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National Military Education System in the Republic of Belarus

Introduction

The date of establishment of the modern Belarusian army is considered to be November 3, 1992, when the law On Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus was adopted¹. Serving as a legal base, the document describes in general the structure and command of armed forces and interaction with other military formations. Moreover, it determines recruitment to the army that takes place through general conscription with the possibility of contract service also provided. More detailed is the law On conscription and military service, according to which service in the army is performed by physically fit male citizens in the age of 18–27 for the period of 6–18 months depending on their education level and profile². According to the data from 2019, there are 45,500 of active personnel and 300,000 of reserve personnel, with annually almost 100,000 reaching military age³. Respectively about 40,000 were subject to a call to the draft board in the spring of 2019. However, more than 20,000 deferments were granted, most of which (more than 80%) are deferments for continuing education⁴.

¹ Закон о Вооруженных Силах Республики Беларусь, 3.11.1992, <http://www.pravo.by/document/?guid=3871&p0=V19201904> [accessed: 11.06.2019].

² Закон о воинской обязанности и воинской службе, 5.11.1992, <http://www.pravo.by/document/?guid=3961&p0=V19201914> [accessed: 16.06.2019].

³ 'Belarus Military Strength 2019', *Global Firepower*, https://www.globalfirepower.com/country-military-strength-detail.asp?country_id=belarus#manpower [accessed: 21.06.2019].

⁴ Numbers for autumn of 2019 are not available yet. 'Началась отправка в войска граждан, призванных на срочную военную службу', Министерство обороны Республики Беларусь,

Nevertheless, the Belarusian authorities are beginning to worry about the drop in the number of recruits being drafted into the army. There are several causes of such situation, with decreasing demographic growth most of all, but the Ministry of Defense sees it also in the largest number of categories of citizens (47) who, in accordance with the legislation, are not called up for service in the army or service in reserve. In view of the current situation, the authorities realized that appropriate steps preventing the downward trend have to be taken. On the one hand, they decided to reduce the number of deferments and, on the other, they introduced a number of facilities aimed at encouraging citizens to serve in the army⁵. Although making predictions is difficult at the moment, it seems that the combination of positive and negative actions may bring expected results in the following years.

Taking into account the above trends, appropriate education seems to be an extremely important issue, as qualifications of military personnel are directly reflected in the field of combat capabilities of the army. So far, however, not much attention has been devoted to Belarusian military issues in the literature, as, especially now, activities of the Russian Federation and transformation in Ukraine seem to be more important topics. Nonetheless, military issues together with the related social, political and economic situation of the Republic of Belarus should be an important element of Polish authorities' interest, as well as shape the broader debate on eastern policy which in the light of current trends cannot be underestimated. For that reasons the purpose of this article is to analyze the military education system in the Republic of Belarus, attempting to present a part of this complex subject. The method used in the article will be system analysis, supported by content analysis and quantitative methods.

National educational system

Educational system in the Republic of Belarus is divided into several levels: 1) pre-school education – not obligatory, 2) general basic education – 9 years, 3) general secondary education – 11 years, 4) vocational and specialized secondary education – 1–4 years, depending on previous education level and type, and 5) higher education – first cycle 4–6 years, second cycle 1–2 years⁶, however military profiles are available at third and fifth levels of education only.

15.05.2019, <https://www.mil.by/ru/news/86940> [accessed: 22.06.2019]. For 2018 those numbers were: 1) spring call – 45,000 subject to a call, 20,000 deferments granted (85% for education reasons), 10,000 planned to recruit to the armed forces and 500 for service in reserve; 2) autumn call – 70,000 subject to a call, 25,000 deferments granted (more than 85% for education reasons), 13,000 planned to recruit to the armed forces. 'Началась отправка граждан, призванных на срочную военную службу, в войска', Министерство обороны Республики Беларусь, 15.05.2018, <https://www.mil.by/ru/news/74286> [accessed: 22.06.2019]; 'Началась отправка граждан, призванных на срочную военную службу, службу в резерве', Министерство обороны Республики Беларусь, 15.11.2018, <https://www.mil.by/ru/news/80402> [accessed: 22.06.2019].

⁵ 'О возможных изменениях в вопросах призыва в Вооруженные Силы', Министерство обороны Республики Беларусь, 5.03.2019, <https://www.mil.by/ru/news/84918> [accessed: 22.06.2019].

