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Dear participants of the conference!

On behalf of the staff of the University and I personally would like to greet you at our educational institution. We are proud that it was the initiator and unchanged venue of this conference, which can already be considered traditional. The experience of conducting previous conferences unequivocally proves its great benefit for the institutions of higher education of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Police of Ukraine. I am sure that this scientific event will be an important stage in the process of training personnel for the police.

The problem of improving the training of police officers is nowadays becoming particularly acute. The reasons for this are, on the one hand, the need to continue to resolutely re-orientate the educational process to break stereotypes, which for decades formed the psychology of law enforcement officers. The main task of reforming the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in relation to the police is to turn the latter from the punitive agency of the Soviet era into a structure that serves the population under the slogan “To Serve and Protect”. A lot has been done in this direction, but stereotypes of consciousness are very persistent, we can not change them by a one-time pressure.

On the other hand, the consequences of the rush and unprofessional nature of the first phase of the police reform, namely the creation of the patrol police, have not been overcome yet. Although sufficient initial training time has been established in the educational institution, but we still do not have the internship required for newcomers even more than for our senior students. At the same time, the formation of a stable personnel core of the patrol police due to the employee turnover is still not completed. That is, graduates of initial training courses have limited ability to take up the experience of practical work from senior fellow workers. Sad consequences are known to all. Not so long ago, a police officer was killed near the Kharkiv city hall from a bullet of a criminal. I’m not mistaken if I call unpreparedness to act in an extreme situation as one of the reasons for the tragedy.

A lot of weapons, ammunition, explosives is illegally trafficking now. It is very likely that a police officer will confront armed resistance, detect homemade explosive devices, etc. I am confident that the preparedness for such situations should be more meaningful and concrete, with the necessary skills to automatism. Lieutenant of police Vladyslav Zhmurov, who graduated from our University last year, carrying out the search of the site of the hunting of ammunition, received serious injuries from the explosion. I believe that not only the employees of the explosive service, but also all police officers should have the basic safety skills while dealing with explosive objects.

One can also talk about the existence of personnel famine in the units of the National Police, primarily in the patrol police. This forces to lower the bar of requirements for candidates for service. But this can lead to undesirable consequences, because not everyone can fulfill a specific police service. Thus, when reviewing the selection criteria for the mentioned service, one must find a “golden mean”. This is a task for both psychologists and other categories of practitioners and scholars. Regarding the level of physical fitness, in my opinion, it is possible to remove the gaps in the absence of medical contraindications, during the training, including the initial training.

But in this regard, there is a need for individualization of the course of physical training, which should be done by the relevant specialists. It should also be noted that those who, despite all the efforts of teachers, have not yet reached the necessary level of physical fitness, should be deducted. We have no right to endanger their lives and health, as well as the lives and health of those whom they must protect. And in order not to waste time and money on unsustainable police officers, it is advisable to set a certain period, within which they should achieve the desired results.

The regulatory base needs further improvement. This is also applied to the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police”. Although some amendments and alterations have been made to it, there is still the need to work on them, namely in part of training personnel for the police force. However, there is nothing extraordinary about it. Changes take place in the current society much faster than before, and law-making activity must respond to the challenges of the present day. Many aspects of staff training for the police are still awaiting their regulation by subordinate acts of various levels. Thus, there is a place to apply scientific knowledge and practical experience, and the participants of the conference have a lot of such experience.

Our foreign colleagues face the same problems that we have previously raised. The experience of their solution is of paramount importance to us. Therefore, I am glad to welcome the conference participants from other countries. The combination of scientific achievements with the experience of practical workers is of particular importance. Hence, it is the practice that is the criterion of truth, whoever would say anything. The presence of many police officers from the units and police divisions inspires confidence in the achievement of the goal of the conference – to improve police training.

With regard to the training and methodological provision of police training, it is fully related to the legislation, normative activities, taking into account practical experience, etc. We are much impeded here by the inertia, the mentioned stereotypes. It is of no use to replace the word “militia” by the word “police” in the textbooks and manuals. It is necessary to hurry up for the legislation, by-laws and, above all, in life, we must anticipate changes and be prepared for them in advance. Only then we will have a high-quality educational and methodological provision for the police training. Our colleagues-practitioners are very busy with solving important tasks posed by the state and society. But I ask you to find time to review the methodological materials, or even better to participate in their preparation. Only then we can achieve the appropriate level of professional training.

The participants of today’s conference leave no room for doubt as to the achievement of its goal. I wish you all fruitful work and creative inspiration.