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Selection of Rifle Caliber in Rearming Process of the Serbian Army

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Abstract:

Research Question: This paper recommends the method for selecting the optimal ammunition caliber for the automatic rifle that will be used to equip Serbian Army units. **Motivation/idea:** The selection of adequate caliber does not only represent a challenge for the decision-makers in the military, but also provides information to the industry to adjust to given requests. In the current conditions, the purpose-built industry of the Republic of Serbia is faced with two key tasks that are completely correlated: meeting the needs of the Serbian Army for quality ammunition and being competitive on the market. Accordingly, the purpose of this paper is to develop a qualitative model based on the DEX method and DEXi software applied in the selection of caliber ammunition for automatic rifles for the needs of members of the Serbian Army. This paper connects for the first time the qualitative DEX method with a product of this industry. **Data / Tools:** In order to meet the requirements of the multi-criteria decision-making, we developed the DEX model to be used to solve the problem of making decisions about the selection of optimal caliber for rearming the Serbian Army, as well as its cost-effectiveness. The alternatives are calibers for automatic rifles 7.62 mm and 5.56 mm that are currently in use in the Serbian Army, as well as the new 6.5 mm caliber which has been announced by the expert authorities. We defined the selection of criteria functions from technical and logistic standpoints. Using the DEX method and DEXi software enables us to obtain independent recommendations by applying different criteria. **Findings:** Results of this research show that the caliber is a very important component when it comes to army's armament. At the same time, this question poses a challenge for the sustainable development of the weapons industry. As the optimal caliber, among the offered, after processing the input data in the DEXi software, the authors propose a caliber of 5.56 mm. This caliber dominates in most criteria and as such, it represents the best choice. **Contribution:** This paper contributes to the creation of sustainable development policies on the national and regional levels and it helps the key decision-makers in the military make decisions. Results of such and similar research, and the fact that the international market has a growing need for ammunition of this caliber should be guidelines for the domestic weapons industry for future development and investment.

Keywords: multicriteria decision-making, DEX method, DEXi software, caliber, ammunition, cost-effectiveness.

JEL Classification: D81

1. Introduction

Despite claims from certain theorists that the twenty-first century is the century of modern warfare and that classic wars are a thing of the past we are witnesses that these claims are incorrect. Every day, across the world, there are dozens of armed conflicts of greater or smaller intensity. Putting aside all the destructive characteristics of the armed conflicts we cannot neglect their development potential, nor their significant economic benefits. The industry that in theory makes the most profit from these conflicts is the military industry. That is, as cruel as it may sound, armed conflicts are the only realistic test where we can evaluate products of the weapons industry.

As we will not see the end of the use of conventional weapons soon, the development of the existing weapons as well as creating new ones will not stop. In parallel with the development of weapons, different types of ammunition are developed that will be used by those weapons. As rifle ammunition does not con-

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tain an explosive charge and has effect on the target only by using kinetic energy, it was necessary to develop a lighter bullet with a higher initial velocity and better in-flight stability (Bogdanov, 2015).

There is a large number of types of ammunition that are sorted out by caliber. The two most used calibers are the 7.62 mm and 5.56 mm. The Yugoslav People's Army started using the eastern version of caliber 7.62x39 mm, which the Serbian Army kept using, while the western (NATO) version is 5.56x51 mm. Since 2008, the Serbian Army has used the 5.56 mm caliber along with 7.62 mm. Lately, we have had announcements suggesting the introduction of the new caliber, 6.5 mm Grendel.

The question of ammunition caliber selection depends mostly on internal manufacturing capacities that can both meet the needs of the Serbian Army and possess export potential. With that said, one should take into account that economic criteria most often give priority to political criteria, through appropriate institutional support. Because of this, along with the development of manufacturing capacities, we take into consideration international markets where it is possible to sell.

By using the expert modeling DECISION EXPERT (DEX) method, this paper compares caliber 6.5 mm to calibers 5.56 mm and 7.62 mm, that are already in use, in order to include it in the process of rearming the Serbian Army while acknowledging economic potential. Calibers are compared through two types of characteristics: technical (mass of the bullet, initial velocity, and kinetic energy) and logistical (number of rifles, magazine capacity, and the price of a bullet), that are according to the opinions of the experts decisive in the selection process. Despite the unwritten rule that the price of rearming cannot be an obstacle (Eloranta, 2005), this does not hold for transitioning countries such as the Republic of Serbia. The logistic characteristic, the price of the bullet, due to economic circumstances, has the same importance as technical characteristics (Mucibabic, 2014).

