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### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BORDER GUARD DETACHMENT ON STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE TO THE IMPACT OF TERRORIST THREATS AND DEVELOPING A SYSTEM FOR THEIR DETECTION

*A SWOT analysis matrix has been developed to determine the causes of terrorist threats in the area of responsibility of the border detachment, a mechanism for strengthening the resilience of the border detachment to the influence of terrorist threats, and a structural diagram for building a system for identifying terrorist challenges and threats by the border detachment in the assigned area.*

**Keywords :** *anti-terrorism protection, state border, threat, operational and service activities, border security, border detachment, risk, terrorism.*

**Statement of the problem.** In the current conditions of the security environment of Ukraine, the activities of terrorist organizations and the terrorist acts committed by them not only negatively affect the security of the state, but also pose a direct threat to border security and the security of the state border. The implementation of state policy on ensuring national security in the field of state border protection is carried out by the State Border Service of Ukraine (SBSU) [1] by performing a number of functions, which together constitute operational and service activities [2].

Based on the analysis of the results of the operational and service activities of the State Security Service of Ukraine in combating terrorism in 2023–2024, the following results were obtained [3]:

- the number of seized weapons increased by 1.03 times (in 2024 – 1119 units compared to 1085 units in 2023);
- the number of seized ammunition increased by 1.5 times (in 2024 – 224,783 pieces compared to 148,297 pieces in 2023);
- the number of seized explosives increased by 9.1 times (in 2024 – 698.335 kg compared to 76.696 kg in 2023).

According to the results of monitoring compliance with the measures of the legal regime of martial law at checkpoints in 2024, among 1 million people who crossed them, a significant number of those who supported the armed aggression of the Russian Federation were identified. In particular, it was established: 987 persons involved in the activities of illegal armed groups; 172 persons who used forged and invalid documents. In addition, 132 weapons and over 69 thousand ammunition were seized [3].

This indicates an increase in the number of individuals involved in terrorism and the means that can be used to commit terrorist acts.

The armed conflict caused by the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine and the lack of control over certain sections of the state border in the area of hostilities enable international terrorist organizations to use the territory of Ukraine for transit and accumulation of persons involved in terrorism, illegal transportation of weapons, narcotics and other means of terror to EU member states [4]. It has been established that manifestations of terrorist activity are possible in all border areas of Ukraine – both on the state border and at its crossing points. Therefore, timely receipt of information about signs of terrorism is important.

Therefore, to ensure effective counteraction to terrorism, it is important to create an effective mechanism to strengthen the resilience of the border detachment to the influence of terrorist threats and to develop a system for their detection.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** Scientific research on problematic issues related to the fight against terrorism on the state border of Ukraine was conducted by V. Kyrylenko, D. Kupriienko, P. Lysak, D. Mul, V. Nikiforenko, Yu. Overchenko, E. Prokopenko, R. Rachok, O. Farion and other scientists.

In their scientific work [5], V. Kyrylenko, O. Farion, and P. Lysak proposed a model of information and analytical interaction between operational units of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine to counter threats to border security, in particular terrorism.

In his study [6], D. A. Kupriienko noted that the state border serves as a barrier to potential threats to border security, and summarized the main threats in the field of state border protection.

The authors' team in their scientific work [7] revealed the issue of risk profiling as an effective mechanism for timely identification of threats to national security on the state border of Ukraine, in particular the terrorist (military) threat.

Researcher Yu. Overchenko in his scientific article [8] focused on strengthening the mechanism for countering terrorism and increasing the effectiveness of the use of the Maritime Guard of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine in the exercise of powers within the adjacent waters of Ukraine. He analyzed the capabilities outlined by the legislator for the subjects of countering terrorism at sea, and also highlighted a number of contradictions that reduce the effectiveness of ensuring maritime security on sea communication channels.

Scientists D. Polishchuk and O. Marchenko proposed a number of criteria for assessing the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures within the framework of integrated border management, and also developed a set of indicators for each process of combating terrorist threats [9].

