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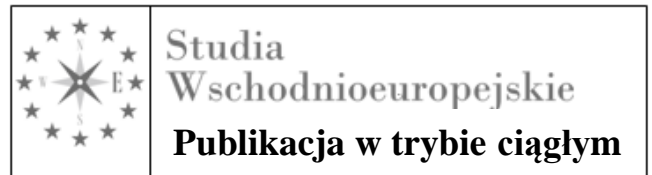
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A prison fire protection system in Poland is an example of a prison security system in Middle-East Europe

Introduction

The Security is a fundamental need for human existence. In the last decade, the development of security sciences has become a noticeable issue in the world of science. Although it can be said that this process has been going on for many years, it is the achievements of the last dozen or so that show the dynamics of the undertaken research efforts. The research results obtained in the field of security sciences emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of this discipline. A broad view of security issues directs research processes in different directions. This diversity of perspectives makes us realize how complex and complicated the processes taking place in the area of security are. R. Zięba writes that “in the most general sense, security can be defined as the certainty of the existence and survival, ownership, functioning and development of an entity. Confidence is the result not only of the absence of threats (their non-occurrence or elimination), but also arises as a result of the creative activity of a given entity and is variable over time, i.e. it has the nature of a social process¹. The proposed definition

¹R. Zięba, *On the identity of security sciences*, Scientific Journals of the AON No. 1 (86) 2012, Warsaw 2012, p. 8.

confirms the existential nature of security. The certainty of the existence, survival, functioning and development of a given entity are forever part of the complete, holistic definition of security. "This huge, almost all-encompassing scope of the impact of the category of security in personal and structural life makes it constantly the basis of all human activity. The need for security is timeless. Safety is as important to man as health is ². Considering the above, it seems right that these considerations should be conducted in accordance with the proposed definition, i.e. " security is a permanent process of maintaining the stability of all variables that may adversely affect the certainty of existence and harmony of development of a given entity ³".

In the literature on the subject, you can find many proposals for approaches to the division of security as a research area. From national security and homeland security to structural and personnel security. The study in question concerns primarily the area of internal security, and more specifically public security, a component of which is fire safety. A. Babiński writes that "public security in the general social sense will include securing the needs of existence, survival, certainty and stability of individuals under the jurisdiction of the state. Ensuring this on an individual basis will affect the entire state and its structures. But it is the state, and not its citizens, that must be the guarantor of this state, expressed in the protection of the security of individuals ⁴. In the further part of Babiński's considerations, we note that "public security is therefore a positive state in the state, achieved as a result of the implementation of security policy, which includes the state with its system and other devices, as well as persons under the jurisdiction of the state (in particular its citizens) - their lives, health and property ⁵. Therefore, it seems reasonable that these considerations regarding fire protection in penitentiary units should be included in the area of public safety.

When further analyzing the subject matter, the understanding of the importance of fire safety should be clarified. J. Zboina believes that "it is the result of the functioning of fire protection, which has specific protective purposes, such as: health, life, property, environment, ensuring business continuity. In the field of security, the subject is always, above all, the human being. The protection of his life and health is a priority in fire protection, but then the protective goals are, respectively, property, environment and - increasingly - ensuring business continuity

²J. Stańczyk, *Formulation of the conceptual category of security*, Publisher FNCE sp. z oo, Poznań 2017, p. 240.

³own elaboration - M. Kuryłowicz.

⁴A. Babiński, In search of a definition of public security, *Scientific Papers of the State Higher Vocational School for them. Witelon in Legnica* No. 35(2)/2020, Legnica 2020, p. 105.

⁵Ibid., p.105.

⁶. " In the further part of the study, we note the statement that "fire safety is achieved thanks to the effectiveness of the fire protection system, under which preventive actions are taken, prevention and social education are carried out, as well as the ability to undertake and conduct rescue operations is maintained" ⁷. All these components/elements of the system must create a synergistic whole. As it has already been emphasized, security sciences are interdisciplinary and process-oriented. A process is, in short, a series of actions taken on a timeline. It is all the components of the fire protection system, activated and permanently run, that can lead to ensuring an appropriate level of fire safety. J. Zboina explains the importance of the fire protection system by saying that "these activities constitute a system (understood as a combination of: 1. preventive, 2. preventive and educational, 3. rescue activities. This link is aimed at achieving synergy of individual activities, so that for example, rescue operations resulted in specific needs that will be met as part of preventive measures (e.g. in terms of protecting rescuers by using personal protective equipment and/or technical fire protection systems) fire protection. Fire safety is the result of the effective functioning of the fire protection system, under which preventive actions are taken, prevention and social education are carried out, as well as the ability to undertake and conduct rescue operations in relation to fire hazards is maintained⁸.

