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Exercise ‘Koalicja 26.2’: a test of readiness to deploy the Multinational Force–Ukraine

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From 9 to 22 November, the Nowa Dęba training ground in Poland’s Podkarpackie Voivodeship is hosting the multinational exercise ‘Koalicja 26.2’, designed to test the Coalition of the Willing’s readiness to rapidly deploy the Multinational Force–Ukraine (MNF-U) as a stabilisation force in Ukraine. The main phase of the exercise involves 2,800 military personnel from France, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Estonia, Spain, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Germany, Sweden and Turkey, supported logistically by 2,000 Polish troops. The exercise encompasses land (movement, protection, integration and sustainment of forces), air (training flights), naval (planning of mine-clearance operations by the Maritime Component Command in Turkey) and space domains. Command and control are exercised jointly by France and the United Kingdom through the MNF-U Operational Headquarters at Mont-Valérien.

Exercise ‘Koalicja 26.2’ marks the culmination of more than a year of planning efforts by the Coalition of the Willing, coordinated by Paris and London. It demonstrates that the Coalition’s military wing is not merely a theoretical construct, signalling its readiness to rapidly deploy stabilisation forces to Ukraine in the event of a ceasefire. However, given the low probability of an imminent ceasefire and the limited military tasks assigned to the MNF-U by *Coalition member states*, particularly in the land domain, the exercise is primarily significant in political terms. MNF-U represents a strategic ‘asset’ for Europe in ongoing negotiations concerning the cessation of hostilities and the future of European security.

Commentary

- **The multinational forces being prepared by the Coalition of the Willing for a mission in Ukraine are intended primarily to serve as a political instrument to strengthen Europe’s influence in peace negotiations.** The test of their operational readiness during the field exercise is also intended to lend credibility to Europe’s commitment to providing long-term military support to Kyiv. Exercise ‘Koalicja 26.2’ signals the Coalition of the Willing’s intention to implement the Paris Declaration of January 2026, which sets out the framework for future security guarantees for Ukraine, including the deployment of the MNF-U, as envisaged in the *letter of intent signed by France, the United Kingdom and Ukraine*.
- **The relatively small scale of the exercise confirms the MNF-U’s limited ambitions in providing security guarantees for Ukraine in the post-war period.** Of the 37 countries participating in the Coalition of the Willing, only 11 are taking part in the exercise,

including two that have ruled out deploying troops to Ukraine but have committed to providing logistical support to the MNF-U (Poland and Germany). France is the only country to have deployed a sizeable contingent to Nowa Dęba (see Table). Notably absent are several countries that have previously indicated their openness to active participation in the MNF-U: Denmark and Norway (air and land domains), Latvia (land domain), and Romania and Bulgaria (naval domain). Exercise participants emphasise that the MNF-U will not undertake combat operations related to peacekeeping or ceasefire monitoring in Ukraine. Instead, their activities are expected to focus on regenerating the capabilities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (through the deployment of logistics personnel, instructors, and military equipment specialists), conducting naval mine countermeasure operations in the Black Sea, and operational engagement by air forces, the precise mandate for which remains unclear.

- **Russia remains consistently hostile towards the Coalition of the Willing, opposing any ceasefire accompanied by the deployment of the MNF-U to Ukraine.** The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova described exercise ‘Koalicja 26.2’ as preparations for an unacceptable military intervention by NATO countries and a threat to Russia, warning that any European forces deployed to Ukraine would be considered legitimate military targets. Sergei Shoigu, Secretary of the Russian Security Council, labelled the exercise as offensive. Such rhetoric is intended to discredit European countries and prevent their participation in peace negotiations by portraying the Coalition of the Willing as an actor seeking to prolong the conflict. Subjugating Ukraine remains a strategic objective for the Kremlin, while the deployment of the MNF-U would increase the political costs and risks associated with any renewed Russian aggression. For Kyiv, the MNF-U deployment exercise demonstrates the determination of Coalition of the Willing member states to play an active role in ensuring Ukraine’s security following the cessation of hostilities. This would encompass training and modernising Ukraine’s land forces, supporting air policing, and ensuring the security of maritime navigation in the Black Sea. Kyiv regards the Coalition of the Willing as a platform for coordinating and strengthening European and Ukrainian positions in negotiations with Russia, and the MNF-U as its principal operational instrument and an element of post-war security guarantees.

