

Original article

Military Territorial Defense as a guarantor of local security

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, one can observe a return to the tradition of territorial defense. This can be seen directly in the Territorial Defense Forces created in Poland. Their idea and *ratio legis* boils down to the need for the Polish state to have OT soldiers who, in the event of a threat of a military nature, will be trained to support the activity of operational troops and to help the civilian population. The relevance of this formation is the fact that it is the fifth (next to armed forces: land, air, sea and special forces) type of the Polish Armed Forces. This article is an attempt to briefly characterize the WOT role in creating local security standards, because the organizational structure of this formation (as well as its functioning) is strongly correlated with the administrative territorial division of the state. The study, in addition, describes the history of the WOT formation and also indicates the stages of its formation and (as a curiosity) the WOT concepts that were not implemented. This treatment is not only supposed to complement the study, but it is also needed to assess the validity (or not) of the form in which the WOT currently operates.

KEYWORDS

army, territorial defense, Armed Forces, local security, brigade, battalion



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Introduction to the *ratio legis* of Territorial Defense

The Territorial Defense Forces (WOT) have been operating in Poland since January 2017, as the fifth (next to land, air, sea and special forces) type of the Polish Armed Forces. The genesis of the return to the military tradition related to the territorial defense units is to be seen in the changes made at the level: first, the nature of the occurring and potential military threats, and secondly, modifications in the area of security. This has its initiation, among others, in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, the evolution of the specifics of both military and non-military threats, as well as the methods of fighting. Not without significance (for the return to the tradition of local troops) was also the result of the preliminary analysis of the state defense state in 2015, with a particular focus on the operational capabilities of the Polish Armed Forces in the Ministry of National Defense:

“As a consequence, the process of redefining the content of national policy in the field of military security and the adaptation of the concept of defending Poland’s territory to new

challenges and threats was initiated. Priority was given to acceleration of the modernization and transformation process of the Polish Armed Forces, including the need to rebuild the Territorial Defense Forces (WOT)" [1, p. 68].

The geopolitical position of Poland and the historical experience gained over the centuries also support the need to have local military structures (and permanent supervision of the state's security level). This necessity has its grounding in the provisions of the Constitution. In art. 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, that it states: "The Republic of Poland safeguards the independence and inviolability of its territory", emphasizes the defensive attitude of our country [2]. This *expressis verbis* context is continued in further norms of the Constitution, in which we read that: "The Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland serve to protect the independence of the state and the indivisibility of its territory and to ensure security and the inviolability of its borders" [2, Art. 26].

The need to strengthen one's own defense potential is also found in the implementation of the allied commitment, specified in the provision of art. 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty, as: "In order to achieve the objectives of this Treaty more effectively, the Parties, each separately and all together, through constant and effective self-help and mutual assistance, will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to counter the armed attack" [3]. This record is a consequence of contemporary military realities. Representatives of NATO member states are aware that in case of any military threat, NATO mobilization will not be immediate, so in the initial phase of the invasion, the attacked Member State will have to repel the attack. Hence, owning military resources is necessary to protect the territorial integrity of the state.

The need to militarize and professionalize the Polish Armed Forces (through, among others, the creation of the WOT structure), also drew the attention of prof. Z. Brzeziński. In his opinion: "Poland must also have armed forces to [...] resist alone – not attempts to defend the entire border, as in 1939, but a defense based on professional and mobile units of high firepower, harassing the opponent from several directions, from mountains of selected regions, urban centers of permanent resistance prepared for heavy street fighting and by subversive groups of territorial defense" [4, p. 3].

Some justification for understanding and the need to develop the defense aspect of the local state in order to ensure the inviolability of its territory can be traced in the work of Carl von Clausewitz, entitled "About the war". This author, who has commented on the problematic, devoted the sixth book, and in the catalog of defensive measures contained there, to this issue. In the first place he mentioned (the prototype of modern Formations of Territorial Defense) national defense (Landwehr). Next, there are respectively: fortress, nation, national uprising, militia and allies. Carl von Clausewitz emphasized that the character of national defense forces may be different, because it depends to a large extent on the nature of the state and the profile of military conflict. To illustrate his position, this author (as an example) recalled Prussia, which the kind of troops commented on in the category of fortress troops, i.e. that such troops (if necessary) can be used to attack the enemy. Another time, the author emphasized the importance of national defense (concretised not as a component of operational forces and as a volunteer formation), whose effectiveness of actions depends on voluntary cooperation: "at the war of the entire mass of the people with its physical forces, resources and moods" [5, p. 281-282].

