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**CRITICAL SITUATION IN UKRAINE ASSOCIATED  
WITH A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ILLEGAL TRAFFIC  
OF FIREARMS AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS**

The full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation, which has been going on for approximately 2 years, introduced significant adjustments to the daily life of every Ukrainian, but our state had been at war for more than 8 years before. The issue of personal protection or protection of one's family is relevant despite all the external factors that affect the life of any person. A significant number of people believe that weapons are the very universal tool that can guarantee safety regardless of the circumstances that may threaten, but currently legislators disagree with this statement, therefore clearly regulating the range of subjects, the order and grounds that enable a citizen to obtain a weapon legally. The previously mentioned war gave a clear understanding of how the military conflict contributes to the aggravation of the criminogenic situation in terms of the spread of illegal possession of firearms, explosive objects or substances, ammunition, etc. According to statistical studies from open sources only for 2020 the most cases of illegal arms trafficking and use of weapons and explosive devices were recorded in Dnipro (167 reports), Kyiv (114 respectively), Kherson (104) and Kharkiv (101) regions and Kyiv (124) [2].

There are quite a few cases of illegal removal of firearms, ammunition, grenades from the combat zone by military personnel who directly took part in the conduct of hostilities, by civilians who returned from active combat zones and were able to independently find and then take possession of the found weapons, ammunition or explosive objects. The government's efforts to combat illegal arms trafficking have not yielded any results. One of the tasks of the National Police of Ukraine according to Art. 2 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" is defined as combatting crime. This direction is intersecting with the topic of our research, since legislation defines a list of criminal and illegal acts that are socially dangerous and the subject of which are firearms (except smoothbore and hunting), explosive devices and substances as well as ammunition. Norms related in one way or another to the above list of items are specified in Art. 263, 264 and 264-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. Countermeasures against the specified socially dangerous acts are entrusted to the units of the criminal police and pre-trial investigation, in the structure of which separate sectors function, which carry out operational support and investigation within the framework of separate proceedings in crimes the subject of which is firearms. The issue of the functioning of such units as part of combined squads of the National Police of Ukraine at the de-occupied territories and in the zone of direct hostilities is particularly acute, because during the "filtering" measures the employees of the law enforcement agencies face the task of identifying persons involved in collaborative activities. In addition, police officers as part of consolidated units carry out stabilization measures to restore law and order at the de-occupied territories [3], including documenting the criminal offenses committed during the occupation at the specified territories.

In our opinion, solution to the problem of illegal circulation of firearms at the territory of Ukraine include the following measures: development of separate training programs for police officers who document and solve crimes related to the illegal circulation of weapons based on the experience of international partner states and their law enforcement agencies; systematic implementation of special police operations "weapons, explosives" at the territory of the entire state with the purpose to detect and respond accordingly to criminal offenses committed at the

service territory of territorial police units; special emphasis on conducting such operations is needed in border areas with those regions, where active hostilities continued or continue. Special attention needs to be paid to the proper inspection of vehicles crossing checkpoints with the involvement of military staff of law enforcement agencies, internal security of the National Guard, who would carry out inspections of vehicles under the command of units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in order to identify those weapons, ammunition and explosive items, which are not registered and in respect of which there is a risk of distribution in an order not established by the Law.

Considering all the above stated, it can be noted that a separate issue requires improvement of the system of professional training of police officers, whose specialized field of activity is combating illegal circulation of weapons, ammunition and explosives, strengthening police control during the surface inspection of vehicles at their returning from the zone of active hostilities.

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2. How to Combat Illicit Firearms Trafficking Effectively. *European Union Advisory Mission*. URL : <https://www.euam-ukraine.eu/news/how-to-combat-firearms-trafficking-effectively/>.

3. Hunder M. EU says it has not seen high levels of weapons smuggling from Ukraine. *Reuters*. URL : [https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-says-it-has-not-seen-high-levels-weapons-smuggling-ukraine-2023-05-11/#:~:text=EU%20says%20it%20has%20not%20seen%20high%20levels%20of%20weapons%20smuggling%20from%20Ukraine,-By%20Max%20Hunder&text=KYIV%2C%20May%2011%20\(Reuters\),during%20a%20visit%20to%20Kyiv.](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-says-it-has-not-seen-high-levels-weapons-smuggling-ukraine-2023-05-11/#:~:text=EU%20says%20it%20has%20not%20seen%20high%20levels%20of%20weapons%20smuggling%20from%20Ukraine,-By%20Max%20Hunder&text=KYIV%2C%20May%2011%20(Reuters),during%20a%20visit%20to%20Kyiv.)

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### ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ ПІДРОЗДІЛІВ ПРЕВЕНТИВНОЇ СПРЯМОВАНОСТІ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ ПОЛІЦІЇ В УМОВАХ ВОЄННОГО СТАНУ

Режим воєнного стану став для українського суспільства в цілому та юристів і науковців зокрема вже не гіпотетичним теоретичним конструктом, а актуальною реальністю, що пронизує різні сфери життєдіяльності. Зокрема, масштабне військове вторгнення на територію України змінило окремі завдання поліцейських підрозділів превентивної діяльності, змушуючи їх пристосовуватися до непередбачуваних умов та забезпечувати безпеку громадян.

Діяльність підрозділів превентивної спрямованості Національної поліції в умовах воєнного стану є актуальною темою, оскільки воєнний стан створює особливі умови та виклики для правоохоронних органів. При цьому превентивна діяльність поліції має велике значення для забезпечення безпеки та збереження громадського порядку.

Метою нашого дослідження є розгляд особливостей діяльності підрозділів превентивної спрямованості Національної поліції в умовах воєнного стану [1].