

prof. Bernard Wiśniewski

WSB University in Dąbrowa Górnicza

e-mail: bwisniewski@wsb.edu.pl

ORCID: 0000-0002-0011-7271

Col. Associate prof. Roman Ratushnyi, PhD

Lviv State University for Life Safety

e-mail: ratushnyi@ldubgd.edu.ua

ORCID: 0000-0003-0448-0331

DOI: 10.26410/SF_2/23/11

EVALUATION OF DRILLS ORGANIZED BY INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Human needs may be met both individually and in group settings. Among the latter is the necessity of security, which is related, among other factors, to the protection of the population.

The modern world has never been, is not, and will ever be devoid of threats to human security. Political, economic, and social tensions caused by conflicting interests generate threats ranging from military conflicts and terrorist attacks to organized crime, corruption,

and information security hazards. In the process of far-reaching globalization, natural disasters have gained widespread importance, the unpredictability and scale of the threats require that the state be supplied with the forces, as well as the means necessary to eliminate the consequences of these hazards. Ensuring an acceptable level of civil protection is primarily the responsibility of state power, which uses specialized institutions and state organs at its disposal¹.

¹ See: M. Miśta, *System bezpieczeństwa powszechnego RP*, [in:] *Organizacyjno-prawne aspekty ochrony ludności i obrony cywilnej w RP w XXI wieku w świetle doświadczeń krajowych i zagranicznych*, B. Wiśniewski (ed.), Bielsko-Biała 2010, p. 14.

“The concept of organized civilian protection (...) was born in Europe during the First World War (...). Influenced by the experience of the First World War, the ongoing changes in armaments after that war, especially the growing capabilities of aviation, chemical weapons and the accompanying theory of armed conflict, a picture of the future war and the dangers to the population and the economy at the rear of the front was created, a cruel war that engulfs entire nations.”² It has undergone significant transformations since those years. Today it is understood as a consolidated activity of all public administration bodies and entities carrying out tasks related to the protection of life and health of the population and property, environment, cultural heritage in conditions of occurrence of risks to general security³. Security understood as a process that ensures the protection of life and health of citizens and national property from the effects of natural and technical disasters.⁴ It deserves to be emphasized here that this concept is different from environmental security, which refers to the natural surroundings, to vegetation, animals, water, air, and land. As the aforementioned definition indicates, the subject of universal safety is human life and health. Threats directly related to universal security are natural calamities, environmental disasters, and technical failures. Due

to changing climatic and atmospheric conditions, the most common disaster is a natural catastrophe, defined as “an extreme natural phenomenon causing significant damage to the area affected, often leaving behind an altered image of the earth’s surface.”⁵ The occurrence of this phenomenon often comes unexpectedly wreaking havoc on a given territory, causing massive losses to the human economy, and directly threatens the lives of citizens.

The procedures of the institutions responsible for civil protection undoubtedly require scientific research, which boils down to the acquisition of information, and particularly the ordering and formation of scientific knowledge. The endeavours mentioned above concern not so much the need, but even the necessity of such research related to the functioning of the civil protection system and its improvement, the most effective form of which are the drills.

The essence of exercises organized by institutions responsible for civil protection is the development of knowledge, the formation of skills for solving problems in the field of this protective system (according to the competence of these institutions) and the formation of appropriate social attitudes. In order to be able to “develop” and “shape”, it is necessary to properly assess the level of activities performed by the practitioners. All this is done in order to

2 J. Suwart, *Zarys Obrony Cywilnej w Polsce w latach 1920-1996*, Warsaw 2003, p. 9.

3 B. Wiśniewski (eds.), *Organizacyjno-prawne aspekty ochrony ludności i obrony cywilnej w RP w XXI wieku w świetle doświadczeń krajowych i zagranicznych*, Bielsko-Biała 2010, p. 8.

4 B. Wiśniewski, S. Zalewski (eds.), *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne RP w ujęciu systemowym i zadań administracji publicznej*, Bielsko Biała 2006, p. 35.