The relevance of the indicated factors ensured that real actions were taken on strengthening the Polish defense potential. The implementation of the project (aimed at developing recommendations for the development of operational capabilities of the Polish Armed Forces)

called the 'Defense Capabilities Development Program of the Republic of Poland', was undertaken by the Warsaw Institute of Strategic Initiatives (WIIS). One of the components of the program was a debate organized by WIIS, during which (adequately to its "Shape of Territorial Defense"), the concept of the Territorial Defense Forces was introduced (in three discussion panels devoted to: training, equipment and cooperation, respectively).

Currently, the formation of Polish formations of Territorial Defense Forces is underway, while the issues related to it are of great interest in scientific monographic studies by, among others, Z. Poćkiewicz [6], W. Horyń [7], M. Falkowski [8] and A. Michalak [9]. Despite this, the WOT issues still need to be systematized, and on many levels, concerning, for example: the genesis of this formation, the legitimacy of its formation, its role or the tasks it faces. Therefore, this study aims to familiarize the recipient (in a synthetic way) about WOT (regarding, among others: the origin of these troops, the reasons for their creation, their essence and structure). The descriptive nature of the study indicates that it was prepared using the research (qualitative) method involving the analysis of sources (in this case the content contained in the literature, source documents and reports).

History of Territorial Defense Forces

At this point, it should be pointed out that the idea of developing militarized defense structures functioning at the local level is nothing new. The tradition of the occurrence of territorial defense structures dates back to the time of the formation of the Polish state. During the reign of Mieszko I and Bolesław Chrobry, the formation of the so-called 'prince's team' accompanied Polish early Slavic rulers until the reign of Kazimierz the Restorer. The team members were mainly recruited from a free population committed to ensuring order and internal order, actively repelling the invader (whether in the territory of its own country or outside its borders) and participating in a common uprising. Such teams were the support for the ruling tribal chiefs and princes. They ensured respect and respect among the local population, and as a result of imposing and enforcing specific services and services on the subjugated population (as well as local residents), they were the nucleus of the future taxation system. The team was deployed in conquered areas, and new castles were built on the basis of a garrison for teams from moneys kept from the spoils of war, and in peace through the donations of the people living in the state. Interestingly, the remaining population (apart from the high-profile princely teams) also had military duties. This was the obligation to defend the inhabited territory based on the existing local defense system [See: 10, p. 33; 11, p. 71 ff; 12, p. 97; 13, p. 83-84].

With time, the development of provinces (as a unit of the administrative division of the state), the territorial defense function was transferred to the provincial level. The idea of creating and operating military units of territorial defense (as an element strengthening the defense function of the state) was not abandoned even in the interwar period and post-war.

The first manifestation of the reconstruction of the territorial defense structure was the one occurring at the turn of 1937-1939 (functioning on the basis of: brigade, half-brigade and battalion) National Defence. It played a significant role in local military operations conducted in September 1939; and the most spectacular example of its relevance was the battle of Węgierska Górka (called Westerplatte of the South), in which the National Defense complemented the operations of operational troops. From 1945 (but before the end of World War II) in the Polish state, various types of territorial defense systems could be found (from internal troops – the Internal Security Corps, and ending with external forces – Border Protection Armies of the WOP).

Legislatively, the formation of the territorial defense forces of the country (as: the Territorial Defense of the Country – OTK) was for the first time separated on the basis of a resolution adopted in May 1959 by the National Defense Committee (KOK). This document (apart from emphasizing the new military formation with an indication of its objectives and legal definition) also defined the profile of organizational changes of the Armed Forces in the event of war and their development up to 1965 [14, p. 52].

