

Abstract

The main objective of this work is to expand knowledge about the history of the 1st Air Transport Squadron, from the time it was established in 1946 until it was disbanded in 1993. Findings are based on interviews, with former members of the transport squadron serving at Ostrava Mošnov Airport, which were directed using the oral history method. The work also takes information from available archive sources and literary sources. The distinctiveness of the topic (an elite air transport squadron entrusted with special purpose tasks within the army), which is put in historic context, is reflected in the text. However, the author places the greatest emphasis on the conditions of a professional soldier's everyday life. The author does not present definite conclusions, on the contrary, he endeavours to view the specific issue from various viewpoints. The soldiers serving with the air transport squadron are not portrayed as extraordinary supermen, but as men and women for many of whom serving with the air force was not simply satisfaction of their enjoyment of flying, but was also hard, demanding and, frequently, very dangerous work, which was not always undertaken for personal benefit, but because of their deep connection with their country, and which strongly affected not only their own lives but also the lives of their families.

Key words: Czechoslovak People's Army – military air force – normalisation – oral history – biography.