Cupic and Suknovic (2010) write about decision-making in their work. Jokic et al. (2019) write about the problem of selection of caliber for the Serbian Army units. The method of multicriteria decision making is iterative compromise ranking (VIKOR) that proved to be very effective when it comes to solving this and similar problems.

The above-mentioned paper shows that going with the 5.56 mm is currently the best choice because it dominates in most criteria. By accepting the recommended solution, the decision-maker avoids subjectivity and strengthens his position with arguments based on results from the VIKOR method (Jokic et al., 2019).

As we use the DEX method in this paper, in the end, we will compare the results of one quantitative and one qualitative decision-making method.

Due to the very nature of the problem, it is difficult to find a similar paper that connects the selection of ammunition and multi-criteria decision-making using DEXi software, which certainly does not mean that products of the domestic industry are not a subject of multi-criteria analysis. On the contrary, considering that the decisions about rearming from the domestic industry are made on the strategic level, the need to use tools that help decision-makers is more emphasized.

As already mentioned, Jokic et al. (2019) conducted a similar study using the VIKOR method. Sanchez, Serna & Dolon (2015) used multi-criteria decision-making and fuzzy logic to make the selection of the best training jet for the Spanish Military Academy while Petrovic & Kankaras (2018) used DEMATEL-AHP methods for the selection of the best jet for protection of the Serbian airspace. The same authors apply the Fuzzy - AHP approach in evaluating the criteria for selecting a missile system for anti-aircraft operations (Petrovic et al., 2018). Methods of the multi-criteria decision-making for the selection of the best jet were also used by Wibowo et al. (2016). Bozanic et al. (2020) use a hybrid LBWA - IR-MAIRCA model of multi-criteria decision-making for the selection of weapons. Radovanovic et al. (2020) apply the fuzzy AHP-VIKOR method to select the best method for rectifying sniper rifles.

In addition to the choice of weapons system, multi-criteria analysis is also applicable during the preparation of military operations. Bojanic et al. (2018) used multi-criteria decision-making when planning the use of an anti-tank missile battery in a defensive operation. Similarly, Petrovic & Kankaras (2020) conducted a case study of the selection and evaluation of criteria for determining the position of air traffic control radar. Bozanic et al. (2016) applied the MABAC method in support of decision-making on the use of force in a defensive operation. al. (2014) use multi-criteria decision-making to select a location for the distribution of humanitarian aid.

2. Development of Rifle Ammunition

The development of weapons was followed by the development of ammunition that was used by them. We take the 7.92x33 mm (for the assault rifle StG 44) and the bullet 7.62x39 mm (for the automatic rifle AK-47) as the first successful cases. This family of ammunition had great mass, that directly affected the range and the mass of equipment (Bogdanov, 2015). The current trends, when it comes to the development of rifle ammunition, that is, improvement tactical and technical characteristics, are going in several directions: reducing caliber size, increasing slenderness, and increasing the initial velocity of the bullet (Bogdanov, 2015).

As a result of significant losses of the US armed forces during the war in Vietnam, it was necessary to develop a bullet that would have higher initial velocity and kinetic energy on the target (Woodford, 2019). This was achieved by introducing ammunition with a 5.56 mm caliber. The first version was 5.56x45 mm M193 and demonstrated certain flaws that were removed with the 5.56x45 mm SS109 bullet. This bullet became the standard bullet in the NATO member countries.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, a new bullet was introduced, the 6.5 mm Grendel caliber, which offered an opportunity to meet different tactical and technical requests and be the middle ground for 5.56 mm и 7.62 mm calibers. The 6.5x39 mm Grendel caliber bullet is still mostly used by hunters.

Following the decision to join the "Partnership for peace", in order to be compatible with the members of NATO, decision-makers in Serbia decided to rearm the army with the new automatic rifle, that is made in Serbia and uses the 5.56x45 mm caliber - the M21 rifle. During 2008, the army received the first delivery of about 5000 pieces of these rifles. As rearming an army is a serious and expensive process, some Serbian Army units still use older M70 rifles.

