revealed.

There are presented main facts of the formation of the army and some militarized structures. Formation of the Self-Defense Forces was a natural process, and its legal continuation became the process of recreation of the Armenian Army.

In the 2-nd chapter - "The Preparation of the command staff and cooperation with international structures in the context of the reforms", we studied the personnel issues of Armed forces from the beginning, the role of field commanders during the war, as

well as the issues of training of professional cadres and still ongoing tasks connected with them. In 1992 when the war intensified, the same commanders had already become professionals and lack of education is also not particularly acute. Many of them are people with higher civil education, so during some time they became professional soldiers. Certainly, the fact that the Armenian soldier is quickly becoming a professional in combat is an important factor, even if he was not the specialist in the certain field. The issue of the Cooperation between Armenian army and international organizations is also discussed. The ways of cooperation are explored and some observations are also presented and proposals are put forward. In the military sphere, innovation, science and technology are being developed with a relatively small number of states, and thanks to this military cooperation the defence potentialities of the RA is being strengthened.

We also studied up-to-date experience of several centers of power cooperation with which is beneficial and important for us. Ever since the war started, the authorities of the Armenian Armed Forces maintained in a close relationship with the CIS member-countries and in particular with the Russian Federation. Western countries were of interest for such relations. In this regard, we have space for development.

In the 3rd chapter - "The militarization of Azerbaijan and the reforms of the Armenian Army", we examined the militarization of Azerbaijan, which in the last ten years has become particularly more visible for any international organization and expert. Azerbaijan mainly emphasizes on the strategy of total war by all means and ways - informational, diplomatic, military, etc. According to the Azerbaijani military and political leadership, the key to success of the war has to provide the incomes derived from the sale of hydrocarbon resources. The military budget of Azerbaijan is about 4 billion dollars. The increase in the military budget of Azerbaijan has a specific targeting. The projects of the modernization and acquisition of weapons for the Azerbaijani army require a detailed analysis. They have keen interest in purchasing variety of offensive weapons, the production of certain types of weapons, the acquisition of UAVs, etc. Currently, the volume of arms of the Azerbaijani army is superior to the permissible number of international organizations, and these figures are being hidden. First of all it is about tanks, armored vehicles and artillery systems, which, naturally are offensive weapons. Obviously, Azerbaijan relies on those offensive weapons, which can cause a devastating blow to the Armenian settlements, civil and military infrastructure. However the affairs in Azerbaijani armed forces are bad, they have many problems. As a vivid example pertinent to note - the actions in July-August 2014 and in January 2015, when the Azerbaijani diversion actions ended with the defeat.

Today it is necessary to analyze particularly at the expert level the experience of our offensive military operations in the mountainous terrain and the same international experience, which should be the basis for the new requirements to conduct further combat operations. Once again referring to the principles of warfare of a new epoch, it should be stated that for the Armenian Armed Forces, along with high fighting spirit, becomes a vital introduction of such weapons, which could ensure maximum

effectiveness in combat, not staking on the number of weapons and human resources. As can be seen, it is Azerbaijan that launched an arms race, and it can only lead to a dead end. In this race we should not tend to a symmetrical answer, on the contrary we must concentrate on solving our own problems. In accordance with the tasks that lie ahead, and taking into account our capabilities and terrain conditions, we need specific tools and weapons, powerful means of air attack, the damage from which will be painful for the enemy. Several units of missiles can paralyze the entire economic potential of Azerbaijan and demoralize the enemy. Parallel to this, it is necessary to focus on the actions of small, mobile and well-armed units in the highlands. New approaches, new tactics and new means are needed. Trench, strong, passive defense, which has already become a stereotype, cannot provide a reliable defense. During the conflict an offensive mind set becomes dominant. The latest electronic intelligence and warfare systems, counter measures, and an adequate management are needed. Their role becomes apparent more and more day by day, and the results are visible to everyone.

The arms race unleashed by Azerbaijan must be answered by an initiative and not only by equivalent answers. Our latest crushing answers to offensive diversions of Azerbaijanis were surprising for them. We must continue the development in this direction, in this case, we can cause even more damage to the aggressor country. But not only this response can restrain. Variants of our responses must be flexible and include the ability to cause devastating and powerful missile attacks and, if necessary, we should be ready to liberate remaining under occupation the rest of the territories of our Homeland. All of these programs require mighty forces and resources. Professionally trained, physically, morally and psychologically well-prepared warrior must be ready to fulfill it all. It is necessary to minimize and as far as possible to exclude not only great losses, but few losses too, at the same time to decide the outcome of our victorious battles. In the conclusion, the development and reform of the army is given and some suggestions are put forward. Armenian Army entered the third decade of its formation and is solving the following problems:

- a. security of the Republic of Armenia and the Artsakh Republic from the external aggression,
- b. preservation of the state of combat readiness and improvement of combat succession,
- c. qualitative and timely implementation of the measures envisaged by the plan of development of the Armenian Armed Forces.
- d. the introduction of the national criterion of military education,
- e. implementation of national program for the development of the military-industrial complex and the strengthening of the military discipline.

For the further development of the Armenian Army the Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan adopted several interesting and perspective concepts based on the personal characteristics of the fighter, independence of the mid-level commanders, the small units and other high-quality segments.