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EVOLUTION OF POLISH MILITARY MISSIONS ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE POLISH MILITARY CONTINGENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FORCE IN AFGHANISTAN. PART 1

Abstract

The Polish Armed Forces (Polish Armed Forces) have been participating in military missions since 1953. By 2023, Polish Armed Forces soldiers had actively participated in 92 missions around the world. These missions were of an observational, peace-keeping, humanitarian, police, war, stabilization, and training nature. A series of two articles will present the basic principles of NATO, UN and EU military missions, the history of selected Polish military missions, the idea of ISAF (International Security Assistance Force), and the evolution of the Polish Military Contingent of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF PKW) in Afghanistan. The articles will also include the results of scientific research by G. Piątkiewicz obtained for his doctoral dissertation entitled. "Socio- Occupational Inclusion of International

Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Soldiers in Afghanistan,” presenting the characteristics of Polish soldiers participating in the 9th quota of the PKW ISAF in Afghanistan. The first article presents the basic premises of military missions and the history of selected Polish military missions.

Key words

Military missions, Polish Military Contingent, Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland, Afghanistan, international security

Introduction

The development of the Polish army is the only way to ensure the security not only of its citizens, but also of Europe as a whole. Safety for the state is one of the greatest values, it constitutes its strength, thanks to which it is perceived as a stable and trustworthy international partner. The current events on Poland's eastern border are the biggest test for Polish soldiers since the mission in Afghanistan. The Polish Military Contingent of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan ended their duty on December 04, 2014. A large part of the public has no knowledge of the successes, sacrifices, hardships, and price Polish soldiers had to pay for serving in the structures of the International Security Assistance Force¹.

The Polish Armed Forces, as the most important link in the state defense system, participate in the implementation of defense policy and national security. The primary function of the Armed Forces is to protect the independence of the state and its territory. According to the military oath, "I, a soldier of the Polish Army, swear to serve faithfully the Republic of Poland, to defend its independence and borders. Guard the Constitution, uphold the honor of the Polish soldier, defend the military banner. For the cause of my Homeland in times of need, spare neither your own blood nor your life.

So help me God", Polish soldiers are obliged to make boundless sacrifices for the Fatherland. On the basis of the quoted oath, the tasks and role of Polish soldiers could be defined, if it were not for the fact that in addition to carrying out tasks on the territory of the country, they also take an active part in military missions around the world.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland have been participating in military missions since 1953. Until 2023, they actively participated in 92 missions of different nature, all over the world². These missions were of an observation, peacekeeping, humanitarian, police, war, stabilization, and training nature. Foreign military missions are carried out especially during times of emergencies in countries where the political and military situation is unstable. In many cases, this is the only effective way to ensure the safety of the civilian population, provide humanitarian aid, rebuild state structures, resolve existing armed conflicts, or stabilize the situation in the country on an ad hoc basis³. It should be noted that if it were not for the consistent and systematic expansion of the Armed Forces, as well as the permanent presence of U.S. troops in Poland, perhaps today the country would be in a situation where NATO countries would be carrying out mandated tasks⁴, on a military mission basis.

1 International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Międzynarodowe Siły Wsparcia Bezpieczeństwa.

2 *Misje*, <https://www.wojsko-polskie.pl/misje> (access: 20.09.2023 r.).

3 J. Barcik, *Europejska Polityka bezpieczeństwa i obrony. Aspekty prawne i polityczne*, Bydgoszcz–Katowice 2008, p. 117.

4 Zadania mandatowe: nałożone na kontyngenty wojskowe prawne zobowiązania, celem ich realizacji.

Basic assumptions of military missions

The most important and largest international organizations established by law are the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU). These organizations are involved in and responsible for, among other things, preparing, planning, and carrying out military international missions.

Based on the available literature, the definition of a military mission is presented as follows “an extremely important task to be fulfilled by representing a state or organization for a special purpose in a foreign country”⁵. The fundamental purposes of military missions abroad include:

- fulfilling allied commitments and military cooperation;
- defense of national interests against external threats by eliminating sources of crises and extinguishing conflicts;
- building a stable security environment;
- preventing humanitarian disasters and responding to situations that violate human rights;
- strengthening international security institutions and organizations⁶.

