

Ladies and Gentlemen!

When I took up the post of editor-in-chief of the 'Internal Security Review', I adopted a broad, interdisciplinary approach to internal security issues, treating them as a multidimensional phenomenon. The 35th issue, which I am pleased to recommend to you, embodies this perspective. As is entirely understandable, hybrid warfare remains a hot topic. One of its tools is information, which proves to be just as dangerous as traditional means of combat. The development of modern technologies and the public's uncritical acceptance of information means that cognitive warfare can be an effective mechanism for hostile influence. Col. Tomasz Gergelewicz, PhD, undertook to characterise and systematise the key concepts related to this issue. His observation that through disinformation, which consists of fake news, manipulation of facts and information noise, an aggressor can modify the attitudes and behaviours of the target group in a manner consistent with their intentions and objectives, seems correct.

Cyberspace plays a crucial role in such actions. It is worth reminding that October is the European Cybersecurity Month. This is meant to be a time for activities raising public awareness in this regard. The article by Capt. Michał Antoniuk aligns with this task. He analysed the impact of digital technologies on the nature of insider threats and the functioning of institutions responsible for ensuring state security. The author notices that its security also includes ensuring the security of digital infrastructure and data, countering disinformation, and building society's resilience to cyber threats. This marks a shift away from a model focused on responding to incidents towards a model based on risk management and building resilience.

Radosław Korda, PhD Eng. also addresses the issue of institutional threats as well as state and societal resilience. He assumes that modern states are relatively well prepared to respond to crisis

situations, but are less able to identify processes of long-term erosion in the social, institutional and information spheres. In the article, he proposes a three-level analytical framework for monitoring signs of a weakening of the state's resilience before an overt crisis arises.

In turn, Lt. Col. Janusz Leżoń writes about crisis management in the event of its occurrence. Article 25 of the Act on crisis management, as amended in 2026, addresses the possibility of using the Polish Armed Forces in such a situation. The Territorial Defence Forces (WOT) play a key role in the crisis management system, supporting public administration in the event of non-military threats. The author points out that applicable legal regulations concerning the use of the Polish Armed Forces, including the WOT, in crisis situations require a thorough analysis and amendments, including granting the WOT greater autonomy in the execution of tasks. This would allow for optimal use of the potential of these types of forces in operations undertaken in such situations.

The issue of uniformed services is addressed in an article by Lt. Col. Paweł Łuszcz, PhD, who examined the security and surveillance measures available to Prison Service officers when dealing with prisoners belonging to organised crime structures. The author assumes that a thorough knowledge of inmates and the exchange of information between Prison Service units should be the basis of a proper approach. This will not only enhance the safety of inmates and Prison Service officers but may also have a positive impact on the actions conducted by investigative bodies and on court proceedings.

In the 'Internal Security Review', security is a key area of concern, considered in the context of threats and challenges arising from a country's external environment. Although Poland is not at the centre of attention of the so-called Islamic State, within the framework of the group's jihadist ideology it is classified – by virtue of its affiliation with the West in the broadest sense – as one of the hostile democracies. In Poland, the organisation may build operational networks, attempt to radicalise and recruit young people or raise funds. I recommend to read the article by Łukasz Cymbaluk, PhD, in which the author outlines the specific nature of the Islamic State in Khorasan and attempts to identify potential threats it may pose to the security of Poland.

China remains one of the most important actors on the international stage. Marcin Hubicki undertook an analysis

of contemporary structure of the intelligence and security services of the People's Republic of China, taking into account the leadership and supervisory role of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), following the reforms implemented by the General Secretary of the CCP – Xi Jinping – between 2013 and 2025. Given the specific nature of the subject under analysis, its results do not provide in-depth knowledge of operational activities of the Chinese services. However, the study identifies the key mechanisms of their bureaucratic functioning and oversight over them, enabling an understanding of the role of these institutions within the security system of China.

