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Logistics support of military units as a determinant of local development

Wsparcie logistyczne jednostek wojskowych determinantą rozwoju lokalnego

Małgorzata Orłowska

m.orłowska@akademia.mil.pl, ORCID: 0000-0002-8446-8764
Faculty of Management and Command, War Studies University, Poland

Abstract. Local development is one of the key orientations of all countries in the world. It stems from a concern for the quality and standard of living of the inhabitants on a local, regional and, consequently, national scale. Local development is influenced by a number of factors affecting a given territorial unit. These factors can be divided according to the scope and extent of their influence (external and internal). Modern researchers in Polish and foreign literature focus a lot of attention on identifying these factors and measuring the strength of their impact. This article concentrates on identifying the logistical security of military units as a determinant of local development. Logistics support is realised by Garrison Support Unit (GSU) or Support Units (SU). The aims of this article were to investigate the opinions of selected local government officials on how logistical security of military units, in their opinion, influences the local development of the local government units they represent. The hypothesis that was adopted for the purpose of this article was: The logistics support of military units directly and indirectly influences the social economic situation of the regions in which the military is dislocated. Both theoretical and empirical research methods were used to verify the adopted hypothesis, among them analysis, synthesis, deduction, induction, comparison, generalisation and an interview questionnaire. Six counties, three urban municipalities, eight urban-rural municipalities and 15 rural municipalities, which territorially in terms of logistics support belong to the 24th Garrison Support Unit, were surveyed. It should be emphasised that not all the surveyed local government units dislocated the military. On the basis of the conducted research it was concluded, that the logistics support provided by 24th GSU for the benefit of military units which are in the area of its responsibility, in the opinion of the representatives of local authorities, influences the development of the surveyed communes and districts to a greater or lesser extent.

Keywords: local development, determinant of development, logistics support of the armed forces, military Garrison Support Unit (GSU), military logistics

Abstrakt. Rozwój lokalny jest jednym z kluczowych kierunków działania wszystkich państw na świecie. Wynika to z troski o jakość i poziom życia mieszkańców w skali lokalnej, regionalnej, a w konsekwencji również krajowej. Na rozwój lokalny wpływa szereg czynników oddziałujących na daną jednostkę terytorialną. Czynniki te można podzielić ze względu na zakres i zasięg ich oddziaływania (zewnętrzne i wewnętrzne). Współcześni badacze w polskiej i zagranicznej literaturze poświęcają wiele uwagi na identyfikację tych czynników oraz na pomiar siły ich oddziaływania.

W artykule skupiono się na identyfikacji zabezpieczenia logistycznego jednostek wojskowych jako determinanty rozwoju lokalnego. Zabezpieczenie logistyczne realizowane jest przez Wojskowe Oddziały Gospodarcze (WOG) lub Oddziały Zabezpieczenia (OZ). Celami niniejszego artykułu było zbadanie opinii wybranych samorządowców na temat tego, jak zabezpieczenie logistyczne jednostek wojskowych wpływa ich zdaniem na rozwój lokalny reprezentowanych przez nich jednostek samorządowych. Hipoteza, którą przyjęto na potrzeby niniejszego artykułu brzmią: Zabezpieczenie logistyczne jednostek wojskowych w sposób pośredni i bezpośredni wpływa na sytuację społeczno-gospodarczą regionów, w których stacjonuje wojsko. W celu zweryfikowania przyjętej hipotezy wykorzystano zarówno teoretyczne, jak i empiryczne metody badawcze, a wśród nich analizę, syntezę, dedukcję, indukcję, porównanie, uogólnianie oraz kwestionariusz wywiadu. Badaniu poddano sześć powiatów, trzy gminy miejskie, osiem gmin miejsko-wiejskich oraz 15 gmin wiejskich, które terytorialnie pod względem zabezpieczenia logistycznego przynależą do 24 Wojskowego Oddziału Gospodarczego. Należy podkreślić, że nie we wszystkich badanych jednostkach samorządu terytorialnego dyslokowało wojsko. Na podstawie przeprowadzonych badań stwierdzono, iż zabezpieczenie logistyczne realizowane przez 24 WOG na rzecz jednostek wojskowych będących w rejonie jego odpowiedzialności, w opinii przedstawicieli władz samorządowych, w mniejszym lub większym stopniu wpływa na rozwój badanych gmin i powiatów.