Two basic types of missions can be distinguished, i.e. a special (peacekeep-

ing) mission and a military (stabilization) mission. Special (peacekeeping) mission is a selected, appropriately chosen, and prepared group of civilian experts and soldiers, sent by one of the countries that are part of the organization, for a specified period of time to the other country. The main idea of a special mission is to conduct negotiations on specific issues or perform tasks under agreements between states⁷. A prerequisite for conducting a special mission is the consent of the host state.⁸

Military (stabilization) mission, on the other hand, are military contingents that, by definition, are sent to the region of operation at the invitation of the other country (this principle did not apply, for example, in Iraq and Afghanistan). This type of mission is aimed at fulfilling strictly defined objectives and advisory, auxiliary, or combat tasks. The military contingent performs the tasks received, among other things, in a controlling or peacekeeping manner⁹. Military missions are multifaceted in nature, with economic, social, cultural, and political activities also integrated into their structure. Therefore, due to their diverse nature, and different objectives, a detailed division can be made. Eight types have been distinguished, and these are presented in table 1.

5 A. Karwowski (red.), *Leksykon PWN*, Warsaw 1972, p. 718.

6 <https://www.wojsko-polskie.pl/misje/> (access: 21.09.2023 r.).

7 E. J. Osmańczyk, *Encyklopedia ONZ i stosunków międzynarodowych*, Warsaw 1986, p. 34.

8 See: M. Feltynowski, M. Zawistowski, *Threats related to the use of unmanned systems in emergency services*, “Safety & Fire Technology” 2018, Volume 51, p. 138-149.

9 R. Bierzanek, J. Symonides, *Prawo międzynarodowe publiczne*, Warsaw 2008, p. 171-172.

Table 1. Types of military missions.

MILITARY MISSIONS		
Lp.	Type	Target
1.	Commission	aims to investigate, control, and supervise certain activities in foreign territory
2.	Observational	aims to observe, monitor activities, and inform the public about their progress
3.	Peaceful	aims at peacekeeping, peacemaking, forcing peace and peace building
4.	Humanitarian	is aimed at providing assistance to the population in difficult situations, such as as a result of warfare or natural disaster
5.	Police	police officers take part in it
6.	War	activities conducted in the territory covered by the state of war, forces take part in combat
7.	Stabilization	is aimed at peacekeeping, in addition to military tasks, includes political, economic, social, and cultural issues, civil-military cooperation is key
8.	Training	mission to train local uniformed services to carry out operations in their own areas.

Źródło: Opracowano na podstawie G. Piątkiewicz, *Inkluzja Społecznozawodowa żołnierzy International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) w Afganistanie*, Krakow 2013, p. 38.

It often happens that military missions, depending on the situation, occurring in a country carry out tasks combining two types of missions, for example, on the basis of a stabilization and training mission. Such an example is PKW ISAF in Afghanistan. It was a mission that had a peacekeeping-warfare character, which was due to the complicated nature of the mission.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland carry out tasks outside the

country within the structures of organizations: NATO, UN, and the EU. According to NATO's treaty provisions, military missions have the task of mitigating, preventing, reducing, and ending hostilities that occur between or within states. NATO's mediation is aimed at restoring and maintaining peace, through peaceful, organized, and guided intervention, using military, police, or civilian personnel¹⁰. Since the 1990s, the North Atlantic

¹⁰ W.E. Gliman, D.E. Herold, *Peacekeeping Challenges to Euro-Atlantic Security*, Roma 1994, p. 21.

Alliance has been the largest and most important element influencing the stabilization of the geopolitical situation in the Euro-Atlantic region. The development of NATO has contributed to participation in a number of peacekeeping operations under the leadership of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the UN. The course taken by NATO has contributed to the assumption of responsibilities that go beyond the Washington Treaty¹¹. The additional responsibilities can be mainly classified as increasing the alliance's range of tasks by, among other things, conducting missions outside the territory of member states. With this approach, NATO naturally evolved and unprecedentedly went beyond the typical activities of a collective self-defense organization, thus assuming the role of a collective security organization. This was expressed in the Rome Declaration on Peace and Cooperation of November 08, 1991. To make NATO's broader activities with countries outside the alliance as effective as possible, international cooperation was expanded, particularly through the Partnership for Peace (PfP) and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EACP)¹². In 1992, NATO became involved in supporting peacekeeping operations carried out by the UN or OSCE. As a result of these decisions, the scope of NATO's military tasks once again expanded by, among

other things, intensifying its involvement and support of the UN or OSCE (so-called "Peacekeeping"). NATO's continued evolution has contributed to the official adoption of a new term: Peace Support Operation (PSO)¹³. This term defines all types of military activity while supporting the UN or OSCE. It can include NATO's direction of operations, preparation, commitment of dedicated forces and resources also Alliance's current capabilities.

