

Functioning of the Police under Martial Law

The Experience of Ukraine

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The military conflict in Ukraine has created unprecedented challenges for law enforcement agencies, which have had to adapt to new conditions and threats. During martial law, the police perform not only their traditional functions of maintaining public order and combating crime but also contribute to national security and civil protection. This paper examines the key aspects of the Ukrainian police's work under martial law, analysing their adaptive strategies and the effectiveness of their actions. With the onset of hostilities, the police faced a number of new tasks, such as maintaining law and order in combat zones, evacuating civilians, protecting humanitarian corridors and cooperating with military units. A significant role is played by the coordination of actions between various law enforcement and security structures, which allows for rapid response to threats and maintaining stability in regions affected by the conflict.

The adaptation of the police to martial law conditions includes the implementation of new working methods, personnel training and the use of advanced technologies. For instance, the use of unmanned aerial vehicles and surveillance systems helps to monitor situations on the ground and quickly transmit information to command centres. Psychological support for law enforcement officers working in stressful conditions is also a crucial aspect, contributing to their resilience and effectiveness. Ukraine's experience in addressing these challenges can be valuable for other countries facing similar situations. Analysing the adaptive strategies of the Ukrainian police during martial law allows for the identification of best practices and the development of recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in crisis situations.

Keywords: police, martial law, Ukraine, law enforcement, national security, civil protection, adaptive strategies, crisis management, public order, hostilities

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Introduction

Ensuring public safety and order is one of the key responsibilities of the state, particularly in the context of armed aggression and the legal regime of martial law. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 posed an unprecedented challenge to the entire national security system, including the National Police of Ukraine. In wartime conditions, the effective functioning of law enforcement agencies becomes critically important for maintaining the resilience of the state and society.

The relevance of studying the peculiarities of police activity during martial law is determined by several factors. Firstly, the large-scale armed aggression against Ukraine necessitates the adaptation of the entire security and defence sector to operate under wartime conditions on the national territory. Secondly, the experience of resistance in 2022–2023 has revealed an urgent need to transform police operations in response to new challenges and threats. Thirdly, analysing and generalising best practices in law enforcement activities under extraordinary conditions is essential for improving the regulatory framework and organisational foundations of Ukraine's security sector.

Thus, research on the functioning of the National Police in the context of repelling armed aggression and operating under martial law is highly relevant from both theoretical and practical perspectives. A comprehensive analysis of this experience will allow for the development of scientifically grounded recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement activities and strengthen the state's resilience to military threats.

Objectives

The primary objectives of this study are to analyse the impact of martial law on the activities of the police in Ukraine, as well as to examine the adaptive strategies employed by the police to address the new challenges that have arisen as a result of the military conflict. This includes an evaluation of the coordination between various law enforcement and military structures, as well as the implementation of new technologies and methods of operation.

Methods

The study of the activities of the National Police of Ukraine under martial law is based on a comprehensive methodological approach, integrating formal-legal, comparative-legal, sociological and empirical methods. This approach allows for a thorough examination of the legal framework governing law enforcement operations, an assessment of adaptation strategies and an evaluation of the effectiveness of modern technologies in ensuring public security under wartime conditions. The formal-legal method was applied to analyse the regulatory framework governing police operations during martial law. This included an in-depth examination of the Law of Ukraine on the National Police, resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers, orders of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and relevant

international legal instruments. The application of this method facilitated the identification of legal foundations, their adaptability to contemporary challenges, and the extent to which legislative changes addressed the realities of law enforcement in wartime. The comparative-legal method was used to analyse the experience of law enforcement agencies in other countries that have operated under martial law or armed conflict. Specifically, the study examined the security and counter-sabotage strategies employed by the police forces of Israel, France and the United States. This method enabled the identification of best practices and innovative solutions that could be adapted to enhance the operational effectiveness of the National Police of Ukraine. The sociological method was utilised to assess the impact of law enforcement activities on societal processes. This included the examination of law enforcement reports, public opinion surveys on trust in the police, and studies on public safety perceptions during wartime. The findings provided insights into the effectiveness of police measures from a social perspective and highlighted the key challenges in police–community relations under crisis conditions. The empirical method involved the analysis of real-life law enforcement operations conducted under martial law. Particular attention was given to civilian evacuation efforts, maintaining public order in humanitarian corridors, countering sabotage and reconnaissance groups, and the deployment of modern surveillance technologies, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and video monitoring systems. This approach provided an empirical basis for assessing the practical effectiveness of security measures and law enforcement responses to emerging threats. To synthesise the research findings, the synthesis and system analysis method was applied. This allowed for the formulation of evidence-based recommendations aimed at improving law enforcement strategies and enhancing the overall effectiveness of policing in crisis situations. By integrating legal, comparative, sociological and empirical methodologies, this study provides a comprehensive framework for analysing the transformation of law enforcement practices in wartime Ukraine. The findings contribute to the development of strategic solutions for strengthening police resilience and optimising public safety mechanisms in times of crisis.

