

POLAND



Poland is a key ally in Central Europe and one of the United States' strongest partners on the continent. In 2008, the United States and Poland issued the Declaration on Strategic Cooperation in the belief that the development of durable and long-term strategic cooperation will increase the security of the United States and Poland. Following the October 2008 departure of Polish troops from Iraq, Poland is increasing its already significant role in Afghanistan and will take over command of NATO operations in the province of Ghazni in the near future. Poland also plays an active role in European Union, NATO, and UN peacekeeping missions in the Balkans, Lebanon, the Sinai, Sudan, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The United States remains committed to assisting Poland with the modernization of its Armed Forces. U.S. assistance helps to maintain political support in Poland for a range of U.S. security objectives and increases Poland's capability to deploy and sustain professional forces in effective support of U.S. deployments, its contributions to NATO, and other multilateral operations.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AND NATIONAL SECURITY: Poland became an associate member of the EU and its defensive arm, the Western European Union, in 1994. In a June 2003 national referendum, the Polish people approved EU accession by an overwhelming margin, and Poland gained full membership in May 2004.

Changes since 1989 have redrawn the map of Central Europe, and Poland has had to forge relationships with seven new neighbors. Poland has actively pursued good relations, signing friendship treaties replacing links severed by the collapse of the Warsaw Pact. The Poles have forged special relationships with Lithuania and particularly Ukraine in an effort to firmly anchor these states to the West.

Poland became a full member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in March 1999 as part of the first wave of enlargement outlined at the July 1997 NATO Summit in Madrid. Poland's top national security goal is to further integrate with NATO and other West European defense, economic, and political institutions while modernizing and reorganizing its military. Polish military doctrine reflects the same defense posture as its Alliance partners.

Poland maintains a sizable armed force currently numbering about 140,572 troops divided among an army of 87,877, an air and defense force of 31,147, and a navy of 21,548. Poland relies on military conscription for the majority of its personnel strength. All males (with some exceptions) are subject to a 12-month term of military service. The Polish military continues to restructure and to modernize its equipment. The Polish Defense Ministry General Staff and the Land Forces staff have recently reorganized the latter into a NATO-compatible J/G-1 through J/G-6 structure. Although budget constraints remain a drag on modernization, Poland has been able to move forward with U.S. assistance on acquiring 48 F-16 multi-role fighters, C-130 cargo planes, HMMWVs, and other items key to the military's restructuring.

Poland continues to be a regional leader in support and participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace Program and has actively engaged most of its neighbors and other regional actors to build stable foundations for future European security arrangements. Poland continues its long record of strong support for UN peacekeeping operations by maintaining a unit in southern Lebanon, a battalion in NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR), and by providing and actually deploying the KFOR strategic reserve to Kosovo. Poland is a leading contributor to NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in

Afghanistan. Polish military forces also served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

U.S.-POLISH RELATIONS: The United States established diplomatic relations with the newly formed Polish Republic in April 1919. After Gomulka came to power in 1956, relations with the United States began to improve. However, during the 1960s, reversion to a policy of full and unquestioning support for Soviet foreign policy objectives and the government's official expression of anti-Semitic sentiment caused those relations to stagnate. U.S.-Polish relations improved significantly after Gierek succeeded Gomulka and expressed his interest in improving relations with the United States. A consular agreement was signed in 1972.

In 1974 Gierek was the first Polish leader to visit the United States. This action, among others, demonstrated that both sides wished to facilitate better relations.

The birth of Solidarity in 1980 raised the hope that progress would be made in Poland's external relations as well as in its domestic development. During this time, the United States provided \$765 million in agricultural assistance. Human rights and individual freedom issues, however, were not improved upon, and the U.S. revoked Poland's most-favored-nation (MFN) status in response to the Polish Government's decision to ban Solidarity. MFN status was reinstated in 1987, and diplomatic relations were upgraded.

The United States and Poland have enjoyed warm bilateral relations since 1989. Every post-1989 Polish government has been a strong supporter of continued American military and economic presence in Europe. In addition to supporting international counterterrorism efforts, and NATO's ISAF mission in Afghanistan, Poland cooperates closely with the United States on such issues as democratization, nuclear nonproliferation, human rights, regional cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe, and UN reform.

Peace and Security: Foreign assistance to Poland contributes to regional stability, strong political support for Coalition operations, and a willingness to provide personnel, equipment, and other resources for these operations. In concert with Poland's democratically-elected leadership, U.S. assistance helps modernize the Polish military and thereby increases its expeditionary capability in support of shared foreign policy objectives. U.S. assistance does this by financing assets that directly facilitate Polish deployments and support the transformation of Poland's military into a more effective NATO-integrated force. Security assistance will provide Poland with the equipment and training to continue its Coalition contributions and its military modernization and reform. These programs will be implemented through the U.S. Department of Defense.

Focus on Performance: The U.S. Mission to Poland employs foreign assistance dollars to modernize the Polish military and thereby increase its expeditionary capability in support of shared foreign policy objectives. After concluding its participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom in October 2008, Poland increased its total force in Afghanistan to 1600 and assumed independent command of Ghazni province. Poland will increase to 2000 soldiers in May 2009 despite substantial budget shortfalls in the wake of the global financial crisis. In fulfillment of NATO responsibilities, Polish F-16s have patrolled Baltic airspace, and in the aftermath of Russian activity in Georgia, joint NATO-Polish contingency planning and operations will only increase. In this context, the U.S. has a variety of programs designed to grow partnership capacity by building on Poland's competencies. In terms of overall performance of these initiative, the U.S. judges Poland to have achieved 100 percent of its assistance objectives for building partnership capacity. Specifically, Poland enhanced its capability in a number of material areas related to coalition counter-terror operations; Poland met its goal of having 87 personnel at national leadership level receive U.S. training; and Poland achieved its target of 50 percent NATO air operability by completing its F-16 acquisition program. In FY 2009, Post judges that Poland will achieve 70 percent of its assistance objectives for building partnership capacity, in part due to growing pains with F-16 pilot training that will

keep Polish air forces below the target for 60 percent NATO air interoperability. In 2010, Post judges that Poland will achieve 100 percent of the assistance objectives for building partnership capacity -- specifically, Polish training on the multi-mission capability of the Block 52 F-16 will allow it to reach its target of 85 percent NATO air interoperability; Poland will have completed its receipt of and training on C-130's, allowing enhanced expeditionary capability related to coalition counter terror operations; and Poland will have begun acquisition of air and missile defense hardware, and will have received training on U.S. equipment as was agreed to in the Declaration of Strategic Cooperation.