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PREFACE

‘CITY IN CONFLICT’ – MILITARY ANTHROPOLOGY PERSPECTIVE 2023



In 2021, a study towards a new research direction in Military Anthropology was proposed in the special issue of ‘Wiedza Obronna’.¹ That research was initiated by Polish Military Anthropologists supported by academic colleagues from Azerbaijan, Iraq, New Zealand, South Africa, and Serbia, who presented the field results and theoretical research in the special issue of ‘Wiedza Obronna’. The cooperation has resulted in a more profound and focused investigation.

During further comparative and field research in Poland and Ukraine, it emerged that the social environment is particularly vulnerable to the negative impact of an aggressor conducting so-called subliminal warfare in the social environment. The NATO nomenclature identifies five multi-operational areas — maritime, land, air, space, and cyberspace. However, multi-operational areas must be expanded to include socio-cultural factors – **Operational Area 6: Culture**.²

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¹ See ‘Wiedza Obronna’, 2021, No 274, Vol. 1.

² **Operational Area 6: Culture** is a term proposed by A. Korzeniowska-Bihun in December 2023. It is related to the NATO Multi-Domain Operations nomenclature. Later, in 2023, R. Boroch defined operational Area 6: Culture as follows: It refers to military or military-like operations conducted in a social environment. These operations may include, for example, hybrid strikes, such as the crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border in 2021, or hybrid operations, such as separatist activities in Ukraine organised by the Russian Federation aimed at annexing Ukrainian lands.

The current issue of 'Wiedza Obronna' has presented research results in the city's socio-cultural environment in the military anthropology paradigm. It should be made clear that cultural and social factors have become essential warfare tools. The Ukrainian and Polish experience shows that Operational Area 6 is the area of (1) **hybrid operations** — support for separatism in the Ukrainian scenario; (2) **hybrid attacks** — the use of migrants by Belarus to push across the border of the Polish state. Thus, nothing prevents the transfer of **hybrid activities** inside the territory of state actors. Military anthropology uses several terms for anthropological activities in the territory of a state actor. The terms are **anthropological espionage, anthropological aggression, and anthropological defence**.³ These problems are analysed in the articles collected in part one of the current issue of 'Wiedza Obronna'.

From a security studies perspective, offensive capabilities in Operational Area 6, which are the preliminary tools for deterring and discouraging hybrid attacks or operations, remain to be considered. Articles published in the current issue contribute to the more comprehensive debate on Operational Area 6: Culture.

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See *Multi-Domain Operations in NATO – Explained*, 2023. <https://www.act.nato.int/article/mdo-in-nato-explained/>; R. Borocho, A. Korzeniowska-Bihun, *Ukrainian Theater in Exile. A Case Study: Poland*. In print 2024.

³ See R. Borocho, *Military Anthropology – Specialisation Frame*. 'Wiedza Obronna' 2021 Vol. 274. Issue 1, p. 63–73; A. Korzeniowska-Bihun, *Cultural Projects as a Tool of Anthropological Defense. Ukrainian Example*. 'Wiedza Obronna', 2021 Vol. 274 Issue 1, p. 35–47; R. Borocho, A. Korzeniowska-Bihun, *Conflict and Performing Arts – Class Act Project – Ukrainian Theater as an Anthropological Defense*. 'Wiedza Obronna' 2021 Vol. 274. Issue 1, p. 119–136.

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