

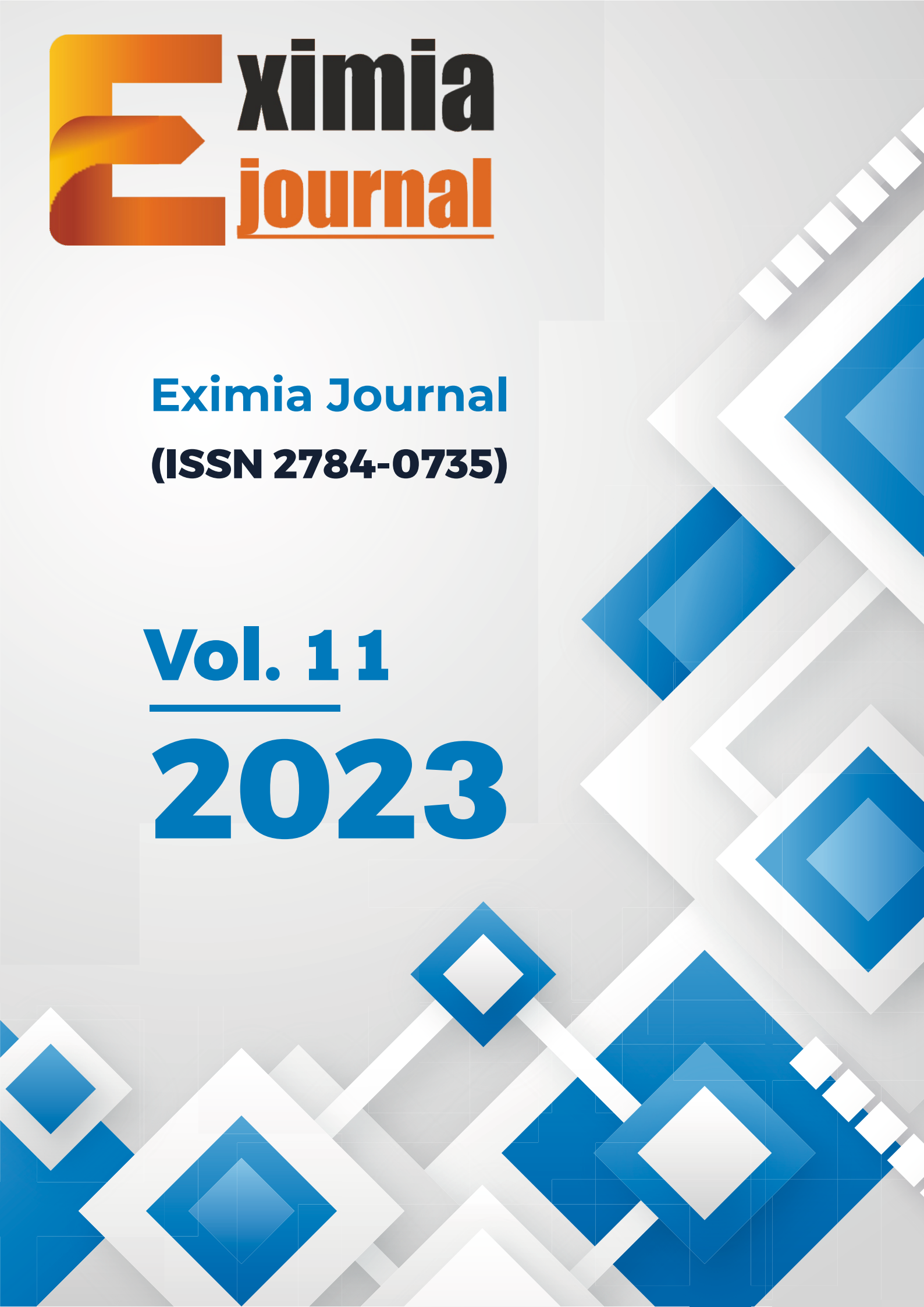


**Eximia Journal**  
**(ISSN 2784-0735)**

**Vol. 11**  

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**2023**



## Tactical rules for ambush

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**Abstract.** The police plays a significant role in the institutional organization of a State, holding the difficult but also delicate mission of maintaining order and public safety, defending citizens' rights and liberties. Because from the beginning, among the needs of the first existing communities was also the need for safety, although over the years, this aspect has been addressed in several ways, this need has always been associated with the duties of the police. In specialized literature, literary critics approached this theme, as it is the essential activity for society, in order to maintain order and public safety. There are also regulations, such as the Constitution of Romania, which deals with stalking from the perspective of the obligations of specialized institutions. Reading several articles and focusing on the tactical rules, I learned that over the years in the practical activity of the police it often happens that they pay "tribute" due to non-compliance with the tactical rules, or the carelessness with which these were treated rules, thus paying with his life. In this sense, in the first chapter, the work aims to present the tactical rules regarding the execution of the ambush, thus aiming at the insufficiency of the works dealing with this subject, a better knowledge of the tactical rules, at least from the point of view of the execution of the ambush.

**Keywords.** Rights and obligations, police tactics, public safety, information, citizen protection

### **I. General considerations regarding the tactical rules on the occasion of the ambush**

Practicing the police profession by its nature includes special risks and duties, his status being distinct from them, due to the professional tasks he has to carry out as well as the carrying of a weapon.

Through the capacity he holds, he has vast rights and obligations, being outlined by the Law on the organization and functioning of the Romanian Police, the Police Statute and the other internal provisions governing the police's activity.

The policeman thus having the duty to intervene whenever it is officially required, towards any citizen, regardless of the social status they occupy, regardless of religion and regardless of race, thus being able to maintain safety and public order.

As for the day-to-day activity of the police, they encounter various situations that must be resolved based on the laws and always referring to previous experiences, to the accumulated knowledge from other similar situations, and last but not least, to the tactical rules appropriate for each situation.

Thus, concluding from the result whether the decisions made regarding each intervention were correct or not.

Tactical rules are actually evaded by police units following past experiences where it has been proven that by following certain tactics the missions that police officers face on a daily basis can be successfully completed.

Since the past, the stalking has taken shape both nationally and internationally. The authors likened stalking to the activity of surveillance, thus addressing its numerous plans and rules.

