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The Role of Uniformed Services in Ensuring the Security of the Republic of Poland – selected issues

[Rola służb mundurowych w zapewnieniu bezpieczeństwa Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej – wybrane zagadnienia]

Abstrakt

Problem bezpieczeństwa Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w XXI wieku narasta z racji niebywałego rozwoju nauki i techniki. Postęp cywilizacyjny prowadzi do zagrożeń, takich jak postępująca agresja czy klęski żywiołowe. W wyniku działalności człowieka dochodzi do systematycznego zanieczyszczenia wód i powietrza. Podstawowym zadaniem władzy publicznej i jej organów – w szczególności władzy wykonawczej, zarówno administracji rządowej, jak i samorządowej, służb, inspekcji i straży – jest zapewnienie obywatelom poziomu bezpieczeństwa umożliwiającego rozwój społeczeństwa i jego instytucji. Celem artykułu jest przedstawienie roli wybranych służb mundurowych w zapewnieniu bezpieczeństwa Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej.

Słowa kluczowe: bezpieczeństwo, służby mundurowe, obywatel, państwo.

The issue of the concept of safety

The term security – especially in relation to the state - has evolved over many centuries, especially in recent years. Due to the changes taking place in the international arena at the turn of the 1980s and 1990s, there was a revolution in the perception of threats. At the same time, the importance of state security, which began to be combined with non-military security, has increased. For this reason, the following types of security have been distinguished: ecological security, economic security, energy security, information security and social security.¹

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¹ P. Siemiątkowski, P. Tomaszewski, Obszar, problematyka i interdyscyplinarność badań nad bezpieczeństwem w polskim dyskursie naukowym [The area, issues and interdisciplinary nature of security

Therefore, safety means no threats and peace of mind. These issues are the subject of analysis in a number of scientific disciplines. Regardless of the field in which it is analysed, it will always concern values such as survival, cohesion, sovereignty and development. The protection of life and property should be guaranteed to every citizen by the state. The state is a well-established organisation of modern societies, which are characterised by a high degree of organisation.² The meaning of the existence of the state is the welfare of its citizens, both in the individual and social context. The literature indicates that “the starting point in shaping the state is a human being as a social being, who strives to meet material and spiritual needs connects with other people, creating social groups both informal (family, tribe, nation) and formalised (political parties, states, international organisations).”³ The most general definition reveals that it refers to the state of equilibrium achieved in relation to internal threats to the state. In a broad sense, it refers to the protection of human life and health, in a slightly narrower sense, it covers internal, universal and systemic security. M. Lisiecki believes that internal security means “a state of equilibrium achieved in relation to threats within the system.”⁴ S. Zalewski defines this concept as follows: “internal security can be identified with the stable and harmonious functioning of state structures.”⁵ In a similar way, the analysed concept is understood by J. Symonides, indicating: “internal security is a state of stability and internal balance (state structures).”⁶ It should be noted that the subject of security is not only the territorial structure (the area of the state

research in the Polish scientific discourse] [in:] Z. Polcikiewicz, P. Siemiątkowski, P. Tomaszewski (ed.), *Współczesne wyzwania polityki bezpieczeństwa państwa* [Contemporary challenges of the state security policy], Toruń 2019, p. 9. See M. Jurgilewicz, *Rola podmiotów uprawnionych do użycia lub wykorzystania środków przymusu bezpośredniego i broni palnej w ochronie bezpieczeństwa i porządku publicznego* [The role of entities authorized to use or use means of direct coercion and firearms in the protection of public safety and order], Siedlce 2017. M. Jurgilewicz, *Legal safety of the Republic of Poland*, „Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues” 2020, 9(3), March, pp. 869–875.

² B. Szmulik M. Żmigrodzki, *Wprowadzenie do nauki o państwie i polityce* [Introduction to the science of the state and politics], Lublin 2007, p. 23.

³ J. Krukowski, *Wstęp do nauki o państwie i prawie* [Introduction to the study of the state and law], Lublin 2004, p. 14.

⁴ M. Lisiecki, *Zarządzanie bezpieczeństwem publicznym* [Public safety management], Warszawa 2011, p. 28.

