

Influence of the security situation on the numbers of weapons of category D in the Czech Republic

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Abstract

The paper deals with the influence of the current security situation in Europe, numbers of weapons of category D in the Czech Republic and with perception of security in the Czech Republic by citizens. Due to the absence of official statistics relating to weapons of category D, the development is derived from the development of firearms in category B and firearms licenses of group E. The effect of necessity to own a firearm by the citizens for the purpose of their necessary self-defence at the utmost reflects an increase in the number of weapons of category B and firearms licenses of category E, thanks to which then statistics of these categories of weapons and firearms licenses can be used to express the impact of security incidents on the numbers of weapons of category D. The paper introduces the basic assessment of condition and is suggesting further direction in research in the given area

Keywords: Firearms, weapons of category D, firearms license, security situation, terrorist attack

INTRODUCTION

Security incidents and terrorist attacks such as gunfire in club Bataclan, where at metal music concert were killed 89 people by using hand grenades and assault rifles called the AK-47. In connection with this and other attacks, was created an absurd proposal from the European Commission to limit the number of legally held firearms.

Though it is proved and by all recognized experts promoted the idea of an armed and experienced active shooting public that is able to respond directly at the moment of inception of this action and during its course. It is a fact that the policemen, though they are doing their best, are not able to provide security everywhere and continuously. Beware of false tone of the previous sentence. Work carried out by the police and other security forces is worthy of recognition, but for personal safety is primarily responsible each person himself / herself.

Only responsible and intelligent representatives of countries such is the Czech Republic (hereinafter only the CR) have understood the fact that it is not in their own abilities to protect

all citizens at 100%. Therefore they enable their citizens to defend and protect them themselves effectively within the law. As it is for example in the Czech Republic, where can be legally owned a firearm (after meeting the statutory conditions) and use it for personal protection in accordance with the law. Here is mainly meant § 29 of the Criminal Code (a necessary defence) and § 28 of the Criminal Code (extreme distress).

The idea of an active population that is armed and experienced in shooting and is able to respond directly at the moment of inception and during the course of a safety incident can be found for example in a situation like the gunfire in Uherský Brod. Here attacked the shooter, but he no longer had the firearms (here failed the system, but no system is perfect). Although the policemen were present at the spot, it was necessary to wait for the intervention unit (URN), which had to arrive from a different region. Thus occurred a retard, but it did not help to solution of the situation. However, there helped that one of the visitors of the restaurant had thrown a chair after the attacker and thanks to it would were rescued several persons. How this situation would have progressed, if instead of a throwing of chair this visitor would have been able to shoot dead the attacker? This will be never found. However, we hope that in the future similar situation thanks to our active shooting public could be prevented, and if not prevented, then at least the damages could be minimized.

We understand that many people do not like to possess a firearm for reasons that are more or less relevant, for example they do not want to take exams for a gun license or they do not want to acquire weapons of category B, C, possibly of category A. Fortunately, these people have in the Czech Republic the chance to purchase a weapon of category D. How due the security situation are influenced the numbers of weapons of category D? On this question this paper tries to find an answer.

INFLUENCE OF THE SECURITY SITUATION ON THE NUMBERS OF FIREARMS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

For the past year (2016) there occurred a number of incidents. The most important include the terrorist attacks. Terrorist attacks have been, are and will be. However, previously they

were for the Czech citizens something distant. The attacks took place relatively far away. Currently the attacks are happening at our neighbours and it has a significant impact on people's perception. For example, only in July 2016 took place several attacks, among which is also the following

- 14.07 Nice – a terrorist drove a truck into a crowd - 84 dead persons.
- 18.7 Würzburg - an Afghan citizen at train with a hatchet seriously injuring four people.
- 19.7 South France - a Moroccan citizen stabbed four women.
- 22.7. Munich - shooting by an Iranian citizen in the shopping centre - 9 dead persons.
- 24.7. Reutlingen - a Syrian citizen killed a pregnant woman with a machete.
- 24.7. Ansbach - a Syrian suicide bomber attacked the entrance at music festival - 12 injured.
- 7.26 Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray in Rouen - a pastor was murdered by a knife.
- 7.26 Berlin - a doctor was wounded by gunfire
- 7.27 Germany - A refugee from Eritrea raped at a cemetery 79-year old retired woman.

