THE POLICE ACADEMY IN SZCZYTNO
IN DIFFICULT TIMES

“Closing the Academy down”

The years 2003–2005 were, as can be assessed in retrospect, the most difficult period in the 30-year history of the Police Academy in Szczytno. The decision to change its profile, to expire its status as a university, had consequences for many years. I accepted the proposal to manage the Academy at the beginning of 2004, which was a difficult challenge at that time.

Since the mid-1990s, while serving in the Organised Crime Unit at the National Police Headquarters, and then in the Central Bureau of Investigation of the National Police Headquarters, I was able to observe the changes in the Academy from a different perspective. At the same time, having direct contact with police units all over the country, I received feedback on the Academy, I cooperated with its graduates, and I followed the scientific development of the school on an ongoing basis by participating in scientific conferences and publishing in the Academy’s publishing house. I appreciated its development, the increasing qualifications of its graduates, and the achievement of its scientific goals. What worried me most was the opinion, expressed more and more often among police

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officers, about a certain discrepancy in the school’s programmes, which were far from the reality of police work.

The entirety of police education was being criticised quite strongly at the time, however new tasks were constantly imposed on the police schools. Those who applied the changes did not take into account the potential of the schools, nor did they involve appropriate logistical and, above all, human resources support. Since 2002, police education has been undergoing quite rapid, profound and not always well-thought-out changes based on ad hoc concepts or needs, which caused significant difficulties in the development of a coherent system of education and professional training of police officers. They rendered the system unstable, and proved the lack of a comprehensive and reliable analysis of needs and capabilities2.

The Ministry of the Interior and Administration set up a team in 2002 to develop a concept for the reform of law enforcement education3. They had to consider the need to establish new fields of study and some new methods of police teaching. Among other things, the team developed a concept to establish the Police Academy, which was supposed to provide training for the police personnel at the managerial level4. It was connected with ceasing academic studies at the Police Academy in Szczytno. The decision-makers, both in the Ministry of the Interior and Administration and in the National Police Headquarters, seemed to like and approve of his idea. It was justified, among other things, by the experience of some foreign police forces, where police training is exclusively of a specialist nature, directly related to the implementation of tasks at individual levels of the police hierarchy and in specialised police units. The education of top-level managers was planned to be linked to their training at public universities. Therefore, the Police Academy was supposed to lose an extremely important role of the intellectual support of the Polish Police, the place where research, expert opinions and projects were conducted.

On 18 February 2003, a decision was taken to suspend the recruitment of police officers for bachelor’s studies at the Police Academy and to change the rules of studying for second- and third-year students from alternate full-time to part-time studies5. The whole process of “closing the Academy down” started on that day.

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3 Zarządzenie Nr 41 Ministra Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji z dnia 18 grudnia 2002 w sprawie powołania zespołu do spraw opracowania analizy systemów rekrutacji i kształcenia funkcjonariuszy służb porządku publicznego (unpublished).
5 60 lat szkolnictwa policyjnego w Szczytnie. Szczytno, 2014, p. 205.
At that time, performing the extremely intensive duties of the Deputy Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation, I did not know the details of police education. I found out about it quite accidentally when, in May 2003, I met at the National Police Headquarters the then Commandant-Rector of the Police Academy, Col. prof. Wiesław Pływaczewski. During a long conversation, I learned about the planned changes in the status of the Academy, which prompted prof. Pływaczewski to resign from his position, not wanting to be in any way related to this “change”. I observed this process more closely afterwards with deep regret.

I was working at the Police Academy in Szczytno for many years. I started my service at the Academy as a young graduate of the Faculty of Law of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. Most of the then police students of the three-year studies were definitely older than me, they often had many years of experience, especially in the field of covert policing and investigations. While teaching penal law, I also learned from my students with humility. It was very useful to me later in practice. While still working at Szczytno, and later in other police units, I had the opportunity to become acquainted with the system of police education in many other countries. I was one of the first Polish police officers to be trained at the British police school in Preston (Lancashire) in 1992. A few weeks at this school together with intensive practice in the local units had a significant impact on my vision of effective police in a democratic country and on training methods. I was able to use these new experiences in Poland to prepare and conduct classes for the students of the Police Academy.

At that time, the Academy was headed by prof. Mieczysław Goettel. Under his leadership, the university underwent radical changes and accepted new developments which contributed to better performance of police duties by newly admitted Polish police officers. Over the next several years, I had the opportunity to attend various conferences, symposia and training sessions as well as to deliver presentations at many police universities around the world. These were mainly lectures for senior police staff and very highly specialised training related to the fight against organised crime and terrorism. I could also compare both the course, and the level of the classes and the practical knowledge gained there with what the Police Academy had on offer.

