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Role of Home Guard in building security of Poland. Change management and leadership in Polish Army

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Introduction

Geopolitical position of Poland through the next years is becoming much more complicated. We can be wondering, if the biggest dangers are associated with weakening or even breakdown of European Union (which means that hypothetically - at this moment - Poland return to the strongest countries group), or maybe because of Eastern Europe's position is getting worse (for example: civilians revolution in Ukraine, the Crimea's annexation by Russian Federation, or the beginning of a war in Donbas). Whenever we would put the hypothetically crisis' source, the huge amount of information coming from Europe, made, that in Poland discourse took a place (political level) and the public debate about priority the security level in our country and its defensive possibilities. The Home Guard idea came from this debate(or it was reminded after couple of years).

When socially-political transitions are common, Poland should be steady and prepared. It means, to be able to self-defend its borders and to protect the civilians. Of course, obvious thing is taking an aid from NATO, but it doesn't mean that Poland shouldn't do nothing. There is no 100% certainty, that when we will need an aid, then the aid will come and help us. Even when that aid would come, then its size and latency time can be the source of many unnecessary and irreversible dramas. At this moment, the knowledge about the amount of army and its equipment prompt a thesis, that the whole Polish defending strategy relies on professional surgical army(that will come after an unknown period of time - the allies)¹.

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Based on: Warsaw Enterprise Institute, Memonardum w sprawie obrony terytorialnej,
www.wei.org.pl/materialy [on-line access for day: 27.03.2017]

In this case comes the Home Guard form. According to R. Jakubczak's definition High Guard militaries means "territorially-made military part, organized and used to defend both local and regional and is functioning in subordinating territorial organs of operative level generalship, both regional and local" ². This army includes generally infantry units. Infantry of course can be supported by different types of army. The crucial in the proper use of this form is fact, that subunits and High Guard militaries units are recruited "in the reliability of material resources and reserve units".³

The history

Polish military traditions, plentiful in its history, are making specific fundament on which Poland is building another kind of Home Guard - Territorial Guard. Military power of this country, since the very long time ago was reliable on common military organization, called "levy in mass". Civilians which wanted to join and fight against the enemy, were welcome. Especially the 18th century showed the true role of nation- liberation power. When Poland lost their independence, and didn't own an army, then common civilians, farmers or craftsman were fighting. The local community especially was the most supportive about bringing back the independence. The "Home Guard" form exists since 20th century. After World War II, on Polish territory exact these kinds of units were functioning. The Home Guard army was supposed to play crucial role in the country's security system. It is worth to remember, that Poland was a part of Warsaw Pact(when NATO was the enemy), and that was the result of course from the political position after WW2. Then it was necessary to create these kinds of treaties because of new kinds of danger, like nuclear bomb. These treaties were made in case of hitting by this kind of weapon, and to provide the security to civilians and participate in the process of eliminating the pollution. Based on that, the new security theories were created, which included that only units directly facing the enemy were crucial

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R. Jakubczak, *Współczesne wojska obrony terytorialnej*, Bellona Publishing House, Warsaw 2014, p.143.

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Ibidem.

element of Home Guard. It was set down that also soldiers located in the whole country were an important role. In this case the country security system has been changed, and two systems have been launched: internal and external⁴. The external system was including traditional military units with common destination, viz defending against the war of aggression of external country(or Warsaw Pact). On the other hand, the internal system was including the Home Guard intended to defending the country against any kind of assault. From the functioning, smaller units, and by creating the new units the Home Guard Country was made. These units were supplement of fighting units. At years 1963-1989 the Home Guard units were preparing primarily for military activities in case of nuclear war without activity range of non-military areas. Polish Army after leaving the Warsaw Pact have begun the transition process, making the offensive military system to defensive⁵. Then, at years 1990-1999, the Country Home Guard was organized in Military Units(brigade level or mere battalions). In 2007 the new Army structure was created and lifted earlier resolutions by making the National Substitute Units. Even they haven't been turned out to be solid creation. The history reminds, that the only operative army is not enough to conduct successful defense. It is because the country preparing to this, isn't able to form and regroup the defensive units to the attacked areas in time. The Government Inspectorate report⁶ from 2015 says, that the civilian defense of Poland isn't prepared to proceed proper activities while crisis, natural disaster or war comes. An important cause of problems with creating consistent civilian security system, is distracting solutions of the missions and structures in different law acts or its lack. The crisis management plans and civilian country security plans are created apart, although they concern similar issues.

