

# HISTORY OF THE UNIT

## 1990

Establishment of the Military Unit GROM.

GROM Operational-Maneuver Response Group

Formation of the Unit started in 1990 by using the best experience of foreign countries especially of the United States and Great Britain. The decision to establish the Unit was taken by the Government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki. Officially the Unit was activated as GROM on 13 July 1990.

Then, without any publicity, the recruitment of appropriate candidates began, mainly from those who already had experience in the service of special units.

In practice, recruitment was conducted mainly among soldiers of the 1st Assault Battalion from Lubliniec (currently 1st Special Regiment), former special companies, 6th Pomeranian Assault Brigade (currently 6th Pomeranian Airborne Brigade), Navy frogmen. Moreover, the candidates were recruited from the police counter-terrorism units (companies and subunits), graduates of higher officer schools, mostly of the Tadeusz Kościuszko Mechanized Infantry Officer School in Wrocław and reconnaissance subunits.

13 September 1990 - lieutenant colonel Sławomir Petelicki officially took command of the Military Unit GROM

## 1992

The Military Unit GROM achieved combat readiness on 13 June 1992.

In the middle of May 1992, after intensive trainings carried out by US and british instructors, the Unit achieved combat readiness.

## 1994

Participation in the mission "Uphold Democracy" in Haiti.

The first foreign mission of the GROM soldiers was the "Uphold Democracy" mission in the Republic of Haiti with the United States Army Special Forces. The main task of the soldiers was the protection of foreign VIPs in the territory of the Republic of Haiti. This difficult and very responsible task was conducted by Polish soldiers - the only contingent of the Multinational Forces.

## 1995

By Decision No. 119 / MON of the Minister of National Defence of 4 August 1995 on taking over the heritage of tradition and giving the distinguishing name to the Military Unit No. 2305 in Warsaw, the Unit took over the heritage and with honor continues the traditions of the Cichociemni Paratroopers of the Home Army 1940-1945 and also adopted the distinguishing name " Cichociemni. "

In January 1995 a former soldier of the Home Army "Cichociemny" Bronisław Czepczak – Górecki was invited to joint exercises, including parachuting, of the GROM soldiers and the 22nd Special Air Service. It was then when the commander of GROM colonel Sławomir Petelicki made a proposal to give the Unit the name "Cichociemni". A letter was submitted to the Cichociemni Historical Group, which then sent a positive reply. Pursuant to the Decision of the Minister of National Defence no. 119/MON of 4 August 1995 taken after consultation with the Minister of Interior, the Military Unit GROM obtained the honourable name of Cichociemni Paratroopers of the Home Army and was obliged to continue their proud tradition.

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 21 December 1995 Colonel Sławomir Petelicki handed over the duties of the Commander to Colonel Marian Sowiński.

## 1996

Handing the flag to the Military Unit GROM

On 1 October 1996 President of Poland Aleksander Kwaśniewski, during the ceremony at the Presidential Palace, handed the Unit's Flag to Colonel Marian Sowiński. Special participants of the ceremony were Cichociemni paratroopers of the Home Army. The "godparents" of the Flag were "Cichociemny" Bronisław Czepczak-Górecki and Agnieszka Petelicka.

The Balkan Mission

In 1996 some soldiers of the GROM in the former Yugoslavia formed a unit called Polish Special Police Group, later the Polish Special Group. The commandos' tasks within the so-called divisive and observational forces concerned the escort of important persons, national minority groups, protection of strategic objects, interventions in crisis situations before the arrival of larger forces of the UNTAES. During this mission, the GROM soldiers detained a war criminal Slavko Dokmanović called "butcher of Vukovar".

## 1997

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 5 december 1997 Brig. Gen. Marian Sowiński handed over the duties of the Commander of the Military unit GROM to Colonel Sławomir Petelicki.

## 1999

On 1st October 1999 the Unit was transferred to the structures of the Ministry of National Defence and was directly subordinate to the Minister of National Defence.