Słowa kluczowe: rozwój lokalny, determinanta rozwoju, wsparcie logistyczne sił zbrojnych, wojskowe jednostki gospodarcze, logistyka wojskowa

Introduction

Local development, often referred to by researchers as a process and deliberate and conscious action by local entities, is aimed at improving the quality for residents who live in a certain territory on a local scale (city, region or village). Activities carried out as part of local development are focused on increasing the attractiveness of the region for current and future inhabitants, as well as potential investors. They affect the growth of employment, the quality of public services, environmental protection, infrastructure development and, above all, the improvement of the quality of life of residents. It should be pointed out that local development depends on many factors. Some of them occur commonly, while others affect only certain regions and only certain periods of time. The basic, general classification of these factors can be found in the achievements of classical economics. A. Smith and D. Ricard distinguished three main factors influencing development: land, labor and capital (Smith, 2013, p. 24), (Ricardo, 1957, p. 34). Today, as a result of technical, technological, economic and social transformations, changes have taken place that have made the process of local and regional development much more complex. This required a new look at traditional factors of development. A. Jakubowska divided the factors of local development into four general groups. In the first group, she distinguished: external (exogenous) and internal (endogenous) factors (Jakubowska, 2011, p. 178). External defined as those resulting from relations with

the external environment: national or international. Internal, resulting from the resources possessed, the ability to manage them, the activities of local authorities, the climate for economic activity. In the second group, it listed macroeconomic factors, independent of local actors, shaped at national or international level, e.g., setting tax rates or free trade agreements and microeconomic factors dependent on local authorities. In the third, she distinguished spatial factors, regionally or locally diverse, and aspatial, the same throughout the country. In the last group, it listed hard factors that can be measured and specified, e.g. access to infrastructure, location and connection with external networks of energy and heating infrastructure services, in other words: energy, gas, heating, renewable energy, industry structure, size and type of ownership of existing business entities. Soft, difficult to measure, e.g., creativity or innovation. It should be noted that local development is affected not only by factors but also by barriers to local development, which should be interpreted as the inability to carry out the agreed activities under certain conditions, place and time or the need to overcome additional resistance during their implementation (Maik, Parysek, Wojtasiewicz, 1978, p. 181). The logistical support of military units is often mistakenly identified only with activities for the military and soldiers. Garrison Support Unit, Support Units through their dislocation function in these communities, interacting with residents, local authorities, business entities, building relationships with them on various levels. This is particularly evident among local communities in under-industrialized areas. The aim of this article was to examine the opinions of selected local government officials on how the logistics support of military units affects the local development of the local government units they represent. In her analysis, the author of the article focused the main attention on the socio-economic situation of these regions.

Analyzing the above literature, it is stated that the most frequently mentioned determinants of local development include human capital, infrastructure, entrepreneurship, innovation, and public policy. It should be emphasized, however, that all these determinants are interrelated and interact with each other. Their proper use may contribute to the increase in the development potential of a given local government unit and increase its competitiveness on the market.

Literature study

The importance and topicality of the subject of local development is evidenced by numerous publications on this subject by both Polish and foreign authors. Among Polish researchers, these are works dealing with the broadly understood subject of local and regional development (Markowski, 1997), (Strzelecki, 2004), (Mierzejewska, Młodak, Zmyślony, Czarny, 2018), (Klasika, Kuźnika, 2018), but also topics focused on an integrated approach (Ratuszna-Grzeszczyk, 2015)