⁵ S. Zalewski, *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne RP w dobie członkostwa w NATO* [Internal security of the Republic of Poland in the era of NATO membership] [in:] *Międzynarodowe i wewnętrzne aspekty członkostwa Polski w NATO* [International and internal aspects of Poland’s membership in NATO], W. Fehler, J. Tymanowski (ed.), Toruń 2000, p. 70.

⁶ J. Symonides, *Problemy pokoju i bezpieczeństwa międzynarodowego we współczesnym świecie* [Problems of peace and international security in the contemporary world], Wrocław 1984, p. 45.

or commune) but also man and various human communities. The type and component of internal security is public security, which primarily concerns the protection of health, life and property of citizens. Public security also includes national assets, as well as the sovereignty and system of the state.⁷

The concept of public security can be defined as follows: “all social conditions and facilities, protecting citizens from life-threatening phenomena and health of citizens and economic losses.”⁸ A. Misiuk defines the discussed concept as: “no threats to the functioning of a state organisation and the implementation of its interests, enabling its normal, free development.”⁹

Public order, on the other hand, is based on the exclusion of exceeding the existing rules related to the use of public places by citizens. Public order is “a normal, free of disturbances, course of collective life based on the norms regulating the behaviour of people. At the same time, the consequences for collective life may not always be associated with a specific offence. Public peace, on the other hand, means the state of mental balance of people.”¹⁰

In general, it can be stated that the concepts of security and public peace refer to the lack of any threats in the life of the community. In many cases, the concepts of public security and public order come together and overlap. This applies to situations in which maintaining public order is associated with human activities. At that time, ensuring public order is also ensuring security. However, in situations where there are threats caused by natural forces (e.g. floods, fires), both discussed concepts do not find common ground, because the indicated threats arise independently of the will and actions of human beings.¹¹

Legislative, executive and judicial authorities shall be responsible for the performance of tasks related to the provision of security and public order to citizens. The Police are responsible for the direct protection of the goods in question.

⁷ J. Gierszewski, *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne Zarys systemu* [Internal security. System outline], Warszawa 2013, p. 16.

⁸ M. Lisiecki, *op. cit.*, p. 36.

⁹ A. Misiuk, *Instytucjonalny system bezpieczeństwa wewnętrznego* [Institutional system of internal security], Warszawa 2013, p. 18.

¹⁰ J. Dmowski, J. Jabłońska-Bonca, *Ochrona, pomoc i obsługa prawna* [Protection, assistance and legal services], wyd. uczelniane Bałtyckiej Wyższej Szkoły Humanistycznej, Koszalin 2000, p. 145.

¹¹ T. Cylkowski, *Rola Policji w systemie bezpieczeństwa wewnętrznego* [The role of the Police in the system of internal security], „Kultura Bezpieczeństwa. Nauka-Praktyka-Refleksje” [Security Culture. Science-Practice-Reflections] 2015, 20, pp. 131 and 132.

State security structure

One of the basic responsibilities of public administration is to ensure security in every meaning of the word. Typically, in a broad context, these tasks are carried out by uniformed services. It should be emphasised that the history of these services, which are part of the administration of security and public order, dates back to the times of ancient states, although it can be stated that already within the primary communities, actions were taken to guarantee that the leaders ensured the security and order of the members of the community. However, these were not activities carried out by specialised units, but rather by members of the community, who were able to resist specific threats. Therefore, it is possible to risk the statement that the history of security administration and public order, and uniformed services analysed as part of the administration, is inextricably related to the history of the state and the formation of universally applicable law. Any state that fulfils its basic obligation to ensure security and public order should have not only military forces but also specialised bodies and services influencing this security and public order.¹²

According to historical sources concerning the shaping of security administration, public order and uniformed services, this obligation was implemented in various forms and through various legal solutions over the shaping of various types of countries.

