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ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL POLICE OF UKRAINE UNDER MARTIAL LAW: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS – POTENTIAL FOR APPLYING THIS EXPERIENCE IN POLAND

INTRODUCTION – THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, posed many challenges to the Ukrainian state and its bodies in the area of security, which had to be addressed and resolved as quickly as possible, using the available forces and resources in the most effective way. Starting in the first days of the war, the National Police, operating within the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, defended the territorial integrity of the country and switched to a 24-hour mode of reinforced operation.

Currently, 98,000 police officers serve in the Ukrainian police force. Before the war, the structure and staffing were proportionally distributed between provinces across the country. The war enforced changes, and now 35,000 police officers serve in the war zone and frontline territories. Before the invasion, there were 23–26 policemen for every 10,000 residents; now, in liberated frontline regions, this ratio is 100 policemen. The situation is extremely dynamic and volatile due to the military operations of both parties, annexing or liberating various territories. When these figures are compared with Polish police staffing levels, which currently stand at 108,909 policemen (Boroń, 2025), both formations are comparable in terms of numbers, but further analysis will demonstrate that, under the conditions of the war in Ukraine, the range of tasks of police officers there has expanded beyond comparison.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine estimates that the current police workload has increased by 80% since the beginning of the invasion, primarily because certain functions and powers have had to be transformed and changed in line with the requirements of martial law (Klymenko, 2024a).

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Currently, Ukrainian police officers are in charge of not only purely policing tasks, but they are also involved in direct military operations, aiding civilians during and after shelling, and helping with demolished infrastructure. They also provide humanitarian aid, distribute basic necessities, evacuate people to safer places and regions, perform landmine clearance, and take part in stabilization operations in liberated territories. It is thus clear that Ukrainian policemen carry out tasks that in Poland remain within the remit of the armed forces, such as sapper units. It can be assumed that the only entity capable of coping with these tasks in Poland would be the Police Prevention Units and Independent Police Prevention Subdivisions. These units operate at the regional level, primarily in the capital cities of respective regions, not as part of the organizational structure of regional headquarters but as a reserve of the Chief of Police. This makes these formations mobile and flexible. Their advantage is that their command follows military principles. These structures feature divisions into squads, platoons and companies, typical of the military. According to the Decision of the Chief of Police of December 30, 2022, the headcount in these structures amounts to 7,904 officers. Interestingly, this decision emphasizes the performance of military tasks, as paragraph 1 stipulates that police prevention units are organized following the military pattern (Decyzja KGP, 2022). It seems feasible that these structures could be adapted to carry out the package of tasks that will be discussed further on.

Today it may be difficult to imagine that the officers of Police Prevention Units could be involved in landmine clearance. However, in Ukraine land mines are a threat on practically every patch of land formerly occupied by Russian troops, so it has become utterly indispensable to expand the mine clearance and bomb disposal activities. Perhaps the Ukrainian example is worth broader analysis, because in the case of such extensive frontline operations as are currently taking place in Ukraine, the need to clear areas of land mines has also become a necessary element of public safety. It seems feasible to adopt such solutions, but this is not only about structures and new skills, but also about the necessary increase in staff, in particular the number of these troops in the regions bordering Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

After nearly two years of armed conflict, it seems like a good time to try to recapitulate the experience of the National Police of Ukraine and to indicate the main directions and results of the activities of law enforcement agencies in view of their potential application in Poland, or other selected European countries. We address this issue also because the Polish media feature more and more leading politicians from Poland and abroad referring to possible conflict between Russia and NATO structures. This should also inspire the necessary reflection that the structures of the Polish police need to gradually prepare to carry out tasks in the conditions of armed conflict.

“We cannot let Putin win,” said US President Joe Biden to the US Senate. Importantly, he further added that if Putin took Ukraine, his next target would be the United States’ NATO allies (Sroczyński, 2023). “I’m afraid that we are at the beginning of the process that is a rapidly advancing war,” said Donald Tusk when presenting his three-point plan for Poland (Bagińska, 2022). “I consider every scenario, and I take the worst ones most seriously,” said National Defense Minister Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz in an interview with *Super Express*. He also explained how the Polish army was preparing under the circumstances (Szefer MON o..., 2024).