5 Ibidem.

adequately organize the process of rationalization of the professional development system.

Recent years are emerging as a period in the scientific literature devoted to, among other things, civil protection issues "(...) a time rich, as expected, in works of two types: summaries, syntheses and assessments (...) and forecasts (...). This is the focus that can be seen both in the output of study centres, projections, and analyses, as well as in the publications (...) of scientific research centres and universities (...) all over the world (...). The need for this very knowledge is, as can plainly be seen, derived from the primary motives of our, human activity – the need for existence and safe development concretized further by our individual or collective standards of existence and development: quality, pace, scale, relations, etc. This need is also universal, common to individuals, groups, organizations, regardless of their size, location, domain of activity"⁶. Tomasz Zwęglinski's monograph "Cognitive Problems of Evaluation of Civil Protection Exercises" (ISBN 978-83-966806-7-9), published by the Fire University in Warsaw in 2023, is devoted to these very problems.

The monograph in question is the result of a well-considered and properly adopted research concept, which consequently led to the development of a solidly constructed scientific work. It consists of three chapters preceded by an introduction and crowned by a conclusion.

In the introduction, the author assumes (not explicitly) that drills are

a type of practical training, in which the subjects of such activities are public administration bodies and managers of state organizational units, their serving offices, organizational structures for the operation of which the managers of the units are responsible, entrepreneurs and other organizational units, as well as social organizations that carry out tasks in the field of civil protection.

The first chapter entitled. "Diagnosis" was dedicated to establishing the legal basis for the organization of civil protection training exercises. It presents the need (and even the necessity) for the organization of drills, including their evaluation. It analyses and evaluates the current state of affairs of the reality under study. Valuable in this part of the work are considerations of a retrospective nature, the essence of which is a scientific look into the past. In general, they make it possible to identify the sources of risks and the requirements necessary to meet in the past in order to fully understand scientific theories. The content on exploratory possibilities should be equally appreciated, as they provide answers to the following questions: what state of affairs existed? why did the identified state of affairs occur? The contents of this chapter further indicate that the author realizes that the need for diagnosability is related to the hardship of finding points of contact between theory and reality.

The next chapter, entitled "Forecast," presents the assumptions of what the paper calls the rational concept of

6 *Nowe cechy i zdolności sił zbrojnych w kontekście wyzwań XXI wieku*, C. Rutkowski (ed.), Warsaw 2008, p. 5.

exercise evaluation. It systematizes and develops the knowledge of drill assessment into a theory based on the taxonomy of civil protection functions. Of particular interest in this part of the work is the content that refers in its essence to the intensity of change and comparisons of the predicted state with the existing one. This is valuable because modernity is an uninterrupted series of transformations that are increasingly turbulent and violent, and the increasing rate and frequency of their occurrence, while at the same time the probability of predicting the consequences of these changes is decreasing, cause disturbances that may lead to the need to evolve the rules of training exercise organization.

The third chapter, entitled 'Validation of the theory', contains examples of the practical application of the proposed solutions. The content presented therein is the result of exercises carried out using the validated theory. This part of the work indicates the need for civil protection drills to be appraised by specialists from different scientific disciplines. The analysis of this part of the work also convinces that not only researchers should be appointed to the research teams, but also those people who, by virtue of their duties, handle civil protection issues on a non-scientific level on a daily basis.

In the conclusion, the author has correctly alluded to the most relevant issues relating to the research assumptions and results of the study conducted.

Proceeding to the detailed evaluation of the monograph, it must be noted that the way of presenting the

problems included in the synopsis is in line with the methodology used in security sciences. The research process performed resulted in valuable cognitive and utilitarian material. Such an assessment was influenced by the Author's skilful application of appropriate (to the needs and possibilities) research methods and a correctly designed, as well as properly implemented research process.