Not all the attacks were terrorist attacks, but this shows the reality of the present days and, unfortunately, also the global everydayness. In just 14 days were committed 9 of security incidents in which 99 people were killed and others were wounded. And these are only some selected incidents. During that time there certainly occurred more such incidents, but the others were not publicized on media.

But how through these events was changed the perception of the population in the Czech Republic? Above all, the Czech citizens slowly began to realize that for their safety is not responsible only the state, but first of all they themselves. This trend is throughout positive. Everyone should have the right to personal protection and defence. The form of defence should be effective, and therefore it is necessary to have effective means. Logically the defence must be stronger than the attack and therefore means of defence should be stronger than the means of attack. If for example, we are attacked by an attacker with a knife, then a more effective mean will be a firearm.

Some people, however, do not want to take exams and be subject to bureaucratic acts associated with ownership of weapons of types of pistols or revolvers. These people in the Czech Republic have the option to purchase a firearm classified in category D. Here mostly for the purposes of personal protection are recommended the expansion pistols (gas pistols), flobert pistols, air rifles or types of Daystate AirRanger.

Other reasons to acquire them are: recreational and reputable shooting disciplines in style IPSC, defensive shooting, etc.

CATEGORY D - "WEAPONS THAT ARE NOT SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION"

„The weapons category D under the provisions of § 7 of the Act on Firearms and Ammunition (119/2002 Coll.) are:

- *Historical weapons (the firearms whose all major components were manufactured until 31 December 1890).*
- *One-shot and two-shot weapons constructed on the principles of smoulder, small wheel, flintlock systems or systems of percussive locks.*
- *Firearms designed for firing ammunition type Flobert with energy of projectile at the muzzle up to 7.5 J.*
- *Gas weapons for the air type of cartouche (including e.g. paintball guns).*
- *Gas weapons, at which the kinetic energy at the muzzle reaches maximally 16 J.*
- *Expansion weapons and expansion devices, with the exception of portable fixing and other impact machinery designed for industrial or technical purposes.*
- *Mechanical weapons in which the tension force is greater than 150 N.*
- *Depreciated firearms, on which in accordance with Decree no. 371/2002 Coll. were made such an irreversible modifications that prevent their use for shooting.*
- *Weapons, on which were in accordance with Decree no. 371/2002 Coll. incision made those adjustments, which at least partially reveal the inner design of the weapon.*
- *Inactive ammunition and munitions (in terms of ammunition and munition which contain explosives or other active ammunition cartridges; this includes devaluated ammunition and munition, destroyed ammunition and ammunition, incision of ammunition and munition and the mock-ups of ammunition and munition)*
- *Other firearms other than those in categories A to C (this is a residual item that concerns the theoretical possibility of the appearance of a weapon that could not be classified as firearm of categories A to C, e.g. development of a weapon with entirely new functional principle). "[1]*

The weapon of category D and ammunition for this weapon may be acquired, held and possibly be carried by a fully sui juris natural or legal person.

It should be noted that these firearms should be used similarly as the firearms in categories C, B or A. although weapons of category D will not cause such injuries as any of other firearms of higher categories. A well-directed shot can inflict considerable damage, for example Flobert shot into the eye or injuries caused by flue gas can be more than annoying.

It is to be recalled that: *"The holder of weapon of category D mustn't carry this weapon visibly on the public or a place accessible to public, save for example, it regards the reconstruction of historical battles, theatre performance, etc.. The holder of weapon category D mustn't carry or manipulate this weapon on the public or a place accessible to public if his ability to this activity has been decreased due to ingestion of alcoholic beverages, drugs, medicaments or as a result of disease."*[1]

The weapons of category D are not subject to registration, and

therefore there are not available their official statistics. For this reason, it is very difficult to determine the number of weapons of category D. Since we are talking about weapons of category D, acquired for the purpose of personal protection, our calculation can be based on the number of weapons in category B (firearms that are subject to registration) and the number of firearm licenses of Group E (for protection of life, health or property).

These data do not provide us with the exact figures on the number of weapons in category D or its development, but they serve us for creation of a rough idea regarding the influence of security incidents on the numbers of weapons of category D.

