

Analysis of the conditions and specifics of the border command posts engagement in the performance of missions on the restoration of control over the state border of Ukraine

Аналіз умов та особливостей залучення прикордонних комендатур до виконання завдань з відновлення контролю над державним кордоном України

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Purpose: to analyze the conditions and specifics of the border command posts involvement in the performance of missions on restoration of control over the state border of Ukraine.

Method: system analysis, generalization; synthesis.

Findings: threats to border security, missions and measures performed by the border command post during the restoration of control over the state border of Ukraine were summarized, contradictions were identified, and the further focus of the study was formed.

Theoretical implications: the result of the study allows the further development of scientific and methodological support for the involvement of bodies and units of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine in various conditions, in particular, during the restoration of control over the state border of Ukraine.

Practical implications: it is possible to use the results of the study during the organization of the operational and service activities of the state border protection bodies for a year or another period and during the implementation of measures to restore control over the state border of Ukraine.

Originality: measures carried out by the border command posts during the restoration of control over the state border of Ukraine are systematized according to directions, which are aimed at ensuring the security of the state border and national security as a whole.

Paper type: theoretical.

Мета роботи: проаналізувати умови та особливості залучення прикордонних комендатур до виконання завдань з відновлення контролю над державним кордоном України.

Метод: системний аналіз, узагальнення; синтез.

Висновки: узагальнено загрози прикордонній безпеці, завдання і заходи, які виконує прикордонна комендатура під час відновлення контролю над державним кордоном України та виявлено протиріччя і сформовано подальший напрям дослідження.

Теоретичні висновки: результат дослідження дозволяє отримати подальший розвиток науково-методичного забезпечення залучення органів та підрозділів Державної прикордонної служби України в різних умовах обстановки, зокрема під час відновлення контролю над державним кордоном України.

Практичні наслідки: полягає в можливості використання результатів дослідження під час організації оперативно-службової діяльності органів охорони державного кордону на рік або інший період та в ході реалізації заходів відновлення контролю над державним кордоном України.

Оригінальність: заходи, які виконують прикордонні комендатури під час відновлення контролю над державним кордоном України, систематизовані за напрямками, які в комплексі спрямовані на забезпечення безпеки державного кордону та національної безпеки в цілому.

Тип статті: теоретичний.

Key words: Defense Forces of Ukraine, de-occupation, state border, border command post, division, missions, activities.

Ключові слова: Сили оборони України, деокупація, державний кордон, прикордонна комендатура, підрозділ, завдання, заходи.

Introduction

As a result of successful hostilities with the armed forces of the Russian Federation in 2022, the Defense Forces of Ukraine de-occupied a significant territory of Ukraine and began the mission of

restoring control over the state border within Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, and Kharkiv regions. In general, this section of the border has a length of almost 1,200 km, two-thirds of which is the border with the Russian Federation. However, under the conditions of the legal regime of martial law, the protection of the state border is not possible on a daily basis due to the constant influence of the Russian Federation's forces and means of fire damage (missile and artillery fire, the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, the launching of sabotage and reconnaissance groups, etc.). Therefore, the restoration of control over the state border is carried out through the comprehensive involvement of the forces and means of the defense forces of Ukraine, which include bodies and units of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. For this purpose, the border command posts efforts are directed to the detailed inspection of the terrain of the border areas, the arrangement of strongholds, observation and control posts, as well as other necessary places for carrying out the service. However, the effectiveness of restoring control over the state border is directly dependent on the moment of peace, which has not been resolved in recent years.

Theoretical background

The study of the situation in the conditions of armed aggression, the issues of carrying out measures to stabilize the situation and the tasks of restoring control over the state border was carried out by O. V. Andrushko, O. A. Binkovskyi, O. P. Gluzdan, D. A. Kuprienko, A. P. Kurashkevich., Mysyk A. B., Mostoviy A. I., Mykhaylenko O. V. and other scientists.

In the work (Horodnov et al., 2009), the author's team consisting of V. Gorodnov, V. Kyrylenka & R. Karataev developed a model and algorithm for determining the probability of sabotage and intelligence operations in places (districts) of responsibility of the border detachment.

