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**POSSIBILITIES OF USING TERRITORIAL DEFENSE
ARMIES TO PROTECT THE SITE OF A MASS DISASTER****Introduction**

The participation of Territorial Defense Forces soldiers in the activities related to securing the place of the mass disaster was not only rudely undertaken in scientific works¹. This is most likely due to the fact that the source of this subject is poor. However, not so much that it would be impossible to take up this topic.

Actions taken at the site of a mass disaster are part of crisis management and are subject to numerous regulations, both resulting from legal regulations concerning the services participating in these works. However, the size of events often exceeds the capabilities of entities involved in work aimed at combating their effects. Therefore, it is a good idea to include in the work related to securing the scene of the formation that are involved in support activities and can prove extremely useful on the scene. Among them are soldiers of Territorial Defense Forces, whose help is very useful.

The aim of the article is to present the main aspects of the Territorial Defense Forces participation in securing the site of a mass disaster. The work is to answer research questions: 1) what organizational elements of Territorial Defense Forces may participate in securing mass events? 2) what activities are carried out on the site of the mass casualty incident? 3) what is the flow of information at the scene of a mass incident? 4) what activities may the TDF soldiers be involved in at the site of the mass disaster?

The main hypothesis put forward in the paper is that Territorial Defense Forces is an extremely useful formation at the site of a mass disaster. Their participation speeds up the work and brings benefits related to the rapid appearance on the scene, which in turn is determined by the territoriality of the formation.

¹ I. Wróbel, *Perspektywy współdziałania Wojsk Obrony Terytorialnej z administracją publiczną w zwalczaniu klęsk żywiołowych*, „Bezpieczeństwo. Teoria i Praktyka” 2017, No. 3, pp. 131–150.

The article uses classical research methods, including the study of sources, their analysis, criticism, heuristics and inference. While the basis was various works in scientific journals, usually indirectly related to the subject matter, in the subject aspect of the work, source materials were used for the research intended for people participating in the activities of securing traces at the site of the mass incident.

The research undertaken in the article is now of great importance. Firstly, due to the fact that the issue of the participation of Territorial Defense Forces soldiers was not discussed in the works, despite the existence of a large group of various works on this formation. Secondly, in the era of paying special attention to crisis management, it is important to develop research in this field that brings something new to the current state of knowledge. Thirdly, the work does not aspire to be exhaustive, and therefore constitutes a certain stimulus towards further development of research on the participation of Territorial Defense Forces soldiers at the site of mass events.

The concept and features of a mass catastrophe

Due to the wide range of threats occurring in modern times, a professional response to such events is necessary. Especially since we have been dealing with various unpredictable and extreme phenomena recently. They are often caused by forces of nature, although they can arise for other reasons as well. To deal with such events by the relevant services requires their efficient work and coordination, which largely determines the success of the activities carried out.

Among the threats that require an efficient response and coordinated work of the services is also a mass disaster. It is such an event as a result of which the demand in the process of segregating the victims for first aid and medical rescue operations exceeds the capacity of the forces and resources of rescue entities operating on the scene².

A mass disaster is therefore an event involving numerous injuries or deaths, as well as damage to property of such a size that routine actions are insufficient to limit its effects³. It is also said about a mass catastrophe in the context of the large scale of the event that the difference between the needs and the opportunities will be so large that no developed standards of conduct are adequate. There

² M. Podgórski, K. Nadolny, *Procedury postępowania na wypadek wystąpienia zdarzenia masowego i mnogiego – ujednoczenie działań na miejscu zdarzenia, ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem ZRM, „Na Ratunek”* 2016, No. 2, p. 26.

³ A. Włodarska, *Standardy oraz wybrane metody identyfikacyjne stosowane przy dokonywaniu oględzin miejsca na przykładzie katastrofy masowej*, „Zeszyty Naukowe – Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Zawodowa im. Witelona w Legnicy” 2016, No. 1, pp. 85–88.

is also the concept of “mega-mass event”, which additionally refers to the situation of damage to the emergency infrastructure.

Various activities, such as medical segregation, are carried out in the course of dealing with a mass disaster. It mainly consists in setting therapeutic and transport priorities. There is also a so-called primary segregation of the injured, which takes place immediately after the arrival of rescue entities at the scene – such activities are carried out as part of the initial diagnosis. There is also talk of secondary segregation of injured persons, which is performed shortly after the implementation of medical rescue operations⁴.

