

TEACHING SCRIPT

SUBJECT:

Monitoring of threats in the internal security system of the Republic of Poland

author:

dr Paweł Rogalski

WSPA

Script was developed as a part of the project «Management in time of crisis»

The project „Management in time of crisis” benefits from a € 65,518.00 grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway under the EEA Grants. The aim of the project „Management in time of crisis” is to adjust the educational e-offer and the method of managing the didactic process at the university to the changing realities of teaching related to the need to function in a situation of a permanent crisis.

Monitoring of threats in the internal security system of the Republic of Poland
Script

When analyzing the basic tasks of the state, special attention should be paid to ensuring the security of its citizens. Security is one of the most important and protected values by both individual citizens and entire nations. Every modern state in the world considers security to be one of the highest priorities of the country's internal policies implemented. After all, one of the basic functions of the state is to strive to provide all its citizens and entities operating on its territory with security in the broadest sense (a sense of certainty, stability, free development, as well as the absence of perceived risk from the loss of important things, values, health or life)¹. State security has always been associated with the defense of its territory. Specialized and specially designated uniformed services are responsible for this defense. The concept of security has an interdisciplinary character, in which, however, it is necessary to identify certain common features that unite the different levels of approach to the issue of security.

Today, however, threats to the security of the state, as well as its citizens, are of a different nature from those in the past. We are observing their reevaluation in the direction of threats whose effects are aimed directly at the citizens of states. As we noted above, state security threats have a broader meaning. Indeed, the modern concept of state security has a broader dimension than in those of the past. It includes political, military, economic and technological factors, ecological, social but also humanitarian aspects. Its scope also includes the preservation of national identity and respect for basic civil rights and freedoms in the state².

¹ T. Bąk, B. Błażejewska, *Współczesne zagrożenia a bezpieczeństwo państwa*, w: *Bezpieczeństwo publiczne. Zeszyt nr 12/2018*, s. 9.

² Z. Ciekankowski, *Rodzaje i źródła zagrożeń*, w: *Nauki humanistyczne i społeczne na rzecz bezpieczeństwa*, s. 27.

Dictionary definitions define security as a state of certainty, tranquility, absence of danger of a sense of security and indicate that it means the absence of danger and protection from dangers. The term security corresponds to the Latin *securitas*. Most commonly, however, security is defined as a state of being free from anxiety, creating a sense of certainty, a state of being "without care" from the Latin *sine cura-securitas*³.

It should be borne in mind that security is one of the most important existential needs of man, which arises from the objective conditions of existence of people, as well as various social groups and the relations between them. Guaranteeing security is the primary goal of any state. Threats of a political, economic, social, military and wartime nature challenge both state security policy and international organizations.

The concept of internal security will therefore be determined by the borders of the state. Maintaining the area of this category of security is important because of the singularity of the law, the singularity of the implementation of this law and the singularity of the effects of this implementation in the state. Based on such a criterion, the separation of internal security includes all categories of security that are defined in the internal legal order of the state. The general aspect of internal security is combined with its special feature, which is the locality of the danger. Danger, regardless of its smaller or larger scope, is almost always local in nature⁴. Internal security is a complex concept, which includes, among others: security and public order, also universal security and systemic security. All the indicated categories of security are extremely important for every citizen but also for state institutions, whose task is to provide a sense of security to all its citizens, regardless of gender, age, residence or views. Security is a desirable state of facts inside the state, which, regardless of the damage caused by people, forces of nature and technology, allows the functioning of the entire state, social, private organizations⁵.

Internal security, which includes:

³ See more in detail: R. Zięba, *Kategoria bezpieczeństwa w nauce o stosunkach międzynarodowych*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Grado, Toruń 2005, str. 33.

⁴ A. Łuczyszyn, M. Łuczyszyn, *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne jako element bezpieczeństwa państwa i czynnik stabilizujący procesy rozwoju społeczno-gospodarczego-ujęcie lokalne i regionalne*, w: *Prace naukowe Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego we Wrocławiu*, nr 467,2017, s. 205.

⁵ M. Huzarski, *Zmienne podstawy bezpieczeństwa i obronności państwa*, Warszawa 2009, s. 17.

- public security;
- general security;
- systemic security.

Threat, on the other hand, refers to the sphere of consciousness of a given entity. It can be a person, a social group, or a whole nation. It signifies a certain state of psyche or consciousness brought about by the perception of phenomena judged unfavorable or dangerous. The feeling of security by the subject we have mentioned, is a reflection in his consciousness of a real or potential threat. However, this will not always be consistent with the actual state of affairs. Therefore, when assessing the state of security, it is necessary, first of all, to take into account the reality in which threats to social participants arise and the state of their knowledge and awareness in which the perception of these threats and the formation of a sense of security state takes place. The concept of threats to state security used to be closely linked to the military area of national security, which was taken as a priority. However, with the passage of years, the development of technology, as well as numerous disasters, new areas of state security were identified and identified. Since then, the perception of security threats has changed significantly. Depending on the context of the use of the term, or the time and place of its occurrence, we can distinguish many of its definitions. Among the various definitions of a state of emergency, we could point out first of all:

1. a single action or a whole sequence of events that drastically and in a relatively short period of time threaten to degrade the quality of life of the people of a state or significantly narrow the scope of policy decisions available to the government of that state or private, non-governmental actors inside the state;
2. a confluence of events internally or in international relations in which the conditions for undisturbed internal existence and development could be reduced or lost with high probability, which could result in the violation or loss of state sovereignty or partnership in international relations, arising as a result of political, psychological, economic or military violence;
3. a state in which the state cannot resist such external and internal influences that cause economic development to lack the assumed dynamics and direction.

Among the challenges and threats of the modern world, those from non-military areas come to the fore. They primarily concern the sphere of civilizational development, economy and economics, human spirituality, guarantees of existence, national and religious identity, preservation of nature, scarcity of natural goods, but also extensive human interference in the environment, excessive human greed and the phenomena of social pathologies⁶. Threat, as we mentioned above, is most generally understood as insecurity. By this it becomes an invariable and unavoidable, and in some cases universal, reality of human life, or the whole community. It is also closely related to security, which thus makes threat its basic category. Identification of threats and knowledge of them are therefore a basic condition for initiating preventive measures and organizing defense.

