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## INFORMATIONAL AND ANALYTICAL PROVISION OF OPERATIONAL SEARCHACTIVITY OF THE NATIONAL POLICE OF UKRAINE

*The activity of the operational units of the police in modern conditions, connected with the processing of a large number of information flows, includes work with large amounts of information. Taking it into account, a well-organized information-analytical provision of the operational-search activity is a significant factor which influence on the effectiveness of the fight against crime. However, practical experience shows that information-analytical provision in this area is not being carried out at a sufficient level due to the presence of certain organizational weaknesses. In this scientific work the content and essence of informational-analytical provision of Operational searchactivity of the National Police of Ukraine are considered, its problems are covered and ways of their solution are suggested.*

**Keywords:** *Operational searchactivity, Operational searchinformation, sources of Operational searchinformation, informational-analytical provision, National Police of Ukraine.*

### Introduction

The effectiveness of the fighting against crime by the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine depends on their level of awareness of the criminal processes occurring in the area of operational service, that is, on the level of informational-analytical provision of their activity. Without a sufficient amount of information, the resolving of the tasks of Operational searchactivity will be non-systematic, random. In order to prevent such a situation, every employee of the operational unit since the beginning of his/her service takes measures for finding and using various sources of information that characterizes the operational situation. All operational information received by operational workers should be analyzed, recorded and accumulated for the convenience of its use in special cases and automated information systems.

At the same time, in practice there are significant weaknesses in the organization of informational-analytical provision of these units, primarily at the tactical level. Such main weaknesses include the failure of several operational workers of receiving current Operational searchinformation about the crimes and the persons involved in their committing, first of all, professional criminals, to determine the probable sources of information, inability to evaluate correctly the already recieved information and to use it in the most effective way. The reasons of the existence of these weaknesses are the lack of operational experience of both operational police workers and their chiefs. It makes significant difficulties in the preparation of new operatives, what is caused by the lack of competent and experienced mentors. The main purpose of the mentors is to assist in the adaptation of the new operatives of the unit and in using the knowledge received during their training directly in practice. Accordingly, the aim of this article is to develop and to propose the ways of resolving the above-mentioned weaknesses in order to improve the informational-analytical support of operational-search activity of the National Police of Ukraine.

The mentioned above shows the relevance and the validity of studying the organization and implementation of informational-analytical provision of operational-searching activity of the police. The results obtained during the study of this problem can be used as scientific and methodological recommendations in the practical activity of the operational units of the police.

### Related Works

In science, “operational-search activity” informational-analytical provision has been considered by many scientists both at the level of individual monographic studies, and in connection with studying of other organizational aspects of Operational searchactivity. Among such studies should be distinguished the works of the following scientists: K.V. Antonov [1], O.M. Bandurka [2], G.M. Voskresensky [3], E.O. Didorenko [4], I.P. Kozachenko [5], A.M. Lysenko [6], V.L. Regulsky [5] and others.

In the studies of mentioned and some other scientists, the fundamental theoretical foundations of informational-analytical provision of the operational units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine were identified, which we will definitely rely on during our research. However, taking into account the current changes in the IT-sphere, the crime situation in Ukraine, the current legislation, there is an urgent need for a separate study of informational-analytical provision of this activity.

In the theory of Operational searchactivity, despite some differences in the views of scientists on the definition of the term “informational-analytical provision”, there is also an established concept of it. Let us analyze the views of leading scientists on this issue. So, in their opinion, it is: an activity which is organized within the framework of management and is aimed at the development, functioning and improvement of information systems which ensure the efficient execution of management tasks [3, p. 21.]; the cyclic process of searching, collecting, processing, re-thinking, storing, issuing of information and its use for the adoption of operational tactical and other law enforcement solutions [5, p. 124]; is a complex of measures carried out by units of the bodies of internal affairs, aimed at the search, collection, analysis, storing and using of information in order to make appropriate decisions on the fight against crime [6, p. 79].

Thus, informational-analytical provision of operational-searching activity is a set of actions with information aimed at ensuring the convenience of its use and raising awareness of the operational units about the criminal processes that are taking place in society.

