

Military Flags of the Zagreb Units in the Croatian Armed Forces

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Summary

The Republic of Croatia began forming its defence structure within its Ministry of Interior while still formally a part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Soon after the proclamation of independence in 1991, military affairs transferred to the newly formed Ministry of Defence. During the Croatian War of Independence (the "Homeland War", 1991-1995), Croatia's defence structure greatly increased and often changed. Zagreb, as the capital with a quarter of the country's population, organized many military units and many commands and institutions were also situated there.

While the first flags were granted ceremonially, due to the exigencies of the war such ceremonies did not continue. However, feeling a need for identity symbols, military units began to produce their own flags. Most units of the brigade level and higher, institutions, and commands had acquired a flag by the end of the war in 1995.

Until now these flags were neither collected in one place nor studied, although a number of flags have been gathered in the Military Museum and the General Staff in Zagreb. During 2006 a number of additional flags were produced for those units for use in ceremonies as a sort of replicas, enabling the original flags to be preserved from wear.

The paper presents a selection of flags of the units situated in Zagreb, showing the major types of flags used and providing a general overview of the modern Croatian military flag tradition formed in the last decade of 20th century.

Keywords: Unit Flag, Military Colour, Zagreb, Croatian Armed Forces

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1. Introduction

This paper presents the flags of those units of the Croatian Armed Forces (CAF) which were established in or had their headquarters in Zagreb during the Homeland War of 1991–1995 and the years following. These Zagreb unit flags are the part of a larger group of unit flags from the Homeland War which the author is researching; this subset should enable validation of the methods used in that research. At the same time, such a subset can be expected to have certain common

characteristics showing the common identity of Zagreb, as well as the identity of the CAF as a whole and its various larger subunits.

The subject group for this research consists of the flags of the units established, restructured, and abolished during and after the Homeland War which were laid down in and are being preserved in the Military Museum and the collection of the CAF General Staff (and occasionally some other places). Due to the circumstances surrounding the creation of these flags, they are not all preserved in a single location and large number are still scattered around the country, some in unit memorial rooms, some in the premises of veterans organizations, some in local museums, and some presumably in private hands. Since unit flag procurement was never centralized in any way and the flags emerged “in the field” under various circumstances, there are no complete registries of all unit flags produced and used. The first task of the wider research on which this paper is based is to establish the groundwork for a complete catalogue of the CAF unit flags. This base may be expanded and complemented as the new data become available through further studies.

Once completed, such a basic catalogue allows a solid overview of the various characteristics of those flags. Among the first tasks was establishing a typology of the flags based on overall design characteristics, identifying six basic types of flags and several subtypes.

As the Zagreb unit flags constitute almost a third of the entire research group, they provide a representative sample that may exemplify the characteristics of the overall group, as articulated in this paper. Furthermore, the paper presents the common symbolism significant for Zagreb regarding colour and symbol use.

2. Development of the Croatian Armed Forces

The core of the future CAF was formed in April 1991 on the verge of the events that led to the break-up of socialist Yugoslavia. This was preceded by the broadening of the political freedoms in the northern and most industrially developed republics of Yugoslavia—Slovenia and Croatia—in the late 1980s. The first non-communist political parties were formally established in Croatia in 1989 and there were many options to choose among during the Croatian parliamentary elections which the reformed Communist Party of Croatia announced for May 1990. The elections were won overwhelmingly by the Croatian Democratic Union, led by Franjo Tuđman, who was elected president. The new assembly of the parliament, with delegates elected among various parties, was held on 30 May 1990. The new parliament soon announced the changes to the Constitution, removing the word “Socialist” from the country’s name and rejecting the socialist symbolism in the coat of arms and the flag.

The reaction from Belgrade was swift. The regime led by Slobodan Milošević was not ready for a multiparty system in Serbia, and by cunningly deceiving both the domestic population and international community he proclaimed the fight for preservation of socialist and antifascist traditions and Yugoslavia as a whole. Using nationalist elements in Serbia, he incited fear among the Serbs living in Croatia that soon turned into open rebellion and an attempted secession, aided by the units of the Yugoslav People’s Army (which in the meantime was thoroughly cleansed of Slovenian and Croatian influence) and various paramilitary Serbian nationalist volunteer units.

To maintain the constitutional order, Croatia begun equipping its police units with more military equipment. The legislation did not allow the formation of military capability in the republics within Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav People's Army (YPA) was under the influence of Belgrade and the so-called Territorial Defence of each republic was under its jurisdiction. While Slovenia managed to use this Territorial Defence as the core of its future military force, the YPA took full control of Croatia's Territorial Defence in Croatia and disarmed it fully. Therefore the future military of Croatia would be formed within the Ministry of Interior, as anti-terrorist special forces units. As they were slowly growing in size, a special branch of the Ministry of Interior was formed for them under the new National Guard Corps (Zbor narodne garde, ZNG), which was made public in a ceremony on 28 May 1991 (celebrated today as the CAF Day, but also the Day of the Croatian Land Forces and the Ministry of Interior–Police). In that ceremony, the brigades arrayed in the Football Club "Zagreb" stadium on Kranjčevićeva Street in Zagreb were granted unit flags by President Tuđman. These ZNG brigades became the core of the future Guard Brigades of the Croatian Army, the professional and elite brigades that were main strength of the armed struggle, defence, and liberating actions that ensured the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia.

In a 19 May 1991 referendum, 93.2% of Croatian voters had opted for an independent and standalone state. Following the results of the referendum, the Sabor (parliament) of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Constitutional Decision on Sovereignty and Independence of the Republic of Croatia on 25 June 1991, thus establishing an independent state (Slovenia did simultaneously the same). This decision was deferred for three months while the international community tried to resolve the Yugoslav crisis. However, on 8 October 1991, with the failure to resolve the crisis and increased terrorist and separatist activities, the Sabor terminated all legal and state connections with the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Croatia achieved international recognition on 15 January 1992 from the majority of European states. With the 25 June decision, the formal conditions to establish a ministry of defence and a regular military force had been met and on the 29 July 1991 the ZNG Command, soon renamed the Croatian Army General Staff, was placed under the Ministry of Defence.

At the end of 1993, the highest military command was renamed the Croatian Armed Forces General Staff. The CAF was now reorganized into two components, the Croatian Army (Hrvatska vojska, HV), consisting mostly of the professional troops of the former ZNG, and the Home Defence (Domobranstvo), filled mostly by the reserves. The structure of the CAF changed often during the first five years, due to the needs of fighting the war and in an attempt to establish the most functional forces. Therefore many units were established and disbanded in that period, especially among the reserves, depending on their available equipment and response to conscription and recruitment. By mid-1995 the total personnel strength of CAF was nearly 200,000 active troops, enabling the strong and swift actions liberating large parts of the territory held by the so-called Republic of Serbian Krajina. In May 1995 the military action Flash (*Bljesak*) liberated the western parts of Slavonia (the UN sector West), followed by the larger action Storm (*Oluja*) in August, which liberated the core of the Serb-held territory in the Adriatic hinterland around Knin (the UN sectors North and South). With this the Homeland War was over, and the remaining separatist-held territory in eastern Slavonia (the UN sector East) was peacefully reintegrated into Croatia in 1997.

As the need for such a large military decreased after 1995, several waves of the restructuring and downgrading in the CAF followed, with the concurrent goal of forming NATO-compatible professional forces. The CAF gradually reached 16,000 troops at the end of 2005 and Croatia was admitted to full NATO membership in April 2009.

3. Legislation and Regulations regarding Unit Flags

The first Law on Defence [Zakon, 1991], establishing the armed forces as consisting of the Croatian Army (HV) and the National Guard Corps (ZNG), included provisions regarding unit flags. Article 63 simply states: “*The armed forces units have their flags. The flags of the armed forces units, the naval flags, and the rank flags in the Navy are established with a separate law.*” Later amendments to the Law [Zakon, 1993] change only some terminology in the article, but in 1996 [Zakon, 1996] the second sentence of Article 63 changed to “*The Supreme Commander [the President of the Republic] establishes the armed forces unit flags, the naval flags, and the rank flags in the Navy.*” Indeed the President issued a decision determining the flags to be used on naval ships in 1999 [Odluka, 1999; Pravilnik 1999], however, military unit flags were not yet covered in that nor any other similar act.

The new 2002 Law on Defence [Zakon, 2002] includes very similar language in its Article 115: “*The Armed Forces units have their flags. The flags of the Armed Forces units are determined by the supreme commander following the proposal by the minister of defence.*” (Naval flags are now determined by a separate Law on Service in Armed Forces [Zakon o službi, 2002] in its Article 30—determining that the Regulations on the naval flags and rank flags are a part of the general regulations of the Armed Forces to be established by the Supreme Commander on the proposal of the Chief of the General Staff and with the approval of the Minister of Defence.) In 2007 amendments to Article 7 of the 2002 Law [Zakon, 2007] listed the obligations of the President of the Republic, that he “*establishes the decisions on the Armed Forces unit flags following the proposal by the Minister of Defence.*”

As much as this research could establish, not a single unit flag was prescribed following any of those determinations. However, as part of the documentation regarding the establishment and use of the military insignia and flags is preserved in the Military Archives, further research may prove otherwise.

4. On Acquisition and Use of Unit Flags

There is an obvious lack of legislation and regulations regarding the unit flags in CAF. However, this does not mean that there were no unit flags, on the contrary. To understand the emergence of the unit flags we should first consider the occurrence of units’ emblems and their table flags.

With the formation of the future CAF, unit visual identity began to develop, first with the creation of the unit emblems (“coat of arms”¹). These emblems emerged under wartime conditions; some were created by the professional designers, but

¹ Even though these emblems, mostly the shoulder patches, are often in military jargon referred to as “coats of arms” (*grbovi*) even in official documents, this is erroneous. The unit military insignia were not designed with regard to any heraldic tradition; they do not follow any heraldic rules and lack even the basic characteristics of heraldic coats of arms.

others by military personnel with more or less sense for and knowledge of the design principles of heraldic emblems. Many units created various insignia for each unit level, even the lowest tactical units. Therefore, unit insignia from the Homeland War are numerous, characterized by different design solutions and varying in design and production quality. Most of such emblems were collected in a series of books edited by Ankica Tuđman (President Tuđman's wife) under the title "Croatian War Symbols" (Hrvatsko ratno znakovlje, 1 and 2) and "Croatian Military Symbols" (Hrvatsko vojno znakovlje, 3) [Tuđman 1994; Tuđman 1995; Tuđman, 1999]. The three books include over 2,000 individual unit emblems.

The final book of the series was issued under the title "Croatian War and Military Table Flags" (Hrvatske ratne i vojne zastavice) [Tuđman; 2000] presenting the collection of some 400 table and souvenir small flags of the CAF units from the Homeland War period and afterwards. These table flags are sometimes of the same design as the unit flags, but often they are somewhat simplified from the actual unit flag, showing only the unit emblem ("coat of arms") on single coloured background. Usually, such table flags were produced on several occasions for any given unit, so there can be differences in background colouring and the general flag design. Some units changed their emblems over time, sometimes due to military restructuring but otherwise for aesthetic or other reasons, these were reflected in the table flags as well. In any case, the design of the unit emblem almost always served as the basis of the design of the actual unit flag, while cases where the actual unit flag inspired of the shoulder patch are much rarer.