Nowadays, threats can be divided into:

1. Threats to population, property

- primary (accidents, disasters and cataclysms):

* natural (water, air, fire, earth, space);

* technical (communication, technological, construction, municipal, illegal storage of hazardous materials - articles or substances whose properties may cause a threat to health, safety, property or the environment and which are listed on the list of hazardous materials or are classified in accordance with RID, ADR, IATA-DGR, IMDG-Code regulations);

* military (direct and indirect);

* environmental emergency.

- secondary (threats related to natural disasters):

* human existence (mass deaths, famines, epidemics and pandemics);

* social (including social pathologies - crime, drug addiction, prostitution, mass, unemployment, mental health disorders);

* mass loss (destruction or long-term contamination of the environment - ecological disaster, animal fever, destruction of goods necessary for survival).

⁶ T. Bąk, B. Błażejewska, *Współczesne zagrożenia a bezpieczeństwo państwa*, w: *Bezpieczeństwo publiczne. Zeszyt nr 12/2018*, s. 10.

Based on the above considerations, the following typology of national security criteria can be made:

1. Object criterion, which can take the form of security:

- political,
- military,
- economic,
- social.

2. Sources of threats:

- natural,
- technical,
- structural,
- demographic,
- ideological,
- economic,
- educational,
- psychological,
- cultural, an others.

3. Environments:

- natural,
- technical,
- structural,
- demographic,
- ideological,
- economic,
- educational,
- psychological,
- cultural, an others.

4. Range of threats:

- global,
 - continental,
 - regional,
 - local.
5. Scale of threat:
- global,
 - international,
 - states,
 - unit,
 - administrative.
6. Effects of threats:
- physical,
 - psychological.
7. Place of threats:
- internal,
 - external.
8. Dynamics of threat development:
- dynamic,
 - creeping.
9. Nature of social relations:
- conflictual,
 - non-conflictual.

The first of the above - political threats to national security are defined as a state in which the tasks of organized social (political) groups that prevent the state from carrying out its main functions are intensified, thereby undermining or nullifying the activities of bodies or institutions that pursue national goals and interests. Politics is understood as governing and directing the affairs

of the state. It therefore includes domestic but also foreign policy of the state, as well as international policy.

Threats can arise as a result of planned and organized manipulation or delayed and abandoned actions that are intended to lead to the overthrow of legitimate authorities, the violation of the state's *raison d'etre*, national interests and the rule of law, or the undermining of the state's international position.

Military threats to national security, on the other hand, include the use, or the mere threat of the use of military force by subjects of international law. We can list many forms of direct and indirect use of military force as a tool for achieving political goals. Among the examples we can point out:

- * demonstration of force,
- * military diversions,
- * military blockades,
- * military blackmail,
- * military provocations,
- * border incident,
- * limited use of armed violence,
- * armed border clash,
- * armed attack by informal groups,
- * local conflict,
- * conflict between states⁷.

Wśród zagrożeń militarnych możemy wskazać również użycie broni jądrowej, broni chemicznej, broni biologicznej i oczywiście broni konwencjonalnej.

Another threat - social threats - are threats that include all cases that relate to the danger of loss of life and health, national and ethnic identity of individual communities, as well as social and public security of citizens of a particular state. This is primarily due to the distinguishing characteristics of each society (e.g., distinctiveness from other communities, interaction between its

⁷ B. Balcerowicz, *Obronność państwa średniego*, Warszawa 1997, s. 74.

members, common territory, institutions, mode of communication, similarity of living conditions).

These threats include, first of all:

- * violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- * cultural and religious prejudice and discrimination against national, ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic minorities,
- * gender discrimination,
- * manipulation of consciousness and psyche with the help of mass media, restriction of media freedom,
- * nationalism, chauvinism, xenophobia, religious fundamentalism,
- * social pathologies (which we can include: crime, terror, mafia structures, drug addiction, epidemics, prostitution, alcoholism, illiteracy, mass unemployment, dysfunctional families),
- * mass migration (both economic and environmental),
- * social alienation (consumerism, religious sectarianism, escapism),
- * abuses of knowledge against humanity,
- * devaluation of human values, blurring of differences between good and evil,
- * the cult of violence, the brutalization of interpersonal relations (especially with the help of the Internet),
- * disasters and cataclysms leading to the violation of the social system,
- * theft of cultural works.

Social threats are becoming particularly important in the modern world, as they are increasingly common. In this context, the humanitarian sphere of international cooperation for the protection of human rights, the idea of freedom and democracy as a whole is becoming more important. There is also a greater use of the capabilities of international organizations such as the UN or the OSCE. The goal, therefore, of social policy should be the creation of social good - the realization of social justice, as well as the elimination of social evils. The task of social policy should be to remove and alleviate social issues.

Particularly important role to be played have social activities in combating organized crime in the country. It is pointed out that the threat of criminal activity is one of the most dangerous challenges of modern times. It is a phenomenon characterized by particular dynamism in its development.

Environmental threats to state security refer to the functioning of living nature and human living conditions in the territory. These threats can be caused in two ways: through human activity, as well as natural factors. Natural threats include:

- droughts,
- frosts,
- floods,
- fires,
- winds,
- earthquakes,
- avalanches,
- precipitation.

Droughts are prolonged periods without rainfall. In Poland, they tend to be dynamic in nature, manifested by a widening gap between water resources and water needs. Frost is a time when there is an air temperature below 0°C, which can cause frostbite but also people to freeze, difficulties in communication and the country's economy. Floods are hydrological phenomena that are transient in nature and consist of the surge of river/sea water in watercourses, reservoirs or at sea. Flooding causes, after the water has exceeded the coastal state, the submergence of large areas of land - river valleys, coastal or depressed areas, leading to measurable losses both social and material. Flooding is one of the most dangerous and destructive natural disasters. The fight against it is an ever-present and very important problem also in Poland. We well remember the events associated, for example, with the so-called "flood of the millennium", which took place in south-western Poland in 1997. An important influence on the occurrence of floods is the existing system of rivers and the hydrological and meteorological situation occurring at different times of the year. Among the reasons for the occurrence of floods are: intense rainfall, spring melt, blockage of the

course of the river by ice jams or landslides, damage to hydrotechnical facilities, backwater. Floods can cause very extensive effects. However, these will be discussed in detail in later sections.