Analysing the genesis of uniformed services, it is worth referring to the meaning of the term *service*. This term comes from the concept of *serve*, which is understood in the context of dedication to work, ideas and good.¹³ According to the dictionary definition, the term *service* means “work in a state office, public institution, army, etc.,” while *official* means “work in an office, institution, army.”¹⁴ In traditional legal literature, the *service* is identified with the attitude of a person towards the state and was understood in the context of the implementation of statutory obligations.¹⁵

¹² Status służb mundurowych i funkcjonariuszy w nich zatrudnionych – OpenLEX [Status of uniformed services and their officers – OpenLEX].

¹³ P. Wojtunik, Pojęcie, źródła i przedmiot prawa stosunków służbowych [The concept, sources and subject of the law of business relations], PBW 2013, 8 (5), p. 202.

¹⁴ E. Sobol (ed.), Słownik języka polskiego [Dictionary of Polish language], Warszawa 2005, p. 933.

¹⁵ W. Jaśkiewicz, Stosunki służbowe w administracji [Office relations in administration], Warszawa-Poznań 1969, p. 13.

In a broad perspective, the service of the state was divided into honorary, professional and forced service.¹⁶ Contract and private law services were also distinguished. The professional service included people who professionally fulfilled the state's qualifications. The honorary service included persons who performed various functions in the authorities free of charge. Forced service is, for example, universal military service.

In the literature, there is also the concept of "uniformed service". In accordance with the provisions of the Act of 21.12.1978 on badges and uniforms,¹⁷ *uniform* means "clothing, or parts thereof, used to indicate belonging to a specific organisational unit or performing specific functions or service."

The uniform is also an expression of social authority and respect. In addition, it allows the identification of membership in individual units. It should be pointed out that in practice, as well as in the literature, the term *military services* is often used interchangeably with the term *uniformed services*. According to the dictionary definition, *militarisation* means "the introduction in an entity of organisational rules such as in the army,¹⁸ or organisation of institutions in accordance with military discipline."¹⁹

In the opinion of M. Liwo, the *uniformed services* should include public entities that were organised on the model of the army, and at the same time, which pursue statutory objectives of a specific type, in the field of order and security.²⁰

A broad approach to the term *uniformed services* was also presented by W. Maciejko, M. Rojewski and A. Suławko-Karetko. These authors included in the category of uniformed services:

- ◆ "State Protection Service,
- ◆ The Police.
- ◆ Armed Forces,
- ◆ State security agencies,

¹⁶ T. Kuczyński [in:] R. Hauser, Z. Niewiadomski, A. Wróbel (ed.), *System prawa administracyjnego* [Administrative Law System], p. 3

¹⁷ *Journal of Laws*, 2016, item 38.

¹⁸ J. Bralczyk, *Słownik 100 tysięcy potrzebnych słów* [Dictionary of 100 thousand words needed], Warszawa 2005, p. 1007.

¹⁹ M. Bańko (ed.), *Słownik języka polskiego* [Dictionary of Polish Language], vol. 6, Warszawa 2007, p. 476.

²⁰ M. Liwo, *Służby mundurowe jako kategoria języka prawniczego* [Uniformed services as a category of legal language], *PPP* 2015, 2, p. 20.

- ◆ The Border Guard,
- ◆ the State Fire Brigade,
- ◆ The Customs Service,
- ◆ Prison Service,
- ◆ Municipal guards,
- ◆ The State Hunting Guard,
- ◆ Forestry Guard,
- ◆ The State Fishing Guard,
- ◆ National Park Guard
- ◆ Railway Security Guard
- ◆ Road Transport Inspection,
- ◆ Marshal's Guard and the Military Police.”²¹

The named authors believe that the concept of “uniformed services” applies to all formations that perform their tasks in a uniformed manner. At the same time, they do not distinguish between state and non-state formations, considering uniforms as the only qualifying criterion.