The ambush is among the first police measures and procedures that every future police officer around the world must know and implement.

The activity is known among police officers all over the world, so through it people who break the law are caught in the act, including also the problems related to the field of road traffic.

Regarding the policeman as a person, his presence must not be noticed by the suspicious persons, the idea also representing an essential rule in the daily activity of the policemen.

It is aimed that by knowing and observing these police tactical rules, mistakes in interventions are reduced and avoided, thus, the success of the policeman and his satisfaction at work are ensured.

However, another important factor in the application of tactical rules is the ability to adapt to any situation, thus it is very important that the policeman is never taken by surprise, expects at any moment to need to intervene and is always ready for anything imposed situation.

The Highway Code regulates in one of its articles the policeman's obligation to draw up a report during the ambush activity.

"The legality comes from the fact that the investigating agent who intervened following the ambush action has the obligation to inform the person who committed an illegal action, that he will be held accountable."<sup>1</sup>

There are a number of important factors in daily activity for which police tactical rules are imposed, some of which are:

- the situation in which the intervention of the police is required;
- the person's action and conduct;
- surroundings;
- the intended purpose;
- the available forces;
- the policeman's training and experience.

From the category of police tactical rules, an important activity practiced by the police is ambush.

This tactical police activity is carried out by two or more policemen armed with all the means available, being placed in various places where the target or target elements can be monitored in order to detain suspicious persons or to catch people red-handed.

The areas where this police action is often done are often buildings, mandatory crossing points, objectives, or various places where illegal acts or crimes are committed.

The ambush is also carried out in other surroundings, during patrolling, on their own initiative by the policemen who ensure the maintenance of public safety, or by order based on some information they have, for a limited time of some cadres.

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<sup>1</sup>Anane Ivan, *Elements of theory and police tactics*, Pro Universitaria Publishing House, Bucharest, 2014

Not only in our times, but since the past, states have faced various situations of illegality and conflicts that determined the emergence of a law that constitutes the prevention of illegal acts.

This is how the stalking activity was born, which was analyzed and approached in various ways, but nevertheless every time it was closely associated with the needs of the citizens and also with the obligations of the police.

By using the most effective techniques, methods and procedures and by following the rules of police tactics, police officers can complete their missions, as we all know, police officers face various situations that can only be solved on the basis of laws and applying each time the tactical rules that are appropriate for each individual situation.