The authors of the scientific paper [10] R. Rachok, D. Mul and E. Prokopenko analyzed the threats and challenges to border security and developed an algorithm for modeling complex systems, which allows studying multi-component systems with a clearly defined number of mandatory parameters.

Scientists O. Farion and D. Polishchuk in their study [11] developed a flowchart for assessing the status and strengthening the capabilities of integrated border management entities in the field of counterterrorism at international checkpoints. They also provided recommendations for improving coordination between integrated border management entities on counterterrorism issues.

According to the results of the analysis of the scientific works of the above and other scientists in the declared subject area of the study, it was established that a comprehensive study of the process of strengthening the resilience of the border detachment to the influence of terrorist threats and developing a system for their detection has not been carried out. Therefore, this justifies the relevance of the chosen topic.

**The purpose of the article** is to develop recommendations for strengthening the resilience of the border detachment to the impact of terrorist threats and developing a system for their detection.

**Summary of the main material.** According to the results of the analysis of the national system of combating terrorism and the system of anti-terrorist security of Ukraine, it was established that their functioning is aimed at counteracting external and internal factors of terrorist activity [12, 13]. The most common method for analyzing such factors is the use of the SWOT analysis method [14].

Table 1 presents a general SWOT analysis matrix for determining the causes of terrorist threats in the border areas of Ukraine with the Russian Federation. The area of responsibility of the 4th Border Guard Detachment is taken as an example.

One of the key elements of the fight against terrorism is anti-terrorist security, which is provided and implemented on the basis of identifying, analyzing, and predicting threats from terrorist activity.

Further analysis of the scientific approach from [15] made it possible to develop a mechanism for ensuring the anti-terrorist security of the border detachment by forming and strengthening resistance to the influence of terrorist threats in the following sequence.

Table 1 – SWOT analysis matrix for determining the causes of terrorist threats in the area of responsibility of the border detachment

Category	Factor
Strengths	High combat training and experience of the personnel of the border detachment. Use of modern means of supervision, videomonitoring and drone aircraft systems (aircrafts). Interaction with units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the National Guard of Ukraine, territorial bodies of the Security Service of Ukraine and other units of counter-terrorism entities. Rapid response to terrorist threats
Weaknesses	A significant length of the state border with the aggressor state (the Russian Federation). Destruction of border infrastructure due to warfare. Exhaustion of the personnel of the border detachment due to prolonged workload. Limited resources and insufficient funding under martial law
Opportunities	Strengthening the state border through international assistance and technical support. Implementation of advanced control technologies (artificial intelligence, satellite monitoring, etc.). Expanding interaction with local communities to obtain operational information. Increasing the level of training and modernization of weapons
Threats	Constant shelling and enemy sabotage and reconnaissance groups. Terrorist attacks and attempts to destabilize the situation in the border region. Smuggling of weapons, explosives and narcotics across the state border of Ukraine. Enemy information and psychological operations to undermine trust in Ukraine's security and defense forces

1. Analysis of the security situation in the area of responsibility of the border detachment (incoming information):

- comparing the main indicators of the state border security with their critical values; determining the general context of the situation;
- identification of dangerous trends based on forecasting the development of situations related to terrorism in the future;
- identification and assessment of terrorist threats, their manifestations by characteristics, consequences and impact on state border protection;
- determining the factors influencing terrorist threats.

A number of criteria are used to assess and analyze terrorist threats, including :

- the probability of a terrorist threat being realized;
- the state of security of the state border according to indicators (indicators) of protection against terrorist threats;
- the scale and severity of possible consequences resulting from the impact of a terrorist threat (committing a terrorist act).