The Serbian ammunition factory „Prvi partizan” from Uzice was awarded the contract for manufacturing the 6.5x39 mm Grendel bullet that is suitable for both hunting and military rifles.

A new modular automatic rifle that uses the 7.62x39 mm caliber and 6.5x39 mm M17 Grendel caliber was developed as a product of cooperation between two domestic factories „Zastava oruzje” from Kragujevac and „Prvi partizan” from Uzice (Bogdanovic, 2018).

The Serbian Army uses the 5.56x45 mm caliber M21 rifle as well as the 7.62x39 mm caliber M70 rifle. Following the successful testing process of the modular 6.5x39 mm Grendel caliber - M17 rifle, the need to switch to this caliber is mentioned more often in the expert community. However, considering the price of the new bullet, the replacement of the rifles in the operational usage in total and development of the new rifle, the question of whether the Serbian Armed Forces really need this switch poses itself due to current economic situation, especially when it is taken into account that no other army in the world has the above-mentioned caliber in the operational usage. By using the qualitative model of multi-criteria decision-making DEX and DEXi software will be attempted to answer that question.

3. Decision Expert (DEX) Method

Modern managers less often rely solely on intuition when making decisions; instead, they use various methods and techniques for those purposes. There has been a large number of methods that were developed in order to help us when solving different managerial problems. A majority of those methods are quantitative; however, it is not always possible to demonstrate all elements of the problem. In order to avoid problems it is possible to replace quantitative methods with qualitative ones.

The development of qualitative models with multiple attributes is based on qualitative multi-attribute modelling. Models with multiple attributes (or multiple criteria) are tools used in the analysis of decisions for evaluation and selection of alternatives (Bohanec & Delibasic, 2015). These models are most often created as a result of cooperation between decision-makers, experts, and analysts.

In this paper, we used the Expert Modeling DEX model (Bohanec et al., 2013) developed in 1979 (Bohanec, 2008). It has been continuously developed and implemented in a wide spectrum of computer programmes. The DEX models and methodologies are in use even today in numerous aspects of society: sports, human resources, medicine, traffic studies, banking, risk assessment, etc.

DEX is an interactive computer programme for the development of quantitative models with multiple attributes and options assessment (Bohanec & Rajkovic, 1990) aimed at supporting decision-makers in complex

decision-making problems. Unlike other decision-making systems with multiple attributes, DEX uses qualitative (symbolic) attributes instead of quantitative (numeric) ones. Also, it works by the “if-then” rules of decision making, instead of weighted sums.

DEX models are based on the following principles (Bohanec et al., 2013):

- The model consists of hierarchical decomposition attributes in such a way that attributes at a higher level depend on those at a lower level.
- The attributes have scales expressed in words (i.e. “good”, “bad”, etc.) whose order of elements is lowest to highest values.
- For each “parent” attribute (attribute of a higher level) a table of elementary rules needs to be defined which is used to map values from lower to a higher hierarchical level. In those tables, one needs to define all possible combinations of “parent” attributes compared to “children” - attributes (attributes of a lower level).
- Following defined scales and relationships between attributes, we check for consistency in rules and prevent the development of rules which would violate this principle.
- The principle that states that “the customer is always right” is followed, even when some of the rules are inconsistent, although one should always lean towards a set of rules that is as consistent as possible.

The first principle - hierarchical decomposition of attributes is very intuitive and practical because it enables the problem to be decomposed into smaller pieces and be solved easier. Defining scales of attribute values by the user enables us to adjust to the observed problem. If it is necessary to digress from the previous rule, the model offers this possibility because it is assumed that the expert (decision-maker) is always right.

The DEX method consists of five steps:

Step 1: DEX model structuring.

Structuring of the DEX model can be conducted in two ways: Top-down approach and Bottom-up approach. In this paper, we used the first way. Structuring is done within the *Model* tab by selecting the target attribute, and then breaking down that attribute into lower-order attributes. Target attributes are displayed as rectangles and data attributes as arrows.

Step 2: Defining qualitative scales of attribute values

For each of the attributes in the model, a scale of values must be defined. While defining the scale, it is necessary to pay attention to whether the attribute, by its meaning, is of the maximization or minimization type because the order of elements will be different. Regardless of the team of extremization that arises from the importance of the attribute, the scale is oriented to be increasing. Defining the scale of attribute values is done within the *Scale* option.