The next changes in the Academy began in August 2003 when the National Police Chief implemented a new statute of the Police Academy in Szczytno. With this statute, the Academy’s structure was changed from the existing academic structure (with institutes), into a departmental structure typical of other police schools. The existing 4 institutes and their departments were closed down. They were replaced with a structure suitable for training centres, i.e. 5 new departments were established:

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the uniformed police, criminal police, law, general subjects, and a special training centre. The introduced changes resulted in lowering the position and reducing the number of posts in research and teaching department from 211 to 172 police posts (by 18.5%) and from 24 to 12 civilian employees (50%). As a result of these changes, several dozen experienced officers and civil servants left the school, including 1 professor and 13 PhDs7. The school was subsequently deprived of further teaching posts, and as of 30 June 2005, it had 147 teaching staff (police officers) and 10 civilian teachers8.

At the same time, after closing the Police Training Centres, the Police Academy was burdened with a significant part of basic and specialist training courses for persons who were not university graduates. This was inconsistent with the still valid Section 24(2) of the Order of the Minister of the Interior and Administration on police training9. Vocational training became the main task of the Police Academy. In total, from July 2003 to June 2005, 10,037 police officers, i.e. 38% of all police officers who joined the Polish police force at that time, were trained on professional development courses at the Police Academy in Szczytno. At the same time, 5,511 police officers (20.9%) were trained at the Police Training Centre in Legionowo, 4,542 officers (17.2%) at the Police School in Słupsk, 4,207 officers (16%) at the Police School in Pila, and 2,086 officers (7.9%) at the Police School in Katowice10.

The fact that the Police Academy was deprived of its university status caused serious concern in the Warmia and Mazury region, as the Academy was part of the region for almost half a century. This was expressed, among others, by the parliamentary appeal submitted on 30 October 2003 by Aleksander Szczygło, MP11. In the reply, Mr Szczygło was informed about the termination of higher vocational studies at the Police Academy and the obligation to adjust the academic structure to the new tasks.

The media informed broadly about the planned changes to the Police Academy in Szczytno and “Gazeta Olsztyńska” started a “Hands off the Police Academy in Szczytno” campaign, which aimed to collect votes under

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9 Rozporządzenie Ministra Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji z 3 czerwca 2003 w sprawie szczegółowych warunków odbywania szkoleń zawodowych w Policji, Dz.U. No. 133, item 1242.
10 Supreme Audit Office. Department of National Defense and Internal Security. Information on the audit outcomes..., op. cit., p. 27.
a petition, and get the readers to send protests to the Ministry of the Interior and Administration\textsuperscript{12}.

Since November 2003, there was also a symbolic, but very important change in the graduation ceremony as a university educating police officers. Instead of the traditional promotion ceremony (to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant), the graduates of the postgraduate studies received diplomas only.

At the end of February 2004, I was summoned by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior and Administration, Józef Oleksy, together with the National Police Chief, Gen. Leszek Szreder, and the Deputy National Police Chief, Gen. Eugeniusz Szczerbak. After a difficult conversation on the running of the Central Bureau of Investigation (which I managed at that time) and conducting many extremely complex cases, including the so-called “Starachowice case”, the Deputy Prime Minister ordered me to stay for the further part of the meeting in private. Without going into details, apart from other issues, I also presented my opinion on police education, including the Police Academy. After this conversation, in my free time, I started to take a closer interest in the police training system and its changes.

Meanwhile, a project of radical changes in the training of the police managerial staff was being developed. On 15 April 2004, the National Police Chief appointed a proxy to establish the Police Academy\textsuperscript{13}. The Commandant of the Police Training Centre in Legionowo was appointed the proxy. Taking into consideration the police education at that time, I considered this type of change to be highly inappropriate.

Perhaps my point of view on police education was quite unique. For a long time, I was directly involved in the fight against organised crime. In this area, I occupied various posts, from the direct identification and surveillance of organised crime groups, through the management of task forces, to the management of the Surveillance and Investigative Department of the Organised Crime Unit, in which, apart from conducting individual cases on my own, we coordinated all undertakings against organised crime groups in the country as we were a unit at the National Police Headquarters. Furthermore, I created and managed the department of analysis and international contacts in the Central Bureau of Investigation, then I took the post of the deputy director of the Central Bureau of Investigation, and finally I acted as director of the Bureau. The nature of this work required, above all, total commitment to this uneven fight against the powerful criminal world in Poland. The dynamics and development of various forms of organised crime forced police officers to constantly develop means and methods of combatting this dangerous phenomenon in Poland. Therefore, great importance was attached in the Central Bureau of Investigation to continuous training of police officers, the ability to acquire theoretical and practical knowledge, and to use


\textsuperscript{13} Decision No. 98/2004 (unpublished).
the experience of police from other countries by cooperating with them on an unprecedented scale. I had the great honour and pleasure to cooperate with a group of the best police officers with great knowledge and experience, who were involved in extremely complex and often dangerous tasks. Therefore, the model of a police officer that I considered most appropriate had to meet very high expectations.