While not exaggerating the possibility of an armed conflict waged on Polish territory, it cannot be ruled out at the moment, either. The state authorities ought to take the responsibility of preparing military and non-military structures for action in wartime. The Ukrainian experience gathered in the course of a real armed conflict is all the more valuable. At the moment, it does not really matter what the policymakers say; what is important is to analyze the risks here and now, so as to be well prepared for a possible conflict.

The co-author of this publication spent several years as a Police Liaison Officer at the Polish Embassy in Kyiv. His extensive contacts and frequent conversations allowed him to keep abreast of the operational situation even several days prior to Russia's armed invasion of Ukraine. Many Ukrainian generals he talked to at the time did not view armed conflict as an actual possibility, but it happened nevertheless, and on an unimaginable scale.

This publication is primarily of analytical and practical value. With the ongoing war in Ukraine, it is difficult to carry out the earlier planned academic activities. While such content can be found on the pages of some Ukrainian journals, especially in accounts from the war and in individual analytical reports, it does not have a comprehensive character, addressing the necessary changes and actions of internal security structures.

The military aggression conducted by Russia and, above all, the hybrid nature of the threats Russia poses implies the need for state bodies to change the forms and methods of their work. This is an additional argument that confirms the need to analyze the Ukrainian experience of public security officers during the war.

Nowadays, one can see more press articles describing the new forms and methods of police work in the Kyiv and Kharkiv regions; police officers identify the dead, clear the area of land mines and provide humanitarian aid. These publications do not appear regularly, which is why the issues under study still require the attention of Ukrainian and foreign practitioners and researchers.

RESEARCH GOAL AND ISSUES

This publication aims to analyze the activities of the National Police of Ukraine under martial law and to present good practices and solutions in the work of police units that, in the conditions of armed invasion by an enemy state, ensure security and public order and fight crime in this extreme period. The package of universal solutions presented in the publication may provide significant analytical material and some of these solutions can be adopted in the case of armed invasion, especially in the Polish context. An essential research issue is to try to answer the question of which of the solutions adopted by the decision-makers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Police in Ukraine will be possible, or even necessary, to adopt in Poland and possibly in other European countries.

Substantive part

Russia's invasion on February 24, 2022, determined the decision to impose martial law on the territory of Ukraine. The National Police, as an entity of the state security

and protection sector, has become not only a key element in ensuring public order but also in the country's defense capabilities.

In 2022, Ukraine's Minister of Internal Affairs Denys Monastyrskyi announced that a set of Security Environment projects had to be implemented on Ukrainian territory as an important component of Ukraine's defense doctrine, which was previously announced by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenski. Some of the initiatives in this portfolio were presented to the public. These include, in particular, projects aimed at landmine clearance, reintegration of veterans, control of arms trafficking, combating domestic violence, and improving security monitoring systems (Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, 2023). In addition to these tasks, National Police units take an active part in providing state security by forming volunteer units, providing assistance to residents of territories adjacent to hostilities, recording and investigating war crimes, and so on.

The activities of the National Police under martial law are aimed at forming and ensuring a stable security environment in the country. The concept of the 'security environment' as a condition for the state to exist applies to the set of conditions and factors that protect such a state against internal and external threats. Depending on the type of threats, the state's security environment can be divided into external and internal. The former involves the conditions and factors of the state's existence that are protected from external threats, and the latter involves the conditions and factors of the state's existence that are protected from internal threats (Bugaychuk, 2023).

In view of the above, it is necessary to outline the main areas of action of the National Police of Ukraine that have been adapted to meet the type of threats to state security that emerged with the Russian military invasion. Identifying them can provide a package of universal recommendations for internal solutions for other countries, including Poland.

IMPROVING FUNCTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT AND CREATING A LEGAL BASIS FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL POLICE UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The authorities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and of the National Police, together with police-related universities² and academic institutions, developed the Concept of the Security Environment in Ukraine 2023–2026. As concerns the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the security environment entails a set of internal aspects of the socio-political life of the country, in which the Ministry of Internal Affairs shapes state policy and exercises its powers as an entity of the security and defense sector, in order to ensure the sustainable development of the state and to protect the vital interests of individuals and society (Bugaychuk, 2023, p. 118).

In line with current scholarly views, the National Police has been entrusted with the following tasks within the framework of the Concept of the Security Environment:

² There are six Universities of Internal Affairs in Ukraine that are not part of the National Police but train future police officers. These structures have had a long tradition in Ukraine, despite the voices that the system needs to be changed, perhaps using the Polish experiences.