### **Our approach**

The main element of informational-analytical provision is information. Thus, the lack of information about a crime does not allow effectively and purposefully identifying and fixing it. In Art. 1 of the Law of Ukraine “On Information” information is defined as any statements and/or data that can be stored on tangible medium or displayed electronically [7]. As it becomes clear from this definition, the legislator chose as the main criteria for assigning statements and/or data to information the ability to be stored on tangible medium or displayed electronically, that is, in documents, on electronic media, in electronic networks, etc.

Operational-searchinformation is a kind of information in general and differs from it by its purpose, which is reflected by its name. In the theory of operational-searchactivity, there are different approaches to defining the term “operational information”. Let’s consider some of them. Thus, scientists believe that the specified term should mean: a set of information obtained as a result of the operational-searchactivity of law enforcement bodies, on the facts of the preparation or committing of criminal acts and on persons involved in them [6, p. 77]; received by the subject of operational-searchactivity with the help of special methods and means, actual data containing knowledge necessary for the prevention and solving the crime, the pursuit of search, as well as the resolution of other tasks of the fight against crime [8, p. 11]; factual data which has direct or promising value for solving strategic, tactical and organizational tasks of operative search activity received by operational units by transparent and secret methods from a variety of sources or received during the analytical processing of primary data [9, p. 40].

Thus, analyzing the considered definitions, we can conclude that the operational information is different from other types of information due to the following criteria: 1) the subject of receipt, which are exclusively workers of the operational units; 2) the content, that is, it must contain information about the criminal activity connected with it events and persons involved in it; 3) the method of obtaining, that is, it must be obtained through the actions and methods of Operational-searchactivity.

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We support the opinion of G.O. Dusheyko, who quite rightly believes that in the system of information support of law enforcement bodies on the basis of newness and periodicity of the revenue should distinguish two types of operational information: 1) primary data, that is, previously unknown information that is an operational interest; 2) information which has been checked, accumulated, taken into account as a result of operational-search measures and is adopted for using in the fight against crime [10, p. 87]. The following types of operational-search information differ from each other due to the newness of the content of the information and the sequence of its receipt by operational workers. The interconnection of the primary and subsequent operational-search information is that the first one must be verified and clarified by operational workers anyway through the conduct of certain measures, including operational searches, which results in obtaining by them the second type of information.

While studying we found that during the process of organization and implementation by the operational units of the police fighting crime, their employees did not have much difficulty in obtaining primary operational-search information on the facts of the committing of crimes, and sometimes about the persons involved. However, after obtaining primary operational-search information on crimes, 56 % of operational workers subsequently had difficulties in obtaining more detailed information on the mechanism and the circumstances of their commission.

In the process of organizing and establishing informational-analytical provision of operational-search activity of the operational units of the police, the timely and correct determination of sources of information about criminal activities is crucial. Such an approach is determined by the fact that the implementation of any actions (verification, processing, analysis, accumulation, etc.) of the received operational-search information has a secondary importance in relation to its direct receipt. So, getting information really is the initial stage of informational-analytical work, cause only it can start any action with information, they cannot be carried out in another way. In addition, the importance of conducting operations of obtaining operational-search information is also determined by the fact that this stage of work is the most complex in the system of informational-analytical provision and to some extent depends on the luck factor.

In order to obtain operational-search and other information on criminal activities, the operational worker must determine the likely sources of its receipt. Regarding the use of various sources of information in the operational search activity O.M. Bandurka quite accurately states that: “When an operational employee shows intention to use a source of information, he/she must understand his/her available and potential capabilities, the permissible limits of usage, the level of reliability of such a source of information. The operational worker himself chooses specific forms of information seeking, depending on the goals and aims which are set, as well as depending on the situation that is being happened” [2, p. 290].

While conducting operational-search activity fighting against crime, it is often necessary for operational workers to increase their awareness about the personalities of offenders, their connections, place, method of committing a crime and other circumstances. Our research showed that for this purpose the following sources of information were used: automated informational-search systems of the National Police

of Ukraine (22 %); accounting and information systems of other state institutions (26 %); accounting of persons involved in committing a crime (24 %); materials of criminal proceedings and archival criminal cases (5 %); non-automated informational accounting (cases) (14 %); materials of operational-search cases (7 %) and others (2 %).

