
Polish Armed Forces in National Strategic Documents and Defence Expenditure Perspectives

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Abstract:

Purpose: The objective of the article is an analysis of the evolution of Poland's strategic thinking – all Poland's national security strategies after 1990 to the present day, in terms of concepts and tasks of the Polish Army and connections between the state's defence expenditures and the number of professional army.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The article analyses the trends in shaping the position of financing the military power of state expressed in defence expenditure and changes number of the Polish Armed Forces - professional soldiers by analyzing appropriately selected methods of mathematical analysis and selected indicators. Logistic regression and elasticity indices of the Polish army's numerical strength were used to study the connections between variables.

Findings: The research showed that Poland's defence spending is dependent on the long-term goals of the state's vision, while the expenditure of the Ministry of National Defence on the Polish Armed Forces is linked to external factors such as economic crises and internal factors resulting from various technical modernisation and professionalisation programmes of the Polish Army.

Practical Implications: The article indicates the influence of many internal and external factors on the level of professionalization of the Polish Army, with a clear tendency towards stabilization since 2007. This situation could be used to increase the development of a professional army and this trend of stabilization should be used as an advantage in planning the increase of armed forces.

Originality/Value: The analysis indicates possible long-term actions that could lead to the strengthening of the army through increased defence spending and, depending on this appropriate level, an increase in the number of professional soldiers in the entire Polish Armed Forces.

Keywords: Quantitative methods, roles of government, National Government Expenditure.

JEL Codes: H56, H50, F52, N44, D74.

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1. Introduction

The state security strategy is fundamental in the process of building the modern army, defining the goals, priorities, and conditions of state development. Over the last 30 years, Polish strategic thought has undergone an evolution, which was conditioned by subsequent stages resulting from actions in international and bilateral relations and from the political transformation after the fall of communism and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, through accessions to alliances and international organizations to military aggression in the immediate neighborhood as a full-screen conventional war.

The importance of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland is constant even under changing conditions as well as terms of the challenges of the international environment and although the perception of military power has changed dramatically over the past several decades, through this analysis we can attempt to assess whether the development of strategic thought was an accurate prediction, emphasizing the importance of military strength in the aspect of providing the necessary conditions for the independence of state in confrontation with contemporary threats and how the amount of budget expenditure on defence along with size of the military was shaped in this period.

2. Materials and Methods

The article analyses the development and significance of the Polish army in the main strategic documents after 1990 and present the trends in shaping the position of financing the military power of state expressed in defence expenditure and changes number of the Polish Armed Forces - professional soldiers by analyzing appropriately selected methods of mathematical analysis and selected indicators.

The research will aim to verify the hypothesis that strategic documents and budget expenditures on Poland's defence reflect the evolution of the Polish strategic thought on the vision of strengthening the army as main tool guaranteeing the state's security.

The article uses an analysis of documents of Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Poland, the Central Statistical Office - Statistical Yearbooks. Organization and national documents in rank of security strategy, as well as national and international literature. Logistic regression and elasticity indices of the Polish army's numerical strength were used to study the connections between variables.

National security strategies are an interpretation of the state's vision, security interests, define goals, and often take different names, forms and ways of enacting and implementing. Common features are state entities, objects, and methods of realizing the assumptions expressed in the documents for which the main political forces are responsible, making strategies as the expressed will of citizens to assure the existence and survival of the state.

There is a relation between the vision, strategy and defence of state, each of the concepts results from the previous one and creates a coherent system of managing the state (Table 1).

Table 1. *Differences in the implementation in vision, security, state defence strategy assumptions.*

CRITERIA	STATE VISION	SECURITY STRATEGY	STRATEGY OF DEFENCE
SCOPE	politics, society, development of all areas of state functioning	international and internal environment, state security policy tools in all sectors	sectoral approach: armed forces, defence industry, military alliances
TIME HORIZON	long-term	long-term, medium-term	long-term, medium-term
MAIN TOOLS	area of legislation e.g., reforms, development strategies, changes in legal regulations	all available in each sector in the scope of state security e.g., armed forces, police, industry, science	armed forces - personnel and equipment modernization
INSTITUTIONS	president, government, parliament, departments of state	president, government, administration, armed forces	government: departments of state administration, armed forces

Source: *Authors' calculations.*

The idea of state as a concept of the historical evolution, includes all aspects of the development and key values, what goals are set for the state administration, what place it should occupy in the international arena - it sets the foundations for security in every area of the state's existence and also defines threats and challenges related to the state's security, including military and non-military aspects. For state administration departments, the security strategy is the superior document and influences the shaping of sectoral strategies, including the defence strategy.