- To improve police work standards by bringing them up to the global indicators of highly developed countries that face similar threats to their internal security environments;
- To improve the organizational structures of the National Police bodies and units;
- To introduce new methods (algorithms) for restoring law and order in liberated territories and conducting stabilization activities assigned to the police;
- To ensure the assessment and practical implementation of modern forms and methods of combating crime, taking into account the challenges and threats posed by military aggression;
- To take regulatory, organizational and practical measures to ensure effective counteraction of cybercrime, illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition, and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic drugs;
- To intensify interaction between the police and society by introducing modern forms and methods of policing based on the principles of ‘community-oriented policing’;
- To introduce modern technical means and information technology into the activities of the bodies and units of the National Police, which have proven their effectiveness in ensuring security and public order, combating crime and carrying out police tasks;
- To increase the professionalism and combat capability of the National Police units by taking measures to strengthen the psychological training of personnel, countering official torts and the destructive influence of information on personnel (Bugaychuk, 2023, p. 431).

This concept outlines the activities that can clearly be identified as going beyond the previous scope of so-called ‘police-related’ tasks. Some of them are carried out by the Polish police, but we believe that they need to be reviewed with respect to changes brought by armed conflicts.

Another, parallel document under development is the draft Public Security and Civil Protection Strategy of Ukraine 2025–2029. This strategy is a long-term planning document developed following the National Security Strategy of Ukraine which is based on the results of the review of public security and civil protection. It defines the directions of state policy to ensure the protection of the vital interests, rights and freedoms of citizens. The document also addresses Ukraine’s commitments that need to be fulfilled under the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union.

The police, as the main party implementing this strategy, should ensure that the following areas of state policy are addressed:

- Affirmation of the constitutional values whereby human beings, their life and health, honor and dignity, inviolability and security are recognized as the highest social value;
- The development of Ukraine as a safe state, the territory of which is governed by the rule of law, and citizens and society are protected;
- The functioning and maintenance of the security environment in wartime and at the time of reconstruction to the extent sufficient for sustainable social and human development;
- Integration of Ukraine into the European and Euro-Atlantic security space;
- Restoration of security and public order in liberated territories;

- Implementation of measures to stabilize the operational situation in the territory of Ukraine following the liberation;
- Creating safe living conditions, clearing territory of mines and explosives, developing an effective civil protection system.

NECESSARY CHANGES TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW ON POLICE IN UKRAINE

Under martial law, the Law on the National Police has changed to some extent, as police officers have been forced to perform their duties under the new conditions of warfare with its specific requirements, which is still taking place in Ukraine with great intensity. The main changes concerned the expansion of the powers of the National Police (Article 23 of the Law), by including the following areas:

- Taking all possible measures to provide pre-medical care to persons who have suffered from crimes or misdemeanors and accidents, as well as to persons whose health and life are endangered;
- Taking measures to identify persons who are unable to provide information about themselves due to health and age condition, or other circumstances;
- Identification of dead bodies;
- Selecting biological material to determine genetic characteristics of its donors;
- Using unmanned aerial vehicles and vehicles moving on or under water, including remotely operated vehicles, to perform official duties.

Anticipating these potential tasks, combined with the requirement to expand the powers and tasks of the Police, is essential for ensuring its full involvement in human security and public order issues. We should stress that the extensive use of unmanned aerial vehicles for an extensive range of law and order activities has been envisaged here, as well developing expertise in the selection of biological material, which in Polish conditions should be a skill extensively exercised not only at the level of forensic experts, but in a much broader formula involving investigation officers and forensic technicians.

CHANGES APPLYING TO DIRECT COERCION MEASURES

Changes to the scope of direct coercive measures have been made (Article 42). Under martial law, police officers have been allowed to use improvised coercion measures³ in the case of repelling an attack that threatens the life or health of a police officer or other person, and to eliminate the threat in a state of superior necessity, or in the case of detaining persons who have committed a crime or are resisting arrest.

Additionally, it has been permitted to apply coercive measures indicated in Article 42 with regard to persons involved in the invasion of Ukraine, not taking into account the requirements and prohibitions provided for in the current legislation in Ukraine.

³ These are the measures that are absent from the catalog specified in the Law. In principle, it can be any object at the officer's disposal at any given time, such as an axe, knife or crowbar.

