

## INNOVATIVE METHODS OF TACTICAL AND SPECIAL TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS: NATO COUNTRIES' EXPERIENCE AND PROSPECTS FOR UKRAINE

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### INTRODUCTION

Contemporary challenges in national security and law enforcement require a fundamental rethinking of approaches to training law enforcement units. The globalization of crime, emergence of new forms of terrorist threats, cybercrime, and hybrid conflicts create fundamentally new conditions in which traditional methods of tactical and special training prove to be insufficiently effective. This problem is particularly acute for countries undergoing transformation of their law enforcement systems, particularly for Ukraine, which seeks to integrate into the European and Euro-Atlantic security space<sup>1</sup>.

Analysis of current development trends in law enforcement agencies of leading world countries indicates active implementation of innovative technologies in the training process of special units. NATO member countries have invested significantly over the past decade in developing and implementing advanced training methodologies based on the use of virtual and augmented reality, artificial intelligence, simulation technologies, and innovative psychological approaches<sup>2</sup>.

Research conducted in the Netherlands with the participation of 237 National Police officers demonstrated the effectiveness of virtual training compared to traditional methods. Results showed that virtual reality provides a significantly higher level of mental engagement for officers during training, although maximum heart rate and average level of physical activity remained higher during real training<sup>3</sup>. These findings emphasize the importance of understanding the specifics of different training modalities for optimal combination of traditional and innovative methodologies.

Research in Florida involving 40 police officers confirmed that virtual reality can enhance empathy among law enforcement officers when working with individuals experiencing mental health crises. Officers who underwent VR training demonstrated

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<sup>1</sup> Office of Justice Programs. Virtual Reality: The Future of Law Enforcement Training. Washington, DC : U.S. Department of Justice. URL: <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/virtual-reality-future-law-enforcement-training>

<sup>2</sup> Zechner, O., Kleygrewe, L., Jaspaert, E., Schrom-Feiertag, H., Hutter, R. V., Tscheligi, M. Enhancing operational police training in high stress situations with virtual reality: experiences, tools and guidelines. *Multimodal Technologies and Interaction*. 2023. Vol. 7, No.2. P. 14. URL: <https://doi.org/10.3390/mti7020014>

<sup>3</sup> Kleygrewe L., Hutter R. I. V., Koedijk M., Oudejans R. R. D. Virtual reality training for police officers: a comparison of training responses in VR and real-life training. *Police Practice and Research*. 2024. Vol. 25, No. 1. P. 18–37. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15614263.2023.2176307>

moderate to high levels of immersion in the virtual environment, which positively correlated with the development of empathetic skills<sup>4</sup>.

The experience of the German special unit GSG 9 demonstrates the importance of international cooperation in training. The unit regularly conducts joint training with the French GIGN, Israeli Yamam, British SAS, and American FBI HRT, which allows for experience exchange and implementation of best practices<sup>5</sup>. The French GIGN, which has conducted over 1,800 operations and rescued more than 600 hostages since its creation in 1974, is considered the standard for special units worldwide<sup>6</sup>.

The study of innovative approaches to psychological training of law enforcement officers is gaining particular significance. Canadian researchers have developed an Autonomic Modulation Training (AMT) program that combines HRV biofeedback training with metacognitive skills to reduce post-traumatic stress symptoms among police officers<sup>7</sup>. The program includes six weekly sessions that integrate heart rate variability biofeedback with metacognitive skills practice.

Similar programs in San Diego have shown promising results. Research involving 12 sworn officers and 2 dispatchers demonstrated improvement in eight out of nine assessment subscales, with stress indicators improving by approximately 40%<sup>8</sup>. Participants positively evaluated the program and reported improvements in both professional performance and personal life.

Dutch researchers have developed an innovative approach to breathing technique training in a virtual environment, allowing officers to learn self-regulation methods under stress conditions. Nine police trainers demonstrated significant improvement in breathing control and reduction in physiological arousal after ten training sessions in virtual reality<sup>9</sup>. Importantly, the skills acquired during biofeedback training were retained in subsequent sessions without biofeedback, indicating effective skill transfer.

Research on psychophysiological aspects of police work under stress shows that officers often fail to recognize their physiological reactions to stressful situations. The use of biofeedback technologies allows for increased self-awareness and

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<sup>4</sup> Dario, L. M., Saginor, J. Exploration of a virtual reality exercise to help train police with responding to mental health crises in the community. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*. 2024. URL: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/cbm.2361>

<sup>5</sup> GSG 9. Wikipedia. 2024. URL: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GSG\\_9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GSG_9)

<sup>6</sup> GIGN. Wikipedia. 2024. URL: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GIGN>

<sup>7</sup> Di Nota, P. M., Anderson, G. S., Ricciardelli, R., Carleton, R. N., Groll, D. A Biological Approach to Building Resilience and Wellness Capacity Among Police Exposed to Posttraumatic Stress Injuries: Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial. *JMIR Research Protocols*. 2023. Vol. 12. e33492. URL: <https://www.researchprotocols.org/2023/1/e33492>

<sup>8</sup> McCraty, R., Atkinson, M., Lipsenthal, L., Arguelles, L. Police Department Personnel Stress Resilience Training: An Institutional Case Study. *Global Advances in Health and Medicine*. 2013. Vol. 2, No. 4. P. 72–79. URL: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4010956/>

<sup>9</sup> Brammer, J. C., van Peer, J. M., Michela, A., van Rooij, M. M., Oostenveld, R., Klumpers, F., Dorrestijn, W., Granic, I., Roelofs, K. Deep-Breathing Biofeedback Trainability in a Virtual-Reality Action Game: A Single-Case Design Study With Police Trainers. *Frontiers in Psychology*. 2022. Vol. 12. 806163. URL: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychology/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.806163/full>

development of self-regulation skills, which is critically important for effective performance of official duties<sup>10</sup>.

The current state of tactical and special training of law enforcement units in Ukraine is characterized by gradual modernization of educational programs and material-technical base, however, the pace of these changes does not fully meet contemporary requirements. The reform of the law enforcement system, initiated in 2014 after the Revolution of Dignity, created favorable conditions for implementing innovative approaches to personnel training.

In 2015, a new Patrol Police was established in Ukraine, whose officers underwent training using American and Canadian methodologies with instructors from the USA and Canada. Out of 17 thousand candidates, 2 thousand officers were selected who completed a three-month training course. However, as experts note, the training programs did not always take into account Ukrainian realities, creating a gap between theoretical preparation and practical requirements<sup>11</sup>.