The analysis and evaluation of the methodological aspects of the monograph additionally allows us to state that, in the course of the research and final elaboration of the dissertation, worthy and extremely broad literature on the subject of the Author's research (to a large extent foreign language literature) was used, which is evidence of a thorough search of source materials, referring directly and indirectly to the problems reflected in the title of the monograph.

By reviewing and evaluating the different parts of the work, it can be concluded that it has been developed to meet the expectations of both theorists and practitioners. For the former, background information and scientific theories were used. For the latter, a unification of views was accomplished.

The issues presented in the revised work are delivered with varying degrees of detail, which in itself is not a shortcoming.

The layout of the reviewed monograph deserves to be regarded as correct. It is worth emphasizing the fact that the presented issues are often supplemented with the author's comments based on the results of the conducted

research. The author of the monograph skilfully familiarizes the potential reader with the records of the relevant documents and presents their interpretation, and above all describes the analysed events paying special attention to the nuances of both civil protection and organisation of drills, including their evaluation. This way of presenting the Author's views makes the monograph not purely formal, but a study accessible to a wide audience. It is important to highlight that the monograph is characterized by an appropriate scientific level, which indicates the Author's well-established knowledge. The way in which the content of the written work is presented is logical.

In conclusion, it is appropriate to agree with the words of the Author noting in his monograph that "the results of the presented research make an important contribution to the discipline of security sciences by creating and verifying the theory of drill evaluation. This theory makes it possible to organise and rationally plan the processes of improvement and development of systems operating for civil protection based on a taxonomy of their functions and capabilities, verified in an accurate and reliable manner in the process of cyclic training exercise evaluation". This is a sufficient argument to recommend Tomasz Zwęgliński's monograph "Cognitive Problems of Evaluation of Civil Protection Drills" to those interested in civil protection and the organisation of exercises.

Emergency hazards to people and the environment belong to the category of threats that we are incapable of countering individually. In order to sustain as little damage as possible as a result of their occurrence and, as swiftly as possible, restore the normal functioning of a given community, we need to take collective action. Countering this type of danger seems to be one of the fundamental premises for the formation of societies and states⁷. The now available knowledge of this book can also serve that purpose.

Bibliography

- Miśta M., *System bezpieczeństwa powszechnego RP [in] Organizacyjno-prawne aspekty ochrony ludności i obrony cywilnej w RP w XXI wieku w świetle doświadczeń krajowych i zagranicznych*, B. Wiśniewski (ed.), Bielsko-Biała 2010.
- Nowe cechy i zdolności sił zbrojnych w kontekście wyzwań XXI wieku*, C. Rutkowski (ed.), Warszawa 2008.
- Prońko J., Wiśniewski B., *Administracja publiczna w systemie przeciwdziałania nadzwyczajnym zagrożeniom dla ludzi i środowiska*, material with typescript rights.
- Suwart J., *Zarys Obrony Cywilnej w Polsce w latach 1920-1996*, Warszawa 2003.
- Wiśniewski B. (eds.), *Organizacyjno-prawne aspekty ochrony ludności i obrony cywilnej w RP w XXI wieku w świetle doświadczeń krajowych i zagranicznych*, Bielsko-Biała 2010.
- Wiśniewski B., Zalewski S. (eds.), *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne RP w ujęciu systemowym i zadań administracji publicznej*, Bielsko Biała 2006.

⁷ J. Prońko, B. Wiśniewski, *Administracja publiczna w systemie przeciwdziałania nadzwyczajnym zagrożeniom dla ludzi i środowiska*, material with typescript rights.

About the Authors

Bernard Wiśniewski, Director of the Centre for Research Methodology in Security Sciences at WSB University in Dąbrowa Górnicza. He is also a lecturer at the Main School of Fire Service in Warsaw. His interests include state security, internal security, crisis management and security theory. He published his works in Poland and several European countries.

Roman Ratushnyi, Vice-Chancellor of the Lviv State University for Life Safety. His interests are in security theory, rescue, civil protection, and general security. He is the author of many studies published in Ukraine and several European countries.