THE NUMBERS OF FIREARMS LICENSES

The following table includes the numbers of firearms licenses for the individual groups related to the years 2004 to 2016. Since there is stated a basic description at individual groups, we will not deal with a detailed analysis of groups.

Table 1: The numbers of firearms licenses in years 2004 up to 2016. [3] [4].

2004- 2016	firearms licences	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E
	Total	for collection purposes	for sports purposes	for hunting purposes	for performing occupation or profession	for protection of life, health or property
04	308308	73555	123594	131300	62525	228978
05	310884	74466	124841	128957	63961	230784
06	311640	74887	124244	122451	63568	228492
07	308305	74945	124656	114646	63305	229166
08	309500	75829	126886	112776	64918	232862
09	310148	80754	131504	113281	65955	238056
10	311876	81117	133879	112021	65597	236686
11	311667	82229	134618	107559	64840	234362
12	306815	82572	134546	105274	62889	230648
13	292976	83619	135345	104592	62175	229091
14	292283	85463	137284	105931	62286	229579
15	292022	87877	139967	107599	62742	231854
16	300115	93961	148222	110049	63926	240810

In figures for 2016 may be a small inaccuracy.

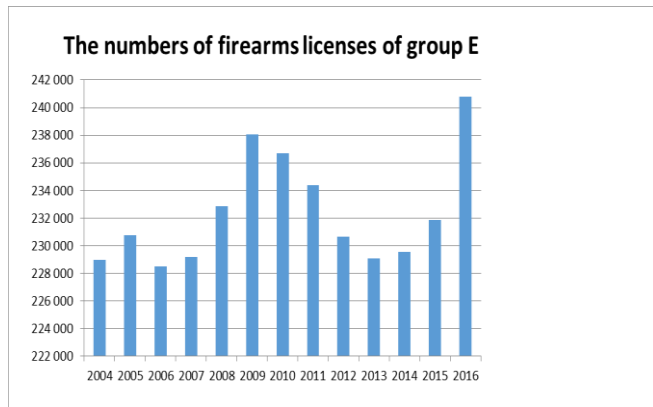


Figure 1: Graph showing the development of the number of firearm license s in Group E from 2004 to 2016.

As can be seen from 2014, when it was already possible to see hints of a migration crisis, the numbers of firearm licenses of group E again are increasing. From the statistics that are available, it is possible to see that currently there are around

240,810 firearm licenses of group E. It may seem like a high number in comparison with 2013, when this number was lower by 11,719 of firearms licenses. However, in 2009 the decrease in firearms licenses was only by 2,754 comparing to 2016. It should be noted that the numbers of firearm licenses in general are both rising and falling over the years.

However, the annual leap (2015-2016) is 8956, which is an increase of about 3.86% which is the most in the past few years.

Personal experience of the authors confirms the assertions in many polls. Amongst the new holders of firearm licenses of Group E are many persons, who acquired the firearm license in view of the deteriorating security situation in Europe.

This statistic was cited because it shows the number of people who are legally authorized to use a firearm (assuming that they own it) for personal protection.

The following statistics show the number of weapons in category B, since these weapons are most relevant to weapons of category D weapons that could be used for personal protection.

Table 2: Statistics regarding the development of number of firearms registered on firearms license over the yearsq.[3][4]

Statistics of development of number of firearms registered on firearms license over the years														
Statistical year		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of firearms licenses	449	517	627	661	787	926	980	961	990	951	1 121	1 232	1 236	1 236
	329 640	340	320	302	303	304	299	292	300	310	319	338	357	357
		135	403	924	605	321	527	187	650	348	012	300	338	338
	275 960	281	314	345	361	377	400	413	419	425	432	435	439	439
	177	306	582	503	564	044	752	414	106	254	848	850	850	
	606 169	621	635	649	665	682	700	706	721	736	752	775	798	798
		829	336	167	895	811	551	900	054	405	387	380	424	424
Offences		6080	5317	5702	5428	4072	2410	2343	2730	3297	2909	1825	1825	
Crimes	Illegal possession of firearms	556	508	509	451	446	387	369	457	449	463	455	464	
	infringement of rules on foreign trade in military material	8	2	3	3	3	3	1	2	7	1	6	1	