In 2017, the Patrol Police Academy was established as a specialized institution for training new officers. The Canadian Police Mission assisted in installing modern equipment, including virtual shooting ranges, and adapting training scenarios to Ukrainian conditions and legislation<sup>12</sup>. However, OSCE experts note the absence of clear mechanisms for developing training curricula for different types of preparation<sup>13</sup>.

The relevance of studying innovative methods of tactical and special training for Ukraine is also determined by the necessity to bring law enforcement training standards into compliance with European integration requirements and NATO standards. European integration processes involve not only normative-legal harmonization, but also practical implementation of the best European practices in the sphere of internal security.

Particular attention deserves the issue of developing capabilities of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies in the context of hybrid threats and the necessity to counter new forms of crime. NATO countries' experience in preparing law enforcement officers for action under hybrid warfare conditions can become an important resource for developing corresponding capabilities of Ukrainian security structures.

At the same time, it is important to consider that the implementation of innovative training methods requires not only technological solutions, but also changes in organizational culture, personnel motivation systems, and approaches to evaluating training effectiveness. The experience of Ukrainian police reform shows that the most successful are those changes that were implemented comprehensively,

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<sup>10</sup> Andersen, J. P., Gustafsberg, H. Improving police performance by training officers to manage stress. *Futurum Careers*. 2024. May 23. URL: <https://futurumcareers.com/improving-police-performance-by-training-officers-to-manage-stress>

<sup>11</sup> UkraineWorld. Uniform and Reform: How Has the Patrol Police Changed in Two Years? 2017. URL: <https://ukraineworld.org/en/articles/ukraine-explained/uniform-and-reform-how-has-patrol-police-changed-two-years>

<sup>12</sup> Tkachuk, A. Academy of Patrol Police: A cornerstone of Ukrainian law enforcement reform. *Forum for Ukrainian Studies*. 2020. April 8. URL: <https://ukrainian-studies.ca/2020/04/08/academy-of-patrol-police-a-cornerstone-of-ukrainian-law-enforcement-reform/>

<sup>13</sup> OSCE. Police Education and Training Systems in the OSCE Region. Vienna : OSCE, 2019. 156 p. URL: <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/f/7/423401.pdf>

taking into account all components of the educational process and involving civil society<sup>14</sup>.

Thus, the study of innovative methods of tactical and special training for law enforcement units based on NATO countries' experience has important theoretical and practical significance for modernizing the Ukrainian law enforcement system. Systematization and critical analysis of the best international practices will allow for the formation of scientifically grounded recommendations regarding the implementation of innovative approaches to training Ukrainian law enforcement officers, taking into account the specifics of the national context and available resource possibilities.

## **1. Modern Virtual and Augmented Reality Technologies in Tactical Training of Law Enforcement Units**

The implementation of virtual and augmented reality technologies in the training of NATO law enforcement units has become one of the most significant technological breakthroughs of the last decade. These innovations have radically changed approaches to training, allowing for the creation of controlled, safe, and highly realistic training environments for practicing complex tactical scenarios<sup>15</sup>.

A fundamental study conducted in the Netherlands demonstrated the effectiveness of virtual training for police officers. The study involved 237 officers from the Dutch National Police who underwent both traditional real training and virtual reality training. Results showed that although maximum heart rate and average level of physical activity were higher during real training, the level of mental engagement significantly exceeded indicators in the virtual environment<sup>16</sup>. This indicates that VR technologies can provide intensive cognitive preparation even in the absence of full physical load.

The experience of American police departments demonstrates the practical effectiveness of VR technologies. According to a PWC study, officers who underwent virtual reality training demonstrated four times higher skill acquisition speed and a 275% increase in confidence level compared to colleagues who trained using traditional methodologies<sup>17</sup>. The Los Angeles Police Department integrated VR into crisis intervention programs, which led to a noticeable decrease in use-of-force incidents after implementing virtual exercises<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> Wilson Center. When Ukraine Abolished the Police: Lessons for America. Washington, DC : Wilson Center, 2020. URL: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/when-ukraine-abolished-police-lessons-america>

<sup>15</sup> Wilson Center. When Ukraine Abolished the Police: Lessons for America. Washington, DC : Wilson Center, 2020. URL: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/when-ukraine-abolished-police-lessons-america>

<sup>16</sup> Kleygrewe, L., Hutter, R. I. V., Koedijk, M., Oudejans, R. R. D. Virtual reality training for police officers: a comparison of training responses in VR and real-life training. *Police Practice and Research*. 2024. Vol. 25, No. 1. P. 18–37. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15614263.2023.2176307>

<sup>17</sup> Axon. VR police training: 4 benefits and use cases for leveraging VR training tools. 2024, October 16. URL: <https://www.axon.com/resources/vr-police-training>

<sup>18</sup> ArborXR. Transforming Police Training with Virtual Reality. URL: <https://arborxr.com/blog/transforming-police-training-with-virtual-reality>

Practical experience of VR technology implementation in the USA is demonstrated by the startup SURVIVR, founded by a graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas. The company has developed specialized VR solutions for law enforcement agencies, which have already been implemented in four departments in Texas – Richardson, Frisco, Colleyville, and Rowlett. The company’s founders emphasize the significant economic efficiency of VR training: traditional two-week training for 400 officers can cost a six-figure sum, while VR technologies allow for substantial reduction of these costs<sup>19</sup>.

Particular attention deserves the experience of using VR for training to work with vulnerable population groups. Research by Florida Atlantic University showed the effectiveness of VR training for working with individuals experiencing mental health crises. Forty police officers participated in the study, which examined their immersion in the virtual environment and assessed empathy toward a virtual character with schizophrenia. About two-thirds of participants considered the interaction natural, and over 70% felt the naturalness of their movements in the virtual space<sup>20</sup>.

The Operator XR technological platform represents an example of a comprehensive approach to VR training for law enforcement officers. The OP-2 system allows officers to use real service weapons (adapted for training) in a virtual environment, ensuring maximum training realism. The platform supports various scenarios, including vehicle stops, crisis interventions, and active shooter situations in school buildings<sup>21</sup>.

