

THE ANALYSIS OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE USE OF THE TERMS "URBAN AREA" AND "POPULATED PLACE" IN THE STRATEGIC AND DOCTRINAL DOCUMENTS OF THE SERBIAN ARMED FORCES SINCE 2010*

Vinko Žnidaršič¹
Darko Lukić²
Nikola Krunic³

Достављен: 26. 04. 2023.

Кориговано: 22. 05 и 16. 08. 2023.

Прихваћен: 10. 09. 2023.

Језик рада: Енглески

Тип рада: Прегледни рад

DOI број: 10.5937/vojdelo2303048Z

By doctrines, the armed forces express ideas and principles in recognizing the elements of the current and future armed conflicts in which they may find themselves. Although modern armed conflicts are increasingly taking place in cities and villages, the documents of the Serbian Armed Forces lack their uniform and precise descriptions, which is a problem. That is why the research was conducted, whose subject was focused on the use of the terms related to urban areas and populated places, with the determination of their consistency in the doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces. With the limited aim of the research, and without pretensions to define the terms mentioned here, it has been determined how and to what extent they are used in the doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces, in order to help in a clear understanding of the problem and encourage the clarification of facts and harmonization in further research.

* This scientific paper is the result of the summary of the research results in the scientific research project funded by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia, under the number: VA-DH/1/22-24 "The management model of the development of the defence system capabilities".

¹ University of Defence in Belgrade, Military Academy, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, vinko.znidarsic@va.mod.gov.rs, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1449-0448>

² University of Defence in Belgrade, Military Academy, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2104-0461>

³ Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5117-6311>

The content analysis of documents has shown that in the 2010 Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces, *urban area* is separated from other areas, but it is neither defined in this, nor in any other hierarchically lower document of the Serbian Armed Forces. In the lower level doctrines, it is rarely in use or similar terms are used, which contain the adjectives urban and populated.

In relation to the term *urban areas*, in the hierarchically lower doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces, most in manuals, the term *populated places* is most often used, which, like the previous one, is not defined in the Serbian Armed Forces' documents, but it is in the state regulation, that is, in the Law on the Territorial Organization of the Republic of Serbia.

On the basis of the revealed result that the term *populated places* is defined by the state regulation in relation to the term *urban areas*, which is not officially defined, it can be suggested that the term *populated places* be used in a consistent way in all doctrinal documents in the future.

Key words: urban areas, urban environments, urban space, populated places, doctrinal documents, Serbian Armed Forces, armed conflicts

Introduction

Modern armed conflicts are increasingly taking place not only near, but also within cities and villages (Höglund, et al., 2016; Elfversson & Höglund, 2021; Elfversson, 2021). In the Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces, which was published in 2010, the assumption was made that conflicts with the use of armed force in order to achieve limited goals can be fought between states or within the borders of a state, in the form of an armed rebellion or the fight against terrorism in *urban* and *non-urban areas* (Republika Srbija, 2010). Urban areas are emphatically determined by this statement as more important in relation to other non-urban areas, but in the keystone doctrinal document of the Serbian Armed Forces, they are not defined by a definition and it is not explained what is meant by this term.

Since modern armed conflicts really, and increasingly intensively and frequently take place in this kind of surroundings, it was expected that this type of area would be described in the hierarchically lower doctrines in order to create conditions for a specific and focused consideration of all aspects that urban environment manifests its influence (Hills, 2001). The most common criteria for demarcating urban and rural area are population density, a manner of using land and population activity (Dorrell et al., 2019). In order to determine the influence of urban and non-urban environment on the processes of preparation, execution, stabilization and disengagement of forces in military operations, it is necessary to know the description and characteristics of these environments.

In the Republic of Serbia, there are regulations that classify cities and villages as *populated places* (Narodna skupština, 2020), but this term is not used in the Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces and appears only in doctrinal documents of the lowest levels. Therefore, the lack of clearly defined terminology in doctrinal documents regarding urban areas and populated places was set as a problem of this research. So far, it has not been discussed in recent national research in the context of the course of military operations and state defence. Previous research was related to the influence of urban environment on the execution of military operations (Terzić et al., 2018; Jurišić, 2022). A similar topic was discussed in foreign research (Watsson, 2006; Danielsson, 2022). It is interesting that in the aforementioned studies the authors use different terms: "urban environment", "populated place" "urban space" and "urban area" for basically the same phenomenon.

The subject of the conducted research is aimed at the use of the terms related to urban areas and populated places, with the focus on monitoring their consistency in the Armed Forces' doctrinal documents.

Two hypotheses have been presented in the paper: 1) that the use of different terms related to urban areas and populated places is inconsistent in the doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces; and 2) that the essential terms have already been harmonized and defined by the laws of the Republic of Serbia, but that different terms are used in doctrinal documents.

The objective of the research is limited to the analysis and determination of how terms related to urban areas and populated places are used in the doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces, then whether this use is harmonized or not, and whether there are defined terms that could be used in a harmonized manner in those documents.

As the main research method, the content analysis of the doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces has been used, and later extended to the doctrinal documents and regulations out of the Serbian Armed Forces. The comparative analysis has been carried out in a limited scope, by studying the contents of the available documents of the Republic of Serbia, the Armed Forces of the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

The strategic and doctrinal documents have been the main material in the research, which has been expanded by the analysis of scientific literature and regulations.

