PECCULIARITIES OF TRAINING OFFICERS FOR THE NEEDS OF THE BORDER AGENCY OF CHINA

ABSTRACT

The article deals with the peculiarities of training officers for the needs of the border agency of China. Attention is focused on the complexity of different sections of the border. The structure, subordination, and main tasks of the Chinese border police are highlighted. Special attention is paid to the training of border guard officers at the bachelor's level of higher education. It is determined that the main specialty for the Chinese border police is “Frontier Defense Management” specialty, which is analogous to “State Border Security” specialty in Ukraine. The purpose, basic professional courses, training requirements and professional competences of future border guard officers of China are revealed. Attention is focused on the disciplines of training that develop the professional competences of border guard officers. It was found out that higher education institutions in China adapt to the needs of public security reform and socio-economic development of the state, constantly adjust and improve the content of training programs and academic disciplines, introduce new academic disciplines and improve existing ones according to the needs of public security. The main features of the training of Chinese border guards officers are revealed: considerable physical and psychological load on cadets, limited number of educational establishments, presence of two directions of training (border protection management and border inspection), involvement of international specialists in educational activities. The study concluded that the training of border guard officers in China is based on a combination of the classical model of university education with personal experience and national characteristics.

Keywords: training officers, border agency, border guard officer, border police, border protection, specialty.

АНОТАЦІЯ

У статті розглянуто особливості навчання офіцерських кадрів для потреб прикордонного відомства Китая. Зосереджено увагу на складності різних ділянок кордону. Вивчено структуру, підпорядкованість, основні завдання прикордонної поліції Китая. Особливу увагу приділено навчанню офіцерів-прикордонників за бакалаврським рівнем вищої освіти. Встановлено, що основною специальністю для прикордонної поліції Китая є спеціальність «Управління охороною кордонів», яка є аналогом спеціальності «Безпека державного кордону» в Україні. Розкрито мету, основні професійні курси, вимоги до підготовки та професійні компетентності майбутніх офіцерів-прикордонників Китая. Акцентовано увагу на предметах навчання, які формують професійні компетентності охоронців кордону. З’ясовано, що вищі навчальні заклади Китая адаптуються до потреб реформування громадської безпеки та соціально-економічного розвитку держави, постійно корегують та удосконалюють змістовне наповнення програм підготовки та навчальних дисциплін,
INTRODUCTION
The People’s Republic of China (PRC), as one of the countries with rapid development, pays considerable attention to the protection of territorial sovereignty, national security and economic interests at the state border. With the deepening of reforms in the fields of education, defense, technology, etc. and openness to the outside world, the need for highly qualified specialists to protect China’s borders is constantly increasing.

Over the last decade, Chinese education has made a huge leap forward completely reviewing specialist training programs. Therefore, the study of the features of training officers in China for the needs of the border agency is of considerable interest in order to analyze it and identify the main directions for improving the national education system.

THE AIM OF THE STUDY
The purpose of the article is to characterize the Chinese experience of training officers for the needs of the border Agency for its implementation in the national education system.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH METHODS
The issue of training police personnel in China is studied in the works of A. Kalugin (2013), A. Mantsurov (2012), Z. Yang (2015), and others. The features of distance learning of border guard officers in Asian countries were studied by I. Bloschynskyi (2016). Some aspects of the reform of the defense and public security forces, as well as the education system of the PRC, were considered by M. Taylor Frevel (2007), J. Wuthnow (2019), Ch. Zhaoming (2011). However, the training of future officers for the needs of the Chinese border agency has not yet been the subject of scientific research.

During the study, we used theoretical and empirical research methods, the study of regulatory documents, educational standards, training programs that regulate the training of officers, Internet resources (The State Council Information Office of the People’s Republic of China, 2019; Ministry of Public Security (China), 2020; National Immigration Administration, 2020; Ministry Of National Defense The People’s Republic Of China, 2020; Border Defense Management, 2020; etc.) to characterize the features of training of border guard officers in China and formulate relevant conclusions.