The unit patches and the table flags were produced in large quantities, enough for each unit member to have at least one, but also for souvenirs to non-unit members, much like the unit coins are used in the U.S. armed forces. The actual unit flags, however, were produced as unique examples. This should be stressed since the difference in significance and "spiritual" meaning of the unit flag versus the table flags and patches is sometimes not quite clear in Croatia in general, resulting in an occasional lack of care for the unit flags.

A few of the larger and longer-lasting units produced multiple unit flags due to the need to display them in various locations or to replace a deteriorated flag with a new one. And recently, unit flags are being produced by digital printing, enabling relatively inexpensive production of several identical flags.

So, if flags were not granted by the Supreme Commander or regulated within the military structure, how were they produced and introduced? The first ten flags were granted to the ZNG brigades by the President Tuđman in the ceremony in Kranjčevićeva Stadium on 28 May 1991. Since this was done before the establishment of the defence forces legislation, they were certainly not following any procedure. Moreover, this was a one-time event. All of these first flags were of the same design, matching the national flag of 1990 [Zakon, 1990] (except the flag for the presidential guard matched the presidential flag). They were differentiated only by the streamers, each being a national tricolour streamer bearing an inscription with the unit name, see Fig. 1. As far as can be documented, only the first two Guard Brigades (and the Police and the Presidential Guard) used these flags afterwards, and it is uncertain what have happened with the remaining flags. It may be, since they were indeed undifferentiated from the usual national flags, that they were simply misplaced and confused with "regular" national flags and then lost.



Fig. 1. The unit flag and streamer as granted in Kranjčevićeva Stadium, 28 May 1991 (Drawing Ž.H.).

In any case, as the practice of granting flags to units did not continue, and as the units obviously felt the need for distinctive flags as a part of their identity and ceremonies, the units started to acquire flags themselves. It is not quite clear how, exactly, these flags were acquired, and much research for each individual flag is needed, but it seems that they were developed on the initiative of the unit commander or his staff. Some of the flags were richly embroidered, possibly by officers' wives; other flags were impromptu productions by soldiers, with more or less talent and technical knowledge—using all the various techniques that were available in the area where the unit was stationed. This includes silk-screen printing, embroidering, impressing heated plastic elements, dying, painting, appliqué, and others. Some flags were produced by flag manufacturers (notably, some preserved flags include manufacturer labels, among them a few by “Prvi barjak Matić”, a Zagreb company, cf. Fig. 13: left hoist corner). Gradually, more flags were produced by professional manufacturers, like the VIS Varaždin company, and as digital textile printing became available in late 1990s this became the rule. VIS Varaždin produced all the symbolic flags for 2006 and probably all later flags.

Apparently there was no particular ritual in the introduction of such flags. They were likely “silently” introduced as a prop for unit ceremonies. In some cases local ceremonies were probably held, perhaps including consecration of the flag by local priest, but the documentation on that is extremely scarce.

Documentation on how these flags were used originates primarily from photographs by the unit members or the official Ministry of Defence photographers. Even when the flags appear in photographs published in the articles of military journals and public media, they are rarely mentioned in the articles themselves. The unit flags are visible hosted on stage during unit ceremonies, including the swearing-in ceremonies of new unit members or and celebrations of unit anniversaries. They were also used in two large parades organized in Zagreb on the Jarun Lake in 1995 celebrating the victory and 2006 celebrating the 15th anniversary of the CAF. In

these occasions, many unit flags were gathered and marched past the stage. Similarly, numerous unit flags were carried in the annual military pilgrimages to Lourdes and to Marija Bistrica.

Battlefield use of the flags was understandably much less frequent. Unit flags were usually kept in unit headquarters behind the front lines, although sometimes unit flags were draped over or flown from tanks and armoured vehicles. As a rule this was done in the victory processions and parades when the units returned to their home towns, rather than in action. Some units flew their flag on a pole at their barracks, although it seems that this was not widely accepted practice. However, during the entire Homeland War the main flag used in all such occasions was, understandably, the national flag.

Some units, especially those involved in heavy fighting and suffering a shortage of materiel, did not produce any flag, considering it “a luxury they could not afford”—although other units in such harsh conditions found it important to have such an integrating symbol. It probably depended on the unit commander and how much “sense” for symbolism he had or the amount of enthusiasm for symbols the individual soldiers had.

Beside the original “war flags” introduced when units were active, many flags were produced in 2006 for the 15th anniversary of the CAF. Although in the Croatian military these newly devised flags are basically undifferentiated from the original “war flags”, this project will call these new flags “symbolic war flags”. They are in fact replicas of the actual war flags, but usually differ from the actual flags considerably in design and they are all produced by digital printing. In many cases, they were produced also for those units that never had had any flags. Such “remanufacture” of unit flags was done for two basic reasons. One is that it was always difficult to gather all the various flags from the Homeland War for different occasions and ceremonies. Furthermore, museum professionals objected to the use of the original flags, arguing that the fragile and irreplaceable artefacts would be endangered. In that regard, the production of “replicas” is certainly a good choice.

These new flags were manufactured based on Ankica Tuđman’s book [Tuđman, 2000], apparently ignoring the existence of the actual war flags of some units, which were sometimes partially or entirely different from the table flag designs shown in the book. Therefore the symbolic war flags often are quite different from the actual flags used by those units, in some cases dramatically (cf. fig 12 and 20). Also, these flags were produced uniformly—of the same standardised dimensions, the same materials, ornamented equally (fringe, spears, finials), and produced by the same manufacturing technique—further differentiating them from the wartime originals. As these flags were digitally printed, it was possible to produce them in several equal examples, so today one example is preserved in the Military Museum, one in the CAF General Staff collection, and in many cases at least one more example was produced to be given to the veterans association of the particular unit or some similar use. There were over 150 such symbolic war flags produced, the total being unknown as some were produced after the 15th anniversary event, in which 157 CAF unit flags were displayed. These symbolic war flags are now used regularly in various ceremonies in place of the original flags.

5. Researched Group of Flags

In the effort to create the basis of the complete flag catalogue, a subset of flags was researched, based on two largest collections of unit flags formed in Croatia to date and supplemented with some flags from other sources—a few smaller collections and individual flags preserved in various museums, private collections, and other sources. Almost the half of the group is the so-called symbolic war flags manufactured in 2006.

Chronologically, the first collection of the unit flags was formed in the Military Museum which is part of the Public Relations and Information Service of the Ministry of Defence. The Military Museum was established in 1997, and it functions today in the military complex in Zagreb, at Ilica 256a (the Croatian Military Academy). The museum administration is seated there as well as the majority of the museum collections, including the flag collection. The Museum has no permanent display and these flags are not available to the general public. There are around 40 original CAF unit flags from the Homeland War period in the Museum.

The second large collection of the original wartime unit flags is held by the CAF General Staff. Most of it was assembled in 2006-2007, when these flags were returned from use by the abolished or restructured units. The collection consists of about 80 flags from the Homeland War and late 1990s.



Fig. 2. Symbolic flags on permanent display in the offices of the CAF General Staff (Photo B. Šenk).

The two smaller collections are those of the Brotherhood of the Croatian Dragon Society and the Military Police. The former consists of seven original flags of the Guard Units preserved in the ceremonial hall of the Brotherhood, located above the Stone Gates to Zagreb's old town, in the vicinity of Sabor. These flags were collected in 1995-2001, when the Brotherhood organized a series of events to benefit the children of veterans and fallen soldiers of those units [Rukavina, 2005]. The Brotherhood is a beneficiary organization of esteemed Croatian intellectuals and entrepreneurs dedicated to preserving Croatian heritage. When units acquired newly designed flags in late 1990s the ceremonial hall of the Brotherhood was considered an appropriate place for the original flags.

The Military Police (MP) headquarters (whose name and position within the military organization changed several times over the years), as the top structural level of the various MP units, gathered disbanded or reorganized unit flags and otherwise disused MP flags and now displays them in its memorial room. The collection includes a dozen MP unit flags.

The symbolic flags are preserved in at least two copies—one in the Military Museum and one with the General Staff (there, when not in use in ceremonies, the flags are permanently displayed in the foyer of the assembly hall, as shown on Fig. 2.)

Beyond these collections, some flags are preserved individually in local museums or other collections—they were included in this catalogue based on available photographs.

The entire catalogue, at the time of writing of this paper, numbered 358 unit flags produced since 1991, 190 original unit flags and 168 symbolic flags produced after the units ceased to exist. Between 1991 and mid-2007 more than 1,200 various units were formed (by authority of the President or the Minister of Defence). Because in many cases the formation documents only reformed a previously existing unit, sometimes even retaining the name, as a part of wider restructuring of the CAF, it is estimated that fewer than 750 units are possible candidates for flags. Among those, over 500 units have no recorded flag (yet?)—many of those being short-lived or reserve units never activated. Nevertheless, this leaves well over 200 units with flags. Some of those units (at least 81) have recorded more than one flag. A detailed analysis of the entire group of recorded flags is beyond the scope of this paper.

Considering that the population of Zagreb is nearly a quarter of the entire country, and that the main services and headquarters were stationed in Zagreb, it is not unusual that those units compose a large portion of the total. Based on the presidential and ministerial decisions, 258 units headquartered in Zagreb were formed. Ignoring unit formations which only mildly reformed existing units, the number of the Zagreb units considered in this paper comes to 147 units (those which at least some time of their existence were headquartered in Zagreb).

These units include 13 various high level commands, 3 professional (guard) brigades, 32 other brigade-level units, 14 regiment-level units, 26 independent battalion-level units, 17 independent companies, 8 independent platoons, and 34 other kind of units (communication centres, orchestra, training centres and military schools, military hospitals, and others). The list of these units is provided in Table 7 in the attachment.

Over a third of these units (57) date from 1991 or before, however only a handful of them exist today. In the following two years a large number of new units were established, while the next decade saw only a few new units per year (except in 2002, with a large restructuring for compatibility with NATO). Units were abolished at a more or less steady rate of several per year, with larger decreases in 1992, 1993, 1999, and 2002, the last two years due to larger restructuring processes. The total number of active units in any given year shows a clear decrease from around 55 in the 1990s, to around 45 in the first half of 2000s, eventually to around 35. The number of units established and abolished per year is shown in Table 1.

Year		Abolished														Remaining				
		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004		2005	2006	2007	
		3	19	18	7	3	3		6	16	4	4	13		5	8	2			
Established	1991	57	3	15	8	2	1	1		2	8	3	2	1					9	
	1992	21		4	5	2	1		1	3			1		1				3	
	1993	23			5	3	1	2			4		2	1			1		4	
	1994	4										1							3	
	1995	2								1									1	
	1996	1								1										
	1997	4								1				3						
	1998	2									1			1						
	1999	5												4		1				
	2000	6												2		1			3	
	2001	2																		2
	2002	18														2	5	2		9
	2003																			
	2004																			
2005																				
2006	2																		2	
2007																				
Active units		54	56	61	58	57	55	59	55	44	46	44	49	49	44	36	36	36		

Table 1. The number of CAF units established and abolished and the number of active units per year with headquarters in Zagreb.