The content analysis of the documents of the Serbian Armed Forces

Using the content analysis of the documents, as the main method of the research on the material including the strategic and doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces of the first and second level of generality, it has been noticed that the term *urban area* has not been described or classified in any of the mentioned documents of the Serbian Armed Forces, not even in the one in which it is initially mentioned - the Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces.

During the content analysis, in the search for the definition of the term *urban areas* in the strategic and doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces, it has

been noticed that other terms containing the adjective urban and similar terms such as urban space, urban environments, urbanization, urban units, urban centres, urban plans, rural area, villages, town, cities, city areas, city port, city network, construction and urban activity, populated place(s), residential area(s), population, populated, populated areas, have been mentioned.

In order to consider the problem of the use of imprecisely defined terms, the use of the noticed terms in the documents that are hierarchically above and below the keystone doctrinal document of the Serbian Armed Forces has been analysed, and the results have been classified into five groups: 1. strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia; 2. the keystone doctrine; 3. doctrines of the operational command level; 4. functional doctrines; and 5. the Serbian Armed Forces manuals.

The results of the content analysis of the mentioned groups of documents are presented by the number of references, respecting the requirement that the content of the specified documents is not published publicly.

The first group: strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia

The first group of the analysed documents presents the results of the search for terms in strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia related to the Serbian Armed Forces, which define the basics of security policy in the protection of national interests, the basics of the defence policy and the functioning of the defence system and military activities of importance for the defence of the country: the White Paper on Defence of the Republic of Serbia (USP SPO MO RS, 2010), the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (Narodna skupština, 2019a) and the Defence Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (Narodna skupština, 2019b).

In the White Paper on Defence of the Republic of Serbia (USP SPO MO RS, 2010), the term *urban environment* is mentioned once, on page 62, *urban plans* - once, on page 111, and *construction and urban activity* - once, on page 111 (Table 1).

In the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (Narodna skupština, 2019a), the term *urban environment* is mentioned once, on page 23; *rural environment* – once, on page 56; *cities* – once, on page 15 and *city areas* – once, on page 23 (Table 1).

Table 1 – *The presentation of the number of mentioned terms in strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia*

Term	White Paper on Defence of the RS	National Security Strategy of the RS	Defence Strategy of the RS
Urban environments	1	1	
Rural environments		1	
City(ies)		1	
City areas		1	

In the **Defence Strategy of the Republic of Serbia** (Narodna skupština, 2019b), these terms are not mentioned (Table 1).

The second group: the keystone doctrinal document of the Serbian Armed Forces

The second group of the analysed documents shows the results of the search for terms in the keystone doctrinal document, the Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces, which provides ideas and principles in planning and executing operations, establishes a framework for decision-making at all levels and a mutual understanding of all participants of operations. It is defined that the Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces, as the keystone doctrinal document in the hierarchy of doctrinal documents, relates the content of the Doctrine with the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia and the Defence Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (Ostojić, M., et al., 2017).

In the **Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces** (Republika Srbija, 2010), the term *urban area* is mentioned once, on page 19, and is not determined by description (definition) (Table 2).

The third group: doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces of the operational level

The third group of the analysed documents presents the results of the search for terms in doctrines that are intended to connect the content of doctrines related to services with the Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces: the Army Doctrine (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2012) and the Air Force and Air Defence Doctrine (Komanda V i PVO GŠ VS, 2012).

In the **Army Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces** (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2012), the term *urban area* is mentioned once, on page 11, the term *urban space* once, on page 24, and the term *populated places* is mentioned three times, once on page 23 and twice on page 40. On page 40, the term *residential area* is mentioned once (Table 2).

Table 2 – The presentation of the number of mentioned terms in the Serbian Armed Forces' keystone doctrine and doctrinal documents of the operational command level

Term	Keystone doctrinal document	Doctrines at SAF operational command level	
	SAF Doctrine	Army Doctrine of SAF	AF&AD Doctrine of SAF
Urban area	1	1	-
Urban space	-	1	-
Populated places	-	3	-
Residential areas	-	1	-

In the **Air Force and Air Defence Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces** (Komanda ViPVO GŠ VS, 2012) not one of the required terms is mentioned (Table 2).

The fourth group: functional doctrines of the Serbian Armed Forces

The fourth group of the analysed documents shows the results of the search for certain terms in doctrines developed for some activities, i.e. functions (J-7 GŠ VS, 2013): the Human Resources Doctrine in the Serbian Armed Forces (J-1 GŠ VS, 2012), the Intelligence Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces (J-2 GŠ VS, 2012), the Planning Doctrine in the Serbian Armed Forces (J-5 GŠ VS, 2012), the Operations Doctrine (ZOK GŠ VS, 2012), the Logistics Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces (J-4 GŠ VS, 2012), the Telecommunications and IT Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces (J-6 GŠ VS, 2012), the Training Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces (J-7 GŠ VS, 2012), the Civil-Military Cooperation Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces (J-9 GŠ VS, 2012) and the Command Doctrine in the Serbian Armed Forces (ZOK GŠ VS, 2012).

In the Operations Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces (ZOK GŠ VS, 2012), the term *urban environments* is mentioned twice, on pages 16 and 24, in the description of phenomena, where in the hierarchically higher documents, the Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces and the Army Doctrine, the term *urban areas* was used (Table 3).