The United Nations has the legal ability to take action using military, economic, as well as political tools. The UN can carry out the imposed actions independently, that is, it does not matter who is a party to the conflict (member or non-member states)¹⁴. Thanks to this, in order to restore peace, the Security Council at any time can take action appropriate to the situation at hand. It is important that the states that are part of the UN member structures are obliged to immediately abandon actions taken in self-defense and to submit to the recommendations of the Security Council when it decides to do so¹⁵.

The European Union, on the other hand, is an organization that can organize operations in areas that include rescue and humanitarian missions, peacekeeping, as well as armed crisis management missions (including peacemaking, the so-called Petersberg missions). The EU carries out its missions within the framework of the Treaty on

11 See: *United Nations Peacekeeping Operation. Principles and Guidelines*, New York 2008.

12 [www.ms.gov.pl/EUSEC,RD,Congo,\(EU,Mission,for,security,reform,in,the,Democratic,Republic,of,Congo\),29553.html](http://www.ms.gov.pl/EUSEC,RD,Congo,(EU,Mission,for,security,reform,in,the,Democratic,Republic,of,Congo),29553.html) (access: 20.04.2022 r.).

13 *AJP-3.4.1 Peace Support Operations*, <http://www.osrh.hr/smvo/Library/ajp-3.4.1.pdf> (access: 24.04.2022 r.).

14 J. Menkes, *Prawnomiędzynarodowe uwarunkowania powoływania i działania misji ONZ*, Warsaw 1993, p. 11.

15 L. Łukaszuk, A. Skowroński, *Międzynarodowe prawo pokoju i bezpieczeństwa*, Warsaw 1999, p. 224.

European Union. The treaty, in a way, constitutes a constitution for the member states and implies in Article III-210 an expansion of the catalog to include military advisory and support missions, conflict prevention, armed missions directed at post-conflict stabilization, and disarmament activities. The EU has also agreed to participate in operations to combat and fight terrorism in all member countries, as well as third countries¹⁶. Since 2003 the EU has actively participated in military and civilian operations, an important component of the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), including the IRINI mission. This mission is carried out from Italian territory. The headquarters is located in Rome while the tasks of ensuring monitoring of illegal smuggling of, among other things, people and weapons are carried out by the Polish Military Contingent from the Sigonella base located in Sicily.

History of selected Polish military missions

The subject of the participation of Polish soldiers in foreign missions since their inception in 1953, in the civilian environment has aroused a lot of negative emotions. The mission that aroused the most controversy was the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. In conducted

surveys on the legitimacy of the participation of NATO soldiers in the ISAF mission, there was a noticeable gradual decline in public support for this mission¹⁷. However, when in mid-2021 NATO completely withdrew troops from Afghanistan, there was a great deal of talk in the media and among the public indicating that the decision had been made too hastily. As it turned out, the withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan led to the fact that the Afghan government is only built on paper and is unable to provide security for the Afghan people. In addition, radical Taliban militant groups have seized power in Afghanistan. At the moment there is total lawlessness, human rights do not apply, and 15.3 million people suffer from hunger¹⁸. There is no denying that current events in Afghanistan make one reflect on whether the withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan the right decision was. In turn, there is no denying that for the Polish Armed Forces, the mission in Afghanistan was a kind of springboard, thanks to which the Polish Army significantly increased its combat capabilities.

However, before discussing the evolution of the Armed Forces on the example of the ISAF military mission, Table 2 shows the history of selected foreign military missions in which Polish soldiers have participated.

16 A. Demkowicz, *Integracja Europy zachodniej w dziedzinie bezpieczeństwa i obronności od EWO do WEPBiO*, Toruń 2007, p. 191-192.

17 G. Piątkiewicz, *Inkluzja Społecznozawodowa żołnierzy International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) w Afganistanie*, Kraków 2021, p. 78-80.

18 <https://www.pap.pl/aktualnosci/afganistan-dwa-lata-po-przejeciu-wladzy-przez-talibow-w-kraju-panuje-glod> (access: 01.10.2023 r.).