At the end of April 2004, when I received a proposal from the Polish National Police Chief to accept the post of the Commandant Rector of the Police Academy, I had already prepared an outline of the actions to be taken in order to restore the university to its due position. During a conversation with the National Police Chief, I heard that the school is changing its profile and the institution needs to be adjusted to this. My experience on the police front lines taught me that the most effective method of achieving goals is first of all to clearly define them, and then to use the simplest means to implement them effectively. Thus, I did not hide from my superiors that my vision of working in the Police Academy looked different. I declared it loyally, so that later, after I officially took over the function, it would not be a surprise. Today, with the hindsight of several years, one can treat with some disbelief such great optimism, which was rather unjustified by the situation. The first positive element in this new situation was the still unofficial, but sincere and later repeatedly confirmed promise of support received from Gen. Eugeniusz Szczerbak, who, as Deputy National Police Chief, supervised both the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Police Academy in Szczytno. I often had a chance to see that the general’s word had value.

**Difficult beginnings**

Restoring the role of the Academy as a place for police managerial and specialist staff to be trained, and at the same time restoring the academic centre were planned in several different ways.

The most important of them was to maintain the existing profile of police education, restore the former ones, and introduce new forms of police education at a higher and highly specialised level closely related to the police needs, matching the current global trends.

To achieve the above, it was necessary to build a strong support group around the Academy, consisting mainly of police officers enjoying the greatest authority, people who had a real impact on the decision-making process in this field, both on national and regional scales, the scientific community, and the media.

The third task involved a very quick introduction of changes in the Academy itself, restoring faith among the staff who were able to combine their personal ambitions with the development of the school and their involvement in the planned initiatives, and organisational changes allowing for the most effective use of their professional and scientific potential.
This viewpoint, and especially the prospect of maintaining the status of a university, was presented during the first meeting with the Academy’s staff on the first day. As it turned out later, the school’s officers and employees, who had been in a state of permanent uncertainty for several years, accepted such an outline of the Academy’s further activity with some disbelief, but also with hope. In May and June 2004, meetings between the staff and the new Commandant took place in all departments. These were very difficult talks. There was uncertainty and bitterness related to changes in the structure of the Academy, which was often associated with a reduction in the number of posts, the retirement of many very good police officers and employees, and often also lowering the position of a police teacher. Above all, it was necessary to convince the Academy’s staff of the feasibility of the reconstruction plan. To make this plan credible, I pointed out that the future of the place depended entirely on each of its employees. The material collected during these meetings, verified by reviewing the documents, allowed me to adopt a list of changes that needed to be made to prove to the school’s staff that all of them could contribute to the improvement of the situation in the Academy.

Particular attention was paid to the standard of teaching and its relation to police practice. Within 6 months, the Commandant-Rector conducted 21 unscheduled evaluation visits to different classes, which were then discussed together with the lecturer and their superior. The feedback contained numerous remarks related mainly to the lack of a relation between the content of the presented material and police practice. However, several lecturers were praised for the particularly high level of their classes and their ability to cope with a stressful situation.

An important problem, which had already been raised in the assessment of the quality of the education, was the too little police experience of a significant portion of the academic and research staff. According to the Supreme Audit Office, the academic and research staff of the police schools also had insufficient hands-on police experience. In this opinion, the internships did not provide the staff with an opportunity to update their knowledge on the current security threats and methods of performing police tasks. This problem had already been tried to be solved in Szczytno before. In 2004–2005, all lecturers who had no experience in fieldwork were seconded to police units for several months of practical training. This was supposed to pay off in the future.

The situation began to change. Only very few police teachers intended to move to other police units, and after a few months, when the future of the school started to look brighter, more and more officers applied for a job in the Academy. Some of them had significant influence on the Academy’s future. As the Commandant-Rector, I was successful in controlling some loosening of the discipline among the staff as well as the students and trainees. A warning was given to first-time, offenders, but with more

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serious offenders, we had to conduct disciplinary proceedings related primarily to inappropriate treatment of students, a blatant disregard for discipline, or prioritising duties at other universities over classes in the Academy. The role and commitment of the then Deputy Commandant-Rector, Col. Janusz Fiebig, PhD, and Col. Wojciech Ostrycharz, should be appreciated in this respect.