2. Analysis of the ability of the border detachment to counter terrorist threats. Conducted to assess the ability of the border detachment to effectively respond to the development of crisis situations related to terrorist activities (implementation of a terrorist threat) at such stages as:

a) preparation for response (ensuring the readiness of available forces and means); at this stage, the following criteria are used for evaluation:

- availability of resources (reserves of forces and means to respond to terrorist threats);
- reliability (exchange of experience and acquisition of necessary knowledge and skills among the personnel of the border detachment involved in countering terrorism, conducting additional training, taking preventive measures);
- adaptability (flexibility and effectiveness of management systems when carrying out counter-terrorism measures);

b) immediate response; at this stage, the assessment is carried out according to the following criteria:

- coordination of actions in a crisis situation of a terrorist nature, which provide for universal mechanisms for responding to typical situations related to terrorism;

- the possibility of quickly attracting reserves (additional resources);
- consistency of actions, clear coordination of actions, distribution of tasks;

- the effectiveness of interaction between units involved in countering terrorism;

c) return to daily activities; at this stage, the assessment is carried out according to the following criteria:

- the possibility of rapid recovery in accordance with the predicted scenarios for the development of a terrorist crisis situation and after its resolution;

- compliance of losses with their permissible level according to the main target indicators (safety indicators, etc.).

3. Identification of vulnerabilities of the border detachment. Based on the analysis of vulnerabilities, the plan for the localization of non-standard (crisis) situations is adjusted according to possible manifestations of terrorist activity in the area of responsibility of the detachment. To identify vulnerabilities of the border detachment. The following criteria are used:

- sensitivity to terrorist threats [a comparison of the results of assessing the impact of these threats (according to indicators) on the security status of the border detachment is carried out];

- the compliance of the border detachment's ability to counter terrorist threats with the results of implementing counter-terrorism measures.

4. Determination of measures to strengthen the resilience of the border detachment to the impact of terrorist threats. Such measures are determined based on the results of the analysis of cases when it was not possible to resolve crisis situations related to terrorism, or after their resolution. They depend on the nature of the terrorist threat and the specifics of its manifestation. Taking these measures into account, planning documents for countering terrorist activities are adjusted.

In order to strengthen the resilience of the border detachment to the impact of terrorist threats, it is advisable to consider a number of aspects, in particular:

- the personnel of the border detachment, which may be involved in countering terrorist threats, must have knowledge and skills regarding actions in the event of detecting signs and the emergence of a situation related to terrorism;

- in the process of responding to situations related to terrorism, important importance is attached to the issue of coordination of actions of both the personnel of the border detachment and the units and bodies of interacting structures;

- each employee of the border detachment must have the necessary knowledge, taking into account best practices and positive practices regarding actions in the event of terrorist threats, and be able to act in accordance with the recommendations;

- the resilience of the border detachment to the influence of terrorist threats must be constantly strengthened in accordance with changes in the tactics of those involved in terrorism and the conditions of the situation favorable for committing terrorist acts.

To respond promptly and effectively to terrorist threats, the border detachment, in cooperation with other bodies and units of counter-terrorism entities within the limits of its powers [2, 16]:

1) carries out continuous exchange of information with the Anti-Terrorism Center, using available means of communication;

2) maintains the readiness of forces and assets involved in conducting anti-terrorist operations and measures;

3) submits proposals to the Anti-Terrorism Center regarding a draft plan for an anti-terrorist operation at sites of potential terrorist threat;

4) ensures an appropriate level of protection and security of objects of possible terrorist attacks.

In view of this, Figure 1 shows a diagram of the interaction of the border detachment with the bodies and units of the subject involved in the fight against terrorism.

