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**PRESS RELEASE**

**BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGIES IN MILITARY UNIFORMS. DEBATE DURING THE “MSPO” DEFENCE INDUSTRY EXHIBITION IN KIELCE.**

**As part of Operation “Szpej”, launched this year by the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces, a key objective is to improve soldiers' survivability and resistance to harsh weather conditions. Among other things, the project includes the acquisition of new uniforms, including protective and insulating sorts. During the 32. International Defence Industry Exhibition (MSPO) in Kielce, representatives of Milliken & Company will take part in a debate organised by the Defence24.pl portal, dedicated to modern uniform systems, where they will present the latest technologies that provide protection against extreme weather conditions and fire. Representatives from the Ministry of National Defence and the Polish Army have been invited to participate in the event, and General Ben Hodges, former commander of the US Army in Europe, has also confirmed his participation.**

We expect serving soldiers to be capable of carrying out their tasks regardless of the time of day
or weather conditions. They will uphold our security and peace all year round. However, a lack
of adequate thermal comfort significantly affects their psycho-physical condition and can lead to reduced immunity and increased susceptibility to illness. This subsequently impacts negatively on the ability to carry out operations within individual units. Experiences from the ongoing war in Ukraine show how important adequate protective clothing, including thermal underwear, is for soldiers.

The fighting on the Ukrainian front has also once again confirmed the necessity of equipping soldiers with flame-resistant uniform sorts. Particularly exposed to open fire and high temperatures are the crews of combat vehicles - tanks, infantry fighting vehicles or self-propelled artillery, in which fires break out as a result of attacks with anti-tank weapons or loitering munitions. This group also includes military pilots. Very frequent cases of burns, covering large areas of the body, among members of armoured vehicle crews are also confirmed by Polish paramedics supporting fighting Ukraine.

Equally important on the battlefield is camouflage. Particularly today, with the mass use of unmanned reconnaissance platforms equipped with optoelectronics, camouflage not only of weapon systems or other equipment, but also of the individual soldier becomes of great importance. Hence, it becomes necessary to use fabric technology in soldiers' uniforms that provides multispectral camouflage, reducing the signature of soldiers in different infrared ranges.

- *Modern warfare, as shown by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, is extremely dangerous for soldiers - both armoured vehicle and aircraft crews and infantry. Soldiers must be particularly protected from open flames and fire. In addition, combat operations often take place in extreme winter conditions, so clothing that provides warmth and allows them to perform their tasks effectively is essential. In addition to warmth and flame-resistant, clothing must also provide adequate camouflage, especially with the widespread use of reconnaissance drones. The modern soldier's uniform must perform multiple functions to maximise survivability on the battlefield.* - **explains General Ben Hodges, former commander of the US Army in Europe.**

Thanks to the collaboration initiated in 2022 between Milliken & Company and PSO Maskpol,
it is possible to offer the Polish Army the latest material and technological solutions from the American manufacturer, and thus sets of uniforms with parameters significantly exceeding the products currently used by the Polish Army.

Milliken & Co. fabric technologies are used, among others, in the U. S. Army Gen III Extended Cold Weather Clothing System (ECWCS), which protects against wind, rain, snow and provides thermal comfort for soldiers in temperatures down to - 45 0C. Milliken's flame-resistant fabric technologies are used in more than 15 U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force combat clothing programmes. They have also been used in a joint project with Maskpol. It seems natural to offer Milliken's solutions in the uniform and equipment elements developed by Maskpol as part of the Advanced Individual Combat System (ZISW) Tytan program.

- *Our goal is that all technologies and products offered to the Polish Army are manufactured in Poland. Under our control, under our licence, so that each batch is inspected for compliance with standards, so that each batch supplied to the army is of the highest quality. We are systematically deepening our cooperation with Polish partners and broadening its spectrum by presenting the army with new technologies that have met with interest from potential users. One of these is multispectral camouflage technology, which we have been working on since 2013. At the moment we are completing its testing in the armed forces, both in the US and in NATO countries.* – **informs** **Anna Zygan, international sales manager of Milliken's Governmental and Defence division.**

Equally important from the perspective of the Polish Armed Forces, Milliken's aim is to offer and deliver the most modern technologies, both to the Polish army, uniformed services and other European allies. It is important that partner factories in Poland gain access to the latest technologies and that all production processes take place in Poland.

During the 32nd International Defence Industry Exhibition in Kielce, a debate will be held, organised by the Defence24.pl portal: “Modern uniform of the Polish Army soldier - Ethos, safety and functionality”, which will be attended by, among others representatives of the Ministry of National Defence, the army and industry, including representatives of Milliken & Co. The aim of the event is both to present the modern material technologies that can be applied to the uniforms of Polish Army soldiers and to emphasise the essence of cooperation between the manufacturer and the end user, which is intended to help better tailor products to their individual needs.

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**Photos:**
1 i 2 - Author: mł.chor. Piotr Gubernat | Zespół Reporterski "Combat Camera" DO RSZ.
2 i 3 - Milliken & Co.