Mysyk A. B. and Andrushko O. V. (Mysyk & Andrushko, 2020) developed a model for the identification of enemy sabotage and reconnaissance groups when attempting to cross the state border.

The work (Farion et al., 2021) developed recommendations for carrying out special measures to combat subversive and reconnaissance groups in conditions of high probability of fire damage by the enemy.

The author's team consisting of O. B. Farion, M. O. Nikulin & D. A. Tretyak in the study (Farion et al., 2024) analyzed the tactics of the actions of sabotage and reconnaissance groups of the enemy in the de-occupied territory of Ukraine within the Sumy and Chernihiv regions.

Tretyak D. A. (Tretyak, 2023) identified problematic issues regarding the use of the fast response border command post in the conditions of restoration of control over the state border of Ukraine.

Based on the analysis of the scientific works of the mentioned scientists and the methodological recommendations available in the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, it can be concluded that the modern conditions and specifics of the involvement of border command posts in the performance of tasks to restore control over the state border of Ukraine are insufficiently studied. This determines the need to continue the research and substantiates the relevance of the chosen topic of the scientific article.

Statement of the problem

The participation of the forces and means of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine in joint actions of security forces and defense forces within the stabilization (defense) on restoring control over the state border of Ukraine in the de-occupied areas of the state border of Ukraine is stipulated by the Action Plan for 2023-2025 on the implementation of the Integrated Border Management Strategy for the period until 2025 (On the approval of the Action Plan for 2023-2025 on the implementation of the Integrated Border Management Strategy for the period until 2025, 2023).

Based on the analysis of the State Border Guard Service experience on the involvement of border command posts in the performance of missions to restore control over the state border of

Ukraine, it was established that the effectiveness of their activities depends on the nature of the situation and the specifics of the tasks. Therefore, in order to achieve the required level of efficiency, there is a need for a systematic analysis of the conditions and specifics of the involvement of border command posts in the performance of tasks to restore control over the state border.

The results of the analysis of the scientific and methodological support of border command posts indicate the lack of a comprehensive approach to the study of the conditions and specifics of the involvement of border command posts in the performance of tasks to restore control over the state border of Ukraine.

Therefore, the problematic issue of increasing the effectiveness of restoring control over the state border due to the development of a single unified approach remains unresolved.

Results

The border command office is a structural subdivision of the border detachment, designed to protect and strengthen the protection of a specified section of the state border (Regulations on the rapid response border command office of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, 2016).

The mission of restoring control over the state border of Ukraine is carried out by the border command post by (Farion & Trembovetskyi, 2022):

- participation in the cessation of armed conflicts and other provocations on the state border of Ukraine in cooperation with units of relevant law enforcement agencies;
- participating in cooperation with units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military formations in repelling an invasion or attack on the territory of Ukraine by the armed forces of another state or group of states;
- participation in activities to prevent criminal and administrative offenses, the prevention of which is assigned to the competence of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine by legislation, their detection and termination;
- participation, within the limits defined by the legislation of Ukraine, in cooperation with the bodies of the Security Service of Ukraine, Internal Affairs bodies and other law enforcement agencies in the fight against terrorism;
- performance of other tasks to restore control over the state border of Ukraine.

During the execution of the mentioned tasks, the activities of the border command posts were carried out under the influence of a number of threats (Mostoviy & Dziavoruk, 2023), in particular:

- violation of the state border by the armed forces of the Russian Federation in order to expand the borders of the territories under their control;
- carrying out shelling of the positions of border units, demining the terrain in the areas of the service of border units, their movement routes and other infrastructure objects of the border service;
- attempts by armed groups, sabotage and intelligence groups of the armed forces of the Russian Federation to penetrate deep into the territory of Ukraine from the territory not controlled by Ukraine (temporarily occupied territories) and transfer weapons, ammunition, explosives and means of terror from the areas of hostilities;
- carrying out terrorist acts, sabotage and provocations, primarily at military facilities, critical and border infrastructure;
- attempts by armed formations of the armed forces of the Russian Federation to seize hostages for the purpose of exchange, as well as their transfer to the territory of the Russian Federation;
- use of means of destruction by missile and artillery troops, rocket systems of salvo fire and aviation;

- carrying out terrorist acts and sabotage, etc.

