

Dear Readers!

The sixth volume of the journal “Terrorism – Studies, Analyses, Prevention” (T-SAP) is published at a time of another escalation of the Jewish-Palestinian conflict, taking place in a region where violence – political, military and other – is a constant element of the everyday life of successive generations of local communities. It is a region where three great religions were born and where the interests of various military powers have been clashing for centuries. Terrorism, one of the consequences of this conflict, fueled by extreme groups on both sides of the barricades, will not die out. It is irreversibly inscribed in the cultural code of the Middle East. The fanaticism of decision-makers makes it impossible to work out lasting peaceful solutions. They use the time of relative peace to plan and prepare provocative actions or further attacks, which in turn lead to retaliation. For researchers of terrorism, analysts of threats to the security of states or political communities, the history of fights between Jews and Palestinians is an obligatory study of violence motivated by religious motives.

I want T-SAP journal to express different points of view on this dispute, while maintaining the scientific nature of the presented content. Its assessment is neither unanimous nor unambiguous. I can also say this from my own experience. For over 20 years of work, I have conducted many classes and trainings with the participation of people from Europe, Asia, North and South America, Africa and the Middle East. Each time, the discussion of the Jewish-Palestinian conflict evoked great emotions and extreme assessments concerning both

sides of the dispute. No other topic raised the temperature of the classes so quickly.

We begin this issue by recalling the history of this conflict. The author of the comprehensive study is Krzysztof Izak, national expert in the field of Middle Eastern terrorism, an author of the *Lexicon of Islamist organizations and movements* published by the Internal Security Agency. I trust that both this and subsequent articles on this subject will meet your interest.

The effectiveness of the anti-terrorist system of a given country depends, among other things, on whether the available resources will be properly selected and used, and this in turn is conditioned by previous analyses and conclusions drawn from them. Forecasting the development of terrorist threats is the first stage of anti-terrorist activities – both at the national and international level. Without accurate forecasts, it is impossible to build adequate anti-terrorist procedures and properly train and equip counter-terrorist units. Therefore, I recommend paying attention to the article by Prof. Tomasz Aleksandrowicz, one of the doyens of Polish research on terrorism, on the forecasting of terrorist threats as an element of the state anti-terrorist system. He discussed the methods of analyzing this type of threat and specific examples of the use of these techniques.

In Poland, we still have the comfort of being able to build terrorist prevention based on the experience of partner countries, not our own. In this issue of T-SAP, we publish a text devoted to good practices used in American educational institutions to protect against the so-called active killer. By using these recommendations, it will be easier to create common procedures in our country for responding to terrorist incidents that threaten the safety of pupils and students during their stay in educational facilities.

I am always glad when Polish researchers of the phenomenon of terrorism with recognized scientific achievements in the country publish their books in English. This internationalisation allows them, among other things, to participate in the global forum for combating terrorism and present the Polish perspective there. I strongly encourage

you to read the book *Towards a New Definition of Terrorism: Challenges and Perspectives in a Shifting Paradigm* written by Katarzyna Maniszewska, PhD, who has devoted almost two decades to conducting research on terrorism around the world. In this issue you will also find a review of a guide for people dealing with professional protection of VIPs against terrorist incidents, written by Col. Jarosław Cymerski, PhD, a practitioner with nearly 30 years of experience.

We strive to make T-SAP a space for exchanging experience with foreign experts representing uniformed services or international initiatives implemented under the aegis of the EU and NATO. In the last part of the magazine, we publish two interesting interviews. The first interview, with Prof. Piotr Gawliczek, reveals the backstage of the creation of the NATO Deep eAcademy and presents its educational and training opportunities. It is worth noting that Poles have made a significant contribution to the development of this project.

The second was conducted with Paul Fröhlich, a Berlin police officer and crisis management expert. He shares his more than twenty years of professional experience in building resilience to terrorist attacks in the German capital.

Inviting you to read the sixth issue of T-SAP, I believe that everyone will find in this issue materials that will interest them and inspire them to improve their skills. We want our magazine to be created and read by an “anti-terrorist community” of people whose goal is to ensure security and cooperation across divisions.

In conclusion, I would like to remind you that T-SAP is a scientific journal, and the texts published in it do not represent the position of the Internal Security Agency.

Editor-in-Chief
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