A separate section was added to expand the rationale for firearms use (Article 46) to forcibly interrupt the flight of an unmanned vehicle, by damaging or destroying it, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that such a vehicle may be used to commit a crime or poses a threat to the life and health of civilians or police officers.

Another amendment to the content of the law involved inserting Article 46-1, whereby police officers of special units have the right to use the same weapons and military equipment as that used by the military units and subdivisions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, provided that they carry out tasks to ensure the security and defense of the state, and to repel the armed invasion of Ukraine under martial law (Law on the National Police of Ukraine 2015 as amended).

In our opinion, the scope of authority should not be changed in peacetime, unless necessary due to the emergence of new technical capabilities, equipment or threats to police officers. In this way the rule of law is ensured, and the equal treatment of all citizens of the state and other persons residing on its territory. However, the Ukrainian practice has clearly indicated that changes are required in the period of actual conflict, which should be analyzed, and attempts to draw up future legal solutions in Poland and other countries that are potential targets of future Russian aggression ought to be made. While no one denies the need for shelters, this does not mean that they will necessarily be used. The same applies to legal solutions. In our opinion, each country that runs a particular risk of warfare should review them to make sure that legal changes can be swiftly introduced.

NEW TASKS, UNITS AND ORGANIZATIONAL SOLUTIONS IN INTERNAL SECURITY AS A RESPONSE TO WAR CHALLENGES

Fury Assault Brigade⁴

By virtue of an order issued by the President of Ukraine, on January 13, 2023, the Council of Ministers of Ukraine passed Resolution No. 30 establishing an interregional special unit of the National Police – the Combined Assault Brigade of the National Police of Ukraine known as ‘Fury’ (*Brygada Szturmowa Furia*, 2023).

The main tasks of this unit include the following:

- Repelling and combating the armed invasion of Ukraine in cooperation with units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the National Guard of Ukraine, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and other security and defense forces;
- Carrying out assault and search operations;
- Elimination of armed conflicts and other emergency situations;
- Organizing and implementing actions to rescue people and ensure their safety;
- Performing territorial defense tasks;
- Detecting, neutralizing and destroying explosives (carry out landmine clearing, if necessary);

⁴ The name Liut Brigade is used in Ukrainian legislation, where ‘liut’ means ‘fury’ and the latter name has been adopted to refer to this unit.

- Carrying out counter-diversion tasks (detection and neutralization of sabotage and reconnaissance forces and illegal armed groups of the enemy);
- Conducting aerial reconnaissance (unmanned vehicles) to destroy the enemy's combat capability in occupied areas;
- Using the force and resources of the Brigade to launch attacks with various types of weapons;
- Destruction of enemy military technology and forces;
- Conducting stabilization and search operations in liberated areas;
- Launching assault operations to carry out tactical breakthrough of enemy defenses.

The Brigade's structure has significantly expanded, and at present⁵ it comprises a security company, the Enei special operations company, Dnipro-1 regiment, Sviatoslav company, Tavr battalion, West battalion, Special Police Department No. 1: Safari Regiment, Special Police Department No. 2: Tsunami Regiment, Special Police Department No. 3: Luhansk 'Peacemaker' Regiment, Special Police Department No. 4: Svityaz Company, Skif Battalion (*Struktura Narodowej Policji*, 2024). The names of the subdivisions refer, among other things, to various historical figures, localities or abstract terms representing destructive force, speed, precision of actions, and so on.



Illustration 1. Photo promoting the Fury Brigade

Source: The Combined Fury Brigade, <https://dduvs.in.ua/lyut/> (06.02.2024).

White Angels Evacuation Squad

The name White Angels has been given to police squads that evacuate people from villages on the front line, among other things. The first White Angels evacuation group worked in Marinka after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As a result of police operations, almost the entire civilian population was evacuated from the shattered town. To date, the White Angels have evacuated about 6,000 people, including 574 children. Squad officers have also provided medical assistance to nearly 300 injured people. They are also in charge of transporting bodies, and returning the bodies to family members so that they can bury them with dignity.

⁵ As at the time of drafting this publication in February 2024.

The squad also provides humanitarian aid. In addition to food, its police officers supply electricity generators, sleeping bags, tourist gas machines with cylinders, and building materials for housing repairs.