or problematic (Czyż, Młodak, Czarny, 2016). A factor or group of factors that significantly affect local development is referred to as development determinants. It identifies the development potential of a territorial unit, its capabilities, and chances of achieving success in a competitive environment. Researchers from all over the world analyze the impact of individual determinants on local development (Zięba, Kucharski, 2020, p. 12) in rural areas (Klimczak, 2017, p. 5-28), (Séchet, Forest, Purseigle, 2019, p. 617), urban (Asaeda, Vurro, Graf, 2021, p. 20) in the country (Lachowski, 2018, p. 138), (Rasiah, Schmidt, 2019, p. 49) and in the world (Zmysłony, Mierzejewska, Młodak, 2019, p. 105-117), (Sadowski, 2018, pp. 7-23), (Łukasik, Smętkowski, 2019, pp. 93-105). As the most frequently analyzed determinants of local development, the researchers chose: social policy (Kowalski, Sobczyk, 2019, pp. 2586 - 2594), demography (Ojha, Chaturvedi, Jodha, 2005, p. 320), entrepreneurship, the occurrence of creative professions in the region (Fritsch, Sorgner, 2017, pp. 273-284), (Kostakis, Giotopoulos, 2018, pp. 171-176), urbanization (Johansson, Karlsson, 2017, pp. 411-437), innovation (Hamburg, Sotarauta, 2022, pp. 116), strategic building of regional advantage in individual territorial units (Asheim, Boschma, Cooke, 2018, pp. 589-592), local government activities (Druciarek-Helios, Kijek, Wrona, 2018, p. 32), (Pfeffer, 2021, pp. 1-24) or innovation (Więcek, Górniak-Zimroz, Zawadzka, Zioło, 2020, p. 16) or the resilience of a given region to external factors (Chaberek, 2002, pp. 205-215), or regional management (Marques, 2019, pp. 1539-1559). Researchers have often measured the strength of these determinants using qualitative (Jakubiak-Lasocka, 2018, pp. 85-96) and quantitative (Orłowska, 2020, pp. 83-96) studies. Foreign literature also includes many publications devoted to local and regional development, both in general terms: (Blair, 2011, p. 180), as well as divided into individual self-government units (rural, urban or rural-urban) (Ojha, Chaturvedi, Jodha, 2005, p. 17), (Séchet, Forest, Purseigle, 2019, p. 617). Researchers underline the importance of opportunities and challenges facing local government units today (Keller, Hildebrand, Mytelka, 2000, p. 43). They see the use of modern technologies and innovations in creating local development as an added value (Hamburg, Sotarauta, 2022, p. 27). In addition, they compare the local development of individual local authorities with their counterparts located in different parts of the world (Suriñach, Boscà, 2021, p. 345). Logistics support plays a significant role in local development, as evidenced by numerous scientific publications in Polish and foreign literature. The authors see the impact of military units, Garrison Support Unit, Support Units on local development (Bieńkowski, Wolski, 2015, pp. 26-42), (Brzozowski, Krukowski, Plichta, 2020, pp. 9-22), (Łopatka, Szcześniak, 2018, pp. 132-139), (Nowakowski, 2022, pp. 85-96), (Ercan, Alptekin, Turkoglu, 2016, pp. 108-125), (Trani, O'Donnell, Kim, 2019, pp. 594-615). They emphasize the importance of logistics support of military units in local development (Grotkiewicz, Kapuściński, 2016, pp. 107-120), (Jaroszevska-Bujakowska, 2021,

pp. 43-52), define the presence of the army as one of the factors influencing the development of local government units (Kowalski, Sobczyk, 2019, pp. 286-294), (Demyanyk, Khan, Li, 2020, pp. 10-15). This impact can be seen on various levels, but the most frequently analyzed are: the socio-economic situation of the region (Hankla, 2011, pp. 405-419), (Bae, Kim, Lee, 2017, pp. 179-197) security, and the quality of life of the inhabitants (Baade, Tierney, 1998, pp. 427-451). The location of military units, Garrison Support Unit and Support Units contributes, among others, to the increased interest of external investors in a given local government unit. Private companies invest in those municipalities and counties where the army is located. Thus, they notice business opportunities related to the operation of the army, its supply and maintenance of military vehicles or equipment.