It was a very important and difficult task to maintain the undergraduate studies at the Academy for police officers who did not have a university degree. It was assumed then that the police service was so attractive, in financial terms, that there would be no major problems with recruiting a sufficient number of candidates with higher education qualifications. Out of this group, people with appropriate aptitudes for managerial studies at civil universities were to be selected in the future to work in the police. They were intended to occupy police managerial positions in the future. The concept had some rational grounds at that time considering the still relatively high unemployment rate. However, this situation was assessed differently on the basis of the results of research conducted in the Academy’s Institute of Training and Professional Development of Police Executives. Apart from managerial positions, the police structure also included a significant number of autonomous posts requiring a lot of general and specialist knowledge not related to the managerial tasks. The majority of future officers were university graduates, who first acquired police knowledge in the course of specialist training courses, and then, with appropriate experience, were sent to post-graduate studies for police officers (future commissioned officers). Still, over 40% of police officers were not university graduates\(^ {15}\). Many of them, with their relevant expertise and experience, were great candidates for executive positions; nevertheless, it required a university degree. For example, in the Unit for Fighting Organised Crime, there were at least a dozen or so people who performed exceptionally complex tasks of great international importance, but due to their lack of higher education, they could not have been promoted to become commissioned officers. Studying at public universities or small private universities was popular among law enforcers, however, the only benefit was the certificate rather than any practical knowledge gained during the course of studies. Moreover, the labour market was changing rapidly into a labour market more attractive for employees. Unemployment decreased radically and the police service became much less attractive in financial terms. These arguments slowly began to influence the change in views on the need to maintain police studies at the undergraduate level designed for working police officers and other law enforcers reporting to the Minister of the Interior and Administration. Gradual changes were taking place, and police officers were increasingly willing to begin studies at the Police Academy. Many years later, it turned out that there became a need to develop this project and implement it again. Since 2019, the

Police Academy has been conducting studies in the field of Police Science for new entrants to the police service, who can take an exam after completing a 4-year undergraduate programme and be promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. It took a long time to establish the new study programme.

The first practical initiative to maintain and develop undergraduate studies for police officers in 2004 was to establish a team at the Police Academy, which developed and implemented one of the first e-learning studies in Poland. This was supposed to significantly reduce the costs of studies incurred by the Ministry of Interior and Administration, which at that time was particularly important, and was one of the arguments for their closure. It is worth emphasising that a significant role in this team was played by Capt. Arkadiusz Letkiewicz, PhD, and Capt. Piotr Bogdalski, PhD, who later became the rectors of the Police Academy.

One of the most important activities influencing the university status of the Academy was a much closer connection of its training and research offer with the current tasks of the police. Having dealt with combating organised crime for many years, I believed that one of the areas of scientific research and education at all levels should be the area of combatting organised crime. Apart from the Police (Central Bureau of Investigation), the Internal Security Agency, Border Guard, military, and tax and customs services were also involved in this matter. There was no integrated system of training for the officers employed in these institutions, and such a necessity was noticed and emphasised many times on various occasions. Research on the phenomenon of organised crime was carried out at various universities and in several other centres, but there were only rare cases of a wider exchange of information. In the first place, the proposal to establish such a teaching and research centre in the Police Academy in Szczytno, which would go beyond the framework of the police, in the field of combating organised crime and terrorism, was consulted with experienced practitioners, including the Deputy Chief of the National Police, Gen. Eugeniusz Szczerbak, Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation, Col. Janusz Gołębiewski, and several regional police chiefs. They supported the development of the Academy in this field. The professional support of prof. Emil Pływaczewski, an outstanding criminologist cooperating with the Academy for years, appeared to be invaluable.

Under the leadership of the Commandant-Rector, a team consisting of recognised professionals dealing with the issues of organised crime was established. On June 16–17, 2004, the first meeting of the team was held and attended by prof. Emil Pływaczewski, Dariusz Woźnicki, PhD—the Deputy Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation—prof. Tomasz Warykiewicz, retired Col. Wojciech Walendziak—the former Deputy Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation—Maj. Dariusz Potakowski, and 2nd Lieut. Krzysztof Wiciak. It was clearly stated that the effective combatting of organised crime and terrorism requires adapting both the training

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offer and research to the dynamically changing forms of organised crime and terrorism. The meeting concluded that both the fight against organised crime and terrorism as well as the research and training of officers must be coordinated. Therefore, the training offer should be addressed not only to police officers, but also to other services and institutions, including the prosecutor’s office, the Border Guard, the Internal Security Agency, military services, customs offices, and tax authorities. It took quite a long time to establish the name of the institute, which could reflect these intentions. Therefore, it was assumed that it would be the Institute for Training Law Enforcers Combatting Organised Crime and Terrorism.

The intensive work of the team led to defining the area of teaching and scientific research activities of the Institute within the following issues:
— tactics and techniques for combating organised crime,
— tactics and techniques of combating terrorism and extremism,
— criminal analysis and crime registration,
— international cooperation,
— identifying and combatting new threats and crime techniques.

The Institute was supposed to be an intellectual support for services and institutions combatting organised crime and terrorism, and especially for the Central Bureau of Investigation. In this respect, the Institute served as an advisory body:
— providing opinions on the effectiveness of the organisational structures of units combatting organised crime and terrorism,
— preparing and proposing amendments to relevant regulations,
— disseminating new training trends by identifying good and bad teaching practices,
— providing guidance and expressing opinions on problems arising in individual cases,
— showing the right path and right forms of international cooperation and initiating and inspiring new trends.