An important component of successful VR technology implementation is the development of specialized content adapted to the specific needs of law enforcement agencies. Axon company has developed comprehensive VR solutions that include conflict de-escalation scenarios, work with individuals with mental disorders, and use-of-force situations. According to PWC research data, VR training showed four times acceleration of the learning process and 275% increase in confidence in applying acquired skills compared to traditional classroom training<sup>22</sup>.

European countries’ experience also demonstrates successful implementation of VR technologies. Austrian researchers have developed specialized programs to enhance situational awareness of Swedish police officers using virtual reality. These programs focus on developing skills for rapid situation analysis and decision-making under time constraints<sup>23</sup>.

The development of VR technologies has also contributed to creating new opportunities for evaluating and analyzing training effectiveness. Modern VR systems

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<sup>19</sup> University of Texas at Dallas. ‘The Future of Police Training’: SURVIVR Uses Virtual Reality to Prep Officers for the Real World. URL: <https://cs.utdallas.edu/9884/the-future-of-police-training-survivvr-uses-virtual-reality-to-prep-officers-for-the-real-world/>

<sup>20</sup> Dario, L. M., Saginor, J. Exploration of a virtual reality exercise to help train police with responding to mental health crises in the community. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*. 2024. URL: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/cbm.2361>

<sup>21</sup> Operator XR. Law Enforcement VR Training. URL: <https://operatorxr.com/law-enforcement>

<sup>22</sup> Axon. VR police training: 4 benefits and use cases for leveraging VR training tools. 2024. October 16. URL: <https://www.axon.com/resources/vr-police-training>

<sup>23</sup> Hansen, H., Holmgren, M., Gribel, C.J., Ingrell, J., Palamas, G. Utilizing Virtual Reality to Enhance Situational Awareness in Swedish Police Training. Springer. 2025. URL: [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-85663-1\\_3](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-85663-1_3)

allow for collecting detailed data on officers' reaction time, decision-making accuracy, movement trajectories, and other important metrics. According to Police Magazine data, in active shooter situations VR-trained officers moved more effectively and communicated more clearly than those who underwent only classroom training, which is associated with muscle memory developed during virtual exercises<sup>24</sup>.

Many agencies are now collecting data from VR training, such as reaction time, decisions made, and officers' gaze directions, to identify areas for improvement and track progress over time. This analytical data can highlight if an officer tends to react too slowly or too aggressively in simulations, allowing for targeted coaching before a real incident occurs<sup>25</sup>.

An important aspect of VR technology implementation is ensuring technical support and instructor training. Experience shows that successful implementation of new technologies requires a comprehensive approach that includes not only equipment procurement, but also qualified personnel training, educational program development, and creation of a technical maintenance system<sup>26</sup>.

International experience also shows the importance of adapting VR technologies to national characteristics and legal systems. Although VR technologies are predominantly developed in the USA, their successful implementation in other countries requires adaptation of scenarios to local legislation, cultural features, and specifics of law enforcement activities.

The prospects for VR technology development in law enforcement training include integration with artificial intelligence technologies, which will allow for creating more adaptive and personalized training scenarios. Development of haptic technologies is also expected, which will provide tactile feedback and enhance the realism of virtual training.

The implementation of digital technologies in tactical training of law enforcement units is characterized by both significant advantages and certain limitations, understanding of which is critically important for successful modernization of educational processes. Comprehensive analysis of international experience allows for identifying key aspects of effectiveness and challenges related to the use of VR/AR technologies in police training.

One of the most significant advantages of VR technologies is their economic efficiency compared to traditional training methods. Research by American police departments shows that traditional two-week active shooter training for 400 officers can cost a six-figure sum, not including expenses for ammunition, travel, paid training, and overtime<sup>27</sup>. VR technologies allow for significant reduction of these

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<sup>24</sup> Police Magazine. The Value of VR Training. URL: <https://www.policemag.com/training/article/15668055/the-value-of-vr-training>

<sup>25</sup> ArborXR. Transforming Police Training with Virtual Reality. URL: <https://arborxr.com/blog/transforming-police-training-with-virtual-reality>

<sup>26</sup> Zechner, O., Kleygrewe, L., Jaspaert, E., Schrom-Feiertag, H., Hutter, R. V., Tscheligi, M. Enhancing operational police training in high stress situations with virtual reality: experiences, tools and guidelines. *Multimodal Technologies and Interaction*. 2023. Vol. 7, No. 2. P. 14. URL: <https://doi.org/10.3390/mti7020014>

<sup>27</sup> University of Texas at Dallas. 'The Future of Police Training': SURVIVR Uses Virtual Reality to Prep Officers for the Real World. URL: <https://cs.utdallas.edu/9884/the-future-of-police-training-survivvr-uses-virtual-reality-to-prep-officers-for-the-real-world/>

costs by eliminating the need for ammunition, special ranges, and additional personnel.

Axon company emphasizes in its analysis that every shot during training costs money, while VR systems allow for conducting unlimited shooting without additional ammunition costs. Additionally, virtual training can be conducted directly in police departments, eliminating the need for expensive specialized training centers and associated logistical costs.

PWC research demonstrated that VR training provides four times acceleration of the learning process compared to traditional classroom methods<sup>28</sup>. This means that officers can achieve the necessary level of preparation in significantly less time, leading to reduction of indirect costs related to diverting personnel from their primary duties.

Safety is a fundamental advantage of VR technologies in police training. Traditional training using real weapons, even adapted for exercises, always carries certain risks of injury. Virtual reality completely eliminates these risks, allowing officers to practice even the most dangerous scenarios without threat to life and health.

Particularly important is the ability to repeatedly reproduce complex scenarios without risk to participants. Research shows that officers can practice rare high-risk events (active shooters, terrorist attacks) in simulation; if such an event occurs in reality, these officers are more mentally prepared and can respond faster and more correctly<sup>29</sup>.

British research confirmed that VR training leads to reduction of injuries among officers during real operations. Officers who underwent training in virtual environments demonstrated better preparedness for stressful situations and less tendency toward errors that lead to injuries<sup>30</sup>.

Despite significant advantages, VR technology implementation is associated with certain technical challenges and resource requirements. One of the main limitations is the technical complexity of systems, which requires specialized maintenance and support. Dutch researchers note that successful implementation of VR training requires not only equipment procurement, but also training of qualified instructors and technical personnel.

An important technical aspect is the quality of graphic display and realism of the virtual environment. Some instructors and students may be skeptical about the realism of computer characters and objects in VR systems, which may appear somewhat unnatural. However, the future of VR training for law enforcement envisions adding a level of realism that cannot be achieved in video projection simulators.