Step 3: Defining decision rules

For each combination of input children-attributes, it is necessary to enter a value for the parent-attribute. The Use scale orders option enables us to check for consistency, and the Use weights option enables us to fill in the missing rules based on regressive weights of attributes. This step depends entirely on the knowledge of experts.

Step 4: Enter alternatives

After defining all the parameters, the model should be presented with alternatives from which to choose the best. Only the values of the elementary attributes are entered in the *Options* tab.

Step 5: Evaluate alternatives and analyze the results

As with other methods of multi-criteria decision-making, the DEX method also needs an evaluation of the stability of the solution. For stability analysis, DEXi offers three options: analysis +/- 1 (Plus-minus-1 analysis), Selective explanation, and Compare options.

Plus-minus-1 analysis enables us to check how an independent change of any attribute, for one value up or one value down, affects the overall change of values of attributes on the higher level (attribute-parent). An empty field implies that a change in the value of an attribute at a lower level, does not affect the “older” attributes, while „[“ or „]“ imply that it is not possible to conduct changes at a lower level.

A selective explanation emphasizes special advantages and shortcomings of the selected option. The method discovers and shows only the connected subtrees of attributes for which the option was evaluated as especially good or bad.

Comparing alternatives enables us to simply choose which alternatives we want to compare. Based on the comparison we get a report which is similar to a regular report about results of evaluation but with emphasized differences between options. Alternatives comparison can be done with charts by using the Charts tab where it is possible to select several types of charts. If we choose only one attribute, we will get the bar-chart, and if we choose two attributes, we will get the scatter-plot. If we choose three or more attributes, we will get the radar-chart. Charts are of triangular, rectangular, or trapezoidal shape, depending on the number of sub criteria that we choose.

4. Application of DEXi Software in Caliber Selection

The DEX models are made in DEXi software. Models with multiple attributes form a tree structure (Erdogan et al., 2018). The upper attribute in such models represents the total problem, while attributes below it represent subproblems that are smaller and less complex. DEXi software represents the system for support in decision-making that has two purposes:

- To help the analyst develop a model based on expert experiences, and
- To apply developed models in the process of making the decision.

As stated above, DEXi software is used in numerous aspects of society. Karleusa et al. (2018) used DEXi software for prioritizing the execution of plans for irrigation in the river Orjava basin in Pozesko-slavonska municipality in Croatia. Saracoglu (2016) also used DEXi software when making a selection of possibilities for investment in hydro-energy in Turkey. Maksimovic et al. (2017), using the DEX method, selected an adequate choice sort of fruit for starting production while Rozman et al. (2017) used the DEX method for choosing the best sort of plum. Pavlovic et al. (2011) developed a DEX-HOP model for the preliminary assessment of hop hybrids. Craheix et al. (2015) based on feedback from decision support systems DEXi design models for agricultural sustainability. Kontic et al. (2006) use the DEX method to search for the best location for the disposal of radioactive waste from the Krško Nuclear Power Plant. The DEX method has been used by some authors to make business decisions (Zupanic, 2017). Hiti (2019) uses the DEX method for restructuring of farms in Primorsko-notrarijska region.

The multidisciplinary of software is reflected in the fact that it can also be used in risk assessment (Radovanovic et al., 2019; Delibasic et al., 2020). Since the DEX method is similar to the AHP method, Kosljarić & Rajkovic (2014) used these methods together in the decision-making process.

Model structure

In an environment that is increasingly dynamic and prone to changes, the crucial question is how to make the right decision. Decision making is a choice among multiple possible alternatives (alternative solutions) for the observed problem (Jokic et al., 2019). In order to make the decision completely and qualitatively, it is necessary to conduct it through the following phases: identifying the problem, generating alternatives and criteria of optimality, evaluation, and selection, implementation, and control (Nikolic & Borovic, 1996).

The model for an optimal rifle caliber selection consists of eight hierarchically structured attributes shown in the attribute tree (Figure 1). Besides the main criterion, „caliber selection“, the model is based on two criteria, technical and logistical characteristics, and they are divided into sub-attributes. Attributes and sub-attributes are listed based on studies of the theory of shooting from infantry weapons and experts' opinions.

