

STATE SECURITY AS A TASK OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE AREA OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT

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1. Introduction

Crisis management in accordance with art. 2 of the Act¹ means “activity of public administration authorities as an element of managing national security management system, which consists of preventing crisis situations, preparing to take control over them by way of planned activities, responding in case of emergencies, removal of their effects and the reconstruction of the resources and critical infrastructure.”

Crisis management can thus be defined as a permanent form of state activity the aim of which is to ensure the existence and development regardless of the situation – peace, crisis, war.²

In addition to events of a divisive nature in the sphere of international and intrastate relations – societies are increasingly vulnerable to the adverse effects of the development of the civilization.³ The turn of the twentieth century was full of many, new dangerous phenomena. Industrial, transport, construction and many other disasters related directly to human activity emerged. The modern era is also the

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- 1 Act of 26.04. 2007 on Crisis Management (Dz.U. z 2007 r. Nr 89, poz. 590).
 - 2 K. Sienkiewicz-Małjurek, R.F. Krynojewski, Zarządzanie kryzysowe w administracji publicznej – zarządzanie bezpieczeństwem, Warszawa 2010, p. 15.
 - 3 Contemporary conflicts mostly have political, social, religious and economic nature.

time of development of international terrorism on a large scale and the increasing pollution of the environment. For such a wide range of threats there must be adequate effective ways to prevent them, warn the society and remove their effects.

One of the most important tasks of any modern state, regardless of the system and other factors, is to ensure the security of citizens from military threats, risks associated with natural disasters and other threats related to human activities as safety is the primary and supreme value.

According to the Constitution, ensuring national security and public order is entrusted to the Council of Ministers.⁴ This task is carried out under the terms stated in the Constitution, legal acts and executive acts issued on the basis thereof. Under the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland a state's overriding internal security goal is „to maintain its ability to react – depending on the situation – in the event of a threat to public security or universal security, involving the protection of legal order, life and health of citizens and national property against illegal actions and the consequences of natural disasters and technical breakdowns.”⁵ Maintaining such a capacity requires a coordinated system of state security which is to ensure public safety in all conditions.

An integral part of the management of external and internal state security is crisis management. The tasks in this field are performed by the public authorities. Threats prevention is the responsibility of local governments and is coordinated by senior administration. In the case of larger scale risks including e.g. war, terrorism or violation of state sovereignty, preventive measures are taken by the government and the central authorities. In practice not all risks can be classified as local or national ones. Therefore, constant cooperation and exchange of information on all levels of public administration seems necessary. For the very same reason our country's crisis management system is a very important element of national security. In order to describe the system it is necessary to indicate its components which are: crisis, emergency situation and emergency crisis management.

4 Art. 163 of Constitution of the Republic of Poland of 2.04.1997 (Dz.U z 1997 r. Nr 78, poz. 483 z późn. zm.); art. 146, section 4, point 7.

5 National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland, www.biurobezpieczeństwam narodowego.pl

2. Crisis

Definitions of 'crisis' depend on the adopted criteria of their divisions origin. The crisis is generally defined "as the moment, breakthrough, final turning point, a period of economic downturn. It is strictly related with the permanent disruption of activities and completion of objectives, drop in performance, and in extreme cases even a threat to the very existence".⁶ In the literature on national security crisis is a situation resulted from threats, leading consequently to break or significant weakening of social ties, with simultaneous serious disturbance of public institutions activities, but only to the extent that the measures required to ensure or restore security do not justify introduction of any of the states of emergency as provided in art. 228 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland.

Without further analysis of the concept of crisis for the purposes of this article it is assumed that the crisis marks a turning point, a breakthrough; the decisive moment; qualitative change of the system or in the system,⁷ and thus is a disorder that can affect economic life, the period of particular difficulties, danger, sudden events causing destabilization. The source of the crisis may be global currency, lack or excess goods on the market, the divergence of interests between the parties to the conflict, threats such as: fire, flood, or disasters.⁸

In the literature we can find attempts to classify crises according to different criteria and characteristics. The basis of the typology of crises in the security field are the following criteria: subjective, objective, spatial, duration, location of the source, frequency, threat symptoms and risks of a conflict of interest. Crises generally can be divided into political and military (external) and civil (internal) ones. Politico-military crisis is an international or intrastate situation which carries a threat to basic values, interests and strategic objectives of the involved parties, and the solution to this situation is achieved primarily by political and military actions (armed forces). These crises may occur and do occur in both the proximity and far from Poland and have direct impact on the security

6 W. Kopaliński, *Słownik wyrazów obcych i zwrotów obcojęzycznych z almanachem*, Warszawa 2000, p. 282.

7 *Słownik terminów z zakresu bezpieczeństwa narodowego*, Warszawa 2009, p. 61.