In figures for 2016 may be a small inaccuracy

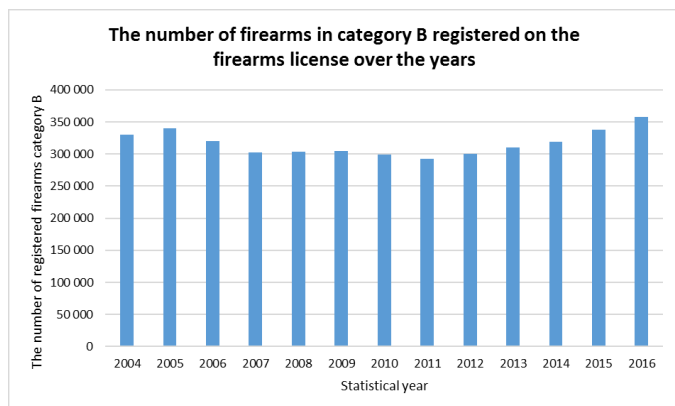


Figure 2: The number of firearms in category B registered on the firearms license over the years .

The annual increase of weapons of category B weapons (2015-2016) is 19 038, which is approximately 5.63%. Numbers of weapons of category B weapons move in long term in the range between 300 000 to 350 000 and though in 2016 the limit 350,000 was exceeded by more than 7000, we cannot talk about any huge growth. The numbers of weapons over the years are moving in waves, so it is possible to see an increase in the number of weapons already since the year 2012.

The increase is smaller than we might expect. In part, this is influenced by the fact that not all holders are buying new weapons. Many people are buying firearms so-called second-hand, along with the number of people find that to hold several firearms in a vault is good for nothing and therefore they tend to sell them. Thus the legal arms market in the e Republic lives his own life, and though is recorded an increase in the number of registered firearms, it is not as striking as one would expect.

However any similar circulation with firearms of category D cannot be expected. Most weapons of category D remain in ownership of their primary owners.

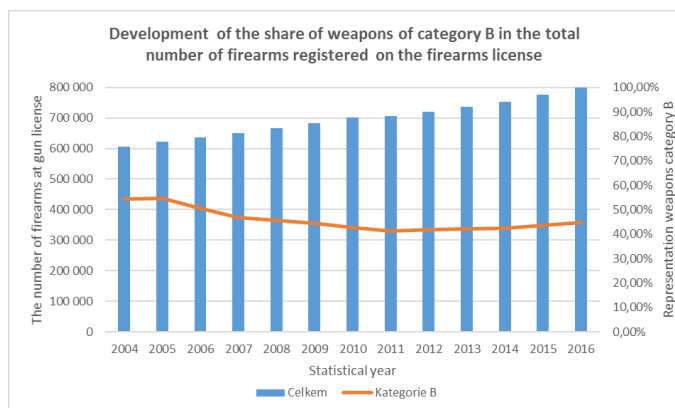


Figure 3: Development of the share of weapons of category B in the total number of firearms registered on the firearms license.

On the previous graph we can see that currently number of weapons of category B is rising, but from the total amount of firearms does not reach even 50% of all firearms (at present it concerns 44.76%).

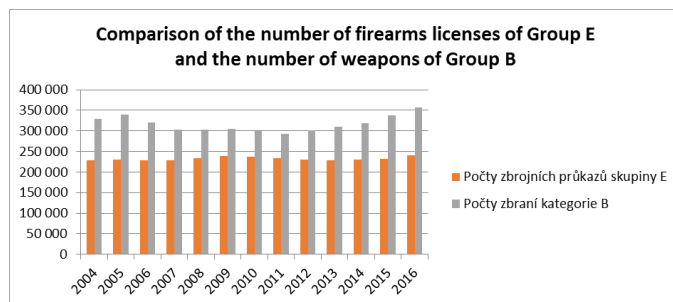


Figure 4: Comparison of the number of firearms licenses of Group E and the number of weapons of Group B.

In the graphs that were presented in this paper can be seen that the growth of firearm licenses in Group E and of weapons of category B is visible.

Unfortunately, the materials are not detailed enough to be able to see an increase in individual months. Especially in 2016, it would be interesting reading, but as we can see, together with the deteriorating security situation in Europe is growing the desire of people for their own self-defence. This trend is clearly positive.