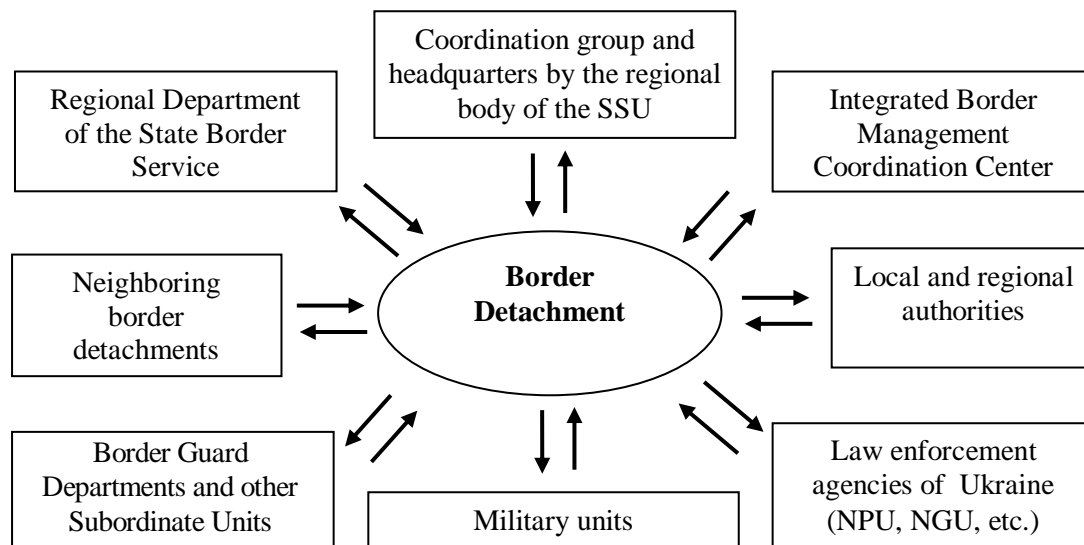


Figure 1 – Scheme of interaction of the border detachment with bodies and units of counter-terrorism subjects

Taking into account the specified model, in the continuation of the scientific research, a structural scheme for the construction of systems for detecting terrorist challenges and threats by the border detachment (Figure 2) .

