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## Celebrating Veterans Day

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**On Monday 28 May 2012 President Bronisław Komorowski and Minister of National Defense Tomasz Siemoniak initiated two-day celebration of the Veterans Day. This day, dedicated to soldiers and officers, who served abroad, is celebrated in Poland for the first time.**

### **President meets with soldiers in the combat stress clinic**

On Monday President Bronisław Komorowski met with soldiers staying at the Psychiatric and Combat Stress Clinic of the Military Medical Institute (WIM) in Warsaw, where he talked to the veterans. The President was accompanied by the Head of the National Bureau Stanisław Koziej, Chief of Staff General Mieczysław Cieniuch and the Head of the Military Health Care Inspectorate Colonel Piotr Dzięgielewski.

### **Minister of National Defense meets with veterans**

Also on Monday, soldiers who took part in the missions abroad met with the Minister of National Defense Tomasz Siemoniak, who, for the first time, awarded the veterans who were injured during the mission with the badges "For Injuries".

The badges "For Injuries" were implemented pursuant to the Veterans Act, which entered into force on 30 March 2012.

*29 May - Veterans Day*

### **President visits the Army Training Center in Poznan**

The celebrations with the President's participation took also place on Tuesday in Poznań. The first point in presidential visit's agenda was visiting the Army Training Center and meeting with soldiers injured during operations abroad, who currently take part in the training for non-commissioned officers.

According to the President, the meeting with veterans was a good occasion to show that Poland, taking seriously decisions to send the troops abroad, tries to solve as many issues of the people who paid with their health and ability to function normally in their professional life as possible.

### **Celebration in Warsaw**

In Warsaw the Veterans Day celebration was attended by the veterans, representatives of the National Security Bureau, Ministry of National Defense, state and regional authorities as well as the armed forces corps.

On the Marszałek Józef Piłsudski Square, the Head of the National Bureau Stanisław Koziej said that the Veterans Act not only introduced veterans day but was also an important step towards honoring and attending to the veterans with care, following the best pre-war traditions.

Minister S. Koziej thanked all veterans of peace missions, former and current soldiers and officers as well as civil employees.

He also wished the veterans organizations further successes and initiatives that contribute to strengthening defense potential of Poland and the prestige of the Polish Army.

In the Museum of Polish Army a plaque including the names of missions and places where Polish military contingents stationed was unveiled and wreaths laid at the obelisk commemorating soldiers killed in action.



President meets with soldiers in the combat stress clinic



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Minister of National Defense meets with veterans



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President visits the Army Training Center in Poznan



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Celebration in Warsaw









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