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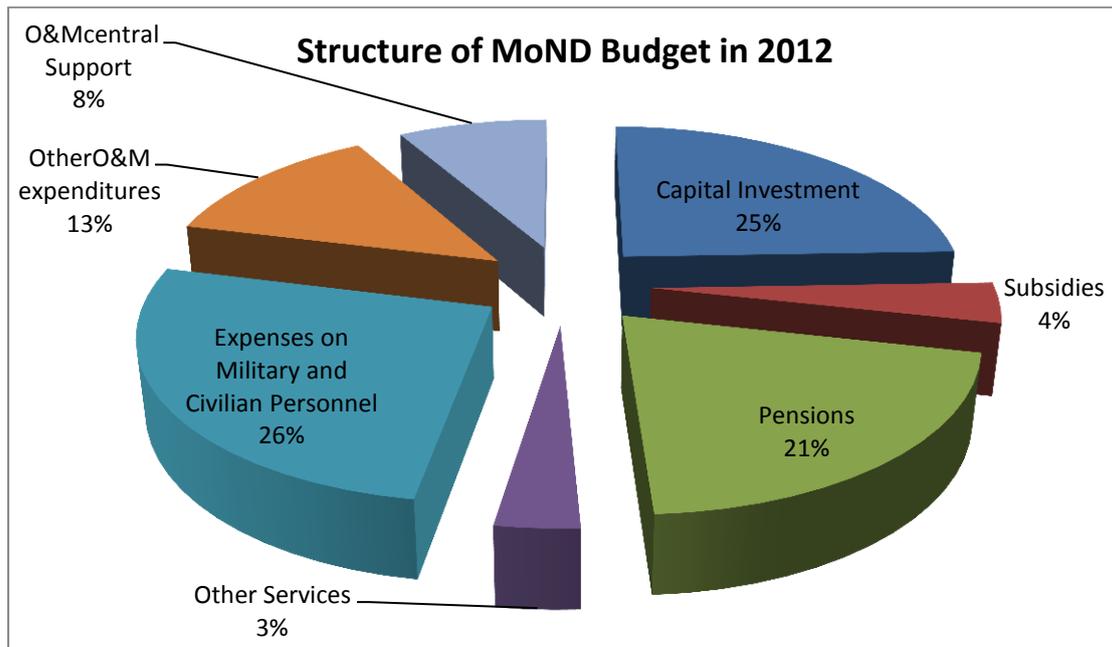
Polish Defence Budget



In order to fulfill the country's defence tasks and missions, Poland has allocated 29.5 billion zlotys (BPLN). From this amount 29.2BPLN has been allocated to National Defence, and 0.3B PLN to other parts of the state's budget. The defence budget of the country was significantly augmented as for the previous year Poland allocated 27,536.2 million zlotys to defence expenditures whereas in 2010, the country spent 25,719 million. This amount was mainly

allocated to army training, procurement of armament systems and military equipment, renovation of arms and military equipment, constructions and restoration of perspective infrastructure.

Polish defence budget is allocated according to the pie-chart below. Expenses on military and civilian personnel reached 26.3% of the total military budget accounting 7,690.1 million Zlotys. Capital investment follows with 7,137.8 and then pensions with 6,061.4.



The primary technical modernisation programs polish authorities prioritised to implement during 2012 were the following:

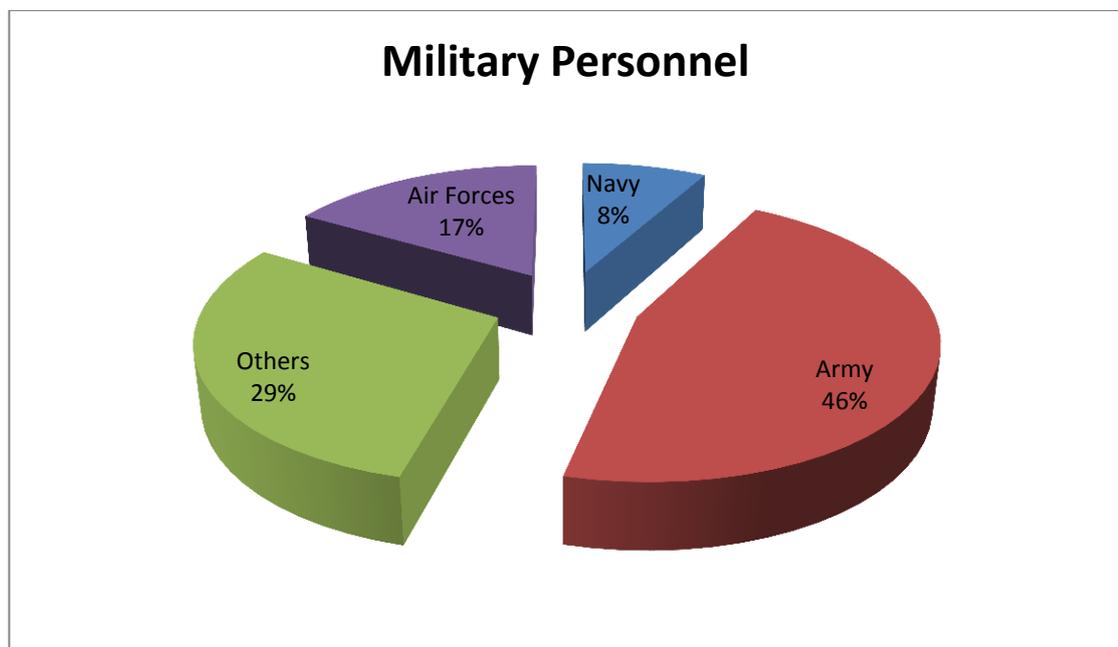
- Air defence system program,
- Helicopters for combat support and security program,
- Navy Modernization program,
- The command-support and battlefield visualization system C4ISR program.

The total amount allocated for the realisation of the above-mentioned programs reached 2,417.0 MPLN.

Additionally, there were (5) more projects with an estimated value of 1,578.4 MPLN. These projects were the following:

1. Simulators and trainers systems,
2. Squadrons' 155 mm fire-modules REGINA - KRAB - PW,
3. Transport aircraft M-28,
4. Wheeled armored transporter ROSOMAK,
5. Missiles SPIKE 3,995.4.

Regarding the military personnel, Poland had a total of (100.000) people. The vast majority of them are enlisted to the army, as there were in total (45,870) active personnel. Air forces followed with (16,547) and the navy with (8,063) active personnel.



The total number of military personnel has been slightly increased as in the previous year it was (94,255).

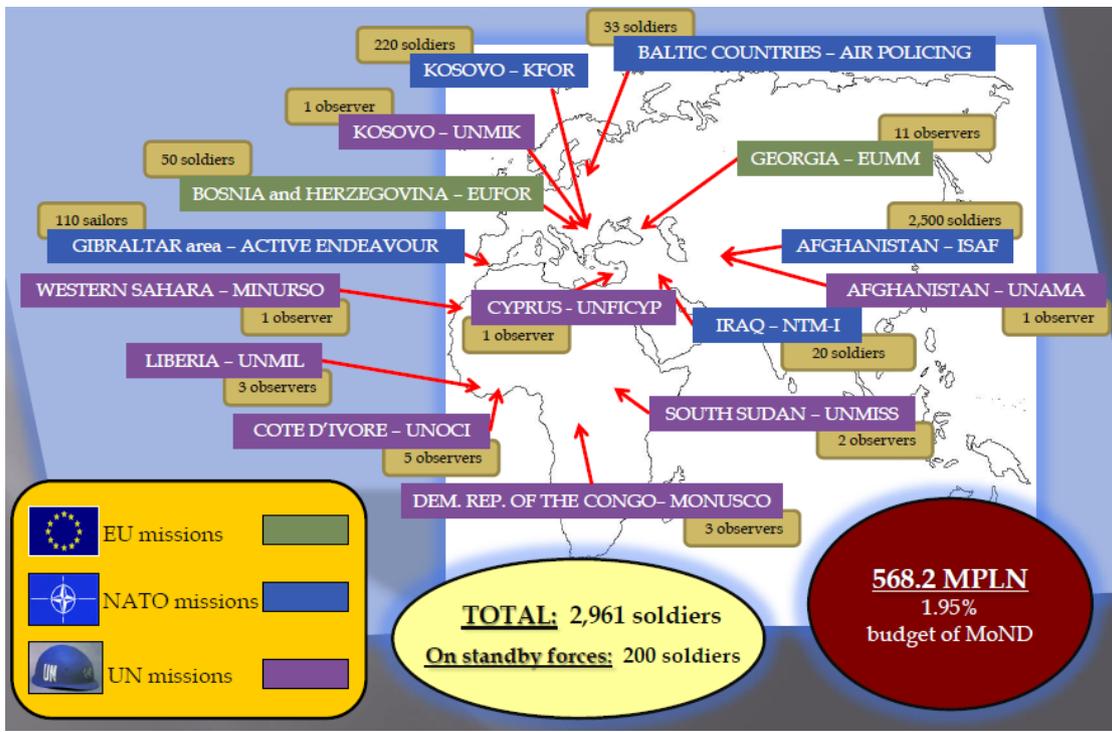
Kyriazis Vasileios,

Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Polish Armed Forces: Participation in International Missions