⁶ Кодекс Республики Беларусь об образовании, 13.01.2011, <http://www.pravo.by/document/?guid=3871&p0=hk1100243> [accessed: 22.06.2019].

National Military Education System in the Republic of Belarus

The axis of military education in the Republic of Belarus are educational institutions that provide education in the military profile only.

Table 1. Military educational institutions of the Republic of Belarus

Educational institution (type)	Faculty	Date of establishment	Duration of education	Admission figures for 2019 ¹⁾	Number of graduates
Military Academy of the Republic of Belarus (higher education level)		1995	4 years	412	14,000 ²⁾
	General Military Faculty			98	
	Faculty of Missile Forces and Artillery and Missile-Artillery Armament			63	
	Faculty of Communications and Automated Control Systems			69	
	Faculty of Air Defense			60	
	Faculty of Military Intelligence			77	
	Faculty of Aviation			45	
	Faculty of Internal Troops			Not applicable	
Minsk Suvorov Military School (secondary education level)		1953	5 years	Not available	13,000

¹⁾ Data for formations other than Armed Forces not included. ²⁾ Women have been recruited since 2002.

Source: Own elaboration based on the data from the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Belarus, as well as respective educational institutions.

The data presented above should be supplemented with 8 cadet schools (and 1 cadet profile class)⁷⁾ that aim to prepare citizens for service in the army. They operate at a secondary level with admission possible after completing the seventh grade and education lasting 4 years⁸⁾.

Nevertheless, military education in the Republic of Belarus is also carried out in civilian educational institutions, in specially designated faculties.

⁷⁾ 'Учебные заведения', Общественное объединение „Белорусский союз суворовцев и кадет“, <http://belkadet.by/uchebnye-zavedeniya> [accessed: 26.06.2019].

⁸⁾ Указ Президента Республики Беларусь „О кадетских училищах“, 28.01.2010, [http://pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2010-28/2010-28\(004-011\).pdf&oldDocPage=5](http://pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2010-28/2010-28(004-011).pdf&oldDocPage=5) [accessed: 26.06.2019].

Table 2. Military faculties in educational institutions of the Republic of Belarus

Educational institution	Faculty	Date of establishment	Duration	Admission figure for 2019 ¹⁾	Number of graduates
Belarusian State University	Military Faculty	1926	4–5 years	37	Not available
Belarusian National Technical University	Military Technical Faculty	1933 ²⁾	4–5 years	70	ca. 1,500 per year ³⁾
Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics	Military Faculty	1964 ⁴⁾	4 years	49	ca. 30–40 per year ⁵⁾
Belarusian State Medical University	Military Medicine Faculty	1995	6 years	22	433 ⁶⁾
Belarusian State Academy of Aviation	Military Faculty	1974 ⁷⁾	4–5 years	23	117 ⁸⁾
Belarusian State University of Transport	Military Transport Faculty	1953 ⁹⁾	4 years	23	20 ¹⁰⁾
Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno	Military Faculty	1940 ¹¹⁾	4–5 years	22	2,941 ¹²⁾

¹⁾ Data for formations other than Armed Forces not included. ²⁾ Renamed in 2003. Before: Military Faculty.

³⁾ Data for the university applicable from 1974. ⁴⁾ Military training from 2004. ⁵⁾ There were 34 graduates in 2018, and another 35 in 2019. 'Юбилейный выпуск офицеров военного факультета БГУИР состоялся в музее Великой Отечественной войны', БГУИР, 5.02.2018, <https://www.bsuir.by/ru/news/100980-yubileyyny--10-y-vypusk-ofitserov-voennogo-fakulteta-bguir-sostoyalsya-v-muzee-velikoy-otechestvennoy-voyny> [accessed: 23.06.2019]; 'На военном факультете в БГУИР состоялся очередной, одиннадцатый выпуск лейтенантов', Министерство обороны Республики Беларусь, 4.02.2019, <https://www.mil.by/ru/news/82715> [accessed: 23.06.2019]. ⁶⁾ From 2006 a course lasting 6 months and preparing for the profession of a feldsher is available. It has 68 graduates. ⁷⁾ Military training was introduced a year later. ⁸⁾ Data available for years 2010–2015. ⁹⁾ Renamed in 2003. Before: Military Faculty. ¹⁰⁾ According to information on "alumni distribution" 20 people from Military Transport Faculty took obligatory employment after graduation. 'Распределение выпускников – дорога открыта', БелГУТ, 22.04.2019, <http://www.bsut.by/news/3843-raspredelenie-vypusknikov-doroga-otkryta> [accessed: 23.06.2019]. ¹¹⁾ Military training from 2005. ¹²⁾ This number includes: 265 personnel officers, 981 reserve officers, and 1,695 junior commanders. 'В ГрГУ имени Янки Купалы отпраздновали 100-летие Вооруженных Сил Республики Беларусь', ГрГУ им. Я. Купалы, 22.02.2018, https://mil.grsu.by/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=341:v-grgu-imeni-yanki-kupaly-otprazdnovali-100-letie-vooruzhennykh-sil-respubliki-belarus&catid=11&Itemid=101 [accessed: 23.06.2019].