In the Logistics Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces (J-4 GŠ VS, 2012), the *urbanization* of area is indicated once by being presented in Figure 6, when illustrating the development and spatial planning of infrastructure, as the first logistic function of the infrastructure in the Serbian Armed Forces (Table 3).

In the Telecommunications and IT Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces (J-6 GŠ VS, 2012), the term *urban plans* is mentioned once, on page 68. This shows that the telecommunications and IT in the Serbian Armed Forces has an influence on the development of spatial and urban plans in the domain of planning telecommunications facilities and systems (Table 3).

Table 3 – The presentation of the number of mentioned terms in functional doctrines of the Serbian Armed Forces

Term	Human Resources Doctrine in SAF	Intelligence Doctrine of SAF	Operations Doctrine	Logistics Doctrine of SAF	Planning Doctrine in SAF	Telecommunications and IT Doctrine of SAF	Training Doctrine of SAF	CIMIC Doctrine of SAF	Command Doctrine in SAF
Urban area									
Urban environments			2						
Urbanization				1					
Urban plans						1			

The content analysis of functional doctrines has concluded that the required terms are not mentioned in the following documents:

- the Human Resources Doctrine in the Serbian Armed Forces (J-1 GŠ VS, 2012);
- the Intelligence Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces (J-2 GŠ VS, 2012);
- the Planning Doctrine in the Serbian Armed Forces (J-5 GŠ VS, 2012);
- the Training Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces (J-7 GŠ VS, 2012);
- the Civil-Military Cooperation Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces (J-9 GŠ VS, 2012);
- the Command Doctrine in the Serbian Armed Forces (ZOK GŠ VS, 2016); and
- the Glossary of the functional and service doctrines of the Serbian Armed Forces (GŠ VS, 2012).

The fifth group: manuals

The fifth group of the analysed documents shows the results of the search for the required terms in the most characteristic main manuals on the engagement of the Serbian Armed Forces, that is, military units, branches and services (J-7 GŠ VS, 2013): the Mobilization Manual of the Serbian Armed Forces (MO RS, 2010), the Provisional Field Artillery Manual (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2013a), the Warship Service Manual (GŠ VS, 2010), the Army Brigades Manual (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2014a), the Provisional Special Brigade Manual (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2014b), the Provisional Artillery Brigade Manual (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2013b), the Provisional Territorial Brigade Manual (KzO KoV GŠ VS 2014), the Provisional CBRN Battalion Manual (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2014c), the Provisional River Flotilla Manual (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2014d), the Infantry Company-Platoon Manual (KzO KoV GŠ VS, 2016b), the Self-Propelled Anti-Armour Battery-Platoon Manual (KzO KoV GŠ VS, 2016d), the Engineer Company-Platoon Manual (KzO KoV GŠ VS, 2016a), the NEVA M1T Missile Battery for Air Defence Operations Manual (Komanda VIPVO GŠ VS, 2013), the Missile Battery for Short-Range Air Defence Operations Manual (KzO KoV GŠ VS, 2016c), the Infantry Soldier-Squad Manual (KzO KoV GŠ VS, 2016e) and the Manual for operational planning and work of the Serbian Armed Forces commands (J-5 GŠ VS, 2017).

In the **Mobilization Manual of the Serbian Armed Forces** (MO RS, 2010), the term *residential areas* is mentioned twice, in points 133 and 135. The term *populated places* is mentioned once on page 96. The term *cities* is mentioned three times, on page 96 and in point 115 - 2 references. The term *city* is mentioned once, in point 104 (Table 4).

In the **Provisional Field Artillery Manual** (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2013a) the term *populated place* is mentioned 26 times, in points 92, 297, 320 - 4 times, 322, 394, 395 - 2 times, 396 - 3, 397 - 2, 428, 434 - 2, 435, 437 - 2, 448, including references in the content - 2 times and in the headings before points 394 and 434 (Table 4).

In the **Warship Service Manual** (GŠ VS, 2010), the term *populated place* is mentioned twice, in points 28 and 58, and the term *city port* once, in point 216 (Table 4).

In the **Army Brigades Manual** (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2014a), the term *urban environments* is mentioned twice, in points 456 and 480, *urban units* once, in point 464 and *urban centres* once, in point 450. The term *populated places* is mentioned 80 times, in points: 79, 179 – 2 references; 195, 235, 298 – 10 references; 299 – 3 references; 300 – 3 references; 301, 302 – 2 references; 303, 318 – 2 references; 319, 393, 412 – 5 references; 413 – 6 references; 414 – 4 references; 415 – 7 references; 416 – 2 references; 418 – 2 references; 419 – 4 references; 421 – 3 references; 422, 423 – 4 references; 432, 419 – 4 references; 421 – 3 references; 422, 423 – 4 references; 432, 452, 457, 460 – 2 references; 462, 482, 452, 457, 460 – 2 references; 462, 482, 486 – 2 references; 513, 522, 528 – 2 references. It is mentioned 2 times in the chapters (before points 298 and 412), in the table of contents 2 times and in the description of the 1st picture in point 298. The term *residential areas* is mentioned once, in point 432 (Table 4).