However, some authors propose a narrower understanding of the analysed concept. K. Sławik believes that the group of uniformed services should include only: Police, Border Guard, Prison Service, State Protection Service, Military Police, Secret Services, Marshal's Guard, Road Transport Inspection and State Fire Service.²²

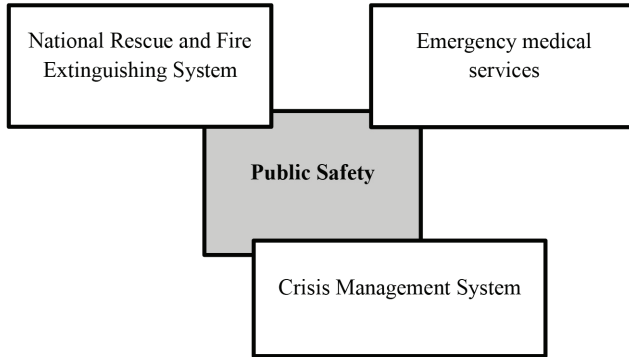
As part of the security system, system solutions are also developed that are appropriate to individual types of threats. In this context, it is very important to ensure health safety, also in terms of assistance in the event of injuries, accidents, or other events that endanger human health and life. It should be emphasised that the task of the state is to take medical actions in relation to people who are in a state of sudden threat to life or health. The main entity that implements pre-hospital assistance is the system of integrated medical rescue system,²³ which consists of the National Rescue, Firefighting System and the State Medical Rescue System. This system is complemented by crisis management (Fig. 1).

²¹ W. Maciejko, M. Rojewski, A. Suławko-Karetko, *Prawo administracyjne. Zarys wykładu części szczególnej* [Administrative Law. Outline of the lecture of the special part], Warszawa 2011, p. 133.

²² K. Sławik, *Zarys systemu prawa policyjnego* [Outline of the police law system], Warszawa 2011, pp. 46–169.

²³ K. Jarosławska-Kolman, D. Słęczak, P. Żuratyński, K. Krzyżanowski, A. Kalis, *System Państwowego Ratownictwa Medycznego w Polsce* [System of the State Medical Rescue in Poland], „Zeszyty Naukowe SGSP” 2016, 4(60), p. 168.

Figure 1. Relationship between systems providing public security



Source: own study.

The assumption of the State Medical Rescue System is, as already indicated, providing assistance in the event of a sudden threat to health or life. It should be pointed out that in practice if the aid is granted too late, there is virtually no chance of survival. Safe transport under the care of qualified personnel gives you the chance to stabilize and maintain your basic vital functions. At the same time, it is often necessary to implement rescue procedures, including fluid therapy, anti-shock treatment or pharmacological treatment. Further medical assistance is provided to the patient in the hospital emergency department, which is also a unit of the State Medical Rescue System. By definition, the system unit administrator is obliged to ensure the readiness of people and other resources, including, above all, medical rescue teams, including air medical rescue teams and hospital emergency departments.²⁴

The State Medical Rescue Service was standardised on the basis of the provisions of the Act of 8 September 2006. The provisions of the Act introduced the same standards for personnel and equipment. Article 36 recorded: The emergency medical team is equipped with a specialised means of sanitary transport, meeting the technical and quality characteristics specified in the Polish Standards transposing the European harmonised standards.”²⁵ In addition, the emergency medical teams were divided as follows:

²⁴ Act of 8 September 2006 on State Medical Rescue (consolidated text Journal Of Laws of 2022, item 1720).

²⁵ M. Zaremba, M. Pietrzyk, M. Gaca, *Dwuosobowe zespoły ratownictwa medycznego – rozsądny kompromis* [Two-person medical rescue teams – a reasonable compromise]. „Na Ratunek” [To the Rescue] 2012, 2, p. 13.

- ◆ “Team «S» – a specialised team consisting of at least three persons authorised to perform medical rescue activities, such as: a system doctor and a system nurse or a medical rescuer,
- ◆ Team «P» – a basic team consisting of two people with qualifications enabling the performance of medical rescue operations. This team has a means of sanitary transport, but it is not clear who should manage it. However, it is not forbidden to employ an additional person to the team as a driver, for economic reasons this function is performed simultaneously by one of the two rescuers.²⁶”

If no person in the rescue team is in possession of a category B driving license, the driver must be employed.²⁷ The provisions of the Act also provide for the organisational deployment of emergency medical teams. It is primarily about ensuring certain parameters of the time of arrival of the rescue team at the place of the event, from the moment of accepting the notification. The arrangement of the assemblies should be as follows:

- ◆ “the median travel time – on a monthly basis – is not more than 8 minutes in the city over 10 thousand inhabitants and 15 minutes outside the city over 10 thousand inhabitants,
- ◆ the third quarter of the travel time – on a monthly basis – is not greater than 12 minutes in the city of more than 10 thousand inhabitants and 20 minutes outside the city of more than 10 thousand inhabitants,
- ◆ the maximum travel time may not be longer than 15 minutes in the city of more than 10 thousand inhabitants and 20 minutes outside the city of more than 10 thousand inhabitants.”²⁸

Hospital emergency departments (SOR) in Poland have been established since the end of 1999. At that time, the “Integrated Medical Rescue” programme was introduced.

In practice, they were usually transformed into emergency rooms functioning at that time. The project assumes that there will be about 278 rescue units nationwide.²⁹ In hospital emergency departments, it is necessary to create conditions for the admission of a life-threatening patient from the emergency team. The victim is therefore subjected to the necessary

²⁶ *Ibidem*.

²⁷ L. Brongel, *Złota godzina – czas życia, czas śmierci* [Golden Hour – time of life, time of death], Wydawnictwo Medyczne, Kraków 2007, p. 23.

²⁸ System Action Plan of State Emergency Medical Services.

²⁹ Ł. Szarpak, *Organizacja ratownictwa medycznego w Polsce* [Organization of medical rescue in Poland], Promotor, Warszawa 2012, p. 54.

diagnostics and treatment.³⁰ Within the structure of an emergency room, a ZRM (Emergency Service) may also function, but in practice, they are usually separate units.³¹ The main purpose of an Emergency Service is primarily to remain at constant disposal to perform emergency medical activities, directly at the site of the event, which caused a state of sudden threat to life or health in the area where it occurred, and then to transport the victim to the trauma centre or the nearest emergency room. An important assumption is that the ambulance should reach the scene in the shortest possible time, mainly thanks to constant radio communication with the Emergency Notification Centre (CPR).

Trauma centres were established in 2009³². Due to the increasing number of accidents, there was a need to ensure the continuity of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, including ensuring the provision of supplies to those who suffered multiple and multi-organ injuries in one accredited centres. Trauma centres are centres that cooperate with State Medical Rescue System. They secure “in terms of health services, a population of not less than 1 million inhabitants, inhabiting an area allowing to reach the centre from the place of the incident within 1.5 hours.”³³

In order to ensure the continuity of rescue operations, a rescue notification system has also been set up. Its main task is primarily to receive reports of a dangerous event, but also:

- ◆ dispensing of rescue forces,
- ◆ monitoring and coordination of rescue operations.³⁴

In the voivodships, the tasks of the emergency notification system are carried out by the Emergency Notification Centre and the Voivodship Emergency Notification Centres (WCPR). Emergency numbers are also handled by the National Fire Service and the Police. Emergency Notification Centres are primarily responsible for the circulation of information. Their area of activity includes at least one powiat or a city with powiat rights.

³⁰ L. Brongel, *Złota godzina – czas życia, czas śmierci* [Golden Hour – time of life, time of death], op. cit., p. 32.

³¹ The possibility of such a solution was introduced by the Act of 30 August 1991 on health care institutions. Journal of Laws no. 91, item 408, now the Act of 15 April 2011 on medical activities (Journal of Laws of 2011 no. 112, item 654).

³² Regulation of the Minister of Health of 18 June 2010 on the trauma centre, OJ 1994 no. 118, item 803.

³³ Article 39b, point 1 u.o. P.R.M.

³⁴ Article 14a, point 1 of the Act of 24 August 1991 on fire protection (consolidated text Journal of Laws 2022, item 1557).

Voivodeship Emergency Notification Centres are units that coordinate rescue operations in a given voivodeship. The main reason for their creation was the establishment of a structure that would increase the organisational efficiency of system units and the implementation of procedures that concern the circulation of information about events and procedures in the field of procedures coordination in the field of medical rescue operations. The Voivodeship Emergency Notification Centres must therefore have information that includes:

- ◆ rescue entities operating in the area of a given voivodeship,
- ◆ available resources,
- ◆ staff training,
- ◆ operational readiness to undertake rescue operations.

