



SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES OF AVIATION AND SPACE PSYCHOLOGY SECTION OF CARDINAL STEFAN WYSZYŃSKI UNIVERSITY PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS' SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION

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In 2012 the Military Institute of Aviation Medicine (MIAM) organised a scientific seminar with the American astronaut Marsha Ivins. Professor Jan F. Terelak, Chair of Occupational Psychology and Stress Department at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (CSWU) and Scientific Consultant at MIAM encouraged the third year students from CSWU to attend this event. This unique meeting with a woman, who took part in five NASA space missions and spent 1 318 hours, became an inspiration for young people to learn about space and aviation psychology. Later in the same year, the CSWU students visited the Polish Air Force base in Mińsk Mazowiecki (close to Warsaw) and the Polish Air Force Academy in Dęblin (PAFA). As a result of those visits dr Zdzisław Kobos from CSWU proposed to students to establish scientific circle dedicated to space and aviation psychology. The proposal met with an enthusiastic response, and on the 14 November 2012 meeting the idea came to live, the Aviation and Space Psychology Section of CSWU Psychology Students' Scientific Association (ASPS) was founded. At the

founding meeting Ms Agnieszka Szymanik was chosen as a president, Ms Anna Jędrych was chosen as a deputy president, Ms Klaudia Waclawek was chosen as a secretary and Ms Ewa Krześnik was chosen as a Treasurer.

On the next visit to PAFA, a co-operation between ASPS and Psychophysical Air Training Scientific Cycle (ATSC) from Polish Air Force Academy in Dęblin was inaugurated. The first fruit of this collaboration was organisation of a jubilee lecture of general Mirosław Hermaszewski which celebrated 35th anniversary of his flight into space. The meeting was held on 21 May 2013, in the Auditorium Maximum at CSWU. General Hermaszewski talked passionately about the preparation to the mission and the space mission itself. Another example of co-operation between ASPS and PAFA was a organisation of First Polish Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference titled: *Psychophysical Preparation to Flight – Man in Extreme Conditions*, which took place in Dęblin. Dr Zdzisław Kobos and Lt. Col. Zbigniew Wochnyński coordinated this event.

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The members of ASPS are involved in many activities related to space and aviation psychology. They participated in the events like: Jubilee Night at the Institute of Aviation in Warsaw, a conference *Poland in space yesterday, today, tomorrow* organised by Museum of Technology in Warsaw, a seminar *Psychological criteria of pilot selection* at MIAM and many others.

Additionally, ASPS has organised regular meetings called: *Psychologist in uniform*. Among the

guests were: Jr. Brigadier Dorota Kokoszka - Psychologist of State Fire Service, captain Dagmara Szcześniewicz - Polish Navy and Major, pilot of reserve Radosław R. Okulski PhD Engn.

The mission of ASPS is to deepen and spread knowledge about space and aviation psychology as well as to enhance interdisciplinary co-operation in this area of expertise.



Fig. 1. Attendees of a jubilee lecture on the 35th anniversary of Brig. Gen. Pil. Cosm. Mirosław Hermaszewski flight into space. In the centre (with flowers) Brig. Gen. Pil. Cosm Mirosław Hermaszewski. In the right Ms Agnieszka Szymanik, President of Aviation and Space Psychology Section of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University Psychology Students' Scientific Association. Third on the right from Brig. Gen. Pil. Cosm. Mirosław Hermaszewski is Dr Zdzisław Kobos from the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University. Second on the left is professor Jan F. Terelak, Scientific Consultant at the Military Institute of Aviation Medicine.