Researchers from Radboud University emphasize the importance of controllability of the biofeedback parameter and achievability of biofeedback goals for successful

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<sup>28</sup> Axon. VR police training: 4 benefits and use cases for leveraging VR training tools. 2024. October 16. URL: <https://www.axon.com/resources/vr-police-training>

<sup>29</sup> ArborXR. Transforming Police Training with Virtual Reality. URL: <https://arborxr.com/blog/transforming-police-training-with-virtual-reality>

<sup>30</sup> Dario, L. M., Saginor, J. Exploration of a virtual reality exercise to help train police with responding to mental health crises in the community. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*. 2024. URL: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/cbm.2361>

implementation. Seemingly small algorithmic decisions during real-time biofeedback computation can have far-reaching consequences for user experience<sup>31</sup>.

An important factor in successful VR technology implementation is psychological adaptation of users to the new learning environment. Research by Florida Atlantic University showed that although most officers quickly adapt to VR environments, some experience initial confusion or disorientation. Interestingly, these feelings were associated with greater empathy in officers' responses<sup>32</sup>.

Research also shows that VR training can have a positive impact on developing empathy and de-escalation skills. Officers who practiced mental health crisis scenarios in VR showed greater empathy and patience on the job, according to their supervisors, which resulted in more people in crisis being safely taken for treatment instead of being arrested or injured<sup>33</sup>.

One of the main limitations of VR technologies is the incomplete replacement of physical aspects of training. The Dutch study clearly demonstrated that maximum heart rate and average level of physical activity were significantly higher during real training (RL SBT) compared to VR training. This means that VR technologies should complement, rather than completely replace, traditional physical training methods.

Researchers emphasize that police officers must perform tasks under high physical stress, and it is beneficial for them to experience this type of stress during training. Therefore, the optimal approach involves integrating VR technologies with traditional physical training methods<sup>34</sup>.

An important challenge is integrating new VR technologies with existing training programs and organizational structures. Mechanical addition of VR components to traditional programs is not always effective. A systematic approach to reviewing the entire training structure is needed.

Experts emphasize that VR training works best in combination with sound policies and community-oriented practices. Technology alone cannot solve all problems of law enforcement activity, but it can become an important tool in a comprehensive approach to improving training<sup>35</sup>.

Technology development gradually eliminates many existing limitations of VR systems. Implementation of more advanced haptic technologies is expected, which will provide realistic tactile feedback. Systems are also being developed that allow

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<sup>31</sup> Brammer, J. C., van Peer, J. M., Michela, A., van Rooij, M. M., Oostenveld, R., Klumpers, F., Dorrestijn, W., Granic, I., Roelofs, K. Breathing Biofeedback for Police Officers in a Stressful Virtual Environment: Challenges and Opportunities. *Frontiers in Psychology*. 2021. Vol. 12. 586553. URL: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychology/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.586553/full>

<sup>32</sup> Dario, L. M., Saginor, J. Exploration of a virtual reality exercise to help train police with responding to mental health crises in the community. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*. 2024. URL: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/cbm.2361>

<sup>33</sup> ArborXR. Transforming Police Training with Virtual Reality. URL: <https://arborxr.com/blog/transforming-police-training-with-virtual-reality>

<sup>34</sup> Kleygrewe, L., Hutter, R. I. V., Koedijk, M., Oudejans, R. R. D. Virtual reality training for police officers: a comparison of training responses in VR and real-life training. *Police Practice and Research*. 2024. Vol. 25, No. 1. P. 18-37. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15614263.2023.2176307>

<sup>35</sup> ArborXR. Transforming Police Training with Virtual Reality. URL: <https://arborxr.com/blog/transforming-police-training-with-virtual-reality>

officers to physically interact with virtual characters by wearing wrist, hand, and ankle trackers<sup>36</sup>.

Integration with artificial intelligence technologies promises the creation of more adaptive and personalized training scenarios that will be able to automatically adjust to individual needs and training levels of each officer.

## **2. International Standards of Psychological Training and Readiness Assessment of Special Units**

Psychological training of law enforcement units in NATO countries is based on a comprehensive understanding of stress impact on officer effectiveness and the necessity of developing resilience to extreme situations. Modern selection and training systems are characterized by scientifically grounded approaches that combine traditional psychological methodologies with innovative biometric monitoring and neurophysiological training technologies.

The German experience of candidate selection for GSG 9 demonstrates high standards of psychological assessment. Candidates undergo an intensive 22-week training course that includes 13 weeks of basic training and 9 weeks of specialized training. The selection is characterized by extremely high requirements: only 10–15% of candidates successfully complete the entire process<sup>37</sup>. Psychological assessment includes not only traditional tests, but also observation of candidate behavior under extreme conditions, including parachute jumps, maritime operations, and explosive ordnance disposal training.

The French GIGN applies an even more thorough approach to psychological selection. Since its creation in 1973, the unit has conducted over 1,800 operations and rescued more than 600 hostages, which became possible through careful personnel selection<sup>38</sup>. French specialists pay particular attention to assessing candidates' ability to maintain self-control under extreme stress and make quick decisions in situations with limited information.

The Canadian RCMP experience demonstrates an integrated approach to psychological assessment that combines traditional methods with innovative technologies. Canadian researchers have developed an Autonomic Modulation Training (AMT) program that includes heart rate variability biofeedback and metacognitive techniques to enhance stress resistance<sup>39</sup>. This program has shown effectiveness in reducing post-traumatic stress symptoms and improving overall psychological readiness of officers.

The American experience demonstrates a comprehensive approach to developing psychological readiness through programs that combine physiological and cognitive components. Research in San Diego involving 12 sworn officers and 2 dispatchers

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<sup>36</sup> Police Magazine. The Value of VR Training. URL: <https://www.policemag.com/training/article/15668055/the-value-of-vr-training>

<sup>37</sup> GSG 9. Wikipedia. 2024. URL: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GSG\\_9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GSG_9)

<sup>38</sup> GIGN. Wikipedia. 2024. URL: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GIGN>

<sup>39</sup> Di Nota, P. M., Anderson, G. S., Ricciardelli, R., Carleton, R. N., Groll, D. A Biological Approach to Building Resilience and Wellness Capacity Among Police Exposed to Posttraumatic Stress Injuries: Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial. *JMIR Research Protocols*. 2023. Vol. 12. e33492. URL: <https://www.researchprotocols.org/2023/1/e33492>

showed significant effectiveness of a stress resilience program that included education about stress and its effects, HRV biofeedback, a series of HeartMath self-regulation techniques, and HRV-controlled games. Eight out of nine subscales showed improvement, with stress levels decreasing by approximately 40%<sup>40</sup>.

