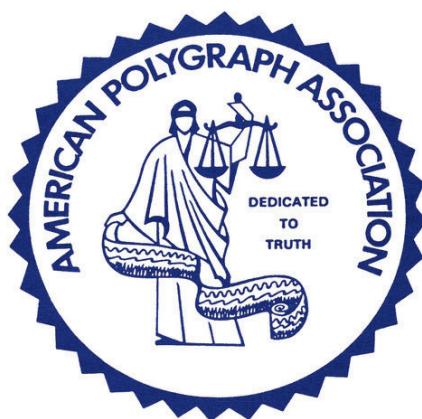


# REPORT on the 15th Interdepartmental Polygraph Seminar 'Personnel research for entities performing psychophysiological polygraph examinations' (Sulęczyno, 18 – 21 September 2023)

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The 15th Anniversary Interdepartmental Polygraph Seminar was held in Sulęczyno from 18 to 21 September 2023. The seminar was organised by the Forensic Technology Department of the Board of Investigation of the Military Gendarmerie Headquarters. The main topic of the fifteenth edition of the meeting was 'Pre-test interview in polygraph examinations'. The Interdepartmental Polygraph Seminar was initiated in 2008, this year's event marked the 15th anniversary of the annual meetings of institutional specialists in the field of polygraph examinations. This year the seminar was dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the implementation of polygraph examinations in Polish criminal proceedings.

Seminar participants included representatives of scientific centres dealing with humanities and polygraph examination issues, the Border Guard (SG), the Central Forensic Laboratory of the Police (CFLP), the Forensic Laboratory of the Provincial Police Headquarters in Bydgoszcz and the Forensic Laboratory of the Provincial Police Headquarters in Gorzów Wielkopolski, the National Revenue Administration (KAS), the Military Counterintelligence Service (SKW), the Military Intelligence Service (SWW), the Intelligence Agency (AW), the State Protection Service (SOP), the Police and the Military Gendarmerie (ŻW). Those taking part in the seminar deal with forensic issues in the area of polygraph examinations and personnel matters on a daily basis.

The seminar was opened by the Head of the Forensic Technology Department, Lt. Col. dr Marek Centkowski, followed by the moderator of the two-day discussions, Lt. Łukasz Lep, who welcomed the invited speakers and guests.

The main purpose of the seminar was to deepen the knowledge in the aspect of conducting a pre-test interview as an essential element of polygraph examinations carried out for the internal and criminal needs of commissioning parties. The gathered knowledge formed the basis for a discussion among the polygraph examiners community aimed at developing standards and norms for psychophysiological examination methodology. The discussion

contributed to the enhancement of expertise, exchange of experiences and views on polygraph examinations of representatives of state institutions. The seminar was an opportunity for theoreticians as well as practitioners professionally involved in polygraph examination to meet.

The seminar was divided into 2 days of discussions. During the first day of the seminar, 5 papers were delivered, their authors were both scientists coming from the leading scientific institutions in the country and officers of the Central Anticorruption Bureau, the Police and the Military Gendarmerie. Discussions on raising the standard of pre-test interviews in polygraph examinations carried out by Polish state institutions are part of an intensively developing and strengthening practice of their use. During the deliberations, attention was drawn to the need to deepen the knowledge in the field of polygraph examinations. Meetings such as the one organised by the Board of the Investigation

Department of the Military Gendarmerie allow representatives of theory and practice to exchange views and experiences, and above all to present new findings and results of conducted examinations.

The papers presented during the seminar dealt with the use of polygraph examinations for personnel and penal purposes. On the first day of the seminar, the opening lecture was given by Lt. Col. (Res.) Piotr Sukiennik. The title of the lecture was: 'Review of 15 years of experience of interdepartmental polygraph seminars organised by the Military Gendarmerie'. The speaker celebrated the jubilee of 40 years of service and work in the Ministry of National Defence, and during his speech he emphasised that from 27 August to 1 September 2023, for the first time, representatives of the Military Gendarmerie participated in a conference organised by the American Polygraph Association bringing together polygraph examiners with professionals and scientists involved in polygraph examinations from all over the world.

The next lecture was given by Piotr Herbowski, Ph.D., from the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, concerning '60 years of experience in polygraph examinations in criminal proceedings'. The speaker outlined the current legal situation of polygraph examinations conducted pursuant to Article 192a § 2 and Article 199a of the Code of Criminal Procedure. During the lecture the speaker discussed, for example, the results of research devoted to polygraph examinations in the light of court decisions and other evidence. The author of the presented paper also outlined the actual position and threats resulting from the insufficient knowledge of the legal community about polygraph examinations.

The next paper was presented by an officer representing the Provincial Police Headquarters in Bydgoszcz which entitled: 'Polygraph examinations in the Police - personal experience'. The speaker presented more than 20 years of experience in conducting criminal polygraph examinations and described several interesting criminal cases for which he had conducted polygraph examinations, the results of which had made it possible to reveal the perpetrators of crimes and prove their guilt.

Jakub Fischer, Ph.D. then took the floor, discussing 'The stunning power of rhetoric. The importance and possible use of rhetorical techniques in polygraph examinations'. The speaker gave a chronological overview of the changes that have taken place in the understanding and comprehension of rhetoric in recent decades, which in turn has resulted in a revival of the discipline, purging it of errors and widening the scope of the research. The speaker pointed out that the 'new rhetoric' is nowadays once again a theoretical and practical discipline, a set of techniques for formulating correct, effective and purposeful statements (texts). At the same time, rhetoric is a scientific discipline that makes it possible to research any utterance, to analyse texts and the whole process of communication. He stated that it is important to present a contemporary, methodological approach to the problem of interpretation of any text, in which rhetoric has a fundamental function.

