Gender and security – women military service in social perspective – history, present day, law, communication

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Main issues of the presentation
Women military service in Poland

- Law.
- History.
- Statistics.
- Men attitudes.
- Missions and operations.

Hallo,
I am here. Best regards from Poland. I regret that I can’t be with you. Have a nice time at the conference. 😊

B.D.
Women in Polish army

Law

Source of picture: https://www.nato-pa.int/content/un-security-council-resolution-1325
Law

• Ban of discrimination of women in social life:
  • European Cultural Convention (1954);
  • United Nations Convention against Discrimination in Education (1964);
  • International Convent on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966);

• United Nations law:

• Internal law in each country.
Women in Polish army

History

Evolution of the role of women in security process

(1) Women – mother of soldier
(2) Women – nurse
(3) Women – fund organizer
(4) Women – secret agent
(5) Women – auxiliary service officer
(6) Women – soldier services on the special tasks
(7) Women – full-fledged soldier
Women were presented in...

- All polish national uprisings
  - sanitary and logistic services
  - fight in male uniform and identity
- The First World War
  - first regular female military formation
- The Second World War
  - auxiliary military services
  - regular female sections in the country and fronts

After WW II to 1988 – a ban on women military service.

Why? We don`t know.
Milestones

1988
Joining NATO – open to military schools for women.

1999
First post-war women recruitment to army (only after medical studies).

2003
Women finished schools and went to all units.

2006
Changes in law – introduction of maternity leaves, breaks for breastfeeding etc.

2007
Ending general recruitment – setting up National Reserve Forces – possibility for women to get into privet.
Women in Polish army

Current statistics
Male and female soldiers

Participation (%)

Female soliders: 5.73%
Male soliders: 94.27%

Released : 31.12.2017

Women in Polish army
Division according to type of forces

Participation (% all female soliders)

- 61% Land Forces
- 22% Air Forces
- 12% Navy
- 3% Special Forces
- 2% Territorial Defense Forces

Released: 31.12.2017

Women in military corps

Women in Polish army


Men attitudes
Question to men: What do you think about women in military service? What is your attitude?

- I am an opponent of women in army (9%)
- I accept women in army but the reason is changes in social mentality not my own conviction (12%)
- I accept women in army but not in all military positions (28%)
- I accept women in army in all military positions (35%)
- My attitude is neutral (16%)

N=127 = War Studies University’s military students

Source: own research.
Sources of male disapproval

Stereotypes...

• Women are weaker than men.
• Women should be with children all the time.
• Soldier is not an occupation for women.
• Women do not have predispositions and qualifications.

Source: own research.
Sources of male disapproval

Belief in the differences in the treatment of male and female...

- Women get easier tasks in army.
- Women have representation in army.
- Women have lighter (lower) physical standards.

Source: own research.
Sources of male disapproval

Mentality of society...

• Family roles of women in society.
• Stronger bond between a woman and a child than man and the child.
• Orphaned children in the case of death on a mission.

Source: own research.
Sources of male disapproval

Belief that women is the problem to army...

- A long absence in work due to pregnancy and paternal leave.
- The need to adopt military infrastructure – separate toilets, place to dress in uniform, place to sleep in the missions etc.

Source: own research.
Missions and operations

Women in Polish army

Women in missions and operations

(1) PMC AFGANISTAN (AFGHANISTAN)
(2) PMC KFOR (KOSOVO)
(3) PMC ŁOTWA (LATVIA)
(4) PMC RUMUNIA (ROMANIA)
(5) PCM ORLIK (BALTIC STATES)
(6) PCM CZERNICKI (MEDITERRANEAN SEA)
(7) PMC OIR KUWEJT (KUWAIT, IRAQ, QUATAR)
(8) PMC IRAK (KUWAIT, IRAQ, JORDAN)
(9) PMC BiH (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)

Condition for 31.12.2017

*1 -> 9 – descending share
PMC – Polish Military Contingent

Benefits of the security process  
(in Islamic countries as an example) 

...for civilian people

- The possibility of communication with local women and girls.
- The possibility of providing humanitarian aid.
- Pattern for Islamic women.

...for military forces

- Calm and non-aggressive approach to problems.
- A comprehensive view at problems in international environmental issues.

Source: own research.
Communication with the civilians

• Cultural circumstances...
  • only women could talk with Islamic women;
  • only women could touch Islamic women;
  • girl who turn 13 has the same rules as an adult Islamic woman.

• In practise ...
  • female soldiers are the only people who are allowed to provide medical and humanitarian aid to Islamic women.

• Lack of women in military contingent = exclusion of women from humanitarian and medical aid.

Source: own research.
Summary

• On the end of 2017 in Polish AF has been 5829 female soldiers.
• The first recruitment after SWW was in 1988 in graduate of medical studies.
• In 1999 Poland joined to NATO and military schools have been opened to women.
• The male and female soldiers have different physical standards (e.g. running distance – for women – 1000 m; for men – 3000 m).
• The female soldiers are necessity in Islamic countries operations.
• Many of Polish male soldiers (and society too) do not accept women in army because of their family responsibilities.
Thank you for your attention. It was honor to me to share my opinion with you.

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