Based on the analysis of the experience of the Defense Forces of Ukraine regarding the de-occupation of the territory of the Sumy, Chernihiv and Kharkiv regions and the conduct of stabilization operations (actions) (100 questions and answers about the Defense Forces of Ukraine, 2023), the nature of the actions of the border command posts during the restoration of control over the state border of Ukraine with the Russian Federation is summarized:

- repelling assault actions of Russian military formations;
- implementation of successful defensive actions;
- deterring the advance of units of Russian troops and inflicting significant losses on them;
- carrying out successful assaults on enemy positions;
- destruction of the enemy's manpower, equipment and infrastructure, inflicting significant losses on him;
- execution of special tasks regarding the reconnaissance of the area of hostilities, positions in the rear of the enemy;
- strengthening defensive positions, in particular through engineering;
- improving the capabilities of military equipment;
- increasing combat readiness.

As part of the implementation of special stabilization measures (Skobelska, 2023), the border command posts could be involved, or independently carried out:

- strengthening the protection of the state border, maintaining the border regime in the border zone and controlled border areas;
- arrangement of the state border (construction of engineering and technical and fortification structures, fences, border signs, border tunnels, communications);
- temporary isolation of the de-occupied territory;
- protection and defense of important facilities and communications;
- safety support on traffic routes;
- implementation of regime measures;
- liquidation of the consequences of emergency situations;
- prevention, detection, disclosure of criminal and other offenses;
- carrying out the transfer (evacuation) of persons taken into custody and sentenced from the de-occupied territories to the relevant institutions for pre-trial detention and execution of punishments, which are located in a safe area of other districts, in case of impossibility to perform the duties assigned to the personnel of the institutions, as well as normal functioning of these institutions;
- establishing the whereabouts of missing persons, in particular under special circumstances;
- searching for the dead and injured, transporting the bodies (remains) of the dead;
- providing the population of the de-occupied territories with essential goods, medicines, medical aid, fuel, etc.;
- identification of children left without parental care, registration of orphans, children deprived of parental care, ensuring the transfer of children to safe areas; identification of elderly persons, persons with disabilities and providing them with social assistance;
- examination of potentially dangerous objects, etc.

Therefore, during the restoration of control over the state border of Ukraine, border command posts performed special and defensive functions.

Based on the analysis of the mentioned measures, it was established that the missions of the border command posts can be:

- strengthening the protection and defense of a specified section of the state border and supporting the actions of state border protection bodies and units during their performance of tasks in the case of a complication of the situation;

- participation in the implementation of territorial defense measures;
- participation in stopping armed provocations on the state border of Ukraine, in repelling an invasion or attack on the territory of Ukraine by the armed forces of the Russian Federation;
- participation in the fight against sabotage and intelligence groups of the enemy;
- participation within the competence in the fight against terrorism and organized crime in cooperation with the bodies of the Security Service of Ukraine and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine;
- participation in the implementation of military intelligence;
- protection of the rear of active units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other units by conducting operational, military and regime activities in designated areas of our territory;
- participation in ensuring a special regime of movement of transport and civilians and others.

The main method of performing these missions by the border command post is the simultaneous use of a complex of forces and means of its units and their successive increase in the threatening directions in case of receiving anticipatory and reliable information in order to respond in time to changes in the situation.