The armed forces are a tool for implementing tasks specified by the Constitution of the Republic of Poland to ensure, first and foremost, the integrity and security of the country, and their actions are dependent on the decisions of the highest state bodies expressed in the form of strategy.

Therefore, solid foundations for implementing the intentions of the strategy are guaranteed by the armed forces by implementing a much broader list of tasks than those indicated in the Constitution and legal documents, such as "the Act on the Defence of the Homeland".

Strategic documents in Poland, indicating the importance of the armed forces, define the roles, tasks, structure, and directions of development the framework in changing environment. In subsequent documents, one can observe the evolution of approach

towards armed forces in response to emerging new challenges, threats, and opportunities.

Changes in the approach to state security in Polish strategic thought after 1990 reflect internal conditions - the systemic transformation and external conditions - the integration of Poland with the structures of the so-called "West", emphasizing military improvement by implementing the state's strategic goals in response to new conditions of the security.

The etymology of the word "strategy" as used in the area of military planning can be traced back to the Greek word *stratēgós*, which is a compound of the words *stratos* (army) and *ago* (I lead). The Security Encyclopedia defines the national security strategy (state security) as "a concept binding in a state for ensuring its security, containing in particular the identification of national interests and strategic goals, an assessment of the future development of the strategic security environment and the principles and methods of achieving strategic goals in the expected conditions (implementation of operational tasks), as well as preparing (maintaining and transforming) the national security system (implementation of preparatory tasks)" (Security Encyclopedia, 2024).

The analysis of the literature allows us to state that publications on strategic documents in Poland consider in detail the provisions of individual strategies, the adoption of documents within defence system and contain sample concepts of planning security strategies, present in detail the methods and techniques of strategic analysis and practical guidelines for strategic planning in state administration in the area of security (Dawidczyk, 2019; 2020; Gryz, 2013).

Publications by experts who have professional experience in the Ministry of National Defence in Poland focus on aspect theoretical and practical analyses of the application of methodological assumptions concerning state security through the prism of the state administration environment and the conditions of the state's internal and external policy as a resultant of the direction of actions taken in the development of the strategic documents, which is a significant contribution of considerations on the ideal model of the state's security strategy (Kupiecki *et al.*, 2015) the area of scientific analysis of security strategies is widely undertaken in relation to contemporary conditions a theoretical perspective to the model of the state security and defence strategy and a historical analysis of the process of implementing the vision of the state's defence (Trejnis, 2016; 2017; 2018; Kitler, 2011; 2018; 2024; Stańczyk, 2011; 2015; 2024; Wołpiuk, 1998).

In international literature, interesting publications on security strategy include academic books presenting the essence of the state's security strategy (Reversion *et al.*, 2018) but also scientific works and reports analyzing the visions of individual countries in terms of internal political conditions and their impact on security

strategies and army (Ochmanek *et al.*, 2015; Jacobsen *et al.*, 1990; Friedman, 2006; Wissenbach, 2020).

Taking into account the various national and international literature, the article will fill the research gap in the form of an analysis of Poland's strategic documents in the period 1990-2022 in determining the impact on the security vision of the Polish Armed Forces and examination of defence expenditure in relation to the number of professional soldiers, who constitute the main permanent core of the professional army.

The proposed perspective on the national security is part of the ongoing discussion by public opinion and the scientific community on the possibility of ensuring Poland's security in contemporary geopolitical conditions and may also constitute an incentive for further scientific analysis in the field of predicting the conditions for the improvement of the Polish Armed Forces.

3. The Importance of Polish Armed Forces in Strategic Documents of the Republic of Poland in 1990-2024

After the political transformation in 1989, Poland gradually transformed its approach to matters of national security, new aim to Polish Armed Forces and military perception tasks evolved along with the challenges in Poland's external environment and internal situation. The changes in strategic thought were expressed in the provisions contained in the documents of the Polish security strategies in the following years:

- 1990 – Defence Doctrine of the Republic of Poland;
- 1992 – Assumptions of the Polish Security Policy and the Security Policy and Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland;
- 2000 – Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland;
- 2003 – National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland;
- 2007 – National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland;
- 2014 – National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland;
- 2020 – National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland.

