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IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE ACTIVITY OF A DOG HANDLER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF UKRAINE WHEN ESCORTING PRISONERS OF WAR

Abstract

In the conditions of modern armed conflicts, specialized units, in particular the canine services of the National Guard of Ukraine, play an important role in ensuring law and order. The use of service dogs during escorting significantly increases the level of security, reduces the risks of escapes, attacks and illegal trafficking of prohibited items among prisoners of war. However, the effectiveness of involving canine handlers as assistants to the chief of the guard is limited by a number of factors that require thorough analysis and improvement. Escorting prisoners of war is a complex process that requires maximum concentration of personnel. A canine handler with a service dog, who is part of the guard during the escort of prisoners of war, acts in accordance with the orders of the chief of the guard on escorting.

Therefore, the involvement of dog handlers of the National Guard of Ukraine in the process of escorting prisoners of war is a necessary measure to increase the level of protection and security.

However, for the effective implementation of this initiative, it is necessary to solve a number of organizational, personnel and regulatory problems. The dog handler of the National Guard of Ukraine performs a complex function during the escort of prisoners of war: provides security, prevents escapes and resistance, controls the situation, searches for prohibited items and exerts psychological influence. His activities significantly increase the level of security during the performance of such tasks, making the escort process more controlled and effective. The development of the dog handler service of the National Guard of Ukraine will contribute to strengthening control over prisoners of war, minimizing the risks of escapes and attacks, as well as increasing the overall efficiency of escorting.

Keywords: dog handler, National Guard of Ukraine, prisoners of war, escorting, security, guard, service dogs, security.

Introduction. In conditions of modern armed conflicts, specialized units, in particular the dog services of the National Guard of Ukraine, play an important role in ensuring law and order [10, p. 112]. When performing tasks of escorting prisoners of war, dog handlers face a number of challenges related to ensuring effective safeguarding and control over prisoners of war.

Problem statement, analysis of current studies. During the escort of prisoners of war in a specialized transport vehicle, the following law enforcement officials are appointed: guard commander, assistant chief of guard commander, two guards, a driver and a dog handler (assistant chief of guard commander) with a service dog [2, p. 79; 9]. During transportation, only the guard commander stays inside the cabin with the driver, all other persons guard the prisoners of war in the vehicle body. In the event of an escape of prisoners of war, the military instructor with a service dog automatically becomes part of the pursuit group, since they play the most important role in searching for invisible traces [6,8]. When detaining fugitives who fail to comply with the demands to stop, the use of service dogs becomes more effective than the use of weapons, since it significantly reduces the risks of killing the detainee [7]. Therefore, the use of service dogs during escort significantly increases the level of security, reduces the risks of escaping, attacking and illegal circulating prohibited items among prisoners of war [3, p. 19; 4, p. 140]. However, the effectiveness of involving dog handlers as assistants to the guard commander is limited by a number of factors that require thorough analysis and improvement.

Purpose of the study: to study the algorithm of actions of a dog handler during the escort of prisoners of war; to identify the problems of involving dog handlers of the NGU in the escort of prisoners of war and to develop recommendations for their work optimization.

The research was carried out in the conditions of the service dog center of the National Guard of Ukraine in the Kharkiv region. The object of research were service dogs of the German and Belgian shepherd breeds, which had undergone a special training course in searching for weapons and explosives and escorting prisoners of war. The subject of research is the working qualities of service dogs, the problems of involving personnel in the dog service and methods of its improvement.

Presentation of the main research material. Escorting prisoners of war is a complex process that requires maximum concentration of personnel. A dog handler with a service dog, who is part of the guard during the escort of prisoners of war, acts in accordance with the orders of the head of the escort guard commander. The dog handler's duties consist of a number of important functions, namely:

1. Providing physical safeguarding. In this case, the dog acts as an additional deterrent factor, reducing the risk of violations among prisoners of war. In addition, service dogs are able to instantly respond to threats from prisoners of war, in particular aggressive behavior, attempts to attack or escape.

2. Prevention of escape attempts. During the transportation of prisoners of war, dogs help control action, react to sudden movements that may indicate preparations for escape. Dog handlers can also use dogs to patrol the perimeter of prisoner-of-war detention areas.

3. Detection of prohibited items. The personal belongings of prisoners of war are checked directly before transportation, as well as in places of their detention. In this case, service dogs, trained to search for weapons, explosives, drugs and other prohibited items that prisoners of war can use to escape or attack, are used.

4. Psychological impact on prisoners of war. The presence of a service dog acts as a psychological deterrent, forcing prisoners of war to avoid violations. The dog can also help reduce the level of conflict in a group of prisoners of war.