The researcher pointed out that rhetoric can be used in the analysis of the utterances of people undergoing polygraph examinations. It can be particularly valuable at the preliminary interview stage, as a ready set of techniques to interpret the utterance, to understand the communication process between the examined person and the polygraph examiner. The analysis of the text allows the examiner to identify elements that show symptoms of insincerity, which can be used to prepare questions for polygraph examination.

This method, used for the detailed examination of statements formulated by the respondents, allows for the effective collection and evaluation of the information provided by the respondents. In the context of polygraph examinations, this technique is particularly helpful in analysing the materials of the proceedings, in particular the content of interrogation protocols, statements recorded or transcribed in other documents, and the formulation and preparation of both the pre-test interview and the test questions. The analysis of the text allows to identify elements that show symptoms of insincerity, which can be used to prepare questions for polygraph examination.

The last paper on the first day of the seminar was given by Renata Dąbrowska, Ph.D., President of the Polish Association of Polygraph Examiners. In her speech, she described this year's participation in the 57th Symposium of the American Polygraph Association, held in Las Vegas. She also addressed in a practical manner how to conduct and implement a pre-test interview before employing the respondent, discussing the entire interview process step by step.

The papers presented during the first day of the session introduced the audience to important issues in the area of polygraph examinations and may, in the future, contribute to further research in this intensively developing field of forensic expertise.

On the second day of the seminar, the full-day lectures were given by Rodolfo Prado, focused on 'Question formulation and the issues of the pre-test interview'. The speaker illustrated issues related to specialised methods of interviewing, pre-test interviewing as activities to support polygraph examinations. In addition, the presentation was supported by practical exercises involving the creation of test questions for hypothetical events.

Representatives of the polygraph examination community presented their views and positions on polygraph examinations and their legal aspects based on specific examples of ongoing criminal cases during which polygraph examinations were used. Representatives of individual institutions that are engaged in conducting polygraph examinations on their own or have encountered them professionally also provided information on the additional and wider application and use of polygraph examinations.

The final day of the seminar ended with a speech by the Head of the Board of Investigation of the Military Gendarmerie Headquarters, Col. Tomasz Kajzer, who emphasised the important role of polygraph examinations in the service of the Military Gendarmerie. He pointed out that annual debates are becoming a tradition of state institutions actively participating in conducting the examinations in question. He also declared, responding to the demand, to organise cyclical meetings allowing for the exchange and popularisation of polygraph examinations that he would like to prepare further editions of the seminar.

At the end of the seminar, all participants received commemorative statuettes and diplomas. Colonel Tomasz Kajzer thanked them for their participation.

In conclusion, it should be emphasised that the anniversary seminar largely met the expectations. The format of the meeting proved to be interesting and effective. The participants shared numerous experiences and interesting insights gained in the course of their professional and scientific work. An increase in the level of performed opinions is noticeable thanks to the partnership and exchange of experiences between entities using polygraph examinations in their research activities.

## **REPORT on the 57th Symposium of the American Polygraph Association (Las Vegas, 27 August – 1 September 2023)**

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The 57th Symposium of the American Polygraph Association was held in the United States in Las Vegas, Nevada from 27 August to 1 September 2023. More than 850 polygraph practitioners and researchers from 32 different countries attended, most of them were from the United States. Due to the political situation, polygraph examiners from Russia and Belarus did not attend the seminar. The group of Polish delegates included 11 people representing the judiciary, intelligence, counterintelligence and the academic community. Apart from the scientific papers, the seminar's extensive programme included workshops on test data analysis, important test questions, issues related to counter measures and issues related to pre-test and post-test interviews. The papers and workshops emphasised that the focus of the research must be more on information collection than on the admission of guilt by the perpetrator. Attention was drawn to the role of a good pre-examination interview as a prerequisite for an effective examination and subsequent interrogation. The pattern of truthful people sharing more verifiable details was highlighted. Other presentations referred to details of interviewing witnesses and victims of crime, methods of analysing the content of written statements and evidence, and security issues of processed and stored polygraph examination data. Discussions focused on specific cases involving polygraph examiners. During the following papers and lectures, a lot of attention was paid to the issue of interviews and interrogations (both PEACE and FBI methods). The issue of false confessions was also raised. There was no shortage of topics related to the workshop of conducting polygraph examinations, and action was discussed in relation to Doug Williams, who disseminated information regarding means of interfering with polygraph examinations while acting to the detriment of law enforcement and the justice system. It was determined that searches revealed approximately 5,000 people who had purchased materials from the above-mentioned man.

During the symposium, it was agreed that Donnie Dutton, a polygraph examiner with more than 40 years of professional experience from federal institutions, would take on a new term as President of the APA. The current chairman, Donald Krapohl, would lead the Management Board.

The seminar was an opportunity to present the latest models of polygraph hardware and software (Lafayette Instrument, Stoelting, Limestone Axciton) and the new lie detector – EyeDetect. The e-lie detectors currently on the market differ from those presented a few years ago only by minor corrections and improvements.

The next seminars are scheduled to take place: in New Orleans in August 2024, in San Diego in August 2025, and the 60th anniversary seminar is to take place in Chicago in August/September 2026.