The Polish armed forces have been participating in international missions since 1953. Nevertheless, Poland’s military involvement in international missions has been intensified after 1989, when the country was reintroduced to the Western institutions. It is indicative that during the period 1989-2009, 67,000 soldiers and military personnel served on (64) operations, (30) UN peacekeeping missions, (13) alliance missions, (9) OSCE observation missions, (6) EU missions and (6) international coalition missions. The country’s commitment in participating in international missions was further reinforced when Poland joined NATO and EU. In 2012 there were in total 2,961 soldiers in international military missions, spending 568.2 MPLN accounting for 1.95% of the total amount of the MoND.



As it is depicted in the map above, in 2002 Poland took place in (4) NATO missions contributing with a total of 2,883 soldiers. Poland contributed 2,500 soldiers in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan and (220) in the KFOR mission in Kosovo. Additionally, Poland participated in (8) UN missions with a total of (17) observers. In 2012, there were (5) observers in the UNOCI mission in Ivory Coast and (3) observers in the UNMIL mission in Liberia. The remaining observers were scattered in missions such as the UNFICYP mission in Cyprus, the MINUSRO in Western Sahara, the UNMIK in Kosovo, the UNMISS in South Sudan etc. Finally, Polish troops, participate in two EU missions, namely in the EUMM in Georgia and in the EUFOR mission in Bosnia Herzegovina with a total of (61) soldiers.

As it is clearly illustrated by the paragraph above, Polish troops are mainly participating in NATO missions. This actually highlights the transformation of the country's defence doctrine in the new millennium. Poland's accession to NATO in 1999 was followed by a deep transformation of Polish participation in international missions. The country's contribution to UN operations has declined, whereas its involvement in NATO-lead and international coalition missions has grown. Finally, the geographical dispersion of Polish missions is as following, Polish troops participate in (5) missions in Europe and in Africa and in (4) missions in Asia.

Kyriazis Vasileios,

Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Epicos “Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects”



Epicos “Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects” provides a unique set of online tools enabling the structure, identification and implementation of comprehensive Offsets programs, through a searchable database. By introducing different offset projects and ideas proposed by local A&D industry it ensures the optimum cost for Prime Contractors and reassures that the priorities of local industry are fully met...

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Installation of special protection equipment against virulent diseases to ambulance car used in several homeland security applications



A leading company in the design, manufacture and distribution of medical emergency products for Civil and Military use proposes a project which aims to the installation of virulent protection equipment into special made ambulance car. The proposed equipment will support ensure safe transfer of the patient and the assisting personnel to the hospital eliminating transferring of the virulent disease to any other person.

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Development of a field-deployable, compact weather station system



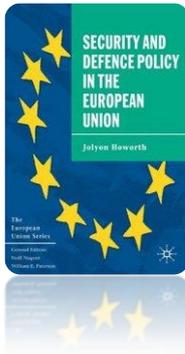
A manufacturing company with significant experience in designing and developing environmental Meteorological Stations, and sensors for meteorological, hydrological and agro-meteorological applications is willing to expand its capabilities in the field of automated weather stations that can be rapidly deployed and used in diverse field operations.

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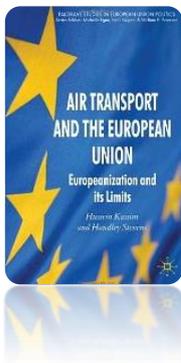


The Security and Defence Policy in the European Union, by Jolyon Howorth



The European Union is shaping a new political notion that of a common European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The author of this book is trying to present a full assessment of the historical, political and systemic reasons behind the rise of the aforementioned policy. The author argues that the key issues involved - the challenges of defining a more balanced partnership between the two sides of the Atlantic and of transforming the EU from a civilian power into a new type of crisis management actor - are the most significant since the creation of NATO and the EU at the end of World War 2.

Air Transport and the European Union: Europeanization and its Limits (Palgrave Studies in European Union Politics), by Hussein Kassim, Handley Stevens



Air Transport and the European Union investigates the emergence of the EU as a major policy actor in aviation and examines how Europeanization has transformed the governance, organization and structure of the sector since the mid-1980s. It addresses the question of how, when a detailed regulatory system already existed, the EU was able to establish its own policy-making competence and to override the wishes of the majority or member states opposed to EU involvement.