Table 2 Military missions of the Polish Armed Forces

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
1.	since 1953 until 1995	Korea	UN NNSC Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission	COMMISSION Overseeing compliance with peace provisions and supporting military doctors at the Polish Red Cross hospital in North Korea.	1065	3 soldiers, including 3 of-ficers
2.	since 1954 until 1976	Vietnam Laos Cambodia	UN ICSCIC International Commission for Supervision and Control Indo China.	COMMISSION Control of the regrouping of troops, vigilance of border lines, control of the process of releasing prisoners of war, supervision of ports and airports for the supply of weapons to parties to conflicts.	2500	no
3.	since 1968 until 1970	Nigeria	UN OTN Observers Team to Nigeria (International Observers Group)	OBSERVER investigating the legitimacy of genocide charges against the Nigerian government.	5	no
4.	1973 to 1976	Vietnam	UN ICCS International Commission for Control and Supervision.	COMMISSION Control of compliance with the cease-fire in the South Vietnamese area, control of the complete withdrawal of US troops and their allies, dismantling of military bases, supervision of the transfer of prisoners of war by the warring parties.	650	no

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
5.	1973 to 1979	Egypt	UN UNEF II Second United Nations Emergency Force.	PEACEKEEPING To carry out logistical tasks in support of the mission's operational units stationed in the buffer zone located east of the Suez Canal.	11067	no
6.	since 1974 until 2009	Israel Syria	UN UNDOF United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UN Separation of Forces Surveillance Force).	PEACEKEEPING Protection of civilians and UN staff, patrolling the designated buffer zone, separating Israeli and Syrian troops, and maintaining out-posts.	9540	1 soldier, of which 1 non-commissioned officer
7.	since 1988 until 1990	Iran Iraq	UN UNIIMOG United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (United Nations Military Observer Group)	OBSERVER Performing oversight of compliance with the cease-fire and the withdrawal of all forces beyond internationally recognized borders.	45	no
8.	since 1989 until 1990	Namibia	UN UNTAG United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UN Transition Assistance Group for Namibia)	PEACEKEEPING Transportation of people, construction materials, equipment, and food to the camp and peacekeeping positions, securing the operation of camps and vehicles of multinational troops, Management of the Central Supply Depot.	373	no

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
9.	since 1990 until 1991	Afghanistan Pakistan	UN OSGAP Office of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Pakistan (Office of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Pakistan)	OBSERVER Assistance in implementing policy solutions and activities to improve the quality of life of the civilian population.	2	no
10.	since 1990 until 1991	Saudi Arabia	UN RIP Operation Desert Storm (Operation Desert Storm).	HUMANITARY Securing coalition forces during Operation Desert Shield.	393	no
11.	since 1991 until 1993	Afghanistan Pakistan	UN UNGOMAP United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UN Good Offices Mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan)	OBSERVER Overseeing compliance with agreements on resolving the situation in Afghanistan, investigating, and reporting possible violations of any of the agreements' provisions.	1	no
12.	since 1991 until 1992	Cambodia	UN UNAMIC United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (United Nations Preparatory Mission in Cambodia)	OBSERVER Developing the premises and preparing the ground for the country's first democratic elections.	2	no

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
13.	since 1991 until 2003	Kuwait Iraq	UN UNICOM United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (United Nations Observer Mission in Iraq and Kuwait)	OBSERVER conducting surveillance along the Iraq-Kuwait border to deter violations and hostile actions.	56	no
14.	since 1991 until 1993	Iraq	UN UNGCI United Nations Guards Contingent in Iraq (United Nations Guard contingent in Iraq).	POLICY Ensuring a safe working environment for civilian components of the program and during the distribution of food and medical supplies by humanitarian organizations.	62	no
15.	since 1991 to -----	Western Sahara	UN MINURSO United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara)	OBSERVER observance of ceasefire.	27	no
16.	since 1991 until 1998	Iraq	UN UNSCOM United Nations Special Commission (United Nations Special Commission)	OBSERVER Monitoring the implementation of the provisions on the disarmament of Iraq from weapons of mass destruction.	8	no

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
17.	since 1992 until 2009	Lebanon	UN UNIFIL United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon).	PEACEKEEPING Monitoring the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, Restoration of international peace and security, Helping the Lebanese government restore effective power.	9000	7 soldiers, of which 1 officer 6 non-commissioned officers
18.	since 1992 until 1995	Croatia Bosnia and Herzegovina Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) Macedonia	UN UNPROFOR United Nations Protection Force (United Nations Protection Force).	PEACEKEEPING, OBSERVER Convoying humanitarian aid transports, Patrolling the designated area, Ensuring the safety of the civilian population.	3867	7 soldiers, including: 2 officers 3 non-commissioned officers 2 ranks
19.	since 1995 until 1996	Croatia	UN UNCRO United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation (United Nations Operation Restore Confidence)	PEACEKEEPING Assistance with the implementation of an economic agreement, monitoring of the borders between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, assistance with the delivery of humanitarian aid to Bosnia and Herzegovina through Croatian territory, and supervision of the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula.	1245	no