8 *Słownik wyrazów obcych*, Warszawa 1980, p. 401.

threats to our country. According to the subjective criterion crises can be classified as domestic and international. However it is worth noticing that regarding the subject crises may apply to individuals, social groups and the international community.

The second division is based on subjective criterion which supplements the subjective criterion. From this point of view, crises are divided into political, politico-military, economic, social, cultural, religious and ecological ones.

In spatial terms, crises can be local, sub regional, regional, global.

Using the criterion of duration we can distinguish incidental crises, short-term, medium term, long term and permanent.

The criterion of source allows to identify internal and external crises.

According to the criterion of frequency, there are single, occasional, repetitive and cyclical crises.

Applying the criterion of threats symptoms crises can be divided into predictable and unpredictable or expected and unexpected.

From the point of view of the criterion of the existence of a conflict of interest crises may be of conflicting or non-conflicting.⁹

The civil crises is an occurrence of public order disturbance, act of terrorism, natural disaster and technical failure, the effects of which threaten the constitutional structure of the state, security of the citizens, the life or health of a large number of persons, property of significant value or large areas of the environment, and are prevented and maintained by various civil bodies and institutions as well as the civil services and formations.¹⁰

3. Crisis situation

Concept of crisis is bounded inherently with the term of 'crisis situation'. This concept is also defined differently depending on a qualifier. If state is the subject, the definition of an emergency

9 J. Gryz, W. Kitler, *System reagowania kryzysowego*, Toruń 2007, pp. 19–20.

10 M. Dobosz, *Zarządzanie kryzysowe. Kryzys – termin*, www.obronacywilna.pl

situation is as follows “crisis situation is a group of internal and external circumstances in which state, part of the state or specified area of state’s functions, is affected in such a way that the state begins to be in the process of change. For this reason, there is an imbalance, where balance is later restored thanks to the measures of regulations which have been taken and will be applied”.¹¹

Crisis situation is also defined as “a systemic situation characterized by the culmination of risks (internal or external) which cause loss of normality and possible distortion of the basic features of the system (stability, balance, controllability, efficiency, etc)¹²”.

Crisis situation is described in many definitions as a result of conflicts between states, armed conflicts, acts of terrorism and it is called a sequence of interactions between the governments of two or more sovereign states involved in a serious conflict, on the verge of war, who are aware of the dangers.

However, all of the definitions are derived from the statutory regulation according to which “crisis situation is a situation that affects negatively the level of safety of people, property of significant value or the environment, causing significant restrictions on the operation of the competent authorities of public administration due to the inadequacy of resources and measures”.¹³

The basic threats stated by the legislation in Poland that cause crisis situations/states of emergency, are:

“– natural emergency what means natural disaster or technical failure, consequences of which threaten the life or health of a large number of persons, property of significant value or the environment over large areas, and assistance and protection can be effectively undertaken only by using extraordinary measures, with cooperation of the various bodies and institutions, and specialized services and

11 W. Kitler, The basic terminology of crisis management, (in:) E. Nowak (ed.), Crisis management in the event of natural disaster, “Journal of Issues of Defense Knowledge Society” 2006, no. 1, p. 30.

12 P. Sienkiewicz, P. Górny, Analiza sytuacji kryzysowych, „Zeszyty Naukowe Akademii Obrony Narodowej” 2001, no. 4, p. 31.

13 Art. 13 section 1 of the Act of 26.04.2007 on Crisis Management (Dz.U. z 2007 r. Nr 89, poz. 590 z późn. zm).

formations operating under a single leadership”. (Art. 3, § 1, point 1 of the Act of 18 April 2002 on the State of Natural Disaster).¹⁴

“– a natural disaster is an occurrence associated with the operation of the forces of nature, in particular lightning, earthquakes, strong winds, heavy rainfall, prolonged occurrence of extreme temperatures, landslides, fires, droughts, floods, ice phenomena on rivers and seas and lakes and water tanks, mass occurrence of pests, diseases of plants or animals or diseases of people, or operation of any other element” (Art. 3, § 1, point 2 of the Act of 18 April 2002 on the State of Natural Disaster).