Results

The imposition of martial law in Ukraine following the large-scale invasion by the Russian Federation has significantly expanded the role of the National Police of Ukraine. According to the Law of Ukraine on the National Police (2015), its primary responsibilities include ensuring public safety, upholding law and order and protecting citizen's rights and freedoms. In wartime conditions, the police take on additional functions critical to national security and stability.²

One of the key wartime duties of the National Police is enforcing curfews and special legal regimes. These measures prevent enemy infiltration, sabotage and other threats. Police officers conduct patrols, identity checks, movement control and rapid responses

² SHEVCHENKO–ZINCHENKO 2023.

to violations, ensuring stability in high-risk areas.³ Another critical task is securing war-affected regions. Officers oversee evacuation routes, shelters and critical infrastructure, reducing the risks of looting, crime and social unrest.⁴

Additionally, the police play a vital role in documenting war crimes. In cooperation with the Prosecutor's Office and international human rights organisations, they collect evidence, record violations and prepare materials for prosecution. These efforts ensure justice and the protection of victims' rights.⁵ Collaboration with military units is another strategic priority. Law enforcement assists in vehicle inspections, identifying threats and neutralising enemy agents, reinforcing national security.⁶ To enhance operational efficiency, police forces rely on advanced technologies, including UAVs, automated threat detection and digital intelligence systems for rapid decision-making.⁷ Moreover, psychological resilience programs help officers cope with extreme stress, ensuring their sustained effectiveness in combat zones.⁸ Thus, under martial law, the National Police of Ukraine assumes a multidimensional role, balancing law enforcement, crisis response and national security. Evaluating these wartime strategies is crucial for strengthening legal frameworks and improving emergency response mechanisms.⁹

As part of its European integration efforts and commitments under the EU Association Agreement, Ukraine began introducing the 112 system in 2012, particularly in preparation for the UEFA Euro 2012 Championship. However, the full-scale implementation of the system occurred later, especially after the onset of the war, when the urgent need for efficient coordination of emergency services became apparent. Given this necessity, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine undertook a large-scale transformation, not only to enhance the 112 system but also to adapt the forms and methods of work for all central executive authorities within its structure. These efforts aimed to strengthen the state's ability to respond to contemporary security challenges and threats posed by military actions and criminal activity. To achieve this, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine launched a series of security projects in 2022, aimed at improving the internal security environment of the state.

One of the key communication projects aimed at ensuring the effective response of state authorities to emergencies is the "Service 112" project. The creation of the "Service 112" communication centre will centralise the organisation of emergency assistance to the population based on the "one-stop-shop" principle, utilising electronic communication technologies. This initiative is designed to streamline and enhance the response of state agencies to various critical situations, improving the overall security landscape within the country.¹⁰

The outcomes of the implementation of this project include the following:

³ BERENDIEIEVA 2024.

⁴ KRYZHANOVSKA 2023.

⁵ Council of Europe Office in Ukraine 2024.

⁶ FRIEDRICH 2024.

⁷ BERENDIEIEVA-SHEVCHUK 2024.

⁸ Council of Europe Office in Ukraine 2024.

⁹ SHEVCHENKO-ZINCHENKO 2023.

¹⁰ Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine 2024.