Fires-uncontrollable spread of fire that poses a danger to both people and objects. Fire engulfs buildings, forests, marshes, or human existence. Due to their unexpected onset and rapid spread, fires can also cause secondary consequences, e.g., explosions of fuel tanks, formation of poisonous vapors and gases, and building collapses. Fighting fires can be carried out by professional firefighting units, volunteer fire departments and the military.

Another danger - wind, which is the movement of atmospheric air with a predominantly horizontal component relative to the Earth's surface, which is caused by the uneven distribution of atmospheric pressure at a given level above the Earth's surface. Wind is defined by two parameters - direction, which means where the wind is blowing from, defined, among other things, by the wind rose, and speed, which is expressed most often in m/s or km/hr, knots (nautical mile/hr) and the conventional Beaufort scale. Intense wind is an extreme weather phenomenon that affects in a sustained or impactful manner. The consequences of intense wind gusts are often broken trees, impassable roads, or ripped-off roofs.

The last threat we are discussing, terrorism, is a relatively new but extremely dangerous phenomenon today. The definition of terrorism, or act of terror, was developed in 1937 in Geneva on behalf of the League of Nations Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism. An act of terror was defined as "criminal acts directed against a state other than the one in whose territory they are committed and intended or calculated to create a state of terror in the minds of particular persons, or a group of persons or the general public. This act could take the form of any intentional act causing death, bodily harm or loss of liberty to official personalities, or could be committed with the intent to endanger their lives, to deliberately destroy or damage public property, as well as the manufacture, acquisition, possession or supply of ammunition and explosives for the commission of such crimes" . This phenomenon has received many definitions. According to Lidell and Piasecka, terror is an act of rape of international significance.

Terrorism has also found its place in Polish criminal law. Article 115 § 20 of the The Penal Code states that: "a terrorist crime is a criminal act punishable by imprisonment of at least 5 years,

committed with the aim of seriously intimidating a large number of people, forcing a public authority of the Republic of Poland or another state or an authority of an international organization to take or refrain from taking certain actions, causing serious disturbances in the system or economy of the Republic of Poland, another state or an international organization - as well as a threat to commit such an act. A special motivation is the basis of the action of a political or religious nature. The phenomenon of terrorism of the 21st century is strongly complex and heterogeneous . It operates on the basis of a combination of factors: socio-economic, historical-political, sociological and psychological. The following currents in terrorist activity can be distinguished today: Islamic (Al Qaeda, Jihad), separatist-nationalist (IRA, ETA, Corsican organizations), anarchist-leftist (Red Army Faction, Red Brigades), leftist extremism (Japanese Red Army Tupamaros in Uruguay, ERP in Argentina), neo-fascist (New Deal in Italy), national liberation (PLO) and environmentalist (AnimalLiberation Front in the UK).

From a military point of view, terrorism is a subversive activity (sabotage) at the strategic level, carried out mainly by tactical means and methods within precision operations ⁸.

In the face of modern threats, which we pointed out earlier, each state should have established appropriate structures, institutions, the interoperability of which will condition the success of actions taken to combat negative phenomena that threaten the security of the state.

Terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to society. Terrorist activities significantly contribute to lowering the sense of security of the residents of a particular region, or the community of an entire country. The social impact of terrorist attacks cannot be forgotten at this point either. They directly affect, of course, the people who lose their lives or health in them, but indirectly they will also affect their family members, relatives, friends and acquaintances, witnesses to these events and entire communities.

In the case of those killed or injured, the social impact is further linked to the economic impact, such as the payment of compensation, disability pensions, pensions for orphaned children, the loss of a source of income, a reduction in the standard of living of spouses or families. Also for

⁸ Z. Ciekankowski, *Rodzaje i źródła zagrożeń*, w: *Nauki humanistyczne i społeczne na rzecz bezpieczeństwa*, s. 43.

those injured, long-term rehabilitation, treatment, or work with psychologists may be necessary. And in a broader view of the social consequences of terrorist attacks, one can point to anxiety, fear, fear of the possibility of another terrorist attack in an unspecified place and time⁹. In Poland, a unified model for preventing and combating terrorism has been adopted. These activities are based on the Law on Crisis Management. According to the Polish legislator, crisis management is an activity of public administration bodies that is an element of national security management, which consists in preventing crisis situations, preparing to take control over them through planned actions, responding in case of crisis situations, removing their effects and restoring resources and critical infrastructure. The most important thing is to identify the principles and operation of crisis management in Poland. Based on the Law on Crisis Management, the National Crisis Management Plan was established by the Government Security Center and the safety net contained in this Plan, which defines the tasks and responsibilities of crisis management participants, including the lead entity.

The National Crisis Management Plan is a planning document that is prepared by the Government Security Center in cooperation with individual ministries, central offices and provinces, based on the Crisis Management Law. It was developed in particular for the needs of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers. This document is a starting document in the process of civil planning at the central and provincial levels. Based on the provisions of the law, this document should be updated at least once every two years, but also when the need to correct or supplement a particular procedure is identified as a result of the launch of procedures, or in the event of a change in legal acts relevant to the operation of the National Crisis Management Plan. According to the Law on Crisis Management, the specific competencies of local authorities are defined in general. Likewise, the tasks of the governor related to countering major threats (including terrorism), including by directing the monitoring, planning, response and removal of the consequences of threats on the territory of the district (municipality); developing and submitting the district (municipality) crisis management plan to the governor (starost) for approval; preventing, countering

⁹ D. Maciejewski, *Działania służby wiodącej w fazie reagowania w czasie wystąpienia zdarzenia o charakterze terrorystycznym*, w: *Studia Administracji i Bezpieczeństwa*, s. 135.

and removing the consequences of terrorist events. More than 190 modules are detailed in the Plan alone, covering the spectrum of activities carried out by the Prime Minister, each minister in charge of a government administration department, the heads of the Internal Security Agency and Foreign Intelligence Agency, provincial governors, and the director of the Government Security Center. Each of the modules is a compilation, indication and discussion of detailed undertakings and the method of their implementation.