The White Angels is a versatile squad, with officers rescuing people from under the rubble on one day and putting out fires on another. They also document the consequences of Russian war crimes to provide evidence in the future. The evacuation groups have armored vehicles suitable for transporting severely injured persons and people with limited mobility, medical backpacks, stretchers, sets of tools, spare wheels, fire extinguishers, as well as special children's helmets and bulletproof vests. All police officers in the White Angels groups are also certified paramedics. Currently, there are also eighteen volunteers in the groups and employees of the criminal division and juvenile affairs teams and others, who carry out tasks within squads (Klymenko, 2023).

Tasks and their implementation in liberated territories

The main types of stabilization activities and tasks which are carried out in liberated territories by police officers in cooperation with the Armed Forces of Ukraine, units of the Security Service of Ukraine, the National Guard and the Border Guard, are as follows:

- 1) Maintaining security of the state border;
- 2) Isolation of liberated territories;
- 3) Protection of critical infrastructure facilities;
- 4) Ensuring traffic safety;
- 5) Performing prevention tasks: handling checkpoints and document verification;
- 6) Recording war crimes and searching for their perpetrators;
- 7) Providing humanitarian aid to civilians;
- 8) Ensuring public safety and order, combating and preventing crimes and misdemeanors.

Combating crime has considerably changed both in the liberated territories and elsewhere. After Russia's military invasion of Ukraine, the number of crimes in arms and ammunition trafficking has significantly increased (Office of Prosecutor General of Ukraine, 2024). In the period of martial law, control over the legal weapons trade has significantly deteriorated, as many Ukrainian licensing institutions have been relocated to safer areas. Citizens in possession of weapons have lost their documents as a result of the hostilities, and many owners of firearms have joined the Armed Forces of Ukraine, making it impossible to comprehensively carry out licensing and verification procedures.

In this regard, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine is currently implementing the Unified Register of Weapons IT project. It is a system within the IT systems of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which aims to automate the supervision of weapons' circulation and ensure the creation, storage, sharing and verification of information on the rights to trade in weapons, ammunition, main parts of weapons with identification numbers and explosives (*Jednolity rejestr broni...*, 2022). It is most likely, however,

that due to the limited ability to control the circulation of firearms and explosives, their smuggling and availability on illicit European markets will considerably increase. Arms trafficking should therefore be of particular interest to law enforcement agencies under conditions of armed conflict, both in the country where hostilities are taking place and in countries bordering the combat zone, as the threat of arms smuggling increases when it is no longer possible to properly supervise their circulation.

This was one of the reasons why new systemic solutions were needed in Ukraine. According to Ukrainian Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko, the main advantage of introducing the unified registry of weapons is that citizens will be able to easily obtain information about registered firearms. In addition, thanks to the digitization of weapons trade, the procedure for obtaining permits will be greatly simplified. As of the end of 2023, Ukrainians submitted over 175,000 applications for various types of weapons permits, and the police have issued more than 164,000 relevant decisions (Klymenko, 2024b). Increased interest in weapons is quite understandable in the conditions of war, but the greater number of weapons in private possession has also increased the number of crimes committed using them. The year 2023 saw a record in this respect, with 30,915 crimes committed against Article 263 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, that is illegal use of weapons, ammunition and explosives, compared to 7,003 in 2022.

There is also another problem with ‘acquired weapons’ obtained from the aggressor. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine is currently working on legal solutions applying to this type of ‘trophy’ weapons, which will permit their legal possession and use in wartime.

SELECTED ELEMENTS AND FORMS OF POLICE SERVICE AS AN ELEMENT OF THE NECESSARY TRANSFORMATION OF POLICE OPERATIONS TO SOCIALIZE POLICE ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDING AID

The negative perception of police officers in Ukraine was an aftermath of the period of the Militia. This was observed as early as the late 1990s, which was why transforming the Militia into the Police was one of the important changes made in 2015. A portion of changes related to the tasks and image of the force was the introduction of a new form of work for police officers from local (district) units. The main changes applied to the establishment of district units with the important task of addressing the needs of local communities, such as maintaining constant contact with local residents, maintaining order on every day basis, addressing social issues immediately, and preventing violations of the law. Changes were made to socialize police activities, where socialization is understood as taking the approach of *community policing*, a task the Polish police has carried out for many years, but with varying intensity. This approach relies on the fundamental and irreversible conviction that cooperation between the public and the police is indispensable, especially in the field of identification and prevention of threats at the local level. This cooperation should considerably increase the efficiency of police actions that the society expects (Jarczewski, 2017, p. 2). The solution whereby a large range of tasks within this approach is assigned to district officers has

been appropriate. In Ukraine, such officers are required to complete training lasting 2.5 months, during which the future specialists learn in particular about the following:

- Modern instruments and methods of police interaction with the public;
- Methods of preventing and combating domestic violence;
- Methods of verbal communication used in social interactions;
- Conducting follow-up on citizen reports and taking the necessary countermeasures.