- the operational execution of emergency communications via the single phone number 112 across the entire territory of Ukraine, allowing for voice calls, SMS messages, message exchanges, video and other forms of communication based on the “one-stop-shop” principle
- automatic determination of the caller’s location
- remote “visualisation” of the situation at the site of the emergency event
- reduction of response time by emergency services to emergency calls¹¹

The “Service 112” project is a significant step towards enhancing the safety of Ukrainian citizens, particularly under the conditions of martial law. Through the centralised organisation of emergency assistance based on the “one-stop-shop” principle, this project ensures rapid response to emergencies, automatic determination of the caller’s location and remote “visualisation” of the situation at the site of the incident. The implementation of this project contributes to reducing the response time of emergency services, which is critically important for saving lives and preserving the health of citizens.

The escalation of the crime situation in Ukraine, particularly due to the ongoing military actions, has prompted the National Police and the Ministry of Internal Affairs to focus on developing a comprehensive video surveillance system to strengthen security. As of October 2024, efforts are underway to form a unified integrated video monitoring and surveillance platform, covering key public areas throughout the country. This system aims to integrate more than 50,000 existing video cameras, significantly reducing street crime, improving the efficiency of investigative efforts for “hot pursuit” cases, and enhancing the investigation of war crimes committed by the occupying forces. Additionally, it will serve as a tool for detecting and preventing offenses.¹²

To ensure the legislative framework for this initiative, in February 2024, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine introduced a draft Law of Ukraine on the Unified System of Public Safety Video Monitoring.¹³ The objective of this bill is not only to ensure national and state security but also to improve the overall level of public safety and order, particularly the safety of citizens’ residences and public spaces, through the introduction of a unified video monitoring system that will operate at the state and local government levels.¹⁴

According to this bill, the objects of video monitoring will include vehicles, public spaces, critical, social, economic, residential, transportation, engineering and other infrastructure. Additionally, the system will cover streets, roads, alleys, pedestrian and bicycle paths, parking lots, government buildings, and facilities of educational and healthcare institutions.

The creation of a unified video monitoring system will improve coordination between central, regional and local authorities, as well as ensure effective interaction with departmental monitoring systems of enterprises and organisations. As a result, this system

¹¹ BUGAYCHUK 2023.

¹² Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine 2024.

¹³ The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine 2024.

¹⁴ The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine 2024.

will become an effective tool for maintaining security and preventing offenses at all levels, contributing to the overall enhancement of public safety during wartime.¹⁵

The police have assumed new functions, such as controlling humanitarian corridors, evacuating civilians and cooperating with military units. This requires not only adapting traditional methods of operation but also integrating modern technologies, including drones and specialised software for data analysis. These innovations enable law enforcement agencies to respond more swiftly to threats and maintain stability in conflict-affected regions, highlighting the critical role they play in ensuring national security.¹⁶

In January 2023, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted Resolution No. 30, which concerns the establishment of an interregional territorial body of the National Police – the “Liut Brigade” (Ukrainian: ЛІУТБ, lit. “Fury”). This brigade is tasked with carrying out critical missions in countering armed aggression and participating in security and rescue operations.

The primary objectives of the “Liut Brigade” include participating in repelling and deterring armed aggression, conducting assault and search-and-destroy operations, as well as organising rescue operations to ensure the safety of the population. The brigade is also responsible for territorial defence tasks, detecting and neutralising explosive devices, conducting counter-sabotage operations, aerial reconnaissance, and engaging enemy forces in areas under occupation. In addition, an important aspect of the brigade’s work is conducting stabilisation and search-and-filter operations in liberated territories.

The “Liut Brigade” has become a key component of the National Police’s efforts to respond to the challenges posed by the ongoing war, highlighting its critical role in ensuring both national and public safety.¹⁷

Thus, the formation of the “Liut Brigade” represents a significant step in strengthening Ukraine’s security system under martial law, and its activities have greatly contributed to maintaining public order and protecting the population during military operations.

As of September 2024, the special evacuation units known as the “White Angels” continue to carry out their vital mission in Ukraine. During this time, these teams have evacuated more than 9,000 people, including over 800 children. They have provided medical assistance to around 300 wounded individuals and transported the bodies of 89 deceased.¹⁸

Overall, the “White Angels” have delivered more than 700 tons of humanitarian aid to combat zones, including food packages, generators, sleeping bags, and other essential items for civilians affected by the war. The evacuation teams are also documenting the consequences of Russian war crimes, with the aim of using this evidence in international courts.¹⁹

This work is critically important for ensuring the safety of civilians, and the “White Angels” continue to demonstrate courage and professionalism, saving lives in dangerous conditions.