However, these numbers should be taken with some reserve, since different criteria when considering the successor units may provide different result. After all, each and every unit is legally inherited in at least some today existing unit. However, the legal inheritance criteria is not suitable for this purpose, as many abolished units are inherited by their superior commands, so, for example great number of wartime units is today legally inherited by the Army Command. The criteria used in the analysis tries to maintain criteria which was similar to “succession” rules of the usual military customs and practices in the CAF the best it could have been established. The first of those is the criteria for succession of the military postal number (a four digit number indicating the “Military Post”), although this was not always followed to the letter in this analysis, where the historical data would enable for different treatment. Such succession would certainly have repercussions on the continuation of the use of a unit flag. A minor change if the unit name, or a change of its seat of headquarters usually meant that the previous postal number would be retained, and the flag would have been kept as well. A detailed analysis of unit succession falls out of the scope of this paper.

6. Characteristics of the Flags of Zagreb Units

Among the 147 units from Zagreb under consideration, 98 have no recorded flag, but the remaining 49 units have 81 flags recorded—41 original war flags and 40 symbolic flags produced in 2006. To this number one should add 16 flags (6 war and 10 symbolic) of 13 various formations falling outside the standard military structure—flags denoting certain services or branches (like Home Defence, Military Police) of CAF and the Ministry of Defence, flags of organizations like civil defence or Ministry of Health Crisis Staff, flags of various volunteer units from 1990–91, flags of

paramilitary units of HOS (Croatian Defence Forces, organized in 1990–91 by the Croatian Party of Rights). This makes 97 unit flags, 50 of which being the modern symbolic “replicas”.

For 25 units a single wartime flag was recorded, of those 11 were equipped with a symbolic flags afterwards and 2 with two symbolic flags. For 3 units 2 war flags were recorded, and one had even 3 war flags. The two Guard brigade are topping that with 4 war flags each and yet two symbolic flags each. 18 units that were lacking any flag from the time of their existence were in 2006 provided with symbolic flags, two of those units, not with one, but even two different flags.

6.1. Typology

During the preliminary research on the entire group of catalogued flags, six basic types of design were recognized. All but one of these types appears among the flags of Zagreb units. These types may be named:

1. state flag with streamer
2. defaced state flag
3. modified state flag
4. original design flag
5. defaced monocoloured flag with unit emblem
6. monocoloured flag with unit emblem

These types appear among the flags in roughly chronological order. Types 1 and 2 came first, even very early in 1991, and are usually soon abandoned, types 3 and 4 appear in early 1990s, while types 5 and 6 are the preferred design of the latter period (although they also occasionally appear earlier) .

Flag types	Number of flags	Total		Wartime		Symbolic	
1	state flag with streamer	2		2			
2	defaced state flag	-					
3	modified state flag	2		2			
4	original design flag	2	4	2	4		
4a	cantonal triangle flag	2		2			
5	defaced monocoloured flag with unit emblem	10	12	9	10	1	2
5a	plus canton	1		1			
5c	plus tricolour stripe	1				1	
6	monocoloured flag with unit emblem	61		23		38	
	Total	81		41		40	

Table 2. Number of Zagreb unit flags classified by design types.

This typology clearly shows the development of the flag design from “non-existent” at first, then improvised (by defacing and modifying the state flag) and original (stemming from bright sparks of vexillography), to more uniform and standardized, forming a common system, even though a rather simple one.

The number of flags of each type and some subtypes (to be discussed below) for the flags of Zagreb units is given in Table 2, divided into figures for the wartime flags and the 2006 symbolic flags.



Fig. 3. A flag from Kranjčevićeva, 1991 (preserved in the Police Museum).



Fig. 4. Streamer of the flag from the Kraljčevićeva Stadium, 1991, prepared but not granted (Military Museum, photo B. Šenk).

Type 1 flags—state flags with streamers—are those granted during the 28 May 1991 ceremony in Kranjčevićeva Stadium. Eleven flags in all, one is the prescribed flag of the President for the Presidential Guard (a square blue flag bordered with red and white squares with the presidential emblem—a modification of the state coat of arms in the middle) and ten are the state flag of the Republic of Croatia with tricolour streamers inscribed with the unit name. One such flag with its matching streamer (one of the two granted to the police units) is preserved in the Police Museum (Fig. 3), while at least two are known to have been used by the 1st and 2nd Guard Brigades. The use of these flags by the two guard brigades is confirmed on photographs from various brigade ceremonies (Fig. 5), where this flag with its streamer is used alongside a later-design unit flag. The locations of the two brigade flags and the remaining seven flags granted at the time are not known. Two streamers prepared for 10th and 11th Brigades, which were not granted, are preserved in the Military Museum (Fig. 4).

Type 2 consists of flags improvised early in 1991 by defacing commercially produced state flags. Typically, the defacement consists of the name of the unit above or below of the state coat of arms; sometimes the unit emblem is added in the canton and on some versions the unit motto and date the unit was established. Such flags were also often equipped with tricolour streamers. They were used briefly by the 3rd and 9th Guard Brigade (from Vinkovci and Gospić) and by some smaller units in Slavonia, but there are no recorded flags of this type among the flags of Zagreb units.² However, significantly more of these flags may have been replaced and displaced afterwards. Many flags of this type could have been produced impromptu

² In general further subtypes of types 2 and 3 may be observed, but since none of these appear among the Zagreb unit flags, they are here only mentioned: subtype 2a “state flag defaced with inscriptions only” and subtype 3a “non-horizontal or unequal tricolour”.

at the front lines among the troops and preserved as cherished mementos in private collections and may yet eventually surface.



Fig. 5. 2nd Guard Brigade Flag granted on the Kraljčevićeva Stadium, 28 May 1991 used in 15th anniversary ceremonies, Petrinja, 12 May 2006 (Hrvatski vojnik, nr. 86/2006. Photo T. Brandt).

Type 3 may be also considered a kind of defacement of the national flag; however, the flags of this type were not produced “over” the finished national flag, but rather as flags of their own. Such flags were often sewn from three differently coloured materials with the emblems and inscriptions richly embroidered or otherwise attached to the flag field. In the place of the state coat of arms in the middle of the flags of this type, or off-set to the hoist, is some other emblem—typically either a local coat of arms (e.g. the coat of arms of Slavonia or a city coat of arms) or the unit emblem (Fig. 6 and 7). These were usually accompanied with inscriptions, the unit name, motto, and/or date. Rarely, such flags also had more unusual tricolour patterns—vertical, diagonal, or tricolour stripes of unequal width, the central stripe larger to provide for better placement of the emblem.



Fig. 6. The flag of the 145th Brigade, Zagreb—Dubrava, 1993
(preserved in the Veterans Association of the Brigade, photo courtesy the Association).



Fig. 7. The flag of the 1st (311th) Transportation Battalion, Zagreb, 1992
(GS CAF collection, photo B. Šenk).

Type 4 “original design” flags are those that use geometrical divisions of the flag field different from a tricolour or a monocolour. Such flags are often the examples of ingenious vexillographic talent, even though they were probably designed by people without previous vexillological experience, only a good general taste. Therefore such flags are most interesting subjects of research and the most recognizable on photographs, even among many other flags of the other “ordinary” designs. Beside the geometrical patterns, such flags also usually include the unit emblem and inscriptions. A clear subtype (called 4a) are the “cantonal triangle” flags, the national tricolours with a large right-angled triangle added with its shorter sides placed along the hoist and top edge of the flag, coloured differently and containing the unit emblem. There are some two dozen of type 4 flags in the entire group of Croatian unit flags, four of them the flags of Zagreb units (Figs. 8–11).



Fig. 8. The flag of the "Zrinski" Special Forces Battalion, Zagreb, 1994 (Military Museum collection).



Fig. 9. The flag of the 5th Anti-Armour Artillery Rocket Battalion, Zagreb, 1993 (GS CAF collection, photo B. Šenk).



Fig. 10. The flag of the 66th MP Battalion, Zagreb, 1992 (GS CAF collection, photo B. Šenk).



Fig. 11. The flag of the 67th MP Battalion, Zagreb, 1992 (GS CAF collection, photo B. Šenk).

Type 5 flags are probably the most numerous from the Homeland War period, consisting of a single-coloured flag field with the unit emblem in the centre, surrounded with inscriptions bearing the unit name around the emblem and occasionally with some other additional elements surrounding it. The inscription is usually set either in two arches above and below the emblem, or simply in two straight lines parallel to the top and bottom edge of the flag. The inscriptions are usually in yellow or golden letters.

Four additional subtypes may be observed among the Croatian unit flags:

5a – single-coloured flag with the emblem, inscriptions and a canton; typically including the national flag in the canton,

5b – single-coloured flag with the emblem, inscriptions, and triple wattle ornament; the ornament forming a border, an orle, or some other pattern outside of the unit emblem,

5c – single-coloured flag with the emblem, inscriptions, and tricolour stripe; the stripe being along or near one of the flag edges or diagonally in a corner, sometimes with the state coat of arms in the centre,

5d – single-coloured flag with the emblem, inscriptions, and the state coat of arms; where the coat of arms is in the centre and the unit emblem in the canton.

There are 12 flags of type 5 among the Zagreb units, 10 of the general shape, and one each of the 5a and 5c subtypes. Neither 5b nor 5d subtypes appear among the flags of the units from Zagreb so far registered. It may be observed that almost all of them are from the wartime period and in the rare cases this type appears among the later symbolic flags, they are clearly influenced by the wartime flags (Figs. 12–15).



Fig. 12. The flag of the 1st Home Defence Regiment, Zagreb, 1992 (GS CAF collection, photo B. Šenk).



Fig. 13. The flag of the Electronic Surveillance Centre, Zagreb, 1993 (GS CAF collection, photo B. Šenk).



Fig. 14. The flag of the 144th Brigade, Zagreb—Sesvete, 1992 (GS CAF collection, photo B. Šenk).

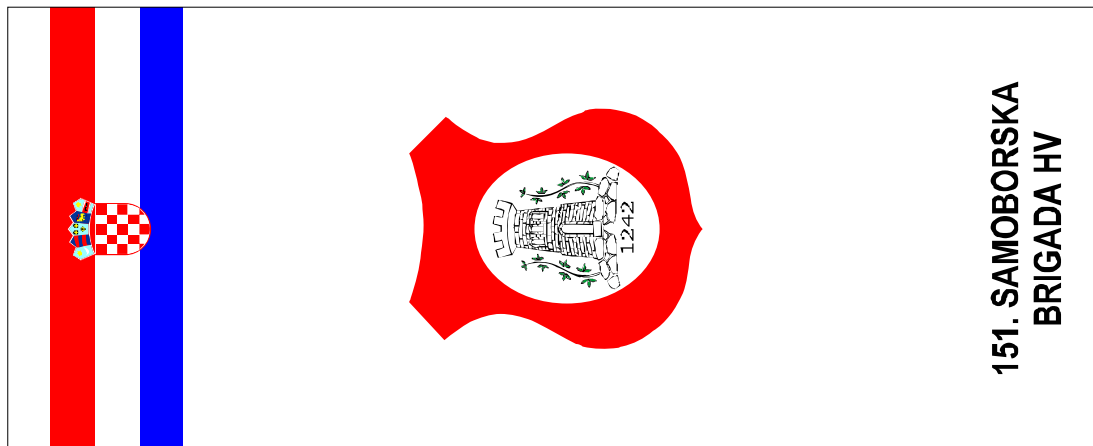


Fig. 15. The flag of the 151st Brigade, Zagreb—Samobor, 1992 (Reconstruction Ž.H. based on photos of the flag in use).