' + '□'; root.append(pasek); const btn = pasek.querySelector(".osw-pobierz-btn"), panel = pasek.querySelector(".osw-pobierz-panel"), inp = panel.querySelector("input"), bZap = panel.querySelector(".osw-zapisz"), bZam = panel.querySelector(".osw-zamknij"); btn.title = T.btn; btn.setAttribute("aria-label", T.btn); btn.setAttribute("aria-expanded", "false"); panel.querySelector("span").textContent = T.szer; bZap.textContent = T.zapisz; bZam.title = T.zamknij; bZam.setAttribute("aria-label", T.zamknij); inp.value = root.getAttribute("data-png-szer") || 1200; // Położenie przycisku: prawy górny róg tabeli, jeśli nie zasłoni napisów w wierszach nagłówka; // inaczej pod prawym dolnym rogiem – opływany przez źródło lub przypis (bez kolizji z ich treścią) albo w osobnym wierszu. const przecina = (a, b) => a.left < b.right && a.right > b.left && a.top < b.bottom && a.bottom > b.top; function rogWolny() { if (root.getAttribute("data-ikona") === "pod") return null; const pw = root.querySelector(".osw-przewijak"), tab = root.querySelector("table.report-table"); if (!pw || !tab || !pw.offsetWidth || !tab.offsetWidth) return null; // karty – tabela ukryta if (root.classList.contains("osw-mob") && root.getAttribute("data-mobile") === "przewijanie") return null; // przewijana tabela – róg się przesuwa const odst = +root.getAttribute("data-rog") || 4, bw =

btn.offsetWidth || 30, bh = btn.offsetHeight || 30, P = pw.getBoundingClientRect(); const r = { right: Math.min(P.right, tab.getBoundingClientRect().right) - odst, top: P.top + odst }; r.left = r.right - bw; r.bottom = r.top + bh; const z = { left: r.left - 4, right: r.right + 4, top: r.top - 3, bottom: r.bottom + 3 }; const wiersze = []; for (const tr of tab.rows) { if (!/\brole-(h1|h2a|h2b)\b/.test(tr.className)) break; wiersze.push(tr); } // wiersze nagłówka na górze tabeli if (!wiersze.length || wiersze[wiersze.length - 1].getBoundingClientRect().bottom < r.bottom) return null; // przycisk wyszedłby poza nagłówek const rg = document.createRange(); for (const tr of wiersze) { const w = document.createTreeWalker(tr, NodeFilter.SHOW_TEXT); while (w.nextNode()) { if (!w.currentNode.nodeValue.trim()) continue; rg.selectNodeContents(w.currentNode); for (const x of rg.getClientRects()) if (x.width && przecina(x, z)) return null; } } return pw; } let pozycja = ""; const ustawPoz = () => { if (!panel.hidden) return; // nie przestawiaj otwartego panelu const pw = rogWolny(); if (pw) { if (pozycja !== "rog" || pasek.parentNode !== pw) { pw.append(pasek); pasek.setAttribute("data-poz", "rog"); pozycja = "rog"; } return; } // pod tabelą: pierwszy widoczny przypis albo źródło – przycisk opływany z prawej let cel = null; for (const el of root.querySelectorAll(":scope > .table-notes .fn-note, :scope > .table-source")) if (el.offsetHeight) { cel = el; break; } if (cel) { if (pasek.parentNode !== cel) { cel.insertBefore(pasek, cel.firstChild); } pasek.setAttribute("data-poz", "oplyw"); pozycja = "oplyw"; } else { if (pasek.parentNode !== root) root.append(pasek); pasek.setAttribute("data-poz", "pod"); pozycja = "pod"; } }; ustawPoz(); if (window.ResizeObserver) new ResizeObserver(() => requestAnimationFrame(ustawPoz)).observe(root); else window.addEventListener("resize", ustawPoz); if (document.fonts && document.fonts.ready) document.fonts.ready.then(ustawPoz); const otworzPanel = on => { panel.hidden = !on; if (!on) setTimeout(ustawPoz, 0); btn.setAttribute("aria-expanded", on ? "true" : "false"); btn.classList.toggle("akt", on); if (on) { inp.focus(); inp.select(); } }; btn.addEventListener("click", e => { e.stopPropagation(); otworzPanel(panel.hidden); }); bZam.addEventListener("click", e => { e.stopPropagation(); otworzPanel(false); btn.focus(); }); pasek.addEventListener("click", e => e.stopPropagation()); pasek.addEventListener("pointerover", e => e.stopPropagation()); panel.addEventListener("keydown", e => { if (e.key === "Enter") { e.preventDefault(); zapisz(); } else if (e.key === "Escape") { otworzPanel(false); btn.focus(); } }); bZap.addEventListener("click", zapisz); let fonty = null; async function css64(url, filtr) { const css = await (await fetch(url)).text(); let wynik = "", m; const re = /(?:\/*\s*([\w-]+)\s**\/\s*)?@font-face\s*\{([^}]*)\}/g; while ((m = re.exec(css))) { if (filtr && m[1] && m[1] !== "latin" && m[1] !== "latin-ext") continue; const src = (/url\(\s*['"]?([^'")]+)['"]?\s*\)/.exec(m[2]) || [])[1]; if (!src) continue; const b = await (await fetch(new URL(src, new URL(url, location.href)).href)).blob(); const d = await new Promise((ok, zle) => { const r = new FileReader(); r.onload = () => ok(r.result); r.onerror = zle; r.readAsDataURL(b); }); wynik += "@font-face{" + m[2].replace(/url\([^)]+\)/, "url(" + d + ")") + "}\n"; } return wynik; } async function stylFontow() { if (fonty !== null) return fonty; for (const [u, f] of [[root.getAttribute("data-fonty"), true], [root.getAttribute("data-fonty-lok"), false]]) { if (!u) continue; try { fonty = await css64(u, f); if (fonty) return fonty; } catch (e) {} } return (fonty = ""); } async function obraz(szer) { const { svg: c, w, h, tlo } = przygotuj(); let wys = Math.max(1, Math.round(szer * h / w)); const k = Math.min(1, Math.sqrt(MAX_POW / (szer * wys)), MAX_BOK / wys, MAX_BOK / szer); if (k < 1) { szer = Math.floor(szer * k); wys = Math.max(1, Math.round(szer * h / w)); } c.setAttribute("width", szer); c.setAttribute("height", wys); if (!c.getAttribute("xmlns")) c.setAttribute("xmlns", "http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"); const st = await stylFontow(); if (st) { const e = document.createElementNS("http://www.w3.org/2000/svg", "style"); e.textContent = st; c.insertBefore(e, c.firstChild); } const img = new Image(); await new Promise((ok,