Referring to this article, the following problem question was adopted: "To what extent is the fire protection system an element of the penitentiary unit's security system? In order to obtain an answer to this question, the literature review method was used, in which the key written sources were compiled, and the information contained therein was subjected to criticism and processing using theoretical methods such as: analysis, synthesis and comparison. When formulating conclusions aimed at obtaining an answer to the above-mentioned problem question, the technique of deductive reasoning was used as part of the inference method. The applied method of analysis was used to identify the key content, then with the help of synthesis, the common content was compiled, and then, through comparison and inference, the validity of the information on the basis of which the final conclusions were developed was supplemented and confirmed.

⁶J. Zboina, *Fire safety. Reflections on the basis of science and practice*, CNBOP-PIB Publishing House, Józefów 2018, p. 11.

⁷J. Zboina, *Fire safety. Reflections on the basis of science and practice*, CNBOP-PIB Publishing House, Józefów 2018, p. 15.

⁸J. Zboina, *Fire safety. Considerations based on science and practice*, CNBOP-PIB Publishing House, Józefów 2018, pp. 20-21.

This short introduction to the considerations allows for further analysis of the procedures and conditions of the fire safety system in penitentiary units. This is an extremely difficult issue, primarily due to the use of technical and protective security systems in embedded accommodation buildings, including basket gratings and transition gratings. The specificity of places intended for serving sentences or places for remand prisoners forces the Prison Service to take a special approach to fire safety. One of the regulators of the organization of fire protection and fire protection in the organizational units of the Prison Service is Order No. 21/2012 of the Director General of the Prison Service of 23 March 2012⁹. In accordance with the above, "fire protection in organizational units consists in taking measures to protect life, health, property or the environment against fire, natural disaster or other local threat through the implementation of the tasks referred to in the Fire Protection Act"¹⁰. This regulation introduces a number of duties for functionaries, starting from supervision over the security area, to specific tasks for officers or employees in the basic unit. As stated in § 11, the main duties of all officers include, first of all, "following the fire safety instructions of the organizational unit; compliance with the rules contained in the instructions for use of devices, machines, tools and installations; maintaining law and order at the workplace and inspecting the workplace in terms of fire safety, each time after its completion; informing superiors about fire safety threats noticed in the organizational unit"¹¹. The above also applies to inmates, but detailed duties dedicated to inmates should be included in the internal order. The main regulator/document functioning in penitentiary units is the aforementioned Fire Safety Manual. The instruction in question should meet the requirements of the regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration¹², i.e. contain the following information:

1. "conditions of fire protection, resulting from the intended use, method of use, technological process, warehousing (storage) and technical conditions of the facility, including the risk of explosion;

⁹Ordinance No. 21/2012 of the Director General of the Prison Service of March 23, 2012 on the organization of fire protection and fire protection in organizational units of the Prison Service (legal status as of February 23, 2023)

¹⁰Ordinance No. 21/2012 of the Director General of the Prison Service of March 23, 2012 on the organization of fire protection and fire protection in organizational units of the Prison Service, § 2 (legal status as of February 23, 2023)

¹¹*Ibid.*, § 11.

¹²Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration on fire protection of buildings, other structures and areas of 7 June 2010 (Journal of Laws No. 109, item 719).

2. specification of equipment with the required fire-fighting equipment and fire extinguishers and methods of subjecting them to technical inspections and maintenance activities;
3. procedures to be followed in the event of fire and other hazards;
4. ways to secure work that is dangerous in terms of fire, if such work is anticipated;
5. conditions and organization of evacuation of people and practical ways of checking them;
6. ways to familiarize users of the facility, including employees, with fire safety regulations and the content of this manual;
7. tasks and responsibilities in the field of fire protection for persons who are their regular users;
8. plans of facilities, including their location, and the adjacent area, taking into account graphic data concerning in particular:
 - a. area, height and number of storeys of the building,
 - b. distance from neighboring objects,
 - c. fire parameters of the flammable substances present,
 - d. existing fire load density in the fire zone or zones,
 - e. human hazard category, expected number of people on each floor and in individual rooms,
 - f. location of rooms and outdoor spaces classified as explosion hazard zones,
 - g. division of the facility into fire zones,
 - h. evacuation conditions, with indication of directions and emergency exits,
 - i. locations of fire-fighting devices and fire extinguishers, main taps of the gas system, fire-hazardous materials and locations of fire-fighting device control elements,
 - j. indications of access to lifts for rescue teams,

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- k. external hydrants and other sources of water for fire fighting purposes,
 - l. fire roads and other access roads, with marked entrances to the fenced area;
9. indication of the persons or entities developing the manual”¹³.