And finally, **Type 6** comprises the flags that are probably the most “boring” to a researcher, consisting simply of a single-coloured flag field with the unit emblem in the centre. It seems that such flags are most numerous from the post-Homeland War period and certainly represent the prevailing design for the contemporary CAF unit flags (Fig. 16).



Fig. 16. The flag of the Self-Propelled Multiple Rocket Launcher Battalion, Zagreb, 1992 (GS CAF collection, photo B. Šenk).

Three-fourths of the flags considered in this paper fall into this type. While the a lower percentage (56%) of war flags are type 6, it could be argued that this is typical design of Croatian military unit flags in general and that all other types are more exceptions than the rule. Among the symbolic flags, 95% of flags from the Zagreb area (38 of 40) are type 6, with a slightly lower percentage for the entire flag group (somewhat under 90%).

6.2. Colours

Such a high percentage of the unit flags being monocoloured type 6 flags and nearly monocoloured flags of type 5 naturally leads to an analysis based on background colour. Even for many of the type 4 flags a predominant colour may be singled out—for those where such one colour identification was not possible, they were grouped into the “other” colour. The flags of types 1 through 3 were, of course, grouped into “tricolour” for the purpose of this analysis.

During cataloguing, the basic colour was tabulated following the above criteria. The diversity of fabrics, varying preservation conditions, and possible deterioration from field use all made it impossible and impractical to identify the exact shade using objective methods (e.g. the Pantone Matching System scales), but that would have been beside the point anyway. A subjective scale of colours was therefore used, in accordance with the shades that are perceived as different “basic” colours in the Croatian language—black, blue, red, green, yellow, white, brown, and purple. Some colours (red, green) were further divided into dark and normal or light and normal (yellow) and green was further divided to include the olive-green shade (Vo) relatively often found on such flags. Blue was, however, divided into four shades (dark, normal, light, and very light), as they are clearly differentiated by the casual observer. The colour designations “tricolour” and “other” were used for such flags without a single clearly identifiable predominant colour.

		Total		War		Symb.	
N	N	18		11		7	
B	B+	2	40	1	17	1	23
	B	24		8		16	
	B-	10		4		6	
	B--	4		4		-	
R	R+	1		1		-	
V	V+	1	9	1	1	-	8
	Vo	8		-		8	
W	W	2		1		1	
T	T	6		6		-	
O	P	3	5	2	4	1	1
	O	2		2		-	

Table 3. Number of Zagreb unit flags according to background colour.

The number of flags of each colour is shown in Table 3. The percentage of various colour classes is reflected in Fig. 17. The sheer abundance of blue flags (even if divided into four shades) is obvious. The preference for blue in the Zagreb units may be explained by several factors. The most likely explanation is the influence of blue flag of the city of Zagreb. The blue originated in the heraldic banner of arms adopted for the flag of Zagreb in 1902 following the 1896 coat of arms of the city, which was formed in 1850 by unifying two neighbouring cities and two nearby rural communities. With the adoption of that coat of arms, the city’s colour became blue. [Heimer, 2009] This heraldic and vexillological colour has entered wider symbolic sentiment of the citizens of Zagreb, so blue is part of the graphic identity of the city’s trams and buses, many of its sports clubs—with the “Dinamo” Football Club being the emotionally strongest “blue connection” (its supporters are the “Bad Blue Boys”), and many public and commercial companies, non-governmental organizations, citizens associations, and other groups. Simply put, for most citizens blue is the colour of Zagreb.

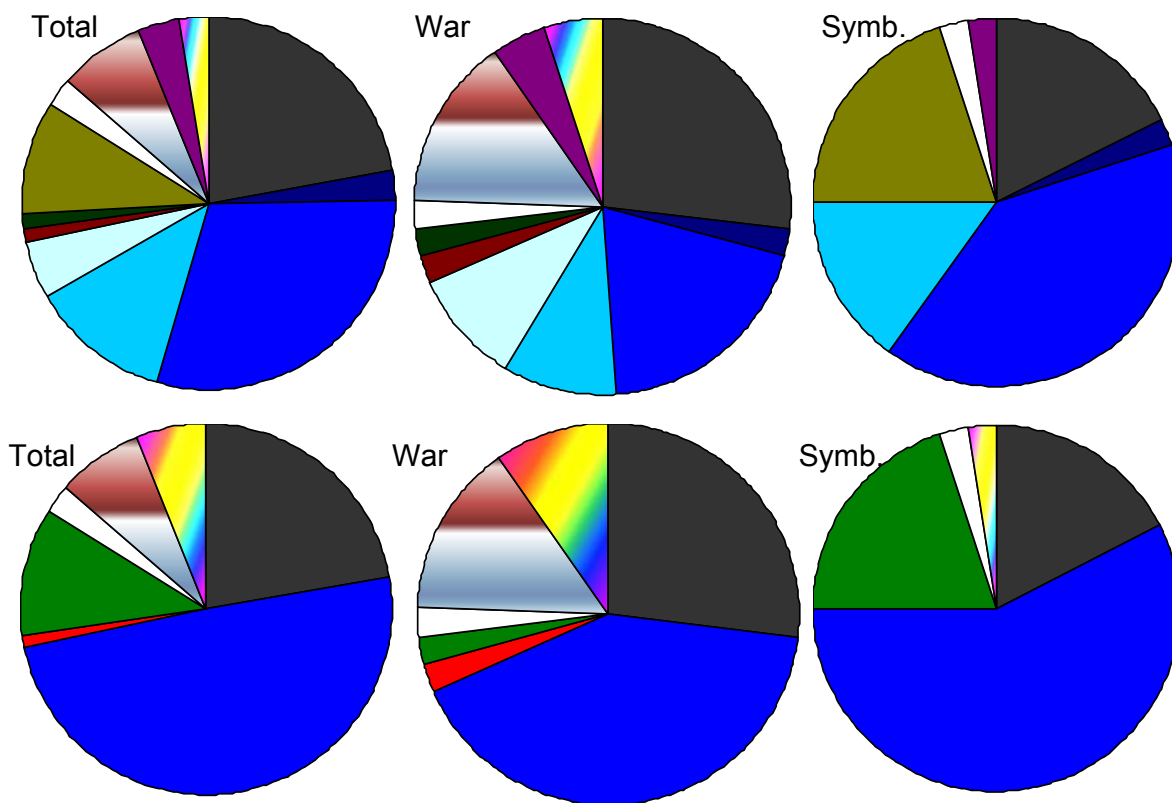


Fig. 17. Percentage of flags according to the flag background colour:
 Top—detailed colour classification; Bottom—simplified colour classification.
 Left: total group of flags, middle: wartime flags only; Right: symbolic flags only.

However, it would be too simple to attribute all those blue flags just to the Zagreb's blue identity. There are at least two other reasonable explanations and probably several minor influences. The first argument is that the air force's traditional colour is sky blue and a number of light blue flags are the flags of air force units. The Croatian Air Force and Air Defence Command is located in Zagreb, as well as two military airport bases (Pleso and Lučko) and a number of other air force and air defence units. (An analogous argument might be made for naval units; however there are none in Zagreb.) The second argument of the three national colours, only blue is preferable for flags—the other two colours being “symbolically” unsuitable to be used alone (white symbolizes surrender and red is linked with socialist ideology). (This also makes blue the most popular colour for municipal flags, which state regulations require to be single-coloured).

The second most frequent field colour is black. Some might consider this an extreme right-wing political expression, or more openly as identifying with the Ustasha party, which led the Quisling regime during World War II (the uniforms of elite Ustasha units were black). Although there had been open flirting with some Ustasha and revisionist ideas in Croatia in early 1990s, and some of those flags may have indeed been chosen for that very reason, there are better explanations for preference of black, as the official policy of Croatia always more or less clearly expressed its anti-fascist roots and such ideas were discouraged by the top of the military structure (even though sometimes tolerated). There may also have been considerations of troop morale—using the black flag to discourage enemy troops who

abhorred any such ideas. This argument weakens when considering that the World War II “opponents” of Croatian nationalism—the Serbian Chetniks also used black flags, and their successors in the Homeland War, imitated those black flags as well. It is ironic that both sides’ black flags were based on the black flags used by various special forces units all around the world before World War I. [Aralica and Aralica, 2006]

Black flags have long been used to instil fear in the enemy, and examples such as black pirate flags or even black sails from the Greek mythology show how strong such symbols can be. If black flags frighten the enemy (or at least troops believe that they frighten the enemy), they can have a positive effect on the troops’ morale and sense of unity. This is probably the fundamental reason for the large number of black flags, and why the colours of unit flags during the war were predominantly in darker shades. The use of darker shades (black, dark blue, dark green, dark red, purple) in the earlier wartime flags is evident, while the use of lighter and brighter shades (light blue, olive-green, white) among later wartime flags and especially symbolic flags is just as observable. This can also be observed when considering all Croatian unit flags. Later flags use yellow, bright red, light green, pale shades of yellow, and beige, colours not used among earlier flags.

The next most frequent field colour is green. However, only a single dark green flag is found among the wartime flags, while all the other eight examples are olive-green flags, appearing only among the symbolic flags. The olive-green clearly comes from the colour of uniforms, and such flags were used by army units wearing such uniforms. However, as mentioned, the identification of the army units with olive-green came relatively late.

In descending frequency, there are six tricolour flags and only two white flags (the wartime white flag is based on the traditional city flag of Samobor, where the brigade was recruited—its field is white).

The near-absence of red flags is notable. A single example is a dark red flag, derived from the pre-1896 Zagreb coat of arms, the basis of the unit emblem. In general, red military flags are quite common world-wide, signifying valour in battle and the blood sacrifice of the fallen comrades, and in many countries even tradition. However, the link of the red flag to communist ideology and the fallen socialist regime (that in its last surviving form—the Yugoslav People’s Army—was carrying out aggression against the young state of Croatia) clearly marked red as an unwelcome colour in the spectrum of unit identity. Instead, some unit flags used purple as an acceptable alternative.

6.3. Shapes

There are two basic shapes to be considered regarding the unit flags—the overall flag shape and the shape of the unit emblem (when used). Unit flags are generally rectangular, following the shape of the national flag and almost all other current flags worldwide—see Table 4. The ratio of their width to length generally approximates 1:2, matching the national flag, although some wartime flags of different proportions are known. In nearly all cases the charges (emblems, inscriptions) are properly readable when the flag is hoisted horizontally (i.e. with the hoist end attached to the pole). The few exceptions have the charges rotated so that they are properly read when the flag is hoisted vertically (from a crossbar, cf. Figs. 7 and 16). Nevertheless, both shapes were invariably used as horizontally hoisted on

a mast, or from a crossbar, and from the standard spear, no matter the orientation of the emblems in the design.