Summarized in the **Army Brigades Manual** (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2014a), the term *populated places* is used 87 times (including 6 references in the titles, the table of contents and description of image); *urban environments* is mentioned twice, *urban units* once and *urban centres* once.

In the **Provisional Special Brigade Manual** (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2014b), the term *populated places* is mentioned once, in point 119, the term *populated* once, in point 121, the term *population* once, in point 189, the term *residential areas* once, on page 92, and the term *village* once, on page 92 (Table 4).

In the **Provisional Artillery Brigade Manual** (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2013b), the term *populated places* is mentioned 44 times in points 213, 237 - 3 references, 294, 298 - 4 references, 299 - 2 references, 303, 343, 256 - 2 references, 357 – 10 references, 358, 359 – 8 references, 373, 374, 375, 376, and on pages 145 and 146, including references in the table of contents – 2 references, and headings before points 298 and 256 (Table 4).

In the **Provisional Territorial Brigade Manual** (KzO KoV GŠ VS 2014), the term *populated places* is mentioned 70 times in points 30, 167, 484 – 2 references, 485 – 4 references, 486 – 3 references, 487, 488 – 2 references, 489 , 490 – 4 references, 491 – 2 references, 492, 520, 526, 627, 649 – 2 references, 650 – 4 references, 651 – 4 references, 652 – 7 references, 653 – 3 references, 654 – 4 references, 655 – 2 references, 656 – 2 references, 657 – 2 references, 658, 659 – 3 references, 660 – 2 references, 661, 662 – 2 references, 664 – 2 references, 665 – 2 references, 685, 820. The term *residential areas* is mentioned 8 times, in points 484, 694, including references in the table of contents – 2 references, and headings before points 484 and 649, as well as in the headings of schemes 17 and 24. The term *city* is mentioned 5 times, in points 145, 650, 653, including a reference in the table of contents, and the title before point 649 (Table 4).

In the **Provisional CBRN Battalion Manual** (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2014c), the term *urban space* is mentioned once, in point 8, while the term *populated place* is mentioned once, in point 7 (Table 4).

Table 4 – The presentation of the number of mentioned terms in brigade (flotilla) – battalion (division) manuals

Term	SAF Mobilization Manual (2010)	Provisional Field Artillery Manual (2013)	Warship Service Manual (2010)	Provisional Army Brigades Manual (2014)	Provisional Special Brigade Manual (2014)	Provisional Artillery Brigade Manual (2013)	Provisional Territorial Brigade Manual (2013)	Provisional River Flotilla Manual (2014)	Provisional CBRN Battalion Manual (2014)	NEVA M1T Missile Battery for Air Defence Operations Manual (2013)	Missile Battery for Short-Range Air Defence Operations Manual (2016)
Urban area											
Urban space									1		
Urban environments				2							
Urban units				1							
Urban centres				1							
Villages					1					2	
City(ies)	4						5				1
City port			1								
City network										4	
Populated place(s)	1	22	2	87	1	44	70		1	6	7
Residential area(s)	2	2		1	1		8				
Population (populated)					2						

In the **Provisional River Flotilla Manual** (Komanda KoV GŠ VS, 2014d), the terms related to the discussed areas are not mentioned (Table 4).

In the **Infantry Company-Platoon Manual** (KzO KoV GŠ VS, 2016b), the term *urban space* is mentioned once, in point 48. The term *residential areas* is mentioned twice, in points 390 and 393, while *populated places* is the term that is mentioned 54 times (including 5 references in titles – 2 times (before points 239 and 373), the table of contents – 2 times and image description – 1 time). *Populated places* is listed in points: 66, 153, 239 – 3 references, 240, 241, 242, 243, 245 – 4 references, 246, 247, 248, 373 – 4 references, 374 – 2 references, 375 – 4 references, 377, 378 – 2 references, 379, 381 – 2 references, 383 – 2 references, 383, 385, 386 – 2 references, 387, 406, 409, 493, 494, 517 (Table 5).

In the **Self-Propelled Anti-Armour Battery-Platoon Manual** (KzO KoV GŠ VS, 2016d), the term *urban environments* is mentioned once, on page 95. The term *populated*

places is mentioned 30 times in points 7, 11, 145, 148, 149 – 4 times, 151, 161, 170, 190, 191, 192, 193, 264 – 3 times, 265, also on pages 95 and 96, including references in the table of contents – 2 times, in the title 2 times, before points 149 and 191, as well as in the schemes – 4 references in the title of scheme 7, 7a, 11, 11a (Table 5).

In the **Engineer Company-Platoon Manual** (KzO KoV GŠ VS, 2016a), the term *populated places* is mentioned 6 times in points 6, 58, 158, 160, 248, as well as on page 86 (Table 5).

In the **NEVA M1T Missile Battery for Air Defence Operations Manual** (Komanda ViPVO GŠ VS, 2013) the term *populated places* is mentioned 6 times in points 25 – 2 references, 234 – 2 references and 262. The term *city network* is mentioned 4 times in points 74, and pages 174 – 2 references, 175. The term *village* is mentioned 2 times on pages 179 and 153 (Table 5).

In the **Missile Battery for Short-Range Air Defence Operations Manual** (KzO KoV GŠ VS, 2016c), the term *populated place* is mentioned 7 times in points 73 – 4 references and 115, including the reference in the table of contents and the title before point 73. The term *cities* is mentioned once, in point 115 (Table 5).