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M. Paszyn. , M. Kordowski, W. Zalewski, *Koncepcja obrony terytorialnej w Polsce*, Wydawnictwo Narodowego Centrum Studiów Strategicznych, Warsaw 2016.

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R. Jakubczak, J. Marczak, *Obrona terytorialna Polski na progu XXI w.*, Bellona Publishing House, Warsaw 1998

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Najwyższa Izba Kontroli, *Przygotowanie struktur obrony cywilnej do realizacji zadań w okresie wojny i pokoju*, www.nik.gov.pl/id,3953,vp,5028 [on-line access for day: 27.03.2017]

At once, the report pointed the ability to create the efficient Home Guard cooperating with the amount of subjects. Many countries in the world own big experience associated with Home Guard organization. It seems legitimate and desirable to exercise these experiences, through bottoming and analyzing the creation and evolution processes of Home Guard through the past years. Between 2015 and 2016 the resolution was made about instituting as the new kind of the Army and increasing the amount of professional soldiers.⁷ This is not mystery, that United States National Guard is the ideal to follow for Polish politicians and general officers working on creating this new structure. National Guard is characterized by high defensive ability with relatively small expense. It also has a great historical tradition - because it was participating in the Confederate War and high amounts of natural disasters. It can be the perfect example of its good and effectiveness (both public and local).

Home Guard - current conception

The main challenge in Poland development process is to create and organize effective security system. Numerous disputes, conflicts and crisis surrounding Poland impact on attention growth, which cause creating the vision of building and financing high range of security. It is worth to remember that not only being part of NATO, but also country's army itself states main in security politics. Also being a part of alliance itself is commuting Poland to keep and grow individualities. The Territory Guard(as crucial form of country's military development) exists in the most of countries which belong to North-Atlantic Pact. It is an important component of modern military structure, which, due to closely association with non-military system, in crucial way can impact on National Home Guard effectiveness. First quarter of 2016 was a time to develop a Home Guard in Poland. Since then, he conversations about this kind of Military have entered the very new level.⁸ Currently Minister of National Defense comes from legislative phase to practical stage of realization. Poland by creating the new type of Military is counting on granting new operative abilities

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R. Jakubczak, Marczak J., *op.cit.*

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M. Paszyn, M. Kordowski, *op.cit.*

in range of operative armies support and conducting anti diversion and ant terroristic activities. Army units of Home Guard will be prepared to conduct security and regional support in some regions, which are "a small homeland" for soldiers. Barracks will form military practice, life-saving and motivating bases. Their use will depend of danger level. In case of natural disaster or technical disaster, the units' objects will conduct safe zones for local people.

Current vision of military tactics demands preparation to conduct Home Guard (as system) and because of local defense. The crucial part of creating Home Guard militaries is military society organization, for the local defending, and then with small expense, developing in big scale these more important defense elements. In the subject of "local" Home Guard worth to notice is how important soldiers' morals are. In Home Guard this factor occurs always on high level, because these armies have special bond with local people. Soldiers know, that in this area are their families, wealth, relationships - whole unit's legacy. "Small homeland" is crucial word here. It contains both love to the country and primarily love to area surrounding that person in daily life. When recruiting a soldier to this kind of Military the special attention is paid on this factor, because it points the motivation to battle in crisis situation. Moreover, Home Guard forces will ease common operative militaries the most of security and defensive missions. They will become an important partner for strategic operative militaries, because supplying each other will positively impact on the whole country's defensive system. Operative militaries due to this cooperation will be able to work even better on the maneuver-striking ability.

