

TASKS OF INFORMATION AND CRIMINOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR POLICE ACTIVITIES

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Annotation. The article provides a comprehensive analysis of the tasks of information and criminological support for police activities. The object of the study is social relations in the field of crime prevention as a result of the police performing their functions. The subject of the study is the theoretical foundations, mechanism, content, and forms of information and criminological support for the activities of the National Police in preventing criminal offenses. The methodological basis of the study is based on dialectical and systematic methods of cognition of social phenomena and related criminological patterns. It is noted that information and criminological support for police activities should be understood as the cognitive, creative work of relevant officials, which is research-oriented and aimed at collecting, processing, and issuing information for management needs, identifying positive and negative trends in law enforcement activities using scientific methods, establishing causal links to influence the bodies and units of the National Police in solving the tasks of prevention, detection, and investigation of crimes. Crime prevention by the bodies and units of the National Police is a social process based on the application of special methods and techniques, in accordance with the requirements of legality, knowledge, and skills in regulating social relations, with the aim of eliminating the negative consequences that may lead to the commission of criminal offenses. The specific features of operational and investigative support for police actions to prevent and detect offences under martial law are: a change in the priority tasks and functions of operational and investigative activities; an increase in their number and scope; a change in the temporal and spatial boundaries of operational and investigative support; alignment of the structural framework with the tasks and functions that arise; involvement of additional and interacting forces and means; use of all forms, methods, forces, and means of operational-investigative activities, taking into account the specifics of the operational situation.

Keywords: legality, information, criminology, offenses, operational-investigative activities, prevention.

1. Introduction.

In the current conditions of the country's development, the theory of criminological security should become the basis of state policy in the field of crime control. The development of the idea of criminological security in law enforcement practice should contribute to shifting the focus from the object of attack (crime) to the object of protection (the individual, society, the state), to those values that must be guaranteed by criminological security. This idea is intended to be developed in the system of socio-legal control over crime and to become the basis for the development of a new concept of crime prevention by the police, since preventive control over crime is nothing more than a system of ensuring criminological security in its functional capacity.

2. Analysis of scientific publications.

The issues of information and criminological support for the activities of the National Police of Ukraine have been studied by scientists: D. Afonin, A. Babiak, A. Grygorovych, K. Dovbush, O. Ivanenko, D. Ivashko, I. Katerenchuk, Yu. Kovalenko, A. Movchan, V. Petrenko, S. Petkov, V. Terekhov, I. Fedchak, A. Shevchenko, G. Shorokhova, and others. The development of information and communication technologies and the complexity of the operational situation as a result of martial law necessitate

theoretical and legal research into the tasks of information and criminological support for the activities of the National Police.

3. The purpose of this work is to study the tasks of information and criminological support for police activities.

4. Review and discussion.

The Law «On the National Police» defines the prevention and suppression of offenses as one of the main areas of police activity. Success in combating crime is achieved through the practical application of effective preventive measures, the development of which directly depends on the optimality and adequacy of its criminological support [1]. Criminological support is the collection and analysis of criminologically substantiated and criminologically significant information about patterns, conditions, trends, and forecasts of criminological situations (international, national, regional, and object-specific), aimed at creating scientific prerequisites for optimizing, activating, and improving the effectiveness of police control over crime and its determinants.

The study and assessment of crime and the processes that determine it are carried out in the course of information and analytical support for police activities and criminological research using criminological knowledge. The initial stage of the process of criminological understanding of crime and the processes and phenomena that influence it is information support, which is understood as purposeful activity based on legal, organizational, technical, and methodological prerequisites for the collection, processing, storage, and creation of conditions for the use of information.

Criminological information, being a component of social information, has its own content and characteristics, as it reflects such negative aspects of social reality as offences. Criminological information is understood to mean information about crime and the processes that determine it, as defined by the boundaries of the subject of criminology. Criminological information includes: information about crime as a socio-legal phenomenon, its types and individual crimes, and other offenses; information about crime and the conditions that contribute to it; information about persons who are expected to commit offenses; information about persons who have committed criminal and administrative offenses; information about measures aimed at preventing offenses and their effectiveness.

Criminological information is subject to certain requirements, the main ones being: optimality, reliability, accuracy, timeliness, comprehensiveness, and consistency. Optimal criminological information is understood to be information that, in terms of volume, content, and quality, allows for effective management decisions aimed at neutralizing criminogenic threats in the territory served by the police. Reliability and accuracy the essence of criminological information is that it should objectively reflect the state and processes of the crime prevention system, as well as the state of the external environment with the necessary degree of accuracy. Information is timely when it is needed by law enforcement agencies. The comprehensiveness and systematic nature of information requires that it contain a minimum amount of information on the phenomena being reflected, their interrelationships with other phenomena related to the issue, and systematization and generalization by specific categories and types in accordance with the tasks in the territory of operational service.