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
20.	since 1992 until 1993	Cambodia	UN UNTAC United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (United Nations Interim Administration in Cambodia)	PEACEKEEPING activities related to defending human rights, organizing, and holding elections, maintaining order and security related to the return of refugees and rebuilding infrastructure in Cambodia.	1254	no
21.	since 1994 until 2009	Georgia	UN UNOMIG United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia)	OBSERVER Supervise the implementation of ceasefire and military separation agreement between opposing parties, observe the activities of the peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Patrolling security zones, Monitoring the withdrawal of forces of the Republic of Georgia from the Kodori Valley.	26	no
22.	since 1994 until 1994	Haiti	UN MNF Multinational Forces (Multinational Force)	PEACEKEEPING Restoring stability in Haiti.	56	no

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
23.	since 1995 until 1996	Tajikistan	UN UNMOT United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (United Nations Observer Mission in Tajikistan)	OBSERVER Supervision of the implementation of the Agreement on Temporary Ceasefire and Termination of Other Hostile Activities on the Tajik Afghan border and inside the country for the duration of the settlement talks.	24	no
24.	since 1995 until 1996	Bosnia and Herzegovina	NATO IFOR Implementation Force (international military forces)	PEACEKEEPING securing elections in September 1996, Ensure the security of civilians and international forces, demilitarize the subordinated region. Staffing of checkpoints and checkpoints, humanitarian aid support.	931	no
25.	since 1996 until 2004	Bosnia and Herzegovina	NATO SFOR Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Stabilization forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina)	PEACEKEEPING Identifying threats to public order and advising law enforcement agencies on their ability to deal with these threats, Assisting law enforcement personnel in carrying out their duties.	3260	no

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
26.	since 1999 until 1999	Albania	NATO AFOR NATO's Albanian Force (humanitarian aid mission to refugees)	HUMANITARY Building tent camps, distributing supplies to refugees and exiles, and ensuring camp security.	140	no
27.	since 1999 until now	Kosovo	NATO KFOR Kosovo Force (NATO international peace-keeping force).	PEACEKEEPING Ensuring public safety and order, Stopping the resurgence of conflict within Kosovo, Enforcing the implementation of the agreements under which the conflict ended.	3000	no
28.	since 2001 until 2003	Macedonia	NATO PMC Allied Harmony Polish Military Contingent (Polish Military Contingent „Allied Harmony“).	PEACEKEEPING Protecting European Union and OSCE observers and patrolling the designated area as part of the Field Liaison Teams.	50	no
29.	since 2002 until 2007	Afghanistan	NATO PMC Enduring Freedom Polish Military Contingent Enduring Freedom (Polish Military Contingent „Enduring Freedom“)	PEACEKEEPING, COMBATTING Reconstruction of the base's infrastructure, airport, and the city, Demining the area around the base, securing coalition troops in the event of a chemical attack, logistical security of Polish and international troops.	1340	no

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
30.	since 2003 until 2008	Iraq	NATO Iraqi Freedom („Iraqi Freedom“)	COMBATTING, STABILIZATION overseeing the restoration of order and security, rebuilding and securing infrastructure, protecting important civilian and military points, patrolling designated areas, assisting in the training of Iraqi Security Forces, detecting, and destroying weapons of mass destruction and arsenals of other types.	15700	22 soldiers, including 6 officers 8 non-commissioned officers 8 terraced 150 injured
31.	since 2004 until 2004	Greece	NATO Distinguished Games („Noble Games“).	HUMANITARY Chemical protection of the Athens Summer Olympics.	52	no
32.	since 2004 to ----	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EU EUFOR Althea European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (European Union Forces)	PEACEKEEPING Ensuring the security of the population and protecting the borders.	5850	no
33.	since 2005 until 2006	Pakistan	NATO SWIFT RELIEF („Rapid Relief“)	HUMANITARY Construction of drinking water intakes, providing humanitarian aid, Reconstruction of damaged infrastructure.	140	no