In the National Crisis Management Plan, 19 hazards were identified in the safety net: flood, epidemic, chemical contamination, disruption of telecommunications systems and services, disruption of energy, fuel and gas systems, severe frost, intense snowfall, hurricane, large-scale fire, epizootic, epiphytosis, maritime disaster, drought, heat, radiation contamination, collective disorder, terrorist event, disruption of information networks and systems, and hybrid activities.

The National Crisis Management Plan consists of two parts (Part A and Part B). In Part A, the legislator focuses on the measures implemented to minimize the risk of a crisis situation, and includes tasks carried out by public administration bodies in the first two phases of crisis management: the prevention phase and the preparation phase. Part B of the National Crisis Management Plan covers the administration's activities after the crisis has already occurred. This part includes solutions applied during the subsequent phases: response and recovery.

Part A includes:

1. characteristics of threats and assessment of the risk of their occurrence, including those involving critical infrastructure;
2. tasks and responsibilities of crisis management participants in the form of a safety net for the phases: prevention and preparation.

Part B contains an indication of actions, as well as detailed procedures to be taken after the detection of a threat, including:

1. tasks and responsibilities of crisis management participants in the form of a safety net;
2. threat monitoring tasks;
3. emergency response procedures, specifying how to deal with emergencies - a compilation of catalogs and task modules of ministers and governors;

4. interaction between the services involved in the implementation of planned projects in the event of an emergency;
5. the procedure for mobilizing the necessary forces and resources participating in the implementation of planned undertakings in the event of a crisis situation;
6. summary of forces and resources planned for use in emergency situations;
7. procedures for the implementation of crisis management tasks - standard operating procedures, including those related to the protection of critical infrastructure;
8. organization of communications;
9. the organization of the system of threat monitoring, warning and alerting;
10. the principles of informing the population about threats and how to deal with threats;
11. organization of evacuation from threatened areas;
12. organization of rescue, medical care, social assistance and psychological assistance;
13. principles and procedures for assessing and documenting damage;
14. procedures for mobilizing strategic reserves;
15. priorities for protection and restoration of critical infrastructure.

The entire National Crisis Management Plan is available on the website of the Prime Minister's Office. There are four phases of crisis management:

1. prevention - all activities aimed at preventing any possibility of a crisis occurring;
2. preparation - the development of responses to crisis situations;
3. response - its purpose is to launch such preventive actions that will prevent or minimize the possibility of damage, and after its eventual occurrence, proper, appropriate rescue actions aimed at providing assistance to those affected and reducing secondary losses and greater damage;
4. reconstruction - this is the final phase of the disaster management cycle. It continues until all systems have returned to their previous state, or a state that is better than the previous one.

The Polish Crisis Management System is a multi-level system. It consists of several components:

- decision-making (crisis management bodies);
- opinion and advisory (crisis management teams that are competent to initiate and coordinate actions taken in the field of crisis management;
- response (crisis management centers that maintain 24-hour readiness to take action).

Contamination detection and alert systems are an organizationally and technically related set of elements, designed to identify contamination, produce, collect, process and preliminarily analyze information about the release into the environment, toxic chemical agents, radioactive materials, infectious biological agents and the emergence of outbreaks of infection, as well as the resulting contamination and potential sources of such threats.

The most important tasks of the system include:

1. informing - it consists of conveying messages about possible ways to prevent threats, ways to act in case of a threat and after its cessation, including the possibility of obtaining assistance in removing its consequences;
2. warning - it consists in the transmission of information in advance on the possibility of the occurrence of a threat by the competent authorities, as well as on how to proceed in preparing for its possible occurrence;
3. alerting - the transmission of information by the competent authorities about the occurrence of a threat and its possible development, as well as the appropriate course of action to prevent greater losses and social unrest.

In addition, among the tasks of the system should also be indicated:

1. obtaining information on the approach or ascertainment of the fact of the occurrence in a specific area of a threat to human life and health associated with the use of means of destruction, the occurrence of natural disasters, failure of technical facilities, chemical contamination, radioactive contamination, biological infections, floods and fires or other similar events,

2. to determine the type, location, scale and possible consequences of the hazards that have occurred, as well as the designation of dangerous zones,
3. warning and alerting the population of the impending danger and informing them of the recommended rules of conduct of the population in a specific situation.

Detection of threats, warning and alerting the population is carried out on the basis of the Detection and Alerting System (SWA). This system is prepared and organized in peacetime, and develops in a situation of extraordinary threats to people and the environment in peacetime or during an increase in state defense readiness. The main tasks of the system in the municipalities include:

- 1) monitoring of threats in cooperation with entities implementing environmental monitoring and conducting rescue operations;
- 2) assessment, analysis and forecasting of threats occurring in the city;
- 3) warning and alerting the population about hazards and informing them about the rules of behavior before and during their occurrence;
- 4) ensuring the flow of information on the occurrence of hazards;
- 5) ensuring interaction with crisis management centers of public administration bodies;
- 6) ensuring the flow of information for the purposes of increasing state defense readiness.

The tasks of the SWA are carried out using technical warning systems and alerting. These systems include an SMS information system as well as an audio warning and alarm system.

The regulation of the Council of Ministers specifying the detailed scope of activities of the heads of civil defense specifies that the scope of activities of the heads of civil defense of voivodeships, poviats and communes in their area of operation includes, among others, the preparation and ensuring the operation of the detection and alarm system and the early warning system.