DERIVING OF WEAPONS OF CATEGORY D FROM THE WEAPONS OF CATEGORY B

In the paper we deal with data on the firearm licenses of group E and weapons of category B, because in a highest degree they reflect the influence of our present security situation on the numbers of firearms for personal protection. It can be assumed that in a similar way will behave also the firearms of category D (in response to the security situation). Another reason could be that many guns of category D look similarly as the weapons of category B, which can lead to their acquisition. If we want to deter the attacker from his attack by the mere presence of a weapon, then the weapon of category D is sufficient.

Some people are buying guns of category D in addition to their weapons of category B in order to obtain a cheaper alternative for training and practice.

A lot of people want a firearm for defence, but do not want or cannot have the weapons of category B, therefore these people are buying the weapons of category D.

These and other reasons are the reason why in this article the development of firearms in connection with the security situation is derived from the number of weapons if category B

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Since the weapons of category D are not subject to registration, nobody keeps statistics about them. Most of addressed retailers said that they do not keep statistics and therefore are not able to say, what number of weapons of category D were sold. But some vendors said that there is an increased demand for these firearms, but without knowing by how much.

Even with a large dose of tolerance it cannot be said, how many weapons of category D are at present in the Czech Republic. However, it can be assumed that their numbers are increasing and probably will increase.

This trend can be seen not only in the Czech Republic, but also for example in Germany, where the sale of firearms Category D increased rapidly. Thank goodness in the Czech Republic the decent citizens have the possibility to legally possess weapons of category B and have the possibility to defend themselves effectively against the extremely dangerous attackers.

CONCLUSION

It is almost impossible to determine the exact number of firearms of category D and also the determination of a rough estimate is very difficult. In this paper the growth of weapons of category D was viewed with respect to its relationship of the deteriorating security situation in Europe. From this perspective can be the most traced the growth of weapons of category B and the growth of the holders of firearms license of group E.

On the basis of this estimate, it is possible in the future to look for the growth rate of firearms in border areas, it means generally and particularly at the boundaries with the states where there occur the serious security incidents.

It must be said that here we are talking about security incidents, but not always are used here the firearms. Very often

it regards the cool weapons, explosives or transport vehicles. Just the last mentioned "gun", a truck, is one of the worst variants, which was proved in the attack in Nice and in attack in Berlin. In the introduction was mentioned the attack in Bataclan, where a group of assailants killed 89 people, but in Nice only one attacker killed 84 people. [5]

On an attacker with a gun you can shoot, topple or hit him, or you can attempt to escape. But what can you do against a moving lorry? The installation of the exit barriers in 10 meters distances is unbearably expensive. The position of road markings with prohibited entrance does not mean that the attacker will not drive into such area, he just will move to another part of town. To shoot through the tires of lorry means that the lorry will uncontrollably continue in its movement from house to house and will kill perhaps more people. We can shoot dead the attacker, but thus we do not stop the truck, or before it stops, it will move along many meters. An option is to disqualify electronics by using an electromagnetic pulse (hereinafter only EMP), but this will invoke the response of terrorists in the form of machines that are not affected by EMP (e.g. the old trucks). A real solution currently does not exist [6]

These attacks are extremely dangerous, and yet there is no effort to prohibit trucks, then why to prohibit the weapons? Indeed, just the public capable of shooting can contribute to higher safety because there is a higher probability, that the situation will be solved by an active shooter with legally held firearm immediately at the moment of the inception, rather than 10 minutes afterwards by a policeman. Thank goodness that the politicians in the Czech Republic already have understood this idea and are trying to enforce it. We are grateful to them for that.

The argument of the European Union that says, that we do not need weapons because we have the police, is like the argument that we do not need the fire extinguishers because we have firemen.

In conclusion, let two quotes, from which follows another substantial thing that probably does not need more comments. This is a quote from Thomas Jefferson and one unknown author:

"Laws that forbid to carry arms are of such a nature that their use will result only in the disarmament of those who are not inclined nor determined to commit crimes ... Such laws make things worse for the attacked person and easier for the attacker and serve more for support than for prevention of homicides, because an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than one who is armed . "

Thomas Jefferson

"If the weapons are made illegal, they will be available only to those who move outside the law."

Author unknown

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