Adhering to the tactical rules ensures the policeman's success in solving the problems he faces, protecting him from mistakes in interventions and thus helping him complete the mission successfully.

A good policeman must keep himself in optimal physical condition in order not to be put in difficulty when he has to intervene.

With quick thinking and increased physical endurance, the policeman will be able to choose and apply the right force in the situations that are required.

When intervening, the policeman is obliged to respect the fundamental human rights and freedoms, he must be perceived by the community as an element of balance in society, a reliable person and always willing to offer his support to the citizens.

I can say that the ambush is well placed in the roots of militarized institutions, as being a main tool in the activity of the police.

## **II. Ambush as a tactical activity**

The ambush is a tactical police activity, with a high degree of importance in the police activity, the rules to be followed have proven to be useful and very important to have a guaranteed success of the action itself.

Also, this activity must be carried out by at least two armed policemen, placed in secret, having a view as favorable as possible to the surveillance itself.

The purpose of this activity is to observe the activity of elements that appear to be suspicious, or to detain wanted persons as well as to catch them in the act, but also to discreetly monitor some buildings, mandatory crossing points, objectives or other places that are open to committing crimes illegal acts <sup>2</sup>.

When the ambush is to be carried out, the police officers have the obligation to be armed, so they must know and respect the rules regarding the carrying of weapons and other equipment.

Before intervening, the mode of action will be established and the force requirement will be assessed before the intervention, taking into account the existing circumstances.

As a rule, the ambush activity is carried out during patrolling, but also in other circumstances or on their own initiative by the police, depending on the purpose they have, for example, maintaining public safety.

There are basic tactical rules that must be followed when the ambush will be carried out, the importance of these rules is increased because, as I said before, these rules were created following some lessons drawn from the experience of the police over the years of activity, thus being able to discover techniques that bear fruit in stalking, they are:

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<sup>2</sup> Anane Ivan , *The investigation of criminal investigation bodies* , Pro Universitaria Publishing House, Bucharest, 2014

First, the first step to a well-planned action, the police will establish signs appropriate to the circumstances that will help them communicate when necessary during the ambush.

All the risks that can influence the action to be carried out by the police, in this case, the ambush, are evaluated. It is necessary for the police officer to perceive, assess and be able to respond to any sign of threat.

Most of the time, in the execution of the ambush, the instinct and experience of the policeman can have their say in such activities.

As I specified previously, the police officers will be armed with the equipment provided, they have the obligation to check the gun, the ammunition and the other means of the equipment both upon entering the duty station and after each use.

Likewise, objects that seem harmless should not be neglected, some of them such as a comb, credit cards, keys, mobile phone, can be used against the policeman.

The movement to the established place will be carried out discreetly, so as not to notice the presence of the police, following that all the people who pass by the place where the ambush is carried out, will be followed by the crew.

The policemen must have a clear perception of the street or the place where the ambush is carried out, so that if intervention is necessary it has an advantage of the terrain.

In this sense, it is important that he has a minimum of knowledge regarding the established area, namely: the topography of the streets, the access ways on short routes, the stations and patrols of the community police, guarded and unguarded parking places, places favorable to illegal acts.

He must sit down so that he can see everything that is happening and be able to act if necessary.

The opponent and the people around must be carefully watched, during discussions it is very important to pay attention to the gestures of the suspect, certain reactions or facial expressions can help the police officer to realize certain things, for example if the suspect becomes restless, it is clear that he is hiding something, an innocent person has no reason to be uneasy.

When the police want to act on the suspect, they have the duty to act quickly to take the person they are chasing by surprise, they must not lose sight of the fact that an opponent, even if he is not armed, can fight back using any object he has at hand.

Stereotypical images such as that only certain people can be aggressive, or that some people do not seem aggressive or capable of committing illegal acts, must also be eliminated.

Any subject in an unusual situation can manifest violently, therefore the policeman must consider all the people in that place before acting on them.

It is very important for police officers to keep in mind that when they intervene in a hostile environment, there is a possibility that they will be attacked by people who were not present in their field of vision.

If the purpose of the police is only to observe the activity of one person or several persons, they will note everything they observe and draw up a report with the result of the action.