The Voivodeship Emergency Notification Centres also handle emergency calls that have been reported under the number 112 in a given voivodeship. It also provides for the exchange of information (in real-time) between the Emergency Medical Coordinator and the State Fire Brigade and the Emergency Notification Centre dispatchers. In order to integrate rescue operations in practice, the positions of medical dispatchers and doctors of medical emergency coordinators were combined with the positions of the Police and the State Fire Service.³⁵

The second part of the State Medical Rescue System is the National Rescue and Firefighting System. Its organisational and conceptual assumptions were presented in 1993. At that time, the need to use the powers held in order to integrate the potential of various institutions and services to support the activities carried out by the State Fire Service under the provisions of the Acts of 24 August 1991 “On fire protection”³⁶ “and “State Fire Service” was emphasised.³⁷ The National Rescue and Firefighting System was established on 1 January 1995. The National Rescue and Firefighting System is an integral part of the national security system, while its activities focus primarily on the area of rescue and civil protection belonging to this system. Its task is to protect against threats in the area of universal safety and to organise actions aimed at removing the effects of technical

³⁵ J. Czapla, *Medycyna ratunkowa – szczególny obszar działania administracji publicznej* [Rescue medicine – a special area of public administration activity] [in:] *Ochrona zdrowia w regionie. Aspekty organizacyjne i prawne* [Health care in the region. Organisational and legal aspects], ed. A. Frączkiewicz-Wronka. AE, Katowice 2005, pp. 262 and 263.

³⁶ Fire Protection Act of 24 August 1991 (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 1557, as amended).

³⁷ Fire Protection Act...

failures and natural disasters. The basic assumption on which the construction of the National Rescue and Firefighting System was based was to create a coherent and uniform system of interrelated rescue entities in such a way that effective rescue actions could be taken. The following tasks were set before it:

- ◆ “the unification of command and control of all rescue operations,
- ◆ standardisation of equipment, training and communication system,
- ◆ increasing the effectiveness of rescue operations,
- ◆ reduction of direct and indirect losses caused by destructive events,
- ◆ optimal use of existing equipment,
- ◆ cooperation with international rescue organisations in activities carried out around the world,
- ◆ unification of the organisational and legal structure of the rescue service.”³⁸

Many of the proposed solutions were included in the provisions of the Act of 26 April 2007.³⁹ However, the lack of financial resources was an obstacle to the implementation of a comprehensive rescue system, although efforts were still being made to integrate the activities of different rescue services into one system. It also sought to implement other services to the National Firefighting and Rescue System, including, above all, medical services. The entire system was to be subordinated to the Minister of the Interior, thanks to which it would be possible to integrate rescue operations and at the same time eliminate conflicts of competence. Therefore, in 1997, the provisions of the PSP Act were also supplemented with a medical rescue. After 2000, medical rescue teams began to operate in many Fire Brigade facilities.

Currently, it is assumed that the rescue measures taken should be adapted to the specificity of a given event. The organisation of rescue operations requires modification and simplification of procedures.

The National Fire Service, which also includes Volunteer Fire Service teams, can be considered as the foundation of the rescue system. In the case of Poland, the history of the Fire Service is not long and amounts to 31 years. This is a time comparable to the history of democratisation in our country and, at the same time, the creation of a national security system. The transformation covering many aspects also concerned fire

³⁸ „Przegląd Pożarniczy” [Fire Review] 1993, 8, p. 7.

³⁹ The Crisis Management Act of 26 April 2007 (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 503).

protection. The construction of a rescue structure that would be capable of effectively responding to new types of threats was associated with the need to make a complete metamorphosis of fire brigades. The first professional fire brigade units in Poland started operating in 1836.⁴⁰ In times closer to ours, professional firefighter formations functioned in the period of the Second Polish Republic. The first legal act that established the Fire Brigade was the Act of 13 March 1934 on protection against fires and other disasters.⁴¹

The provisions of the Act allowed for the separation of generic fire brigades and ambulances – forced, voluntary, professional and private. At the same time, municipalities with a population of more than 40,000 were obliged to appoint fire brigades. They were subordinate to the Minister of the Interior, who, using the model statutes and regulations, standardised both official functions and degrees. Patterns of uniforms and badges have also been defined by means of a regulation. The requirements that were imposed on Firefighters were strictly defined. Among others, they were: impeccable past, Polish citizenship, military service performed, or professional preparation. Service in private and professional guards was paid, while in voluntary and forced guards – free, but municipalities provided the opportunity to participate in training. In addition, the municipalities were obliged to provide equipment that would be used in rescue operations. The creation of fire-fighting structures has become one of the civic duties.