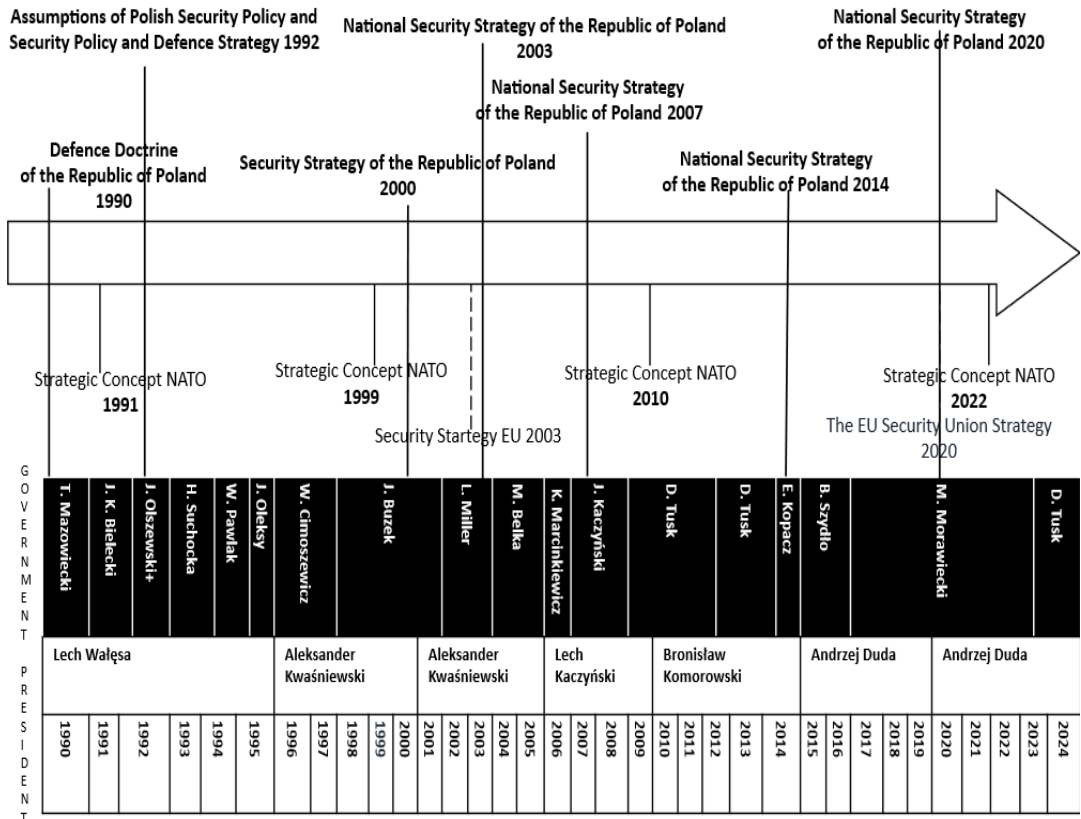
The above is presented in Figure 1.

The first document containing provisions regarding Poland security challenges was "The Defence Doctrine of the Republic of Poland" on the basis of the resolution of the National Defence Committee on February 21, 1991 (Kupiecki *et al.*, 2015; Ministry of National Defence, 1991).

The doctrine abolished previous document relating to state security issues from 1985 "Key Defence assumptions of the Polish People's Republic" under the Warsaw Pact, which had been in force since 1955.

Figure 1. Strategic documents from the perspective of 1990-2024.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND IN 1990-2024



Source: Authors' calculations.

Despite information concerning dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the document contained references to this organization as an essential element of the security of the Polish Nation, considering possible new framework of bilateral and multilateral within west alliances. The main task of the army consisted of the land forces, air forces and air defence, and navy, was defined as guarantee the independence and security of the nation, sovereignty, and inviolability of the borders of the Polish state.

The Polish Security Policy and the Security Policy and Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland (Ministry of National Defence, 1992) from 1992 were the first documents that attempted to describe the state international environment after the system transformation in 1989 and took into account the completely new political –

the period before the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland (Constitution of the Republic of Poland 1997).