“– a technical failure is a sudden, unexpected damage or destruction of a building, a technical device or system technical equipment causing a break in their use or loss of their property” (Art. 3, § 1, point 3 of the Act of 18 April 2002 on the State of Natural Disaster).

“– the event of a terrorist act is a situation caused by the act referred to activity defined in art. 115 § 20 of the Act of 6 June 1997 – Criminal Code (“Journal of Laws”, No. 88, item 533, with amendments) or a threat of the existence of such an act which might lead to a crisis situation” (Art. 3 § 11 of the Act of 26 April 2007 on Crisis Management).

“– the other local threat is an event resulting from the development of civilization and the natural laws of nature are not a natural disaster, posing a threat to life, health, property or the environment which prevent or remove the effects of which do not require the use of extraordinary measures” (Art. 2 § 3 of the Act of 24 August 1991 on Fire Protection).¹⁵

“– the mass threat is defined as a situation caused by the forces of nature, technical failures or any other events that pose a potential loss of health, life or damage to property or the environment and threatening a large area and/or a large number of people” (Instruction on the rules of evacuation of the population, animals and property in the event of a mass threat, Warsaw 2008)

14 Act of 18.04.2002 on State of Natural Disaster (Dz.U. z 2002 r. Nr 62, poz. 558 z późn. zm.).

15 Act of 24.09.1991 on Fire Prevention (Dz.U. z 2009 r. Nr 178, poz.1380 z późn. zm.).

“– a state of emergency is a situation of specific threats to the constitutional order of the state, public safety or public order including terrorist activities which cannot be removed through the use of ordinary constitutional means” (Art. 2 of the Act of 26 April 2002 on State of Emergency).¹⁶

“– martial law is an external threat to the state including terrorist activities, armed attack on the territory of the Republic of Poland or the need to fulfill its obligations to the common defense against aggression under international agreements” (Art. 2 of the Martial Law Act and Act of 29 August 2002 on the Polish Armed Forces Supreme Commander’s Competence and his Subordination to the State’s Constitutional Authorities, “Journal of Laws” 2002, no. 156, item 1301).¹⁷

4. Crisis management

In most cases organizations, institutions and individual people deal with security issues as a part of routine activities. The particular authorities and their subordinate forces, services, guards and inspections alone or jointly implement certain security-related tasks in accordance with standard procedures of management (management, command). All this happens within the normal functioning of the state and other entities. However, there are some situations when routine actions are not sufficient and there is a loss of control over the course of events, which disrupts the existing decision-making process, and managers must focus on short-term planning. In such events a new specific management – crisis management is implemented.¹⁸

Crisis management is defined as “the process of management in the country aimed to prevent crisis situations and in the case of their occurrence – preventing the development of sudden and dangerous

16 The Act of 26.04.2002 on State of Emergency (Dz.U. z 2002 r. Nr 113, poz. 985 z późn. zm.).

17 Martial Law Act and Act of 29.09.2002 on the Polish Armed Forces Supreme Commander’s Competence and his Subordination to the State’s Constitutional Authorities (Dz.U. z 2002 r. Nr 156, poz. 1301).

18 A. Pieniak, A. Niewczas, D. Pieniak, K. Popik-Chorąży, Zarządzanie logistyczne administracji samorządowej w sytuacjach kryzysowych, “Autobusy, Eksploatacja, Systemy transportowe” 2011, nr 6, p. 3.

events that threaten the vital interests of society.”¹⁹ Crisis management by the dictionary definition is “reaction to an impending or ongoing crisis and the removal of its effects in the cycle of events and activities, from preparation and emergency planning with the response to daily events until the completion of the reconstruction from the devastation (preparation, response, restoration).”²⁰ Crisis management very often comes to issues of civil protection and rescue in situations bearing characteristics of a natural disaster and even during the threat of war as well as war. Crisis management in such terms is defined as “the complete system solutions in the field of civil protection, carried out by public authorities at all levels, in cooperation with the specialized agencies and other institutions in order to prevent dangerous situations, posing a threat to life, health and the environment”.²¹

Under the statutory definition crisis management is “the activity of public administration which is a part of the international safety management, which relies on crisis prevention, preparing to take control of them by way of the planned activities, responding in the event of emergencies, removing their effects and the recovery of critical infrastructure”.²²

Understanding the essence of crisis management in the field of security can be aided by comparison of its essential characteristics. Crisis management is:

- an integral part of the organization management (system);
- field of safety management in general, including national security;
- management of the organization under pressure in the state of risk;
- resolving tense situations;

19 R. Wróblewski, *Zarys teorii kryzysu, zagadnienia prewencji i zarządzania kryzysem*, Warszawa 1996, p. 39.

20 *Słownik terminów...*, *op. cit.*, p. 166.