¹⁵ The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine 2024.

¹⁶ Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine 2024.

¹⁷ National Police of Ukraine 2023.

¹⁸ BUGAYCHUK 2024.

¹⁹ RBC Ukraine 2024.

The military actions in Ukraine have significantly intensified the issue of effective control over the circulation of firearms, driven by a sharp increase in cases of illegal handling of weapons. In 2023, more than 5,260 criminal offenses were registered under Article 263 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, which provides for liability for the unlawful handling of firearms, ammunition, or explosives.²⁰ This statistic reflects the scale of the problem and the need for the implementation of effective mechanisms to control the circulation of firearms in the country. Furthermore, the issue of arms circulation is becoming more complicated due to new challenges. For example, many FPV kamikaze drone pilots participating in military operations independently equip their drones with improvised explosive devices (IEDs). According to traditional interpretations of Article 263-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, such activities may be regarded as illegal manufacturing of ammunition, which further complicates the legal regulation of this area.

To enhance the effectiveness of arms control, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (MIA) has introduced a new information project – the Unified Register of Weapons (ERZ). This register has been developed to automate and improve the processes related to the circulation of firearms, ammunition, explosives and key firearm parts with identification numbers. The primary purpose of the register is to ensure easy access to information about ownership and the circulation of weapons, as well as their registration and verification. The register allows relevant state bodies to share data, ensuring reliable information storage and effective control over the circulation of arms.

The issue of arms circulation became especially critical in the early days of the war when a significant number of weapons were distributed to citizens who joined the Territorial Defence Forces and volunteer formations. These citizens are ready to defend the country, and therefore, during martial law, the weapons should remain in their possession unless they are the subject of a criminal investigation. Currently, approximately 1.2 million registered firearms are in the hands of the population, including hunting, smooth-bore, rifled firearms and rubber-bullet guns, among others.²¹ However, as of today, not all weapons have been entered into the Unified Register of Weapons. As of June 2024, the register recorded 371,000 units of firearms, while the number of registered owners is only 256,000, as some individuals possess multiple firearms. The process of updating the data is ongoing, and by 2026, the register is expected to be fully operational.²²

On 3 February 2022, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine passed in the first reading of the draft Law of Ukraine on the Right to Civil Firearms. This draft law aims to regulate the circulation of firearms among the civilian population by defining the legal status of firearm ownership. In particular, it proposes to define the concept of ownership of civil firearms; classify civil firearms; develop and implement the procedure for creating and maintaining the Unified State Register of Civil Firearms; and establish general principles for the circulation of firearms and ammunition, as well as the procedure for obtaining the right to possess them. This draft law is an important step towards regulating firearm circulation among civilians and ensuring appropriate state control in this area.

²⁰ Article 263 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

²¹ Дзеркало тижня 2024.

²² Юраїра 2024.

At the end of March 2024, the Verkhovna Rada considered a new draft law, No. 9538, aimed at improving the regulation of firearm handling, particularly concerning civil firearms during martial law. The draft Law on Ensuring Civilian Participation in the Defence of Ukraine was passed in the first reading and is intended to regulate the issues of obtaining, declaring and using firearms by civilians during martial law. Special attention is given to weapons issued to civilians during the war. After the end of martial law, firearm owners will be required to return their weapons to the police within 90 days. This draft law also ensures that civilians who used weapons against aggressors during martial law will not be held liable for their use under specified conditions.

Despite the positive trends related to the implementation of automated control systems, a serious problem with unregistered firearms in the hands of civilians may arise after the war. According to international partners, the number of unregistered firearms after the war could reach three million. This poses a threat to social stability in the country, as uncontrolled circulation of firearms could potentially lead to an increase in crime and disruption of public order. Therefore, regulating the circulation of civil firearms is one of the most critical issues affecting public safety in Ukraine.

In July 2022, the Law of Ukraine on the State Registration of Human Genomic Information was adopted, which provides for the creation of a national system of biometric identification and verification. This law regulates the processes of identifying individuals who have committed criminal offenses, searching for missing persons, identifying unidentified bodies and identifying individuals who cannot provide information about themselves due to health conditions or other circumstances.²³

The National Police of Ukraine actively implements biometric technologies such as fingerprinting and facial recognition for identifying individuals. The use of portable fingerprint scanners enables the police to quickly verify a person's identity by their fingerprints at the scene of an arrest. This significantly increases the efficiency of law enforcement agencies, particularly under martial law conditions, when the speed and accuracy of identification are critically important.