Taking into account the opportunity for the Academy to use the funds obtained for research from the Scientific Research Committee, the scope of research projects in the area of interest of the Institute could have been significantly extended.

The second basic area of specialist education at the highest level and scientific research was preparing and development the police managerial staff and other services, as well as the staff of state and local government institutions responsible for internal security. Prof. Lieut.-Col. Andrzej Misiuk, co-founder and former Director of the Institute of Training and Professional Development of the Police Executives was persuaded to return to work at the Academy. The team supervised by prof. Misiuk consisted of prof. Lieut.-Col. Andrzej Urban, Capt. Arkadiusz Letkiewicz, PhD, Maj.

Walentyna Trzcińska, PhD, Maj. Andrzej Pawłowski, PhD, and Maj. Marianna Wojtal. As a team, they launched the reconstruction of the Police Executive Training Centre.

In addition to these two main and a number of other top-level education and research fields, an objective assessment of the real possibilities arising from the Academy’s resources and teaching facilities had to be performed. This task was assigned to independent auditors, which resulted in the Academy being awarded the ISO 9001:2000 certificate for the educational services offered, which was still rare at that time. Thanks to the possibilities offered by the school, there was a significantly broader offer of language courses for police officers at several levels, conducted in the Foreign Languages Department managed by Maj. prof. Grzegorz Ojcewicz, and the development of training related to so-called “security by design” supervised by prof. Lieut.-Col. Agata Tyburska.

The training courses, which had been closed for some time, were initiated, and new ones, not yet conducted in Szczytno, were developed. It should be emphasised here that research and annual international conferences on cybercrime and IT crime conducted under the leadership of Maj. Jerzy Kosiński, PhD were held at the highest level and were increasingly popular in Poland and abroad. The annually organised “panel discussion on covert policing” with the most experienced police officers and other law enforcers fighting crime was restored. A complete novelty was the launching, for the first time in the Polish police, of several-week-long training courses for future Polish police liaison officers.

It was no coincidence that the Police Academy in Szczytno was chosen as the venue for the international scientific conference on combating crime against cultural assets, which took place on 3 November 2004 in Szczytno. During the conference, a four-party agreement was signed between the Head of the Customs Service, the General Conservator of Monuments, the National Police Chief of the Polish Police, the Commander-in-Chief of the Border Guard on combating the illegal export of monuments abroad and import of monuments from abroad. The conference, and the fact that the agreement was signed were widely commented on in the media, and on this occasion, the public was informed about the construction of a scientific and training centre for combating organised crime.

Methods of restoring the position of the Police Academy in Szczytno and their benefits

The important role played by the Academy’s Scientific Council in the reconstruction process of the Academy should be appreciated here. It was an advisory body to the Commandant-Rector consisting of independent academics and elected officers and employees,

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being a substitute and predecessor of today’s Senate. As mentioned above, the “closing down” of the university’s status was associated with the reduction in the number of research and teaching posts, not excluding professors. Very difficult talks had to be held on this occasion with outstanding representatives of Polish science who had been associated with the Academy for years. In order not to break the relationship of scientists with the Academy, with regret, we had to reduce the number of teaching hours to a half or even a quarter of full-time jobs. Surprisingly, with few exceptions, this was understood. The involvement of the professors in the life of the Academy was maintained and later restored. Looking ahead a bit to the future, on 1 September 2005, the National Police Chief increased the number of vacancies at the disposal of the Commandant-Rector by 4 posts, to employ professors.20

On 28 June 2004, a meeting of the Academy’s Scientific Council was held, during which professors still employed at the Academy expressed their support for the efforts undertaken by the school authorities to maintain its status. The need for the Academy to maintain its status of a higher education institution was stressed, and the possibility of extending the training offer to include officers of other law enforcement authorities was indicated by prof. Brunon Holyst. Prof. Kazimierz Rajchel emphasised that the police community hoped for the development of police education at the undergraduate level21. The research fields of study that the Academy should develop were highlighted.

Efforts to stop the degradation of the Academy’s status began to be successful. Support for projects aimed at the development of the Academy came from various institutions, sometimes unexpected ones. Police officials from other countries, with whom the school had been cooperating for years, showed great interest in the Academy’s problems. In response to this, a meeting of police liaison officers accredited in Poland was organised in Szczytno. During the meeting, the current situation and the Academy’s potential were presented, and the teaching facilities and the prospects for development were also shown22.

In addition to the regular cooperation with the police and legal science community, significant support was obtained from other eminent academics. After a long break, the first meetings of the Commandant-Rector of the Police Academy were held with the Rector of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, senator prof. Ryszard Górecki, and the Dean of the Faculty of Law and Administration, prof. Stanisław Pikulski. The principles of cooperation between the universities and the areas of support from the University of Olsztyn were discussed and adopted.