In the **Infantry Soldier-Squad Manual** (KzO KoV GŠ VS, 2016e), the term *urban area* is not used, while the term *populated places* is mentioned 13 times in points: 52, 75, 130, 179, 182, 206 – 3 references, 207, 266, 279, 311, 330 (Table 5).

In the **Manual for operational planning and work of the Serbian Armed Forces commands** (J-5 GŠ VS, 2017), the term *urbanization* is mentioned once, the term *populated place* 3 times and the term *operations in urban space* once (Table 5).

Table 5 – The presentation of the number of mentioned terms in company (battery)-platoon-squad manuals

Term	Infantry Company-Platoon Manual (2016)	Self-Propelled Anti-Armour Battery-Platoon Manual (2016)	Engineer Company-Platoon Manual (2016)	Infantry Soldier-Squad Manual (2016)	Manual for operational planning and work of commands - headquarters(2017)
Urban area					
Urban environments		1			
Urbanization					1
Urban space	1				1
Populated place(s)	54	30		13	3
Residential area(s)	2				

Performing an overall analysis of the findings, it has been noticed that the term *urban area* was mentioned only in the keystone doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces (second group) and the Army Doctrine (third group), while in the hierarchically lower functional doctrines (fourth group) it was replaced by the terms *urban environments*, *urbanization* and *urban plans*. The fifth group includes the terms *urban space*, *urban environments*, *urbanization*, *urban units*, *urban centres*, as well as terms such as *villages*, *cities*, *city port* and *city network*. In the fifth group, in relation to the terms *urban*, *city* or *rural*, the terms *populated places*, *residential areas*, *population*, *populated areas* are mentioned much more often.

In short, a trend has been noticed, through the number of references, that the number of terms containing the adjective "urban" decreases (and disappears), instead of increasing, in documents that are hierarchically lower from the keystone doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces. With the departure from the keystone doctrinal document, the number of references to *populated*, and even more frequently *populated places*, increases, which is why a precise definition has been sought.

The definition of the terms "urban areas" and "populated places"

In addition to the term *urban areas*, mentioned in the Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces, and *populated places*, which, more often than others, appears in most doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces (especially of the lowest levels), there is also the term *urban environment*, which is more comprehensive than the term *urban area*. The term *environment*, in most general sense, represents the surroundings or conditions that have an impact on human work and activity (Cambridge University Press, 2003). In the geographical sense, the term *environment* is most often used in the context of the influence of natural and artificial factors on humans, and also vice versa (Galea et al., 2007).

Such a finding has required that the scope of the research be expanded beyond the strategic and doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces, thus the content analysis has been expanded to the available doctrinal documents of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (Ness & Cope, 2021; Hagen, 2022) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (Russian: *Организация Договора о коллективной безопасности*, CSTO) (Довгань & Розанов, 2010).

In the document of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the definition of the term that would refer to *urban areas* is determined in the Allied Joint Publication: Urban Tactics of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization ("ATP-99 Urban Tactics NATO") (NATO Standardization Office [NSO], 2020), where it is stated that the term *urban areas* refers to cities with suburban areas, buildings and other infrastructure and systems that enable urban area to function (electricity, water, transport, waste, food, etc.), together with the population that lives and works in those areas (Jurišić, 2022). A definition with the same elements is also stated in the Publication of the US

Armed Forces "Joint Urban Operations" from 2013 (JP 3-06) (Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, 2013), where urban environment, that is, *urban area*, is defined as an urban trinity composed of a complex physical terrain made by man (facilities); population of great number and density and different socio-cultural groups (residents) and infrastructure (Konaev, 2019).

In the doctrinal documents of the armed forces of the member states of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, it has been noticed that the term *populated place* (Russian: населенный пункт) is widely used (Kotov, & Afonin, 2023). A clear definition is stated in the Land Code of the Russian Federation, where it is defined that land used by people and intended for the establishment and development of residential areas is recognized as the territory of residential area (Земельный кодекс Российской Федерации, 2023: 83). The most cited definition can be found in the Great Soviet Encyclopedia, which states that *populated place is the main unit of human settlement, where the material forms of their residence – facilities – are concentrated. The essential feature of residential areas is the constant use of it as a habitat, either permanently or seasonally from year to year* (Vladimirov & Parhomenko, 2012).

In the doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces, *populated places* are not defined, although they are frequently used in the documents of the fifth group (Table 4), but in the "Law on the Territorial Organization of the Republic of Serbia" (Narodna skupština, 2020) it is stated that *populated places are defined as "a part of the territory of the municipality that has built-up facilities for housing and business; the main communal infrastructure and other facilities to meet the needs of residents who live there permanently"* (Table 6).

The definition of *populated places* specified in the "Law on the Territorial Organization of the Republic of Serbia" (Narodna skupština, 2020) essentially coincides with the definition of populated places used in the documents of the armed forces of the member states of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the definition of *urban areas* used by the armed forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. By separating the definitions of *urban area* and *populated place* into parts and performing their comparative analysis, their similarities in the definition in three essential units have been clearly noticed (Table 6).

Table 6 – *The comparative analysis of the definition of the term urban environment and populated place*

	Urban area includes	Populated place is a part of the territory of the municipality that has	Populated place (рус. населенный пункт)
1)	cities with suburbs, buildings	built-up facilities for housing and business	... and the material forms of their residence – facilities.