On 10 June 1999 the Pope John Paul II unveiled the Monument of the Home Army and Polish Underground State. The Colour Guard of the Military Unit GROM participated in the ceremony invited by combatants of the Home Army and Cichociemni.

Taking the position of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM - the Memorial to the Home Army and Polish Underground State. On 17 September 1999 the position of the GROM Commander was taken by Colonel Zdzisław Żurawski.

In 1999 a special group of GROM commandos received the task of participation in the OSCE mission.

## 2000

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 26 May 2000 pursuant to the decision of the Minister of National Defence, Lieutenant Colonel Roman Polko was appointed to the position of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM.

## 2002

By Decision No. 37 / MON of the Minister of National Defence of February 20, 2002 the badge GROM and badges of the corps were introduced.

Afghanistan

One of the first tasks of GROM, after the tragic events on 11 September 2001 in the USA, was participation in the mission within the allied forces in the Islamic country Afghanistan, the Emirate of Bahrain, Kyrgyz Republic, Kuwait and on the Indian Ocean. In March 2003 GROM soldiers took part in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Kuwait

Another mission of GROM started in April 2002 in the Persian Gulf. The major tasks of the soldiers included control of vessels sailing in the Persian Gulf, which was carried out in compliance with the UN embargo on petroleum trade with Iraq and preventing smuggling. The mission ended in October 2003.

## 2003

Iraq

In May 2003 after the USA had ended the war in Iraq, GROM soldiers started their another mission. It was a fight against supporters of Saddam Hussein and Arab mercenaries, the so-called guerrilla warfare. The GROM soldiers were mainly in charge of searching for and neutralising co-workers of Hussein and members of Al-Qaeda.

## 2004

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 12 February 2004 a new Commander of the Unit was appointed. Colonel Roman Polko handed over command of the Military Unit GROM to Lieutenant Colonel Tadeusz Sapieryński.

## 2006

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 24 March 2006 the Unit returned under the command of Colonel Roman Polko. On 7 September 2006 Colonel Roman Polko handed over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM to Colonel Andrzej Kurkowicz. On 6 November 2006 Colonel Piotr Patalong was appointed to the position of the Commander of GROM.

## 2007

On 1st November 2007 the Unit was subordinated to the Special Forces Command.

## 2008

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 28 July 2008 the position of the Commander of the Unit was assumed by Colonel Dariusz Zawadka.

## 2009

By Decision No. 179 / MON of the Minister of National Defence of June 8, 2009 the pattern of an identification patch for soldiers of GROM combat squadrons, which soldiers are entitled to wear after completing the basic course.

## 2010

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 11 August 2010 the position of the Commander of the Unit was assumed by Colonel Jerzy Gut.

## 2011

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 11 August 2011 the successor of Colonel Jerzy Gut as the Commander of the Unit was Colonel Piotr Gąstał.

## 2014

From 1 to 10 January 2014, the Unit was subordinated to the Command of Special Forces, and then it was subordinated to the Special Operations Center - Command of the Special Forces Component under the General Command of the Armed Forces Branches.

## 2015

Since 1 August, 2015, GROM has been subject to the Command of the Special Forces Component subordinated to the General Command of the Armed Forces Branches.

## 2016

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 9 September 2016 Colonel Piotr Gąstał handed over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM to Colonel Robert Kopacki.

## 2017

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 9 April 2017 Colonel Robert Kopacki handed over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM to Colonel Mariusz Pawluk.

## 2020

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 1 January 2020 Colonel Mariusz Pawluk handed over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM to Colonel Grzegorz Miktusiak.

## 2016

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 9 September 2016 Colonel Piotr Gąstał handed over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM to Colonel Robert Kopacki.

## 2017

Handing over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM

On 9 April 2017 Colonel Robert Kopacki handed over the duties of the Commander of the Military Unit GROM to Colonel Mariusz Pawluk.