The armed forces mission was constructed as an adaptation to NATO standards and gradual reduction of the army's numbers while increasing its quality, and it was pointed out the necessity to introduce new command structures and build operational independence, as the army was to be the basic guarantor of the country's independence and sovereignty and defend in case of any aggression.

Along with the need to reduce the number of armed forces, the defence budget was reduced by about 70% compared to 1990 and army was based on compulsory service among professionals although by reducing number of compulsory military service, emphasis was placed on increasing the share of professional soldiers to around 60-70%, and operational troops and territorial defence forces were to be included in every military branches.

The necessary adoption of military structures to Western structures, changes in the training system and command based on models used in NATO countries were emphasized. An example of such actions was the establishment of military cooperation with Western alliances, among others through the *Partnership for Peace* program the international unit in Poland was established - the Lithuanian Polish Peace Forces Battalion. Although at that time Poland was not yet a member of the NATO, it was assumed that interoperability would be built with the cooperation with Western allies. The assumptions introduced in the documents were developed in later strategic documents, leading to the full integration of Poland with NATO and EU.

The Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland adopted by the Council of Ministers on 4 January 2000 (Kupiecki *et al.*, 2015; Ministry of National Defence, 2000), considered the most momentous transformation in Poland's security situation - access to the international security structures within the collective defence of the NATO.

During this period, the expansion of operational military capabilities, significant actions of reducing the military forces with professionalization of the army and adapting its structures to allied operations were undertaken. The Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland records were the basis for developing its integral element - the Defence Strategy, adopted in 2000.

The Defence Strategy indicated as the basic political and military challenges maintaining an appropriate level of defence, striving to participate in the NATO defence system, strengthening the institutions and organizations of international security, continuing participation in international operations outside the country's borders, and building a secure strategic environment for the state also through developing military cooperation with neighbouring countries.

Key importance issue was also the involvement in military missions outside the country, developed military cooperation with neighbouring countries, including through a joint international military unit the Polish-Ukrainian Peacekeeping Battalion in Przemyśl. The degree of professionalization of the Polish army was set at more than 50%, while maintaining military service from general conscription. The army was to support civilian authorities in crisis situations, such as natural disasters, catastrophes or terrorist threats and continue cooperation with other police, border guard.

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland (Ministry of National Defence, 2003) adopted in 2003 introduced in a complicated international situation related to terrorist attacks and challenges for the army referring to participation in the anti-terrorist coalition and before the finalization of access to the structures of the European Union and the financial crisis of 2001.

Relatively few provisions referred directly to the armed forces, emphasizing the importance of international organizations and strengthening Poland's role, indicating the provision of security on the territory of Poland, participation of Armed Forces in anti-terrorist coalition in the NATO area and beyond. As in the strategic document from 2000, the basic mission of the Polish Army focused on ensuring security and helping civil authorities in non-military actions.

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland (Kupiecki *et al.*, 2015; Ministry of National Defence 2007) adopted 2007 was first systematic document defining the state's security policy in situation Poland's association in transatlantic alliance and European community, implemented in a relatively stable inter-state conditions, but in the context of growing international tensions and changes in the global security system.

The main efforts for the army were entitled as the protection of the country and readiness to action within the NATO framework and the European alliances within ad hoc coalition, participating as a member of multinational joint operations outside the country's borders as part of stabilization, peacekeeping, humanitarian and crisis management operations – the priority was operational readiness and the ability to quickly respond to dangerous situations for peace.

The number of Polish soldiers defined in 2007 at the level of approximately 128,869, including professional soldiers, extended service, and conscripts – basic military service, the number which should remain at a similar level and the process of technological modernization of the army was to use the potential of innovation. The Strategy did not note the state's desire to professionalize the armed forces by eliminating conscription form of military service in 2008.

In a completely new reality of international relations in Europe, *The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland* (National Security Bureau, 2014) was

adopted by the President of the Republic of Poland on 5 November 2014 – it considered the rapid challenges in the international environment of Poland, in particular caused by Russia's aggression on Ukraine.