During the formation of OKT, the following were taken into account: all previous military experiences during the war and post-war threats analysis. Moreover, the guidelines of the Warsaw Pact countries were also important in this matter. According to them, operational troops were to act primarily to counter outside aggression, while the *ratio legis* of internal forces fluctuated around ensuring order and securing the operation of the front on the territory of own country [15, p. 5].

The actual organization of local military structures was initiated in January 1963 on the basis of two normative acts: first Resolution of the National Defense Committee no. 104/62 of November 16, 1962 regarding the preparation of territorial defense of the country (its component was the operational plan of the territorial defense of the country) and the second Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 164/63 from 4.05.1963 on the organization of OT units. Finally, the OTK troops (until 1971) included: (acting since 1963) Territorial Defense Forces (OT), Air Defense Forces of the Country (WOPK), Naval Territorial Defense Forces (established from 1966 transferred from Ministry of Internal Affairs to the Ministry of National Defense – KBW forces), Internal Armies (WOWew) and Border Protection Armies (WOP) [15, p. 6-7].

In the years 1971-1980, there were secondary transformations of the OTK, which (among others by transforming some of the WOWew units into OT units having a lower degree of readiness or made in 1971, the shift of Border Protection Armies to the Ministry of Internal Affairs) led to a decrease in the potential of OTK units.

A significant reduction of OTK units took place in the period between 1981 and 1988. Then – in the second half of the 1980s, it was decided to definitively liquidate the OT units (in fact these ended in March 1990). In 1991, the Internal Defense Army was disbanded, and WOPK was separated from the OTK formation in order to be finally incorporated into the operational Air Forces – thus creating the Air Forces and Air Defense [14, p. 59-60].

Despite such specific plans, still during the liquidation of the OTK formation (i.e. in 1990), a re-attempt to reactivate the OT troops was risked. The newly created unit was modeled on the formations of internal troops, functioning as support for operational troops [16, p. 74]. Although in 1992, the Regional Defense Forces were transformed into OT units, the concept of development of territorial defense was adopted only in 1999. According to its provisions, until 2003, these troops (as support for operational troops) were to count about 10,000 soldiers in peacetime and about 120,000 during wartime operations. Their modernization was to take place in three stages and last until 2012. However, these assumptions could not be fully realized, because the large limitations in the area of OT development. Moreover, (starting from 2001) the program of technical modernization of the Armed Forces was focused primarily on operational troops [17]. This deemphasis was seen above all in reducing the size of OT troops to 2-3 thousand in time of peace and up to 50-70 thousand during time of war [18]. At the turn of 2007 and 2008, OT brigades were transformed into OT battalions, and then reformed into mechanized battalions and incorporated into operational troops. Thus, the creation of OT battalions was envisaged in mobilization plans, but only in case of war. In the PO-PSL coalition that was in power at the time, the development of the Armed Forces of

the Republic of Poland was perceived as primarily an expeditionary formation created within the coalition forces. Hence, there was no need for enlargement and the formation of troops profiled only for the defense of the territory of the Republic of Poland.

The concept of rebuilding the model of the Territorial Defense Forces was returned again in 2008. Requests in this respect were presented by Law and Justice before the parliamentary elections, i.e. on 4 July 2015 during the program conference of the Law and Justice and the United Right, which took place in Katowice. During its duration, the need to increase the size of the Polish Armed Forces was emphasized, as well as the idea of supporting operational troops by (based on volunteer recruitment) territorial forces [19, p. 96 ff].