UAE signs \$1.42 bn defence deals

The United Arab Emirates said on Monday it signed 17 defence contracts to purchase military equipment worth \$1.4 billion including US manufactured Predator drones.

The contracts were signed during the ongoing International Defence Exhibition & Conference, IDEX.

"The total value of today's contracts has reached 5.2 billion dirhams" (\$1.42 billion), said Staff Major General Obaid al-Ketbi, chairman of IDEX, which is held every two years in Abu Dhabi.

Speaking to reporters on the second day of Middle East's biggest defence show, Ketabi said the deals include a 722 million-dirham (\$196-million) contract agreed with US firm General Atomics for the purchase of Predator drones with complete integrated logistic support systems.

He said the UAE armed forces also signed an agreement with the US-based Oshkosh firm worth 1.4 billion dirhams (\$381.5 million) to purchase all-terrain military vehicles.

Another deal to purchase Turkish CIRIT laser-guided rockets worth 720 million dirhams (\$196.2 million) was also signed, he added.

Oil-rich UAE invests heavily in defence, just like most other Gulf states that are mainly wary of potential hostilities from neighbouring Iran.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Qatar to open new 30-mln-passenger airport in April

Energy-rich Qatar will open on April 1 a new airport with a capacity to handle 30 million passengers, as the Gulf state vies to increase its share of transit air travel, an official said Monday.

"The annual capacity of Hamad International Airport will be 30 million passengers when it opens on April 1," the head of Qatar's Civil Aviation Authority Abdul Aziz al-Nuaimi told AFP.

He said the cost of building the new hub over nearly eight years has "exceeded \$15 billion."

Eleven foreign budget carriers will be the first airlines to use the new facility, while the emirate's flag carrier, Qatar Airways, joining in the second quarter of 2013, he said.

The new airport spreads over 29 square kilometres (11.2 square miles), and features two runways stretching 4.85 kilometres (three miles) and 4.25 kilometres (2.64 miles) respectively.

The terminal has a total surface of 60 hectares.

The new airport, which replaces the old Doha International, is expected to raise its capacity to 50 million passengers per year by 2020.

Qatar Airway is one of the fast growing carriers which like neighbouring Gulf carriers -- Dubai's Emirates and Abu Dhabi's Etihad -- vies to increase its share of transit travel between Europe, Asia and Australia.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Crisis-hit arms market shrinks, first time since 1994: SIPRI

For the first time since the mid-1990s, sales of the 100 biggest arms dealers excluding China declined in 2011 as the economic crisis prompted budget cuts, a Stockholm-based think tank said on Monday.

The 100 companies' total sales declined, including inflation, by five percent from the previous year, the first time a drop has been registered since 1994, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said.

Even excluding inflation, the total fell, to \$410 billion (307 billion euros) from 412 billion euros in 2010.

"Austerity policies and proposed and actual decreases in military expenditure as well as postponements in weapons programme procurement affected overall arms sales in North America and Western Europe," SIPRI said in a statement.

Troop drawdowns in Iraq and Afghanistan and sanctions on arms transfers to Libya also played a role in the decline, it added.

Proposed austerity measures "have led some companies to pursue military specialisation, while others have downsized or diversified into adjacent markets" such as security and in particular cyber security, the think tank said.

The SIPRI figures do not include China due to a lack of reliable data. Chinese companies supply a military that enjoys the world's second-biggest budget.

The list of top 100 arms-producing companies is dominated by American and European companies, which respectively hold 60 and 29 percent of the global market and together hold the top 17 spots on the list.

US group Lockheed Martin is number one, with sales of \$36.3 billion in 2011, ahead of another US group, Boeing, and BAE Systems of Britain in third place.

The think tank, which is specialised in research on conflicts, weapons, arms control and disarmament, was created in 1966 and is 50-percent financed by the Swedish state.

It defines arms sales as "sales of military goods and services to military customers, including both sales for domestic procurement and sales for export."

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

S. Korea flexes muscles with naval exercise

South Korea staged a naval exercise involving US surveillance aircraft on Tuesday, flexing its military muscles at a time of high tensions on the Korean Peninsula following the North's third nuclear test.

Day one of a six-day drill in the East Sea (Sea of Japan) involved South Korean warships and submarines, as well as surveillance planes from the United States, the defence ministry in Seoul said.

