Abstract:

The priority and key tasks of Prison Service officers is first of all the isolation of people who are not law abiding as well as providing the proper course of criminal proceedings. The implementation of these elements is closely related to ensuring the safety of inmates during their stay in the organizational units of the Prison Service. Conditions such as various types of penitentiary units (prisons and pre-trial detention centers), their location (often in the city centers), different groups and qualification subgroups of inmates as well as different ways and methods of their protection do not facilitate the fulfillment of these tasks. Noticing the lack of a unified method of protecting these units, the author undertook to develop the concept of security of the penitentiary unit in Poland. This dissertation consists of five chapters closely related to one another. **In the first chapter,** the methodological one, research problems, goals and hypotheses have been formulated, both the main ones, as well as for these for individual chapters. The variables and indicators have been indicated, the characteristics of the area and the research sample as well as the organization and course of the research have been described. It is worth noticing that the surveys conducted among officers of the Prison Service reached the number of over a thousand respondents. **Chapter 2** contains not only a historical outline of penitentiary units but also their contemporary characteristics and an analysis of the disturbances in their functioning over the last 10 years (since 2010). **Chapter 3** covers the designation of the security paradigm in Polish penitentiary units, and the creation of a definition of the security of these units as such. A comparison of two penitentiary systems is also presented here: Norway and the Czech Republic. This chapter also includes topics related to the law of the European Union, as well as non-governmental institutions that have an impact on the safety of penitentiary units. **Chapter 4** presents the results of questionnaire surveys based on compilation formed as tables and graphs. **Chapter 5** presents the author's concept of the security of a penitentiary unit. All chapters (except the first one) end with the conclusions, and the whole dissertation ends with the summary.