Particularly important is the understanding that the stressful nature of law enforcement work is well established, and the need for meaningful and effective stress resilience training programs is becoming increasingly understood, as has occurred in the military sphere. Law enforcement and military service share many stress-related features, including psychological stressors related to the mission, extended duty cycles, and exposure to horrific scenes of death and injury.

The Dutch experience of developing biofeedback training in virtual environments represents an innovative approach to psychological preparation. Research involving nine police trainers showed that eight out of nine participants demonstrated improved breathing control during action, with positive effects on breathing-induced low-frequency HRV, as well as improved behavioral performance in the game<sup>41</sup>. Critically important is that breathing control skills transferred to subsequent sessions where biofeedback was not provided.

Modern methodologies for assessing psychological suitability in NATO countries are characterized by a multimodal approach that combines subjective and objective indicators. Canadian researchers emphasize the importance of objective assessment of autonomic nervous system functioning through measurement of heart rate, heart rate variability, and respiratory sinus arrhythmia<sup>42</sup>.

Understanding the biopsychosocial model of challenge and threat in police work is gaining particular significance. Research shows that police officers demonstrate increased risk of physical and mental health conditions due to repeated and prolonged exposure to stressful occupational conditions. This emphasizes the necessity not only of initial assessment, but also of continuous monitoring of personnel psychological state.

American researchers have developed a comprehensive approach to assessing psychophysiological reactions of officers under stress conditions. Research showed dynamic changes in sympathetic nervous system physiological arousal during training, and these patterns of change varied significantly between different individuals<sup>43</sup>. Understanding the temporal course of psychobiological states may be

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<sup>40</sup> McCraty, R., Atkinson, M., Lipsenthal, L., Arguelles, L. Police Department Personnel Stress Resilience Training: An Institutional Case Study. *Global Advances in Health and Medicine*. 2013. Vol. 2, No. 4. P. 72–79. URL: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4010956>

<sup>41</sup> Brammer, J. C., van Peer, J. M., Michela, A., van Rooij, M. M., Oostenveld, R., Klumpers, F., Dorrestijn, W., Granic, I., Roelofs, K. Deep-Breathing Biofeedback Trainability in a Virtual-Reality Action Game: A Single-Case Design Study With Police Trainers. *Frontiers in Psychology*. 2022. Vol. 12. 806163. URL: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychology/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.806163/full>

<sup>42</sup> Di Nota, P. M., Anderson, G. S., Ricciardelli, R., Carleton, R. N., Groll, D. A Biological Approach to Building Resilience and Wellness Capacity Among Police Exposed to Posttraumatic Stress Injuries: Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial. *JMIR Research Protocols*. 2023. Vol. 12. e33492. URL: <https://www.researchprotocols.org/2023/1/e33492>

<sup>43</sup> Kelley D.C., Siegel E., Wormwood J.B. Understanding Police Performance Under Stress: Insights From the Biopsychosocial Model of Challenge and Threat. *Frontiers in Psychology*. 2019. Vol. 10. 1800. URL: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6696903/>

useful for developing early intervention systems with biofeedback or for identifying critical time points when individual interventions may be most effective.

The development of innovative approaches to psychological training is characterized by integration of traditional methods with modern technologies. A systematic review of resilience training programs among police forces identified four main types of interventions: programs based on cognitive-behavioral therapy, mindfulness-based programs, neurobiological resilience training programs, and physical training programs.

Mindfulness-based programs (MBRT) have shown high consistency and are theoretically and empirically grounded. One reason for the rapid growth in the number of such studies is that MBRT interventions adapt their curriculum to the specific challenges and needs of police. The focus of these interventions is to enhance officers' physiological and psychological resilience based on techniques such as mindfulness meditation, breathing exercises, and relaxation techniques.

Neurobiological resilience training programs (NB-BRT) represent the oldest type of resilience training among police officers. These programs are often combined with objective outcome measures, such as biomarkers, physiological and brain indicators, as well as psychological variables, such as symptoms of depression and anxiety, sleep problems, and perceived stress<sup>44</sup>.

An important characteristic of modern psychological training systems is active international cooperation. GSG 9 regularly conducts joint training with other elite units, including the Israeli Yamam, French GIGN, and American FBI HRT<sup>45</sup>. Such experience exchange allows units to adopt best practices and adapt them to their own needs.

GIGN also actively cooperates with international counterterrorism units from NATO countries, including the American FBI HRT, British SAS, Australian SPS, German GSG 9, and Irish Garda ERU<sup>46</sup>. Such cooperation is particularly important for developing standardized approaches to psychological training that can be adapted to different national contexts.

One of the main challenges of modern psychological training is the necessity to overcome stigma associated with seeking psychological help among law enforcement officers. The AMT program is designed as a tool that can be performed in the privacy of one's own home, providing officers with a safe and accessible intervention for enhancing wellbeing that they might not otherwise seek.

Development prospects include further integration of virtual reality technologies with psychological training, development of personalized programs based on individual psychophysiological characteristics, and creation of more effective systems for early detection of psychological distress signs.

Law enforcement personnel experience increased risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorders due to the specifics of their professional activities, which include regular encounters with dangerous situations, violence, and death. NATO

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<sup>44</sup> Silva, C., Ribeiro, E., Freire, C. Resilience Training Programs with Police Forces: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*. 2024. URL: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11896-023-09633-y>

<sup>45</sup> GSG 9. Wikipedia. 2024. URL: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GSG\\_9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GSG_9)

<sup>46</sup> GIGN. Wikipedia. 2024. URL: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GIGN>

countries have developed comprehensive protocols for working with post-traumatic stress that combine preventive measures, early intervention, and long-term rehabilitation.

Modern approaches to preventive psychological support are based on understanding that over 42% of public safety personnel report one or more mental health symptoms. Canadian researchers emphasize that accumulated stress and post-traumatic stress injuries lead to chronic physical and mental disorders, including anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and cardiovascular diseases<sup>47</sup>.