	Urban area includes	Populated place is a part of the territory of the municipality that has	Populated place (рус. населенный пункт)
2)	and other infrastructure and systems that enable urban area to function	the main communal infrastructure and other facilities to meet the needs	The essential feature of residential areas is the constant use of it as a habitat, either permanently or seasonally from year to year.
3)	together with the population that lives and works in those areas	of residents who live there permanently	Populated place is the main unit of human settlement, where they are concentrated...
	Sources:		
	Urban Tactics NATO (ATP-99, 2020)	Law on the Territorial Organization of the Republic of Serbia („Official Gazette of the RS”, no. 129/2007, 18/2016, 47/2018 and 9/2020 – other law), Article 5)	Большая советская энциклопедия (2012)

By comparison in Table 6, it can be noticed that the term *urban area* is essentially equivalent to the term *populated place*, which is defined in the regulations of the Republic of Serbia and was actively used until the publication of the Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces in 2010. Unlike the term *urban area*, which was not developed in the hierarchically lower doctrines, the term *populated place* remained in use in the same context in the doctrinal documents of the lowest levels of the Serbian Armed Forces.

Conclusion

The research, which has been carried out by analysing the contents of the strategic and doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces, has shown that a single, standardized term is not used for the geographical entity that includes facilities, population and infrastructure.

In the Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces, the beginning of mentioning the term *urban area*, due to the lack of definition of its meaning, leads to the phenomenon that in the hierarchically lower doctrinal document - the Doctrine of the Army (2012), in addition to the term *urban area*, the terms *urban space*, *populated place* and *residential area* have started to be mentioned for the same phenomenon. In six out of nine functional doctrines, these terms from higher level documents are not mentioned, but new terms are used, such as urban plans, urbanization and urban environments.

A trend has been noticed that by going down the hierarchy of doctrinal documents, the number of cited terms that contain the adjectives "urban", "city", and even "village" and "rural" decreases, and they are replaced by a greater number of terms that refer to *populated place*, such as "residential area", "population" and "populated areas".

In the research of the definitions of the most important and most frequently used terms, it has been discovered that the term *populated places*, in contrast to the term *urban areas*, is defined by the "Law on the Territorial Organization of the Republic of Serbia". This greatly facilitates the use of the term and the understanding of these geographical entities in the Republic of Serbia from the basis that the Serbian Armed Forces need to study and improve the success of its missions and tasks.

All the mentioned terms have their meanings in the wider or narrower scientific and professional literature, but their use is confusing, because the definitions of the terms are not specified in those documents, and their meaning is assumed. It would be much simpler for the users if the terms in the doctrinal documents were uniquely defined by the standard and harmonized at all levels. The use of the terms defined by the laws of the Republic of Serbia would certainly facilitate the interpretation and there would be no confusion between the traditional and legally defined term *populated place*, with terms used in scientific and popular literature, such as *urban area*, *urban environment*, *urban space*, etc. For all these terms, there is no single position that would be accepted as a standard, even in the scientific literature.

Literature

[1] Cambridge University Press (2003) *Cambridge Advanced Learners Dictionary*, UK: Cambridge.

[2] Department of the Army, Department of the Navy (2013) Joint Urban Operations (JP 3-06). https://www.jcs.mil/Portals/36/Documents/Doctrine/pubs/jp3_06.pdf.

[3] Dorrell, David; Henderson, Joseph; Lindley, Todd; and Connor, Georgeta, „Introduction to Human Geography (2nd Edition)” (2019). Geological Sciences and Geography Open Textbooks. 2. <https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/geo-textbooks/2>

[4] Генералштаб Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [ГШ ВС] (2010), Правило бродске службе. Дирекција за издавачку и библиотечко-информациону делатност. Војноиздавачки завод. Београд. Војна штампарија. 160.

[5] Генералштаб Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [ГШ ВС] (2012), Појмовник функционалних доктрина и доктрина видова Војске Србије. Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 61.

[6] Elfversson, E., & Höglund, K. (2021a). Are armed conflicts becoming more urban?. *Cities*, 119, 103356.

[7] Elfversson, E. (2021b). Cities and armed conflict: A systematic urban-rural coding of UCDP conflict events data. *Data in brief*, 39, 107554.

[8] Команда Копнене војске Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Команда КоВ ГШ ВС] (2012), Доктрина Копнене војске (Л-0). Медија центар „Одбрана”. Београд. Војна штампарија. 126.

[9] Команда Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [КоВ ГШ САС] (2013а), Борбена владавина артиљерије – привремена (КоВ-4, Л-1-0). 108.

[10] Команда Копнене војске Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Команда КоВ ГШ ВС] (2013б), Правило артиљеријске бригаде – привремено (КоВ-6, Л-0-2). Београд. 173.

[11] Команда Копнене војске Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Команда КоВ ГШ ВС] (2014а), Правило бригада Копнене војске привремено (КоВ-05), Медија центар „Одбрана”. Београд. Војна штампарија. 232.

[12] Команда Војске Генералштаба Оружаних снага Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Команда КОВ ГШ ВС] (2014б), Влада специјална бригада - привремена (КоВ-07, Л-0-3). Београд. 105.