State of knowledge

Logistics support of military units in the literature is defined as a subsystem whose activities sustain the main process, which is the armed struggle (Chaberek 2002, pp. 205-215). This is possible thanks to the implementation of actions aimed at an efficient and beneficial flow of resources necessary to achieve the main objective of the operation. Supporting the entire process of armed struggle consists in ensuring the continuous implementation of services in terms of their availability and reliability. In the Republic of Poland, Garrison Support Unit (GSU) - polish acronym – WOG or Support Units (SU) - polish acronym – OZ performing identical functions are responsible for direct logistic support of military units. Their activity consists in securing military units with products and equipment necessary for their proper functioning in accordance with their combat purpose (e.g., combat means, materials, individual equipment of soldiers, food, materials necessary to operate the equipment in the equipment of military units). GSU and SU are responsible for supporting military units in their area of responsibility. Their activity focuses on financial services and records of the quantity and value of military units. The supply system of the Polish Armed Forces has been regionalized, i.e., divided into the activities of four Regional Logistics Bases (RLB): 1st RLB Wałcz, 2st RLB Warsaw, 3rd RLB Kraków and 4th RLB Wrocław. These databases, together with GSU and SU, are the holders of third degree budget funds, but GSU and SU are subordinate elements of RLB. The Polish Armed Forces have the principle of hierarchical procurement. Needs planning is carried out in accordance with the economic allocation plan and consists of two stages. The first is to determine the needs and the possibility of securing them and the second, which consists in reporting needs with the applicable subordination. GSUs and SUs carry out logistics support tasks in accordance with the Plan of Economic Allocations of the Ministry of Defense, a document that forms the basis for the implementation of supplying military units. Tasks that do

not result from the plan are implemented in the form of outsourcing by external entities (Jałowiec 2010, p. 74). These purchases are very often made on the basis of the local and regional market. Examples of these purchases are: food and beverages (e.g. meat, milk, vegetables, fruit, coffee, tea), fuel, building materials, household items necessary for the functioning of military units. Other types of needs carried out by Garrison Support Unit and Support Units on the local and regional market are transport services for the transport of cargo and personnel, repair and maintenance services for repair and maintenance, e.g. of military equipment (Pyke, 2014, p. 213-230). Garrison Support Unit and Support Units announce tenders for purchases and services in accordance with the provisions of the public procurement law. This procedure consists of several steps (Fig. 1).

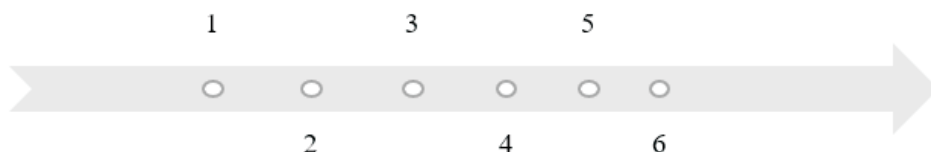


Fig. 1. Tender procedure for purchases in accordance with the provisions of the public procurement law (number: 1 Preparation of tender specifications (SWIZ); 2 Announcement of the invitation to tendering the Public Procurement Bulletin; 3 Submission of tenders by interested companies; 4 Evaluation of offers in accordance with the Terms of Reference; 5 Selection of the contractor; 6 Signing the contract)

Source: Available at: <https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20190002019> [Accessed: 3 April 2023]

It aims to ensure fair and transparent competition and to select the best offer. In addition, according to the provisions of public procurement law, the GSU or SU must comply with certain procurement thresholds, which provides greater protection for tender participants (Chaudhry, Siddiqui, Hussain, 2018, pp. 65-113). The subject of public procurement specifications in the defense sector in Poland, including the tender procedure, has become the subject of interest of many researchers (Szymczak, 2019, pp. 59-66). They describe the selection criteria for individual tenders (Kwaśniewska, Wajdzik, 2018, pp. 46-60), the risks that may occur throughout the tender process in the military logistics sector and the tools used to minimize these risks (Marczak, 2020, pp. 3-11).

Research

In preparing the article, the author used both theoretical and empirical methods. Among these methods, particularly relevant were analysis, synthesis, deduction, induction, comparison, generalization and a probing study carried out through an

interview questionnaire. Qualitative methods were used to conduct an analysis of national and foreign literature, legal acts, regulations and internal procedures of the Economic branch of the Military. The synthesis was aimed at identifying and better understanding the elements studied, as well as deepening the knowledge of the issues studied. It also helped identify the interrelationships and relationships between them. Deduction, as a process of drawing conclusions from general information, was used to infer details from general information. Induction, as a reverse operation, made it possible to draw conclusions and verify general laws and principles from observations. The use of these methods took place during the observations and survey research conducted through an interview questionnaire. The interviews conducted allowed the author to gather the opinions of respondents on the impact of logistical security of military units on the socio-economic development of municipalities and counties located in the area of responsibility of the 24th Garrison Support Unit stationed in Giżycko. Using inference, the author developed conclusions, which are included at the end of this article. The 24th Garrison Support Unit is a logistics unit that reports to the 2st RLB Warsaw and the Ministry of Defense. It is located in the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship, in the city of Giżycko, within Giżycko County. The unit is commanded by the Commander of the 24th Garrison Support Unit, who reports to the Commander of the 2st RLB. The main scope of activity of the 24th Garrison Support Unit is the planning, collection, storage and distribution of resources for supplying military units and institutions in the area of its responsibility, as shown in Figure 2.