Another modification of the Fire Brigade took place on 4 February 1950. The provisions of the Act on Fire Protection and Organization have also been introduced.⁴² The General Headquarters of the Fire Service was also established as a central and state body, whose task was to supervise fire protection of fire brigades and fire emergency services. Professional, compulsory and voluntary fire brigades were subordinated to provincial and powiat commands. Particular importance was given to technical issues in order to ensure a smooth intervention during the rescue operation. Fire prevention and fire training were also appreciated. Also in the fifties,

⁴⁰ *Opowieść o warszawskich strażakach. Z okazji 125-lecia Stołecznej Straży Pożarnej* [A story about Warszawa firemen. On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Warszawa Fire Service], ed. E. Burzyński, Warszawa 1961, p. 41.

⁴¹ B. Starzec, *Instytucje zabezpieczające* [Security institutions] [in:] *Instytucje bezpieczeństwa narodowego* [National security institutions], ed. M. Paździor, B. Szmulik, Warszawa 2012, p. 251.

⁴² The Act of 4 February 1950 on fire protection and its organization (*Journal of Laws of 4 February 1950* no. 41, item as amended).

research work was initiated, and therefore the Scientific and Research Centre for Fire Protection was established.⁴³

The described law of 1950 was modified several times in connection with organisational and systemic changes. In 1960,⁴⁴ the supervision over the Chief Commander of the Fire Service was taken over by the Minister of the Interior and fire brigades benefited from legal protection similar to that benefited by state employees. The organisation of district fire brigades and provincial headquarters was also changed. This was due to the administrative reform introduced at that time.⁴⁵ Counties were abolished and 49 new voivodships were created. On 12 May 1975, a law on fire protection was passed,⁴⁶ which, in connection with the decree on the service of fire officers of 27 December 1974⁴⁷ and administrative acts, shaped the organisation of fire protection for a period of several years.⁴⁸ Due to the introduction of a two-stage administrative division, the areaisation of commands was also introduced. District commands were dissolved and municipal fire brigades were established in their place, which were then transformed into district commands.

The current organisational model of professional fire brigades is regulated by legal acts on fire protection⁴⁹ and the State Fire Service,⁵⁰ the implemented solutions have allowed for the implementation of modern firefighting structures.

The next service is the Police, it is the basis of the public security subsystem, it is a uniformed and armed formation that serves the society, designed to protect security and public order.⁵¹ The Act of 6 April 1990 on the Police defines the basic tasks that this formation performs: the protection of life and health of people and property against unlawful attacks violating these goods, as well as the protection of public safe-

⁴³ E. Przyłuska, A. Wójcik, *Od błędów i wypaczeń po małą stabilizację* [From errors and distortions to a little stabilization], „Przegląd Pożarniczy”, wyd. jubileuszowe 1912–2022 [„Fire Review” Jubilee Edition], p. 23.

⁴⁴ The Act of 13 April 1960 on fire protection (Journal of Laws of 13 April 1960 no. 20, item as amended).

⁴⁵ The Act of 28 May 1975 on the two-stage administrative division of the State and amending the Act on National Councils (Journal of Laws of 1975 no. 16, item as amended)

⁴⁶ Act of 12 June 1975 on fire protection (Journal of Laws of 1975 no. 20, item as amended)

⁴⁷ Decree of 27 December 1974 on the service of fire-fighters (Journal of Laws of 1974 no. 50, item as amended).

⁴⁸ W. Gołębiowski, *My Oficerowie pożarnictwa* [We Fire Officers]. Szkoła. Niepowtarzalny rocznik SOP [School. The unique year of SOP], Warszawa 2014, p. 84.