The armed forces were to be resistant to asymmetric actions and hybrid conflicts and continue to participate in stabilization missions and international operations. The cyberspace was indicated for the first time as a new environment of armed combat in Poland. In the period after 2015 – after the decisions of the NATO Summit in Warsaw in 2016, Poland's participation in the North Atlantic Alliance was strengthened, NATO troops were deployed on the eastern flank and military infrastructure was developed to accommodate allied troops in Poland.

Polish Armed Forces professionalization was strengthened and the assumptions 2014 Strategy were implemented through dynamic modernization of the army - purchase of modern weapons, including air defence systems, drones, tanks and helicopters, and professionalization of the army by increasing the number of professional soldiers and investing in training, while in September 2016 the Ministry announced foundation of the new branches in the Polish Military, Cyberspace Forces and Territorial Defence Forces. The Polish Armed Forces adapted to new role and tasks and forecasts of new military challenges of threats for example in the situation of Russia's actions.

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland (National Security Bureau, 2020) was developed in the context of dynamic geopolitical changes, including Russia's aggressive policy, hybrid threats, terrorism, cyberattacks and the growing importance of innovative and groundbreaking technologies in defence. Approved by the President of the Republic of Poland focused on military's role as a state security system pillar and their importance in deterring potential aggressor.

The document devoted a separate subchapter to the Polish Armed Forces, including them in the first pillar of state security, included specific values of defence expenditure in the state budget until 2024 - in the amount of 2.5% of GDP, recommended the development of the Polish Armed Forces taking into account the increase in the number and quality of equipment - technological modernization.

According to the document the allied forces deployment and development air and missile defence systems became the principal element of deterrence. The Polish Armed Forces were to ensure readiness to defend the country's territory independently and, if necessary, cooperate with allied forces. The strategy emphasized the need to strengthen cyber defence capabilities and combat disinformation, indicated the need to create specialized military units to counteract cyber-attacks and defend critical infrastructure. The strategy indicated the need to engage in activities for global security and continue engagement of armed forces in NATO, EU, and UN operations. At that time, Poland played a strategic role in the NATO structures as main counterpart on the eastern flank, troops were deployed in

Poland as the NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence, and work was underway on the United States of America military base in Redzikowo.

Documents concerning security strategy in the national context are a key doctrinal instrument defining the main goals, priorities, and improvement defence system of Poland, shape defence policy, influence the individual defence subsystems, indicate the adaptation of defence capabilities to current and forecasted threats. Polish strategic thought is reflected in subsequent strategic documents of the Republic of Poland in 1990 - 2020 and offer new scope of military duties, established on definitions of threats, challenges, and opportunities.

Over the years, there has been a clear tendency to develop and improved crucial areas that constitute the main core of each of strategic documents such as: membership in international organizations, challenges, threats, approached evolution of Polish Armed Forces inclusive of other sectoral elements of Poland's internal policy (Table 2).

Table 2. *The Polish Armed Forces - key areas of functioning indicated by individual strategic documents of the Polish security*

SECURITY SYTRATEGIES/SCOPES	1990	1992	2000	2003	2007	2014	2020
The importance of the Warsaw Pact	YES	-	-	-	-	-	-
Integration with the NATO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Integration with the EU	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Threat from Russia	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Global threats	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Military missions abroad	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Expanding the number of the army	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
The army professionalization	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
The army technological improvement	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Number of the Polish Armed Forces – professional soldiers	260.900 including 91.750 ps	224.900 including 87.100 ps	177.681 including 84.237 ps	141.962 including 73.075 ps	128.869 last conscription for compulsory military service	96.593 ps	110.100 ps

Source: Authors' calculations.

4. Research on the Relations of Military Expenditure and Army Size

Strategic documents, by setting specific tasks for state administration departments, indicate the path of development in the state's enterprises in these areas. Expenditures on defence is an important factor guaranteeing performance the efforts ensuring the military security, and the number of armed forces is one of the main elements complete the security and state's territorial integrity.

Quantity of armed forces, depending on the period after 1990, consisted of diverse types of military service, therefore for this analysis, the permanent part of the army in 1997-2024 was taken as professional soldiers.