One of the characteristic features of a mass catastrophe with a large number of victims is the time disproportion between the demand and the resources and resources available at a given moment. The features also include the time deficit, the dynamics of events and their interdisciplinarity, generating the multiplication of activities to be performed at one time⁵.

In order to implement the basic task during a mass disaster, which is to minimize fatalities, an efficient system of state medical rescue is necessary. The main links that bind its operation include an appropriate organization, efficiently functioning information flow channels, clear terminology as well as being aware of the responsibilities and tasks of all areas of the system⁶.

The main elements of the system ensuring effectiveness in the event of incidents involving a large number of injured persons are specific rules and regulations. They are included in the studies on the procedures for dealing with disasters and mass incidents. It should be added, however, that both the preparation and implementation of given procedures are not a 100% guarantee of achieving specific results. However, in order to achieve them, it is necessary to constantly and systematically exercise absorbing all areas of health care, in which participation is necessary. Therefore, only such an organization of the system's functioning constitutes the basis for its development and also a stable component of the security system.

Organization and tasks of the Territorial Defense Forces.

The Army of Territorial Defense is a formation established on the basis of the amendment to the Act of 16 November 2016 on the universal obligation to defend the Republic of Poland⁷. Thus, it is a formation that constitutes a type of

⁴ M. Podgórski, K. Nadolny, *Procedury postępowania...*, pp. 26–27.

⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 31.

⁶ W. Jaszczur, *Wybrane aspekty kierowania i współdziałania służb i instytucji na przykładzie katastrofy komunikacyjnej* [in:] *Obrona narodowa – obronność a zarządzanie kryzysowe*, eds. J. Posobiec, M. Kubiński, T. Rubaj, Kalisz 2019, pp. 161–165.

⁷ Dz.U. 2016, Item 1534; Dz.U. 2021, Item 372.

armed forces as a support for other structures already operating. Territorial Defense Forces is an organization capable of both carrying out classic military operations in cooperation with operational troops as well as anti-terrorist and anti-crisis actions. They can perform both defensive, anti-diversion, anti-landing and unconventional activities. They can take part in securing as well as adopting and developing allied reinforcement forces in given regions, carrying out tasks in the area of crisis management, combating natural disasters, liquidating their effects, protecting property, search and rescue operations or various information activities⁸.

The establishment of TDF structures consisted of four stages – in 2016, the first three brigades were created in Lublin, Białystok and Rzeszów. As part of the second stage, two brigades were created in the province. Warmian-Masurian and Masovian. In the next, Territorial Defense Forces was established in the province. Lesser Poland, Kuyavian-Pomeranian, Świętokrzyskie, Łódzkie and Pomeranian Voivodeships. At the same time, the third stage of establishing Territorial Defense Forces was extended to the establishment of brigades, battalions and light infantry companies in Wielkopolska and Silesia. In 2019, the fourth stage of forming TDF subunits in the province of Opole, Lubusz, West Pomeranian and Lower Silesian⁹.

Pursuant to Art. 98i et seq. Of the aforementioned act, territorial military service in Territorial Defense Forces may be performed by all volunteers at their request, with their consent and on condition that they are fit for active military service, which is confirmed by the decision of the medical commission. Upon commencement of service, everyone receives the title of “OT soldier”. As long as the duration of the service is at least one year, it may be a maximum of six years. However, it may be extended for another period at the request and with the consent of the TD. Candidates must have Polish citizenship, be mentally and physically fit for service, be at least 18 years of age, cannot be punished for an intentional crime, are not designated for alternative service and should have education depending on where they serve in the military. However, in the privates ‘corps the minimum education is basic, in the non-commissioned officers’ corps – higher. The service in Territorial Defense Forces may, in the first place, be performed by former professional soldiers and members of pro-defense organizations who have signed a cooperation agreement with the Armed Forces. It can also be held by graduates of schools implementing defense training programs¹⁰.

⁸ A. Michalak, *Cele, zadania, struktura i funkcje wojsk obrony terytorialnej w XXI wieku*, „Bezpieczeństwo – Teoria i Praktyka” 2017, No. 3, pp. 32–33.

⁹ Z. Śliwa, *Koncepcje rozwoju sił obrony terytorialnej w otoczeniu Polski jako składowej systemów bezpieczeństwa państw* [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo Polski w drugiej dekadzie XXI wieku*, Vol. III, eds. K. Załęski, P. Polko, Dąbrowa Górnicza 2020, pp. 63–67.