If the presence of the police has been discovered, they will act as if it is just a coincidence that they are there.

Establishing tasks when working in a team <sup>3</sup>:

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<sup>3</sup> Buzescu Gheorghe, *Police Law - university course*, Sitech Publishing House, Craiova, 2019

- the head of the patrol takes the actual measure;
- the partner provides the protection.

The partner is the one who supervises the person in question, being ready at any moment to intervene to prevent escape or other acts of aggression.

The head of the patrol will also execute the police measures, being attentive both to the suspect and to the people around and ready to intervene at any time together with his partner.

The rule is always followed; one cop covers and the other moves and takes the initiative.

If there are aggressive actions against the policemen or other people around, they must show firmness and verbally notices the person or persons concerned, in order to stop the respective action, if they do not obey, the policemen will take the appropriate measures.

"There have often been situations when citizens show a desire to do justice for themselves, even in the presence of the police, in such cases, the police must act impartially and keep their cool, thus preventing the unleashing of citizens' anger that can lead to disorder public order and to the injury of innocent persons."<sup>4</sup>

Leaving the place of ambush is carried out in the following situations:

- when performing the action;
- if the suspects flee and do not obey the summons;
- if the place of ambush has been discovered;
- when the ambush is no longer imposed.

The stalking activity exists both in Romania, as I presented previously, but also in the other European countries.

For example, in France, stalking aims to prevent and combat crimes committed by citizens, especially small and medium-sized delinquency, street crime, begging and pickpocketing.

The officers on the mission carry out the activity of ambush, according to the legislation in force in France.

Thus, the ambush prevents crime, which is managed by a dynamic team of specialists with a solid formation.

The ambush activity was not invented in Romania, but it is practiced everywhere in the world and can be found in all manuals of police tactics. This is among the first measures and procedures that any future police officer learns.

The trap is a main point of departure in the training of future policemen, precisely because it is the activity with the help of which people who violate the law are caught in the act from all points of view, including in the field of road traffic, and thus it is a police measure practiced by all policemen from all over the world.

Presenting the stalking activity of the West and moving to Germany, where it is a country with well-defined legislation and very well known by the citizens of the country.

About 80% of the forces in Germany operate in civilian clothes and in unmarked cars, precisely to have better cover when the ambush is to be carried out.

The Traffic Police plays an important role in maintaining order and safety in traffic, both for drivers and other traffic participants.

This institution aims to prevent and even combat road incidents and conflicts, as well as sanctioning citizens who deviate from the law.

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<sup>4</sup>Sandu Florin, *Police Theory and Tactics*, Ministry of the Interior Publishing House, 2001

Due to a statistic of the mortality rate from the point of view of road accidents, in Romania a number of fatal accidents was reported more than three times higher than in other countries in the European Union.

This idea was outlined and introduced in the Mass Media by the Traffic Police, at the same time being a warning to citizens who fraudulently violate the traffic code <sup>5</sup>.

In Romania, almost 2,000 people die annually due to road accidents.

In this sense, the Traffic Police adopted from the beginning, the ambush activity. Aiming to thereby catch the drivers of vehicles driving illegally, as for example:

- exceeding the legal speed;
- not wearing a seat belt;
- not giving priority;
- driving under the influence of alcohol or prohibited substances.

Thus, the ambush is carried out by the traffic agents whose aim is to detect and sanction drivers who deviate from the traffic rules, aiming to reduce contraventional and criminal situations.

Also, in addition to drivers who break the law, there are also other traffic participants, such as pedestrians and cyclists.

### **III. The local police**

The local police is an institution that carries on its shoulders special and important responsibilities together with the citizens, we support this fact due to the vast areas in which the local police operate <sup>6</sup>.

Starting from Public Order, Safety and Road Fluidization and continuing with the Discipline in Construction and Street Display, Environmental Protection, Commercial Activities and last but not least, the Personal Identification Service.

All these specific duties of the Local Police are in the interest of the citizens to keep a logical sense in which things happen both locally and nationally.

Without a control of the police crews in the specified areas, without sanctions and without a well-implemented law, chaos would not be long in coming, by all accounts.

The activity of the General Directorate of the Local Police is carried out on the basis of principles and laws, as well as the acts of the deliberative and executive authority of the local public administration.