During martial law, when the number of crimes and missing persons cases is increasing, biometric technologies become an indispensable tool for the police. They allow for the rapid identification of individuals, aiding in solving crimes and locating missing persons. Furthermore, the automation and structuring of biometric identification processes help reduce the workload on law enforcement agencies and improve the accuracy of identification.²⁴

Despite the significant advantages, the implementation of biometric technologies also presents challenges. These include issues related to personal data protection and ensuring the confidentiality of information. It is crucial that these technologies are used in compliance with the law and with respect for human rights.²⁵

In the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (MIA), the Expert Service is responsible for maintaining the register of DNA profiles. Additionally, specialised

²³ The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine 2024b.

²⁴ State Migration Service of Ukraine 2019.

²⁵ KLYMCHUK 2021.

units handle biometric identification issues (fingerprints, facial recognition). While this technology has long been used in the law enforcement sector, there is now a need for the automation and structuring of these processes.

The MIA of Ukraine aims to systematise and adapt the relevant records for quicker use in practical work. For instance, when detaining an unidentified person, police officers will be able to use portable fingerprint scanners, enabling them to verify the individual's identity through unique fingerprints. If it is found that the detainee is listed in a relevant database, including the wanted persons database, they will act accordingly and follow other law enforcement procedures.

The implementation of biometric technologies by the National Police of Ukraine under the legal regime of martial law is a necessary and effective step in ensuring security and maintaining public order. These technologies allow for the rapid identification of individuals, solving crimes, locating missing persons and identifying the deceased, which is especially important during an armed conflict.

In its activities under martial law, the National Police of Ukraine actively uses unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), which enables them to effectively carry out a range of key tasks in ensuring public safety and order. The integration of drones into law enforcement practices has become a vital tool for monitoring territories, documenting violations and gathering evidence during investigations. The role of drones is particularly significant in recording the aftermath of military actions, documenting crimes resulting from Russian aggression and assisting in coordinating rescue operations.

As part of the preparation of specialists for working with UAVs, in February 2023, a training program for drone operators was launched at one of the educational institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, responding to the urgent need for the use of drones in law enforcement activities during the war.²⁶

In the context of martial law, when many regions of Ukraine are under threat of shelling and active hostilities, drones are an indispensable tool for assessing the situation in dangerous areas, monitoring movements and gathering information on potential threats. This enables the National Police of Ukraine to make quick decisions and ensure the safety of citizens, even in the midst of active combat. As a result, the integration of drones into law enforcement activities significantly enhances the effectiveness of police operations, providing more reliable control over public order during wartime.

New challenges, threats and stressful situations arising under martial law necessitate the implementation of a systematic psychological support framework for the employees of the National Police of Ukraine. It is important to note that even under normal circumstances, police work involves numerous stress factors, such as irregular working hours, constant interaction with offenders, the need for rapid decision-making in high-risk situations and a high level of responsibility. However, during martial law, these factors intensify significantly.

Police officers are required to operate in combat zones, face threats to their own lives and health, and deal with victims of violence and destruction. Frequent relocations, uncertainty and separation from their families further exacerbate stress levels. Performing

²⁶ Ukrainian Military Portal 2023.

law enforcement duties in such extreme conditions results in increased emotional and physical strain, which can lead to burnout, stress disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other psychological challenges. Therefore, ensuring adequate psychological assistance tailored to the specific demands of policing during wartime becomes an essential component of support for law enforcement personnel.

Under martial law, psychological support for police officers includes both immediate assistance and systematic measures to prevent stress-related conditions. National Police psychologists and other units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs are actively working to create conditions that promote emotional stability among employees. Key elements of this work include regular stress management consultations, training and individual psychological support for those working in high-risk areas.

