

The International Scientific Conference

## "Territorial Defence and Its Role in Contemporary Security Systems"

Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Poland, November 17th-18th, 2016

### CALL FOR CONFERENCE

Aggravating geopolitical situation in the Eastern Europe, related to the revolution of dignity in the Ukraine, annexation of the Crimea by the Russian Federation and the breakout of the war in Donbas, resulted in the significant revival of the public discourse and debate concerning territorial defence in Poland. There are strong indications that in the nearest years it will be a crucial direction of activity of the Poland's authorities what regards the enhancement of defence capabilities and deterrence credibility of the Republic of Poland. The Ministry of National Defence has already effectuated many actions for the implementation of the territorial defence and the next decisions announced on this question prove that the problem is being treated as a priority.

Many states all over the world can boast wide experiences in the organization of the territorial defence. It seems justified and advisable to learn from these experiences through exploration and analysis of the processes of creation as well as evolution of territorial defence systems over the years. In this context one should draw a special attention to difficulties that had to be surmounted in order to form a well-functioning territorial defence as well as the current role and status of these units, especially in the states in which they are an element/a subdivision/a constituent of the armed forces. By all means the circumspect and thorough analysis of the above-mentioned subject will aid the formulation and implementation of the most optimal territorial defence system in Poland that would be adapted to the Polish realities, such as the geopolitical location, financial capabilities of the state and the most probable dangers of Polish sovereignty and territorial integrity in the coming decades.

The subject matter of the territorial defence's impact on the national security system requires scrupulous, multi-faceted and multidimensional analyses. The organizers of the International Scientific Conference "The Territorial Defence and Its Role in Contemporary Security Systems" invite all interested military men, political scientists, historians as well as experts and specialists in defence and security studies to deliberations on the role of the territorial defence in contemporary security systems of the selected countries and to share their experiences, opinions, views, conceptions, conclusions and research results.

## Tentatively four panels are planned:

### 1. Traditions and experiences in territorial defence

The issues concerning the history of organization and operations of territorial defence units in Poland and in the world, including the irregular and guerrilla warfare, will be raised in the panel. The organizers propose the analysis of the questions mentioned below:

- the experiences of Polish and other guerrillas during national liberation uprisings;
- the organization of the National Defence in the Second Republic of Poland with particular emphasis on contribution in the 1939 Defensive War in Poland;
- the experiences of the Home Army and other Polish underground armed organizations over the Second World War as an instance of territorial forces waging irregular warfare;
- the activity of the territorial defence units during the Second World War (Suojeluskunnat, Home Guard, etc);
- the arrangement of the territorial units in the Cold War period (NATO and Warsaw Pact member states, Viet Cong, Afghan mujahideens, etc);
- the Territorial Defence Forces – Polish experience in functioning of the territorial defence units from the Polish People’s Republic period;
- Concepts of territorial defence in 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### 2. The territorial defence in the systems of national security of the selected states

The panel encompasses the subject matter dedicated to various aspects of contemporary territorial defence outside Poland’s borders. The suggested topics are as follows:

- the role of the territorial defence units in the deterrence systems;
- the activity of territorial defence forces in NATO countries (the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Baltic States, etc);
- the organization of territorial defence in the non-NATO states (Finland, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, etc.);
- the role of territorial battalions, the National Guard of Ukraine and other Ukrainian paramilitary units in the war in Donbas;
- the tactics of guerrilla and counterinsurgency warfare in the 21st century illustrated by the examples of Afghanistan and Iraq – what can we learn from our former foes?
- the employment of modern technologies in irregular warfare;
- the role of territorial defence units in counteracting the consequences of natural disasters and other nonmilitary threats;

- the contribution of the territorial defence units in the protective and covering operations of ongoing mobilization – the foreign experiences;
- the participation of the of the territorial defence forces in the protective and covering operations of state borders (the problem of refugees) – the foreign experiences.

### 3. The territorial defence in Poland – plans, conceptions, solutions

Papers taking up the topic of the territorial defence in the Republic of Poland are expected to be presented in this panel, especially:

- the contemporary concepts of territorial defence – assumptions for formation of territorial component of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland;
- the territorial defence tasks in the realities of the hybrid war;
- the Podlaskie, Lublina and Subcarpathian voivodeships as regional pioneers of the territorial defence in Poland – lessons for other voivodeships
- the National Reserve Forces;
- the armament and military equipment dedicated to the territorial defence units – financing, personnel training, safeguarding of the equipment;
- the cooperation of the operational and territorial components in the defence of Poland.

### 4. The territorial defence and pro-defence organizations as well as initiatives

Organizers decided to differentiate a special separate panel dedicated to the emerging increasingly frequently pro-defence organizations and initiatives, including the following matters:

- the use of the pro-defence organizations' potential in development of the territorial component of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland and other states – the recapitulation of experiences;
- the influence of the training experiences of the pro-defence organizations on the training system of the subdivisions of the Territorial Defence;
- the pro-defence initiatives in the academic milieu;
- the pro-defence initiatives among entrepreneurs and businessmen;
- the promotions of public security and pro-defence attitudes in the society;
- the theory and practice of the training in the pro-defence organizations;
- the place of the pro-defence organizations in the legal systems of the Republic of Poland and other states;
- the activity of the Bureau for the Pro-Defence Affairs of the Ministry of National Defence and its significance for the development of the concept of the territorial defence in Poland.

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