Despite the marginalization of their role (at the beginning of the 21st century), a real return (and in principle the creation from scratch) of the territorial defense structure can be observed today. Over the shape, needs and objectives of the newly created Territorial Defense (in 2015-2016), there were six independent entities/institutions (such as: National Defense University, DefenseNarodowa.pl, University of Lodz, General Staff of the Polish Army, Board of Organizations and Additions – P1 and Office for the creation of Territorial Defense) creating six different concepts on the subject matter. The model suggested by Lt. Col. PhD G. Kwaśniak, who represented (established on 1 July 2016) the Office for the Establishment of Territorial Defense operating under his direction, turned out to be victorious. Implicit and constituting the foundation for the further development of the newly planned military formation, “The concept of establishing the Territorial Defense Forces”, was signed by the Minister of National Defense A. Macierewicz on 25 April 2016. According to the put forward assumptions, the Territorial Defense Forces have three main tasks: 1) strengthening the potential of the Armed Forces by reinforcing operational troops; 2) achieving operational capabilities in the autonomous conduct of irregular activities (consisting of anti-terrorism, anti-crisis, anti-information and anti-dissent activities); 3) deepening patriotic values inside the Polish Armed Forces [20]. Therefore, the shape, equipment and training model of the units of the Territorial Defense Forces should correspond with the above-mentioned tasks. What is more, the creators of the WOT also emphasize the multidimensional character of these units, i.e. outside the military aspect, they are also supposed to fulfill social, cultural and economic functions. Their fundamental task, in time: “P” (peace), “K” (crisis) or “W” (war) is the protection of the civilian population.

The basic assumptions of the concept of territorial defense (including the victorious concept of Lt. Col. PhD G. Kwaśniak) are presented in Table 1.

The essence of the Territorial Defense Forces

Based on the above, it can be stated that the arguments (various forms) justifying the return and continuation of the WOT idea form a complete spectrum. That is why it is worth determining what Territorial Defense is. By using the lexical publications currently available on the market, it should be stated that the Territorial Defense is a component of the military system created to run together with: operational forces, non-military defense cells and society – so-called universal defense of the state. Its *ratio legis* is related to: development and management of the defense of regions and facilities located throughout the country, development of conditions conducive to the development and operation of operational troops, as well as implementation (on a massive scale) of regular operations and assistance in non-military defense activities [22, p. 80].

Table 1. WOT concepts

Institution	Mission and tasks of OT	Service	Command	Army OT	Armament and military equipment
Akademia Obrony Narodowej	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring protection and defense of the state borders, towns and critical infrastructure, participation in civic education, support of the authorities during natural disasters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> universal compulsory and voluntary military service, 2/3 monthly basic military training, reserve service – 1-day training on non-working days, maximum once a month, after mobilization, service in the unit in case of war or in the event of a technical disaster or a natural disaster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OT is commanded by Minister ON through the OT Inspectorate, in the operational areas, the commanding bodies are Military District Command, tactical command facilities: WKU and Garrison Command 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> light general military units, troops with a brigade or battalion structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> weapon: shooting: light anti-tank; light plot, basic military and rescue equipment (e.g.: various types of motor vehicles, equipment for identifying and eliminating contaminations and infections, or medical emergency equipment), mine funds
Sztab Generalny WP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> during peace: protective actions during a natural disaster, as well as support and protection of the population, during war: combat operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishment of county companies (380, 1 company per 1 poviat), training, every month, two days at the weekend and once a year, a two-week training camp at the training ground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> orders issued by the OT Command, a certain scope of freedom of OT command at the regional level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OT units formed in the battalion and brigade structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> weapons adapted to the needs of the company
Biuro ds. utworzenia OT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> military operations carried out together with operational forces, operations carried out in the event of a natural disaster, protection of the civilian population against the consequences of: disinfection and destabilization, cooperation with voivodes and local self-government bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> as part of county companies, the annual training time of the soldier is to last about 30 days, including once a month at the weekend, and once a year, a training ground for a few days, finally 314 companies will be created, grouped in 76 battalions (4-5 companies) subordinate to 17 provincial brigades (3-4 battalions), due to the territorial scope of the Masovia Province, 2 brigades are to be created on the mime, each brigade has to count 1.5-2.5 thousand soldiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 levels of command, tactical level – command battalions OT, 314 company OT in poviats, operational level – 17 commands of OT brigades, 76 OT battalions, strategic level – General Staff, WOT Command 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in every county – one company, in each provincial city – territorial defense battalion, in each province – the command of the territorial defense brigade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personal and group equipment of a soldier, equipment adapted to SRO, e.g. marine, mountain and forest environment