Fig. 2. Graphic representation of areas of responsibility
24 Garrison Support Unit by district.

Source: Prepared on the basis of <https://24wog.wp.mil.pl/u/powiaty-24-wog.jpg>, accessed [Accessed: 3 April 2023]

The logistics department, which cooperates with other departments, is responsible for the implementation of logistics support tasks at 24th GSU. It consists of the planning department, technical department, and material department. Defense, a document constituting the basis for the supply of military units. Tasks that do not result from the plan are carried out in the form of outsourcing by external entities (Jałowiec 2010, p. 74). The implementation of these tasks is carried out on the basis of separate contracts, within the allocated financial limits for the purchase of various types of goods and services. These activities allow external service providers, who are often representatives of local companies, to carry out their tasks.

The socio-economic situation in Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodship, where the research was performed (poviats included in the area of responsibility of the 24th Garrison Support Unit) was and is the worst in the country for years. In 2022, the registered unemployment rate in this voivodship stood at 9% and was 0.4 percentage points higher than in the previous year, the total unemployment rate in Poland at that time was 5.5%. In the analysed poviats, the unemployment rate in 2022 was, respectively: gizyckim - 3%, gołdapskim - 6%, węgorzewskim - 12%, ełckim - 9%, piskim - 13%, mraǳowskim - 9%. In 2022, 6.7 thousand unemployed people were registered in labour offices in warmińsko-mazurskie voivodship, which is 2.3% more than in 2021. The inflow rate of the unemployed to labour offices was 1.3. In 2022, 3.9 thousand job offers were reported to labour offices, i.e. by 0.7 thousand more than a year before. In 2022, the average gross monthly remuneration in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship in the enterprises sector amounted to PLN 5 155.14 and was higher by 6.1% than in 2021. In the REGON register in 2022 - 18.1 thousand business entities suspended their economic activity. In 2022, the average gross monthly remuneration in the warmińsko-mazurskie voivodeship in the enterprise sector amounted to PLN 5 155.14 and was higher by 6.1% than in 2021. In the REGON register in 2022 - 18.1 thousand business entities suspended their economic activity. In the surveyed poviats: gizycki - 25 new businesses were registered and 45 were de-registered; gołdapski - 18 new businesses were registered and 16 were de-registered, węgorzewski - 17 new businesses were registered and 10 were de-registered, ełcki - 46 new businesses were registered and 59 were de-registered, piski - 23 new businesses were registered and 26 were de-registered, mraǳowski - 30 new businesses were registered and 38 were de-registered. This is due to the low degree of industrialisation in the voivodeship and its agricultural and tourist character (Communication on the socio-economic situation of Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship in 2022).

Qualitative research, carried out with the help of an interview questionnaire, was aimed at taking the opinions of respondents from local government units from counties and communes located in the area of responsibility of 24th GSU. It should be noted that not every local government surveyed had a military unit stationed in

it. The people taking part in the study were selected intentionally and represented different levels of local government. They were representatives of the counties of Węgorzewo, Gołdap, Giżycko, Mragowo, Elk, Pisz, and urban municipalities: Giżycko, Mragowo, Elk. Urban-rural municipalities: Węgorzewo, Gołdap, Ryn, Mikołajki, Biała Piska, Orzysz, Pisz, Ruciane-Nida. Rural municipalities: Budry, Pozezdrze, Banie Mazurskie, Dubeninki, Giżycko, Kruklanki, Miłki, Wydmyny, Mragowo, Piecki, Sorkwity, Ełk, Kalinowo, Prostki, Stare Juchy. Of the interview techniques, a categorized interview was chosen, which meant that all respondents received the same questions and were asked them in the same order. A total of thirty-two people took part in the interview. Interviews were conducted with county governors, town mayors and village mayors. Six women and twenty six men participated in the survey.

