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A. Bratko



O. Kovalchuk

## FEATURES OF THE USE OF INSPECTORS-CANINELOGISTS WITH MINE-DETECTING DOGS IN COMBAT CONDITIONS

*Peculiarities of the use of canine inspectors with mine detection dogs in the conditions of combat operations are being studied. The types of activities of a mine detection dog inspector during a combat mission are defined. The factors affecting the successful performance of a combat mission have been clarified. Taking into account the experience of using cynological calculations, the requirements that must be taken into account by the cynological inspector during the performance of combat tasks are outlined.*

**Keywords:** *caninelogists, application, planning, interaction, organization, actions of units, forces and means, service-combat tasks, defense forces of Ukraine, service dogs.*

**Statement of the problem.** As a result of the full-scale invasion of the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of our country in February 2022, the defense forces of Ukraine faced difficulties related to the mass use and distribution of explosive devices and ammunition by the aggressor. Therefore, timely countermeasures against such a threat, its means and algorithms have acquired a new and special importance. Against this background, the practice of training and using service dogs as a special tool is confirmed not only as a unique process aimed at detecting explosive objects, but also as a kind of environment within which it is expedient to find new opportunities for using the potential of canine to search for explosive objects.

The units of the State Border Service of Ukraine (SPSU), namely the Border Command of Rapid Response (PKSHR), together with the defense forces, are entrusted with the combat tasks of repelling and containing the armed military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The presence of units (groups) of canine inspectors with mine-detecting dogs contributes to a significant increase in capacity during engineering reconnaissance, in particular, continuous demining of the area, roads (column routes), populated areas, etc.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** The issue of the use of cynologists with service dogs and the topic of cynology in general was considered by a significant circle of scientists, who in their writings outlined the order of training, problematic issues and ways to solve them [1–8]. However, the very issue of the use of dog handlers with mine detection dogs in the conditions of hostilities has not been sufficiently investigated, especially in relation to the realities of a large-scale invasion of the enemy into the territory of Ukraine.

**The purpose of the article** is to investigate the specifics of the use of canine inspectors with mine detection dogs in the conditions of combat operations.

**Summary of the main material.** Before carrying out a combat task with a canine calculation, it is necessary to train a specialist in two areas: a mine-detection dog inspector, a sapper (miner).

The basics of intelligence, tactical, topographical, firefighting, psychological and medical training are taught within the framework of joint military training. In addition, the specified type of training must include mandatory classes in physical and weapon training.

The training of a specialist as a canine inspector of a mine detection dog involves the acquisition of theoretical knowledge (maintenance of service dogs, veterinary training, anatomy and psychophysiology of dogs, theoretical foundations of dog training, etc.), as well as the acquisition of practical skills in general and special dog training courses.

At the initial stages of training, sometimes there are difficulties with establishing proper contact between the dog inspector and the service dog, which can make it difficult for the mine detection dog to develop the necessary skills, detect unwanted reflexes, etc. The reasons for this may be the low motivation of the canine inspector to train in the specialty, negative personal qualities (indifference, laziness, disorganization), as well

as weak knowledge of training techniques, psychophysiology of the behavior of service dogs, insufficient observations of the behavior of service dogs, lack of an individual approach to dog training etc.

The most difficult is the training of service dogs on a special course: training the dog to zigzag search for open, semi-closed and masked mines, displaying the characteristic behavior (marking) of the discovered explosive device, developing the skills of the service dog to work at a distance from the dog handler, differentiating real and fake mines.

The training of a specialist as a sapper (miner) involves the following: study of the main properties of explosives, means of detonation by fire and electric methods; conducting reconnaissance to identify typical unmasking signs of mining or practicing practical skills of conducting demolition work and destroying mines or explosive charges; practical work with means of exploration and demining (metal detectors, probes, "crabs" with ropes, indicator flags, means for electric and fire methods of detonation, detonator's bags).

Directly in the area of engineering reconnaissance activities, dog handlers should constantly maintain the developed skills of service dogs in good condition and improve them through training.

The main measures of early preparation include:

- conducting training in conditions close to the actual execution of a combat mission;
- analysis of previous trainings and their comparison with the results of a combat mission.

Direct training is carried out before the execution of a combat mission. Every day before the start of a combat mission, the leader of a group (unit) in which canine calculations are used tests (checks) the abilities of a mine detection dog to detect a target smell; the general physiological state of the animal is checked, the ability of the cynological calculation to conduct engineering reconnaissance in accordance with the combat task.

The execution of a combat mission involves the following activities of a canine inspector:

- preparation for a combat mission;
- arrival at the place of execution of a combat mission and preparation of a service dog for work;
- simultaneous visual observation of the actions of the service dog, the terrain with the aim of timely detection of unmasking signs of mines or the presence of the enemy, as well as compliance with the movement route, intervals and distance during the joint work of several canine calculations;
- marking detected mines and charges of explosive substances with indicator flags or participating in their disposal (depending on the task) [9].

The combat task can be performed by canine calculation in the conditions of countering enemy snipers and the presence of anti-personnel mines and stretchers on the search route, as well as other obstacles, including shooting, explosions, fires, features of the terrain, precipitation, low or high air temperature, foreign smells, etc.

The successful performance of the assigned task by the canine inspector of the mine detection dog depends on the following factors:

- the trainer's knowledge of his duties;
- correct actions regarding the use of a mine detection dog in a combat situation;
- exact execution of commander's orders [10].