Source: own elaboration based on the data from the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Belarus, as well as official websites of respective educational institutions.

It would seem that the military education system in the Republic of Belarus is quite developed. Researchers, however, stress the necessity of its reform. First of all, they point out the need for comprehensive and practice-oriented research in military sphere, that in turn is necessary to adapt the training content to the specific needs of armed forces. Above all, the scope of educational programs should be extended to the expertise in the field of modern weapon systems as well as new types of wars. In this respect network centric operations seems to be an important topic, as it includes not only the widespread use of network technology, but also the emergence of new ways of command. On the other hand, it is necessary to

have a closer look at the teaching process itself. In this case, there is a huge need to increase efficiency and attractiveness in conducting educational activities by implementing scenario-based games and use of new technologies, including various programs and methods of distance learning. Additionally, emphasis on language skills should be put on due to the growing specialists' cooperation at the global level and various training possibilities that foster the processes of knowledge exchange and learning⁹.

Military education cooperation with the Russian Federation

The Republic of Belarus provides an opportunity for its citizens to acquire military education abroad. This practice is common in many countries, but in the case of the Republic of Belarus it has a special character due to close ties with the Russian Federation. The Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation have concluded agreements that regulate student's admission to universities. On this ground, it is possible to apply on the same terms as citizens of a concerned state and study free of charge¹⁰. Even though admission rules to military educational institutions are regulated separately, students were provided with a wide range of opportunities. Basically, Belarusian cadets enjoy the same rights in military education as Russians, so they have a special status in comparison to other third states cadets studying in the Russian Federation¹¹. The teaching process of Belarussians and Russians takes place in joint groups, thus the citizens of both countries have equal access to training programs as well as secret information.

⁹ Организация подготовки научных кадров высшей квалификации в условиях инновационных преобразований на военном факультете, ed. by С.Н. Касанин, Д.В. Ковылов, С.И. Паскробка, Р.А. Градусов, С.Н. Ермак, О.А. Казаченок, Минск 2015, https://www.bsuir.by/m/12_100229_1_96046.pdf [accessed: 5.07.2019]; Методология модернизации военно-инженерного образования на военных факультетах учреждений высшего образования. Методическое пособие, ed. by Н.М. Селивончик, Минск 2015, <https://rep.bntu.by/bitstream/handle/data/14624Методология%20модернизации%20военного%20образования.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> [accessed 6.07.2019]; В.Ф. Тамело, Ю.В. Костко, 'Компетентностный подход в подготовке военных специалистов для вооруженных сил Республики Беларусь', Вестник Академии Военных Наук, № 4(21), 2007, <http://militaryarticle.ru/vestnik-akademii-voennykh-nauk/2007-vavn/10655-kompetentnostnyj-podhod-v-podgotovke-voennykh> [accessed: 5.07.2019].

¹⁰ Соглашение о предоставлении равных прав гражданам государств – участников Договора об углублении интеграции в экономической и гуманитарной областях от 29 марта 1996 года на поступление в учебные заведения, 24.11.1998, <http://www.russia.edu.ru/information/legal/law/inter/1998> [accessed: 27.06.2019].

¹¹ О реализации совместной программы Союзного государства „Подготовка белорусских военнослужащих в военно-учебных заведениях Министерства обороны Российской Федерации”, 2.10.2003, <http://docs.cntd.ru/document/901879582> [accessed: 3.07.2019]; Соглашение о подготовке военных кадров для государств-членов Организации Договора о коллективной безопасности, 23.06.2005, <http://docs.cntd.ru/document/902116836> [accessed: 3.07.2019].