20 Annual report of the Police Academy in Szczytno, Szczytno, February 2006, p. 264.
The Academy’s perspectives and possibilities of development were presented to the President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, prof. Michał Kleiber.

As it later turned out, the support obtained from the President of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland, prof. Jerzy Woźnicki, was decisive. At that time, the final works on the new Higher Education Act were in progress. Previously, the scientific and teaching activities of the Police Academy were conducted on the basis of the Act on Higher Military Education\(^{23}\). The legislator approved the proposal to include the Police Academy in Szczytno in the new act concerning state service universities, including in article 252, section 5, the Police Academy in Szczytno and the Main School of Fire Service in Warsaw, which became state service universities. Prof. Woźnicki was the advocate of this provision. This statutory provision of the academic status allowed the Police Academy in Szczytno to plan its development in the coming years in a relatively peaceful manner. Attempts to erase the provision concerning the seat of the Academy “in Szczytno” took place even at the final stage of the legislative process, but they were successfully prevented. Without a doubt, the university had the support of the MPs regardless of their political background\(^{24}\). The importance of prof. Woźnicki’s involvement in helping the Academy, and thus helping the region, was appreciated and honored by the committee a year later with an honorary statue of “Jurand” “for merits to the region” officially awarded to him.

The support of the Metropolitan Archbishop of Warmia and Mazury, Fr. Edmund Piszcz also played an important role in the process of the revival of the university. The Archbishop was a frequent guest of the Academy not only on official occasions, but he was also interested in the status of the Academy and its problems. Moreover, the Academy’s chaplain, Fr. prof. Edward Wiszowaty, was making invaluable efforts to strengthen the importance of the Academy for 30 years, not only through his pastoral duties and scientific activities, but also through his authority in various communities.

In July 2004, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of police officers’ education in Szczytno under the patronage of the President of Poland began. The celebrations were attended by the Head of the President’s Chancellery, Minister Jolanta Szymanek-Deresz, MPs and senators, regional police chiefs, police school chiefs, and former school chiefs. All of the speeches expressed support for the concept of the Academy as a centre for training commissioned officers and police officers at the university level. In October 2004, the final event of these celebrations was a reunion of graduates representing all generations of commissioned officers educated in Szczytno over the 50 years\(^{25}\).

\(^{23}\) Ustawa z 31 marca 1965 o wyższym szkolnictwie wojskowym (Dz.U. 1965 No. 14, item 102).

\(^{24}\) Ustawa z dnia 27 lipca 2005 Prawo o szkolnictwie wyższym (Dz.U. 2005 No. 164, item 1365).

At the same time, regular and effective cooperation between the Academy and the city and regional authorities was restored. Several regional projects were prepared together with the Szczyno Starost, Andrzej Kijewski, including, among others, the rebuilding of the former casino building into a police museum and a regional tourist information centre. The Academy, in cooperation with the County Police Headquarters, contributed to the improvement of security in the county through regular patrols of police trainees attending the basic police course together with local police officers.

As it can be assessed today, the decisive moment for making the final decision on the future of the Academy was quite a dramatic briefing which took place at the end of August 2004 in the office of the Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, Mr. Andrzej Brachmański. This briefing was attended by representatives of the National Police Headquarters responsible for training, the National Police Chief’s plenipotentiary for establishing the Police Academy, and the Commandant-Rector of the Police Academy in Szczyno. The vision of changes in police education was presented once again, assuming the expiry of the academic status of the Police Academy and a new model of managerial training conducted at the Police Academy. The idea was directly supported by the Minister. The participants of the briefing expressed their opinions.

In his speech, the Commandant-Rector of the Academy indicated the benefits resulting from the development of the Police Academy in Szczyno, the possibilities of changes in the educational system consisting in greater “policing” of the programme and the threats to the quality and effectiveness of the service performed by police officers. The Commandant-Rector expressed his great concern regarding the planned changes related to closing the Academy down. He also reported that as long as he was in office, he would continue to pursue this policy.

On September 2–3, 2004, a briefing of regional police chiefs took place in Szczyno together with the National Police Chief, gen. Leszek Szreder, and the Deputy National Police Chief, gen. Eugeniusz Szczersak. The briefing was devoted to drafting the final version of regulations of the Minister of the Interior and Administration on professional police training 26. During the meeting, the Commandant-Rector presented a new approach to university teaching, emphasising the deep links between the courses and scientific research and police practice. The majority of officers attending the briefing supported the role of the Academy as a centre for developing commissioned police officers.

