

## **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

The attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on 11 September 2001 marked a turning point in international relations and made the world community aware of the enormity of the dangers posed by terrorism. The intelligence and security services of NATO countries were obliged to reorient their counter-terrorist strategies.

The Internal Security Agency, whose 20th anniversary we are celebrating this year, is one of the most important pillars of the anti-terrorist system of the Republic of Poland. This has its basis in the provisions of the Act on Anti-Terrorist Activities, which came into force in 2016. The Agency's tasks are carried out by two specialised and closely cooperating organisational units: Counter-Terrorism Centre - which conducts operational and reconnaissance activities, and the Terrorism Prevention Centre of Excellence - which deals with counter-terrorist prevention in its broadest sense.

Terrorism, which for years has posed a serious threat to the internal security of many countries, continues to evolve. Therefore, the intelligence and security services must constantly increase their anti-terrorist potential and adapt it to new challenges. This is done, among other things, by strengthening cooperation between national counter-terrorist units and the academic world represented by researchers of the phenomenon of terrorism.

Since the tragic events of 2001, almost 300 thematic publications have been published in Poland, of which Polish scientists are authors or co-authors. Many of these have had a significant impact not only on the national counter-terrorist system, but also on regional security policy. Appreciating the importance of Polish research, on the 20th anniversary of the attacks on the WTC and the Pentagon, I made the decision to establish within the Internal Security Agency a scientific journal devoted to terrorism.

The periodical 'Terrorism - studies, analyses, prevention' is intended as a platform for exchanging scientific thought and experience. It brings together the academic world and representatives of institutions and services that for over 15 years have been working together under the Interministerial Team for Terrorist Threats, which is the coordination centre of the anti-terrorist system of the Republic of Poland. I would like the pages of the magazine to host a discussion on the direction in which the terrorist threat is developing, how intelligence and security services, anti-terrorist and counter-terrorist institutions as well as international bodies and bodies building the resilience of the Euro-Atlantic community to terrorist attacks should react. Terrorism prevention issues will also be a very important element of the new magazine. The success of any anti-terrorist system is measured by the effectiveness with which it prevents such attacks and the efficiency of state bodies in crisis situations.

Encouraging you to read the first issue, I would also like to invite you to contribute to the creation of the scientific journal 'Terrorism - studies, analyses, prevention' by sharing on its pages your theoretical and practical knowledge.

Head of the Internal Security Agency  
Col. Krzysztof Waclawek