Attributes, technical and logistical characteristics, are divided into elementary attributes according to the following:

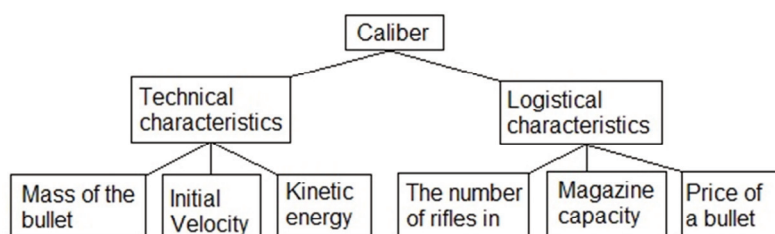


Figure 1: Attribute tree

The final result of the modelling phase of the selection of the optimal rifle caliber for the needs of the Serbian Army described in Step 1, is shown in Figure 2.

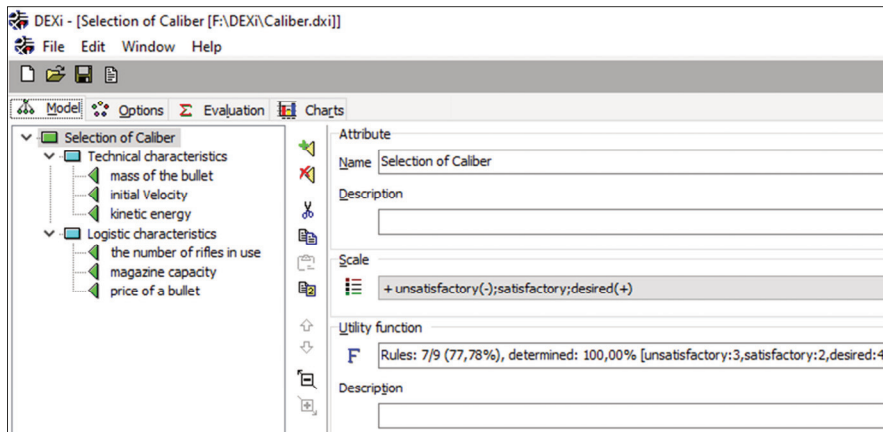


Figure 2: Model Tab

- Values Scale and decision-making rules

The scale for model evaluation for all criteria and sub-criteria consists of three levels of values as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Values Scale

Attributes and Sub Attributes		Values Scales
	Caliber	unsatisfactory,satisfactory, desired
1	Technical characteristics	poor, satisfactory, good
1.1.	Mass of the bullet	small, optimal,large
1.2.	Initial velocity	small, average, large
1.3.	Kinetic energy	small, average, large
2	Logistical characteristics	poor, satisfactory,good
2.1.	The number of rifles in use	minimal, required, sufficient
2.2.	Magazine capacity	small,standard, large
2.3.	Price of bullet	high, optimal, low

Defining the attribute value scale, described in Step 2, is shown in Figure 3.

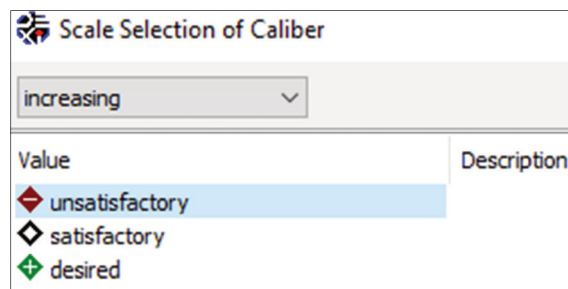


Figure 3: Defining values scale

After defining the value scale, the decision rules are defined. The rules were defined based on expert interviews, as described in Step 3. Applied rules are shown in Figure 4.

	Technical characteristics	Logistic characteristics	Selection of Caliber
1	poor	poor	unsatisfactory
2	poor	satisfactory	unsatisfactory
3	poor	good	satisfactory
4	satisfactory	poor	unsatisfactory
5	satisfactory	satisfactory	desired
5	satisfactory	good	desired
7	good	poor	satisfactory
3	good	satisfactory	desired
3	good	good	desired

Figure 4: Rules of decision-making

- Alternatives entry

The shown sub-attributes, as technical and logistical characteristics, have their exact quantitative values obtained based on measurements at testing centers, evaluations of authors based on the Serbian Army numbers, technical data about weapons systems, and available data provided by manufacturers. For the needs of the model, the quantitative values were translated into qualitative descriptive, as it is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Linguistic descriptors