[13] Команда Копнене војске Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Команда КоВ ГШ ВС] (2014с), Правило батаљон атомско-биолошко-хемијске одбране – привремено (КоВ-9, Л-0-5). Београд. 62.

[14] Команда Војске Оружаних снага Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [КоВ ГШ САС] (2014д), Владавина речне флотиле – привремено (КоВ-08, Л-0-4). Београд. 99.

[15] Команда за обуку Генералштаба Оружаних снага Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [ЦЦО КоВ ГШ ВС] (2014), Територијална бригада – привремена владавина (КЗО-01, Т-0-1). 213.

[16] Команда за обуку Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије Србије [КЗО КоВ ГШ ВС] (2016а), Правило чета-вод инжењерије (КЗО-39/2, Л-0-1.3.1), Београд. 103.

[17] Команда за обуку Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [КЗО КоВ ГШ ВС] (2016б) Правило пешадијска чета – вод (КЗО-40/2, Л 0-1.1.1), Београд. 165.

[18] Команда за обуку Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије Србије [КЗО КоВ ГШ ВС] (2016с), Правило ракетна батерија за противваздухопловна дејства малог домета (КЗО-41/2, Л-0-6.1), Београд. 61.

[19] Команда за обуку Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије Србије [КЗО КоВ ГШ ВС] (2016д), Правило самоходна противоклопна батерија – вод (КЗО-42, Т 0-1.1). 111.

[20] Команда за обуку Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [КЗО КоВ ГШ ВС] (2016е), Правило војник-одељење пешадије (КЗО – 43, Л 0–1.5), Београд

[21] Команда ваздухопловства и противваздухопловне одбране Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Команда ВиПВО ГШ ВС] (2012) Доктрина Ратног ваздухопловства и противваздухопловне одбране Војске Србије (А-0), Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 102.

[22] Команда ваздухопловства и противваздухопловне одбране Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Команда ВиПВО ГШ ВС] (2013), Правило ракетна батерија за противваздухопловна дејства „НЕВА М1Т” (ВиПВО-8, А-0-2.3), Београд. Медија центар „Одбрана”. 200.

[23] Konaev, M. (2019). *The future of urban warfare in the age of megacities*. Institut français des relations internationales. Paris.

[24] Galea, S., Ompad, D. C., Galea, S., & Vlahov, D. (2007). Urbanicity, urbanization, and the urban environment. *Macrosocial determinants of population health*, 53-69.

[25] Hills, A. (2001) Can we fight in cities?. *The RUSI Journal* 146(5), 6-10.

[26] Höglund, K., Melander, E., Sollenberg, M., & Sundberg, R. (2016). Armed conflict and space: exploring urban-rural patterns of violence. In *Spatializing Peace and Conflict: Mapping the Production of Places, Sites and Scales of Violence* (pp. 60-76). London: Palgrave Macmillan UK.

[27] Jurišić, D. (2022). The challenges of military operations in urban areas. *Vojno delo*, 74(2), 75-94. DOI broj: 10.5937/vojdela2202075J, /77.1

[28] Министарство одбране Републике Србије [МО РС] (2010) Правило о мобилизацији Војске Србије. Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 128.

[29] NATO Standardization Office [NSO] (2020) Urban Tactics NATO (ATP-99). Allied Tactical Publication. Edition B. Version 1.

[30] Народна скупштина Републике Србије [Народна скупштина]. (2019a). Стратегија националне безбедности Републике Србије [Strategy of National Security of the Republic of Serbia]. (Службени гласник Републике Србије, бр. 94/2019. <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/strategija/2019/94/2>).

[31] Народна скупштина Републике Србије [Народна скупштина] (2019b). Стратегија одбране Републике Србије [Strategy of Defence of the Republic of Serbia]. (Службени гласник Републике Србије, бр. 94/2019. <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/strategija/2019/94/1>).

[32] Народна скупштина Републике Србије [Народна скупштина] (2020). Закон о територијалној организацији Републике Србије [Law on Territorial Organization of the Republic of Serbia]. (Службени гласник Републике Србије, бр. 129/2007, 18/(2016) 47/2018 и 9/2020 – др. закон. <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2007/129/1/reg>).

[33] Ness, I., & Cope, Z. (Eds.). (2021). *The Palgrave encyclopedia of imperialism and anti-imperialism*. Cham: Springer International Publishing. <http://ndl.ethernet.edu.et/bitstream/123456789/70552/1/93.pdf.pdf>

[34] Одељење за цивилно-војну сарадњу (Ј-9) Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Ј-9 ГШ ВС] (2012), Доктрина цивилно-војне сарадње Војске Србије (Ј-9-0) -9, Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 42.

[35] Ostojić, M. M., Karavidić, Z. M., & Projović, D. M. (2017). The impact of doctrine and concepts on the development of the Serbian Armed Forces capabilities. *Vojno delo*, 69(8), 321-340.

[36] Perinić, L. (2010). Urbani prostor i kognitivizam. *Ostalo: Journal of Cultural Studies*, (1st), 103-109.

[37] Република Србија (2010) Доктрина Војске Србије. Медија центар „Одбрана”. Београд. Војна штампарија. Београд. 120.

[38] Терзић Р. М., Добрић Д., Булатовић Н. (2018) „Обавештајна припрема бојишта и моделовање употребе снага за операције у урбаним срединама”, Војно дело, Београд, бр. 6.