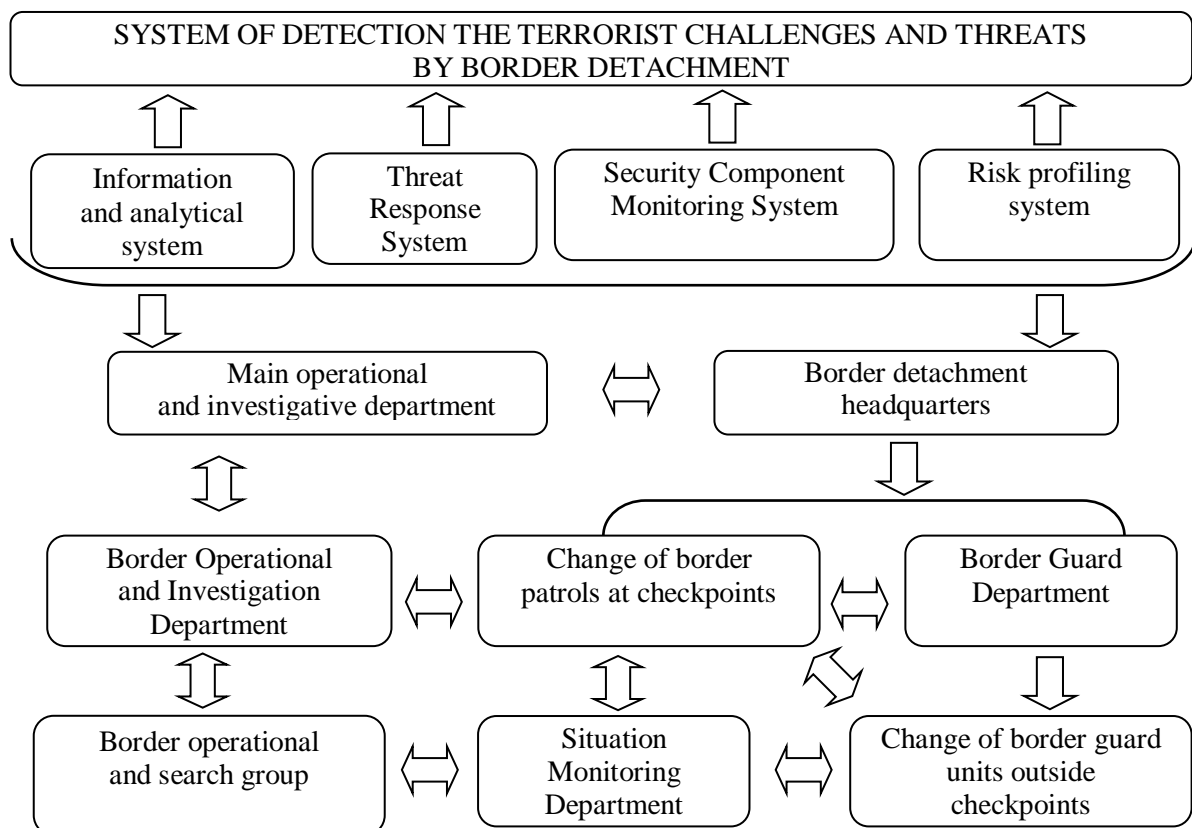


Figure 2 – Structural diagram of the system for detecting terrorist challenges and threats by the border detachment

The functioning of the system for detecting terrorist challenges and threats shown in Figure 2 is aimed at timely detection of signs, causes and consequences of terrorist activity in the area of responsibility of the border detachment to ensure its anti-terrorist security.



## Conclusions

Thus, based on the results of the study, a mechanism was developed to strengthen the resilience of the border detachment to the influence of terrorist threats and a structural scheme for building a system for detecting signs and manifestations of terrorism by the border detachment on a secured section of the state border.

The implementation of the proposed toolkit will make it possible to improve the anti-terrorist security of critically important facilities and other targets of terrorist attacks located in the area of responsibility of the border detachment.

A possible direction for further research is to develop recommendations for the border detachment to improve the mechanism of interaction with law enforcement agencies and military formations of Ukraine on counterterrorism issues during the conduct of an anti-terrorist operation and other measures to respond to threats of terrorist activity.

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## **РЕКОМЕНДАЦІЇ ПРИКОРДОННОМУ ЗАГОНУ ЩОДО ЗМІЦНЕННЯ СТІЙКОСТІ ДО ВПЛИВУ ТЕРОРИСТИЧНИХ ЗАГРОЗ І РОЗБУДОВИ СИСТЕМИ ЇХ ВИЯВЛЕННЯ**

*У статті розглянуто актуальні питання забезпечення прикордонної безпеки України в умовах зростання терористичних загроз. Досліджено оперативно-службову діяльність Державної прикордонної служби України у 2023–2024 рр. щодо виявлення і протидії терористичним загрозам,*

зростання кількості вилученої зброї, боєприпасів та вибухових речовин. Установлено, що збройний конфлікт, спричинений вторгненням російської федерації в Україну, та відсутність контролю за окремими ділянками державного кордону в районі ведення бойових дій дають можливість міжнародним терористичним організаціям використовувати територію України для транзиту й накопичення осіб, причетних до тероризму, незаконного перевезення зброї, наркотичних речовин та інших засобів терору до держав-членів Європейського Союзу.

На основі аналізу наукових досліджень і використання SWOT-методу запропоновано комплекс заходів щодо зміцнення стійкості прикордонного загону до впливу терористичних загроз. Окреслено механізм антитерористичного захисту, що містить систему моніторингу, оцінювання ризиків, виявлення загроз та реагування. Визначено необхідність підвищення ефективності координації між силовими структурами, застосування сучасних технологій та вдосконалення адміністративно-правового регулювання у сфері боротьби з тероризмом.

Узагальнено основні аспекти діяльності прикордонного загону (у межах своїх повноважень) у взаємодії з іншими органами та підрозділами суб'єктів боротьби з тероризмом для оперативного й ефективного реагування на терористичні загрози.

Розроблено структурну схему побудови системи виявлення прикордонним загonom терористичних викликів і загроз.

Результати дослідження можуть бути використані для підвищення ефективності реалізації заходів, передбачених державною політикою у сфері боротьби з тероризмом, зміцнення антитерористичної захищеності і безпеки державного кордону, вдосконалення діяльності прикордонних загонів і підрозділів Державної прикордонної служби у контексті протидії сучасним загрозам на державному кордоні України.

**Ключові слова:** антитерористичний захист, державний кордон, загроза, оперативно-службова діяльність, прикордонна безпека, прикордонний загін, ризик, тероризм.

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