Table 3. Admission figures of Belarusian cadets to military schools of the Russian Federation in 2019

Military school	Admission figure ¹⁾
Ryazan Higher Airborne Command School	12
Mikhailovskaya Artillery Military Academy (St. Petersburg)	10
Tyumen Higher Military Engineering Command School	2
A.F. Mozhaysky Military Space Academy (St. Petersburg)	10
Yaroslavl Higher Military School of Air Defense (Yaroslavl)	5
Military University (Moscow)	8
Military Institute (Military Conductors) of the Military University (Moscow)	1
Military Academy of Military Air Defense of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation (Smolensk)	3
Military Institute (Railway Forces and Military Communications) of the Military Academy of Material and Technical Support (Petrodvorets)	2
Military Academy of Communications (St. Petersburg)	5
Military Medical Academy (St. Petersburg)	2
Russian Air Force Military Educational and Scientific Center "Air Force Academy named after Professor N. E. Zhukovsky and Y. A. Gagarin"	2
Cherepovets Higher Military Engineering School of Radio Electronics	11
Volsk Military Material Support Institute of the Army General A.V. Khrulyov Military Academy of Material and Technical Support	6

¹⁾ Data for formations other than Armed Forces not included.

Source: Own elaboration based on the data from the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Belarus.

Based on the above table, we can see that almost a hundred Belarusian cadets enroll at universities of the Russian Federation each year, and the number of currently studying cadets reaches in total over 400¹². On a reciprocal basis Russian cadets have the possibility to study in the Republic of Belarus, but there is no data available neither on the number of Russians, nor the general number of places provided for them¹³. Therefore, it seems legitimate to say that training in the Russian Federation is generally attractive for Belarusians. First of all, it guarantees high level of education with more specialties, while at the same time it helps to reduce

¹² 'Военное сотрудничество', Посольство Республики Беларусь в Российской Федерации, <http://embassybel.ru/belarus-russia-relations/military/#science> [accessed: 29.06.2019].

¹³ Договор между Российской Федерацией и Республикой Беларусь о военном сотрудничестве, 19.12.1997, http://www.mid.ru/foreign_policy/international_contracts/2_contract/-/storage-viewer/bilateral/page-15/47428?_storageviewer_WAR_storageviewerportlet_advancedSearch=false&_storageviewer_WAR_storageviewerportlet_keywords=%D0%B1%D0%B5%D0%BB%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%83%D1%81%D1%8C&_storageviewer_WAR_storageviewerportlet_fromPage=search&_storageviewer_WAR_storageviewerportlet_andOperator=1 [accessed: 3.07.2019]; 'Сведения о возможности обучения иностранных военных специалистов в военных учебных заведениях Республики Беларусь', Министерство обороны Республики Беларусь, <https://www.mil.by/ru/education/other/3.php> [accessed: 29.06.2019]; 'Военное и военно-техническое сотрудничество', Посольство Российской Федерации в Республике Беларусь, <https://belarus.mid.ru/ru/countries/bilateral-relations/military-and-military-technical-cooperation> [accessed: 3.07.2019].

costs of education for Belarusian side. Studying in Russian Federation can also be an interesting option to those Belarusian cadets who plan to recruit to the Russian army in the future¹⁴. The main reason for this phenomenon, however, is the higher salary¹⁵.

At this point it should also be noted that the predominant language in the Republic of Belarus is Russian¹⁶. Undoubtedly, this simplifies the cooperation between the two countries as well as eliminates communication problems, including the teaching process. Nevertheless, a given state of affairs is often pointed out as a threat to Belarusian statehood. Proponents of this approach emphasize that the national consciousness of Belarusians is relatively underdeveloped, and thus may also affect their patriotic duties, including the loyalty in defense of their country¹⁷. Undoubtedly, the common Soviet past plays an important role in this respect, so as the current Union State. Certainly, it is the Russian Federation that preserved dominant role in security issues in the post-Soviet area, which, to some extent, may also

¹⁴ According to law, Belarusians can recruit for contract service in Russia. Until recently it was possible to conclude multiple contracts. In May 2019, however, legal changes have been introduced, therefore currently it is possible to conclude only one contract. Each subsequent contract is possible only after obtaining Russian citizenship. О внесении изменений в статьи 34 и 40 Федерального закона „О воинской обязанности и военной службе”, 29.05.2019, <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001201905290053?index=0&rangeSize=1> [accessed: 5.07.2019]. In this light, a situation when in the end of 2018 Belarusians received e-mails encouraging them to take contract service in the Russian army seems to be thought-provoking. ‘Белорусы получают письма с предложением пойти на службу в российскую армию. Вероятно, это фейк’, Белсат, 28.11.2018, <https://belsat.eu/ru/news/belorusy-poluchayut-pisma-s-predlozheniem-pojti-na-sluzhbu-v-rossijskuju-armiyu-veroyatno-eto-fejk> [accessed: 5.07.2019].