In the continuation of the study, the experience of involving border command posts as part of the Defense Forces of Ukraine in conducting activities during the restoration of control over the state border was analyzed in more detail (100 questions and answers about the Defense Forces of Ukraine, 2023). This made it possible to summarize measures in the following positions:

1. In order to prevent sabotage actions of the enemy, the border command posts were involved in or carried out independently, in accordance with the given authorities, the implementation of the following measures:

- conducting intelligence operations to identify possible threats and counter sabotage groups of the enemy;
- collection of information about persons involved in subversive activities, establishment of probable places of penetration of sabotage and intelligence groups into the territory of Ukraine and the nature of subversive actions;
- ensuring the security of important facilities, such as locations of units, command posts, energy facilities, bridges, structures, etc. (this involves both physical protection and the use of technical means of surveillance and early detection systems);
- implementation of permanent protection and defense of areas with an increased risk of sabotage by the enemy;
- use of patrol groups to search for sabotage and reconnaissance groups of the enemy;
- conducting other actions that ensure compliance with the established regime in border areas;
- conducting constant monitoring of the area from hidden observation posts;
- taking other measures to prevent sabotage.

2. In order to prevent enemy information attacks, the border command posts were involved in or carried out independently, in accordance with the given authorities, the implementation of the following measures:

- carrying out the exchange of information in compliance with the relevant requirements for its protection;
- taking measures to protect information systems;
- use of modern encryption technologies, protection of networks and databases;
- taking part in cyber security training, etc.

3. In order to monitor the state border and the actions of the enemy, the border command posts were involved in or carried out independently, in accordance with the given authorities, the following functions using unmanned aerial vehicles:

- taking photos from the air (which allows to get high-quality images and videos from a height);
- obtaining advance information about the movements of the enemy, its sabotage and reconnaissance groups, the location of military facilities, as well as potential threats from the territory of the Russian Federation;
- carrying out the collection of intelligence information by penetrating the territory of the Russian Federation in order to identify the locations of enemy units, identify equipment, weapons and other objects, as well as monitor their movements and actions;
- ensuring control over the border territory, checking patrol routes and identifying possible threats;
- coordination of combat operations by providing communication between commanders and their subordinates, transmitting important information and instructions in real time;
- ensuring the efficiency of management of subordinate units, separate outfits.

4. In order to protect the civilian population in the occupied territory, border command posts were involved in or conducted independently, in accordance with the given authorities, the implementation of measures to evacuate the population from dangerous areas, ensure transporting people to safe areas.

5. On other issues, the border command posts were involved in or carried out independently, in accordance with the given authorities, the implementation of measures:

- protection of civil infrastructure (schools, medical facilities, water intakes, power plants, etc.) by preventing damage or destruction of these objects;
- providing humanitarian aid with the help of international humanitarian organizations and local authorities by supplying food, medical aid, hygiene products and other necessary materials;
- ensuring security by: carrying out patrols, persons and vehicles control; prevention of acts of violence, terrorist acts and other threats to the civilian population;
- providing informational support by disseminating truthful operational information about the current situation, advice and safety instructions.

The effectiveness of the implementation of the specified measures and the conduct of operational-service (combat) actions depend on various factors, in particular, on the quality work of the management bodies of the border command posts in relation to:

- planning and organizing the use of subordinate units;
- development and study of proposals regarding options for the use of forces and means, efficiency of decision-making;
- the ability to overcome the main contradictions that arise in the process of implementing missions to restore control over the state border in the case of a dynamic change in the situation.

Further analysis of the results of the involvement of border command posts during 2023-24 in the performance of tasks to restore control over the state border of Ukraine made it possible to establish that the existing methodological support does not take into account all possible changes in the situation in the border areas, which are connected with the constant updating of the enemy's tactics.

Therefore, the existence of the mentioned problem indicates the need to find techniques and ways to solve it in further research.

Conclusion

According to the results of the study, the missions performed by the border command posts during the restoration of control over the state border of Ukraine and the conditions (threats) that affect the quality of their execution are summarized.

Based on the analysis of the defense forces of Ukraine experience regarding de-occupation

and conducting stabilization operations (actions), a set of measures and tasks that rely on border command posts during the restoration of control over the state border of Ukraine with the Russian Federation is summarized. The factors that depend on the effectiveness of the implementation of measures and the conduct of operational-service (combat) actions during the restoration of control over the state border of Ukraine are indicated.

The focus of the research continuation is the development of recommendations to the commandant of the border command post on the organization of the subordinate units' actions in the conditions of control restoration over the state border.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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