The Autonomic Modulation Training (AMT) program, developed by Canadian specialists, represents an innovative approach to preventive support. The program includes six weekly sessions that integrate heart rate variability biofeedback with metacognitive skills practice. Research has shown AMT effectiveness in reducing self-reported PTSD symptoms, strengthening physiological resilience and wellness capacity of the autonomic nervous system.

The American experience demonstrates the effectiveness of comprehensive stress resilience programs. Research in San Diego showed that the Stress Resilience Training System (SRTS), which includes education about stress and its effects, HRV coherence biofeedback, and a series of HeartMath self-regulation techniques, led to improvement in eight out of nine subscales, with stress indicators improving by approximately 40%<sup>48</sup>.

An important aspect of preventive work is the development of programs that consider gender characteristics. The AMT program is specifically designed to study how sex and gender are related to baseline differences in psychological and biological PTSD symptoms and response to intervention.

Psychological rehabilitation protocols after operations in NATO countries are characterized by a multimodal approach that combines individual and group therapy with physiological interventions. A systematic review of resilience training programs identified several effective approaches, including programs based on cognitive-behavioral therapy, mindfulness programs, and neurobiological resilience training programs.

Mindfulness-based programs (MBRT) have shown particularly high effectiveness in working with post-traumatic stress. These programs adapt their curriculum to the specific challenges and needs of police, focusing on enhancing officers' physiological and psychological resilience through mindfulness meditation techniques, breathing exercises, and relaxation techniques.

Neurobiological resilience training programs (NB-BRT) represent the oldest type of intervention among police officers. These programs are often combined with objective outcome measures, such as biomarkers, physiological and brain indicators,

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<sup>47</sup> Di Nota, P. M., Anderson, G. S., Ricciardelli, R., Carleton, R. N., Groll, D. A Biological Approach to Building Resilience and Wellness Capacity Among Police Exposed to Posttraumatic Stress Injuries: Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial. *JMIR Research Protocols*. 2023. Vol. 12. e33492. URL: <https://www.researchprotocols.org/2023/1/e33492>

<sup>48</sup> McCraty, R., Atkinson, M., Lipsenthal, L., Arguelles, L. Police Department Personnel Stress Resilience Training: An Institutional Case Study. *Global Advances in Health and Medicine*. 2013. Vol. 2, No. 4. P. 72–79. URL: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4010956/>

as well as psychological variables<sup>49</sup>. Despite the fact that Di Nota and colleagues did not find significant results from their program, one-third of their participants were unable to return to baseline state after exposure, indicating an urgent need for more stress modulation skills.

Long-term personnel support is a critically important component of an effective psychological support system. AMT fills an existing gap in applied research literature, supporting evidence-informed prevention and intervention programs for public safety personnel exposed to PTSI.

Particularly important is understanding that help-seeking for PTSI is reduced among these occupational groups. AMT is a promising intervention that can be completed in the privacy of one's own home, providing officers with a safe and accessible intervention for enhancing wellbeing that they might not otherwise seek.

The development of innovative technologies opens new opportunities for psychological rehabilitation of law enforcement officers. Dutch researchers have developed biofeedback training programs in virtual reality that allow officers to develop breathing control skills under stress conditions. Results showed that eight out of nine participants demonstrated improved breathing control during action, with positive effects on low-frequency HRV<sup>50</sup>.

Critically important is that the skills developed during biofeedback training transferred to subsequent sessions where biofeedback was not provided. This indicates the long-term effectiveness of such interventions and their potential for integration into officers' daily practice.

Research on psychophysiological reactions shows the importance of understanding stress reaction dynamics. American researchers discovered dynamic changes in sympathetic nervous system physiological arousal during training, and these patterns of change varied significantly between different individuals<sup>51</sup>. Understanding the temporal course of psychobiological states may be useful for developing early intervention systems with biofeedback.

The effectiveness of post-traumatic stress protocols largely depends on organizational support and a culture of openness regarding psychological problems.

The AMT program is developed on a Learning Management System (LMS) platform that can be accessed remotely in the privacy of one's own home, providing officers with a safe and accessible intervention for enhancing wellbeing. This is particularly important given the stigma associated with seeking psychological help among law enforcement officers.

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<sup>49</sup> Silva, C., Ribeiro, E., Freire, C. Resilience Training Programs with Police Forces: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*. 2024. URL: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11896-023-09633-y>

<sup>50</sup> Brammer, J. C., van Peer, J. M., Michela, A., van Rooij, M. M., Oostenveld, R., Klumpers, F., Dorrestijn, W., Granic, I., Roelofs, K. Deep-Breathing Biofeedback Trainability in a Virtual-Reality Action Game: A Single-Case Design Study With Police Trainers. *Frontiers in Psychology*. 2022. Vol. 12. 806163. URL: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychology/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.806163/full>

<sup>51</sup> Wormwood, J. B., Lynn, S. K., Barrett, L. F., Quigley, K. S. Understanding Police Performance Under Stress: Insights From the Biopsychosocial Model of Challenge and Threat. *Frontiers in Psychology*. 2019. Vol. 10. 1800. URL: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6696903/>

Research also shows the importance of integrating support programs into the overall organizational structure. Successful programs are characterized by management support, integration with existing training programs, and regular effectiveness monitoring.

One of the main challenges is overcoming stigma related to psychological problems in the law enforcement environment. Traditional culture of «strength» and self-reliance may prevent officers from seeking help. Developing programs that can be performed confidentially is an important step in addressing this problem.

Development prospects include further integration of wearable device technologies for continuous monitoring of physiological stress indicators, development of personalized rehabilitation programs based on individual risk profiles, and creation of more effective systems for early detection of psychological distress signs.

An important direction is also the development of support programs for law enforcement families, since post-traumatic stress affects not only the officers themselves, but also their loved ones. A comprehensive approach to rehabilitation must consider all aspects of a law enforcement officer's life.

### **3. Adaptation of Foreign Methodologies to Ukrainian Realities and Development Prospects**

The current state of tactical and special training of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies is characterized by a complex transformation process that began after the Revolution of Dignity in 2014. This process includes both significant achievements in modernizing the training system and challenges related to adapting international experience to national characteristics and resource constraints.

The reform of Ukraine's law enforcement system began in March 2014 with the development of a police development strategy, which was adopted on October 22, 2014, after extensive discussion involving the public, national and international experts. To implement this strategy, a national platform «Police Reform: Transparency and Accountability» was created, which included 9 working groups consisting of police officers, civil society and foreign experts<sup>52</sup>.