It should be noted that while organizing of the informational-analytical provision of the operational units of the police it makes no sense to take into account such a principle as the sufficiency of information sources, since the amount of operational-search information received cannot be too large. The search for information sources and their use in the fight against crime should be carried out purposefully, on a systematic basis. Such an approach should ensure the constant flow of operational-search information to the operational units of the police in order to effectively monitoring the criminal processes which are taking place on the territory of the service, and timely detection of crimes which a being prepared, latent crimes, the establishment of criminals, searching for persons who are hiding from the bodies of inquiry, investigation, court and missing persons.

Regardless of the source from which the operational-search information about the crime was obtained, the operational officer must analyze it, while it is necessary to correlate information obtained from different sources among themselves in order to identify inconsistencies in their content and obtain new, more reliable information. P.Ya. Minka notes that the primary assessment of the received information includes its analysis from the point of objectivity and usefulness. Such evaluation is carried out by operational workers who collect relevant information, as they have at their disposal all the data about the most evaluable information, as well as about its source [11, p. 155–182]. Thus, there is an analytical work, and the operative performs analytical search of information accordingly. A similar view has V.B. Rushailo, who stresses that the activities of the operational units of the law enforcement bodies should combine operative and analytical searches of information, since the primary data collected during an operational-search is systematized, supplemented by preliminary data, compared and summarized for further use [12, p. 469].

The National Police of Ukraine introduced a system of dual analysis of received operational-search information, which consists of an analysis of the information obtained at the tactical level which is carried out directly by the operational officer and the head of the operational unit, and analysis on the strategic level which is carried out by the employees of the Department of Informational-Analytical Support. Thus, all information flows ultimately flow into a specially created subdivision of the National Police of Ukraine – the Department of Informational-Analytical Support, which creates the proper conditions for the use of various information by any of its subdivisions. Such a system of organizing information processing should provide a solid basis for informational-analytical provision of the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine.

Along with the collection and analysis of operational-search information, its accumulation and storage is not less important in order to prevent the loss of essential information for operational-search activities and their subsequent convenient use. In order to ensure the accumulation and storage of operational-search information, it is

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systematized and filled in automated information search systems, as well as relevant non-automated special accountings (cases) that are conducted directly in the operational units of the police. It should be noted that information that does not contain information that has limited access or state secrets may be accumulated in automated information search systems of general purpose which operate in the units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (for example, the Integrated Information-Search System of the National Police of Ukraine).

It should be noted that the right of the operational units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to create and use automated information systems has legislative consolidation. The specified right is stipulated by clause 18 of part 1 of Article 8 of the Law of Ukraine “On Operational Search Activity” [13, art. 8], which is, in our opinion, a positive decision of the legislator in the regulation of the organization of operational search activity.

It should be mentioned that the use of resources of various information search systems by the employees of the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine is aimed to help in increasing the level of informational-analytical provision of their activities in detecting and preventing crimes, performing other tasks of operational-search activity, and instructing by the investigator of conducting secret investigation (search) actions within the framework of pre-trial investigation of crimes.

At the same time, the questionnaire of the employees of the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine shows that the automated information search systems of the National Police of Ukraine are not used satisfactorily in practice. Thus, 42 % of the polled said that they received information from the mentioned systems only for the purpose of the formal fulfillment of the requirements of their chiefs, while 38 % did not receive such information during the fight against crime.

Analysis of scientific researches and questionnaires of the workers of the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine allowed us to identify the main reasons for the low level of application of data taken from automated information search systems, namely: 1) the complexity and inconvenience of obtaining information from these systems; 2) the existence of the idea of the low value of the use of information stored in automated information search systems for the fight against crime; 3) the lack of knowledge about the possibilities of automated information search systems; 4) the lack of skills in obtaining information from the mentioned systems.

We believe that the grounds of the above reasons are the following negative phenomena in the activities of the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine, such as: low level of professional training of some employees of these units, their narrow practical experience and self-assurance about the ability to independently solving the tasks of operational and investigation activities, superficial attitude to performing their duties. To resolve these problems, it is necessary to use the measures taken by the chiefs of the National Police of Ukraine in organizing practical training classes in the operational units of the territorial police forces involving both more experienced operational staff and employees of the Departments of Informational-Analytical Support. During such classes it is necessary to explain to operatives the possibility of using automated information search systems, what information they contain, the ways of obtaining it, as well as the importance of a responsible attitude

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of each employee to timely and qualitatively filling into the mentioned systems the received operational search information.