A professionally prepared instruction, constantly updated and discussed with the prison staff, gives hope that when a danger appears, the reactions of employees and officers will be adequate, accurate and appropriate. A noticeable issue in the field of fire safety in the basic units of the Prison Service is the preparation, knowledge and responsibility of the prison staff functioning behind the walls. It is obvious that a document such as this instruction does not work alone, it will not carry out evacuations, it will not check the readiness of water sources for fire fighting purposes, or verify the efficiency of fire extinguishers or fire protection devices. The manual contains many descriptions and algorithms, including internal arrangements in the organization aimed at creating an efficiently functioning fire protection system in prisons or detention centers. It is not without reason that a fire protection inspector is appointed in basic units, who systematically updates the instructions, carries out all inspections, trains and introduces the specificity of fire protection in penitentiary units. When further analyzing the subject of consideration, one can ask the question about the basis, foundation, ground of the need for fire protection, as well as the legal basis in this regard. It seems appropriate to pay attention to the basic tasks dedicated to the Prison Service, in particular the task contained in Art. 2nd point 6, i.e. the Prison Service Act,¹⁴ which says about the need to ensure order and security in prisons and detention centers. In addition, a noteworthy issue is the provision in the Act in question in Art. 117 points 5, i.e. "an officer is obliged to:

- 1) comply with the provisions and principles of occupational health and safety and fire regulations;
- 2) take care of the proper condition of equipment and armament as well as fire-fighting equipment and devices at the place of service;
- 3) follow the recommendations of an occupational medicine physician of the Prison Service;

¹³Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration on fire protection of buildings, other structures and areas of June 7, 2010 (Journal of Laws No. 109, item 719) § 6 (legal status as of February 23, 2023)

¹⁴The Prison Service Act of April 9, 2010 (i.e. of November 4, 2022, Journal of Laws of 2022, item 2470)

4) use collective protection measures, as well as use the assigned personal protective equipment as well as work clothing and footwear in accordance with their intended purpose, also in the case of tasks related to the supervision of persons deprived of liberty who perform work in conditions of threats caused by factors occurring in the service environment ¹⁵. Additionally, in Art. 43zd ¹⁶ provides for the scope of professional training containing issues related to fire protection. All these issues are aimed at ensuring the greatest possible safety of persons staying in the penitentiary unit. However, it is necessary to take into account the various dangers and risks that may appear in prison facilities, and which are unlikely to appear in the world outside the prison wall. Such threats include, for example, intentional actions of persons deprived of their liberty aimed at creating a situation for transferring information or belongings to another inmate, inciting a mutiny, distracting guards, or attempting suicide or self-injury. These few examples are not a closed catalog of threats that may appear. These are just a few examples of the difficulties faced by the prison staff, in particular in the context of fire protection. Many events that look like a fire hazard may actually have something else in common. Therefore, fire protection in penitentiary units is quite a complicated matter and requires professional and complete preparation from prison officers and employees.

In view of the above, it seems right to focus on the phenomenon of evacuation from places at risk of fire or other threat. Evacuation, according to the Glossary of terms in the field of national security, is "organized movement (removal, removal, removal, removal) of people, all kinds of material goods and livestock from areas or facilities at risk and affected by the effects of military operations or disasters, in order to protect them, [provide] help (rescue) and limiting material losses" ¹⁷. An interesting definition of evacuation was proposed by P. Kolmann, who wrote that it is a "rescue or preventive action consisting in intentional and justified relocation to a safe zone (and in the absence of such a possibility to a safer than the original one), using any method or technique of implementation and optional using any technical means for this purpose (in particular transport) - a person/people and/or a representative/representatives of other living beings and/or things located/in the zone of real or potential danger or that may become such in

¹⁵The Prison Service Act of 9 April 2010 (i.e. of 4 November 2022, Journal of Laws of 2022, item 2470) art. 117 points 5.

¹⁶The Prison Service Act of 9 April 2010 (i.e. of 4 November 2022, Journal of Laws of 2022, item 2470) art. 43z.

¹⁷J. Kaczmarek, W. Łepkowski, B. Zdrodowski (eds.), Glossary of terms in the field of national security, AON, Warsaw 2008, p. 40.

the near future”¹⁸. Many attempts to define evacuation take a positive approach, i.e. they do not take into account bad intentions or hidden plots on the part of evacuees. Unfortunately, the prison reality in the event of the need to evacuate inmates from places at risk may turn out to be different than the one in the so-called freedom conditions. The evacuation process behind prison walls may be different than in the case of evacuating people from, for example, a workplace, a block of flats or a public facility. Evacuation as part of fire protection carried out in a penitentiary unit is burdened with an additional risk, which the authors of the study mentioned above. In addition, an officer on duty in the residential ward must have up-to-date knowledge of how many prisoners and how many representatives of the prison staff are staying in the residential ward. These are critical data and may be crucial if it is necessary to evacuate all people from a given ward. An important element of evacuation in a prison facility is the vigilance of those conducting rescue operations as to the behavior of persons deprived of liberty. It is particularly important in this case that prison staff have a significant amount of information on the behavior, plans or intentions of groups of prisoners or individual prisoners. Dedicated to this are the so-called preventive activities ¹⁹. These activities are discussed in Article 19a. pt. "2. Preventive activities are aimed at recognizing the environment of convicts and remand prisoners in order to protect the society against crime or to ensure order or security of prisons, detention centers or convoys, in particular by:

- 1) observing the behavior and relations in the environment of convicts and remand prisoners;
 - 2) recognizing the structures of the criminal subculture;
 - 3) recognizing the atmosphere and moods among convicts and remand prisoners, as well as their behavior that may violate the order and safety of prisons, detention centers or convoys”²⁰.
- In addition, taking into account the possibility of an escalation of the crisis situation, a provision was also included on possible cooperation with the Police, i.e. "1. In the event of a threat or violation of the security of an organizational unit or convoy, if security cannot be ensured with its own forces and resources, the Prison Service cooperates with the Police.

2. The Police forces may be summoned in the event of a threat or breach of the security of an organizational unit or convoy, in particular related to the preparation, attempt or execution of a

¹⁸P. Kolmann, *On the issues of civil protection. The essence of evacuation in a specialist perspective* . De Securitate et Defensione. On Security and Defence, ZN 1(7), UPH in Siedlce, Siedlce 2021, p. 183.

¹⁹Act on the Prison Service of 9 April 2010 Art. 19a (legal status as of 10/03/2023)

²⁰Ibid., Art. 19a point 2

terrorist attack, attack, mutiny, mass escape of inmates, crowd invasion, fire, catastrophe or natural disaster.

3. Depending on the degree and type of threat referred to in par. 2, the cooperation of the Police may consist in providing information that may be important for the safety of the organizational unit or persons deprived of liberty, securing the area of the unit or the convoy from the outside, introducing the Police forces into the area of the organizational unit, restoring order in the area of the unit or in its vicinity, strengthening forces of the Prison Service, repelling an attack, organizing a pursuit, apprehending persons deprived of liberty or their evacuation²¹. Of course, the Police is not the only formation cooperating with the Prison Service. Great support in the case of fire protection is provided by the units of the State Fire Service.

Conclusions

The above shows how a possible escalation of a crisis situation in the form of an intentional action on the part of prisoners can have an effect quite different from the positive perception of the definition of evacuation. Hence, it is difficult to obtain complete definition. The phenomenon of evacuation in two worlds, i.e. behind prison walls and in conditions of freedom, are similar, but will be conducted in a slightly different way. Prison conditions pose complex risks to the positive role of evacuation. A positive approach to the definition of evacuation and its direct application to prison conditions may turn out to be too risky. Lack of preventive measures, unprofessional treatment of official duties, lack of knowledge about the number of people staying in the place of accommodation for inmates, lack of knowledge about the assumptions of the Fire Safety Instruction for a given penitentiary unit, including the method of evacuation from endangered places, or staff shortages may be the cause of ineffective evacuation, and thus cause inadequate fire protection in the unit.

Streszczenie:

W niniejszych rozważaniach podjęto próbę analizy procesów i uwarunkowań systemu bezpieczeństwa pożarowego w jednostkach penitencjarnych. Jest to zagadnienie wymagające głębszej analizy, przede wszystkim ze względu na stosowanie w budynkach penitencjarnych systemów zabezpieczeń technicznych i ochronnych, w tym krat koszowych i krat

²¹ibid. Art. 23

prześciowych. Specyfika punktów topograficznych przeznaczonych do odbywania kary lub miejsc tymczasowego aresztowania zmusza Służbę Więzienną do szczególnego podejścia do bezpieczeństwa pożarowego. Personel więzienny powinien liczyć się z różnymi niebezpieczeństwami i ryzykiem, które mogą pojawić się w zakładach karnych.

Słowa kluczowe:

System, bezpieczeństwo, ochrona przeciwpożarowa, pożar, klęska żywiołowa

Keywords:

System, safety, fire protection, fire, natural disaster

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6. Zięba R., *On the identity of security sciences* , Scientific Journals of the AON No. 1 (86) 2012, Warsaw 2012;

Legal acts:

7. The Prison Service Act of April 9, 2010 (i.e. of November 4, 2022, Journal of Laws of 2022, item 2470)
8. Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration on fire protection of buildings, other structures and areas of 7 June 2010 (Journal of Laws No. 109, item 719).

9. Ordinance No. 21/2012 of the Director General of the Prison Service of March 23, 2012 on the organization of fire protection and fire protection in organizational units of the Prison Service (legal status as of February 23, 2023)