21 K. Zieliński, *Bezpieczeństwo obywateli podczas kryzysów niemilitarnych oraz reagowanie w razie katastrof i klęsk żywiołowych*, Warszawa 2004, p. 29.

22 Art. 2 of the Act of 17.07.2009 amending the Act on Crisis Management (Dz.U. z 2009 r. Nr 131, poz. 1073).

- prevention of escalation of troublesome occurrences.²³

Taking into account the capacity of the components of the crisis management, we need to analyze the organizational structure of the subjects carrying out the crisis management tasks. The goal of each country in a bid to secure the safety and stable functioning should be to achieve and maintain the ability to protect essential infrastructure against threats that could disrupt its efficient functioning.²⁴

State, as it is known, is a complex, large organization that combines the different organizational levels which rely on each other in certain relations of subordination. The scope of administrative actions in the field of security relating to the maintenance of public order, public safety and compliance with the rules regulating the legal order in terms of the normal functioning of society (in the area including i.e. environmental protection, fire protection, waste management, nature conservation, historic preservation, protection of plants, veterinary and sanitary protection, consumer protection, construction supervision, traffic management) is performed by the local administration. In the event of situations which require specific action on vital national interests, the main role is played by the central authorities while the authorities of the territorial level only participate in the implementation of the detailed implementation tasks.²⁵

Supervision of crisis management in Poland is exercised by the Council of Ministers and in urgent cases – by the minister responsible for internal affairs. The Governmental Crisis Management Team acts at the Council of Ministers. It is a consultative body that advises on matters which concern deciding and coordinating the actions undertaken in the field of crisis management. The Government Crisis Management Team includes the Prime Minister, Minister of National Defense and Minister for Internal Affairs, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister Coordinator of Special Services. The tasks of the team include, among others, preparation of proposals for the use of manpower and resources

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- 23 E. Nowak, *Zarządzanie kryzysowe w sytuacjach zagrożeń niemilitarnych*, Warszawa 2007, p. 43.
 - 24 R. Szynowski, *Zadania administracji publicznej w obszarze zarządzania kryzysowego*, (in:) Z. Piątek, B. Wiśniewski, A. Osierda (eds.), *Administracja publiczna a bezpieczeństwo państwa*, Bielsko-Biała-Warszawa 2007, p. 40 ff.
 - 25 J. Grycz, W. Kitler, *op. cit.*, p. 58.

needed to deal with emergencies, advising on coordination of the state government, state institutions and services in crisis situations, making opinions and submitting the National Crisis Management Plan to the Council of Ministers (art. 9, § 1).

At the state level there is also the Government Security Centre. Under art. 11 § 2 of the Act its tasks include, for example: “civil planning (...), monitoring potential threats, agreeing crisis management plans drawn up by ministers in charge of departments of government and heads of central offices, preparation and maintenance of technical and organizational work of the Governmental Crisis Management Team, to ensure coordination of information policy bodies public administration at the time of the crisis, the interaction of crisis management centers of public administration”.

Crisis management teams may be established to support ministers in charge of government departments and the managers of central offices. In the central organs of the government crisis management centers are responsible for matters related to the provision of external or internal security. Their responsibility covers e.g.: 24-hour duty in order to ensure the information flow for the purposes of crisis management; cooperation with crisis management centres of public administration authorities, supervision over the functioning of the warning and detection system and the early warning system for the population; cooperation with entities monitoring the environment; cooperation with the entities performing the rescue, search and humanitarian operations; documentation of the activities of the centre; performance of the tasks of permanent duty in order to increase the state’s defence readiness.

In the voivodship region it is the responsibility of the voivode to take actions in the scope of crisis management. His/her tasks in the area of crisis management contain, among others, controlling the exercise of the government tasks resulting from statutory laws and other legal acts issued on the basis of mandates contained therein, arrangements of the Council of Ministers and orders and instructions of the Prime Minister. The voivode controls the performance of local government authorities and other local tasks of government administration and adapts specific policy objectives of the government to local conditions, controlling and

coordinating the execution of the resulting tasks. An important task in the field of crisis management is duty to ensure the cooperation of all agencies of the central and local government operating in the province in terms of prevention of threats to life, health or property, threats to the environment, national security and public order, the protection of civil rights and the prevention of natural disasters and other extraordinary threats, as well as handling and elimination of their consequences (art. 14 § 2 of the Act).

