



July 27, 1968
Directive of the Ministry of Defense for Exercise
‘OVERCAST SUMMER-68’

Citation:

“Directive of the Ministry of Defense for Exercise ‘OVERCAST SUMMER-68’,” July 27, 1968, History and Public Policy Program Digital Archive, Institute of National Remembrance or Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, IPN BU 02958/ 1. Translated for CWIHP from the original Polish by Jaroslaw Garlinski. <http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/111893>

Summary:

Directive describes how the military exercise Overcast Summer-68 ["Pochmurne Lato"] will transpire on August 1 on the border of Poland and Czechoslovakia from 28 July to 5 August 1968 and states the logistics of the exercise. Information includes what groups will be used, their commanding generals, equipment, and first aid materials. The document also details how communications between all parties involved will function, as well as signal words and numbers that are to be used under various situations. Directive is signed by Minister of Defense and General of Divisions, Wojciech Jaruzelski.

Original Language:

Polish

Contents:

- English Translation

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GENERAL STAFF
Operations Department

A true copy of the original

[?] Oleszak [?] [handwritten]

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TOP SECRET

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Series 'K'

No. 005
27.07.1968

DIRECTIVE OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE Nr. 01/operations
of 27.7.1968 at 7 o'clock [07:00 ?]
for implementation of exercise 'OVERCAST SUMMER-68'

At the end of July and the beginning of August this year, exercises will be held in the southern half of the Polish People's Republic and on the territory of the CSSR involving the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact, with the participation of dedicated forces of the Polish Army.

The operations of dedicated forces of the Polish Army in the exercise will be designated by the code-name 'OVERCAST SUMMER-68'.

In connection with the above:

1. The following units of the Polish Army will take part in the exercise:

1. An operations group of the Polish Army General Staff under the command of the First Deputy to the Chief of the General Staff, Major General E. MOLCZYK with a strength of up to 10 men;
 2. An all-arms army headquarters assigned from the Silesian Military District under the command of the GOC Silesian Military District, Brigadier General F. SIWICKI;
 3. An all-arms army comprising 10th and 11th Armored Divisions (both divisions without their tactical rocket regiment, two regiments of divisional artillery, heavy engineering equipment and parts of their rear echelon forces), a Silesian Military District special reconnaissance company, a transport and medical column, army security and headquarters units, as well as 1 special reconnaissance battalion, and an Air Force helicopter force of 10 Mi-2s, 7 Mi-4s and 3 Mi8s, both under command for the duration of the exercise;
 4. The reduced-strength 4th Mechanized Division (minus a tank regiment, a tactical rocket regiment, two regiments of divisional artillery, heavy engineering equipment and parts of its rear echelon forces), will also take part in the exercise and will be at the disposal of the General Staff operations group.
2. The forces assigned to the exercise are to reach combat readiness in their garrison areas with a mission to reach secretly their assigned staging areas in preparation for a speedy departure along assigned

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routes, using the 10th and 11th Armored Divisions, to areas on CSSR territory designated on the map.

The 4th Mechanized Division will remain on Polish soil until separate decisions have been taken.

3. The Army commander will prepare a detailed operational plan and will present it for approval to the Head of the General Staff operations group by 22:00 on 27.7.

4. Command:

1. The exercise will be directed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact located in the city of LEGNICA;
2. The Polish forces taking part in the exercise will be co-ordinated by the Polish General Staff operations group, which will be part of the operation's command located in the city of LEGNICA;
3. The forces on exercise will be commanded by the GOC Silesian Army District with his staff.

5. Communications:

1. The Polish Army General Staff operations group with the General Staff by means of the Polish Army's fixed communications system and the PG WAR in Poland;
 2. The Polish Army General Staff operations group with the Army Commander by means of the exercise control communications system and also by means of an R-118 radio set, as well as two Mi-1 helicopters, 2 Yak-12 and one An-2 aircraft;
 3. The Army commander and his staff with subordinate tactical units by means of field radios;
 4. Inter-operability and the TD system will be used in accordance with guidelines issued by exercise command.
6. The political security of the forces' operations during the exercise will be organized in accordance with my guidelines issued to the Head of the Polish Army's General Political Department.

7. Technical, logistical and medical support:

1. Tactical formations and units will move out with full and mobile supplies of ammunition, medical supplies, POL [Petroleum, oil, lubricants.], food and spare parts;

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2. The army is organizing re-supply of mobile supplies for the troops on exercise by means of a prepared transport column;
3. The army on exercise will organize the evacuation of the wounded and sick by means of a prepared medical column to military hospitals on the soil of the Polish People's Republic near the state frontier.

8. The army's operations during exercise 'OVERCAST SUMMER-68' are in accordance with the attached map.

9. Signals:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| - move to increased readiness | - key '1111' tel. 'PIAST' |
| - move out from garrisons | - key '5555' tel. 'ORIENT' |
| - state of readiness achieved on start line | - key '0000' tel. 'START' |
| - move from start line (for 10 th and 11 th Armored Divisions) | - key '3333' tel. 'KARMEN' |
| - move from start line for 4 th Mechanized Division | - key '7777' tel. 'SPORT' |
| - crossing state frontier | - key '9999' tel. 'KARO' |
| - arrival at staging area | - key '2222' tel. 'SYRENA' |
| - exercise called off | - key '8888' tel. 'GIEWONT' |

10. Deadlines for reports:

1. By the Commander of the operations group of the Polish Army General Staff to the General Staff of the Polish Army:
 - regularly: daily by 09.00 and 22.00 hours.
 - specifically:
 - a. on the need to move forces out from their garrisons - 3 hours prior to ETD;
 - b. on the need to move forces from their start lines- 3 hours prior to ETD;
 - c. on the need to cross the state frontier - 3 hours prior to crossing;
 - d. on the need for additional troops and exercise supplies - 24 hours prior to their dispatch to the exercise area;

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e. [Incorrectly labeled 'd' in the original.] on the execution of specific tasks by the Polish Army's operations group's forces - 4 hours after the fact.

2. Deadlines for reports from the army commander to the Polish Army General Staff operations group and within the group are set accordingly by: the Head of the Polish Army General Staff operations group and the army commander, taking into account recommendations from the staff of operation command.

Appendix: 1:500,000 map.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE
Signature [handwritten]
Wojciech JARUZELSKI
Major General