The purpose of warning and alerting the population about emerging threats is to avoid losses in people and material resources in the event of a threat or a disaster event. The indicated goal can be achieved by:

- preventive actions,
- monitoring the condition of environments in which threats arise,
- ensuring the circulation of information between management bodies in the event of a threat,
- providing the population with information about the threat in a timely manner.

Based on the above considerations, basic strategic goals can be derived in the field of security of the Republic of Poland:

1. Maintaining and demonstrating the readiness of the integrated national security system to seize opportunities, meet challenges, reduce risks and counteract threats;
2. Improving the integrated national security system, especially its management elements, including providing the necessary resources and capabilities;
3. Ensuring public safety by improving the national rescue and fire-fighting system and the system for monitoring, reporting, warning about threats and eliminating the effects of natural disasters and catastrophes, as well as implementing legal and organizational solutions in the field of civil protection and civil defense systems;
4. Improving and developing the national crisis management system to ensure its internal coherence and integrity and enabling uninterrupted cooperation within the crisis management systems of international organizations of which Poland is a member¹⁰.

The national system includes contamination detection and alarm systems, which include:

- a) contamination detection system - supervised by the Ministry of National Defense,
- b) networks and systems of epidemiological surveillance and control of infectious diseases in the country and national contact points for international surveillance systems over threats to the health or life of large groups of the population - supervised by the Minister of Health,

¹⁰ S. Kleszcz, *Rola krajowego systemu wykrywania skażeń i alarmowania w systemie obronnym państwa w dobie aktualnych zagrożeń*, w: *Przegląd Nauk o Obronności*, Wojskowa Akademia Techniczna im. Jarosława Dąbrowskiego, Warszawa 2017, s. 94.

- c) a system of stations for the early detection of radioactive contamination and facilities carrying out measurements of radioactive contamination, whose activities are coordinated by the President of the Polish Atomic Energy Agency,
- d) nprovincial detection and alarm systems and provincial early warning systems supervised by voivodes,
- e) detection and alarm system specified in the National Plan for Combating Threats and Pollution of the Marine Environment.

The national system also includes authorities and organizational units that analyze and assess the contamination situation and develop, announce and implement intervention actions, which include:

1. organizational units that carry out intervention activities in situations of contamination - are supervised by the Minister of Internal Affairs,
2. civil defense formations intended to monitor, detect and recognize contamination, as well as to alert about contamination,
3. other authorities and organizational units that observe, measure and notify about contamination in the country, included in the systems, based on contracts and agreements - in accordance with these agreements.

The information, warning and alarm measures include:

Measures that serve the purpose of communicating about risks:

- instructions on how to proceed in the event of a threat, which are developed and distributed by civil defense bodies,
- instructions on how to proceed in the event of a threat, prepared and transmitted in electronic form, publicly available via publicly available telecommunications (internet) connections, on the websites of civil defense authorities,
- instructions, guides, leaflets, posters and other publications whose task is to provide information about threats, including methods of prevention and action in the event of their occurrence, developed by civil defense bodies, bodies: services, inspections, guards and other entities carrying out tasks in the field of civil protection,

- messages informing about threats, methods of prevention and actions in the event of their occurrence, published in the mass media.

The Polish legislator provided for the implementation of the warning and alerting function by using:

1. Warning and alarm messages broadcast via local media. Special attention should be paid to radio and television stations and Internet portals.
2. Messages transmitted via fixed sound devices, especially in workplaces and public facilities.
3. Messages transmitted via mobile sound devices, with particular emphasis on service, inspection and guard vehicles.
4. Messages transmitted using modern ICT systems: in radio broadcasting - RDS (Radio Data System), in television - teletext, in digital telephony (mobile and landline) - SMS (Short Message Service). These messages are sent to residents depending on the location of the threat and the presence of a specific citizen near the threat.

Messages are divided into:

Information messages - they contain information on how to prevent threats, how to proceed in the event of a threat, as well as after its cessation, including the possibility of obtaining help.

Warning messages - they contain information that anticipates an upcoming threat. This message should contain as many preventive tips as possible on how to deal with the approaching threat.

Alarm messages - contain information about the current threat occurring in a specific area, as well as instructions and instructions regarding the actions of the population, e.g. directions and means of evacuation, meeting places for evacuees, methods of respiratory protection, etc.

The basic components of each message include:

- date and time of transmitting the message,
- number of the transmitted message,
- the entity that transmits the message (i.e. the person who is responsible for transmitting the message),

- the person (or persons) who are designated as contact persons for the entity transmitting the message and their telephone number,
- reason for issuing the message (brief description of the threat),
- the current state of occurrence of the threat, as well as the area of its occurrence and the forecast development of this threat,
- defining the group of people to whom the message is addressed,
- recommendations for the population related to the threat,
- alternatively, an indication of the state of preparation of public administration services and bodies for the upcoming threat (the appropriateness of including such information should be considered each time).

When choosing the type of media to which a message should be sent first, relevant people should first consider, among others: the type and size of the event, time of day, time remaining until the threat arrives and the number of recipients to whom the message is to be sent. Basically, the closer we are to the danger, the greater the frequency of the message. It is also recommended that radio or television stations repeat the message from time to time. The idea is to make sure that the content of the messages reaches as many recipients as possible. All materials on the basis of which messages were prepared, as well as messages sent to the media, should be collected, properly described and archived.

In order to improve the warning and alerting system about emerging threats, uniform content of warning messages and alarm signals has been established for the entire country, which should be known to all citizens. Alarm and warning signals are transmitted by alarm sirens (some sirens also have the ability to emit alarms and voice messages) and mass media – radio and television. In some communes, counties and voivodships other methods of informing the population are also used, e.g. text messages (SMS) via the mobile phone network, megaphones and house-to-house notifications.

Alarm signals

Announcement of alarm:

- acoustic signal: modulated siren sound over a three-minute period,

- in the mass media: verbal announcement repeated three times: Attention! Attention! Attention! I am announcing an alarm (cause, type of alarm, etc.) for,
- visual alarm signal: yellow sign in the shape of a triangle or, in justified cases, another geometric figure.

