

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE
MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
ON COOPERATION OF THE AIR FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE
REPUBLIC OF POLAND, ON THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

The U.S. Department of Defense (hereinafter "DoD") and the Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Poland (hereinafter "MND"), collectively referred to as the "Participants"; intending to act in accordance with existing agreements; and in furtherance of their mutual national security interests, have reached the following understandings:

SECTION I: REFERENCES

- A. Declaration on Strategic Cooperation between the United States of America and the Republic of Poland, August 20, 2008
- B. Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Poland on the Status of the Armed Forces of the United States of America in the Territory of the Republic of Poland, December 11, 2009
- C. Joint Statement by President Barack Obama and President Bronisław Komorowski in Washington DC on December 8, 2010

SECTION II: PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is intended to enhance bilateral defense ties in the spirit of References A, B and C. This includes increased cooperation between the United States Air Force (USAF) and the Polish Air Force (PLAF) with the goal of strengthening interoperability as NATO Allies through regular combined training exercises, as well as the presence of a USAF aviation detachment in Poland.

SECTION III: BACKGROUND

Cooperation between U.S. and Polish Airmen dates back to 1919, with forces of both countries most recently deploying side-by-side in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Government of Poland's major acquisition programs include primarily U.S. aircraft – the acquisition of 48 new F-16 aircraft was completed in 2009, and the acquisition of five C-130 aircraft began in 2009 – which has understandably led to increased cooperation between the USAF and the PLAF.

SECTION IV: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This MOU outlines a new area of U.S. and Polish defense cooperation with the establishment of a USAF Aviation Detachment (AV-DET) in Poland. The AV-DET is to be comprised of USAF personnel deployed on a continuous basis within the territory of the Republic of Poland.

The AV-DET, together with the rotational deployment of U.S. military aircraft in the territory of the Republic of Poland and the expanded scope of combined training exercises arising therefrom, is intended to form the basis of an enduring partnership between the PLAF and the USAF, U.S. European Command (USEUCOM), and U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE).

The Participants intend to cooperate closely on mutually determined matters that promote the continued development of the PLAF through increased opportunities for interoperability and related activities, in particular those activities that will enhance United States-Poland collective security, as outlined in Reference A.

The DoD intends to establish the USAF AV-DET in Poland by 2012, followed by rotational deployments of U.S. aircraft beginning in 2013. Consistent with Reference B, the Participants undertake to identify an appropriate site, infrastructure, and facilities for the USAF AV-DET.

The Participants intend to enter into appropriate agreements or arrangements, as necessary, to specify further details of this cooperation. The Participants are to coordinate on objectives for each rotation and regularly assess the mutual benefits of this cooperation.

The USAF AV-DET is to implement the provisions on U.S. military presence outlined in Reference A.

SECTION V: SCOPE OF PARTNERSHIP

This MOU is part of the military framework between the U.S. DoD and the Poland MND. This MOU is intended to identify the range of activities in which the USAF and PLAF seek to engage.

- A. Interoperability activities and exercises: The USAF AV-DET will facilitate combined training exercises and military-to-military engagement, through periodic rotation (four annually, with a goal of quarterly rotations no shorter than two weeks each) of U.S. aircraft, and continuous engagement, including combined skill development and exercises, between the USAF AV-DET and the PLAF. Both PLAF and USAF personnel will benefit from participation in U.S.-Polish bilateral and multinational training exercises, which will also support meeting NATO requirements. It is intended that the four rotational deployments each year to Poland will consist of F-16 or C-130 aircraft. It is intended that two rotations of F-16 aircraft will be conducted each year. Additional combined PLAF and USAF training exercises, including the use of fifth generation fighter aircraft, may be undertaken, subject to the availability of appropriate ranges and facilities for such purposes.

The Participants intend that the activities and exercises referred to above will also facilitate PLAF integration into NATO and U.S. training venues.

- B. Partnerships and Exchanges: USAFE has established bilateral partnerships with the PLAF: USAFE's (F-16) 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, and the PLAF's (F-16) 2nd Tactical Air Wing with subordinate units at Krzesiny and Łask Air Bases; and USAFE's (C-130) 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and the PLAF's 3rd Airlift Wing at Powidz Air Base.

SECTION VI: ADDITIONAL MATTERS

This MOU may be modified in writing by the Secretary of Defense of the United States and the Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Poland.

Either Participant may withdraw from this MOU by providing 180 days written notice to the other Participant, or the MOU may cease to have effect upon mutual written concurrence of the Participants or their designees.

This MOU will be effective upon signature.

This MOU is intended to set forth the intentions of the Participants concerning the matters to which it relates and is not intended to create any binding obligations under international law.

Signed at Warsaw, on this 13 day of June, 2011.



For the Department of Defense
of the United States of America



The Minister of National Defense
of the Republic of Poland