Sub Attributes		Linguistic values	Numerical values
1.1.	Mass of the bullet (g)	small optimal large	<13 13-17 17<
1.2.	Initial velocity (m/s)	small average large	<700 700-800 800<
1.3.	Kinetic energy (J)	small average large	<700 700-900 900<
2.1.	The number of rifles in use (pcs.)	minimal required sufficient	<10000 10000-50000 50000<
2.2.	Magazine capacity (pcs.)	small standard large	20 30 30<
2.3.	Price of bullet (din. RS)	high optimal low	< 30 30-50 50<

The entered alternatives, as described in step 4, are shown in Figure 5.

Option	5.56 mm	6.5 mm	7.62 mm
mass of the bullet	small	optimal	large
initial Velocity	large	large	average
kinetic energy	average	large	small
the number of rifles in use	minimal	minimal	sufficient
magazine capacity	standard	small	standard
price of a bullet	optimal	high	low

Figure 5: Alternatives Entry

- Evaluation of alternatives and analysis of results

The output results of the applied model are shown in Figure 6.

Option	5.56 mm	6.5 mm	7.62 mm
. Selection of Caliber	desired	satisfactory	satisfactory
.. Technical characteristics	satisfactory;good	good	poor
... mass of the bullet	small	optimal	large
... initial Velocity	large	large	average
... kinetic energy	average	large	small
.. Logistic characteristics	satisfactory	poor	good
... the number of rifles in use	minimal	minimal	sufficient
... magazine capacity	standard	small	standard
... price of a bullet	optimal	high	low

Figure 6: Evaluation of alternatives

Following the evaluation of entered alternatives, one can see that output values for calibers are 5.56 mm – „desired“, 6.5 mm – “satisfactory“ и 7.62 mm – “satisfactory“, which means that caliber 5.56 mm has the fewest bad characteristics. Based on the above, it can be concluded that 5.56 mm is proposed as the most optimal caliber.

The Plus-minus-1 analysis

The results of the +/- 1 analysis, for the proposed 5.56 mm caliber, are shown in Figure 7.

DEXi		Caliber.dxi 15.02.2021.
Plus-Minus-1 analysis		
Attribute	-1	5.56 mm +1
Selection of Caliber		desired
mass of the bullet		[small]
initial Velocity		large]
kinetic energy	unsatisfactory	average
the number of rifles in use		[minimal
magazine capacity	unsatisfactory; satisfactory	standard
price of a bullet	unsatisfactory; satisfactory	optimal

Figure 7: „Plus-minus-1 analysis“ of 5.56 mm caliber

Figure 8 shows that for 5.56 mm caliber, a change for one value up or one value down does not affect the main attribute “selection of caliber” which means that even after Plus-minus-1 analysis, caliber 5.56 mm remains “desired”, that is, it keeps stability.

Selective explanation

Figure 8 shows that the first ranked caliber **5.56 mm** has two weak and two strong characteristics: the weak ones are bullet mass and the number of rifles in use, while the strong ones are technical characteristics, especially the initial velocity.

DEXi		Caliber.dxi
Weak points		
Attribute		5.56 mm
mass of the bullet		small
the number of rifles in use		minimal
Strong points		
Attribute		5.56 mm
Selection of Caliber		desired
Technical characteristics		satisfactory; good
initial Velocity		large

Figure 8: Analysis of selective explanation

Alternatives comparison

Figure 9 shows the marked differences between the alternatives.

DEXi		Caliber.dxi 15.02.2021.		
Comparison of options				
Attribute	5.56 mm	6.5 mm	7.62 mm	
Selection of Caliber	desired	satisfactory	satisfactory	
Technical characteristics	satisfactory; good	good	poor	
mass of the bullet	small	optimal	large	
initial Velocity	large		average	
kinetic energy	average	large	small	
Logistic characteristics	satisfactory	poor	good	
the number of rifles in use	minimal		sufficient	
magazine capacity	standard	small		
price of a bullet	optimal	high	low	

Figure 9: Alternatives comparison

The graph in Figure 10 shows the evaluation results according to one dimension of the evaluation. In this case, it is the basic attribute, “caliber selection”.