⁴⁹ The Act of 24 August 1991 on fire protection (Journal of Laws of 2022, item as amended).

⁵⁰ The Act of 24 August 1991 on the State Fire Service (Journal of Laws of 2022, item as amended).

⁵¹ Act of 6 April 1990 on the Police (consolidated text, Journal Of Laws of 2022, item 1488).

ty and order, including ensuring peace in public places and in public transport, in road traffic and in waters intended for general use.⁵² The next function that the Police perform is to organise activities aimed at preventing the commission of crimes and offences. The police belong to the institutions that carry out protective tasks of the non-military subsystem of the Republic of Poland, as well as tasks related to defence preparations.

In times of crisis and war, i.e. in conditions of threat to the security of the state. This unit is headed by the Police Commander in Chief, who is appointed by the Prime Minister. The lower levels are the Metropolitan Police Commander, Commander of the Police stations, district commanders, and chiefs of police stations.

The Border Guard in the Republic of Poland is a unitary, uniformed and armed formation, designed to protect the state border.⁵³ Since 1 May 2004, the Border Guard has had a significantly increased responsibility for the security not only of the borders of the Polish state but also, to a limited extent, of the entire united Europe.⁵⁴ This formation, in accordance with the Act, includes the protection of the state border, organisation and control of border traffic. In addition, the Border Guard is responsible for ensuring security in international communication and public order within the territorial scope of the border crossing and also in the border area. The Border Guard supervises the operation of Polish maritime areas, but also the protection of the state border in the airspace of the Republic of Poland.

The municipal guard is a self-governing, uniformed formation, established to protect public order in the city or commune. The Border Guard fulfils its tasks with respect for the dignity and rights of citizens, fulfilling a servile role towards the local community. The basic tasks include: protecting peace and order in public places, as well as supervising order and controlling road traffic to the extent specified in the provisions of road traffic law. Provides assistance in the removal of technical failures and local threats. In matters of the protection of the internal security of the state and its constitutional order, the Internal Security Agency (ABW) is of fundamental importance. Although it should be noted that each state

⁵² *Ibidem*.

⁵³ B. Wiśniewski, J. Prońko, *Ogniwa ochronne państwa [State protection links]*, Akademia Obrony Narodowej, Warszawa 2003, p. 49.

⁵⁴ The Border Guard Act of 12 October 1990 (consolidated text Journal of Laws of 2022, item 1115).

institution should be equipped with the qualifications to identify and define specific threats at its level.

Pursuant to Article 5. The Act on the Internal Security Agency and the Foreign Intelligence Agency includes among the current tasks of the Internal Security Agency: recognising, preventing and combating threats to the security of the state and its constitutional order, and in particular to the sovereignty and international position of independence and inviolability of its territory. The Internal Security Agency recognises, prevents and detects crimes, including terrorism, violations of state secrecy and other crimes affecting the security of the state.

To sum up, ensuring security and public order are tasks that are carried out by most public administration bodies. These activities are associated with the prevention of threats as well as their overcoming. Many services, formations and institutions form the state security system. Police and Border Guard, for example, play an important role in this system. It depends on their cooperation and independent actions whether the society will feel safe in the state. Ensuring public security is one of the most important responsibilities of the state, which establishes appropriate organisational structures for this task.⁵⁵

Abstract

The issue of the security of the Republic of Poland in the 21st century is increasing due to the incredible growth in science and technology. Civilisation progress leads to dangers such as aggression or natural disasters. As a result of human activity, there is systematic pollution of water and air. The basic task of the public authority and its bodies, in particular the executive, both government and local government administration, services, inspections and guards is to provide citizens with a level of security enabling the development of the society and its institutions. The aim of the article is to present the role of selected uniformed services in ensuring the security of the Republic of Poland.

Keywords: security, uniformed services, citizen, state.

⁵⁵ B. Wiśniewski, Współpraca cywilno-wojskowa na terenie województwa pomorskiego [Civil-military cooperation in the Pomeranian Voivodeship], Pomorski Urząd Wojewódzki, Gdynia 2007, p. 94.

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