In my 2001-2002 ethnographic study of the Czech military conducted shortly after the country had joined NATO, I focused on the different paradoxes that characterized the transformation of civil-military relations during the liminal post-socialist period. Since that time, the military and its place in Czech society have changed and post-socialism as an analytical category in anthropology has undergone much critical development. In my talk, I will engage with current anthropological literature on post-socialism and reflect on the concept’s potential relevance through recent examples of how legitimate violence and its institutions are being (re)positioned in the Czech public imaginary.