While it has an important role in the attribution of the Local Police, citizens tend to respect the law only in the presence of the Police, in their absence they do the opposite. For this reason, local police patrol crews are increasingly conducting ambushes.

Although in the first instance the citizens were warned, they do not always take the legislation seriously.

The patrol crews of the Local Police carry out ambushes most of the time in different intersections or at pedestrian crossings, not only for drivers but also for other traffic participants, for example people crossing the pedestrian crossing on red, or people which crosses irregularly.

This aspect is very important both for the life of the person in question, who is unconsciously risking it, and for drivers who are distracted by citizens crossing the street in an unauthorized place.

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<sup>5</sup> Anane Ivan , *Elements of computerized records of the person* , Pro Universitaria Publishing House, Bucharest, 2015

<sup>6</sup> Anane Ivan , *Management of criminal investigation bodies* , Pro Universitaria Publishing House, Bucharest, 2014

In many cases, pedestrians throw themselves in front of cars while walking, without appreciating the distance and speed at which the cars travel, risking paying with their lives. For this reason, the Local Police lie in wait in the places where pedestrians frequently cross through unauthorized places and sanction these people accordingly.

The ambush is also applied in the situation when drivers park in unauthorized places, they not only occupy a walking lane but most often park in front of or on the pedestrian crossing, it being impossible to notice the people who are going to cross the street to drivers.

Other situations in which stalking is practiced are in parks, maintaining cleanliness is an important factor in the community, Local Police patrols lie in wait in the central parks of cities, to catch people who throw waste on the foot, also people who walk quadrupeds without keeping them on a leash, some of them posing a danger to nearby citizens.

The same tactical method of police ambush was used to catch people who throw seed husks on the public domain, for the lack of health cards and utensils to collect pet excrement, as well as for disturbing public order and peace.

All these acts are punished by the specialized police agents with contraventional sanctions as well as verbal warnings.

Last but not least, the commercialization of some products has become a major problem in Romania, starting from tobacco products and up to alcohol as well as other hygiene products and food.

In the markets of big cities, people were often caught selling tobacco products from another country, at a considerably lower price.

Since they already know that at any time they risk a body searchh from the police, they never have more than a few packages on them.

So again the police tactic, the ambush, is used to track where these black market sellers are getting their supplies from.

Dressed in civilian clothes and behaving like citizens interested in purchasing tobacco products from the black market, the Local Police are interested in the price and the quantity they can purchase later.

In the case of sellers of fruits, vegetables and other products, the same police procedure is used to arrest people selling products without documents of provenance.

Since certain crimes do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Local Police, mixed patrols composed of Local Police and Gendarmes were organized. Precisely to be able to have the necessary competence to intervene in any possible situation, to be able to prevent and combat situations of smuggling and violation of the law of any nature <sup>7</sup>.

Although they seem like minor activities or of low importance, we ordinary citizens see only a small part of the situations that the Police face every day, and only a small part of the importance of intervening in even the most minor situations of non-compliance with the law.

Behind our bias, Local Police officers work hard every day to educate citizens about the law in force.

Turning to Europe and looking at policing systems in other countries, we have noticed an important aspect of stalking in the UK.

This country has adopted a highly individualized system, different from ours, but at the same time practical.

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<sup>7</sup> Buzescu Gheorghe, *The place and role of the civil servant in the state apparatus* , Sitech Publishing House, Craiova, 2017

Thus, in Great Britain the police establish neighborhood patrols, composed of civilians, thus encouraging residents to be careful of properties in their area and to pass on information about suspicious persons.

"This system of cooperation with civil citizens helps the police to identify suspicious persons more quickly, because they are not always at the respective places of ambush, where crimes frequently take place, and they come to the scene upon notification of civil citizens who cooperate with them .

The Home Office in England has also introduced the team patrol and ambush service, by combining field police, mobile patrol police and local detectives.

All these improvements to police crews help maintain public order and safety."<sup>8</sup>

#### **IV. It lurks in the activity of the border police and the gendarmerie**

A fundamental institution that carries out the activity of ambush is the Border Police. It is part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, being specialized in the exercise of the duties of ambush and control of the crossing of the state border, but also in the prevention and combating of illegal migration, as well as specific acts of cross-border crime.