According to art. 14 § 6 of the Act, tasks of the organisational unit competent for crisis management in the voivodeship office include: collection and processing of data and assessment of threats occurring in the voivodeship, monitoring, analysing and forecasting information concerning the development of threats in the voivodeship; delivering necessary information concerning the present state of security to the voivodeship crisis management team, crisis management team working in the unit of the minister competent for the internal affairs and the Centre; cooperation with powiat crisis management teams; ensuring the functioning of the voivodeship crisis management team, including documenting its activities; performance of permanent duty tasks under state's defence readiness; developing and updating the voivodeship crisis management plan; development of the voivodes' recommendations to powiat crisis management plans based on the analysis of threats in powiats; giving opinion on the powiat crisis management plans and submitting them to the voivode for approval; gathering and processing the information on critical infrastructure located on the territory of the voivodeship; planning the support of other authorities competent for crisis management issues; planning the use of subunits or units of the armed forces of the Republic of Poland to execute tasks, and also planning the support of public administration authorities to the implementation of tasks of the armed forces of the Republic of Poland.

Voivodeship crisis management team which is a subsidiary body of the governor functions at the provincial level. Its tasks include: assessment and forecasting of the occurring and potential threats that could influence public security; developing proposals of activities and presenting to the voivode proposals concerning the implementation, change or omission of measures included in the voivodeship crisis

management plan; providing information relating to threats to the public; giving opinion on the voivodeship crisis management plan and the voivodeship (art. 14, § 8).

Provincial emergency management centers, which provide organizational support in matters of crisis management in the provincial offices are also created (art. 16, § 2).

In case of a crisis situation likely to pose an immediate danger also district head takes actions in the scope of crisis management. District head is a district – level body responsible for ensuring the safety of people in situations posing a threat to life, health, property or the environment. District head's primary obligation is the proper organization and functioning of the system of crisis management. The main competences of district head in the field of crisis management include management of monitoring, planning, response and removal of the consequences of the threats on the territory of the district; performance of tasks from the field of civil planning, organisation and delivery of courses, exercises and training on crisis management; carrying out undertakings resulting from the operational plan of the functioning of district and towns with district rights; preventing, counteracting and removal of the effects of terrorist acts; cooperation with the head of the Internal Security Agency to prevent, counteract and eliminate the consequences of terrorist acts as well as organization and performance of the critical infrastructure protection tasks.

These tasks are performed by the district head with the help of the joint district administration and organizational units of the district. At this level there are specific district crisis management teams and district disaster management centers. The competence of the district crisis management team covers evaluation of existing and potential threats to public safety, prediction of these threats and preparation of proposals for action and submitting proposals for the amendments, changes or omissions included in the county plan for crisis management to the district head. District emergency management centers also play an important role in the formation and functioning of the district crisis management system. In the event of a crisis, a crisis management plan is created in the district. It defines the tasks and responsibilities of individuals, departments and entities at the district level to be taken in

the time of the imminent danger to life, property of citizens and the environment. Drawing a plan and its implementation should be done in the planning cycle of 2 years.

The district head is obligated to cooperate with the head of the Internal Security Agency to prevent, counteract and eliminate the consequences of terrorist acts.

Similarly, the authority competent for crisis management issues on the territory of the gmina district is the *voit* – administrative officer of the gmina commune, mayor, the president of the city. The tasks of the *voit*, mayor, the president of the city in the field of crisis management include management of monitoring, planning, response and removal of the results of the threats on the territory of the gmina; performance of civil planning tasks, management, organisation and conducting of courses, exercises and trainings on crisis management; carrying out undertakings resulting from the operational plan of the functioning of gminas and gminas with the town status; preventing, counteracting and removing the effects of terrorist acts, cooperation with the head of the Internal Security Agency to prevent, counteract and eliminate the consequences of terrorist acts, organization and performance of the critical infrastructure protection tasks. All of the above tasks should be performed with the help of the organisational unit of the gmina (town, city) office competent for crisis management issues.

