

University of the Azores



The Czech Republic and NATO

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**Dissertation presented at the University of the Azores, to obtain the degree
of Master of International Relations**

Mentor

Professor Doutor Luís Manuel Vieira de Andrade

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Abbreviations

CSCCE *Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe*

NATO *North Atlantic Treaty Organization*

EU *European Union*

OSCE *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe*

NACC *North Atlantic Cooperation Council*

PfP *Partnership for Peace*

UN *United Nations*

EAPC *Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council*

NRC *NATO-Russian Council*

NGC *NATO Georgia Commission*

CMEA *Council for Mutual Economic Assistance*

PJC *Permanent Joint Council*

CJTFC *The concept of Combined Joint Task Forces*

WEU *Western European Union*

RAND *Research and Development Corporation*

NERO *NATO Enlargement Ratification Office*

IFOR *Mission Implementation Force*

SFOR *Mission Stabilization Force*

KFOR *Mission Kosovo Force*

AFOR *Operation Allied Harbor*

ISAF *Mission International Security Assistance Force*

UNPROFOR *Mission United Nations Protection Force*

UNTAES *Mission United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia*

UNDOF *United Nations Disengagement Observer Force*

GDP *Gross Domestic Product*

GDP *Gross Domestic Product*

NCO *Non-Commissioned*

NTM *NATO Training Mission*

NAC *North-Atlantic Council*

DPC *Defense Planning Committee*

NPG *Nuclear Planning Group*

MC *Military Committee*

IS *International Secretariat*

ACO *Allied Command Operations*

ACT *Allied Command Transformation*

NATO PA *Parliamentary Assembly*

EADRCC *Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre*

NSIP *Security Investments Program*

NRF *NATO Response Forces*

PCC *Prague Capabilities Commitment*

US *United States*

WW *World War*

IRF *Immediate Reaction Forces*

RRF *Rapid Reaction Forces*

MDF *Main Defense Forces*

CONAMS *Cooperation with NATO Military structures*

AFNORTH *Allied Forces Northern Europe*

DCI *Defense Capabilities Initiative*

NSIP *NATO Security Investment Program*

NATINADS *Air Defense system of NATO*

ATA *Atlantic Treaty Association*

EAPC *Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council*

IMET *International Military Educational Training*

MLCC *Multinational Logistics Coordination Centre*

MATC *Multinational Aviation Training Centre*

MNTFC *Multinational Task Force Center*

KAIA *Kabul International Airport*

TFH *Task Force Harvest*

RTO *Research and Technology Organization*

MoD *Ministry of Defense*

JCBRNCOE *Joint Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Center of Excellence*

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Introduction

The Czech Republic became a member of NATO on 12th March 1999, 15 years ago. When Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic joined NATO the security vacuum in the area of Central Europe finally ended. It happened after the fall of communism, the end of the Cold War and the fall of the Soviet Union. These three countries became members of the Western world and have carried out basic strategic tasks of their foreign policies: they have been strong anchors in the security structures of the free world, they have ensured free and democratic national existence.

During these 15 years the world has changed and new threats still appear from time to time. Because of this, effective functioning of the Alliance is the key interest of each member country. The Alliance is an institution overarching security and political tasks and represents a link between Europe and the United States. It is the interest of each country to contribute to the smooth operation of the Alliance.

The period prior to joining NATO describes the era between 1993 and 1999, the position of Czechoslovakia after the end of Cold War and the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union, when Czechoslovakia was trying to find democratic values and establish new priorities in the new world, and when its foreign policy started to orientate to the Western world. Czechoslovakia, divided in 1993 into the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Both states continued to cooperate and together with Hungary and Poland started to create new internal and external policy. It was necessary to find a new partner who would guarantee democratic values and security. It was essential to accept the help from Western countries, which were able to provide experience, security and financial help. This part monitors the first steps of approximation between the Czech Republic and NATO, first conferences, summits and participation in missions and trainings within the Partnership for Peace Program. I have also mentioned important personalities of American policy (Bill Clinton and Madeleine Albright) who played a significant role in the question of accepting new members to NATO and who took tremendous effort in order to change the minds of other NATO members and the American Senate.

The period after joining NATO reflects the era after 1999 when the Czech Republic became an official NATO member and started to be incorporated into NATO structures.

Everything changed after 1999. The Czech Republic created a new foreign and security policy, organized the Prague Summit in 2002 to demonstrate preparedness and activity in NATO and show democratic changes and reforms in its structures. The Czech Republic started the era of transformation of the Czech Army into a fully professionalized army. New programs and trainings were prepared together with the help of other members and the Czech Republic regularly participated in trainings, meetings and missions of NATO. The Czech Army is not big, but our Field Hospital together with the Battalion of nuclear, biological and chemical protection is doing an excellent job and Czech medics are known for their high qualities.

Current position 15 years after joining NATO analyzes the current situation, position and activities of the Czech Republic in NATO. This part shows if positive or negative changes have been made and if the Czech Republic continues to be active in NATO structures. In this part I am trying to show negative and positives aspects of our membership in NATO, our current activities and interests, and also a part of Czech defense spending, which changed a lot since 2005.

Based on an analysis of the monitored periods, I will try to analyze our participation in NATO and the role which the Czech Republic plays. I will use the method of comparison of facts from primary and secondary sources as official documents of the government, NATO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense, internet and publications dealing with questions related to NATO.

The General Objective

The Czech Republic actively participates in all Alliance missions, political and military structures, military and political decisions. We can say that during these 15 years, the Czech Republic integrated well into all structures of the Alliance, became a full member and still plays an active role.

This diploma thesis deals with, observes and analyzes the involvement of the Czech Republic in NATO structures since the beginning up to the present. The thesis is divided into 3 main parts, following and separating three big periods:

- a) Period prior to joining NATO
- b) Period after joining NATO
- c) Current position 15 years after joining NATO