


Conclusions

Most analyses of the current threat environment indicate that the character of security threats will change in the next twenty years. However, the possibility of a large-scale conflict on the global scale in the near future will remain low. The main security threats will be posed by international terrorism, uncontrolled proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, outbreaks of local conflicts stemming from religious and ethnic antagonisms or economic and social inequalities, the failure of certain states, as well as international organized crime.

These threats will most likely occur in remote areas of the globe, outside the territories of Poland, NATO, or the European Union. In order to prevent these threats and resolve the crisis situations that they may generate, international organizations—such as the UN, OSCE, or NATO—will still conduct their usual operations, although probably in a more intense way. Forces established on the basis of international organizations' resolutions will have an international character and will carry out crisis response operations. In order to participate in such operations, the Allied armed forces (including the national militaries of the member states) must possess already prepared units characterized by high mobility, short time readiness to operations, high efficiency, and the capability to conduct long-term military operations in remote operational areas. New challenges for security and defense also imply the need to change the concepts of the armed forces' development, use, equipment, and training.

Our analyses also show that future operations will be carried out according to a new concept called network-centric warfare. The idea behind this concept is to ensure information advantage through creating an information network common to all participants in a conflict. Such a network will offer a high level of battlefield awareness, and will enable the delivery of necessary and up-to-date information to all battle participants, both the decision makers and the actors in the field.

The Polish Armed Forces are and will be changing in order to achieve the capabilities necessary to defend Poland's territory effectively as well as to participate in international crisis response operations outside of the nation's borders. Reaching these requirements and capabilities will depend not only on the level of Poland's national ambitions, but also on the state's economic potential, as Poland wants not only to be active on the international stage, but to also be a reliable partner and ally that makes a significant contribution to ensuring regional and world security.



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