The Home Guard - Purpose and Structure

To analyze the future shape of a new country defense component we have to assess its fate. All experts' centers agree that Territory Guard should be intended to realize five kinds of missions⁹ :

1.Fighting activities

2.Supporting activities

3.Non-military preventing activities

4.Non-military natural disaster preventing activities

5.Social-promoting activities

The Home Guard militaries are common phase of military preparation and use the society to protect and guard people. At peace, these militaries make small(high substitute), military-general units and a specific kind of militaries with brigade/battalion structure. In assumption made by Polish Ministry of National Defense, Home Guard militaries are meant to be a new, equivalent kind of military which is functioning not only at war, but also at peace, like Terrestrial Army, Air Forces, navy and special forces.¹⁰ Home Guard forces in many aspects will be pointing their "differences" when it comes to organization and their use comparing to the other operative militaries. They will have big tactical independence during military and humanitarian missions. Their great asset will be maximal usage of protective advantages in the area they know - fighting on the ground soldiers know very well. The important aspect will be also spreading units in whole country.¹¹ It will short the reaction time for actual crisis/problem. Home Guard financing basis will be National Defense Ministry.¹² The other budget departments should include life-saving equipment and features for Home Guard because of domestic life-saving system. It is possible that municipal governments will partially pay for training infrastructure. Also possible is an aid from other NATO countries. Basic structural assumption of Home Guard model component is organizing-functional associated with commonness of this formation. That means the making self-reliant forces and sub forces that are functioning on the specific administrative area. The structure will be built and adjusted to administrative country division. This characteristics results directly from the fact, that the only respectively

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ibidem.

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R. Jakubczak, *Współczesne...*, *op.cit.*, p. 145.

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Dz.U. [Journal of Laws] from 2016, No. 2138, www.dziennikustaw.gov.pl/2016 [on-line access for day: 27.03.2017].

integrated "group" with environment surrounding it, is able to realize these goals properly. Currently, more importance grants combatting less important non-military dangers, for example: nationality and religious disputes, informative attack on society and internal country situation destabilization. In this case High Guard militaries can easily take missions in informative and educational kind. The crucial is fact, that existing crisis management and civilian security systems need an aid from military, because they are not able to herd specified amount of people. Home Guard militaries can fill this issue by preparation the couple of hundreds volunteers in every village. The Territory Guard generalship is the aggregate of territory activities by generalship organs of central, operative and tactical grade in area of planning and preparing of Home Guard, keep organs of generalship and Home Guard militaries being ready, organizing cooperation with operative militaries, and cooperation with services and guards. The Home Guard generalship will conduct the formation on the central level. The National Defense Minister will lead the Home Guard through Home Guard Inspectorate. The Garrison Generalship and Military Headquarters of Supplies will manage the tactical organs. In every voivodeship has to be created the Home Guard Brigade, in voivodeship city - battalion, and in every county - 100-man company of a different kind. In the few next years it is planned to create 364 companies which are included in 86 battalions(4-5 companies), which come under voivodeship brigades (3-4 battalions) responsible for specific voivodeship areas. The soldier amount of every battalion will be 600-1000. Overall there will be 17 Home Guard brigades (two in Mazovian voivodeship) including about 1.5-2.5 thousand Soldiers each. Formally the people that serve in Home Guard militaries will be the substitutes, but assigned to serve as subunits in Home Guard militaries. Home Guard militaries will create the conditions not only to optimally security, supporting and supplying the activities conducted by militaries, but also to conduct self-reliant combat and humanitarian activities.¹³ Creating the effective Territory Guard is necessary because it is important to military develop the big area in military meaning by other forces than operative ones. Home Guard is a part of militaries made to protect the country territory with local range, reliable on local military missions realizations.

Practical Home Guard militaries functioning

Preparation Home Guard militaries for combat includes:¹⁴

- Staff and soldiers recruitment
- Gaining and storing the military equipment
- Military training
- Keeping personal states and substantive benefits on proper level of combat willingness

Recruitment for this kind of military will be reliable on people associated with shooting clubs, uniform classes, pro-defense and pro-patriotic organizations and people who are highly motivated to join the forces.¹⁵ Privates, non-coms and officers will compose personal states of Home Guard units. There will be the most of privates, and the small amount of officers. Non-coms and officers will be a professional, contract and substitute soldiers. Private who will get to the Home Guard will sign a contract, that obtains him to short-term exercises, and that will be granted financially. Also the contract will guarantee the professional job.¹⁶ The challenge for recruits will be gaining and storing the military equipment. There are conversations, that there should be police weapon stores allowed to keep this equipment there. However, necessary will be also new buildings and renovation the old ones (being under charge of country). Home Guard militaries have to store their weapons and ammo near their houses, in case of danger. There is an idea (actually experimental), that soldiers should take their weapons to their houses and to keep it there. The military training will be managed by professionals, instructors