A different atmosphere, although still tense, but with a greater degree of optimism prevailed at the next meeting of the Academy’s Scientific Council on 13 October 2004. It was attended by the Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, Andrzej Brachmański, and the National Police Chief, gen. Leszek Szreder. The effects of the initiatives undertaken so far to maintain the status of the Academy were

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26 50 – lecie oficerskiego szkolnictwa..., op. cit., p. 190.
outlined. They continued to address the need to increase the educational offer for police officers, with particular emphasis on undergraduate studies. Andrzej Brachmański, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, who was present at the meeting, presented his counter-arguments. In his opinion, the Academy should train police officers at the post-graduate level and conduct professional and specialist training. He admitted, however, that it is important for the Academy to maintain its university status, which was for the first time officially confirmed by the Ministry. He also assured that the Academy would receive support to employ more professors. A few days later, on 21 October 2004, the National Police Chief dismissed the plenipotentiary responsible for establishing the Police Academy in Legionowo.

The concept of depriving the Police Academy in Szczytno of its academic status practically collapsed. The activities related to “closing the Academy down” were later very critically assessed by the Supreme Audit Office. According to the opinion expressed in the audit report of June 2006, the activities destabilised the police training system. They proved the lack of a reliable needs analysis, including the opportunities and consequences, in particular financial, of a coherent concept for training police officers and their professional development.

A few days later, on 26 October 2004, the Police Academy in Szczytno was granted a new statute, restoring its academic structure, which was officially the beginning of the recovery of the university’s status.

Therefore, work on defining the teaching and research area of the institutes was more intensive. It was decided that the human resources and the Academy’s premises allowed two units to be established. A research and training area related to the development of managerial and logistic staff did not raise much doubt. The remaining part of the teaching staff was involved in the further development of modified teaching programmes and research projects.

The establishment of an institute for teaching and research in the field of organised crime and terrorism was much more difficult. The team working on the project proposed a number of educational courses, opportunities to reach the potential students and trainees from the police, as well as from other forces and institutions, and cooperation with the units.

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27 Academy’s Archives ..., op.cit., pp. 68–69.
30 Zarządzenie No. 1120 Komendanta Głównego Policji z dnia 26 października 2004 w sprawie nadania statutu Wyższej Szkole Policji w Szczytnie (Dz.U. KGP (National Police HQ) No. 20, item 126), which repealed the previous regulation by the National Police Chief — Komendanta Głównego Policji z dnia 6 sierpnia 2003 r. w sprawie nadania statutu Wyższej Szkole Policji w Szczytnie (Dz.U. KGP No. 16, item 80).
mainly with the Central Bureau of Investigation. The management of the Central Bureau of Investigation with the then Director of the Bureau, col. Janusz Gołębiewski and his deputies accepted this offer with great satisfaction. Scientists were also consulted in developing the Institute. Prof. Emil Pływaczewski played an active role in this work, and prof. Ewa Gruza and Cezariusz Sońta from the Faculty of Law of the University of Warsaw presented some interesting proposals. The biggest problem was the selection of personnel having both the knowledge in the field of the fight against organised crime and terrorism as well as appropriate practical experience. Undoubtedly, the success of the Academy was the consent to take up the post of the Institute’s director by lieut. col. Wiesław Jasiński, PhD, previously associated with the Academy for many years, and for a long time holding managerial positions in the Regional Police Headquarters in Gdańsk. This choice was not only proof of the Institute’s rapid and multilateral development, but also of its importance in Poland and abroad and its scientific achievements. In later years, prof. Wiesław Jasiński held high positions in special services and, as Deputy Minister of Finance, co-founded the National Revenue Administration.

Both Institutes officially started operating on 1 December 2004 as the Institute for Management Training and Quality Management in the Police, and the Institute for Training of State Service Officers Combatting Organised Crime and Terrorism.

The decision to continue police officers’ education at the bachelor’s level was confirmed by the interest in this study programme. In 2005, as many as 1,727 police officers took entrance exams for 3-year higher vocational studies at the Police Academy in Szczytno. In order to meet the formal requirements, there was a need to divide the examination cycle into two parts. The first one took place in selected regional police headquarters, and only the best candidates took part in the second part of the examination in Szczytno. Therefore, the Commandant-Rector requested to increase the enrollment list for students in the first year of studies. After the National Police Chief’s approval, 134 policemen started 3-year professional studies in 2005 in the field of security and public order. 620 police officers completed training for university graduates. Basic police training was completed by 412 police officers.

A new statute of the Police Academy was prepared, taking into account the new tasks that had been assigned to it as a police unit and as a scientific and academic centre educating both police officers and civilian students. The statute was issued a year later, when the management of the Academy was taken over by my former supervisor and a friend in the

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32 Ibid., pp. 183–185.
33 Ibid., p. 190.
34 The Police Academy’s Archives, The Statute of the Police Academy in Szczytno (Decision of the Minister of the Interior and Administration DP-I-0232-1233/06 of 14 September 2006).
Central Bureau of Investigation, gen. Kazimierz Szwajcowski. The most important tasks of the Academy were divided into two groups.