Due to its natural reflexes and special training, the dog can instantly react to sudden movements, attempts to escape, or resistance. In the event of prisoners of war escaping from custody, the service dog executes the command "Detain" and stops the fugitives. Thus, on 05.07.2023, the accused G., using homemade unknown explosives, attempted to escape the court guard of the Shevchenkivskyi District Court of Kyiv, performed by the military unit 3066 of the National Guard of Ukraine. During the detention of the criminal, a service dog of the German shepherd breed named Jack was used with a dog handler of the service dog unit. The service dog grabbed the forearm of the accused, holding the accused until the approach of the escort group.

A service dog significantly increases the effectiveness of this process due to its quick response to threats, ability to counteract escape attempt or attack, crowd control (in case there are many prisoners of war). Thus, on 01.11.2020, during the exchange of convicted by the scheduled railway guard on the "Odesa - Kyiv" route, the service dog prevented the attack on the personnel of the escorting guard of the military unit 3014 of the National Guard of Ukraine. The convict, who was moving towards a special vehicle during the exchange, committed a very strong hit on the head of the guard and seized a handgun. The dog handler immediately gave the service dog command "Fas" (Attack) and proceeded to detain the convict, neutralizing the threat.



Fig. 1. Use of service dogs of the National Guard of Ukraine on the railway

The dog can also prevent group riots among prisoners of war. Its presence disciplines the detainees and reduces the risk of open conflict. But the dog handler must ensure that the dog is used within the necessary influence and without violating international law.

Before the escort, the dog handler may search the territory and prisoners of war to prevent attempts to use hidden objects.

The presence of a dog handler with a service dog significantly affects the morale of prisoners of war. They are more inclined to obey rules and orders when they are aware that in case of disobedience, the service dog will react instantly. This creates an additional psychological advantage for the escort guards.

Although the dog handler with a dog plays an important role in ensuring security, they are obliged to act within the framework of international humanitarian norms, in particular:

- The Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. Geneva [1];
- The national legislation of Ukraine [5,6];
- The ethical norms for the use of service dogs.

The Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War is the third of the four Geneva Conventions adopted on 12 August 1949. It establishes rules for the protection of prisoners of war during the armed conflict. According to this convention, prisoners of war are persons who have been captured by the enemy, including members of the armed forces, militias and volunteers. They have the right to humane treatment without torture, physical or psychological violence. Repression, collective punishment and the use of prisoners as "human shields" are prohibited in relation to them.

In nowadays conditions, specialists of the National Guard of Ukraine face the following problems of involving dog handlers in the escort of prisoners of war:

1. Insufficient number of trained dog handlers. The dog service of the National Guard of Ukraine has a limited number of specialists who have been trained to work specifically in the field of escorting prisoners of war. The lack of a sufficient number of qualified personnel complicates rotation and does not allow for constant escort of the convoy by service dogs.

2. Lack of service dogs trained for escorting. Most of the NGU service dogs are trained for other tasks (patrol, explosive detection, tracking), and not for working with prisoners of war. Escorting requires specific training of dogs, which includes stress resistance and adaptation to a large number of people in a confined space.

3. Lack of clear regulatory requirements for the use of dog handlers in guards. The existing regulatory acts of the National Guard do not fully regulate the role of a dog handler in guards during the escort of prisoners of war, and the lack of clear requirements for the tactics of using dog handlers during the transportation of prisoners of war complicates their integration into the escort process.

4. Psychological stress both on dog handlers and service dogs. Long-term service in a stressful environment can cause emotional burnout among dog handlers, and dogs working in stressful conditions can lose efficiency due to overexertion.

Thus, identifying ways to improve the involvement of dog handlers in the process of escorting prisoners of war is an important task for NSU specialists. Currently, such measures are considered to be the following:

- general training of dog handlers and service dogs;
- implementation of dog handler training courses focused on working with prisoners of war;
- selection and training of dogs for performing escort tasks;
- increasing the staff of service dog units to ensure the constant presence of service dogs in the guards;
- purchasing new dogs and expanding the program of their training;
- development of new regulations;
- determining the tactics of using service dog units during the prisoner transfer and safeguarding prisoners of war;
- implementation of psychological support for dog handlers and service dogs, as well as psychological rehabilitation programs for dog handlers working in stressful conditions;
- providing the psychophysiological monitoring condition of service dogs and ensuring they get the necessary recreation.

Currently, dogs involved in the escort of prisoners of war do not have a clearly defined specialization, and are used, in addition to escorting, to serve at checkpoints and search for prohibited substances in transport and luggage. Owing to service dogs, the dog handlers of dog service of the National Guard of Ukraine in Kharkiv region, from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024, detected at checkpoints the following: firearms - 83 units, cold weapons - 11 units, grenades - 418 units, cartridges of various calibers - 53327 units, explosives - 307.073 kg., explosive devices - 1120 units, drugs - 3.365 kg.