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J. Marczak, R. Jakubczak, *Raport strategiczny: Siły Zbrojne RP w drugiej dekadzie XXI wieku, Koncepcja strategiczna Obrony Terytorialnej RP*, Akademia Obrony Narodowej, Warsaw 2014

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Ibidem.

16

Movement towards National Defense, Krajowy System Obrony Narodowej, www.obronanarodowa.pl/KSON_final [on-line access for day: 27.03.2017]

or national military substitutes.¹⁷ The main goal of this kind of training is keeping the patriotic and civil values and of course learning how to use weapons. The training will contain also learning tactics, first aid and security in case of natural disaster. The training effects will show individuals of a soldier in using shooting weapons, light anti-tank measures, sapper methods and engineering aid equipment. It is worth to notice that Home Guards will be equipped in different kinds of weapons. Companies: infantry, maneuver-infantry, and securities will be equipped mainly in rifles and grenade launchers, but support companies will get even heavier equipment, such as: mortars, mobile PPK launchers, heavy anti-tank grenade launchers or transportable anti-aircraft rockets. Home Guard units will be prepared for realizing the most important combat missions, such as empowering operative militaries, and will be equipped similarly as operative militaries.¹⁸ These will include numerous machines and equipment, such as: chargers, bulldozers, cranes and many kinds of boats. There will be also present the anti-mass destruction weapons.¹⁹ Overall is very economical, because the new military will be created for small expense, reliable on highly motivated to defend their land, patriots, trained to conduct missions on high range. To own developed structures of Home Guard militaries brings huge benefits for whole defensive system, such as:²⁰

-involving the general military country potential

-lowing military maintenance costs

-increasing operative component

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R. Jakubczak, *Współczesne.., op.cit.* , p. 381.

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Z. Polcikiewicz, *Wojska Obrony Terytorialnej w systemie bezpieczeństwa narodowego Polski*, Acta Sci. Acad. Ostroviensis Sect. A, n. 7, www.zn.wsbip.edu.pl/sectioa/2016%281%29/399-413.PDF [on-line access for day: 27.03.2017]

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J. Marczak, R. Jakubczak, *Koncepcja strategiczna Obrony Terytorialnej RP*, AON Publishing House, Warsaw 2014. p. 86.

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J. Marczak, R. Jakubczak, *op.cit.*

-the adaptation army structures to NATO needs

-involving civil-military cooperation

Summary

According to art.2 of Constitution, Poland is a democratic country, actualizing social justice rules.²¹ Territory Guard makes possibilities to actualize art.85 p.1, which says that "the Polish civil duty is defending the homeland".²² Especially today, when unregularly war is very common and where we were witnesses of helplessness of major countries against Afghanistan or Chechnya, that important is changing the definition about every country's military potential. Preparing Home Guard for conducting activities will compose the most effective way to scare enemies off, in this case - the defensive measure. With involving the Home Guard, the national awareness will grow, and primarily the level of units' orientation with shooting weapon using. Home Guard will be making conditions not only to effective protecting, supporting and supplying activities conducting by operative militaries in different country regions, but also perform the active form of military conducting common and casual defense in the whole territory (also the regular activities and different forms of unregularly activities). Home Guard has to be treated as military component, which, regardless of peace-making activities features (for example life-saving, evacuation or humanitarian), cooperative with operative militaries allow providing effective Poland defending. It takes the place in the every one of three functioning periods of force in country politics. Being the element of Poland defensive system, it is able to adapt to many different circumstances, which can't be prefigured with potentially low cost. Home Guard composes the main answer for questions about: how to raise the security level in country.

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May 3rd Constitution, <http://www.polishconstitution.org/Konstytucja-PL.html> [on-line access for day: 27.03.2017]

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Ibidem.

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