RESULTS
The People’s Republic of China is the largest country by population and the third largest one by territory in the world. China has a land border of more than 22,000 km and the coastline of over 18,000 km, which is one of the largest borders in the world. China surpasses most countries in the number of neighboring countries, the length of the land border, and the complexity of maritime security (The State Council Information Office of the People’s Republic of China, 2019). Therefore, it is a difficult task for China to protect its territorial sovereignty, maritime rights and interests, as well as national unity.
Despite relatively good neighborly relations with neighboring countries, there are still security threats on the state border of China related to the existence of disputed territories. Although China has settled almost all of its territorial disputes at the border, the borders with India and Bhutan remain conflicting (M. Taylor Fravel, 2007). The considerable number and political diversity of neighboring countries creates potential threats that may arise in different parts of the border. In addition, the number of passengers and the volume of cargoes crossing borders are constantly increasing, facilitating trade, investment and tourism. At the same time, the movement of smuggled goods and illegal migration is increasing. The problem of ensuring public security at the borders of the PRC is actualized by the fight against terrorism as a worldwide problem (The State Council Information Office of the PRC, 2019).

Considering the complexity of the situation, the Border Defense Forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, the Border Forces of the People's Police and the Coast Guard are involved in protecting the external and internal borders of China (Joel Wuthnow, 2019; National Immigration Administration, 2020). Each agency has its own specific activity, and therefore, differences in the system of personnel training. Since the traditional tasks of protecting the state border and border control inherent in the border agency of Ukraine are assigned to the border police, our study will be based on the generalization of the experience of the PRC in training future border police officers. To better understand the peculiarities of their training, we briefly review the main elements of the structure and the corresponding range of tasks of the Chinese border police.

It should be noted that as a result of institutional reforms of the units of the Public Security Forces of China, from January 1, 2019, the border guard officers were removed from the subordination of the People's Armed Police (analogous to the National Guard of Ukraine) and transferred to the People's Police (analogous to the National Police of Ukraine). The General management of the border police is carried out by the Ministry of Public Security of China (MPS), which, in addition to border guard officers, manages the public security police, criminal police, customs police, air police, etc. (Mantsurov, 2012; Ministry of Public Security (China), 2020).

The border police are directly managed by the National Immigration Administration of the MPS, which is also known as the Exit-Entry Administration of the PRC. As a unit within the MPS, the border police have a system of dual subordination: vertically it is subordinate to the National Immigration Administration of the MPS, and horizontally to local authorities (provinces, autonomous regions and counties) (Kalugin, 2013; National Immigration Administration, 2020).

The staff of the Chinese Border Police is about 100,000 people. Public security border units comprise 30 public security border teams in provinces (autonomous regions or municipalities directly subordinated to the central government, with the exception of Beijing), 110 border detachments in border and coastal prefectures (prefecture-level cities, autonomous regions, counties), and 20 marine police detachments in coastal prefectures. There are 207 sea border crossing points in open ports and 46 border crossing points in border areas. 1,691 border police sections have been deployed in border and coastal settlements and 113 mobile teams have been deployed in important sectors of border areas (Ministry Of National Defense The PRC, 2020).

The main tasks of the border police of the PRC are to counter illegal migration, combat smuggling and illegal drug trafficking, and ensure public security and law and order at the state border and in the border area (Ministry Of National Defense The PRC, 2020). However, there are no police stations in settlements in some remote areas of China.
Therefore, in addition to the tasks of the border service, the border police section is entrusted with the functions of traditional police: investigation of criminal crimes and administrative offenses, conducting initial investigative actions, searches, etc.

Thus, compared to Ukrainian border guard officers, Chinese ones fulfill tasks that are more extensive. Accordingly, this requires much broader knowledge in the field of law, intelligence activity, special disciplines, etc. that enables them to perform universal law enforcement functions. On the other hand, this leads to a considerable physical and psychological strain on the cadets, which characterizes one of the features of training Chinese border officers.

The system of training of border guard officers is based on the general system of higher education in the PRC. It consists of a bachelor's degree – 4 years and a master's degree – 3 years. Also, the postgraduate education system is developed: higher doctorate and advanced training system. Analysis of open sources concerning bachelor education of future officers of the Chinese border agency allows us to define that their main specialty is 030603K “Frontier Defense Management” specialty, which is analogous to “State Border Security” specialty in Ukraine. The term of study is 4 years, and the graduates receive “Bachelor of Law” degree.

The specialty “Frontier Defense Management” is open in only a few educational institutions, so the number of students compared to other specialties is relatively small. Girls are enrolled in a limited number. Among the most famous educational institutions offering training in this specialty are: Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, East China University of Political Science and Law, Gansu Institute of Political Science and Law, Academy of the Armed Forces of the PLA of China.