zle) => { img.onload = ok; img.onerror = zle; img.src = "data:image/svg+xml;charset=utf-8," + encodeURIComponent(new XMLSerializer().serializeToString(c)); }); if (img.decode) try { await img.decode(); } catch (e) {} const cv = document.createElement("canvas"); cv.width = szer; cv.height = wys; const ctx = cv.getContext("2d"); if (tlo) { ctx.fillStyle = tlo; ctx.fillRect(0, 0, szer, wys); } ctx.drawImage(img, 0, 0, szer, wys); const blob = await new Promise((ok, zle) => cv.toBlob(b => b ? ok(b) : zle(new Error("toBlob")), "image/png")); return { blob, szer, obciete: k < 1 }; } async function zapisz() { let szer = Math.round(Math.min(10000, Math.max(100, +inp.value || 1200))); inp.value = szer; const nazwa = s => "OSW_" + (root.getAttribute("data-png") || "grafika") + "_" + s + "px.png"; let uchwyt = null; if (window.showSaveFilePicker) { try { uchwyt = await window.showSaveFilePicker({ suggestedName: nazwa(szer), types: [{ description: "PNG", accept: { "image/png": [".png"] } }] }); } catch (e) { if (e && e.name === "AbortError") return; uchwyt = null; } } bZap.disabled = true; bZap.textContent = T.czekaj; try { const w = await obraz(szer); if (w.obciete) { inp.value = w.szer; } if (uchwyt) { const z = await uchwyt.createWritable(); await z.write(w.blob); await z.close(); } else { const a = document.createElement("a"); a.href = URL.createObjectURL(w.blob); a.download = nazwa(w.szer); document.body.append(a); a.click(); a.remove(); setTimeout(() => URL.revokeObjectURL(a.href), 4000); } if (w.obciete) alert(T.obciete + w.szer + " px"); otworzPanel(false); btn.focus(); } catch (e) { alert(T.blad); } finally { bZap.disabled = false; bZap.textContent = T.zapisz; } } })(root,(function przygotujTabeli(root, svgTekst) { return function () { const d = document.createElement("div"); d.innerHTML = svgTekst; const c = d.querySelector("svg"); for (const a of ["class", "style", "aria-hidden", "focusable", "hidden"]) c.removeAttribute(a); const vb = c.viewBox.baseVal; return { svg: c, w: vb.width, h: vb.height, tlo: "#ffffff" }; }; })(root,D.svg));})();