It should be noted that a certain part of the employees of the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine (27 %) stated during the survey that they did not consider it important to fill the information into automated information search systems. In our opinion, such an approach to the organization of informational-analytical provision of operational search activities is unacceptable. This is determined by the fact that even under the conditions of effective usage of the obtained operational information, without its systematization and accumulation, it will be used only at the tactical level, that is for achieving a specific goal (prevention, detection, stopping a crime, etc.). At the same time, using the operational search information for strategic purposes, that is to inform other operational units of the police and their employees, becomes less possible.

We completely agree with the opinion of O.M. Bandurka, who believes that “one of the main tasks which requires being resolved in future is to increase the level of willingness of operational units to work with information systems, to active usage by them the latest information technology in their professional activities”. He further notes that: “At this time, there is a certain psychological barrier to their use, for overcoming it there is a need of intense targeted work among operational units, overcoming stereotypes, actually rethinking traditional approaches and methods, forming a new one – system thinking, mastering the ability to see in the new information technologies not only the knowledge system but also the set of practical methods, means and tools that enlarge the limits of the capabilities of users of such systems” [2, p. 286].

In addition to automated information search systems of operational purpose, operational search information should be accumulated in special non-automated accountings (cases), which are started on the initiative of operational units of the National Police of Ukraine for the purpose of tracking, analyzing and assessing the operational situation in the area of operational service or line of work. Operational units of the police are, first of all, a conducting accounting of persons who are involved in the preparation and committing of crimes; are hiding from the bodies of pre-trial investigation, investigation judge, court, or evade criminal prosecution; persons missing; previously convicted of committing a crime; according to which the criminal prosecution of the committing the crime was terminated by non-rehabilitating circumstances; are the operational interest in connection with the receipt of reliable information about the preparation or committing a crime; persons who are presented with suspicion within the framework of criminal proceedings, etc. These registers may include card files, photo albums, video tags, fingerprint cards. It should be noted that, in contrast to the unsatisfactory usage by the employees of the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine of resources of automated information search systems, the usage of information contained in special non-automated accountings (cases), especially those conducted directly by operational staff, is more systematic. Thus, 81 % of the polled employees of the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine responded that they studied while fighting against the crime with the information that was accumulated in the said accountings (cases).

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In our opinion, the main reason of the higher level of using by operational officers of the information contained in special non-automated accountings (cases) is the easy access to them compared with the automated information search systems of the operational appointment of the National Police of Ukraine, since the first ones are conducted directly in the operational subdivision or are generally conducted by an operational worker. At the same time, operational staff does not take into account the fact that in the automated information search systems of operational purpose, as a rule, contains more complete information about persons and events of operational interest, due to the fact that its incoming is provided by all operational units of the police.

### Conclusions and Future Works

Thus, analyzing the data obtained by us during our study, we can conclude that the reasons for the unacceptable level of carrying out informational-analytical provision of operational-search activity of the National Police of Ukraine during the fight against crime is not only the counteraction of the criminals (first of all, concealment of their criminal activity), but also causes of organizational character (disadvantages in collection, accumulation and usage operational-search information). Taking into account the complex state of the crime situation in modern Ukraine, connected with the increase of the crime rate, we consider this situation to be inadmissible.

