

Terrorist attacks - a topic (not only) today

The events of recent days clearly prove that terrorist attacks committed by radical members of ethnic or religious groups are a great threat to Central Europe as well. An example is recently published information:

<https://www.e15.cz/zahranicni/utok-v-nice-si-vyzadal-tri-obeti-vysetruje-se-jako-teroristicky-1374633>

https://www.idnes.cz/zpravy/zahranicni/terorismus-bezpecnostni-sluzby-vezeni-dzihadiste-islamismus-erupol-viden.A201106_080233_zahranicni_jhr

Tragedies that happened during two weeks in France and Austria clearly show that it is necessary to constantly increase and improve the capacity of all police forces to combat serious crime.

The Czech Republic has long been actively engaged in the global fight against terrorism and other forms of organized crime. The Police of the Czech Republic, especially the Rapid Response Unit, which is intended for armed interventions against terrorists and dangerous perpetrators and for interventions in special situations (i. e. handling of kidnapping or hostage-taking), must continuously search for new and modern procedures and techniques and use them in practice. Members of this unit must therefore constantly develop their professional knowledge and skills, including through highly specialized courses, trainings and other activities.

For this reason, the Police of the Czech Republic ensures training for special units to conduct various types of training in the fight against increasingly sophisticated methods of crime. All European police forces are following this path. In many cases, of course, it is necessary to implement training at the international level and to cooperate with the civil sector and the public.

Within the framework of the Norwegian Funds 3, the Police Education and Service Training Department is preparing activities that should provide Czech police officers with a greater overview of the issue of terrorist attacks.

One of them will be an activity called "New effective solutions in conducting police interventions against active shooters and perpetrators of terrorist attacks in a crowd environment - workshop". It will focus on current security risks, which affect not only the Czech Republic, but all European countries. One of the most serious threats is the continued proliferation of weapons and hazardous materials across Europe, which fall into the hands of organized crime perpetrators, active attackers (lone shooters), extremists and terrorist extremists, against whom it is difficult to apply traditional security procedures. Another problem is the threat of using chemical, biological or radiological substances in a non-traditional, less sophisticated way, which is, however, more feasible for offenders.

Another activity is the upcoming workshop entitled "New directions of police training with regard to the use of non-lethal means". This workshop will be attended by members of the Police Education and Service Training Department, representatives of regional police directorates and units with nationwide responsibilities, as well as invited foreign guests from neighboring and partner (donor) countries. The aim of the workshop is to present a system of continuous training of police officers after completing the basic training in their country. Another goal is to present a training system with regard to the use of non-lethal coercive means, especially TASER. Last but not least, the workshop will be an opportunity to share experience leading to the effective use of training methods and forms that contribute to the professionalization of police officers. The workshop will also include travel to neighboring and donor countries in order to map the conditions of continuous training and transfer good practice to the Czech Police.

The activity called "Suspicious Behavior Detection (Behavioral Analysis), Security Interview (Person Profiling)" will focus on suspicious behavior detection training and on security interviews, which are effective tools already used in many countries to prevent terrorist and other serious violent attacks.

Thanks to them, it is possible to detect an attacker and thus prevent the committing of a planned attack. Training aimed at the correct use of these methods is intended mainly for riot police officers, who perform service in places marked as so-called soft targets which are currently the most common target of terrorist and other serious violent attacks.

The experience gained within the prepared activities will then be implemented into partial methodologies and procedures of individual types of training (shooting training, tactical training, fitness training, etc.). Once the new knowledge is put into practice, it will be passed on to police officers during their regular service training.

The forthcoming professional publication "Respect for human rights in connection with restriction of personal freedom by members of the Police of the Czech Republic" will focus on respect for human rights in the context of constitutional and legal requirements for all types of restrictions of personal freedom by members of the Czech Police. As there is no publication dealing with similar issues on the Czech book market, the benefit of this activity can be expected not only for members and employees of the Police of the Czech Republic, but also for the professional public. The publication, the aim of which is to strengthen the respect for the fundamental rights of persons restricted of their freedom by members of the Czech Police, should be distributed to particular organizational sections of the police and should also be available in electronic version.

All activities prepared under the Norwegian Funds 3 are aimed at improving police activities and increasing competence in the fight against serious organized crime.