Within the framework of this project, the work of district police officers who act as officers of local community police is verified by means of monthly, semiannual and annual evaluations, conducted, among other things, through examining the degree of trust in the police as a whole, organizing joint activities with the community, and implementing prevention programs.

As of December 2023, 1,476 police officers trained under this project were serving in 23 Ukrainian regions, with 766 of the existing 1,412 Ukrainian municipalities participating.

School Safety Inspector

Since the Russian Federation launched its large-scale invasion, thereby posing continued threats to educational infrastructure and participants in the educational process, consistent steps have been taken to ensure the safety of this milieu. The government of Ukraine has taken the following measures within the framework of the Security Concept for Educational Institutions:

- Ensuring the physical safety of participants in the educational process, as well as of educational infrastructure;
- Ensuring fire safety;
- Introduction of an early warning and evacuation system;
- Developing a unified action algorithm for participants in the educational process and public authorities in dangerous situations.

In order to implement the tasks set by the Council of Ministers of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, together with the Ministry of Education and Science, has launched a large-scale School Safety Officers project. It is carried out by police officers who are to provide comprehensive safety to children in educational institutions. In particular, together with teaching staff, they will have the following authority and tasks:

- To ensure the control of access to the premises of educational institutions, and public order in such premises;
- To respond to appeals from students, pupils and other participants in the educational process;
- To ensure the physical safety of children, to organize evacuations and other measures seeking to ensure their safety.

The project will be implemented in 400 schools in towns close to the front line and in areas bordering Russia and Belarus. Having completed advanced training, the first school safety inspectors appeared in schools in February 2024. At the same time, recruitment of police officers for these positions began, who will ensure a much broader

aspect of school security in the future. As of January 2023, more than 1,400 police officers agreed to participate in this project. Five hundred people took part in the first training. School safety officers were planned to begin work in 6,500 schools by the end of 2024 (Wyhiwski, 2024).

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, together with its institutions of higher education, has already developed broader educational programs to further train school safety officers. The training is planned to be provided within a 4+2 formula, with 4 months of training and 2 months of professional practice.

Video Surveillance System

In developing an effective internal security environment of a state, it is essential to design a comprehensive video surveillance system. Thus, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Police of Ukraine are developing a single integration platform for video surveillance to cover all key public venues, educational institutions, sections of important roads, critical infrastructure facilities, and so on. At present, over 8,000 video cameras with analytical functions, such as recognition of faces, license plates and cars by color and brand are integrated into such a system.

The National Police is planning to expand this system by adding the more than 50,000 video cameras already installed, which will curb street crime, increase the efficiency of searches for people and objects, and ensure higher quality investigations of war crimes committed by the occupying forces.

CONCLUSIONS

The solutions adopted in Ukraine, and presented in this article, are mostly systemic with a comprehensive legal backup. The changes were forced in view of the experience gathered in the course of work and activities carried out during wartime. Some solutions, such as developing a program of community policing or the elements of video surveillance are not new to Poland or Europe; but others, such as the functioning of counter-diversionary, humanitarian or even quasi-combat troops ought to be extensively analyzed in terms of their possible use in wartime conditions in countries that might be targets of possible military invasion in the future.

The military invasion by the Russian Federation is a challenge not only for Ukraine, but also has a significant impact on the security of European Union countries, including, primarily Poland, the Baltic states and other countries in the influence zone of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The transformation of the work of the bodies and units of the National Police of Ukraine under martial law can be analyzed in order to plan possible changes in structural, training and legal solutions of selected bodies within the internal security sector.

The experience of Ukraine shows that an armed conflict demands competence from police officers not only in combating crime, but also in providing emergency response, humanitarian services, medical rescue, landmine clearing and bomb disposal, and, of

course, in the use of various types of equipment, including military equipment with particular emphasis on unmanned aerial and water vehicles.