The basic tasks of the Academy as a police training institution, specified in §3 section 1 of the statute, covered the following issues:
1) training and professional development of police officers and employees in the field of management and executive, autonomous positions;
2) supporting police units in their training tasks, as ordered by the National Police Chief;
3) methodological training for the teaching staff of police schools and training centres;
4) involvement in the work of programme teams developing training and professional development programmes;
5) involvement in the work of teams preparing materials, e.g. tests and practical tasks for professional training of police officers and examinations that qualify the staff reserve for specific positions, as well as tests connected with the recruitment procedure for police applicants;
6) conducting, as defined in separate regulations, the stages of the recruitment procedure for police applicants;
7) cooperation with other police and public administration units in the teaching activity;
8) cooperation with foreign police schools in the exchange of experience in teaching and other pedagogical activities;
9) printing and publishing activities.

In §3 section 2 of the statute, the tasks of the Academy as a higher education institution include:
1) training students for professional work;
2) teaching students responsibility for the country, for strengthening democracy, and respect for human rights;
3) conducting scientific research and providing support in research;
4) training and promotion of academic staff;
5) sharing and increasing the achievements of science and national culture through collecting books and making library collections available.

The following months at the Academy were extremely busy. Great emphasis was placed on changes in the curricula of studies and professional training, which aimed at linking them to the current police tasks. Therefore, the research programme for the next few years was also updated. The role of the Academy as an intellectual background for the Police evolved quite radically. In 2004, only 15 scientific and research programmes were conducted and completed. In 2005, the school staff actively participated in the work of 108 task groups established by the Minister of the Interior and Administration, or the National Police Chief. The task groups worked on such important documents as the new manual for covert policing, some draft legislation, draft international agreements, the Organised Crime

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Report (OCR) and the Organised Crime Threat Assessment Report (OCTA). 58 scientific and research projects were conducted and completed.  

The level of specialist training courses was particularly improved by inviting a wide range of police practitioners, who conducted classes in the Academy as “associated lecturers”. The National Police Chiefs as well as the regional police chiefs showed great support and understanding in this respect. The classes were more and more often conducted by eminent specialists from field units and from the National Police Headquarters, accompanied by academic teachers.

The restoring of studies at the academic level, and the appreciation of university traditions also influenced changes not directly related to science and teaching.

The activity of the Student’s Self-Government and related traditions were restored. On 29 November 2004, on Cadets’ Day, the students took symbolic power over the Police Academy. For the first time in the history of the Police Academy, an official promotion ceremony to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant was held on 16 February 2005. The officers were the graduates of higher studies.

Attempts were made to maintain contact with the Academy’s former employees. The Association of Retirees and Pensioners of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Poland was established at the Academy.

The years 2003–2005 were an extremely difficult time in the history of the Police Academy in Szczytno. This led to greater satisfaction for all of its employees, officers and civilians who, thanks to great effort and persistence, managed to stop the process of closing it down, and managed to create strong foundations for development in the following years. Today, when the Academy educates officers and civilians at all academic levels, it is a centre of highly specialised police training, and when it conducts research activities of often unique character, it can be assumed that, however unimaginable it seemed at first, the undertaking was fully successful.

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37 60 lat szkolnictwa policyjnego w Szczytnie. 1954 – 2014 ... , op. cit., p. 233.
38 Ibid., p. 236.
39 Ibid., p. 232.


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Zarządzenie No. 41 Ministra Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji z dnia 18 grudnia 2002 w sprawie powołania zespołu do spraw opracowania analizy systemów rekrutacji i kształcenia funkcjonariuszy służb po-rządku publicznego (unpublished).

Keywords: Police Academy, Ministry of the Interior and Administration, National Police Headquarters, higher education institution, scientific and research centre, university status, specialist training, executives

Summary: In 2003–2005, the Police Academy was in the process of losing its academic status as a centre designed to prepare police executives. According to the adopted assumptions, the Academy was to become an institution preparing police personnel at the basic and specialist levels. In May 2004, the new Commandant-Rector, on the basis of opinions of the police community, research conducted in the Academy, and his own experience in service in various police units, prepared a plan to maintain the status of a university, and develop the university as a training and scientific centre. Thanks to the enormous work done by the school personnel and police officers from all over the country supporting the Academy, and thanks to the support obtained from many scientific centres, the programme was implemented very quickly. Comprehensive assistance was also obtained from the regional authorities and Members of Parliament from all political backgrounds. The Police Academy in Szczytno as a public service university was included in the new Higher Education Act. After a few months, the effects of these undertakings prompted the management of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, and the National Police Headquarters to make a decision on granting the school a new statute appropriate for a higher education institution, restoring university structures and enrolling new students for previously suspended undergraduate studies for police officers. All of the undertakings encountered unprecedented interest.