The central element of the reform was the creation of a new Patrol Police in 2015. Out of 17 thousand candidates, 2 thousand officers were selected who completed a three-month training course using American and Canadian methodologies. Training was conducted by specialists from the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) for thousands of new patrol police officers in different regions of the country<sup>53</sup>.

An important institutional development was the creation of the Patrol Police Academy in 2017 by Order No. 691 of the National Police of Ukraine dated July 5, 2017. The Academy was created as a state institution dedicated to a single purpose – training new officers for the patrol police. The Canadian Police Mission helped

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<sup>52</sup> Національна громадська платформа «Реформуємо МВС: прозорість та відповідальність». URL: <https://archive.khpg.org/police-reform/>

<sup>53</sup> Хоркавий С. В. Реформування органів національної поліції України в умовах євроінтеграції. *Держава та регіони. Серія право*. 2024. № 2. С. 51–56.

Ukrainian instructors adapt scenarios used in virtual shooting ranges for training cadets in accordance with Ukrainian realities and legislation<sup>54</sup>.

One of the main problems is the mismatch between theoretical training and practical requirements. As experts note, what they were taught in theory had little in common with what could actually happen in practice. The new police officers were trained by American and Canadian instructors who taught them according to their methodologies, but the instructors failed to take into account Ukrainian realities, which had not changed much over these years.

The Patrol Police faced challenges that were not anticipated in the training programs. First and foremost, the new patrols had to rescue people from suicide attempts and freezing on the streets, help victims of road accidents, stop fights between neighbors and relatives, and respond to calls about public order violations.

An important characteristic of resource constraints is that technical support has always been of enormous importance, and the Ukrainian side is extremely grateful for this assistance, however, salary increases can only be paid by the Ukrainian taxpayer.

The attestation process became one of the key elements of the reform. Independent attestation committees discovered many ethics violations and criminal acts that indicated the unsuitability of individual officers for police work. In several cases, Ukrainian militia officers had luxury cars or multiple residences, despite earning an average of \$5,000 per year<sup>55</sup>.

The key to the success of the first rounds of attestation was the presence of independent civil society members.

A pilot scheme was launched to improve police work in Lviv region, the results of which provided answers to questions regarding police reform in general [1]. Within this program, a new system for evaluating the work of police agencies based on public attitudes was developed.

Two sociological studies were conducted to test this system with police work assessments obtained and compared from residents of Lviv and Lviv region (1600 respondents in total). An anonymous survey of police personnel from Lviv region was also conducted with 300 respondents.

Comparison of the results of two surveys, one in September 2014, the other in July 2015, allowed for assessment of changes in public attitudes toward police in each part of Lviv and Lviv region. Overall, the level of trust more than doubled, increasing from 19% in 2014 to 41% in 2015<sup>56</sup>.

International cooperation played a key role in developing Ukraine's law enforcement training system. The National Police of Ukraine received assistance from the EU Advisory Mission in Ukraine between 2017 and 2022 through the PRAVO

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<sup>54</sup> Хоркавий С. В. Реформування органів національної поліції України в умовах євроінтеграції. *Держава та регіони. Серія право*. 2024. № 2. С. 51-56.

<sup>55</sup> Wilson Center. When Ukraine Abolished the Police: Lessons for America. Washington, DC : Wilson Center, 2020. URL: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/when-ukraine-abolished-police-lessons-america>

<sup>56</sup> Національна громадська платформа «Реформуємо МВС: прозорість та відповідальність». URL: <https://archive.khpg.org/police-reform/>

Police Programme, implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), aimed at modernizing Ukrainian law enforcement to European standards.

The American ICITAP program provided support in creating the Patrol Police Academy. A delegation of Patrol Police and Patrol Police Academy staff completed a study tour in the USA, visiting police academies in St. Louis County, Missouri, and Macon County, Illinois, combined with attending the annual conference of the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (ILEETA) in St. Louis<sup>57</sup>.

Canadian assistance included installing modern equipment at the Academy, and officers from the Canadian Police Mission helped Ukrainian instructors adapt scenarios for virtual shooting ranges according to Ukrainian realities and legislation.

Analysis of international experience in using innovative methods of tactical and special training and the specifics of the Ukrainian law enforcement system allows for formulating concrete recommendations for adapting the best global practices to national conditions. These recommendations are based on understanding both the advantages of modern technologies and the specific challenges faced by Ukrainian police.

The primary direction of modernization should be the gradual implementation of VR technologies in the training process, taking into account the experience of Dutch police. Virtual reality provides a significantly higher level of mental engagement for officers during training, which is particularly important for developing rapid decision-making skills. It is recommended to begin implementation with basic scenarios of conflict de-escalation and working with individuals in crisis situations.

An important element should be the integration of psychological training based on the Canadian experience of the Autonomic Modulation Training (AMT) program. The program, which includes heart rate variability biofeedback and metacognitive techniques, has shown effectiveness in reducing post-traumatic stress symptoms. Considering the specifics of Ukrainian police work under martial law conditions, such training is critically important.

It is advisable to adapt the American experience of cost-effective training, since VR technologies allow for achieving four times acceleration of the training process compared to traditional methods. This is particularly relevant for Ukraine given limited resources and the need for rapid training of large numbers of personnel.

An aspect of successful implementation is adapting international methodologies to Ukrainian legal, cultural, and operational realities. It is recommended to create a Ukrainian scenario database that reflects the specifics of police work under martial law conditions, including scenarios for working with internally displaced persons, detecting sabotage groups, and interacting with civilian populations in frontline areas.

It is recommended to integrate VR training with existing training programs rather than completely replacing them. Dutch research showed that maximum heart rate and physical activity remain higher during real training, which emphasizes the need for a balanced approach.

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<sup>57</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. Ukraine: ICITAP-Supported Patrol Police and Patrol Police Academies Delegation Completes U.S. Study Tour. 2025. January 20. URL: <https://www.justice.gov/archives/criminal/criminal-icitap/blog/ukraine-icitap-supported-patrol-police-and-patrol-police-academies-delegation>

Long-term recommendations include gradual integration of the Ukrainian training system with European standards. The EU Advisory Mission has already begun projects to transform National Police departments according to European standards.