¹⁵ ‘Денежное довольствие’, Министерство обороны Российской Федерации, http://sc.mil.ru/fea/soc/to_mil.htm [accessed: 29.06.2019]; Ю. Гаврилов, ‘Про довольствие’, Российская газета, № 10(7473), 2018, <https://rg.ru/2018/01/17/denezhnoe-dovolstvie-voennosluzhashchih-i-vyplaty-otstavnikam-vyrosli.html> [accessed: 29.06.2019]; ‘Денежное довольствие и иные выплаты’, Министерство обороны Республики Беларусь, https://www.mil.by/ru/all_about/finance/#1 [accessed: 29.06.2019].

¹⁶ Although in the constitution of the Republic of Belarus, both Belarusian and Russian are defined as state languages, over 60% of Belarusian society speaks Russian at home. Распространение в Республике Беларусь и областях белорусского и русского языков, Перепись населения Республики Беларусь 2009 года, Национальный статистический комитет Республики Беларусь, р. 1, http://www.belstat.gov.by/upload-belstat/upload-belstat-pdf/perepis_2009/5.11-0.pdf [accessed: 26.06.2019]. It should be added that state documents or websites are mostly run in Russian, as is teaching in schools.

¹⁷ Identity formation in the army is a topic in Belarusian newspapers, but the official position is clear on this point. Quoting the words of Minister of Defense of the Republic of Belarus Andrei Ravkov “the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus is the army of the Belarusian people”. Минобороны опровергает информацию о проведении среди офицеров опроса об объединении Беларуси и России’, БЕЛТА, 2.12.2016, <https://www.belta.by/society/view/minoborony-oprovergaet-informatsiju-o-provedenii-sredi-ofitserov-oprosa-ob-objedinenii-belarusi-i-221979-2016> [accessed: 23.10.2019]. Nevertheless, the recurring themes of identity and loyalty should lead to more extensive socio-political analysis in this context. Some remarks can be found in: А. Шрайбман, ‘Феномен белорусской государственности. Что ждет систему Лукашенко’, Московский Центр Карнеги, июнь 2017, <https://carnegie.ru/2017/05/31/ru-pub-70099> [accessed: 26.06.2019].

be reflected in the policy of the Republic of Belarus¹⁸. However, it must be admitted that there are no studies clearly indicating the possible attitude of Belarusians to Russians in the event of military aggression by a “brother” neighbor.

Recent trends in military education system

As noted before, the Belarussian army is struggling with a drop in recruitment interest. It is also reflected in cadets' enrollment. For example, on average there is only one candidate for the Military Academy per place¹⁹. Thus, not only conscription to the armed forces, but also officer service in the Belarussian army is not attractive to the majority of young people²⁰. In such situation, it is difficult to speak about raising the level of military education in the country as well as combat effectiveness of the armed forces²¹. Especially taking into consideration latest statement of the Head of the State Duma Defense Committee Vladimir Shamanov who stressed the high interest of Russian youth in military training. According to the data he presented at the briefing, the number of candidates for the first year of study at military educational institutions in the Russian Federation ranged from 8 to 20 per place²².

In this context, discussions about implementing innovative reforms in educational process, which, as a consequence, should lead not only to increasing the competences of cadets, but also to raising the academic level and qualifications of lecturers, seem to be extremely important. Educational system very often remains in the shadow of big investments such as purchases of new weapons and combat equipment, but it must not be forgotten that in fact well-trained army remains one of the key elements in ensuring security of the state.