¹⁰ *Podstawowe materiały informacyjne dla kandydatów do wojsk obrony terytorialnej. Materiały 2. Lubelskiej Brygady Obrony Terytorialnej*, Lublin 2017, p. 5.

The establishment of Territorial Defense Forces is a response to the constantly emerging new threats. This component of the Armed Forces is the link between the military and society. On the one hand, the even distribution of TDF units translates into responding to the emerging modern threats, and on the other hand, the real possibilities of supporting internal security and helping the society are significantly improved. At the same time, Territorial Defense Forces cooperates with him on a regular basis at the local level. The more so that the soldiers serving in Territorial Defense Forces usually live in the right area. Light infantry companies are profiled based on the characteristics of the area in which they operate. This profiling is to serve better preparation for fighting during a possible conflict and it is important to help people during natural disasters that require rescue operations¹¹. The main tasks of Territorial Defense Forces in peacetime include defense and support of local communities by counteracting the effects of natural disasters and fighting them, and carrying out rescue operations in crisis situations.

The Territorial Defense Forces, due to the nature of their operation, are obliged to cooperate with other entities, among which operational troops are in the leading position. It should be added that the TDF commander may be authorized to cooperate with other types of armed forces in the following cases:

- natural disaster and liquidation of its consequences,
- occurrence of a land, sea or air disaster,
- the need to provide humanitarian aid,
- implementation of military exercises¹².

Territorial Defense Forces can cooperate with the Police, Volunteer Fire Brigades, Forest Guards, Railway Protection Guards, Border Guards and Ambulance Services. The decision about which entities to cooperate with depends on the nature of the threat. With various threats on a large scale, it is also possible to use all or most of the entities.

Today, the Territorial Defense Forces serves about 31 thousand. people. When a disaster or other type of mass threat occurs, this potential is intensively used. As mentioned, a mass catastrophe is characterized by the fact that at first there are always too few people to help the victims. There is a lot of panic there and many people are seriously injured. Therefore, there is a need for a coordinated cooperation of specific entities. Although many of them often participate in crisis management, the use of TDF soldiers is a valuable asset. One of the main factors in such a situation is the territorial nature of Territorial Defense Forces, whose soldiers can be quickly engaged in actions in a given area¹³.

¹¹ N. Wilczyński, *Współpraca Wojsk Obrony Terytorialnej z instytucjami bezpieczeństwa wewnętrznego*, „Bezpieczeństwo – Teoria i Praktyka” 2017, No. 3, pp. 415–416.

¹² Ibidem, p. 416.

¹³ W. Jakubczak, *Wojska Obrony Terytorialnej jako formacja wspierająca przy zarządzaniu kryzysowym* [in:] *Racjonalizacja zarządzania jednolitymi formacjami umundurowanymi odpowie-*

Participation of Territorial Defense Forces soldiers in securing the site of a mass disaster

The operation of the Territorial Defense Forces at the site of the mass disaster results from the organized crisis management system. As part of the crisis management system of Territorial Defense Forces, there is a special monitoring system, as well as analysis and assessment of possible threats. At the same time, its most important element are the forces and resources that are at the disposal of the Territorial Defense Forces commander to carry out tasks in the area of crisis management. Important elements also include the Support Assessment Teams and Reconstruction Support Teams. At the same time, the Support Assessment Teams are to reach the crash site as soon as possible, recognize the area and assess the situation. In the case of Reconstruction Support Teams, we are talking about activities in the field of advising and assisting public administration bodies in the field of restoring the operating conditions of the injured population¹⁴.

The Territorial Defense Forces also operates the Ground Search and Rescue Teams, which carry out tasks in the permanent areas of responsibility of the Territorial Defense Forces Brigades in each voivodeship. When the need arises, the Polish United Workers' Party is directed to the site of a mass catastrophe. The most important goal of joint activities is saving people's health and lives. These teams, separated from the Territorial Defense Forces, are in a two-hour system of operational readiness. At the same time, the NZPR is also situated as an element of the entire crisis management system. As part of the Armed Forces, they are assigned only by brigade commands, which was introduced in 2018 – before that, tasks of this type were carried out by ground search groups separated from operational troops. At the same time, the main arguments behind the transfer of search and rescue tasks in the land domain to TDF were the territoriality, local character of the formation and its even distribution. The priority tasks of the Territorial Search and Rescue Teams of Territorial Defense Forces include locating the site of a disaster or other incident, providing first aid, securing traces and protecting property and equipment. The NZPR may also be used in other situations that pose a threat to the health and life of people during the search for missing persons¹⁵.