"Ambush is a fundamental activity in this institution carried out by specialized and well-individualized agents in the execution of missions.

Following some statements in the media regarding the issue of migration, not only the Romanian state but also the other component countries of Europe are facing this situation.

Also, not only migration is the only criminal component, but also other varied situations that Romanian citizens face.

Some of these are characterized by various illicit motivations for crossing the Romanian border, trafficking in narcotics, weapons and stolen cars, as well as smuggling in all its forms."<sup>9</sup>

Romania has taken measures to prevent migration by strengthening the borders with authorized personnel, as well as very well trained in this field.

In fact, Romania represents a transit point for migrants and not a destination country.

The main and well-implemented factor in the specialization of police agents is the ambush at the Romanian borders.

As we will illustrate later, the tactical rules of ambush are of major importance to all institutions that adopt this activity.

Along with the Border Police, the ambush is also carried out in the institution of the Romanian Gendarmerie.

This is a militarized structure with responsibilities that outline the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Gendarmerie, it has the role of ensuring, maintaining and restoring public order and tranquility, but also other individualized and institution-specific responsibilities such as the transport and guarding of valuables, goods and dangerous materials as well as the guarding and defense of the objectives of particular importance.

In recent years, the activity of this institution has focused on increasing the degree of safety of citizens by identifying and applying pragmatic solutions to prevent and combat threats to public order and safety.

Another important factor they focused on was reducing the degree of risk and ensuring an effective response to the challenges of public order, security and protection, as well as anti-terrorism.

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<sup>8</sup>Buzescu Gheorghe, *Elements of Public Order*, Pro universitaria Publishing House, Bucharest, 2016

<sup>9</sup>Buzescu Gheorghe, *Rules of police theory and practice*, Pro Universitaria Publishing House, Bucharest, 2016

The specialized crews of the Romanian Gendarmerie have developed procedures by which specific actions are carried out, the latter being the ambush, the public order patrol, the observation post, the filter and the raid.

Later, we will highlight the most important aspects related to the ambush in the attribution of the Romanian Gendarmerie.

#### IV.1. Specific missions of the border police

The ambush is always carried out at the established duty station, with two or more policemen, by permanent observation and listening, responsible for a circular sector with a radius of 80-100 m at night, and during the day with a limit of as visible to the eye.

To improve the stalking action, a service dog and observation and surveillance equipment as well as signaling means can be equipped, thus increasing the observation and listening sector.

The journey to the place of work occurs as follows:

- It is masked, using the ground covers or the shaded portions;
- In the vicinity of the place where the ambush will be carried out, the police officers must avoid moving through towns, roads, forest roads or other trafficked areas, in order to avoid the risk of being seen;
  - Always avoid open places where there are clearings or clearings;
  - When the policemen are transported by car, they will be disembarked at a distance from the place where the ambush is to be carried out, in order to arrive there masked, without their presence being disclosed;
    - As soon as they arrive at the station, one by one, the policemen will occupy the observation points, listen carefully to detect noises and observe around them, after which another observation point and the itinerary to it are chosen, and more then the movement is executed, following which the other policemen proceed in the same way;
    - They have the obligation to maintain visual contact at all times, communicating with each other only in whispers or by signals;
    - The policeman must move as easily as possible in order not to move the vegetation, thus risking their position being discovered;
    - The place of execution of the ambush must be chosen in such a way that the policeman has camouflage. The occupation of the work place is carried out under the following conditions:
      - If the ambush will be carried out in uncomfortable positions, the activity risks being tiring for the police, so the chosen place must have minimal comfort;
      - As a rule, the ambush is executed in the lying position;
      - For a good masking of the mission, between the policemen and the supervised area, the terrain covers are interposed;
      - The trap thus becoming much more effective from inside the covers;
      - The policemen will carry out the ambush through the covers or from inside them, never from above them;
      - When the ambush sectors are divided, the policemen will establish landmarks in the field between which each policeman will do the ambush.

Portions of land are defined as observation sectors, thus, surveillance will be done with the naked eye and through the means of observation provided, with the aim of discovering migrants or any clues that may lead to their presence.

Taking into account the visibility conditions, the distance to the neighboring stations located in the area, the observation sector is established (Observation means available, terrain characteristics).