During the execution of combat missions, the canine inspector must take into account the experience of using canine calculations and comply with certain requirements:

- 1) when preparing for a combat mission, check the availability and serviceability of special equipment for a mine detection dog;
- 2) when moving on an armored personnel carrier (APC) or a combat vehicle, mine detection dogs are placed on the horizontal parts of the combat vehicles, in the case of placement inside the combat vehicle – closer to the open hatch, in a car - closer to the cabin;
- 3) for the temporary placement of a mine detection dog in field conditions, collapsible enclosures or enclosures based on trailers, etc., are used, which are installed at a certain distance from the parking lot of equipment, fuel and lubricants, food waste, etc.; in the summer, places for temporary maintenance of service dogs are placed in the shade;
- 4) before the start of work with a mine-detecting dog to search for mines and charges of explosive substances, a training session and a test of the service dog's abilities are carried out;
- 5) during the search for mines (charges, explosives), the dog inspector must clearly record every change in the behavior of the mine detection dog (monitor its speed of movement, turns, etc.), in case of a change in behavior, carefully check the ground near it with a probe;
- 6) in suspicious places, the mine detection dog's attention is strengthened by the energetic "Search" command;
- 7) during any contact with a mine-detection dog, the inspector-cynologist, by his behavior and actions, creates for him a clear distinction between the working state and the free movement provided for rest;
- 8) give rest to a mine detection dog;

- 9) if during a long continuous search the mine detection dog starts to get tired, replace it;
- 10) in the presence of a large number of sharp objects (stones, glass, etc.), as well as in the case of high air temperature, protective stockings are used for mine detection dogs;
- 11) during the destruction of mines and charges of explosive substances by overhead method, it is necessary to strictly observe safety measures in the course of blasting;
- 12) while carefully observing the work of the mine-detecting dog, the canine inspector simultaneously inspects the area in front of him in order to identify unmasking signs of the possible installation of mines and charges of explosive substances;
- 13) during the joint work of two or more calculations of the mine-detection service, observe the specified distance;
- 14) constantly take into account the peculiarities of the terrain and use them during the execution of the task [11].

In addition, the canine inspector of the mine detection service is obliged to:

- strictly follow the rules of interaction between units that conduct engineering reconnaissance and preliminary reconnaissance of dangerous areas;
- know and accurately follow the rules of training and use of a mine detection dog;
- during the search and detection of mines and other explosive devices, to know and constantly take into account the individual behavior of the assigned service dog;
- know the material part of domestic and foreign mines, demining methods and means of demining;
- strictly observe safety measures during engineering exploration and demolition work.

### Conclusions

Thus, the article examines the peculiarities of the use of canine inspectors with mine detection dogs in the conditions of combat operations. The types of activities of a mine detection dog inspector during a combat mission are defined. The factors affecting the successful performance of a combat mission have been clarified. Taking into account the experience of using canine calculations, the requirements that must be taken into account by the canine inspector during combat missions are outlined.

In the future, it is planned to develop tactics for the use of canine inspectors with mine detection dogs in the conditions of combat operations in current conditions.

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**А. В. Братко, О. Р. Ковальчук**

### **ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ЗАСТОСУВАННЯ ІНСПЕКТОРІВ-КІНОЛОГІВ ІЗ МІННО-РОЗШУКОВИМИ СОБАКАМИ В УМОВАХ ВЕДЕННЯ БОЙОВИХ ДІЙ**

*Через повномасштабне вторгнення збройних сил російської федерації на територію України в лютому 2022 р. перед силами оборони України під час бойових дій постала проблема масового застосування і розповсюдження агресором вибухових пристроїв і боєприпасів. Тому роль інструментів і алгоритмів своєчасної протидії такій загрозі набула нового й особливого значення. На цьому тлі підтверджується практика навчання й використання службових собак як спеціального засобу, що є не лише унікальним процесом, спрямованим на виявлення вибухонебезпечних предметів, а й своєрідним середовищем із новими можливостями використання потенціалу кінологів у пошуку вибухонебезпечних предметів.*

*На підрозділі Державної прикордонної служби України (а саме Прикордонної команди швидкого реагування) спільно із силами оборони покладено виконання бойових завдань із відсічі та стримування збройної військової агресії російської федерації проти України. А наявність відділень (груп) інспекторів-кінологів із мінно-розшуковими собаками суттєво посилила б можливості під час проведення інженерної розвідки, зокрема суцільного розмінування місцевості, доріг (маршрутів колон), населених пунктів тощо.*

*Досліджено особливості використання інспекторів-кінологів із мінно-розшуковими собаками в умовах ведення бойових дій. Визначено види діяльності інспектора-кінолога мінно-розшукової діяльності під час виконання бойового завдання. З'ясовано чинники, що впливають на успішне виконання бойового завдання, та з урахуванням досвіду використання кінологічних розрахунків окреслено вимоги, які повинен брати до уваги інспектор-кінолог під час виконання бойових завдань.*

**Ключові слова:** *кінологи, застосування, планування, взаємодія, організація, дії підрозділів, сили й засоби, службово-бойові завдання, сили оборони України, службові собаки.*

**Bratko Artem** – Doctor of Military Sciences, Associate Professor, Professor of the Border Service Department of the Bohdan Khmelnytskyi National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine  
<http://orcid.org/0000-0001-5503-3318>

**Kovalchuk Oleh** – Senior Teacher of the Department of Cynology of the Bohdan Khmelnytskyi National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5777-0442>