To check how the budget affects the number of employees of soldiers, a linear regression model was proposed in the form of military number \sim the Ministry of National Defence (MND) expenditure. Estimated model's parameters are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. *Estimated parameters of the regression model.*

Coefficients	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	p value
(Intercept)	$7.416 \cdot 10^4$	$1.716 \cdot 10^3$	43.22	$< 2 \cdot 10^{-16}$
Expenditures MND	$6.515 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$4.295 \cdot 10^{-5}$	15.17	$9.83 \cdot 10^{-15}$

Source: *Authors' calculations.*

The model is therefore of the form:

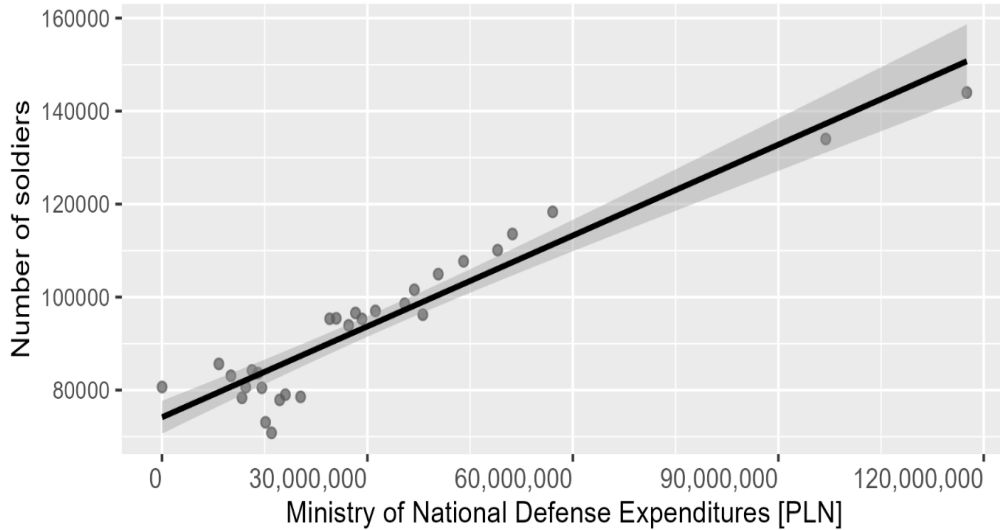
Number of soldiers = $7.416 \cdot 10^4 + 6.515 \cdot 10^{-4} \cdot$ budget of the Ministry of National Defence

Value $6.515 \cdot 10^{-4}$ means that each individual change in the ministerial budget is associated with a growth in the number of military by this value.

The estimated parameters of the model are statistically significant, and the calculated value $R^2 = 0.89$ therefore, the model explains almost 90% of the variability of the dependent variable, which is a very high result. The regression model of the number of soldiers on the Ministry of National Defence expenditures is presented in Figure 2.

To highlight, however, that linear regression shows a statistical relationship, but this does not mean causality. For example, there may be a situation where the number of employees and the MND expenditure for defence grow simultaneously, but not because one affects the other - they may be controlled by other, unknown factors and therefore not included in the model, such as economic crises or the redirection of defence expenditures to material expenditure.

Figure 2. Regression model and actual values of the number of soldiers in relation to expenditure for defence.



Source: Authors' calculations.

Therefore, in order to check local changes in the number of soldiers, an indicator of flexibility was calculated. Flexibility was calculated in two ways.

Flexibility (E_1) as the number of employees in relation to the defence expenditure. The indicator informs about the percentage change in the number of soldiers when the ministerial expenditure for defence changes by 1%.

