

ABSTRACT OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

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in the perspective of 2020-2030"**

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In the era of unprecedented geopolitical tensions, which we are currently witnessing, the question of the condition of the armed forces of individual NATO countries and their ability to oppose an aggressor in a high-intensity conflict is becoming more relevant than ever. Due to the nuclear deterrence potential autonomous from its allies and the extensive operational capabilities of its military, regularly tested in conflicts and missions around the world, France seems to be a key country for Europe's defense. This dissertation deals with the issue of the French military health service and its individual components as a structure necessary for the conduct of operational activities by the armed forces of the French Republic. The success of the mission in a long and exhausting war will depend on this component and the quality of the services provided by medical personnel on the battlefield and in its rear. The activity of medics will determine the maintenance of injured soldiers in service, strengthen morale in their own ranks and have a positive impact on the resistance of society. Nothing has a more negative impact on the ability of ordinary citizens to support the state than the sight of their loved ones returning en masse from the battlefield in coffins. The aim of the dissertation is to grasp the directions of development of the military health service in France and to assess the dynamics of changes taking place in it in terms of preparing it for a high-intensity conflict with a country with a similar military potential in the coming years. The conclusions of the research may be very useful for Polish decision-makers planning to reorganize the medical service in the Polish Armed Forces.

Theoretical and empirical research methods and tools were used to solve the general research problem and specific problems. The basic method for examining legal acts, doctrines, instructions and studies created by the structures of the French state for internal purposes was analysis, used throughout the research process. This was particularly important in the context of comparisons and future conclusions formulated for the benefit of the Polish military health service. The case study was used to show the systemic solutions present in the French armed forces on specific examples from the recent combat missions in which the French took part. Another theoretical method used in the research was synthesis, thanks to which the connections and dependencies between various subsystems of the military health service were demonstrated. The research process included an empirical form, which was an expert interview, and a tool in the form of an interview sheet. Its role was to get to know the opinion of military health professionals on the assumptions and plans announced by decision-makers. The clash of theory with the opinion of practitioners who implement plans in their daily activities allowed to determine the real dynamics of change and their reception at the bottom of the military hierarchy. Establishing the cause-and-effect relationship occurring in the research process and constructing conclusions resulting from individual chapters of the work was possible thanks to inference. Thanks to this method, final conclusions were formulated regarding the directions

and dynamics of development of the military health service in France, which also served as a basis for creating recommendations for the medical service in the Polish Armed Forces.

The results of the research are inconclusive. Further plans are being announced to adapt the French military health service to the requirements of the coming years, including high-intensity conventional warfare. Training procedures are being changed, investments in modern equipment are being carried out and the number of personnel in military units and institutions is being increased. This is noticed by respondents, who, however, are not able to assess the dynamics of these changes. They do not undertake to assess its adequacy in relation to the rapidly deteriorating security environment. They note, however, that all inconveniences and restrictions related to the preparation and participation of the state and the nation in a large-scale war will also apply equally to the enemy. Most are of the opinion that France is capable of absorbing the first shock of participating in a high-intensity war. The course of further actions and the chance for the final victory will depend on many factors, far beyond the subject of research, including economic, social and cultural.

An in-depth study of the organization, structures and operational activities of the French military health service has brought many conclusions for decision-makers planning changes in the Polish system of medical support of the armed forces. The fifth chapter of this dissertation is entirely devoted to them. It is worth emphasizing the fact that the vast majority of these assumptions are realistic and achievable by the Polish state, not generating excessive financial resources. It should be emphasized here that the French model is definitely more adequate as a model than, for example, the American one, requiring countless economic and human resources, completely unattainable for Poland. There is no doubt that changes in the military health service in the Polish Armed Forces are necessary. The geopolitical situation, and thus the security environment of the Polish state, are rapidly degrading. The implementation of at least some of the recommendations contained in this dissertation will allow for the economization of forces and resources that are very limited and the adaptation of medical support in the Polish Army to the operational requirements of the current times.