Flag shape		Total	Wartime	Symbolic
Rectangular		75	36	39
Rectangular vertical		3	2	1
Rectangular with 3 triangular tails		2	2	0
Rectangular vertical double swallow-tailed		1	1	0

Table 4. Number of Zagreb units flags according to the flag shape.

Several of the flags non-rectangular shapes—either with three triangular tails added to the fly edge (when such flags are as a rule tricolours), or with triangular indentations in the fly edge forming a double swallow-tail flag (cf. Figs. 10 and 11). Astonishingly, simple swallow-tailed flags do not appear among Zagreb unit flags (and only in two cases in Croatia altogether), even though such flags are the traditional cavalry flags of various units in 17th and 18th century in Croatia and the Military Border, many of which are preserved today in museums. [Borošak-Marijanović, 1996] This suggests that there were no influences of tradition in the design of the modern unit flags, or more probably that they were designed (or their design approved) by people ignorant of vexillology in general and national heritage in particular. Certainly, it is not known that any vexillological expert was ever consulted when any of those flags were being produced (although art history experts and other curators in museums around the country preserving historical flags might have provided valuable advice, if consulted).

The shape of the emblem is probably also more the result of coincidence than deliberate intent, even though the emblem shape itself (on the flag or as a shoulder patch) can allow for ready identification from afar. The number of flags employing emblems of various shapes is shown in Table 5.











Emblem shape		Total	Wartime	Symbolic
Circular		18	11	7
Semi-circular shield		18	5	13
Irregular/Other		14	9	5
Oval		11	8	3
Inverted semi-circular shield		8	2	6
Triangular shield		5	2	3
No emblem		2	2	0
Pentagon		2	1	1
Rectangular shield		2	1	1
Concave shield		1	0	1

Table 5. Number of Zagreb units flags according to the shape of the unit emblem.

The most frequent emblem shapes are circular and a semi-circular shield, followed by a group of irregular and other shapes, which include other more elaborate shield shapes (such as the notched shield shown in Table 5), emblems containing heraldic coats of arms with supporters, and other shapes and depictions. The oval shape was mostly used in Zagreb by the higher commands and military academy schools. The inverted semicircular shield, for lack of better term, was the shape of shoulder patch used by the first ZNG units on 28 May 1991. As such a patch was worn on one shoulder of the standard uniform, while the unit patch was worn on the other, it is not unusual that this shape influenced the shapes of many unit emblems. The other usual heraldic shield shapes appear—the triangular, rectangular and concave shield—and one rather unusual shape, an elongated pentagon. The two “no emblem flags” are those undifferentiated state flags granted in Kranjčevićeva Stadium to the Guard Brigades.

6.4. Symbols

Group	Charge	Total	Wartime	Symbolic
A. National symbols and coats of arms	Wattle	49	24	25
	State coat of arms	30	21	9
	Chequy field	24	9	15
	Tricolour	28	10	18
	Rotated square	12	9	3
	Crown of the state coat of arms	2		2
	Local coat of arms	20	5	15
B. Weapons and military equipment	Rifle	2	1	1
	Sword/sabre	35	20	15
	Shield	8	6	2
	Cannon/rocket	3	3	
	Tenk/self-propelled weapon	2	2	
	Explosion	1	1	
	Aircraft	5	2	3
	Wings	15	10	5
	Target	5	2	3
	Headgear	3	1	2
C. General Symbols	Sun	2	1	1
	Star (6-pointed)	15	5	10
	Crescent	15	5	10
	Thunderbolt	7	5	2
	Crown	1		1
	Cross	2	2	
	Anchor	5	4	1
	Trefoil	2		2
	Cog-wheel	2	2	
Map	2	1	1	
D. Animals	Bird	2	1	1
	Lion	1		1
	Marten	1		1
	Tigar	5	3	2
	Snake	4	4	
	Wasp	1		1
	Goat	1		1
	Dragon	3	1	2
E. Plants	Leaves/branches	10	5	5
	Bunch of grapes	1		1
	Thorns	1		1
F. Other symbols	Buildings	22	7	15
	Monument/horseman	5	3	2
	Hand/arm	2	1	1
	St. George	2	1	1
	Retorts/radiation fan	2	1	1
	Glagolitic letters	1	1	
	Book	1	1	
	Vehicle	1	1	

Table 6. Number of Zagreb unit flags showing various symbols as charges.

The symbols used on the flags are mostly concentrated in the unit emblem, as explained when discussing typology—the elements found outside the emblem are limited to inscriptions and tricolour and wattle (Croatian knot) ornaments. The symbols appearing on the flags may be grouped into six categories:

- A. National symbols and coats of arms
- B. Weapons and military equipment
- C. General Symbols
- D. Animals
- E. Plants
- F. Other

The frequency of appearing of various symbols grouped according to these groups in the flags of the Zagreb units is shown in Table 6.

A. National symbols and coats of arms

National symbols and coats of arms include these elements: wattle, state coat of arms, chequy field, rotated square, crest/crown of the state coat of arms or its elements, and the local coat of arms.



Fig. 18. The symbolic flag of the 100th Brigade, Zagreb, 2006 (GS CAF collection, photo B. Šenk).

The *wattle* is a traditional Croatian ornament, appearing in stone carvings from the 11th century and used ever since. The usual form is the so-called triple wattle forming circular or almost circular knots, but many variations exist—where the triple “string” is collapsed into a double or even single line or where the knots form more elaborate patterns (Fig. 18). The wattles on unit flags are typically yellow or gold, however other colours also appear—and sometimes they are even tricoloured (red-white-blue). A black outline occasionally divides the strings of the wattle; sometimes this is done by voiding or in some other appropriate manner. When the wattle is collapsed into single line, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish it from a depiction of a

rope (halyard). As a rather complicated geometrical ornament, the wattle is sometimes depicted poorly, especially in *ad hoc* flags where the artist had inadequate time to study the design carefully.

The wattle is by far the most common element in the military flags and unit emblems in modern Croatia. Similarly, among the flags of the Zagreb units, it appears in various forms on 49 flags (60%), and forms the basis of a common military identity.

The *state coat of arms* was defined by the Law in late 1990 [Zakon, 1990] and as the main state symbol it is understandably included in many flags. It appears in 30 of the flags studied in this paper. Due to the symbol's complexity, it is sometimes depicted in a simplified form, where the crest (crown) is shown in simplified colours or even just in silhouette. Sometimes, for artistic reasons, the chequy shield deviates from the prescribed semi-circular shape. The coat of arms is often set against the tricolour background, virtually recapitulating the national flag, although the shape of the background may take another form, such as ribbons in various shapes.

When the crown is missing altogether, the emblem is classified as a *chequy field*. However this class also includes the chequy fields in forms different from the usual heraldic shield shapes—square or oblique chequy fields are common; an “extract” consisting of several red and white (or red and background colour) squares also occurs. As with the full state coat of arms, the chequy shield often appears on a tricolour background, forming a simplified national flag—in those cases the chequy shield is usually larger than on the prescribed national flag.

The *tricolour* is the other emblem directly deriving from national symbols. It appeared as the national flag in 1848 and (except during short periods when forbidden by various regimes) has been used as the main national symbol ever since, sometimes with various central devices. [Heimer, 2008] The current national flag was adopted by the same Law which adopted the state coat of arms [Zakon, 1990], replacing the 1947 tricolour flag which bore a red five-pointed star. The tricolour appears as often as the chequy field, in 28 of the Zagreb unit flags. It is sometimes defaced with the state coat of arms (or its simplified forms) or with other emblems.

The *rotated square* is a newly devised symbol deriving from a graphical design based on a modern reinterpretation of the chequy coat of arms. It appears on the newest flags as part of the unit emblems, typically a red (although sometimes also gold) square rotated 45 degrees from horizontal position—this shape is sometimes also known as a “square on its tip” or a “square rhombus”. In these flags it is usually quite a small “auxiliary” device in the unit emblem, sometimes as pattern dividing inscriptions. It is also part of the Air Force wings (Fig. 19).



Fig. 19. The flag of the Air Force Command, 1992 (Military Museum, photo B. Šenk).



Fig. 20. The symbolic flag of the 1st Home Defence Regiment, 2006 (GS CAF, photo B. Šenk).

The *crest of the coat of arms*, i.e. the crown consisting of five five-pointed shield shapes above the chequy shield of the state coat of arms, is sometimes used without the chequy shield as a separate charge in unit emblems (Fig. 20). It is usually shown as a gold silhouette of the five shields without any emblems in them, while sometimes a single shield of the crest is shown as separate element in the typical five-pointed shield, fully coloured (Fig. 21).



Fig. 21. The symbolic flag of the City of Zagreb Defence Command, 2006 (GS CAF, photo B. Šenk).

The *local coats of arms* appearing in the Croatian military flags include those of the five historical regions (i.e., those in the crest of the state coat of arms), the historical coats of arms of counties and cities, and modern quasi-heraldic “coats of arms” devised after the World War II and after 1990. In the flags of the Zagreb units the coat of arms of Zagreb appears in various stylizations following the historical models of the city coat of arms. Twenty flags depict such charges—only a quarter of the entire group—which seems few. However, a number of flags belonged to various commands and institutions headquartered in Zagreb but whose area of responsibility included territory beyond Zagreb itself—either the regional commands or the institutions and commands with responsibility for the entire country (such as the Air Force Command). The colour of the shield of such coats of arms is either blue or red—red recalling the historical coat of arms of Grič [Heimer, 2009]. The shield shape varies from simple semicircular and square shields to notched convex shield shape following the 1499 stone carved arms, and others. The coat of arms also appears in a square panel or a circular shield, or its elements appear without a shield. The elements of the Zagreb coat of arms appear in their natural colours (white towers, green mound, white crescent, and golden six-pointed star), or entirely in white or yellow/gold. The traditional coat of arms of Samobor appears on the flag of 151st Brigade (see Fig. 15), included here because, until a 1993 administrative reform, Samobor was one of the communities constituting the City of Zagreb.

B. Weapons and military equipment

The weapons and military equipment which appear as emblems include a rifle, sword/sabre, shield, cannon/rocket, tank/armoured vehicle, explosion/flame, aircraft, wings, target/bull’s-eye, and headgear.



Fig. 22. The symbolic flag of the ZNG Command, 2006 (GS CAF, photo B. Šenk).

Various types of *rifles* appear in the unit insignia and on flags, however, they are quite rare on the Zagreb unit flags. The rifles nearly always appear in saltire, such as on the ZNG Command flag (Fig. 22).

Even more popular than rifles are swords of various types, also in saltire—usually Roman two-bladed swords or sabres. The sabres seem to appear in the earlier flags (cf. Fig 21), while the simple swords follow the pattern adopted in the emblem of the General Staff, often including a rotated square or watted square pattern on the hilt (Fig. 23). While rifles are usually depicted in black or brown, swords are as a rule white or yellow.



Fig. 23. The flag of the CAF General Staff, 1994 (Military Museum collection).

For the purpose of this research the *shield* was considered only in those instances where it represents an actual item of military equipment, not a heraldic

shield—usually a shield used by soldiers or riders. Such shields, however, are often painted with heraldic devices, most frequently with the chequy pattern. A shield in the colours of the national flag, with the state coat of arms on it, is often the central emblem on flags of the highest commands.