$$E_1 = \frac{\% \Delta \text{ numbers}}{\% \Delta \text{ MND expenditure}}$$

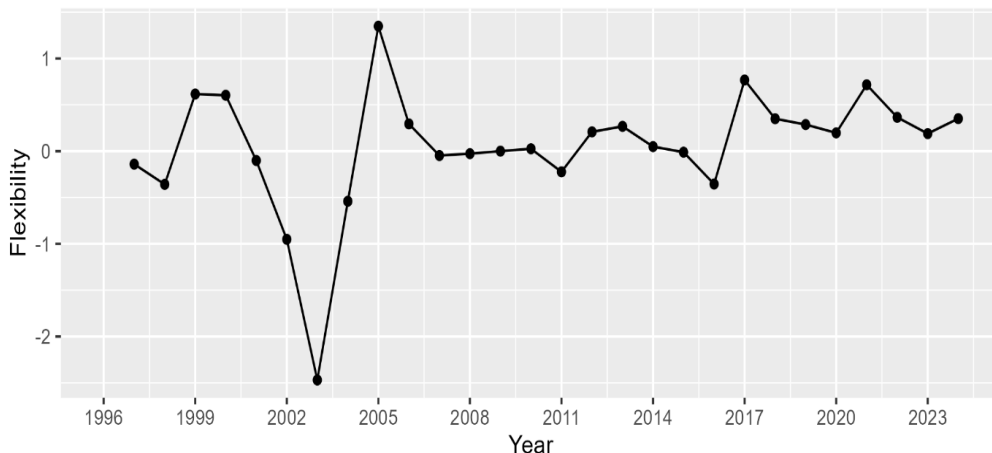
The change in elasticity for each year of the study is presented in Figure 3.

Elasticity values change very dynamically over time, especially in the initial period of the study, which means there is no constant relationship between the budget and employment. In years when elasticity is very high, it suggests that a small change in the budget resulted in a large change in employment.

Negative elasticity means that the Ministry expenditure had clearly a negative impact on the number of employees, i.e., the rise in ministerial budget did not lead to an increase in employment, on the contrary - the number of employees decreased. Strong negative values may suggest restructuring, layoffs, or an increase in expenditure on other aspects, e.g. equipment, modernization, at that time Poland was

included in the international security structures of the NATO, EU thus the military adaptation to Western security structures requirements began.

Figure 3. Elasticity of the number of employees in relation to the Ministry of National Defence expenditure in individual years.



Source: Authors' calculations.

It is also worth pointing out that after 2007 there was some stabilization, the changes were not so drastic, and the indicator was gradually increasing, which may be due to a more predictable personnel policy, which resulted, among other things, in closing the system of general conscription of non-professional soldiers and focusing the effort to build the Polish army on professional service.

Calculating the indicator for the entire period as average elasticity, it is $E_1 = 0.0504$, which means that for every 1% increase in MND expenditure (year-on-year), the number of troops increases by 5.04% on average. This value is not very high, which means that changes in expenditure do not have a very strong impact on the number of troops.

Elasticity can also be calculated using the partial derivative based on the regression model. Since the number of employees - according to the model estimated above - depends on expenditure, the partial derivative:

$$E_2 = \frac{\partial \text{number}}{\partial \text{MND expenditure}}$$

tells us how much the number of employees will increase if the Ministry of National Defence expenditure increases by one unit. The elasticity calculated based on the derivative gives a better approximation to continuous change and also takes into account the more dynamic relationship between the ministerial expenditure and the headcount. The value of elasticity of derivative is $E_2 = 0.2148$, meaning that for

each unit change in MND expenditure, headcount changes by 21.48% in response to the average values of MND expenditure and headcount.

Derivative elasticity is a more general measure, based on continuous change, that tells us how changes in MND expenditures affect headcount in a smoother manner, taking into account the full relationship between these variables, whereas elasticity calculated as the average percentage change in headcount based on year-on-year changes in MND expenditures is subject to a larger error.

Elasticity calculated on the basis of the derivative indicates that the average response of the number to changes in the defence expenditure is much higher thus amounts to 21.48% in the case of a single change in the expenditures, which is a very good result, especially considering the number of tasks and investments implemented by the MND.

The above calculations allow for drawing conclusions regarding leveraging of internal and external factors on the relationship between the increase in the state budget expenditure on defence and the number of professional soldiers. A significant impact on the size of army's was introduction of various programs concerning professionalization and modernizations in the analyzed period. "Army" Program adopted in September 1997, which included numerous projects planned in the Polish Armed Forces aimed at implementing full professionalization in the army.

The main effort within the Program was focused on preparing the conditions for the army to function in new internal and international conditions resulting from Poland's accession to international transatlantic and European structures.

However, the implementation of the Program required intensification of previous efforts to improve the country's defence capacity, launching programs for purchase of a multi-role aircraft, an attack helicopter, and a support helicopter. In response to the unsatisfactory level of implementation of the 1997 program, new one "Program of the reconstruction and technical modernization of the Polish Armed Forces in the years 2001-2006" introduced in 2000.