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
34.	since 2005 until 2017	Mediterranean Sea	NATO ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR („Sustained Effort”).	STABILIZATION Monitoring ships and inspecting them, if necessary, Preventing smuggling of people and goods, preventing terrorism.	664 (sailors only)	no
35.	since 2006 until 2006	Congo	EU EUFOR European Union Force (European Union Forces)	PEACEKEEPING Protecting parliamentary and presidential elections.	136	no
36.	since 2006 until 2017	Estonia Lithuania Latvia	NATO PMC Orlik Polish Military Contingent Orlik (Polish Military Contingent „Orlik”)	PEACEKEEPING protection of the airspace of the Baltic States	600	no
37.	as of 2007 until 2014	Afghanistan	NATO ISAF International Security Assistance Force (International Security Assistance Force)	PEACEKEEPING, COMBATTING Providing security and support to civilians, working with the Afghan National Army, patrolling, and controlling, training the Afghan army and police, Helping to rebuild the country's infrastructure, Reconstruction and demining of areas around the bases.	28000	44 were killed, including 4 officers 15 non-commissioned officers 24 ranks 1 civilian employee 361 injured

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
38.	as of 2008 until 2009	Chad	EU EUFOR European Union Force (European Union Forces)	PEACEKEEPING Cooperation with the civilian population and local authorities, Securing humanitarian convoys.	730	no
39.	as of 2013 until 2014	Small	EU EUTM Mali European Union Training Mission in Mali (European Union training mission to Mali)	TRAINING Training of Malian soldiers in logistics and Participation in mine protection of the base.	20	no
40.	as of 2014 until 2017	Central African Republic	EU EUFOR CAR European Union Force (European Union Forces)	PEACEKEEPING Patrolling designated areas in Bangui, training and assisting local police forces in the methods of conducting criminal proceedings and investigative activities.	110	no
41.	as of 2014 to ----	Afghanistan	NATO RSM Resolute Support (Training, Advice and Support)	TRAINING Preparing the command of the Afghan Security Forces to lead and manage independently and professionally in a way that effectively provides security in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,	900	no

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
42.	as of 2016 until 2018	Kuwait	NATO OIR Operation Inherent Resolve (Military intervention against the Islamic State of Iraq)	TRAINING conducting reconnaissance by F-16s in support of international coalition troops.	150	no
43.	as of 2016 to ----	Iraq	NATO OIR Operation Inherent Resolve (Military intervention against the Islamic State)	TRAINING advising and training the staffs and subunits of Iraqi special forces.	60	no
44.	as of 2017 to ----	Latvia	NATO eFP enhanced Forward Presence (enhanced Extended Presence)	OBSERVER A real increase in NATO's defense and deterrence capabilities on the eastern flank of the North Atlantic Alliance	170	no
45.	as of 2017 to ----	Romania	NATO eFP enhanced Forward Presence (enhanced Extended Presence)	OBSERVER A real increase in NATO's defense and deterrence capabilities on the eastern flank of the North Atlantic Alliance	230	no

Lp.	Period	Place of operations	Mission name	Mission Objective	Number of soldiers	Personal losses incurred
46.	as of 2018 until 2020	Italy	EU EU SOPHIA European Union (European Union military operation)	PEACEKEEPING Carry out activities to reduce illegal smuggling of people and goods to Europe, support Libyan naval security forces in training and implementation of activities to reduce illegal immigration	400	no
47.	As of 2019 to -----	Lebanon	UN UNIFIL United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon).	PEACEKEEPING Protecting civilians, monitoring the Israeli Lebanese border, supporting the Lebanese government in maintaining peace and security	200	
48.	as of 2020 to -----	Italy	EU EU IRINI European Union (European Union military operation)	PEACEKEEPING Enforcing the UN arms embargo, using air, satellite, and naval assets	62	
49.	as of 2020 to -----	Turkey	NATO Adapting the Means of Strengthening the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.	PEACEKEEPING Increasing the presence of airborne warning systems, activity of naval forces and conducting reconnaissance activities	80	no

Źródło: Opracowano na podstawie G. Piątkiewicz, *Inkluzja Społecznozawodowa żołnierzy...*, p.38-48.

Analyzing the table presented, it should be noted that Polish soldiers participated in military missions on all continents. The most dangerous ones include Afghanistan,

Iraq, Lebanon, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Syria, and Korea. In the above-mentioned missions, 83 Polish soldiers and one military employee were killed.

Summary

The participation of Polish soldiers in missions, during which they repeatedly took part in combat operations tasked with, among other things, eliminating weapons depots and terrorist training centers, undoubtedly influenced the professionalism of the Polish Army, thus contributing to the security of Poland. Currently, Polish soldiers are also taking care of the protection of Poland's eastern border, using, among other things, the experience gained outside the country. The next article, which is a continuation of the scientific considerations undertaken, will present the evolution of the Polish Armed Forces on the example of the ISAF military mission.

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