Soft Target Protection

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Soft Target Protection

Theoretical Basis and Practical Measures

edited by

Ladislav Hofreiter
Department of Security Management
University of Žilina
Žilina, Slovakia

Viacheslav Berezutskyi
Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute
Kharkov, Ukraine

Lucia Figuli
Department of Security Management
University of Žilina
Žilina, Slovakia

and

Zuzana Zvaková
Department of Security Management
University of Žilina
Žilina, Slovakia

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Preface

The advanced research workshop (ARW) ***Soft Target Protection*** was organized by the University of Žilina (Slovakia) and National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute" (Ukraine) in cooperation with Czech Technical University. The workshop has been supported by NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme.

The security situation in the contemporary world has deteriorated significantly over the last period, as is shown by the growing number of attacks on assets characterized by low levels of protection and high concentration of people – soft targets. Almost always, these attacks are accompanied by a large number of casualties. The deterioration of the security situation also entails an increased need to protect and advocate the soft targets. We are currently facing several problems – the inability to create a unified internationally valid definition of soft target, to applicate it for creating an appropriate security system. At the moment, very few countries have begun to put effort into the improvement of the situation. It is highly important to constantly raise awareness of the possibilities and ways to solving the problems.

The workshop was focused on the protection of soft targets, highly topical issue nowadays, due to the increasing number of terrorist attacks and armed conflicts, where innocent people are suffering. As NATO partner country, the Ukraine was chosen, which has direct tough with the war and suffering of innocent people. Thanks to the partnership of the Ukraine and Slovakia and attendance of great number of highly recognized speakers from various countries (the Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Italy, Slovenia, and France), the workshop could bring mutual change of knowledge.

The workshop covered different areas of soft target protection, such as theoretical aspect of soft target protection, counterterrorism, technical and technological solutions for soft target protection, scheme and organizational measures, blast protection, and forces for soft target protection.

This publication contains selected papers from ARW *Soft Target Protection*, which took place at Masaryk Dormitory Congress Centre in Prague (Czech

Republic) on 17–19 October 2018. We are grateful for the contribution of all the authors and reviewers of the manuscripts.

Finally, as guest editors, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the members of the scientific committee, the editorial committee, and the advisory board for accepting the opportunity to work with us.

We are grateful for the generous support of Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Civil Engineering, for their help with the organization of the workshop, and we are most grateful to the staff of the Springer Nature BV for their assistance with editorial matters.

Žilina, Slovakia — Ladislav Hofreiter
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Contents

About the Editors

Viacheslav Berezutskyi "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute", National Technical University
Kharkiv, Ukraine

Lucia Figuli Department of Technical Sciences and Informatics, Faculty of Security Engineering, University of Žilina
Žilina, Slovakia

Ladislav Hofreiter Department of Security Management, Faculty of Security Engineering, University of Žilina
Žilina, Slovakia

Zuzana Zvaková Department of Security Management, Faculty of Security Engineering, University of Žilina
Žilina, Slovakia