In addition, special attention is paid to the psychological rehabilitation of law enforcement officers who have experienced traumatic events while on duty. Due to active combat operations, police officers frequently encounter difficult situations that require particular attention from psychological services. Rehabilitation measures for restoring the mental health of employees include individual counselling with psychologists and group therapy sessions.²⁷

A particularly pressing and sensitive issue is the rehabilitation of the personnel of the Ministry of Internal Affairs who have been released from captivity. The return to normal life for these servicemen is a complex and lengthy process that requires a comprehensive approach, including both physical and psychological support. The first stage of rehabilitation involves medical examinations by various specialists, including trauma surgeons, dentists, urologists, surgeons, psychiatrists and psychologists. These assessments help to identify physical injuries as well as evaluate the psychological condition of the freed servicemen.

Psychological support is a particularly important part of the rehabilitation process, as many servicemen suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other psychological consequences after captivity. Each serviceman undergoes an individual recovery process that may last from several months to several years, depending on the nature of their experience.

To draw attention to the issue of rehabilitating servicemen released from captivity, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine presented the documentary film “The Way Home”. This film tells the difficult story of the servicemen’s journey from the moment of their release to their first steps in returning to peaceful life. The film crew accompanied the servicemen during the initial hours after the exchange, documenting their physical and psychological state, as well as the process of their early rehabilitation.²⁸

The film vividly demonstrates the stages of medical and psychological assistance and emphasises the importance of rest and recovery after the harrowing experiences in captivity. These measures are crucial for the soldiers’ adaptation to new circumstances and their return to normal life.

²⁷ ROMANENKO 2024.

²⁸ Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine 2024.

Therefore, the implementation of psychological support for the personnel of the National Police of Ukraine under martial law is a key factor contributing to their emotional stability and maintaining their effectiveness in performing their duties. This is critically important for maintaining law and order in the country during times of crisis.

Conclusions

The findings of this study confirm that the activities of the National Police of Ukraine have undergone significant transformations due to the imposition of martial law. Under these new conditions, the police have not only maintained their traditional law enforcement functions but have also expanded their role to include controlling humanitarian corridors, evacuating civilians, collaborating with military units and countering sabotage groups.

One of the key factors enabling the police to adapt effectively has been the integration of modern technologies. The introduction of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) has significantly enhanced territorial surveillance and rapid threat response. Additionally, the implementation of video surveillance systems, comprising over 50,000 cameras, has strengthened public safety oversight, particularly in conflict-affected areas. Furthermore, the establishment of the Unified Register of Weapons has improved state control over firearms circulation, preventing potential crime surges in the post-war period.

Psychological support for law enforcement personnel has also been a crucial aspect of police operations. Given the continuous exposure of officers to high-risk environments and extreme stress factors, rehabilitation programs have been introduced to mitigate emotional burnout and prevent post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Psychological assistance initiatives, including individual consultations and group therapy, have become an integral part of police support mechanisms during crisis situations.

In addition to technological advancements and social support, legislative reforms have played a pivotal role in strengthening law enforcement capabilities. The adoption of the Law of Ukraine on the Unified System of Public Safety Video Monitoring has contributed to enhancing public security, while updated regulations on civilian firearms circulation have reinforced safety measures for the general population. These legal adjustments are crucial in preventing the unlawful proliferation of weapons after the war.

The establishment of specialised police units has further improved the effectiveness of law enforcement operations. The “Liut” Brigade, for instance, has been actively involved in assault, stabilisation and defence missions in de-occupied territories, enabling a swift response to security threats. Simultaneously, specialised evacuation teams known as the “White Angels” have conducted over 9,000 evacuations, rescuing more than 800 children and delivering over 700 tons of humanitarian aid to affected communities.

Given these findings, Ukraine’s experience in maintaining law and order under martial law could serve as a model for other nations facing similar security challenges. The use of advanced technologies, the expansion of police responsibilities in crisis situations, and a comprehensive approach to psychological support represent key strategies that could be adapted for international law enforcement practices.

Future research should focus on assessing the long-term implications of these transformations, particularly concerning the reintegration of military personnel into civilian life, the control of illegal arms circulation and the overall impact of war on crime rates in Ukraine. A thorough examination of these factors will enable the development of effective law enforcement strategies for crisis and post-crisis conditions.

Thus, the activities of the National Police of Ukraine during wartime demonstrate a high degree of adaptability, effective resource management and innovative technological applications. The strategic flexibility exhibited by law enforcement agencies highlights their critical role as a cornerstone of national security and societal stability.

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