Cannon barrels and various types of *rockets* are usually found in pairs set in saltire by anti-armour or anti-aircraft units, they usually show classical cannon barrels and much-stylized rockets—with stabilizing fins as a characteristic detail. They are white, yellow, or black (cf. Figs. 9 and 16).

While *armoured and self-propelled vehicles* are relatively common in Croatian military insignia, they appear on only two Zagreb unit flags (those of rocket units). The irregular shape of an explosion is also found on one (Fig. 24).



Fig. 24. The flag of the 1st Air Defence Artillery Rocket Battalion, Kerestinec, 1992 (Military Museum, photo B. Šenk).

Aircraft appear on the flags of anti-air defence units, depicting enemy aircraft targeted by these units. They are highly stylized planes, often modelled after MIG 21s.

A *wing* may be found in highly stylized form more or less matching the wings emblem of the Croatian Air Force emblem (designed by Božo Kokan, cf. [Kokan, 2006]), but also more natural or heraldic representations of wings may be found. They may indicate an air force or air defence unit, but in other cases wings are of another origin, such in the case of wings on the various Military Academy flags, or—on the flag of the “Zrinski” Special Forces Battalion—originating from the wings in the coat of arms of Zrinski family (cf. Fig. 8).

The *target*, either as a “bull’s eye” or as the cross-hairs of a weapon, generally appears on the flags of various air-defence units.



Fig. 25. The symbolic flag of the 202nd Air Defence Artillery Rocket Brigade, 2006 (GS CAF, photo B. Šenk).



Fig. 26. The symbolic flag of the Air Base Lučko, 2006 (GS CAF, photo B. Šenk).

Various types of *headgear* are a common element of military insignia in general, however, in the case of Zagreb only two types appear—the classical heraldic helmet in the quasi-heraldic device of the “Zrinski” Special Forces Battalion (cf. Fig. 8) and the humorous emblem of the Lučko Air Base depicting the traditional hat of the folk costume from the Zagreb area (a kind of a bowler hat with a tricolour ribbon) with helicopter wings attached (Fig. 26).

C. General Symbols

The group called general symbols includes well-known stylized graphic elements, from heraldry and other symbolic fields, and include: sun, star, crescent, lightning bolt, crown, cross, anchor, trefoil, wheel/cog-wheel, and retort/fan.

The most frequent symbols of this group are the *crescent* and the *star*, usually appearing together (on the flags of Zagreb units the star is generally six-pointed) and in either white or yellow, or the crescent in white and the star in yellow. Both symbols appear in the coat of arms of Zagreb.

The other symbols of this group appear in only occasionally. A *sun* is depicted in yellow as part of the quasi-heraldic emblem of the former community of Sesvete in 144th Brigade flag (cf. Fig. 14); *lightning bolts* in stylized form appear in the flag of the 2nd Guard Brigade reflecting its nickname “Thunders”, and in more stylized form among various logistics symbols in the Logistics Training Centre’s flag (Fig. 27). The *crown* is found only in form of a masoned civic crown, an element of the historical coat of arms of Zagreb.



Fig. 27. The flag of the Logistics Training Centre, 2002 (Military Museum, photo B. Šenk).

While the *cross* is relatively frequent element of unit insignia in Croatia in general, in Zagreb unit flags it only appears in the form of the red cross indicating medical profession (on the Logistics Training Centre’s flag, Fig. 27). While the inclusion or avoidance of the cross as religious emblem in the Croatian military insignia would fall out of the scope of this paper altogether, one possible explanation of its absence from Zagreb unit flags is the military’s secular nature—a belief held more widely in the multicultural environment of Zagreb (and also possibly influenced by the higher average education there) than in the more rural and religiously homogeneous parts of Croatia.

An *anchor* is traditional maritime and naval symbol, appearing on the flags of Zagreb units only for those joint high commands where army, air force, and navy symbols are combined (cf. Fig. 23).



Fig. 28. The symbolic flag of the 3rd Home Defence Regiment, 2006 (GS CAF, photo B. Šenk).

The *trefoil*, in the shape of the so-called “Zvonimir’s cross”, was introduced in the Croatian component of Home Defence in the Austrian-Hungarian period. It fell out of use after World War I and was misused by the Independent State of Croatia in World War II. Although this symbol has fewer negative connotations than other similarly misused Croatian symbols, it seems to have been avoided and appears only in the flag of 3rd Home Defence Regiment, Fig. 28, (and only in few other scattered examples in Home Defence elsewhere in today’s Croatia). However, one of the modern Croatian military decorations has the name and shape of this trefoil cross.

A *cog-wheel* appears usually only in the emblems of the logistics units, such as the Logistics Training Centre.

The *map* of Croatia may be considered such “stylized” symbol, appearing in the flags of the Air Surveillance Brigade and representing how its mission covers the entire county.

Among the more modern general symbols are the *retorts* and *radiation fan* symbols used in the flag of the 50th CBRN Brigade.

D. Animals

The animals which appear on the flags of Zagreb units are: birds, lions, martens, wild cats, snakes, wasps, spiders, goats, and dragons.

While *birds* are common elements of military insignia, surprisingly they appear only on two of the Zagreb unit flags: a sword carrying eagle taking off into the air on the flag of the 91st Air Base Pleso and an almost humorous magpie on the Electronic Surveillance Centre flags (cf. Fig. 13).

Lions with heads guardant and crowned, running *martens*, and *goats* appear on the flags, as part of the state coat of arms. Except for in those arms, they do not appear in the Zagreb unit flags, even though they are to be found as independent charges on unit flags in other parts of Croatia.

Among the wild cats, it is only *tiger* that appears in the flags of Zagreb units, of the 1st Guard Brigade, nicknamed the “Tigers” (Fig. 29).



Fig. 29. The flag of the 1st Guard Brigade “Tigers”, variant of 2001 (Drawing Ž.H.).



Fig. 29. The flag of the Independent Company Vrapče, 1991 (GS CAF, photo B. Šenk).

Snakes appear in two forms—as a representation of a real snake, as used by 66th Military Police Battalion, nicknamed the “Cobras” (following a popular nickname for special police forces, Croatian units of various sizes and origins used the same nickname, cf. Fig. 10), or as part of the symbol of medical professions winding around a staff—the symbol known as the staff of Asclepius (Logistics Training Centre, cf. Fig. 27).

A *wasp* appears in the flag of the 300th Logistics Brigade, and a *spider* on the flag of Independent Company Vrapče.

Among the animals in heraldry are the so-called heraldic beasts or monsters, mythical or invented animals of various kinds, such the *dragon*. This symbol's meaning is ambivalent—it could have positive or negative connotations. It appears on the flag of 201st Air Defence Brigade as a positive symbol of the unit—destroying an enemy aircraft with its fire, and on the flags of 1st Home Defence Regiment as a negative symbol—the incarnation of the evil which St. George defeats (this unit's flag depicts a well-known monument by A. D. Fernkorn which stands near the National Theatre in Zagreb, cf. Fig. 12 and 20).



Fig. 30. The symbolic flag of the 201st Air Defence Brigade, 2006 (GS CAF, photo B. Šenk).

E. Plants

Flora is represented by three kinds of symbols: leaves/branches, bunches of grapes, and thorns.

Leaves and *branches* are rarely central to unit symbols—an exception is the 145th Brigade—Dubrava (cf. Fig. 6) where the oak leaves reflect the community's former name (archaic Croatian *dub*—oak). More often they are either an ornamental addition or part of a generic military symbol such as a sword and a olive branch in saltire—symbolizing the war and peace, or part of a laurel or oak wreath—a military symbol of victory from antiquity. Sometimes the type of leaves and branches may be identifiable—the oak or the birch may be found, or olive and laurel leaves, but often the leaves are so stylized that it is virtually impossible to determine the species without knowing what the designer had in mind. For this reason all the various leaves and branches were counted in a single group; they appear on 10 flags among the Zagreb units.

A bunch of *grapes* with vine leaf and branches appears on one flag, in the form of a victory wreath (the 175th Brigade).



Fig. 30. The symbolic flag of 148th Brigade, Zagreb-Trnje, 2006 (GS CAF, photo B. Šenk).

The appearance of *thorns* is unusual either in military insignia in general or in heraldry anywhere. They appear in the flag of 148th Brigade—Trnje, Fig. 30, canting the name of the former community (Croatian *trn*—thorn), in combination forming a monogram/cipher reading TRN, but also recalling the urban graffiti from which may have originally inspired this emblem.

F. Other symbols

The other symbols on Zagreb unit flags include buildings, monuments/horsemen, hand, St. George, Glagolitic letters, book, and vehicle. (A larger group of flags studied might have resulted in more categories of symbols).

Among these symbols the most frequent are the *towers*—sometimes indistinguishable from forts or castles (and even if they might differ in strict heraldic terms, they are often interchangeable in military symbolism). Towers—the main charge in the coat of arms of the city of Zagreb (a fortified city with towers)—appear on 22 flags of the flags in this paper. While most are depicted as part of the city arms, some other buildings occasionally appear (144th Brigade, cf. Fig. 14).



Fig. 31. The symbolic flag of 4th Home Defence Regiment, 2006 (GS CAF, photo B. Šenk).

The categories of monuments and horsemen are combined, as the actual monuments shown on the flags of Zagreb units are usually sculptures of horsemen—Fernkorn’s St. George monument (1st Home Defence Regiment, cf. Figs. 12 and 20), the Ban Jelačić monument on the eponymous main Zagreb square, also by Fernkorn (at the War College), and the King Tomislav monument by Frangeš-Mihanović in front of Zagreb’s main railway station (4th Home Defence Regiment, Fig. 31).



Fig. 32. The flag of 153th Brigade—Velika Gorica, 1992.
(Muzej Turopolja, photo 153rd Brigade Veterans Association).

A *hand* as a symbol might have been included among the general symbols or in a separate category of human figures if there were enough examples to form one. In the flags considered here it appears only as a heraldic charge traditional in various Croatian coats of arms, both personal and civic, from the era of the fight against the

Ottomans, depicting an enbowed arm holding a sabre. It appears only on the flag of 153rd Brigade—Velika Gorica.

St. George, as mentioned, is a very popular in various parts of Croatia; other saints do not appear on Zagreb unit flags.

While *lettering* appears on virtually every military flag in Croatia, the use of *Glagolitic letters* is ceremonial and purely symbolic. (Glagolitic is the oldest known Slavic alphabet, of the 800s and before, derived perhaps from ancient Greek cursive.) Sometimes the Glagolitic letters are used singly as a symbol in their own right; while sometimes the name of the unit is inscribed in Glagolitic script alongside the Latin inscription. In Zagreb, such an inscription appears only on the flag of the “Zrinski” Special Forces Battalion (cf. Fig. 8).

A *book* is a symbol usually connected to various education and training units and institutions or schools. Among the Zagreb units, a book was used by the Education and Training Command and Logistics Training Centre (cf. Fig. 27).

And finally, *vehicles* (other than typical military vehicles such as tanks and self-propelled artillery weapons) are rarely shown on flags, such as a heavy truck in the emblem of the 311th Transport Battalion (cf. Fig. 7).