Alarm cancellation:

- acoustic signal: continuous siren sound for three minutes,
- in the mass media: verbal announcement repeated three times: Attention! Attention! Attention! I cancel the alarm (cause, type of alarm, etc.) for

Warning messages

Warning about the risk of contamination:

- method of announcing the message through the mass media: verbal announcement repeated three times: Attention! Attention! People present on the premises of at approximately min. contamination may occur..... (type of contamination) towards,
- sposób odwołania komunikatu poprzez środki masowego przekazu: powtarzana trzykrotnie zapowiedź słowna: Uwaga! Uwaga! Odwołuję uprzedzenie o zagrożeniu (rodzaj skażenia) dla method of recalling the message through the mass media: verbal announcement repeated three times: Attention! Attention! I withdraw the warning about the threat of (type of contamination) for

Warning about the risk of infection:

- the method of announcing the message through the mass media: the form and content of the message warning about the risk of infection are determined by the authorities of the State Sanitary Inspectorate,

- method of recalling the message through the mass media: verbal announcement repeated three times: Attention! Attention! I withdraw the warning about the threat of (type of infection) for

Forewarning of natural disasters and environmental threats:

- method of announcing the message through the mass media: verbal announcement repeated three times: Information about the threat and the residents' course of action (type of threat, expected time of occurrence and guidelines for inhabitants),
- method of recalling the message through the mass media: verbal announcement repeated three times: Attention! Attention! I withdraw the warning about the threat of (type of disaster) for

The above study is based on the information contained on the website: [Alarmowanie i ostrzeganie - Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji - Portal Gov.pl \(www.gov.pl\)](#) (Alarming and warning - Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration, accessed: 27.08.2023)

It should also be remembered that alarm sirens are used in exercises conducted by voivodes. Information about such an exercise is provided by voivodes to the media at least 24 hours before the exercise is carried out. Sirens are used during important national holidays.

Many institutions were established to protect the population. The most important ones include:

- justice system;
- special forces;
- other services, as well as guards and inspections involved in security protection and public order;
- rescue and civil protection services;
- entities responsible for crisis management;
- border services;
- central and local government internal security institutions.

The first justice system we have identified is intended to ensure the proper functioning of the state, including ensuring the safety of citizens, and is the justice system administered by

independent courts. Legal protection authorities also cooperate with them, in particular the prosecutor's office and the Prison Service.

The entities responsible for carrying out special tasks include: the Internal Security Agency and the Central Anticorruption Bureau. The Internal Security Agency protects the state against organized activities that could pose a threat to the independence, sovereignty and constitutional order of the Republic of Poland, as well as the functioning of state structures. The aim of the Internal Security Agency is to ensure the protection of classified information, obtain and analyze and transfer the obtained information to the competent authorities responsible for the internal security of the state. The tasks of ABW include primarily:

1. Identifying, preventing and combating threats that undermine the internal security of the state, as well as its constitutional order (especially the sovereignty, international position of the state, independence and inviolability of its territory, including state defense).
2. Recognizing, preventing and detecting crimes (espionage and terrorism, violation of state secrets and other crimes that would undermine the security of the state, undermining the economic foundation of the state, corruption of persons performing public functions, related to the production and circulation of goods, technologies and services of strategic importance to the state, illegal manufacture, possession and circulation of weapons, ammunition and explosives, weapons of mass destruction, narcotics, psychotropic drugs in international circulation and prosecution of their perpetrators).
3. To carry out, within the limits of its jurisdiction, the tasks of the state protection service, as well as to perform the functions of the national security authority in the protection of classified information.
4. To acquire, analyze, process and transmit to the competent authorities information that may be significant for the protection of the state's internal security, as well as its constitutional order.
5. To undertake other activities that are specified in separate laws, as well as international agreements.

The Internal Security Agency can also conduct its activities outside the borders of the Republic of Poland. The tasks of the ABW should not be combined with those assigned to the Police, as they do not lie in the same area. The ABW is a completely independent unit, through a number of powers granted to it by the Polish legislature. However, these units work closely together in carrying out their tasks.

The Central Anticorruption Bureau was established to combat corruption in public and economic life, as well as activities that damage the economic interests of the Polish state. The CBA conducts operational cases, control, preventive and educational activities. The bureau was established in 2006 as a special service for combating corruption in public and economic life. In particular, to combat it in state and local government institutions, as well as to combat activities that would harm the economic interests of the Polish state. The specific tasks of the CBA include, based on the law, primarily:

1. Identification, prevention and detection of crimes against:
 - activities of state institutions and local self-government units,
 - the administration of justice, elections and referendum, if they are in connection with corruption, or activities against the economic interests of the state,
 - financing of political parties, if these activities remain in connection with corruption,
 - tax obligations and accounting for grants and subsidies, if they are in connection with corruption or activities detrimental to the economic interests of the state, as well as prosecution of their perpetrators.
2. To uncover and counteract instances of non-compliance with regulations on restrictions on the conduct of business by persons who hold public office.
3. Documenting the basis and initiating the implementation of laws on the return of benefits obtained unjustly at the expense of the State Treasury or other state legal entities.
4. Carrying out analytical activities on phenomena occurring in the jurisdiction of the CBA, as well as presenting information in this regard to the Prime Minister, the President of the Republic of Poland, the Sejm and the Senate.

The heads of the various services: the CBA, the Internal Security Agency, the Military Counterintelligence Service, as well as the Chief of Police, the Chief of the Border Guard, the Chief of the Military Police, the Inspector General of Fiscal Control, the Head of the Customs Service and the Inspector General of Financial Information are obliged to cooperate (within the scope of their competence) in combating corruption in state institutions and local government units and in public life, economic life and activities that would harm the economic interests of the state. The coordinator of all cooperation is the Head of the CBA. It is he who coordinates all activities of an operational and exploratory and informational-analytical nature that are undertaken by the bodies and services indicated above. The Head of the CBA, who stands at the head of the CBA, is a central government administrative body that is supervised by the Prime Minister. He acts through the CBA, which is an office of government administration. The CBA's activities are coordinated by the Prime Minister or by a member of the Council of Ministers designated by him.