The conversation began with a question about the current socio-economic situation in your local government unit. The % distribution of the answer to this question is shown in Fig. 3.

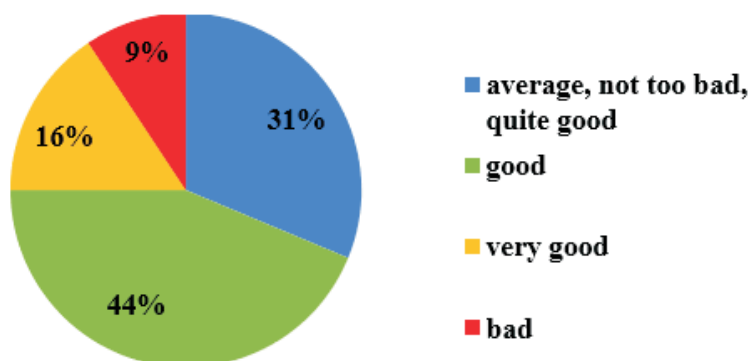


Fig.3. Distribution of respondents' answers to the question: What is the current socio-economic situation in your local government unit

Source: Own work

Ten respondents described the situation as „average, not bad” or „quite good”, fourteen considered it „good”, five considered it „very good”. It is worth noting that many respondents perceive the socio-economic situation as „good” and „very good” or „not the worst”, which may indicate a positive assessment of the standard of living of residents by local authorities. The worst socio-economic situation was assessed by a representative of the following communes: Pozezdrze, Sorkwity, Dubeninki, which, according to the analysis of statistical data, are the poorest communes. What's more, there are no workplaces in these municipalities and no military unit is located here. The next question concerned the conditions of this situation, and in particular, what, according to the respondents, has the greatest impact on the socio-economic

situation in their local government unit. A significant part of the people taking part in the survey indicated that these are: the labor market, geographical location and tourist attractions, the action of local authorities, human mentality and communication exclusion. The distribution of answers to this question is shown in Fig. 4.

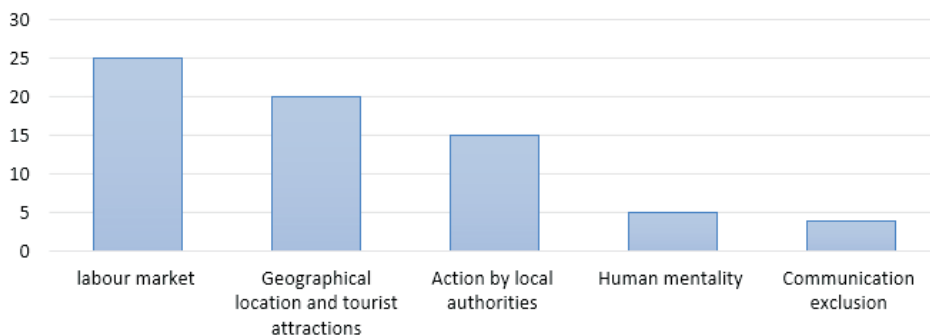


Fig. 4. Distribution of answers of representatives of communes and districts to the question: What do you think has the greatest impact on the socio-economic situation in your local government unit?

Source: Own work

According to respondents from the following counties: Węgorzewski, Giżycki and Piski, as well as representatives of the communes: Węgorzewo, Giżycko, Orzysz, Bemowo Piskie, Gołdap, Pisz, it is the location of a military unit, Garrison Support Unit and other military-related institutions such as the Regional Recruitment Center or military depots that is conducive to creating jobs and improving the socio-economic situation in the region. In addition, they also pointed out that there is a shortage of large entrepreneurs in the counties they represent. One of the interviewees said: „In my opinion, the labor market has the biggest impact on this situation, we lack large employers, people are employed on ‚junk contracts‘, which makes them have an uncertain future.” According to representatives of local authorities, the greatest impact on the current situation in their territorial units are: economic changes that are currently taking place in Poland, membership in the European Union, subsidies and subsidies that local governments receive. Respondents emphasized that the development of local government units they represent is also influenced by tourism, from which they make a living. The districts of Węgorzewo, Giżycko, Pisz and Ełk are known as the land of the Great Masurian Lakes, one of the most famous tourist destinations in Poland. They also note the region’s shortcomings, including the region’s transport exclusion, poor road infrastructure, a small number of external investors and a very weak industry. Representatives of local governments were asked whether, in their opinion, the logistics support implemented by 24th Garrison Support Unit for military units and institutions stationed in the following counties: Węgorzewo,