There are two areas of preparation for “Frontier Defense Management” specialty: Border Protection Management and Border Inspection. Border Protection Management is mainly focused on ensuring the territorial integrity and security of the country, as well as public order and good-neighborly relations in border areas. And Border Inspection deals with border checks of passports, luggage and vehicles in accordance with the rules of the border inspection and current legislation (Border Defense Management, 2020).

In the system of training future border officers in China, physical training takes a leading place. Training in this discipline involves the movement of cadets through a complex landscape, their physical training includes a 5-kilometer march, a 400-meter obstacle course, mountaineering and swimming. Important components of border guard officers training in China are such disciplines as: psychological training; management skills; political work; bilingual knowledge; driving various types of military equipment; shooting training; boxing and mixed martial arts; negotiations in a crisis situation (Zi Yang, 2015). Professional competence in the subject matter is required for any border unit in China.

The “Frontier Defense Management” specialty profile provides internships in public security bodies during 6 weeks for cadets and at least 10 weeks for graduates. The purpose of the training is to train highly qualified specialists who have the knowledge and abilities of border management, troop management and entry-exit inspections, who are able
to perform tasks in border management inspections, as well as entry-exit at the border in public security sections, the border guard service and entry-exit. The requirements for the professional training of border guard officers include the study of basic theories and basic knowledge in the field of law, border and defense, military management, etc. Cadets study mainly the national border management, border service tactics, passport documents and vehicle inspection procedures. Border guard officers acquire basic skills of border protection, ceasing border incidents in accordance with the law, managing troops and verification of documents for the right to cross the border, as well as inspecting vehicles (Border Defense Management, 2020).

As a result of training in “Frontier Defense Management” specialty graduates must acquire the following competencies: 1. Master basic theories and basic knowledge in the field of law, management, and public safety. 2. Have skills to carry out duties on border protection, the legal settlement of the border incidents, verification of passport documents and inspection of vehicles. 3. Have the basic abilities of border management, subordinate management, border protection and border inspection. 4. Familiarize yourself with the basic principles, policies, and rules for managing border protection and public security. 5. Understand the domestic and international situation. 6. Master the basic methods of searching for documents and data queries, as well as have certain research skills and practical work ones (Border Defense Management, 2020).

We should also focus on the employment of graduates. After completing their training, border guard officers are assigned to the entry-exit units, as well as border and entry inspection units of the PLA, which are responsible for border and border inspection management. There are also jobs in government departments of foreign affairs, public security, customs, finance, taxation, higher education and research institutes. There is a prospect of career growth.

The Chinese leadership pays considerable attention to the quality of educational programs and the introduction of innovations in the educational process (Chen Zhaoming, 2011). World-renowned scientists are invited to give lectures. Attracting international experts to educational activities is one of China's leading and long-term goals. Educational institutions of the PRC adapt to the needs of public security reform and socio-economic development of the state, constantly adjust and improve the substantive content of training programs and academic disciplines, introduce new academic disciplines and improve existing ones in accordance with the needs of ensuring public security. It should be noted that the ability to successfully adapt the positive foreign experience to national characteristics is one of the distinctive features of education in China.

There are also many programs for training, retraining and advanced training of border police officers (Bloschinsky, 2016). In addition, China is expanding contacts and exchange of cadets with border services in Western Asia, Africa and Latin America. Chinese border guard officers regularly visit countries in Europe and North America on business, and it enhances the officer training system for the needs of the Chinese border agency.

CONCLUSIONS

The wide range of tasks of the Chinese border agency and the complexity of the situation at the borders require high-quality training of border guard officers in “Frontier Defense Management” specialty. In general, their education is based on the combination of the classical model of university education with personal experience and national specifics. The main features of the training the Chinese border guard officers are the considerable physical and psychological strain on cadets, a limited number of educational establishments, two training areas (Border Protection Management and Border Inspection),
involvement of international experts in educational activities, exchange of cadets with foreign countries’ ones, etc. This makes it possible to train highly qualified officers for the needs of the Chinese border police in the context of expanding the range of tasks mandated by public security authorities.

We see prospects for further research in generalizing the content of training border guard officers abroad and determining the main directions of designing the content of training specialists in the domestic education system.

REFERENCES