In order to effectively achieve mentioned goals, specific actions at the state level should be taken. Looking only at the most general indicators, Republic of Belarus's military expenditure for 2018 amounted to 1.3% of GDP²³, reaching up

¹⁸ An interesting point on the subject of Belarus's dependence on Russia in: Дз. Івашын, 'Беларусь: протекторат Расіі ці сувереннае дзяржаўнае адукацыя?', translated by К. Котенко, *InformNapalm*, 25.09.2015, <https://informnapalm.org/12594-belarus-protectorat-rossy> [accessed: 4.07.2019].

¹⁹ Проходные баллы у абитуриентов при поступлении в Военную академию в 2018 году, Министерство обороны Республики Беларусь, <https://varb.mil.by/conditions/conkurs> [accessed: 4.07.2019].

²⁰ The number of women in the army is falling as well. In 2014, 4,500 of them served, and four years later only 4,000. Despite this, the number of women in positions of officers slightly increased, from 500 to 600 respectively. 'Женщины на службе Отечеству', Министерство обороны Республики Беларусь, 5.03.2014, <https://www.mil.by/ru/news/28421> [accessed: 5.07.2019]; 'На службе Отечеству', Министерство обороны Республики Беларусь, 6.03.2018, <https://www.mil.by/ru/news/72246> [accessed: 5.07.2019].

²¹ 'Белорусская армия: современное состояние и вызов качественной трансформации', Бельсат, 23.02.2019, <https://belsat.eu/ru/news/beloruskij-armiya-sovremennoe-sostoyanie-i-vyzov-kachestvennoj-transformatsii> [accessed: 4.07.2019].

²² 'Шаманов пригласил иностранцев на обучение в российские военные вузы', РИА Новости, 11.03.2019, <https://ria.ru/20190311/1551686670.html> [accessed: 4.07.2019].

²³ 'Military expenditure by country as percentage of gross domestic product, 1949–2018', *SIPRI*, <https://www.sipri.org/databases/milex> [accessed: 21.06.2019].

to 31.9% of government spending²⁴. For comparison, Poland's military expenditure for 2018 amounted to 2.0% of GDP²⁵, being 4.8% of government spending²⁶, whereas Russian Federation's indicators showed 3.9%²⁷ and 11.4%²⁸ respectively. Consequently, suitable strategic and political decisions will have a positive impact on the development of the potential of the armed forces only when combined with the improvement of the economic situation of the Republic of Belarus. That, in turn, will also strengthen further actions aimed at raising international significance of the country itself.

Conclusions

Considering the above, military education in the Republic of Belarus faces numerous challenges. The main task should be to increase admission thresholds for studies²⁹. Currently they remain at a relatively low level, which is directly related to the little attractiveness of the military education as well as subsequent service in the armed forces. Therefore, it is necessary to adapt education programs and teaching methods to the challenges of modern military service. Belarusian authorities should also consider ways to facilitate service in the armed forces. In this regard simple wage increase does not seem to be sufficient, equally needed is significant change in the military service conditions³⁰.

However, the social perception of the armed forces requires more careful analysis. It is difficult, especially for a Polish researcher, to resist the generalizing tendency that the authoritarian regime of Alexander Lukashenko is one of the main reasons for the low interest in military service. Without proper sociological research it is impossible to determine what part of society perceives this as a patriotic duty and a kind of social ennoblement, and what part sees excessive politicization of the armed forces as an ideological obstacle. Meanwhile, there is no doubt that the principles on which the Belarusian regime is based are reflected in the army.

²⁴ 'Military expenditure by country as percentage of government spending, 1988–2018', *SIPRI*, <https://www.sipri.org/databases/milex> [accessed: 21.06.2019].

²⁵ 'Military expenditure by country as percentage of gross...'

²⁶ 'Military expenditure by country as percentage of government...'

²⁷ 'Military expenditure by country as percentage of gross...'

²⁸ 'Military expenditure by country as percentage of government...'

²⁹ All data on admission thresholds can be found on the websites of educational institutions. Although they vary depending on the specialty, the thresholds are in general lower than in the case of civilian fields of study.

³⁰ For example: 1) changes in privileges for those who completed compulsory service (currently subject to a change) or concessions to those on duty, 2) elimination of bullying (Russian: *дедовщина* [*dedovshchina*]) of junior conscripts during their service in the army. 'Срок срочной военной службы включают в страховую трудовую стаж – Минобороны', *Sputnik Belarus*, 19.10.2019, <https://sputnik.by/society/20191019/1043039551/Srok-srochnoy-voennoy-sluzhby-vklyuchat-v-strakhovoy-trudovoy-stazh--Minoborony.html> [accessed: 23.10.2019]; А. Ходасевич, 'Лукашенко признал наличие дедовщины в армии. Белорусы требуют отставки министра обороны', *Независимая газета*, 16.10.2017, http://www.ng.ru/cis/2017-10-16/5_7095_belorus.html [accessed: 23.10.2019].