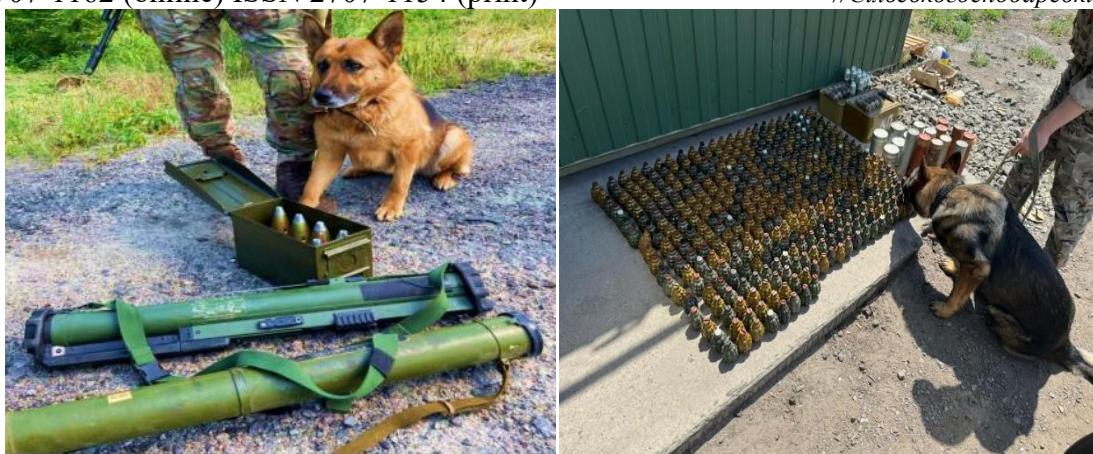


Fig. 2. Explosive substances and weapons detected by service dogs of the National Guard of Ukraine at checkpoints

Conclusions and prospects for further research. The involvement of dog handlers of the National Guard of Ukraine in the process of escorting prisoners of war is a necessary measure to increase the level of safeguarding and security. However, for the effective implementation of this initiative, it is necessary to solve a number of organizational, personnel and regulatory issues. The dog handler of the National Guard of Ukraine performs a complex function during the escort of prisoners of war: provides safeguarding, prevents escapes and resistance, controls the situation, searches for prohibited items and exerts psychological influence. Their activities significantly increase the level of security during the performance of such tasks, making the escort process more controlled and effective.

The development of the dog service of the National Guard of Ukraine will contribute to strengthening control over prisoners of war, minimizing the risks of escapes and assaults, as well as increasing the overall efficiency of escorting.

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ВАЖЛИВІ АСПЕКТИ РОБОТИ КІНОЛОГА НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ ГВАРДІЇ УКРАЇНИ ПІД ЧАС КОНВОЮВАННЯ ВІЙСЬКОВОПОЛОНЕНИХ

Анотація

В умовах сучасних збройних конфліктів важливу роль у забезпеченні правопорядку відіграють спеціалізовані підрозділи, зокрема кінологічні служби Національної гвардії України. Використання службових собак під час конвоювання значно підвищує рівень безпеки, знижує ризики втеч, нападів та незаконного обігу заборонених предметів серед військовополонених. Однак ефективність залучення кінологів в якості помічників начальника варти обмежується низкою факторів, які потребують ґрунтовного аналізу та вдосконалення.

Конвоювання військовополонених є складним процесом, що вимагає максимальної концентрації особового складу. Кінолог зі службовим собакою, який входить до складу варти під час конвоювання військовополонених, діє відповідно до наказів начальника варти з конвоювання.

Залучення кінологів Національної гвардії України до процесу конвоювання військовополонених є необхідним заходом для підвищення рівня охорони та безпеки. Проте для ефективної реалізації цієї ініціативи необхідно розв'язати низку організаційних, кадрових та нормативних проблем. Кінолог Національної гвардії України під час конвоювання військовополонених виконує комплексну функцію: забезпечує охорону, запобігає втечам і супротиву, контролює ситуацію, проводить пошук заборонених предметів та чинить психологічний вплив. Його діяльність суттєво підвищує рівень безпеки під час виконання подібних завдань, роблячи процес конвоювання більш контролюваним і ефективним.

Розвиток кінологічної служби Національної гвардії України сприятиме посиленню контролю за військовополоненими, мінімізації ризиків втеч і нападів, а також підвищенню загальної ефективності конвоювання.

Ключові слова: кінолог, Національна гвардія України, військовополонені, конвоювання, охорона, варта, службові собаки, безпека.

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