

NATIONAL RESERVE FORCES STATUS

COUNTRY: POLAND

GENERAL INFO

- Peace Establishment amounts to 150 thousands of regular soldiers (officers, NCO's and privates).
- Reservists amounts to about 240 thousands and state about 60% of all armed forces in case of war.

BASIC ORGANISATION PRINCIPLES

- Reserve Forces are designed to supplement military units existing in peacetime and new units that will be formed after proclaiming the mobilisation. Every soldier has personal mobilisation assignment to the concrete post in his military unit.
- They are the main source for replenishing or reinforcing units during warfare.
- Reserve specialists as follows physicians, lawyers, interpreters, psychologists, computer scientists, negotiators and other indispensable specialists can be appointed to the posts in military structures of crisis establishment.

MAIN LEGISLATION

- The Constitution of the Republic of Poland (put into effect in 1997).
- The Parliamentary Act about common duty of the defence of the Republic of Poland (the uniform text, Journal of Law 2004, NR 241, item 2416 with later changes).
- The Parliamentary Act on rules of usage or staying of Armed Forces of Republic of Poland abroad (Journal of Law 1998, NR 162, item 1117).

FUNCTION OF RESERVES

- National and international missions.
- Restrictions in international missions:
 - reservists can take part into abroad NATO-led missions and operations as a member of military unit on a voluntary basis,
 - participation in abroad missions or operations is available only for reserve officers and NCO's,
 - the time of serving cannot exceed 12 months within all time when remained in reserve,
 - there is no restrain to use reserve in aims resulting from Art. 5.

CATEGORISATION/READINESS

Alert reserve – determines the youngest and the best-trained reservists foreseen to supplement mobilisation needs of Armed Forces if they are not older than:

- Officers - 40 years old,
- NCO`s - 40 years old,
- Privates - 30 years old.

Qualified reserve - made up by Reservists designed for periodical rotations on mobilisation posts during the peace time if they are not older than:

- Officers - 40 years old,
- NCO`s - 35 years old,
- Privates - 35 years old.

Passive reserve – determines reservists with full qualifications to reinforce or replace fighting troops or replenish met losses if they are not older than:

These reserve soldiers can not be older than:

- Officers - 60 years old,
- NCO`s - 50 years old,
- Privates - 50 years old.

Ineffective reserve – determines those reservists who can be used to territorial defence.

Readiness

- Reserve soldiers can be called up to attend military exercises or to serve compulsory service in course of:
 - immediate (as fast as possible),
 - normal (planned),
 - voluntary .

FUNDING

- Defence budget.
- There are no employer / employee support programs in Poland.

TRAINING

- Yearly training plan in six year cycle:
 - not longer than 90 days a year (in practice 10 days a year),

- before appointing to the higher post – 30 to 60 days special improving course.
- Training is organised together with regulars, according to the following Polish documents:
 - Combat Readiness Directive for Polish Armed Forces,
 - Training Directive for Polish Armed Forces.

Since 2005, PAF has introduced the new system of training Reservists, which divided military units into three groups. It depends on unit's time of combat readiness to take warfare.

In units which time of combat readiness to take warfare is to 30 days - Reserve soldiers who have mobilization assignment to commands and staffs (up to battalion level) and commanders or equivalent are being trained every year and others have four exercises in six years period.

In units which time of combat readiness to take warfare is from 31 to 90 days - all soldiers are being trained three times in six years period.

In units which time of combat readiness to take warfare is over 91 days - reservists are being trained two times in all training period.

INTERNET

- Useful web site and e-mail addresses:
- **MoD:** <http://www.wp.mil.pl>; bpimon@wp.mil.pl
- **Army:** <http://www.army.mil>; redakcja@army.mil.pl
- **Air Force:** <http://www.sp.mil>; rzecznik@wlop.mil.pl
- **Navy:** <http://www.mw.mil>; bandera@mw.mil.pl

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

In order to adjust Polish legal regulations concerning reserve forces matters to NATO's standards, The Polish General Staff together with The National Defence Academy in 2004 have begun to work out the theoretical conception of National Reserve Forces in Poland.

In the first phase (up to the end of 2004) were realized:

- assessment of conditions of reserve personnel in Poland,
- describing what is needed for reserve personnel,
- working out conclusions from experience of other countries.

In the second phase (has to be ended in 2005) there was planned:

- to draw up the conception of National Reserve Forces in Poland which could be capable of completing all supposed tasks.

The new rules concerning reserve matters, predicted:

- implementation benefits for employers who employ Reservists,
- introduction new profits for reserve soldiers such as: the compensation (salary) for possessing mobilization assignment, preferring employment reserve soldiers in the governmental administration and so on,
- voluntary participation in military reserve service,
- creating organizations gathering reserve soldiers which can cooperate with CIOR and AESOR.

Independently of above mentioned facts, there are other works in order to create conception of functioning National Reserve Forces.

Moreover, civilian environment started to participate in the works connected with reserve forces, as well. For example The Society of Military Knowledge worked out in 2004 and 2005 his own Concepts of National Reserve Forces which are under consideration of MOD.

What is more, Currently, in Poland has been conducted the Strategic Combat Review, which predicted:

~ 100 000 active armed forces

~ 200 000 alert reserve.

In addition MoD supposed, that in 2010 compulsory military service should be abolition.