[39] Управа за људске ресурсе (Ј-1) Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Ј-1 ГШ ВС] (2012), Доктрина управљања људским ресурсима Војске Србије (Ј-1-0). Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 68.

[40] Управа за логистику (Ј-4) Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Ј-4 ГШ ВС] (2012), Доктрина логистике Војске Србије (Ј-4-0). Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 87.

[41] Управа за обуку и доктрину (Ј-7) Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Ј-7 ГШ ВС] (2012), Доктрина обуке Војске Србије (Ј-7-0). Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 78.

[42] Управа за обуку и доктрину (Ј-7) ГШ ВС Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Ј-7 ГШ ВС] (2013), Упутство за израду доктринарних докумената у Војсци Србије (УОИД-3), Медија центар „Одбрана”, Војна штампарија, Београд. (Измењено и допуњено у складу са: Управа за обуку и доктрину (Ј-7) ГШ ВС Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије (2015), Упутство о изменама и допунама упутства за израду доктринарних докумената у Војсци Србије (УОИД -3 /1 -1), 84).

[43] Управа за обуку и доктрину (Ј-7) Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Ј-7 ГШ ВС] (2014) „Развој концепата у Војсци Србије”. Београд. 11.

[44] Управа за односе са јавношћу Министарства одбране Републике Србије [УОЈ ГШ ВС] (2012), Упутство за израду и коришћење војне литературе (У-ОЈ-1). Библиотека „Војна књига”. Београд. 105.

[45] Управа за планирање и развој (Ј-5) Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Ј-5 ГШ ВС] (2012), Доктрина планирања у Војсци Србије (Ј-5-0). Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 116.

[46] Управа за планирање и развој (Ј-5) Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [Ј-5 ГШ ВС] (2017), Упутство за оперативно планирање и рад команди у Војсци Србије – привремено (У-ПиР-7/2, Ј-5-1).

[47] Управа за стратегијско планирање Сектора за политику одбране Министарства одбране Републике Србије [УСП СПО МО РС] (2010), Бела књига одбране Републике Србије. Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 172.

[48] Управа за телекомуникације и информатику (J-6) Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [J-6 ГШ ВС] (2012), Доктрина телекомуникационо-информатичког обезбеђења Војске Србије (J-6-0), Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 78.

[49] Управа за обавештајно-извиђачке послове (J-2) Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [J-2 ГШ ВС] (2012), Обавештајна доктрина Војске Србије (J-2-0). Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 72.

[50] Здружена оперативна команда Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [ЗОК ГШ ВС] (2012) Доктрина операција Војске Србије (J-3-0). Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 88.

[51] Здружена оперативна команда Генералштаба Војске Србије Министарства одбране Републике Србије [ЗОК ГШ ВС] (2016), Доктрина командовања у Војсци Србије – привремена (J-3.1). Медија центар „Одбрана”. Војна штампарија. Београд. 66.

[53] Владимиров, О. А., & Пархоменко, А. А. (2012). Большая советская энциклопедия. *Научное издательство Большая Российская энциклопедия*, (30).

[53] Довгань, Е. Ф., & Розанов, А. А. (2010). *Организация Договора о коллективной безопасности (2002-2009 гг.)*. Ковчег

[54] Hagen, A. J. (2022). *The North Atlantic Treaty Organization and cross-cultural competence: A wolf in sheep's clothing? Cross-cultural competence in NATO and its missions*. Universitätsverlag Potsdam.

[55] Котов, О. А., & Афонин, С. В. (2023). Особенности организации противо-воздушной обороны населенных пунктов. *Военная мысль*, (6), 80-83.

[56] „Земельный кодекс Российской Федерации” от 25.10.2001 N 136-ФЗ (ред. от 04.08.2023) (с изм. и доп., вступ. в силу с 15.08.2023), 25 октября 2001 года N 136-ФЗ, ст. 83.

Summary

The armed forces, through doctrines, express ideas and principles in recognizing the elements of the current and future armed conflicts. Despite the fact that modern armed conflicts are increasingly taking place in cities and villages, the problem in the documents of the Serbian Armed Forces is the lack of their uniform and precise descriptions. Therefore, the research was conducted, which aimed to study the use of the terms related to urban areas and populated places, with the determination of their consistency in the doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces. With the limited goal of the research and without claiming to define these terms here, it has been determined how and to what extent they are used in the doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces, in order to assist in a clear understanding of the problem and to stimulate clarification of facts and harmonization in further research.

The content analysis of the documents has revealed that in the Doctrine of the Serbian Armed Forces from 2010, the term "urban area" was distinguished in relation to other areas, but it is not defined in that or any other lower document of the

Serbian Armed Forces. In lower-level doctrines, the term "populated place" is rarely used or similar terms with the prefix "urban" are employed.

In relation to the concept of urban areas, in the hierarchically lower doctrinal documents of the Serbian Armed Forces, the term "populated place" is most often in use, which, like the previous one, is not defined in the documents of the Serbian Armed Forces, but is defined in the state regulation, specifically in the Law on the Territorial Organization of the Republic of Serbia.

Key words: urban areas, urban environments, urban space, populated places, doctrinal documents, Serbian Armed Forces, armed conflicts

© 2023 The Authors. Published by *Vojno delo* (<http://www.vojnodelo.mod.gov.rs>).

This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

