

Biuro Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego

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Szef BBN dla Reutera o wzmacnianiu bezpieczeństwa Polski

Szef Biura Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego minister Stanisław Koziej w rozmowie z agencją Reutersa odniósł się m.in. do planowanego ćwiczenia strategicznego KRAJ 2015, mającego zweryfikować funkcjonowanie struktur systemu bezpieczeństwa narodowego w czasie kryzysu, problemu rosyjskiej agresji informacyjnej oraz kwestii dostaw uzbrojenia dla Ukrainy.

Poland to hold countrywide defense drills: president's adviser

Poland will stress-test its defense capabilities with a series of countrywide drills involving the government, local authorities and the military in response to the Ukraine crisis, Polish president's chief security adviser said.

A former eastern bloc country which became a NATO member in 1999, Poland is concerned that Russia's annexation of Crimea and support for rebels in Ukraine may be a foretaste of it reasserting itself in the rest of Eastern Europe.

Since the beginning of the crisis, Polish politicians have regularly called for increasing NATO's military presence in the region. Poland has also speeded up its army modernization program, worth an estimated \$33 billion.

Poland will assess its overall readiness for a potential military conflict, General Stanislaw Koziej, head of National Security Bureau told Reuters in an interview authorized for release on Thursday, with drills likely to begin in the second half of this year.

"It is a whole series of exercises, aimed at testing ... all of the state's elements - the government, ministers, regional governors, local councils, boroughs - in a time of crisis and war," said Koziej, who advises President Bronislaw Komorowski on security.

"These elements - including a candidate for wartime commander-in-chief, who should be appointed soon - need to be trained."

Koziej said Russia was waging an "information war" on the West. "Without a doubt, Poland is already a target of Russian aggression in that respect ... It involves television channels, radio stations, activities of various (Internet) trolls on social networks."

"These are not spontaneous, individual activities, it's a coordinated and organized action, a managed campaign" he said.

Asked whether Poland was ready to supply Ukraine with lethal weapons, Koziej, who this month said arming Ukrainian forces was in the interest of Europe and Poland, said no decision had been made.

"Such talks are ongoing, the Ministry of National Defence frequently hosts Ukrainian representatives and experts."

"There are intensive talks on different levels, but ... decisions will be made only after the issue is thoroughly examined by the Polish and Ukrainian sides," Koziej said, adding that Poland was considering selling the weapons, but also in some cases supplying them for free.

This month, Polish Deputy Prime Minister Janusz Piechocinski told Reuters Ukraine's economy was starting to disintegrate, creating a risk of hundreds of thousands of immigrants flowing into Poland.

That risk was real, but not large, Koziej said, adding that Poland had to be prepared for being neighbors with a country that could be "barely functioning".

"Last year, we conducted special exercises, which tested ... whether we are ready for a potential influx of refugees. In this respect we are prepared for various scenarios."

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