Institution	Mission and tasks of OT	Service	Command	Army OT	Armament and military equipment
Uniwersytet Łódzki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – self-defense of the territory and borders of the country, – increasing the deterrence potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – incarnation to the OT about 700 thousand citizens, – 150 thousand mobilizing groups, – OT units should be formed in: hunting circles, companies, TSOs, parishes or pro-defense groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – management of the OT should take place with the help of civilian leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – OT troops consisting of soldiers living in the same area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – manual anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons, – small arms
Obrona Narodowa.pl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – general upbringing and military training of young people and soldiers of the reserve, – support of civilians during war and peace (mainly from the effects of natural disasters), – preparation and carrying out protection and local defense 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Incorporation to the OT approx. 80,000 citizens, – organization of trainings in the weekend and holiday system, – periodic training of polygons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Command (Command) of National Defense – supreme command body, – lower level command in voivodships at the regional level; in poviats and cities on the poviat right at the local level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – OT units formed from: platoons, companies and battalions, – operating on three levels: central, provincial and poviat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – own weapon, – own equipment, – the number of weapons depends on the number of critical infrastructure facilities existing in the area
Zarząd Organizacji i Uzupelnienie P-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – OT completing combat tasks and tasks in the field of protection and support for the population, – support during natural disasters, – protection of strategic facilities, – elimination of opponents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – training once a month on the weekend and once a year collectively on the training ground for 2 weeks, – establishing a 380 company, including: protection, support, maneuver, traffic regulation and infantry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – applying to the threat and character of the order will come from the OT command, – a certain scope of freedom is provided for the territorial defense headquarters operating in the region and cooperating with the voivode 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the brigade can be created from both battalions and independent companies, – 2 main pillars of defense: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) soldiers fighting a regular opponent, 2) soldiers protecting the infrastructure and liquidating the enemy's subversive groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a weapon adapted to the type of company e.g., the infantry has: machine guns, carabiners or grenade launchers, while the support companies have: hand-operated antiaircraft rocket launchers, heavy antitank grenade launchers, portable PPK launchers or anti-aircraft guns

Source: Own study after: [21].

De lege lata Territorial Defense is perceived as a component of the modern military structure of the state, which (through correlation with the non-military formation) significantly affects the level of national defense effectiveness. Among other issues, because these units function (during peace and during war) in most democratic countries (including NATO countries). It is emphasized that they also have an impact on the integration of local communities in the area of security and defense. It should be noted that the Territorial Defense Forces (from all Polish types of Armed Forces) already named to them, emphasize their character and purpose. For the proper implementation of tasks related to the defense of the territory of their own state, it does not matter whether these troops (in individual countries) create an autonomous kind of armed forces, or not. Although the WOT is not an offensive formation (focused on conducting offensive actions aimed at overcoming an opponent), in reference to the assumptions of the Defense Concept of the Republic of Poland (which emphasizes: "ability to cooperate in a combined operation, especially operational troops with territorial defense soldiers" [23, p. 43]), these troops can have a significant impact on the success of operational troops.

Based on the experience of countries continuing the ethos of territorial defense for a long time, it can be stated that such military formations (similar in numbers to operational troops) constitute an important link in the defense system of the state. Their goals and tasks are coupled with the specific threats and military needs of a given country. In the event of a war, the field of WOT activity may be limited by the area of its own state (Poland) or extend beyond its borders (e.g. Russia or the USA).

Establishment of the WOT structure in Poland (in technical terms) can be divided into two stages: material and formal. The first of these is related to the creation of legislative grounds for the functioning of a new type of Armed Forces. The material period was initiated: 26/09/2016 (appointment as commander of WOT, the recent Commander of the Military Commando Unit – JWK – Colonel W. Kukuła) and lasted until December 23, 2016, when the new wording of the Act was announced from November 21, 1967, about the universal defense obligation (hereinafter referred to as the law on defense), amended by the Act with the amendment of November 16, 2016. On its basis, there were, among others: appointment of Territorial Defense Forces, concretization of the powers of the Commander of Territorial Defense Forces (Article 11c u.p.o.o.) and separation (the executive body of the Commander of Territorial Defense Forces) so-called Command of the Territorial Defense Forces (Article 11c (3) and (4) u.p.o.o.).