7. Conclusions

The paper presents the nearly 100 unit flags of the Croatian Armed Forces (CAF) from Zagreb created between 1991 and 2008. They may be divided into war flags—used by a unit while active, and symbolic flags—manufactured in 2006 and used for ceremonies since then in place of real flags or when a unit originally had no flag. The data was gathered as part of wider research into CAF unit flags. Except the very first few flags granted in a 28 May 1991 ceremony, subsequent flags were not formally granted or created by the supreme military commander, although that role is prescribed by legislation. Rather, the flags were manufactured or procured by the units themselves.

Six types of flag designs appear, roughly matching their chronology. This typology clearly shows the development of the flag design from “non-existent” at first, then improvised and original, then more uniform and standardized, forming a common system.

The abundance of monocoloured flags allows for an analysis by colour, which shows that blue flags predominate, reflecting the basic colour of Zagreb’s coat of arms and flag. The gradual evolution from darker background colours in the early years of war to lighter shades in the post-war period is noticeable.

The usual element of the flag design is the unit emblem, either circular, in various forms of heraldic shields, and in other more modern shapes.

The symbols used in the flags, mostly within the emblems but occasionally surrounding them, fall into six categories: national symbols and coats of arms, weapons and military equipment, general symbols, animals, plants, and other symbols. The most common symbols are the wattle (Croatian knot), the state coat of arms and tricolour, the coat of arms of Zagreb in its several historic variations, swords and sabres, wings, and leaves/branches.

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Attachment

Table 7. The list of the CAF Zagreb units 1991-2008.

The establishment date is provided based on establishment within the Ministry of Defence, even if some units were established before 29 July 1991. If a unit once had a different name, it is provided, but without the indication of period when the alternate name was official. The number of flags recorded in the research is provided.

Nr.	Unit Name (Croatian)	Unit Name (English)	Established	Abolished	Named also	Flags
1	Zapovjedništvo ZNG – Zagreb	National Guard Crops (ZNG) Command	29.7.1991	26.9.1991		1
2	Glavni stožer hrvatske vojske – Zagreb	Croatian Army General Staff	26.9.1991	3.11.1993		1
3	Glavni stožer oružanih snaga Republike – Zagreb	Croatian Armed Forces General Staff	3.11.1993			2
4	Zapovjedništvo Hrvatskog ratnog zrakoplovstva i protuzračne obrane – Zagreb	Croatian Air Force and Air Defence Command	12.12.1991			3
5	Zapovjedništvo stana MORH – Zagreb	Ministry of Defence Headquarters Command	5.10.1991	27.7.1998		0
6	Zapovjedništvo zagrebačkog korpusa – Zagreb	Zagreb Corps Command	6.10.1991	16.1.1992		0
7	Zapovjedništvo Operativne zone Zagreb – Zagreb	Operational Zone Zagreb Command	15.10.1991	2.2.1993		0
8	Zapovjedništvo obrane Grada Zagreba – Zagreb	City of Zagreb Defence Command	9.3.1992	16.2.1993		1
9	Zapovjedništvo zbornog područja Zagreb – Zagreb	Zagreb Operational Area Command	2.2.1993	15.3.1996		2
10	Zapovjedništvo Hrvatskog vojnog učilišta – Zagreb	Croatian Military Academy Command	7.1.1993		Časnički centar HV; Zapovjedništvo za združenu izobrazbu i obuku	2
11	Zapovjedništvo za obuku – Zagreb	Training and Education Command	4.2.1999	16.10.2002	Zapovjedništvo za izobrazbu i obuku HKoV	1
12	Zapovjedništvo 1. korpusa Hrvatske kopnene vojske – Zagreb	1st Corps of the Croatian Army Command	16.10.2002	5.4.2005		1
13	Zapovjedništvo za logistiku – Zagreb	Logistics Command	16.10.2002	1.1.2008		0
14	1. brigada ZNG "A" – Zagreb	1st Guard Brigade	29.7.1991	1.1.2008	1. gardijska brigada	6
15	2. brigada ZNG "A" - Ivanja Reka (Trstenik)	2nd Guard Brigade	29.7.1991	1.1.2008	2. gardijska brigada	6
16	1. hrvatski gardijski zbor – Zagreb	1st Croatian Guard Corps	29.3.1994	7.8.2000		1
17	98. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb	98th Brigade	20.3.1992	27.6.1992		0
18	99. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb	99th Brigade	29.7.1991	18.1.2000		1
19	100. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb-Centar	100th Brigade	29.7.1991	27.6.1992		1
20	101. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb-Susedgrad	101st Brigade	29.7.1991	18.1.2000		1
21	102. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb-Noví Zagreb	102nd Brigade	29.7.1991	18.3.1999		1
22	144. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb-Sesvete	144th Brigade	13.11.1991	18.01.2000		2
23	145. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb-Dubrava	145th Brigade	13.11.1991	18.01.2000	2. brigada Teritorijalne obrane	2
24	146. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb-Maksimir	146th Brigade	13.11.1991	26.2.1992	3. brigada Teritorijalne obrane	0
25	147. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb-Medveščak	147th Brigade	13.11.1991	26.2.1992	4. brigada Teritorijalne obrane	0
26	148. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb-Trnje	148th Brigade	13.11.1991	17.9.1999	5. brigada Teritorijalne obrane	1
27	149. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb-Trešnjevka	149th Brigade	13.11.1991	17.9.1999	6. brigada Teritorijalne obrane	1
28	150. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb-Črnomerec	150th Brigade	13.11.1991	18.1.2000	7. brigada Teritorijalne obrane	1
29	151. brigada HV "R" – Samobor	151st Brigade	13.11.1991	17.9.1999		2
30	152. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb-Zaprešić	152nd Brigade	13.11.1991	11.2.1993	9. brigada Teritorijalne obrane	0
31	153. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb-Velika Gorica	153rd Brigade	13.11.1991	18.3.1999	10. brigada Teritorijalne obrane	2
32	166. brigada HV "R" – Zagreb	166th Brigade	5.6.1992			0
33	175. brigada pješačka – Zagreb	175th Brigade	7.12.1993	9.6.1994		1
34	605. pješačka brigada – Zagreb	605th Infantry Briagde	18.3.1999	16.10.2002		0
35	608. pješačka brigada – Zagreb	608th Infantry Briagde	18.1.2000	17.6.2004		0
36	609. pješačka brigada – Zagreb	609th Infantry Briagde	18.1.2000	16.10.2002		0
37	610. pješačka brigada – Zagreb	610th Infantry Briagde	17.9.1999	17.6.2004		0
38	38. inženjerijska brigada – Zagreb	38th Engeneering Brigade	16.10.2002	5.4.2005		0
39	Pozadinska baza Zapovjedništva ZNG – Zagreb	Logistics Base	29.7.1991	5.10.1991		0
40	300. logistička brigada – Zagreb	300th Logistics Brigade	7.10.1999	16.10.2002	Centralna pozadinska baza GS HV; 300. središnja logistička baza; 300. logistička brigada	2
41	310. brigada remontne potpore – Zagreb	310th Logistics Brigade	2.2.1993	7.10.1999	Jedinica remontne potpore	0
42	313. logistička brigada – Zagreb	313th Logistics Brigade	25.1.2000	1.1.2008	313. logistička baza HRZ i PZO; 313. logistička brigada	0
43	Brigada zračnog motrenja i navođenja - Zagreb	Air Surveillance and Control Brigade	5.12.1991		218. brigada zračnog motrenja i navođenja	2
44	201. brigada protuzračne obrane – Zagreb	201st Air Defence Brigade	7.1.1993	1.1.2008		2
45	202. brigada protuzračne obrane – Zagreb	202nd Air Defence Brigade	7.1.1993	5.4.2005	50. laki artiljerijski PZO puk	2
46	205. brigada raketna protuzračne obrane – Zagreb	205th Air Defence Rocket Brigade	13.9.1994	1.1.2008	205. raketna brigada PZO	0
47	91. zrakoplovna baza Pleso – Zagreb	91st Air Base Pleso	12.12.1991		Zrakoplovna baza Pleso - Zagreb	1
48	94. zrakoplovna baza Lučko	94th Air Base Lučko	14.4.1993	2.12.1999		1
49	1. domobranska pukovnija "R" – Zagreb	1st Home Defence Regiment	26.5.1992	18.3.1999	1. pukovnija domobranska "R" - Zagreb	2
50	2. domobranska pukovnija "R" – Zagreb	2nd Home Defence Regiment	26.5.1992	18.3.1999	2. pukovnija domobranska "R" - Zagreb	1
51	3. domobranska pukovnija "R" – Zagreb	3rd Home Defence Regiment	26.5.1992	21.11.1994	3. pukovnija domobranska "R" - Zagreb	2
52	4. domobranska pukovnija "R" – Zagreb	4th Home Defence Regiment	26.5.1992	18.3.1999	4. pukovnija domobranska "R" - Zagreb	1
53	Odred za studij i razvoj OS - Zagreb	Armed Forces Reserach and Development Squadron	10.1.1992	17.11.1995		0
54	Počasni odred "A" - Zagreb	Honour Squadron	28.7.1992	29.3.1994		0
55	Odred instruktorski MORH - Zagreb	MoD Instructor Squadron	31.3.1995	27.7.1998		0
56	3. eskadrila transportna zrakoplovna – Zagreb	3rd Transport Aircraft Squadron	31.10.1991	18.4.2001		0
57	21. eskadrila lovačkih zrakoplova – Zagreb	21st Fighter Aircraft Squadron	21.9.1993	23.11.1993		0

