

MEETING ABSTRACTS

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS' IDENTITY : SERVICE, UNIT COHESION AND PROFESIONAL COMMITMENT

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This paper presents findings from a representative quantitative survey of 800 professional soldiers across the Armed Forces, conducted in spring 2023 by a military research institution. The study used mainly closed-ended Likert-scale questions, supported by semi-open and one open-ended item. It explored key aspects of service experience, including combat readiness at both individual and unit levels, willingness to serve even at personal risk, professional identification, pride in the role, and perceived acceptance within units. It also examined how soldiers manage the balance between duty and private life.

Despite financial compensation being frequently criticized at the time of data collection, the results show strong professional commitment among respondents. Soldiers expressed confidence in their own competence and that of their units. Appreciation of immediate leadership was notable, although perceptions varied across institutional levels. The data challenge common media portrayals and highlight the cohesion, resilience, and everyday engagement of military personnel.

Keywords: military profession; unit cohesion; combat readiness; military identity; quantitative research