We believe that in order to solve these problems, it is necessary to use the means of administrative management by the chiefs of the National Police of Ukraine and take measures to:

1. Taking measures to preserve the personnel of the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine especially experienced in practical activity for more than 5 years, and the creation of appropriate working conditions for this purpose. At the same time, taking into account the difficult situation in the economic sphere in Ukraine, we do not emphasize such a measure as a significant increasing the level of financial support, due to understanding its impossibility. However, we consider it necessary to strictly adhere to the rules of labor legislation by the chiefs of the territorial units of the National Police of Ukraine, which should not be violated without urgent necessity. This is especially true of the length of the working day and the number of days off. In practice there is a negative tendency of widespread abolition of labor rights of operational workers by the chiefs of the units of the National Police of Ukraine. This ultimately leads to a reduction of the ability to work and the lack of being interested in such work by the operative workers, either freed on their own, or being transferred to other police units with lower workloads. The loss of experienced workers, which is happening here, also negatively affects the training of new operational staff, since they actually have no one to get practical advice from. Indisputable is the fact that even a thorough knowledge of the operative of the theory of Operational search activity does not provide an effective disclosure of crimes without the availability of practical skills. This circumstance also negatively reflects on the quality of informational-analytical provision of Operational search activity, which is one of the constituent elements of the fight against crime.

2. Increasing the level of initial professional training of the staff of the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine and training of students in higher educational

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establishments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine with specific training conditions. At the same time, the chiefs of these institutions need to pay an appropriate attention to the involvement of the experienced practitioners of the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine at the departments of operational search activities, criminalistics, criminal procedure and criminal law, even under the conditions of absence of their academic degrees. This category of teaching staff is especially important for conducting practical classes and seminars with students, during which skills and abilities of carrying out operative and search activities, including its informational-analytical support are acquired.

3. Changes in the system of criteria of evaluating the operations of the operational units of the National Police of Ukraine by replacing the quantitative indicators of the resolved crimes against the assessment of the spreading out of crimes in the area of operational service. The mentioned mean will create the right conditions for fighting against crime and will reduce the pressure on operational staff, which will allow them to focus on quality organization and conducting informational-analytical provision of their activities.

On the basis of this scientific work, in the future, we plan to develop and publish scientific and methodological recommendations for improving the informational-analytical provision for operational-search activity of the National Police of Ukraine.

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## ІНФОРМАЦІЙНО-АНАЛІТИЧНЕ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ ОПЕРАТИВНО-РОЗШУКОВОЇ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ ПОЛІЦІЇ УКРАЇНИ

Діяльність оперативних підрозділів поліції в сучасних умовах пов'язана з опрацюванням значної кількості інформаційних потоків, яке включає в себе роботу з великими обсягами інформації. Враховуючи це, істотним фактором, що впливає на ефективність боротьби зі злочинністю, є правильно організоване інформаційно-аналітичне забезпечення оперативно-розшукової діяльності. Однак інформаційно-аналітичне забезпечення у цій сфері здійснюється на неналежному рівні у зв'язку з наявністю певних недоліків організаційного характеру. У процесі організації та налагодження інформаційно-аналітичного забезпечення оперативно-розшукової діяльності оперативних підрозділів поліції найважливішу роль відіграє своєчасне та правильне визначення джерел надходження інформації про злочинну діяльність. Такий підхід зумовлений тим, що здійснення будь-яких дій (перевірка, обробка, аналіз, накопичення тощо) з отриманою оперативно-розшуковою інформацією має другорядне значення відносно її безпосереднього отримання.

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Так, отримання інформації дійсно є початковим етапом інформаційно-аналітичної роботи, тільки з нього можуть починатися будь-які дії з інформацією, в інший же спосіб провадити їх неможливо. У Національній поліції України запроваджена система подвійного аналізу одержаної оперативно-розшукової інформації, що складається з аналізу одержаної інформації на тактичному рівні, який здійснюється безпосередньо оперативним працівником та керівником оперативного підрозділу, та аналізу на стратегічному рівні, який здійснюється працівниками Департаменту інформаційно-аналітичної підтримки. Таким чином, усі інформаційні потоки в підсумку надходять до спеціально створеного підрозділу Національній поліції – Департаменту інформаційно-аналітичної підтримки, що створює належні умови для використання різноманітної інформації будь-яким її підрозділом. Разом із збором та аналізом оперативно-розшукової інформації не менше значення має її накопичення та зберігання з метою недопущення втрачання важливих для оперативно-розшукової діяльності відомостей та подальшого їх зручного використання.

**Ключові слова:** оперативно-розшукова діяльність, оперативно-розшукова інформація, джерела оперативно-розшукової інформації, інформаційно-аналітичне забезпечення, Національна поліція України.

Отримано 17.02.2020.