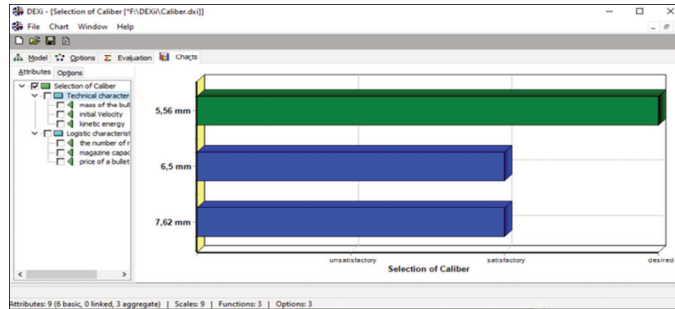


Figure 10: Chart of Alternatives comparison (bar-chart)

Figure 11 shows a triangular chart, evaluation of the main attribute: „caliber selection“ and its sub-attributes “technical and logistical characteristics” that are observed for the dominant caliber.

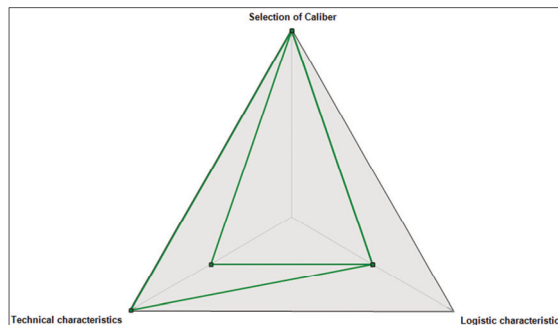


Figure 11: Evaluation of main criteria for caliber 5.56 mm (Radar-chart)

Triangle vertices represent the best values of the observed attributes and sub attributes. As values of sub attributes get lower, it is shown on the chart by approaching the center of the triangle and the worst criterion is in the center. Figure 11 shows that for caliber 5.56 mm the “technical characteristics” attribute has a higher value than “logistical characteristics” but not as high as in the other two calibers. While 6.5 mm and 7.62 mm calibers had “technical and logistical characteristics” evaluated as “good” or “bad”, 5.56 mm caliber results in “satisfactory”, with tendencies for “good” for “technical characteristics” attribute, and therefore, the 5.56 mm caliber was recommended as the “desired” one.

Triangle vertices represent the best values of the observed attributes and sub-attributes. As values of sub-attributes get lower, it is shown on the chart by approaching the center of the triangle and the worst criterion is in the center. Figure 11 shows that for caliber 5.56 mm the “technical characteristics” attribute has a higher value than “logistical characteristics” but not as high as in the other two calibers, and therefore, the 5.56 mm caliber was recommended as the “desired” one.

Conclusion

The decision to introduce a new weapons system is not made ad hoc, nor is it the decision made by one man, regardless of the expertise he might possess. Decisions of this kind, especially when it comes to changing the caliber as the technical and unit price as the logistical standpoint, is the result of thorough expert research and long-term planning of technical development as well as finances.

By using qualitative and quantitative methods when choosing the optimal caliber that meets the needs of the Serbian Army and also meets the budget requirements, we decrease the risks of making the wrong decision from both the technical and the financial standpoints. The results of previous research, mentioned in the introductory part, obtained through VIKOR methods are very similar, almost identical, just like the results obtained by using the Decision Expert (DEX) method by using the DEXi software. In both cases, the 5.56 mm caliber is the best solution. This caliber highly satisfies the majority of criteria and, as such, it is the best choice.

Another fact that supports these findings is that there are two additional production lines in use at a domestic factory „Prvi Partizan“ from Uzice introduced in 2015 that increased the existing capacities by 30% and thus enable timely deliveries of required 5.56 mm ammunition.

In this paper, we presented one approach based on the DEX method using DEXi software. The software proved to be relatively simple to use and successful when solving problems and reducing unpredictability and uncertainty when making decisions, thus enabling us to make a more objective and correct selection among offered alternatives.

Future research in this area needs to focus on applying hybrid models while using qualitative and quantitative methods of multi-criteria decision-making in order to reduce shortcomings of the applied method and to develop a more realistic and efficient model of decision making.

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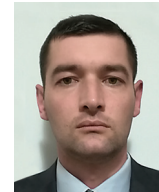
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