Although the Declaration on the Police, which was adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 1979 (*Declaration on the Police*, Resolution No. 690), does not recognize the police as a party in war, thereby denying police officers military status, current threats to Europe from Russia should lead to a revision of this approach, at least in some EU member states. The Ukrainian experience shows that, in times of war, the police needs to be a reliable partner for the national armed forces and broader law enforcement institutions; it should strengthen the military aspect in its training system, have a flexible organizational structure, and be ready to defend sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Some solutions adopted in the area of policing in Ukraine can already be recommended as universal for other countries where the risk of armed conflict arises. These include, first and foremost, the necessary legal changes pertaining to the police in terms of the following:

- Ensuring the ability of police units to use military equipment, including weapons and military technology;
- Vesting police officers with additional power to use weapons in armed military aggression against enemy forces;
- Preparing a package of social guarantees for police officers who may be injured or killed during hostilities, and for their families.

Upon introducing such legal changes, the following measures should be deemed indispensable:

- Improving the training of police personnel by introducing additional training in military competence, engineering, protection and rescue measures. It would also be advisable to enhance the relevant educational programs by teaching how to develop algorithms for the evacuation of civilians from danger zones, primarily under fire and in case of other dangers;
- Developing standard algorithms for police actions in case of emergencies when the safety of civilians has to be ensured during hostilities, especially involving the use of unmanned aerial vehicles or missile weapons by an aggressor;
- Organizing joint exercises with units of the armed forces, combined police forces and other security and defense entities, in counter-terrorism, counter-diversion and border protection;
- Improving the ability of police institutions to protect themselves by providing a system of shelters and other secure facilities to important units;
- Develop algorithms for the evacuation of police units personnel and official documentation in case of real as well as foreseeable armed conflict;
- As regards Poland, significant reinforcement in terms of personnel and equipment of the structures of Prevention Units and counter-terrorist subdivisions should be considered, especially in the east, and in areas bordering the Kaliningrad Oblast (in Poland it is called Obwód królewiecki).

The legal changes and the resulting organizational and practical solutions adopted in Ukraine, and partly addressed in this article, should provide a certain model for reviewing the functioning of police units of selected European countries, especially

those in the influence zone of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It is mainly these countries that are facing a genuine threat from Russia's aggressive imperial policy today. The statements of selected politicians quoted in the first part of the article attest to the serious threat to the expansion of armed conflict even into NATO territory. It seems, therefore, that the Ukrainian experiences, verified daily in combat by soldiers and police officers, ought to be reflected upon, and their partial implementation should be taken into consideration in terms of drafting relevant legal solutions, purchasing the necessary equipment and training of officers, and even preparing alternative changes in organizational structures.

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ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the current functioning of the National Police of Ukraine and its carrying out of selected tasks under martial law. The authors analyze what changes to state security are necessary depending on actual threats. The role of the National Police and the projects aimed at ensuring public safety and the health and lives of citizens, as well as combating crime, are highlighted. Proposals are presented for improving police activities and the potential for these solutions to be adopted in Poland, mainly with respect to police tasks based on the Ukrainian experience under the threat of external aggression, is discussed.

Keywords: police, National Police, Ministry of Internal Affairs, law, police forces, war, security environment, prevention units

DZIAŁANIA POLICJI NARODOWEJ UKRAINY W CZASIE STANU WOJENNEGO: AKTUALNE WYZWANIA I PERSPEKTYWY – MOŻLIWOŚCI WYKORZYSTANIA DOŚWIADCZEŃ NA GRUNCIE POLSKIM

STRESZCZENIE

W artykule dokonano analizy aktualnego stanu funkcjonowania i realizacji wybranych zadań jednostek Policji Narodowej Ukrainy w okresie stanu wojennego. Autorzy analizują konieczne zmiany funkcjonowania w odniesieniu do środowiska bezpieczeństwa państwa, w zależności od realnych zagrożeń. Podkreślono rolę Policji Narodowej i podejmowanych przedsięwzięć, mających na celu zapewnienie bezpieczeństwa publicznego, zdrowia i życia obywateli oraz zwalczania przestępczości. Przedstawiono propozycje usprawnienia działań Policji z możli-

wością adaptacji przyjętych rozwiązań w warunkach polskich w sytuacji ryzyka agresji zewnętrznej, na bazie doświadczeń ukraińskich, odnoszących się głównie do zadań o charakterze policyjnym.

Słowa kluczowe: Policja, Policja Narodowa, Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych, prawo, siły policyjne, wojna, środowisko bezpieczeństwa, oddziały prewencji