Furthermore, gmina crisis management teams which, on the territory of the gmina, perform the tasks envisaged for the voivodeship team are on gmina district level. Also on this level gmina crisis management centers are created .

Bearing in mind the above considerations, it is worth remarking that the crisis management system in Poland is a multi-level and consists of crisis management bodies, consultative and advisory bodies competent for initiating and coordinating activities in the field of crisis management and crisis management centers, maintaining a 24-hour readiness to take action. Close cooperation of these bodies results in the state security, and thus the completion of public administration tasks in field of crisis management.

5. Conclusions

Security of the state is classified as the most protected and respected value, both by individuals, organizations, and entire nations. The area related to national security corresponds primarily to adapting state structures and preparation of the public for the proper functioning at the time of the emergency of external threats of a politico-military nature. Full capacity of state and local government structures is the foundation of the independence and sovereignty of the state. They are responsible for maintaining security in every area of operation, which in turn translates into the functioning of the state and the prosperity of its population.

Keywords: war, crisis management, state security

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BEZPIECZEŃSTWO PAŃSTWA JAKO ZADANIE ADMINISTRACJI PUBLICZNEJ W OBSZARZE ZARZĄDZANIA KRYZYSOWEGO

Do jednych z najważniejszych funkcji każdego współczesnego państwa należy zapewnienie bezpieczeństwa obywatelom przed zagrożeniami militarnymi, zagrożeniami związanymi z katastrofami naturalnymi oraz innymi związanymi z działalnością człowieka. Bezpieczeństwo jest bowiem wartością najwyższą, a jego zapewnienie spoczywa bezpośrednio na państwie. Zapewnienie bezpieczeństwa dokonuje się m.in. poprzez zarządzanie kryzysowe, które jest stałą formą aktywności państwa w celu zapewnienia jego bytu i rozwoju niezależnie od sytuacji (pokoju, kryzysu, wojny).

Zapotrzebowanie na rozwój systemu zarządzania kryzysowego z każdym rokiem wzrasta. Obok zdarzeń o charakterze konfliktogennym w sferze stosunków międzynarodowych i wewnątrzpaństwowych, społeczeństwa narażone są coraz częściej na negatywne skutki rozwoju cywilizacyjnego. XX w. owocował w wiele nowych niebezpiecznych zjawisk. Pojawiły się katastrofy przemysłowe, transportowe, budowlane oraz wiele innych związanych bezpośrednio z działalnością człowieka. Czasy nam współczesne to również rozwój terroryzmu międzynarodowego na wielką skalę oraz coraz większe skażenie środowiska naturalnego. Na tak szeroki wachlarz zagrożeń muszą istnieć adekwatne do nich skuteczne sposoby zapobiegania, ostrzegania przed nimi i usuwania ich skutków.

Niniejszy artykuł ma na celu opisanie zarządzania kryzysowego w Polsce w oparciu o obowiązujące regulacje prawne oraz analizę systemu zarządzania kryzysowego. Opracowanie wskazuje na istnienie wieloszczeblowego systemu zarządzania, który składa się z organów zarządzania kryzysowego, organów opiniotawczo-doradczych właściwych w sprawach inicjowania i koordynowania działań podejmowanych w zakresie zarządzania kryzysowego oraz centrów zarządzania kryzysowego, utrzymujących 24-godzinną gotowość do podjęcia działań. Ścisła współpraca tych organów wpływa na zapewnienie bezpieczeństwa państwa, a tym samym realizację zadań administracji publicznej w zakresie zarządzania kryzysowego.

Bezpieczeństwo państwa klasyfikuje się jako wartość najwyższej chronioną oraz cenioną przez jednostki, organizacje, jak i całe narody. Obszar związany z bezpieczeństwem narodowym odnosi się przede wszystkim do przystosowania struktur, jakie znajdują się w państwie oraz przygotowania społeczeństwa do odpowiedniego funkcjonowania w momencie pojawienia się zewnętrznych zagrożeń o charakterze polityczno-militarnym. Niniejszy artykuł opisuje kompetencje organów administracji publicznej w zakresie zarządzania kryzysowego, podkreślając, iż fundamentem niepodległości oraz suwerenności państwa jest pełna wydolność jego państwowych i samorządowych struktur. To one są odpowiedzialne za utrzymanie bezpieczeństwa w każdej płaszczyźnie działalności, co z kolei przekłada się na funkcjonowanie państwa i życie jego społeczeństwa.