The second stage of WOT creation – formal, was initiated on 29/03/2017 by the takeover of command over 3 Territorial Defense Brigades: 1 Podlaska Brigade of Territorial Defense (1PBOT); 2 Lubelska Territorial Defense Brigade (2 LBOT) and 3 Podkarpackie Territorial Defense Brigade (3 PBOT).

The winning WOT concept (Lt. Col. PhD G. Kwaśniak) was defined by the author himself as: the doctrine of a saturated battlefield, functioning on the basis of cooperation between battalions of operational forces and companies of territorial subunits. Therefore, the way WOT works is related to the so-called Permanent Area of Responsibility (SRO), which is the area of operation of a specific WOT unit during "P" (peace) and during "W" (war). The indicated method gives a soldier of the Territorial Military Service (TSW), a real opportunity to get to know his/her area well (including, for example, carrying out rescue operations, protecting people, minimizing the effects of natural disasters or protecting critical infrastructure).

The main task of WOT units at the time of "W" is to support activities undertaken by operational troops and special forces – by forming, for example, resistance groups, providing

support to local people or physically obstructing the takeover of control over a given SRO area by an opponent.

The main factor determining armament, tasks and scope of training of WOT units is the area of the Permanent Area of Responsibility (SRO). In the area of the most threatened attack by the aggressor, WOT units are to be adapted to perform tasks in the field of supporting delayed operations by operational troops and creating a conspiratorial structure. In the less-threatened area of direct invasion, WOT units are responsible for: securing communication nodes, ensuring the capacity of main communication lines, securing critical infrastructure, cooperating with third parties and organizing transport.

Structure of the Territorial Defense Forces

In terms of structural organization, the Territorial Defense Forces are to function on the basis of 17 brigades – one in each province (the exception is, due to its geographic size, two brigades will be stationed in Masovia Province). The formation of the brigades can be divided into four autonomous stages. So far, the first three brigades have been formulated (stage no. I scheduled for 2016-2018): 1. Podlasie Brygada OT in Białystok, 2. Lublin Brigade OT in Lublin and 3. Podkarpacka OT Brigade in Rzeszów. Their creation has since initiated (as was already mentioned) the second level of establishing the so-called formal plane (the first was the material plane). In May this year, the second stage (planned for 2017-2019) of the construction of three successive WOT brigades was begun, namely: 4. Warmian-Masurian BOT in Olsztyn, 5. Mazowiecka BOT in Ciechanów and 6th Mazovian BOT in Radom. Stage III (planned for 2018-2021) is to be associated with the establishment of 7 WOT brigades, respectively, in the following provinces: Pomeranian, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Małopolskie, Śląskie, Świętokrzyskie and Łódzkie; and in the last, fourth stage of the construction of WOT (scheduled for 2019-2022) four brigades are to be generated in the following provinces: Opolskie, Dolnośląskie, Lubuskie and Zachodniopomorskie.

Thus, between the concept of creating Territorial Defense Forces and the administrative division of the country, there is a functional correlation resulting in the permanent presence of the “army” in the territory of the Polish state. WOT’s tasks are limited to supporting the operations of operational troops, as well as complementing activities carried out for operational formations from non-military establishments (e.g. Police) [24, p. 28]. The literature on the subject indicates that the argument justifying the need for further development and development of WOT is a real increase in the defense (and crisis response) capabilities of the state, while not generating high costs for defense [24, p. 30]. Not without significance, for the assessment of the *ratio legis* of WOT’s functioning, there is also a socio-demographic aspect, along with the currently existing international defense integration (developed within the EU or NATO), inter alia, to: shifting the center of gravity from individual defense to collective defense, moving away from universal military service to a professional or actual (quantitative) reduction of the army and maintained level of personal reserves. Continuing the WOT tradition (due to its territoriality) should contribute not only to the increase in the level of militarization (as a result of the increase in the number of citizens trained in military service), but also to intensify the level of interconnection between the Armed Forces and society.