The exercises will practise operations to detect and track North Korean missiles and submarines, the ministry added.

"The drill is aimed at testing our readiness against threats from the enemy," a spokesman told AFP.

It is the latest in a series of military exercises, which have been staged alone by South Korea or jointly with the United States since the North launched a long-range rocket on December 12.

Earlier this month Seoul and Washington conducted a joint naval exercise with a US nuclear submarine off South Korea's east coast, followed by a joint airforce drill.

Pyongyang insists the December launch put a satellite into orbit for peaceful research, but critics said it amounted to a banned ballistic missile test that marked a major advance for the communist state's nuclear weapons programme.

Following the North's nuclear test on February 12, the South vowed to accelerate the development of longer-range ballistic missiles and new cruise missiles capable of a precision strike on members of Pyongyang's high command.

North Korea said the test -- widely condemned by the international community -- was a direct response to UN sanctions imposed on Pyongyang after last year's rocket launch.

Pyongyang is already under international sanctions for conducting two nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009, which both came after long-range rocket launches.

South Korea's outgoing President Lee Myung-Bak said Pyongyang was drawing closer to "a dead-end" by inviting isolation and sanctions from the international community.

"Though North Korea is congratulating itself on the success of the test, neither nuclear power nor missiles will protect them," he said in a farewell speech Tuesday.

Lee will leave office next week.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Top US general to retire, declines NATO job

US General John Allen, who just wrapped up a tour as commander in Afghanistan, said Tuesday he will retire instead of accepting the top job at NATO, citing his wife's health problems.

Allen's departure comes weeks after a Pentagon investigation cleared him of any wrongdoing in a drama over emails to a Florida socialite, and he told the Washington Post the highly-publicized case did not influence his decision.

Speculation had been rife for weeks that Allen, who led the war effort in Afghanistan for 19 months, would not take up Obama's offer to serve as the alliance's supreme commander due to the fallout from the email drama.

"Today, I met with General John Allen and accepted his request to retire from the military so that he can address health issues within his family," Obama said in a written statement.

Obama praised the Marine Corps general for presiding over "significant growth" in Afghanistan's security forces and a "further degradation" of Al-Qaeda.

In a statement, Allen said his decision to retire from the military after 38 years was the "only choice" due to his wife's illness.

"The reasons for my decision are personal. I did not come to it lightly or quickly, but given the considerations behind it, I recognized in the end it was the only choice I could make," he said.

"While I won't go into the details, my primary concern is for the health of my wife, who has sacrificed so much for so long."

The four-star general said his family had stood by him throughout his career and now it was his turn "to be there for them when they need me most."

Allen told the Washington Post in an interview published Tuesday that he wanted to focus on helping his wife, Kathy, who has chronic health problems including autoimmune disorder.

"Right now, I've just got to get her well," Allen said. "It's time to take care of my family."

He said his decision was not related to the episode over his email exchanges with the Florida socialite, Jill Kelley. The Pentagon inspector general investigated the correspondence but concluded Allen had not violated rules on conduct "unbecoming of an officer," including adultery.

The probe stemmed from a scandal that forced David Petraeus to resign as CIA director over an extramarital affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell.

Kelley had complained to the FBI about harassing emails that turned out to be written by Broadwell, who allegedly warned Kelley away from Petraeus.

The investigation not only uncovered the affair between Petraeus and Broadwell, but it also revealed emails between Allen and Kelley that were described by defense officials as potentially "inappropriate."

Allen's supporters have expressed anger over how the case was handled, saying the general suffered from unfair treatment and that the Pentagon should not have launched a probe in the first place.

During his time in Afghanistan, Allen presided over a shift from counter-insurgency operations led by large numbers of US troops to advising the Afghan security forces to take the lead.

Allen, who took over from Petraeus as commander in Afghanistan, oversaw the withdrawal of about 33,000 American troops, with the current US force there at about 66,000.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta heaped praise on Allen, saying history would judge him as a pivotal commander in the war against the Taliban insurgency.

"General John Allen has proven himself to be one of the United States military's most outstanding battlefield leaders, a brilliant strategist, and an exemplary Marine, and I am deeply grateful for his many years of dedicated service to our country," he said.

The Pentagon chief said the strategy Allen helped shape and carry out "has put us on the right path towards completing this mission, with Afghan forces now on track to step into the lead for security nationwide this spring and to assume full security responsibility by the end of next year."

The United States and its NATO allies have committed to withdrawing almost all combat troops by the end of 2014, when Afghan army and police will take over responsibility for security for the whole country.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)