



## Report from the 4th Interdepartmental Polygraph Seminar, Waplewo 2011

Held from 20th to 23rd September 2011 in Waplewo was the 4th Interdepartmental Polygraph Seminar organised by the Department of Psychophysiological Studies of the Investigation Board at the Headquarters of Military Gendarmerie in Warsaw. The leading subject of the meeting was The refusal to undergo psychophysiological polygraph testing as a right of the examinee.

The significance and importance of the conference was emphasised by the presence of scientists (including Professor Jan Widacki, director of the Law Enforcement Institute at the Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Kraków University, Professor Ryszard Jaworski, the head of the Chair of Criminology at the Faculty of Law, Administration and Economics of the University of Wrocław, and Dr Michał Gramatyka from the Chair of Criminology at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Silesia). Participating in the sessions were also representatives of law enforcement, Military Gendarmerie, The Police, Border Guard, and special forces.

The session was opened by Colonel Marek Baranowski, head of the Investigation Board at the Headquarters of the Military Gendarmerie, who delivered a paper on behalf of the Commander in Chief of the Military Gendarmerie Major General Dr Mirosław Rozmus on structural changes in military Gendarmerie. Presented were the principle, the role and the tasks performed by the Military Gendarmerie, the main indicators of development, structural and

employment changes, and also the international obligations of Polish Military Gendarmerie.

Colonel Mikołaj Przybył of Regional Military Prosecutor's Office in Poznań delivered a presentation on the refusal to undergo polygraph testing as a right of the examinee: the problem of the court from the point of view of persecution.

The successive lecture, delivered by Colonel Marek Baranowski, presented the history of polygraph testing by military Gendarmerie. By the way, the author presented the legal grounds for polygraph testing and the questions related to the refusal of being tested with a polygraph.

Professor Ryszard Jaworski (University of Wrocław) presented The individual case study in the assessment of the results of a polygraph test.

Colonel Jan Wilk, MD of the 10th Military Clinical Hospital presented the question of the refusal to undergo polygraph testing from the point of view of an expert psychiatrists/psychologist. The author focused primarily on the presentation of difficulties in the evaluation of the refusal to undergo polygraph testing, emphasising that such a refusal is a multidimensional phenomenon and cannot be treated solely in a light that is negative for the subject, as it may result from numerous premises, with psychological and sociological factors (e.g. group solidarity) being among the potential decisive factors.

Tomasz Majewski of the Headquarters of Border Guard discussed the fundamental questions related to conducting polygraph tests among candidates to Border Guard.

The paper presented by Dr Piotr Herbowski (Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SWPS)) on The polygraph vs. the right to defence focused especially on the portrayal of the very essence of the right to defence being a fundamental right of the defendant in a trial, the difficult position of the accused concerning the options for the defence, and the opportunities that polygraph testing gives to the innocent in becoming freed from suspicions and charges. Moreover, the author addressed a subject that is frequently embarked on in discussions, namely that in the general understanding the polygraph still operates under an erroneous concept, which puts the method in the shadow of suspicion, namely as "lie detector", which influences the recognition of this method

as controversial and is, as the author believes, unjustly perceived in most cases as an additional incriminating proof.

Dr Artur Marchewka (Institute of Experimental Biology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN)) presented the new directions in the development of neurophysiological research, focusing especially on the options for using functional magnetic resonance in lie detection in laboratory conditions. Moreover, the author presented own studies concerning the influence of emotions of the process of obtaining false results using the fMRI technique and Voxel Based Morphometry (VBM). Presented were also studies on instructed lie. The presentation caused plenty of interest and resulted in a discussion concerning the possibility of using multimodal tests in lie detection.

The presentation by Dr Henryk Polakowski (Division of Infrared Technology and Thermal Imaging of the Institute of Optoelectronics of the Military University of Technology) in collaboration with Lieutenant Colonel Jarosław Pilski concerned, the use of a thermal imaging camera in registering human emotions during psychophysiological tests. Presented were own studies: an experiment with the use of a thermal imaging camera in ascertaining emotional states related to communication of lie.

Dr Michał Gramatyka (University of Silesia) presented studies on the use of the voice analysis technique in pre-employment polygraph testing. After an empirical presentation of the technique, the author expressed a critical opinion on the method.

In his presentation, Michał Widacki (Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Kraków University) shared the conclusions from polygraph tests of employees of protective services companies, pointing also to the justification of conducting polygraph tests among the employees of such businesses being a significant complementation of the enrolment procedure.

Dr Krzysztof Wróblewski (Lublin, Kraków) presented a broad range of memory disturbances/syndromes perceived in the context of various illnesses including diabetes, epilepsy, and post-alcohol disorders.

Presentation by Jan Widacki (Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Kraków University) concerned the role of the professional organisation of polygraphers in developing and conforming to expert and ethical standards of testing. The discussion ensuing concerned developing a joint methodology of studies for all entities that run polygraph tests.

Lieutenant Colonel Piotr Sukiennik, head of the Department of Psychophysiological Testing at the Investigation Board at the Headquarters of Military Gendarmerie delivered a lecture concerning polygraph tests in combat and extreme conditions.

All the persons interested had an opportunity to participate in workshops for polygraphers conducted by Renata Dąbrowska of Internal Security Agency (ABW). A presentation entitled The questions concerning the principles of building control questions and their use in polygraph testing was delivered during the workshop.

The proceedings were closed by Colonel Marek Baranowski, who thanked the participants for active participation, and emphasised the high expert level of all the presentations. He devoted his address also to the question of building a joint website that would serve the exchange of experience and information between polygraphers, in which it would help people from various institutions dealing with practical use and execution of polygraph testing to come together.

The programme of the conference allowed a lively exchange of opinions. The need to emphasise the establishment and observance of expert and ethical standards of polygraph testing was recognised, and the initiative put forth by Professor Jan Widacki and Colonel Marek Baranowski to reactivate the Association of Polish Polygraphers (Stowarzyszenie Poligraferów Polskich) was taken up.

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