The police are also associated with the provision of internal security. It is designed to protect citizens, as well as to maintain a proper level of security and public order. The main tasks of the police include the protection of human life and health, as well as property from unlawful attacks, and taking preventive actions. The police structures include criminal, preventive and support officers. The Polish legislature regulates the activities of the police in two approaches. The first is the introduction of a division into types of police (criminal police with the following services: investigation, operational and reconnaissance, forensic technology and operational technology; traffic and prevention police; prevention squads and anti-terrorist subdivisions; specialized police). The second approach is the system of police bodies in terms of territory. The Police are headed by the Chief of Police, who is the central body of state administration. He is responsible for protecting the security of citizens, as well as maintaining public safety and order. The Chief of Police reports to the Minister of Internal Affairs. Among the basic tasks of the Police we can include:

1. Protection of life and health of people, as well as property from unlawful attacks that violate these goods.
2. To protect public safety and order, including ensuring peace and quiet in public places, as well as public transport, in traffic and on waters intended for public use.

3. Initiating, as well as organizing activities aimed at preventing the commission of crimes and misdemeanors, as well as other criminogenic phenomena, and cooperating in this regard with state bodies, local governments and social organizations.
4. Detection of crimes and misdemeanors, as well as prosecution of the perpetrators of these acts.
5. Exercising supervision over municipal (city) guards, which are created by law, as well as other armed formations.
6. Exercising control over compliance with order and administrative regulations related to public activities, or regulations in force in public places.
7. Cooperation with other police forces and services of other countries, as well as international organizations on the basis of mutual international agreements.

The State Fire Service is also tasked with ensuring the safety of citizens. It is a formation established to fight fires, as well as natural disasters and various local hazards (the effects of floods, waterlogging, or windstorms). The State Fire Service is a professional, uniformed and equipped with highly specialized equipment formation, which is designed to fight fires, natural disasters, as well as other local threats. It also conducts rescue operations during disasters, traffic, construction and chemical accidents. Its tasks also include overseeing compliance with fire regulations and issuing opinions in this regard in its subordinate territory. The State Fire Service also undertakes close cooperation with volunteer fire departments in combating hazards, removing their consequences, as well as joint training.

Fire protection is one of the tasks of the municipal and county governments. The tasks of the district in the field related to the provision of fire protection include:

1. conducting analyses, as well as developing forecasts of fires, natural disasters and other locally occurring hazards;
2. analyzing the forces and resources of the national rescue and firefighting system in the district;

3. building and coordinating the activities of fire protection units that are part of the national rescue and firefighting system, as well as services, inspections, guards and other entities that participate in the implementation of rescue operations in the area of the district;
4. organizing a system of communication, alarming and cooperation between the various entities that participate in rescue operations on the territory of the district¹¹.

In view of the above-mentioned tasks, the district (city) council should at least once a year consider the information of the district (city) chief of the State Fire Service, which will relate to the state of security of the district (city). The relevant chief is obliged to provide such information upon the order of the district (city president). In the event of a direct threat to the safety of the local government community (especially to the life or health of residents), the mayor/city president or staroste may issue an order to the district (city) commander of the State Fire Service to take certain actions within the scope of the jurisdiction of the State Fire Service. These actions are intended to remove hazards.

The Chief Commander of the State Fire Service is the central authority of government administration in matters of organization of the national rescue and firefighting system, as well as fire protection. The tasks of the district (city) chief of the State Fire Service include, in particular:

- directing the district (city) headquarters of the State Fire Service;
- organizing rescue and firefighting units;
- organizing the national rescue and firefighting system in the district area;
- disposition, as well as directing the forces and resources of the national rescue and firefighting system in the district area;
- directing organizational units of the State Fire Service from the district area to rescue and humanitarian actions outside the borders of the Republic of Poland;
- analyzing rescue operations carried out in the subordinate area of the district;
- organizing and supervising rescue operations;
- interacting with the municipal fire protection commander (if one has been established);
- recognizing fire and other hazards in the district;

¹¹ A. Misiuk, *Instytucjonalny system bezpieczeństwa wewnętrznego*, Difin, Warszawa 2013, s. 178.

- supervising compliance with fire regulations;
- performing rescue tasks;
- preliminary determination of the causes and circumstances of the origin and spread of fire and other local hazards;
- organizing training and taking care of firefighter improvement;
- conducting training for members of volunteer fire departments;
- initiating undertakings in the field of physical culture and sports with the participation of entities of the national rescue and firefighting system in the subordinate area of the district;
- introduction at the district (city) headquarters of the State Fire Service of increased operational readiness in situations of increased probability of natural disaster or technical failure, the consequences of which may threaten the life or health of a large number of people, property in large sizes, or the environment in large areas;
- cooperation with the district board (branch) of the Association of Volunteer Fire Brigades of the Republic of Poland;
- conducting inspections of the operational readiness of volunteer fire departments in the subordinate district area. The inspection is to concern preparations for possible rescue operations.

It is the State Fire Service that is responsible for organizing the national rescue and firefighting system. Its purpose is to protect life, health, property, as well as the environment by fighting fires or other natural disasters, technical, chemical, ecological and medical rescue. The system is also an integral part of the organization of internal security in the state. It includes the necessary technical means, but also human resources, their organization, training and financing.

Supervision and management of the national rescue and firefighting system is vested in the Chief Commander of the State Fire Service, while on the national territory it is vested in the voivodes, as well as the starosts in the province/county, respectively. They are the ones who coordinate the functioning of the entire system, control the performance of individual tasks, and in emergency situations of danger to life, health or the environment direct the system. Of course, both the provincial governor and the district governor perform their tasks with the help of fire protection and rescue teams. The appointed team also includes the territorially competent police chief.