Securing the site of a mass disaster is by definition a stabilizing function. At the same time, its task is to consolidate the state of affairs caused by the mass disaster, which in turn is aimed at a reliable determination of its causes. Ultimately, it is also supposed to enable the issuance of a decision that will define both the scope

działnymi za bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne, Vol. IV, eds. B. Wiśniewski, T. Zwęgliński, Warszawa 2019, pp. 191–195.

¹⁴ *WOT w Systemie Zarządzania Kryzysowego resortu obrony narodowej*, <https://www.wojsko-polskie.pl/dwot/wola-wot-w-zk/> (22.11.2021).

¹⁵ *Ibidem*.

and the deadline for carrying out the necessary works in order to organize the crash site and secure the facilities on its site. Therefore, the obligation to provide security cannot be equated with the obligation to remove the effects of a catastrophe, because security precedes and enables the correct removal of its effects¹⁶.

The first steps at the site of a mass disaster are securing the site and implementing appropriate medical procedures to facilitate evacuation. One of the main activities at a mass disaster site is the assessment of the size of the incident. Only on this basis, it is possible to determine the personnel needs as well as the forces and (material) resources necessary to inspect the crash site. If the needs of the entities competent at the crash site that are required to conduct investigative activities are insufficient, then there is a need to mobilize support from other entities, including the army and TDF soldiers. In cooperation with the territorially competent Institute of Forensic Medicine, it is logistic capabilities in the area for the examination and storage of human bodies and remains¹⁷.

The head of the command post, the coordinator of the inspection teams, as well as the soldiers responsible for the storage of human corpses and remains and for the keeping of items and traces, take part in the activities related to securing the site of the mass disaster. Soldiers may be involved in the team that conducts visual inspections at the site of a mass disaster¹⁸.

During work at the site of a mass disaster, it is important to efficiently communicate and exchange information between individuals responsible for specific tasks. Territorial Defense Forces soldiers involved in helping with the work must respect the instructions and guidelines for securing the scene and follow them. This has an impact on the efficient conduct of works and determines their quick implementation without the need to repeat activities. It is good when TDF soldiers who are adequately trained and familiar with the activities for which they have been involved, participate in them. It is worth mentioning that among the soldiers on territorial military service there are a number of policemen, paramedics and specialists in other fields. More and more soldiers are taking part in search actions for missing people. At the same time, since the launch of the Territorial Defense Forces crisis management system in 2018, soldiers of this formation have already participated in several dozen times in such activities¹⁹.

¹⁶ B. Zysiak-Christ, *Bezpieczeństwo publiczne a zdarzenia masowe – podstawowe zadania w czasie wykonywania przez ratowników czynności związanych z segregacją medyczną* [in:] *Systemy ratownicze w Polsce a bezpieczeństwo cywilne i wojskowe*, Vol. IV, eds. B. Zysiak-Christ, J. Smereka, Wrocław 2018, pp. 61–67.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 63.

¹⁸ *Metodyka oględzin miejsc przestępstw o charakterze terrorystycznym i katastrof*, Warszawa 2019, p. 18.

¹⁹ *Terytorialsi szukali pilota i rozbitego myśliwca*, <https://media.terytorialsi.wp.mil.pl/informacje/579132/terytorialsi-szukali-pilota-i-rozbitego-mysliwca> (24.11.2021).

Due to the fact that securing the scene of the mass incident until the inspection commences, it is one of the most important activities, the tasks must be performed in an accurate manner. They make it possible to obtain extensive evidence and contribute to a thorough explanation of the causes of the incident and to the determination of the perpetrator or perpetrators. It is on the proper protection of a mass disaster site that the result of further activities and inspection depends to a large extent. Thus, when securing, you have to bear in mind that each event is different and should be approached with commitment²⁰.

The place of the event is considered to be the area where a specific event took place and traces or other material sources of information about it, its course as well as people participating in it and the roles they played were created. Thus, securing the scene of an event is a group of various activities aimed at protecting this place against unwanted human activity, securing traces and evidence against obliteration, loss and destruction, as well as activities aimed at disclosing sources of information about the event and people associated with it. An important action is also to stop the event and prevent its further consequences²¹.