Giżycko, Pisz, Elk and Mrągowo has an impact on the socio-economic situation of local government units they represent. Here, all respondents were unanimous and answered in the affirmative. One of the respondents gave the following answer: Yes – very large, due to the fact that every fifth or maybe sixth person or someone from his family is employed in a military unit, Garrison Support Unit or military-related institution, e.g. ammunition depot or military recruitment center. Presenting local authorities since the establishment of the Garrison Support Unit in Giżycko noticed the interest of external investors in the region. This was most emphasized by representatives of local governments from the Giżycko and Węgorzewo counties. Since 2011, the 24th Garrison Support Unit has been operating in Giżycko. Parallel to this change, local governments observed the emergence of new local companies focused on servicing the army (e.g. bakeries, butcheries, food and beverage wholesalers, providing services: renovation and construction, security, transport, related to the maintenance of military vehicles and equipment, medical, legal and related to the real estate market. Respondents from the towns where military units and military-related institutions are located noticed the influx of new population to the local government units they represent. It can be assumed that this was often due to migration for work. Similar answers were given by representatives of local authorities in which entities related to the army are not located, emphasizing that many people commute to work in neighboring municipalities and counties. The areas of local government functioning affected by the military presence according to respondents are shown in Figure 5.



Fig. 5. Distribution of local government officials' answers to the question: In your opinion, what areas of functioning of the Garrison Support Unit you represent are affected by the presence of the army?

Source: Own work

Another question, asked in the interview, concerned the impact of logistic support provided by the 24th Garrison Support Unit for military units on the socio-economic development of the region they represent. Only one person – a representative of the Budry municipality among those taking part in the interview did not notice the impact of logistics support and the location of the army on the development of the Garrison Support Unit it represents. Other people stated that the logistical support provided by 24th GSU for other military units contributes to stopping the outflow of people from their areas, creating jobs not only for soldiers, but also for local entrepreneurs. This consequently results in a reduction in unemployment. They also found that the implementation of the tender procedure attracts external investors to invest and work in their region, and thus encourages the emergence of new specialized companies. 90% of respondents emphasized the importance of cooperation of the Garrison Support Unit, military units, and institutions on the social level with the local government units they represented. This cooperation mainly concerned the joint organization of various sports, cultural and patriotic events. Another question concerned the question to what extent the logistical support provided by 24th GSU to military units is conducive to the development of local enterprises. 29 out of 32 respondents answered that they favor, 3 people answered that they had no opinion. Respondents responded very similarly to both representatives of district and municipal authorities. Here are examples of responses from people participating in the survey: „Yes, if it were not for the tenders organized by GSU, there would not be so many new small local companies providing catering, security, diagnostic, transport or renovation and construction services, and all this in our municipalities and counties. What’s more, people working in a military unit or in GSU generate needs to which the local market tries to respond. People who work in the unit and in the GSU, in large part live here, live, pay taxes, it is here that they spend their earned money, use kindergartens, schools.” The last question that was asked of respondents was what socio-economic consequences would have the withdrawal of military units and 24th GSU from the local government units they represent. Almost all of them replied that it would have a negative impact on the socio-economic situation of the analyzed local government units. One respondent said: „Very poorly, a lot of people would lose their jobs, local businesses, shops would collapse because of the lack of sales. I’m sure a lot of people would move somewhere else for work.” Another subject said: „I think it’s wrong. This would cause economic stagnation. The only type of employment that would remain here is tourism and only in high season; Unemployment would increase significantly, there would be a mass outflow of people from these areas, life would be poorer.” And another stated: „The army, apart from economic aspects, is also a form of security for the local population. I do not know if the county, municipalities would have coped with this event. I think there would have been a stagnation and malaise here for many years.”

