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Doctoral dissertation/thesis summary

The transformation of The Republic of Poland Armed Forces
in period 2008 2011 on the example of local military administration bodies

The transformation of the Republic of Poland Armed Forces is a continuous process in which, on the one hand, it is accompanied by an objective phenomenon of strong resistance to change, on the other hand, the gradual increase of certain capabilities as well as a chance to the strategical generation jump in the armed forces, which will enable them to prepare for the future tasks and new security challenges. The first decade of the twenty-first century and the beginning of the another, and in particular the years 2008-2011 were characterized by organizational projects, aimed at the full professionalization of the Polish' Army and the achievement of the Polish Armed Forces required by the North Atlantic Alliance, the relevant standards of technical modernization, enabling joint operation of allied operations. Conducted to date, the transformation was aimed mainly at increasing military potential and the operational capacity of the armed forces, as well as strengthening their defence and expeditionary character.

In this process of change, the critical elements of the Polish Army were and are now local military administration bodies (LMAB) – through years of operation since 1918; the structures were permanently modelled and restructured. It was impacted by specific needs of the army, or the country administrative structure changes or other factors caused by a specific, ad hoc need (the outbreak of war, preparation and participation in the mobilization, demobilization, state of war, or recruitment into a professional army, etc.). Nevertheless, these structures have already been appropriately shaped and tested in different situations, and having regard to their classic destiny, without a doubt, in the past years (1918-2008), some proven and effective forms and methods of LMAB activities were developed. Local military administration bodies (LMAB) are today a kind of a link between the country local authorities of defence policy and armed forces, and citizens as well as a various local “civilian” institutions.

There are two main areas of LMAB activity, in which they form the Minister of National Defence implementing local authorities, in operational and defence matters as well as non-combined government administration. The status of LMAB as the non-combined local government authorities has the necessary legitimacy in the structure of public administration in

the country. For this reason, they are entitled, pursuant to the relevant provisions, for settlement of specific individual cases of citizens and issuing administrative decisions with the procedures of the Administrative Code. In addition according to Article 94 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, LMAB— as local government authorities, on the basis of and within the limits of mandates laid down by law—can establish local legislation applicable in the area of operation. It should be also mentioned, that the only competent authorities for the management of reserve military personnel are Province Military Staffs chiefs and Army Recruiting Commands commanders.

The choice of dissertation subject was dictated by the interests of the author himself related to the issue of country internal security, in particular, on issues related to the development of the mobilization of the armed forces, which is an essential element of the mobilization of the whole entire country against the threat of war, and the war itself. In the course of several years of observation and analysis of a functioning defensive system, the author noted that one of the critical elements that practically will be the decisive factor, about the success or failure of effective mobilization of troops and other country defence structures, was and still is significantly marginalized and even often overlooked in literature. This element is system of the local military administration bodies (LMAB).

Considering the above, the author has focused his research on the problems of local military administration bodies on the background of the transformation of the Polish Armed Forces in period 2008-2011 —the facts occurring in revolutionary way, being the latest changes in the state's defence system. It should be emphasized that about the transformation of the Polish Army was founded until now many publications and different analyses, however researching them, it is difficult to find much detailed information about LMAB. The exception was laconic information about the liquidation of military districts and the reduction of army recruiting commands. Therefore, in order to expand the horizon of research on the transformation of the armed forces, author of the dissertation has decided to take the problem of the transformation of local military administration bodies. In this context, the main aim of the dissertation adopted identifies and diagnose introduced in 2008-2011 operation concept LMAB and the impact of these solutions on the state's defence system.

Consequently accepted dissertation aim, questions were formulated and then they have been expressed in the form of scientific problems - and the main research problem was identified as follows: To what extent is the transformation of the Polish Armed Forces, aiming to create the volunteer army affected the functioning of LMAB?

The main hypothesis placed at the initial stage of the study, in an attempt to answer the basic research problem, assumed that: the transformation of the Polish Armed Forces in 2008-2011 did not affect fundamentally the functioning of LMAB in operating conditions of the volunteer army.

The analysis of the collected material and the nature of the problem studied, resulted in the adoption of construction work consisting of four chapters, introduction and conclusion and bibliography. The first chapter identifies the military and local military administration in the political system of the Republic of Poland. With the assumption it presents and characterizes the armed forces as a public institution in the country, hedged with certain rules and circumstances of civilian control over the army. In addition, this chapter presents the armed forces, as part of the national defence system – a military subsystem. It outlines the clear outline of the local military administration bodies functioning, as constituent elements of public administration in Poland. Moreover, it identifies and describes the legal basis of the local military administration bodies functioning in times of peace, crisis and war.

The second chapter presents the nature, conditions and main directions of transformation of the Polish Armed Forces in years 2008-2011, focusing on the essential concepts of the transformation of the Polish Army. In addition it defines internal and external factors affecting the process of transformation of the army during the abovementioned period. This chapter also presents references to the earlier years of the transformation that had a huge impact on the subsequent course and conditions.

Chapter three is an analytical presentation of the organization and functioning of the local military administration bodies in 2008-2011. In this context, it explains the essential concepts and directions of local military administration bodies in the light of the transformation of the armed forces from the mixed model of army (soldiers of involuntary incarnation and professional soldiers) towards a volunteer model. Moreover, the analysis of the preparation and implementation of the transformation of local military administration bodies was done. The chapter summarizes the conclusions of the activities of local military administration bodies under new conditions of the volunteer army operation.

Review of empirical research and synthetic summary of the research results and conclusions of the analysis are presented in detail in the final, the fourth chapter of this dissertation. Conclusions and findings obtained in the research process supplemented achievements of the audit conducted by the Ministry of National Defence in the new structures of local administration and military applications and assessments controlled the

activities by the Supreme Audit Office regarding the professionalization of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland on the example of selected military units in 2008-2010 - including activities and events that occurred before and after a given period, and directly related to issues of control. The complement to the abovementioned considerations was to verify the hypotheses that have been made in the completion of the work.

The thesis uses literature in the field of the system transformation, political theory, constitutional law, national security, defence and military (publishing, magazines, legal acts, strategic documents, doctrine, guidelines, regulations, etc.), in both Polish and foreign languages. It also presents the results of tests and inspections performed by the General Staff of the Army, the National Security Bureau, as well as the theories and concepts developed during the restructuring of the local administration and the military self-research in the related field. Additionally, the Supreme Audit Office report concerning the professionalization of the armed forces was broader analysed. At this stage of this dissertation, the author to summarize his own research finds that the working hypothesis put by him in the initial stage of research assuming that: *the transformation of the Polish Armed Forces in the years 2008-2011 not affected substantially the functioning of LMAB in new conditions of the volunteer army has confirmed*. However, it should be noted, as noted in the analysis of partial hypotheses, that during the relevant time period, the transformation of the Polish Armed Forces and the process of professionalization of the army does not always run smoothly and according to the original intended, due to various factors, even though local authorities of military administration actually implement their statutory tasks.

In spite of many objective shortcomings in many areas of the LMAB functioning caused accelerated professionalization of the army, which to a lesser or greater extent indicated in this study, it seems that local military authorities met the tasks imposed on it. Based on the results of supervisions and checks carried out, the activity of the army recruiting commands and provincial military staffs was positively assessed, especially during many briefings at various levels of command where numerous comments and deficiencies were pointed out.

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