Territorial Defense Forces soldiers may be engaged to physically protect the scene of the event by keeping outsiders in the place. Territoriality of Territorial Defense Forces soldiers is a great advantage, because in the event of a call to the crash site, they can appear very quickly and, together with the relevant services, take effective action. In such situations, it is important to reach the site as soon as possible and secure it properly²².

In the event of a mass event, one of the main problems is the identification of human bodies and remains. At the same time, in Poland, the recommendations on the conduct at mass disaster sites and methods of identifying the bodies of victims and human remains were implemented in accordance with the Interpol recommendations in 2018. This was reflected in the introduction of the Methodology for identifying the bodies of disaster victims²³. An officer or a soldier may be responsible for running a storage point for human bodies and remains as part of the tasks of securing the site of a mass disaster. At the same time, TDF soldiers can be engaged to assist in the works performed by the point. It is therefore necessary to adhere to the following indications:

²⁰ A. Sarnecki, *Zabezpieczenie miejsca zdarzenia do czasu oględzin (materiał dydaktyczny)*, Słupsk 2011, p. 5.

²¹ *Ibidem*, p. 10.

²² W. Horyń, *Wojska obrony terytorialnej w czasie niemilitarnych zdarzeń nadzwyczajnych*, „Kwartalnik Bellona” 2019, No. 1, pp. 42–47.

²³ A. Małkowski, *Problematyka oględzin oraz identyfikacji ofiar i szczątków ludzkich na miejscach katastrof masowych*, „Zeszyty Naukowe Pro Publico Bono” 2020, No. 1, p. 171.

- maintaining continuous contact with the inspection team coordinator as well as the inspection team manager, which is primarily aimed at efficient collection of the preserved corpse or its remains,
- assistance in moving the body from the inspection site to the body storage point,
- assistance in the technical protection of the transferred human bodies and remains,
- providing superiors with information on human bodies and remains taken to the point,
- assistance in keeping a register of human bodies and remains,
- assistance in the preparation of human corpses and remains for transport to the dissecting room²⁴.

As part of securing the traces of a mass disaster, it is necessary to maintain a storage point for items and traces. It can be managed by an officer or a soldier. Territorial Defense Forces soldiers may also be involved, if necessary. Among the most important tasks are:

- maintaining contact with the team leader, which is mainly aimed at efficient collection of secured items and traces,
- assistance in the technical protection of objects and traces flowing to the point,
- providing the supervisor with current information on the already collected items and traces,
- assistance in keeping records of items and traces as well as their circulation in accordance with a specific pattern,
- assistance in preparing segregated traces and objects for shipment as well as their transfer to means of transport²⁵.

In some cases, depending on the type of activities performed, TDF soldiers are required to have special qualifications. It may be, for example, completing an engineer training or other qualifications necessary to conduct special actions or necessary for the duties performed as part of the tasks of securing the site of a mass disaster. Sometimes it happens that TDF soldiers have many powers in the field of medical rescue, first aid or evacuation of the population from the place of a mass incident²⁶.

Sometimes the size of a mass disaster is so large that ordinary procedures are not sufficient, and their application does not guarantee the smooth conduct of a given action. Therefore, in such a situation, the use of TDF soldiers is a solution that often significantly contributes to its success. Having territorials with various skills and qualifications in a specific scope is extremely valuable for the

²⁴ *Metodyka oględzin...*, p. 17.

²⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 18.

²⁶ W. Horyń, *Wojska obrony...*, pp. 44–45.

services cooperating with them, because often TDF soldiers have some rights in their field. Therefore, their actions are extremely helpful in the conducted actions. However, it belongs to ensure that TDF soldiers are constantly training in this field. Various mass threats often force them to acquire new skills. Among the acquisition of them, the trainings undertaken with the Police and other services participating in special and rescue operations are of significant importance²⁷.

The place, role and tasks of Territorial Defense Forces in the area of crisis management place this formation in one of the most important positions. It can be said that since its establishment in 2016, its potential, logistic possibilities as well as the spectrum of cooperation with various entities as part of special actions have been significantly increased. WOT is currently a formation with high standards of operation, but its capabilities are constantly developed and improved. Therefore, the main emphasis is placed on the development of skills and expanding the potential of soldiers.

Conclusion

The fifth type of armed force, established in 2016, which is the Territorial Defense Forces, is a component that can be very useful in activities related to securing and protecting the site of a mass disaster. Territorial Defense Forces soldiers can be used for work related to assistance and protection, for tasks related to stopping a mass disaster and mitigating its effects, preventing bystanders from entering the scene or securing traces and evidence against loss or distortion. An important role is also played by the Ground Search and Rescue Teams operating within the Territorial Defense Forces, carrying out tasks in each voivodeship when we are dealing with a mass disaster or a similar event. These teams are to locate the scene of an accident, provide first aid, secure traces and protect property and equipment.