In the 'Awarded Theses' section, we present two articles that are based on the doctoral theses that won prizes in the competition of the Head of the Internal Security Agency. Anna Nastuła, PhD, described applications of open-source intelligence in ensuring Poland's security, including legal and non-legal aspects. OSINT plays a crucial role today in many sectors – from cyber security, through business and corporations, to investigative journalism. Access to up-to-date, verified information is also one of the most important factors influencing the stability and resilience of the state.

The second article deals with a rather narrow subject. Kamil Leśniewski, PhD, devoted his doctoral thesis to the issue of taking samples of hard coal for the purposes of criminal proceedings, taking into account the principles of forensic tactics and the requirements of criminal procedure. The author, a lawyer by training, emphasises that the efficient conduct of investigative and evidential procedures in cases relating to crimes against coal companies requires those responsible for such procedures to have the appropriate training and understanding of the specific nature of the mining industry.

One of the less obvious aspects of national security is the protection of a country's cultural heritage – works of art, museum and archive collections. We discuss the serious threat posed by fungi and bacteria with Magdalena Dyda, PhD, who specialises in protecting museum artefacts from the harmful effects of biological agents. During the conversation, we devote a great deal of attention to the practical aspects of preventing such risks, including in the event of an armed conflict.

In turn, Professor Marian Żuber, a co-organisator of the 3rd International Scientific Conference: 'Contemporary security. Challenges. Opportunities. Threats', discusses the multidimensional

nature of security issues and the need for a holistic approach to them in an interview. Participants of the conference discussed the hybrid war, the uncontrolled expansion of artificial intelligence, the significance of proxy wars for global stability, the role of civil defence in modern armed conflict, the threats posed by climate change, and the lessons learnt from the Russian-Ukrainian war. According to the Professor, in the face of rapid technological development and geopolitical changes, the traditional approach to national defence is no longer sufficient.

We also publish two book reviews in this issue of the 'Internal Security Review'. One of them is a monograph entitled *Bezpieczeństwo miasta wobec współczesnych wyzwań* (Eng. City security in the face of contemporary challenges) by Natalia Moch. Research conducted by the author of the book aims to foster a welcoming urban environment and a sense of security among residents, who may currently fear various threats affecting their daily lives. Iwona Osłowska, PhD, encourages you to read this book. The next book is *Sleeping Dogs. Russian intelligence operations against the State Protection Office (UOP) in the early 1990s* by Marek Świerczek. A critical analysis of a publication on the case of a former officer of the Security Service who spied for the Soviet, and subsequently Russian military intelligence service, the GRU, was prepared by Col. Wojciech Dylewski.



The late Col. (Ret.) Assoc. Prof. Eng. Zdzisław Polcikiewicz,
Professor of the Nicolaus Copernicus University

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To conclude, I would like to share some sad news. Work on this edition of the ‘Internal Security Review’ was interrupted by the news of the passing of our reviewer – Col. (Ret.) Assoc. Prof. Eng. Zdzisław Polcikiewicz, Professor of the Nicolaus Copernicus University, officer of the Polish Army, brilliant commander, scientist and mentor to many generations of soldiers and students. The family, friends and former students remember him as a man of many talents, with a rare kindness and zest for life. In 2026, a monograph entitled *W służbie wojsku i nauce. Księga Jubileuszowa dedykowana prof. Zdzisławowi Polcikiewiczowi* (Eng. In the Service of the Armed Forces and Science. A Jubilee Book dedicated to Prof. Zdzisław Polcikiewicz) was published, which is an expression of recognition for Professor’s academic achievements, as well as his many years of military service and academic work.

Our journal had the privilege of receiving support from Prof. Zdzisław Polcikiewicz in the preparation of subsequent issues. Despite his serious illness, he also undertook to review an article for this issue. We received the news of the Professor’s death with deep sorrow. On behalf of the entire publishing team of the Internal Security Agency, I would like to offer his loved ones my deepest sympathies.

Editor-in-Chief
Daria Olender, PhD