Another formation that provides protection for citizens is the Border Guard. It was established in 1991, and its basic statutory duties include:

1. protecting the borders of the Republic of Poland,
2. organizing and carrying out border traffic control,
3. issuing permits for crossing the state border,
4. recognizing, preventing and detecting crimes and offenses, as well as prosecuting the perpetrators of said acts, within the statutory jurisdiction of the Border Guard,
5. ensuring security in international communications,
6. embedding and maintaining border signs,
7. protecting the inviolability of signs and equipment used to protect the state border,
8. collection, as well as processing of information on the protection of the state border and control of border traffic and making it available to the competent state authorities,
9. supervision of the operation of Polish maritime areas and compliance by ships with the applicable regulations,
10. protection of the state border in the airspace of the Republic of Poland,
11. preventing the transport (without a permit) across the state border of waste, harmful chemicals, as well as nuclear and radioactive materials. Also prevention of pollution of border waters,
12. preventing the movement (without a permit) of narcotics, psychotropic substances, weapons, ammunition and explosives.

In carrying out statutory tasks, the Border Guard cooperates with other national entities (government administration bodies, local government units, as well as other state organizational units). In order to recognize, detect, prevent crimes and offenses, Border Guard officers perform border service, conduct border operations, perform operational and reconnaissance and administrative-order activities. They also conduct pre-trial investigations and carry out activities ordered by the court, the prosecutor's office, as well as other competent state authorities.

Inextricably linked with the issues of security and preservation of public order in the country, which we are discussing, are also issues related to the external security of the state. It is the state of

the absence of a threat from external sources to the security, defense, independence and inviolability of the territory of the Republic of Poland, as well as the position of our country in the international arena. The activities of the services that are responsible for the external security of the state undeniably affect the state of internal security of the state through the prevention and counteraction of international terrorism, extremism of all kinds, as well as international criminal groups, the impact of which may also take place on the territory of the Republic of Poland.

In order to counteract the above threats, the Foreign Intelligence Agency was established, which is a central government administration body responsible for protecting the external security of the state. The tasks of the Foreign Intelligence Agency include primarily:

1. acquiring, analyzing, processing and transmitting to the competent state bodies information that may be of significant importance to the security and international position of the Republic of Poland, as well as to its potential, both economic and defense.
2. to recognize and counter external threats that may harm the security, defense, independence, inviolability of the territory of the Republic of Poland.
3. to ensure the protection of foreign representations of the Republic of Poland and their employees against the actions of foreign special services, as well as other actions that could harm the interests of the Republic of Poland.
4. ensuring cryptographic protection of communications with Polish diplomatic and consular missions, as well as courier mail.
5. recognizing threats related to international terrorism, extremism, as well as threats from organized crime groups.
6. conducting electronic intelligence.

In Poland's security policy, we can observe a steady trend of increasing importance of crisis management issues, including issues of civil protection, civil planning, critical infrastructure protection, as well as civil-military cooperation. This cooperation is constantly being developed and deepened. This takes place primarily during joint exercises, exchange of experience and enhancement of mutual skills. Among the threats occurring on the territory of the Republic of Poland, environmental threats cannot be overlooked. As early as 1991, the State Environmental

Monitoring was established in Poland. It is intended to provide reliable information on the state of the environment on the territory of the Republic of Poland. According to the regulations, the resources, as well as the tasks of the State Environmental Monitoring (PMŚ) carried out until the end of 2018 by the provincial inspectorates for environmental protection were transferred to the tasks of the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, and thus, from January 1, 2019, the tasks of the State Environmental Monitoring are carried out exclusively by the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection. The scope of detailed tasks facing the State Environmental Monitoring is defined in the long-term strategic PMŚ programs, which are developed by the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection and approved by the Minister of Climate, and in the executive PMŚ programs developed by the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection. Under current law, State Environmental Monitoring is a system of measurements, assessments and forecasts of the state of the environment, as well as the collection, processing and dissemination of environmental information.

The information that is produced as part of PMŚ is used by both government and local government units for operational environmental management through legal instruments, such as proceedings on environmental impact assessments, permits for the introduction of substances or energy into the environment, programs and plans for the protection of the environment as a whole and its individual elements, and land use plans. Data are also used for monitoring the effectiveness of activities and strategic planning for environmental protection and sustainable development at all levels of management. Within the framework of PMŚ, information is obtained that is essential for handling Poland's international obligations, including the EU integration process. In the pre-accession period, PMŚ data were and are being used in work related to the formulation of negotiating positions and implementation programs for many Community regulations, as well as cooperation with EU agencies, such as the European Environment Agency, Eurostat, which began before accession. After accession, the information will additionally be used for, among other things, regional development, the operation of structural and cohesion funds, and reporting within the Community. PMŚ objectives are achieved through the following sub-tasks::

- carrying out studies of indicators characterizing the various elements of the environment,

- conducting observations of natural elements,
- collecting and analyzing the results of studies and observations,
- assessing the state and trends of changes in the quality of individual elements of the environment based on established criteria,
- identification of areas of exceedance of environmental quality standards,
- cause-and-effect analyses,
- development of compilations, reports, communications and making them available in printed form or electronic record, including via the Internet¹².

In order to ensure environmental protection on the territory of the Republic of Poland, the Environmental Protection Inspectorate was established. Its detailed scope of tasks in the field of prevention of major accidents is defined by the Act of July 20, 1991 on the Environmental Protection Inspection (Journal of Laws of 2013, item 686, as amended). The tasks posed to the Inspectorate include:

1. inspection of entities whose activities may be the cause of a major accident;
2. investigating the causes of occurrence and ways to eliminate the effects of major accidents on the environment;
3. keeping a register of establishments whose activities may be the cause of a major accident, including establishments with a high risk of a major accident and with a high risk of a major accident within the meaning of the law on environmental protection;
4. keeping a register of major accidents.

The Inspectorate of Environmental Protection cooperates in combating a major accident with the authorities responsible for the accident and supervises the removal of the consequences of the accident. The website of the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection contains detailed information, reports, as well as recommendations on the state of the environment in Poland, water quality monitoring, air quality monitoring, nature monitoring, among others.

¹²State Environmental Monitoring - [Państwowy Monitoring Środowiska \(gios.gov.pl\)](https://gios.gov.pl) (accessed: 25.08.2023)