The main types of information sources include: statistical reports (Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, prosecutor's offices, courts [2; 3]); primary statistical records, including those reflecting information about the crime, the person who committed it, and the defendant; indicators of socio-demographic, socio-economic, and other statistics; data on other offenses, alcoholism, and drug addiction contained in state and departmental statistics; materials from criminal proceedings and crime reports; results of public opinion polls on crime and the fight against it; results of studies conducted by criminologists.

In order to obtain a complete picture of crime (taking into account its latent part), the police must use information about crimes and the persons who committed them, contained in: materials on the refusal to initiate criminal proceedings; materials on administrative offenses; in completed, suspended, or terminated criminal proceedings; in records of reports and notifications of crimes,

administrative offenses, incidents, and persons detained and brought to police stations; in materials received from investigative and inquiry bodies and correctional institutions; in operational and preventive records; in documents received from other law enforcement agencies; in materials from state bodies, public associations, and non-governmental structures involved in ensuring security and combating crime; in media materials; in documents received from educational institutions; in materials from insurance organizations, forensic medical examinations and reviews received from healthcare institutions; in materials from tax authorities; in the results of public opinion polls, letters, statements from officials and individual citizens.

This list is not exhaustive, because the criminological information necessary to determine the full picture of crime and the processes that determine it is contained in the records of: materials on administrative offenses; reports received via the «hotline»; materials on decisions to refuse to initiate criminal proceedings; materials on refusals to initiate criminal proceedings, returned for additional verification; offenses committed in public places; traffic accidents; materials from agencies conducting operational and investigative activities.

At the level of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the National Police, and the Main Directorate of the National Police, one of the main tasks of information support is to compile data characterizing crime as a social phenomenon, information not only about specific individuals who have committed illegal acts, but also about the typological characteristics of offenders, and activities to prevent not only specific offenses, but also negative trends in the status, structure, and dynamics of offenders.

Information systems are actively being created for the purpose of collecting, storing, processing, and transmitting the necessary information. In the police, information systems are classified according to their functional orientation. There are investigative, operational, forensic, and other information systems.

Information work is one of the main stages of criminological support for police activities, which allows for the collection, processing, storage, and provision of the necessary amount of information about the patterns of crime, the determination and causality of crime, and susceptibility to influence.

Analytical work in criminological support for police activities should be understood as cognitive, creative, research-oriented activity that consists of determining the state of the criminogenic situation, identifying negative deviations in it, establishing the causes and conditions that contribute to these deviations, forecasting the possible development of the criminal situation, aimed at developing the most effective management decisions to combat crime. The main goal of analytical work in police activities is to create the conditions for improving the effectiveness of combating crime, which requires studying criminogenic threats and factors contributing to them, as well as shortcomings in the organization of activities to minimize crime in the country, region, district, city, or police precinct.

The types of criminological information to be analyzed and its volume depend on the direction of the study and assessment of the criminogenic situation, and what result is necessary for making a management decision. The analysis of criminological information is carried out in the following areas: studying trends in offences and the factors that cause them, with the aim of obtaining predictive conclusions about possible changes in trends and developing promising measures to strengthen public order, intensify the fight against crime, and improve the activities of the police and its specialized services; a comprehensive analysis of the situation for a quarter, half-year, nine months, and a year, during which the amount of information on the state of public order, crime, and the results of the fight against crime is assessed, taking into account most of the factors that influence the state of crime.

The results of the analysis form the basis for current planning. Ongoing analysis of the situation based on the assessment of daily, ten-day, and monthly information serves the needs of operational management by the authority, allows for adjustments to be made to work plans and the deployment of forces, and enables targeted measures to be taken to combat crime and maintain public order; research into specific issues related to combating crime and maintaining public order.

Indicators include: crime rate; dynamics of crime, specific types of common offenses; structure of crime; territorial distribution of crime and specific types of criminal offenses; level of latent crime; the degree of criminal activity of specific population groups, including minors, women, persons who have previously committed crimes, and persons who do not have a permanent source of income;

victimological aspects of crime; the state of organized and economic crime, illegal trafficking in drugs and weapons; the state of law and order in public places; the state of road safety.

The main tasks of criminological support for police activities should include identifying priority areas for analytical work. Analysis in criminological support for police control over crime must comply with the norms and criteria of scientific knowledge and be aimed at acquiring new knowledge of theoretical, cognitive, and applied significance.

Analytical work, as a function of the management process, performs a number of important functions in studying and assessing the realities of social development that determine the existence of offences, changes in their status, dynamics and structure, and shape the structure and functions of police services and units. The functions primarily include: cognitive, signaling, evaluative, purposeful, and prognostic.