Additionally, 2001 was a period of economic crisis, which had a direct impact on employment in the army in the following year therefore the act of May 25, 2001 "Program on the reconstruction and technical modernization and financing of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland" adopted in 2001, the level of investment in defence was increased in subsequent years. In 2003, the implementation of "Program of the evolution of the Armed Forces in the years 2003-2008" began, which was a break from the negative trend in the Polish economy, which occurred in 2001 in connection with the collapse of public finances; some of the plans were not implemented.

2003 brought an improvement in the situation, GDP growth and the implementation of the "aircraft program". In 2009, another "Technical Modernization Plan for the years 2009-2018" was adopted, the first plan in a planning perspective covering 10 years, which did not introduce significant changes although it took into account the complete professionalization of the army and the impact of the elimination of conscription in 2008.

Another financial crisis in 2010 caused shifts and restrictions in the enforcement of the ministerial budget, solely on the "Technical Modernization Program" adopted in 2013 covering the years 2013-2022 together with 13 operational programs resulted an enhance in defence spending. On the other hand, the "Technical Modernization Program of the Polish Armed Forces for the years 2017-2026", adopted by the order of the Ministry of National Defence in 2018, covered as much as PLN 185 billion, i.e. PLN 45 billion more than assumed in the previous document of this type for the years 2013-2022 and covered 16 main programs.

In 2021, conducted to further rebuild military and defence capacity, the Ministry allocated a record amount of PLN 524 billion in the "Technical Modernization Plan for 2021-2035" for new weapons and equipment for soldiers, the increase of which was linked to the amount of the defence budget.

5. Conclusions

The analysis of the provisions of fundamental features of the strategy significant for the improvement and functioning of the military along with analysis of Poland's expenditure on defence including enlargement the professional personnel of the Polish Army indicate state readiness to adopt proper direction of responding to new challenges in the international environment and adapting to emerging threats.

However, Poland's close security environment, e.g., the recognition of the threat to security from Russia, indicates the need to having regard to the acceleration of changes of external surroundings and thus the flexibility in setting security priorities.

A characteristic feature of Poland's strategic documents is the constant consideration of international alliances in securing the policy of the state's functioning in international relations, which, in connection with Poland's geopolitical situation, should be correlated with its own security interests. The fundamental issue related to such dependencies is, among others, attitude of the Polish Armed Forces.

Since the beginning of the transformation in security system as well as professionalization of the army, taking into account the conditions for the possibility of providing an appropriate number of professional troops, has always been one of preeminence of improvement Poland's military power, with frame of reference the perspective of 30 years, combined with the long-term policy to strengthen the technological development of the army, including breakthrough technologies and

innovations, allows for a positive assessment of such a direction of fulfilling performance of the state by the military. However, concern of upgrade the Polish Armed Forces is often criticized and is subject to social and political controversy.

The existing strategic documents strengthen the national security policy, constitute an interpretation of the actions of governments in the scope of decisions of a military nature. The progression in Polish strategic thought until 2020, indicated state's security surroundings, strategies are therefore the basic document defining the general priorities for the improvement and changes of the military power.

The armed forces require long-term planning, hence strategic thought should primarily consider longstanding challenges of the evolution process of the armed forces, significantly extending beyond time frame of a specific strategy, but considering the acceleration of technological development and the ability to flexibly reply to emerging obstacles.

30 years of Polish strategic thought seems to be a short period in history, however, be aware of the historical experience of Poland and its sovereignty and geopolitical circumstances, the importance of setting the direction of development in the area of security expressed in a document of the rank of a strategy present the most significant document influencing the functioning of the state in every governmental sector.

The importance of the armed forces finds its proper place in the strategic documents of Poland, while the vision of the armed forces should take into account not only the response to emerging challenges, but also, to a large extent, the constant factor of acceleration in the occurrence of demanding threats for the existence of the state, and the dynamics of these phenomena, which also concerns the number of troops.

Conventional military power in contemporary conditions on the international theater of states activity influences the entire security of the country. The armed forces should always implement the vision of progression the development of the state, and strategy based on national interests and then allied interests should determine the directions in which efforts of the army will be aimed. Polish strategic thought is characterized by historical experience, which guarantees the possibility of achieving the appropriate level of securing the implementation of the vision of the state, provided that the potential is skillfully used.

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