In some cases, depending on the type of activities performed, TDF soldiers must have special qualifications, completed engineer training, qualifications in the field of medical rescue, first aid or evacuation of the population from the place of a mass incident. It should therefore be added that the role of Territorial Defense Forces in securing and all activities at the site of a mass disaster is extremely valuable. In addition, the formation can efficiently cooperate with other services and entities, if necessary, and its territoriality is one of the decisive advantages at the time of a threat.

²⁷ K. Przeworski, *Współdziałanie wojsk obrony terytorialnej z obrona cywilną – ograniczenia i możliwości* [in:] *Wojska obrony terytorialnej w systemie obronnym państwa*, ed. A. Kwiatowski, Słupsk 2018, pp. 69–73.

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Summary

This paper presents the most important issues concerning the use of the Territorial Defense Forces for the task of securing the site of a mass disaster. It discusses the concept and features of a mass disaster, the organization and tasks of Territorial Defense Forces, and the participation of soldiers from this formation in securing the site of a mass disaster. The aim of the article is to present the most important aspects of the participation of Territorial Defense Forces soldiers in securing the site of a mass disaster, mass events. Although the TDF issues have been present and developed in various publications in recent years, there has been no work analyzing the participation of this formation in the activities of securing a mass catastrophe of such events. In the work, classical research methods were used, including the study of sources, their analysis, criticism, heuristics and inference.

Established in 2016, the Territorial Defense Forces constitute a valuable new type of the Armed Forces, which can be very useful in activities related to securing the site of a mass disaster, which is part of the crisis management system. Territorial Defense Forces soldiers can be used to help and safeguard, interrupt an incident, mitigate its effects, prevent bystanders from reaching the crash site, which has a significant impact on securing traces and evidence against their loss or distortion.

The great advantage of the formation is its territoriality, because in the event of a summons to the site of a mass disaster, it can appear very quickly and, in cooperation with the relevant services, promptly take effective action.

Keywords: mass catastrophe, securing traces, Territorial Defense Forces

MOŻLIWOŚCI WYKORZYSTANIA WOJSK OBRONY TERYTORIALNEJ DO OCHRONY MIEJSCA KATASTROFY MASOWEJ

Streszczenie

W artykule przedstawiono najważniejsze zagadnienia dotyczące wykorzystania Wojsk Obrony Terytorialnej do zadania zabezpieczenia miejsca katastrofy masowej. Omówiono w nim pojęcie i cechy klęski masowej, organizację i zadania WOT oraz udział żołnierzy tej formacji w zabezpieczaniu miejsca katastrofy masowej. Celem artykułu jest przedstawienie najważniejszych aspektów udziału żołnierzy Wojsk Obrony Terytorialnej w zabezpieczaniu miejsca katastrofy masowej, imprez masowych. Choć problematyka WOT była obecna i rozwijana w różnych publikacjach w ostatnich latach, nie ukazała się żadna praca analizująca udział tej formacji w działaniach zabezpieczających masową katastrofę tego typu wydarzeń. W opracowaniu wykorzystano klasyczne metody badawcze, obejmujące badanie źródeł, ich analizę, krytykę, heurystykę i wnioskowanie.

Powołane w 2016 r. Wojska Obrony Terytorialnej stanowią cenny nowy typ Sił Zbrojnych, który może być bardzo przydatny w działaniach związanych z zabezpieczeniem miejsca katastrofy masowej, będącym częścią systemu zarządzania kryzysowego. Żołnierze WOT mogą służyć do pomocy i zabezpieczenia, przerwania zdarzenia, łagodzenia jego skutków, uniemożliwienia osobom postronnym dotarcia na miejsce katastrofy, co ma istotny wpływ na zabezpieczenie śladów i dowodów przed ich utratą lub zniekształceniem.

Wielką zaletą formacji jest jej terytorialność, gdyż w przypadku wezwania na miejsce masowej katastrofy może pojawić się bardzo szybko i przy współpracy z odpowiednimi służbami niezwłocznie podjąć skuteczne działania.

Słowa kluczowe: katastrofa masowa, zabezpieczanie śladów, Wojska Obrony Terytorialnej