The cognitive function of analytical work is understood as the study and acquisition of reliable knowledge about the essence and characteristics of the processes and phenomena under study that affect crime. The signaling function consists in identifying problematic issues that require priority resolution. The evaluative function emphasizes the exceptional importance of evaluative issues and consists in determining the value of the results of the analysis of facts, processes, and phenomena that influence crime. The targeted function consists in developing, on the basis of analysis, priorities for further action to combat crime. The predictive function is ensured by forecasting the development of major crime trends and the results of the operational activities of police services and units.

Today, in connection with the growing danger of negative phenomena getting out of control of law enforcement agencies, the role and significance of criminological forecasting as one of the elements of criminological support for police control over crime is growing. Criminological forecasting determines the prediction of the possible state, level, structure, nature, and dynamics of crime in the future. This refers to predicting not only the possibilities of change in crime, but also the ways in which it may change.

The subject of criminological forecasting includes: crime, its causes and conditions, the personality of the offender, and the victims of crime. The objects of criminological forecasting can be: crime and its individual types; the possible development of the criminal situation in the territory of operational service; the expected behavior of a person who is on preventive registration. It is particularly worth highlighting the forecasting of the individual criminal behavior of a person prone to committing offenses. Predicting individual criminal behavior allows us to identify individuals who can be expected to commit offenses and to establish the possibility of this individual committing an unlawful act. In order to identify individuals who can be expected to commit offenses, it is advisable to identify specific criminogenic groups of the population based on characteristics such as level of education, profession, social circle, etc.

Practice shows that organizing work on predicting individual criminal behavior in the police reduces juvenile, recidivist, domestic, and other types of crime, thereby positively influencing the crime situation. The first steps to improve the effectiveness of individual prevention with persons who have previously committed crimes have already been taken, as confirmed by the law «On Administrative Supervision of Persons Released from Places of Imprisonment» [4]. However, there are many shortcomings in this area of operational and service activities, as confirmed by the crime situation. The effectiveness of individual prevention largely depends on how correctly and timely its object is selected, and how a set of educational and other measures capable of influencing the positive reorientation of the individual is developed and implemented.

In practice, criminological forecasts are used in the preparation of work plans: the annual plan of the National Police, the Main Directorate of the National Police, police departments and divisions, plans to strengthen the fight against certain types of offenses, and to ensure public order and safety during socio-political and cultural events.

Planning in police agencies is organized in accordance with the order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine «On the organization of planning in the agencies of the National Police of Ukraine» [5]. When planning, the following are analyzed: information characterizing the crime situation and its forecast; quantitative and qualitative indicators of crime; the state of administrative practice and preventive work; the results of police activities for the reporting period; state target programs, decisions of state authorities and local self-government bodies, the highest governing body on

combating crime, protecting public order, property, and ensuring public safety; existing gaps and contradictions in the regulatory and legal regulation of police activities [6].

Management decisions in the form of plans, programs, orders, directives, and instructions aimed at combating and preventing crime must have a criminological content. In addition to measures, these management decisions contain certain mechanisms for monitoring implementation, so studying them in the course of criminological support for police activities allows for continuous criminological monitoring of the targeted and reasonable use of criminological information in practice. Criminological planning is a stage of criminological support for police activities.

The science of criminology should develop practical measures to influence undesirable phenomena that determine crime. In the activities of criminological support for the police, it is crucial to establish the connection between crime, social processes, and phenomena that influence it, identify the mechanism of connection, predict the development of the criminological situation, and develop practical measures to combat crime.

In the process of criminological support, it is equally important to identify problematic issues that require urgent resolution, developing priorities for further activities to minimize crime based on analysis, determining how purposefully and reasonably criminological information is used. Timely identification of problematic issues in crime prevention activities allows police managers to: redistribute available resources used in the fight against crime in a timely manner; organize continuous interaction with law enforcement agencies; exercise the necessary control over the implementation of management decisions; evaluate the effectiveness of the measures taken and make the necessary adjustments.

5. Conclusions.

Criminological support is one of the elements of law enforcement organization that contributes to improving the effectiveness of police management. The organization of criminological support for police activities is the activity of forming and ensuring the functioning of a system for collecting, analyzing, and using criminological information that contributes to the development of adequate and optimal management decisions aimed at combating crime, which includes the following elements: defining the goals and objectives of criminological support, its subjects, their powers, and the mechanism of interaction; regulatory, methodological, informational, material, technical, and personnel support for the activities under review; determining the sources, volume, carriers, and frequency of receipt of criminological information, its analysis and accumulation in information databases; identification of criminogenic threats to public order and public safety in the territory served, categories of persons who should be subject to preventive measures; forecasting of possible developments in the criminal situation; development of management decisions, preventive measures, and assessment of their effectiveness; determination of forms and subjects of control, and the procedure for its implementation.

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