

Joint patrolling on the common border of Ukraine and Slovakia

The Slovak-Ukrainian border is the border between Ukraine and Slovakia, which has existed formally since Slovakia gained independence in 1993. In 1991-1992, the current Slovak-Ukrainian border was the Czechoslovakian-Ukrainian border, and before 1991 it was the border between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. The border is 97 km long and there are 375 border markers along the border.



The most prominent are sign #1, which is located on Mount Kremenets, and sign #375, which stands on the bank of the Tisza River near the village of Vir.

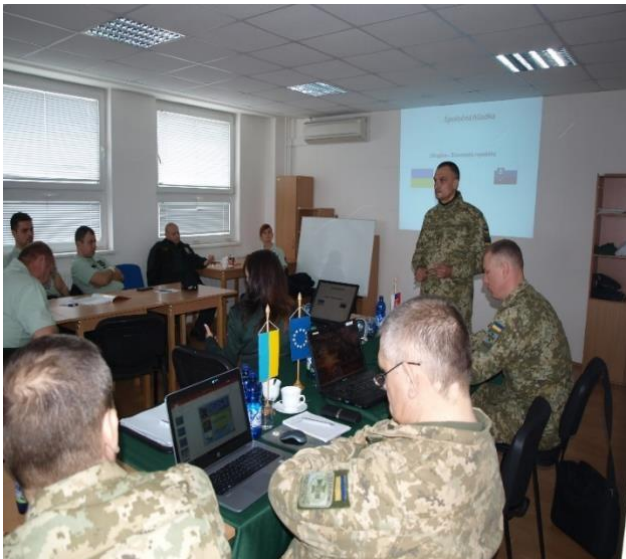


It is worth noting that the Slovak-Ukrainian border is the external border of the European Union, and given the current period of Ukraine's development, which is characterized by the intensification of European integration processes, it is important to create a reliable security system for Ukraine at the state border and ensure the adaptation of the national border security system to the European one. For the successful European integration of Ukraine, it is important to consider the European experience of formation, functioning and prospects for the development of the European experience of border protection.

Joint patrols with colleagues from border guard agencies are one of the measures to create a positive image of Ukraine in neighboring countries as a public diplomacy tool. The study of interstate agreements and protocols on joint patrolling with neighboring countries suggests that the main tasks of joint

patrolling are: exchange of experience in protecting the common state border; coordination of joint activities, and cooperation in combating cross-border crime.

Certain issues of cooperation have been previously discussed in scientific publications, but in the context of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, the study of the system of training for joint patrolling in a border guard detachment as an element of interaction with the border guards of neighboring states is gaining new practical importance. Understanding the need for international support and assistance, as well as training of border guards in accordance with the requirements of the European Union, and the formation of their relevant professional competencies, ensures the achievement of maximum results in the performance of their tasks by border guards.



The protocols approved by the authorized representatives of the border guard agencies of Ukraine and Slovakia "On Joint Border Patrolling" provide for certain training of the employees involved in its implementation. As a result, a set of joint seminars to train border guards from Ukraine and Slovakia was organized and conducted.

Additionally, statistics on the outcomes of cooperative patrolling operations show encouraging trends as a result of joint training activities for Ukrainian and Slovak border guards. Most importantly, joint patrols counteract border offenses much faster, which in turn leaves no chance for offenders to avoid punishment for their actions.

One of the positive cases of detection and suppression of an offense on the Slovak-Ukrainian border occurred this spring within the area of responsibility of the Uzhhorod Border Guard Service Department. The Joint Border Patrol was checking the state border from the Slovak side. While being on duty and conducting surveillance and listening to the area, they heard the characteristic noise of a homemade unmanned aerial vehicle engine.

After interaction with the observation posts on the Ukrainian and Slovak sides, it was established that it was indeed coming from the direction of village in Batfa, Uzhhorod district, towards which an unmanned aerial vehicle with black boxes attached was heading. A Slovak border guard from the joint border patrol made a timely decision to transmit information about this object to the unit.



Subsequently, Slovak border police officers used the KVS ANTIDRON G6 UAV control channel jamming device and ensured the forced landing and detention of the home-made UAV. During further inspection of the boxes attached to the device, it was found that it was transporting smuggled excisable goods, namely cigarettes in large quantities. Also, having examined the control module



of the aircraft, Slovak border guards passed on information to their Ukrainian colleagues about the place of launch of the aircraft. As a result of search activities, Ukrainian border guards detained the persons who launched the aircraft and brought two Ukrainian citizens to justice under the laws of Ukraine.

It can be confidently stated that the protection of the common border between Ukraine and Slovakia through joint patrolling has a great future and requires further study, which in turn will become a solid basis for the future in the European community for both Slovakia and Ukraine.