Compulsory service shapes the attitude of subordination to power, which remains an indispensable element of maintaining the authoritarian regime³¹.

From the point of view of the Polish state, exchange of information on the armed forces, including education, with the Belarusian neighbor should remain important. The potential in this regard, however, does not seem to be fully used, especially, if we consider the possible interest of the Belarusian side in broadening the knowledge about alternative educational approaches³².

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Państwowy system kształcenia wojskowego w Republice Białorusi Streszczenie

Wykwalifikowany personel sił zbrojnych stanowi niewątpliwie jeden z istotniejszych elementów bezpieczeństwa państwa. Jakkolwiek z punktu widzenia polskich władz kluczowa pozostaje współpraca z partnerami zachodnimi, obserwacja najnowszych trendów w tej dziedzinie powinna obejmować możliwie największą liczbę państw. Dlatego też autorka zwróciła uwagę na stosunkowo słabo opracowany w polskiej literaturze system kształcenia wojskowego w Republice Białorusi. W artykule scharakteryzowano współczesny model edukacji, wskazano na kierunki jego rozwoju oraz uwypuklono największe potrzeby. Analizie poddano także współpracę z Federacją Rosyjską. W badaniu zastosowano metodę systemową wspartą analizą treści i analizą ilościową.

Słowa kluczowe: system kształcenia wojskowego, siły zbrojne, Republika Białorusi, Federacja Rosyjska

National Military Education System in the Republic of Belarus Abstract

Qualified personnel of the armed forces is undoubtedly one of the most important elements of state security. Although from the Polish authorities' point of view cooperation with Western partners remains the key, observation of the latest trends in this field should cover the largest possible number of countries. Therefore, the author drew attention to the system of military education in the Republic of Belarus, which is relatively poorly reflected in Polish literature. The article characterizes the modern education model, indicates its development directions and highlights the greatest needs. The cooperation with the Russian Federation was also analyzed. The study was based on a system method supported by content and quantitative analysis.

Key words: military education system, armed forces, Republic of Belarus, Russian Federation

*Staatliches System der militärischen Bildung
in der Republik Belarus
Zusammenfassung*

Ein qualifiziertes Personal der Streitkräfte ist zweifellos eins der bedeutenderen Elemente der nationalen Sicherheit. Allerdings aus Sicht der polnischen Behörden ist die Zusammenarbeit mit den Partnern aus Westeuropa entscheidend, Beobachtung neuester Trends auf diesem Gebiet soll möglichst größte Zahl der Länder umfassen. Deswegen wies die Autorin auf das in der polnischen Literatur relativ schwach beschriebene System der militärischen Bildung in der Republik Belarus hin. Im Artikel wurde das moderne Bildungsmodell charakterisiert, es wurden die Entwicklungsrichtungen angegeben und die größten Bedürfnisse hervorgehoben. Analysiert wurde auch die Zusammenarbeit mit der Russischen Föderation. In der Untersuchung wurde die systematische, durch die Inhaltsanalyse und quantitative Analyse gestützte Methode angewandt.

Schlüsselwörter: System der militärischen Bildung, Streitkräfte, Republik Belarus, Russische Föderation

*Национальная система военного образования
в Республике Беларусь
Резюме*

Квалифицированный персонал вооруженных сил, несомненно, является одним из важнейших элементов государственной безопасности. Хотя с точки зрения польских властей, сотрудничество с западными партнерами остается ключевым направлением, существующие мировые тенденции указывают на необходимость взаимодействия как можно с большим числом государств. Поэтому, автор обратила внимание на систему военного образования в Республике Беларусь, которая недостаточно обсуждена в польской научной литературе. В статье дана характеристика современной модели образования, указаны направления ее развития и выделены наиболее актуальные потребности. Проанализировано также сотрудничество с Российской Федерацией. Исследование основано на системном методе, поддерживаемом контент-анализом и анализом количественных данных.

Ключевые слова: система военного образования, вооруженные силы, Республика Беларусь, Российская Федерация