As highlighted by the interviewees, both the GSU and the military units located on the territory of their municipalities and districts are significant workplaces for the local population, both civilian and military. What is more, these entities report a demand for various types of goods and services, often among local suppliers. In addition, they participate in the formation of patriotic attitudes of young people by carrying out educational activities, setting state ceremonies, organising cultural and sporting events. It can therefore be concluded that the logistics support of military units is a factor influencing the development of the municipality and the district. Depending on the degree of industrialisation of the municipality or district, this influence may be greater or lesser. Nowadays, as a result of geopolitical changes, rulers make strategic decisions about the location of new military units. Studies of this kind can help state decision-makers in terms of military dislocation and local, regional and national sustainability.

Conclusions

Concluding the considerations of this article, it should be emphasized that local development includes a totality of changes aimed at satisfying the needs of the residents of a municipality or county, by providing them with the best possible living conditions, creating beneficial circumstances in the local economy, spatial order and providing a greater sense of security. Undoubtedly, these include employment, access to medical care, infrastructure, cultural facilities, etc. As a result of the analysis of the literature, it was noted that the factors that affect local development are both exogenous and endogenous. Exogenous factors that determine local development include: the state system, state policies, involvement in various types of programs and strategies. In turn, endogenous factors: economic, competence, social, infrastructural, environmental and spatial factors, the action of local authorities, local entrepreneurs and residents. In addition, it should be noted that the location of the military unit, the Garrison Support Unit and the implementation of logistics support for the benefit of military units that are in the area of responsibility of the Garrison Support Unit on the territory of the municipality and the district may be one of those factors that significantly affect their operation by which it deserves special attention.

The purpose of this article was to examine the opinions of selected local government officials as to how the logistics support of military units affects the local development of the local government units they represent. Based on the study, it was concluded that the logistical support provided by 24th GSU to the military units in the area of its responsibility, in the opinion of local government representatives, both directly and indirectly affects the region of operation of the 24th GSU, which largely overlaps with the Land of the Great Mazurian Lakes. The research conducted

allowed the author to draw the following conclusions: the majority of respondents rated the current socio-economic situation of the represented local government units as „good” and „neither good nor bad.” According to the respondents, endogenous factors, among them spatial, economic factors, have the greatest impact on the local development of their local government units that are in the area of responsibility of the 24th GSU. It was also found that the logistics support provided by the 24th GSU to other units has contributed to positive socio-economic changes in the region. Among the most important of these are: the establishment of new companies which is associated with the creation of new jobs and, consequently, a decrease in the level of unemployment, the influx and often permanent settlement of the incoming population, reducing the outflow of the local population, stimulating demand in the civilian market, strengthening the sense of employment stability. Often the incoming population are young soldiers who start their families here, and this generates demand for housing, kindergartens, schools, among other things, which also affects local development. In addition, local government officials recognize the significant role of the military at the social level. Military units and institutions, the 24th Garrison Support Unit willingly cooperate with local governments and the local community in the analyzed local government units during various educational and cultural projects. In addition, in mutual agreement, they develop a concept for the development of areas around the military units, the training grounds and their surroundings, as well as road and communications infrastructure, etc.

The topics discussed in the article are, in the author's opinion, very important and current due to the size and scope of the impact. We are currently observing identified financial outlays on the Polish armed forces. The purchase of modern equipment, the formation of new divisions and the presence of NATO forces on the eastern flank. All these factors translate into investments in military infrastructure (bases, depots, transport routes), which also contribute to the local economy by creating jobs and generating demand for the services and products of local companies. In addition, suppliers and subcontractors in the logistics sector that work with the armed forces are often local companies. Supporting these companies can contribute to local entrepreneurship and competitiveness. The local community can also benefit from investments in education and training, as the military is often involved in partnership programmes and community initiatives. However, the expansion of military units and the presence of countries of other nationalities on Polish territory can also create challenges for local communities, such as increased strain on infrastructure or changes in the social environment. Therefore, it is important that the approach to local development takes into account sustainability, balancing the benefits and potential negative impacts on areas affected by military activities.

It should be borne in mind, however, that the opinions of those taking part in the survey could have been shaped quite differently if the survey had been conducted in a different location, such as a large urban area. Undoubtedly, logistics support,

the location of the military unit and the Garrison Support Unit in each territory, is only one of many aspects, affecting its socio-economic situation. Therefore, it is not possible to estimate the impact of logistical support of military units on the development of an area if it is considered without taking into consideration other development factors.

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