Bearing in mind the substantive aspect, tasks carried out in WOT units qualify for the first two (out of three) so-called missions of the Polish Armed Forces, included in the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland (SBN RP). In accordance with the mission’s assumptions,

WOT's actions are aimed at: 1. guaranteeing state defense and resisting armed aggression, as well as 2. supporting subsystems of protection in the subject of internal security and assistance to the public. The WOT formation, however, does not carry out tasks belonging to the so-called 3 missions of the Polish Armed Forces (aimed at operation outside the country), which should be perceived as a direct consequence of its role and character. In contrast to the Land Forces, WOT troops are focused on forming sub-units within local human resources aiming to protect and defend primarily the local community. Its territoriality can also be seen in the WOT leading slogan (sounding: "defense and protection of local communities") and the motto of this formation concretised as: "Always ready, always close".

Conclusion

To conclude, the position represented by N. Machiavelli should be divided, as: "own branches are armed units that recruit from their own subjects or citizens. There are no more faithful, truer and better soldiers than them. Only they have the necessary patriotic fighting spirit and they are the nerves of war, not money. That is why every well organized community has its own armed forces" [25, p. 56].

The argument for the development and maintenance of the WOT structure is the (currently occurring) dynamics of hazard development and costs related to the functioning (relatively few) but increasingly expensive operating troops (modern weapon systems, protection, fire control, etc.). WOT units enrich the military subsystem of the state. Moreover, by adding an "element" connecting, components of the military subsystem and non-military, especially at the local level, they have an impact on increasing the level of capabilities and effectiveness of the Armed Forces. The structure of the Territorial Defense Forces determines the essence and territorial nature of this formation. For the linking of territorial forces with the administrative division of the country (in order to intensify the quality of the tasks performed by WOT), the formation of relatively small (in comparison with operational forces) organizational units having large autonomy in their activities was adopted. The creation of the Territorial Defense Forces in Poland is also an attempt to connect the society with the Armed Forces, by creating a military formation of local origin and for the local community. The territorial and relatively uniform location of WOTs affects the emergence of a new state response tool for (potentially emerging) threats. Consequently, this leads to a significant improvement in the real possibilities of supporting internal security and helping the public.

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The author declared no conflict of interests.

Author contributions

The author contributed to the interpretation of results and writing of the paper. The author read and approved the final manuscript.

Ethical statement

The research complies with all national and international ethical requirements.

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Wojska Obrony Terytorialnej jako gwarant bezpieczeństwa lokalnego

STRESZCZENIE

Współcześnie zaobserwować można powrót do tradycji obrony terytorialnej. Widać to bezpośrednio w tworzonych w Polsce Wojskach Obrony Terytorialnej. Ich idea oraz *ratio legis* sprowadza się do konieczności posiadania przez państwo polskie żołnierzy OT, którzy w razie wystąpienia zagrożenia o charakterze np. militarnym, będą przeszkoleni do wspierania działań wojsk operacyjnych oraz do niesienia pomocy ludności cywilnej. O relewancji tej formacji stanowi fakt, iż jest ona piątym (obok wojsk: lądowych, powietrznych, morskich i specjalnych) rodzajem Sił Zbrojnych RP. Artykuł ten jest próbą krótkiej charakterystyki roli WOT w kreowaniu standardów bezpieczeństwa lokalnego, gdyż struktura organizacyjna tejże formacji (a także jej funkcjonowanie) jest silnie sprzężona z administracyjnym podziałem terytorialnym państwa. W opracowaniu przybliżono również historię formacji WOT, a także wskazano na etapy jej tworzenia oraz (jako ciekawostkę) przybliżono te koncepcje organizacji WOT, które nie zostały zrealizowane. Zabieg ten ma nie tylko dopełniać opracowanie, ale jest także potrzebny do dokonania oceny co do zasadności (lub też nie) formy, w jakiej obecnie funkcjonuje WOT.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE wojsko, obrona terytorialna, Siły Zbrojne, bezpieczeństwo lokalne, brygada, batalion

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