

Poland's Mi-17s



The 7th Special Operations Squadron

When Special Operations Forces (SOF) go into action, they are essentially supported by an airlift component which gives transport, protection and eyes over the battlefield. When it comes to various SOF units in Poland, these are sent to battle aboard the Mi-17 helicopters of the 7th Special Operations Squadron.

This helicopter has been a true workhorse, used in many roles around the world, also serving with both the Polish and Indian

forces. Proven for decades and modernised to enhance 'hot and high' capabilities, the Mi-17 delivers Polish troops where they are needed. They have proved their airworthiness in Afghanistan and Iraq when Polish special forces were helping to stabilise the region.

Although Poland is in the midst of a process of acquiring new helicopters for its special operations forces, one can assume that the Mi-17 will remain in service over the next few years owing to the transition process whenever a new type is selected.

“The best of the best”

It is not easy to become part of the 7th SOS. One has to be a very experienced pilot to join the elite. The same goes for the flight engineer and the maintenance crew which is tasked to deliver a working helicopter no matter where they are currently operating. This unit was activated in 2010 and since then is serving as the aviation branch for units like the famous Grom, Formoza but also JW Komandosów, JW Agat and JW Nil which all form the core of the Polish