Active participation in European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) programs and adaptation of Ukrainian training curricula to European standards is recommended. This will create a foundation for Ukraine's future integration into European security structures.

An important direction is the development of joint training programs with EU and NATO countries, which will allow Ukrainian officers to gain experience working with international partners and study best practices directly from their sources of development.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The conducted research on innovative methods of tactical and special training for law enforcement units based on NATO countries' experience allows for formulating a number of important conclusions regarding the prospects for modernizing the Ukrainian law enforcement training system.

Analysis of international experience demonstrates revolutionary changes in approaches to law enforcement training that have occurred over the past decade. The implementation of virtual and augmented reality technologies has fundamentally transformed training capabilities, enabling the creation of safe, controlled, and highly realistic training environments. Research consistently shows that VR technologies provide significantly higher levels of mental engagement compared to traditional methods, although physical workloads remain higher during real training exercises. This finding underscores the critical necessity of an integrated approach that combines the advantages of virtual and traditional training methods to maximize overall training effectiveness.

The economic efficiency of innovative technologies represents one of the most compelling arguments in their favor. International experience demonstrates a four-fold acceleration of the learning process and substantial improvement in officer confidence when using VR technologies compared to traditional methods. Investment in VR systems pays for itself within several years due to reduced costs for ammunition, training facility rental, and logistics. Furthermore, the scalability of these systems allows for training large numbers of personnel simultaneously without proportional increases in operational costs, making them particularly valuable for organizations with extensive training requirements.

Psychological training of law enforcement officers in NATO countries is characterized by a comprehensive, scientifically-grounded approach that combines traditional psychological methodologies with innovative biometric monitoring technologies. The integration of physiological feedback systems with cognitive training represents a significant advancement in developing stress resilience among officers. Particularly important is the development of programs that can be executed remotely, which helps overcome the stigma associated with seeking psychological assistance among law enforcement personnel. This remote accessibility ensures that officers can receive necessary psychological support without concerns about career implications or peer judgment.

Analysis of Ukrainian experience in law enforcement system reform has revealed both significant achievements and systemic challenges. The creation of the new Patrol Police and the Patrol Police Academy represented important steps in modernizing the training system and establishing a foundation for contemporary law enforcement education. However, the identified mismatch between foreign training programs and Ukrainian realities emphasizes the critical necessity of adapting international experience to national contexts. This adaptation must consider not only cultural and legal differences but also operational environments unique to Ukraine, particularly in the context of current security challenges.

Based on the conducted analysis, a phased implementation of VR technologies is advisable, beginning with pilot projects at the Patrol Police Academy and subsequently scaling to regional training centers. This gradual approach allows for careful evaluation of effectiveness and necessary adjustments before broader implementation. Critical importance lies in adapting psychological training programs to account for the specifics of Ukrainian police work under martial law conditions and ensuring systematic training of Ukrainian instructors for working with new technologies. The development of local expertise is essential for sustainable implementation and ongoing system maintenance.

Particular attention should be devoted to creating a national scenario database that reflects the specifics of Ukrainian police work, including scenarios for working with internally displaced persons, detecting sabotage groups, and interacting with civilian populations in frontline areas. These scenarios must be culturally appropriate and legally compliant with Ukrainian legislation while incorporating lessons learned from international best practices. The scenario development process should involve collaboration between Ukrainian law enforcement professionals, international experts, and technology developers to ensure both realism and educational value.

International cooperation remains a key factor in successful modernization efforts. The experience of collaboration with international partners demonstrates the vital importance of technical support for ensuring sustainable development of the training system. This cooperation should extend beyond initial implementation to include ongoing knowledge transfer, technology updates, and continuous improvement processes. Establishing long-term partnerships with NATO countries and EU institutions will provide Ukraine with access to evolving best practices and emerging technologies in law enforcement training.

The integration of innovative training methods must also consider the broader organizational context within which Ukrainian law enforcement operates. This includes ensuring compatibility with existing administrative structures, budget constraints, and personnel policies. Change management strategies must be developed to facilitate smooth adoption of new technologies and methodologies while maintaining operational effectiveness during the transition period.

Furthermore, the development of evaluation metrics and quality assurance procedures is essential for measuring the effectiveness of implemented innovations. These metrics should assess both immediate training outcomes and long-term operational performance improvements. Regular assessment will enable continuous refinement of training programs and demonstrate return on investment to stakeholders and funding organizations.

Overall, the implementation of innovative tactical and special training methods based on NATO countries' experience represents significant potential for enhancing the effectiveness of the Ukrainian law enforcement system. The success of such implementation depends on a systematic approach that combines technological innovations with adaptation to national characteristics, adequate resource provision, and active international cooperation. This comprehensive strategy will position Ukraine's law enforcement training system among the most advanced globally while ensuring it remains responsive to national security requirements and operational realities.

## SUMMARY

This research examines innovative methods of tactical and special training for law enforcement units based on NATO countries' experience and their adaptation prospects for Ukraine. The study analyzes the current state of virtual and augmented reality technologies implementation in police training programs across NATO member states, evaluates the effectiveness of modern psychological preparation methods, and assesses Ukraine's potential for adopting international best practices.

The research methodology includes comprehensive analysis of international experiences, case studies from leading law enforcement agencies, and evaluation of pilot programs implementation results. Special attention is given to examining virtual reality training systems used by police forces in the Netherlands, United States, Canada, and other NATO countries, as well as psychological resilience programs developed for stress management and post-traumatic stress disorder prevention.

Key findings demonstrate that VR technologies provide significantly higher levels of mental engagement compared to traditional training methods, while maintaining cost-effectiveness through reduced ammunition expenses and training facility costs. The study reveals that NATO countries have developed comprehensive psychological preparation protocols combining traditional therapeutic approaches with innovative biometric monitoring technologies and neurophysiological training methods.

Analysis of Ukraine's law enforcement reform experience since 2014 shows both significant achievements in establishing new training institutions and systematic challenges related to adapting foreign methodologies to national contexts. The research identifies critical gaps between theoretical training content and practical operational requirements, emphasizing the need for culturally adapted training scenarios.

The study provides specific recommendations for phased implementation of innovative training technologies in Ukraine, including establishment of pilot VR programs, development of national scenario databases reflecting Ukrainian operational realities, and creation of comprehensive instructor training systems. Recommendations address resource requirements, implementation timelines, and necessary international cooperation frameworks for sustainable modernization of Ukrainian law enforcement training systems.

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