Nr.	Unit Name (Croatian)	Unit Name (English)	Established	Abolished	Named also	Flags
58	23. eskadrija lovačko-bombarderskih zrakoplova – Zagreb	23rd Fighter-Bomber Aircraft Squadron	21.9.1993	23.11.1993		0
59	27. eskadrija transportnih zrakoplova – Zagreb	27th Transport Aircraft Squadron	21.9.1993	23.11.1993		0
60	28. eskadrija transportnih helikoptera – Zagreb	28th Transport Aircraft Squadron	21.9.1993	23.11.1993		0
61	29. eskadrija borbenih helikoptera – Zagreb	28th Fighter Aircraft Squadron	21.9.1993	23.11.1993		0
62	25. mješovita eskadrija za ED i izviđanje – Zagreb-Pleso	25th Combined Electronic Warfare and Surveillance Air Squadron	16.10.2002	1.1.2008		0
63	83. samostalni Zagrebački bataljun	83rd Individual Zagreb Battalion	27.12.1991	4.6.1992		1
64	Bojna sportaša – Zagreb	Sports Battalion	26.11.1998	15.11.1999		0
65	Specijalni bataljun "A" – Zagreb	Special Battalion	29.7.1991	17.4.1993		0
66	Specijalna bojna "Zrinski" – Zagreb	Special Battalion "Zrinski"	4.7.1993	29.3.1994		2
67	Počasno-zaštitna bojna – Zagreb	Honour Battalion	7.8.2000			0
68	66. bojna VP – Zagreb	66th MP Battalion	5.10.1991	1.1.2008	66. bataljun vojne policije GS HV; 66. bojna VP MORH	2
69	67. bojna VP – Zagreb	67th MP Battalion	5.10.1991	5.4.2005	67. bataljun vojne policije OZ Zagreb; Bataljun VP OZ - Zagreb	1
70	74. bojna VP – Zagreb-Pleso	74th MP Battalion	10.8.1994	1.1.2008	74. satnija VP - Zagreb; 74. bojna VP - Zagreb-Pleso	0
71	42. inženjerijska bojna – Zagreb-Pleso	42nd Engineering Battalion	16.10.2002	1.1.2008		0
72	Samostalni logistički bataljun "A" – Zagreb	Individual Logistics Battalion	3.2.1992	13.4.1993		0
73	311. bojna prometna – Zagreb	311th Transport Battalion	26.9.1991	7.10.1999	1. transportna četa ZNG; Automobilski bataljun	1
74	315. logistička bojna – Zagreb	315th Logistics Battalion	25.1.2000	16.10.2002		0
75	1. skladišna bojna – Zagreb	1st Storage Battalion	16.10.2002	3.2.2006		0
76	2. skladišna bojna – Zagreb	2nd Storage Battalion	16.10.2002	3.2.2006		0
77	Transportna bojna – Zagreb	Transport Battalion	16.10.2002			0
78	Opslužna bojna – Zagreb-Pleso	Ordnance Battalion	3.2.2006	1.1.2008		0
79	Bojna za opskrbu – Zagreb-Pleso	Supplies Battalion	3.2.2006	1.1.2008		0
80	331. sanitetska bojna – Zagreb	331st Medical Battalion	16.10.2002	5.4.2005		0
81	251. bojna veze – Zagreb	251st Signals Battalion	7.10.1991	5.4.2005	Četa veze OZ Karlovac; Satnija veze ZP Karlovac; 251. satnija veze - Karlovac;	0
82	279. bojna veze – Zagreb-Pleso	279th Signals Battalion	17.10.1995	1.1.2008	279. satnija veze	0
83	50. bojna ABKO – Zagreb	50th CBNR Battalion	31.10.1991	1.1.2008	Mješovita četa ABKO	2
84	1. haubički divizion 203 mm – Zagreb	1st Howitzer 203 mm Battalion	15.9.1991	18.3.1999	11. mješoviti haubički artiljerijski divizion; 8. divizion haubički 203 mm	1
85	5. divizion PO topničko-raketni - Zagreb	5th Anti-Armour Artillery Rocket Battalion	5.10.1991	6.9.1999	21. mješoviti PO topnički divizion	1
86	23. samostalni PO divizion 76 mm – Zagreb	23rd Individual Anti-Armour 76 mm Battalion	7.10.1991	27.6.1992		0
87	232. divizion topničko-raketni PZO "B" – Zagreb	232nd Air Defence Artillery Rocket Battalion	16.2.1993	1.1.2008		0
88	Mješoviti divizion SVBR "Oganj" – Zagreb	Combined Self-propelled Multiple Rocket Launcher Battalion	2.6.1992	16.12.1992	Artiljerijska baterija SVLR "Oganj"	1
89	Samostalna "Bosanska četa" – Zagreb	Individual "Bosnian Company"	20.11.1991	5.6.1992		0
90	Samostalna četa Zagreb – "Ina-trgovina"	Individual "INA Trade Company"	20.11.1991	26.2.1992		0
91	Samostalna "Muslimanska četa" – Zagreb	Individual "Muslim Company"	16.1.1992	27.6.1992		0
92	262. satnija izvidničko-diverzantska – Zagreb	262nd Reconnaissance Diverzant Company	13.11.1991	10.9.1996	Izviđačka četa Zagreb; Izvidnička satnija OZ Zagreb	0
93	Četa za djelovanje na vodama "A" – Zagreb	Company for Surface Actions	23.10.1991	29.3.1994		0
94	351. vojno-obavještajna satnija – Zagreb	351st Military Intelligence Company	16.10.2002	5.4.2005		0
95	Gorska satnija "Velebit" – Zagreb	Mountain Company "Velebit"	16.12.1993	22.11.1995		0
96	55. tenkowska četa – Zagreb	55th Tank Company	26.9.1991	28.4.1992		0
97	Četa ZNG "Hrvatski umjetnici" Zagreb	"Croatian Artists" Company	7.10.1991	27.6.1992		0
98	1. satnija "MPU" – Zagreb	1st Ministry of Justice Company	20.1.1992	20.3.1992		0
99	252. satnija veze – Zagreb	252nd Signals Company	7.10.1991	16.4.2001	Četa veze OZ Zagreb; Satnija veze ZP Zagreb	0
100	275. satnija za ED – Zagreb	275th Electronic Warfare Company	14.4.1993	6.9.1999		0
101	502. satnija ABKO – Zagreb	502nd CBNR Company	31.12.1993	10.9.1996		0
102	Satnija za obuku vojnika-vrhunskih sportaša – Zagreb	Sports Training Company	30.1.2001	1.1.2008		0
103	Graditeljsko-proizvodna satnija – Zagreb	Building and Manufacture Company	16.10.2002	1.1.2008		0
104	461. bitnica PZO topničko-raketna, domobranska – Zagreb	461st Air Defence Artillery Rocket Home Defence Battery	7.1.1993	18.4.2001		0
105	462. bitnica PZO topničko-raketna, domobranska – Zagreb	462nd Air Defence Artillery Rocket Home Defence Battery	7.1.1993	18.4.2001		0
106	Vod za dokumentarno i informativno djelovanje GS HV – Zagreb	Documentation and Information Platoon	23.10.1991	28.4.1994		0
107	Vod veze – Zagreb	Signal Platoon	9.3.1992	16.2.1993		0
108	280. vod bespilotnih letjelica – Zagreb	280th Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Platoon	10.3.1993	6.9.1999		0
109	Baterija PZO ZNG – Zagreb	Air Defence Battery	10.9.1991	11.2.1992		0
110	51. laka artiljerijska baterija PZO – Zagreb	51th Light Air Defence Artillery Battery	26.9.1991	5.10.1991		0
111	1. PO baterija ZIS 76 mm – Zagreb	1st Anti-Armour ZIS 76 mm Battery	4.10.1991	17.1.1992		0
112	2. haubička baterija "NORA" – Zagreb	2nd Howitzer NORA Battery	7.10.1991	29.5.1992		0
113	Topovska baterija – Zagreb	Artillery Battery	5.10.1991	29.5.1992		0
114	Centar za EI ZNG – Zagreb	Electronic Warfare Centre	29.7.1991	2.2.1993		0
115	Središnja elektroničkog izviđanja – Zagreb	Electronic Surveillance Centre	7.10.1991	16.10.2002	Glavni centar EI i PED pri GS; Središnja ED	1
116	Središnja obavještajna Zagreb	Intelligence Centre	5.12.1991	14.10.1998	Obavještajni centar Zagreb	0
117	1. oklopni vlak – Zagreb	1st Armoured Train	23.10.1991	27.6.1992		0
118	Vojni orkestar HV – Zagreb	Military Orchestra	20.11.1991	27.4.1995		0
119	Jedinica remontne potpore – Zagreb	Remount Support Unit	20.11.1991	2.2.1993		0

Nr.	Unit Name (Croatian)	Unit Name (English)	Established	Abolished	Named also	Flags
120	Središte za obuku i odgoj vojnika logističkih specijalnosti – Zagreb	Logistics Training and Educaion Centre	28.4.1992	21.12.2004	Centar za obuku i odgoj vojnika logističkih specijalnosti	3
121	Učilište HKoV "Fran Krsto Frankopan" – Zagreb	Croatian Army School	4.1.1992	16.10.2002	Časnički centar HV; Hrvatsko vojno učilište; Učilište HKoV "Fran Krsto Frankopan"	1
122	Nastavno središte za obuku vojne policije "bojnik Alfred Hill" – Zagreb	Military Police Training Centre	23.12.1993	16.10.2002	Nastavno središte Zagreb za obuku VP	0
123	Ratna škola OS RH "Ban Josip Jelačić" – Zagreb	War Colledge	3.11.1998	16.10.2002		2
124	Škola nacionalne sigurnosti – Zagreb	School of National Security	5.3.1997	16.10.2002		0
125	Zapovjedno-stožerna škola "Blago Zadro" – Zagreb	Command Staff School	5.3.1997	16.10.2002		1
126	Škola stranih jezika – Zagreb	Foreign Language School	5.3.1997	16.10.2002		1
127	Simulacijsko središte – Zagreb	Simulations Centre	7.7.1999	16.10.2002	Taktičko simulacijsko središte	0
128	Časnička škola – Zagreb	Officer's School	16.10.2002			0
129	Automatizirano streljiste "Vrapčanski potok" – Zagreb	Automated Firing Range	30.1.2001			0
130	Računovodstveni centar GS HV – Zagreb	General Staff Accounting Centre	18.12.1991	16.2.1993		0
131	Računovodstveni centar OZ Zagreb	Operational Zone Accounting Centre	18.12.1991	16.2.1993		0
132	Materijalno središte – Zagreb	Materiel Centre	16.10.2002	21.12.2004		0
133	Zrakoplovno-tehnički zavod – Zagreb	Aeronautical Technical Institute	10.1.1992	7.1.1993	Zrakoplovno tehnički centar	0
134	Remontni zavod – Zagreb	Remount Institute	16.10.2002			0
135	Ured GS HV za koordinaciju sa EM i UN – Zagreb	GS CAF Office for Coordination with EU and UN	11.2.1992	27.7.1998	Ured MORH za UN i EZ	0
136	336. Institut zrakoplovne medicine – Zagreb	336th Air Medicine Institute	7.4.1992		Zavod za zrakoplovnu medicinu HRZ i PZO "B"; Institut zrakoplovne medicine	0
137	Reprezentativni orkestar ZNG RH "R" – Zagreb	Representative Orchestra	10.7.1992		Simfonijski puhački orkestar HV MORH; Simfonijski puhački orkestar HV; Orkestar HV	0
138	Specijalne postrojbe GS HV – Zagreb	GS CAF Special Forces	17.4.1993	29.3.1994		0
139	Ured CISM – Zagreb	Military Sports Office	16.5.1994	1.1.2008	Hrvatsko vijeće za međunarodni vojni šport M Odjel za natjecateljski vojni šport	0
140	Verifikacijsko središte OS RH – Zagreb	Verification Centre	6.8.1996	27.7.1998		0
141	Središte za međunarodne vojne operacije – Zagreb-Rakitje	International Military Operations Centre	29.12.2000			0
142	Dom zapovjedništva Zagreb	Command Headquarters	9.3.1992	16.2.1993		0
143	Dom Ministarstva obrane – Zagreb	Ministry of Defence Headquarters	29.4.1997	27.7.1998		0
144	Dom zapovjedništva 1. korpusa HKoV – Zagreb	1st Corps Command Headquarters	16.10.2002	5.4.2005		0
145	Dom zapovjedništva HRZ i PZO – Zagreb	Air Force and Air Defence Command Headquarters	16.10.2002			0
146	Dom zapovjedništva za izobrazbu i obuku HKoV-Zagreb	Education and Training Command Headquarters	16.10.2002			0
147	Dom zapovjedništva za logistiku – Zagreb	Logistics Command Headquarters	16.10.2002	21.12.2004		0