The lunge is performed over the following distances:

- Close area 400 m;
- Middle zone 400-800 m;
- Remote area over 800 m.

Things that can be observed:

- the movement of people or vegetation that shows us that someone is moving in that area;
- colors that contrast with the background, vehicles or clothes;
- objects that shine;
- animals running away or birds flying suddenly, which suggests to us that they are disturbed by the presence of man;
- at night, lights, phone, cigarette, lighter, car headlights, or the silhouette of a person silhouetted against the horizon.

Listening is a basic procedure in the execution of the ambush, especially at night when visibility is reduced, listening ensures the discovery of migrants or people who have crossed the border illegally in the surveillance devices of the SPFs.

Noises:

- the unnatural rustling of the vegetation, especially when the weather is not capricious with wind, indicates the presence of a person moving in that area;
- noises produced by steps;
- sounds of broken reeds;
- cough, sneeze;
- noises produced by animals or birds disturbed by human presence;
- the noise of engines or boats;

A very important aspect concerns the execution of missions in disguise, thus the blatant can be achieved without the risk of being discovered.

At night, the execution of missions comes with a series of rules that must be respected, they are characterized by:

- The means of lighting must not be missing from the policeman's outfit;
- To occupy the duty station, the policeman must move quietly, with short stops to listen;
- Depending on the characteristics of the terrain, the ambush will be carried out from a lying position, so they can see the horizon line and notice if there is movement;
- Communication is carried out only in whispers or by signals;
- Any person discovered at night is considered a suspect
- Police officers have the obligation to respect the masking rules even when there is good visibility at night;
- The flashlight never goes towards another policeman, thus risking him becoming a target through his discovery;
- During the night, the policeman must not use telephones, lighters, smoke or use the station, he must mask the lights from the means of communication;
- Before leaving the service, the noise reduction equipment, keys, coins, etc. will be adjusted.

Leaving the workplace is carried out as follows:

- This is done covertly, so as not to expose the favorable place for the execution of the ambush;

- It must be ensured that no clues remain at the place where the ambush was carried out;
- The same procedures will be used as when approaching the place of work when leaving it.

If suspicious persons are discovered, they will be apprehended independently or in cooperation with other police stations or patrols in the area.

The head of the patrol is the one who determines the mode of action, usually closing the direction of movement of the suspect and summoning them.

- By surprise, from a short distance but cautiously, avoiding the attack on the policemen.

All activities are carried out after the head of the duty shift has been informed in constant coordination.

Observation post:

The station in which the ambush will be carried out is usually formed by at least two border policemen and carries out the surveillance of the state border in a sector delimited by uninterrupted observation of the terrain.

This activity is mandatory and must be carried out continuously by border guards when on duty.

It consists in the surveillance of a portion of land called an observation sector, or an objective, with the naked eye and the observation means provided.

The observation post can be uncovered or hidden and can also be equipped with technical means of surveillance.

The observation sector is established by the shift leader depending on the visibility conditions, the characteristics of the terrain, it is executed as follows:

- close area up to 400 m;
- middle area 400-800 m;
- remote area - over 800 m to the limit of observation possibilities;

Observation post discovered:

In order to have a good surveillance from the discovered observation post, the police officers have the duty to equip themselves with some objects that are useful for them for a better action, these objects can be: binoculars, a scope, the scheme with the observation sector.

The specific objectives of the discovered observation post are characterized by:

- land and airspace surveillance determined by the indicated ambush sector;
- the discovery of individuals who have committed or are suspected of having committed illegal acts specific to the border, as this requires the immediate notification of the head of the duty shift and the dispatcher;

- the discovery of air targets that violate the state border;
- capturing the degradation of environmental factors in his area of responsibility and immediately reporting the existing situation to the shift leader and the dispatcher;
- supervising the performance of various activities in the observation area.

The discovered observation post performs the service during the day, in a circular sector, the size of which is determined according to the height of the observation point, the visibility conditions, the distance to the nearby observation posts, the means of ambush made available, the characteristics the terrain and the importance of the direction in which the ambush is executed.

The observation sector is divided into areas such as:

- close area up to 400 m;

- middle area 400-800 m;
- remote area over 800 m and up to the limit of observation possibilities.

With the help of a faster orientation in the set area, it will look for some aiming points such as: groups of trees, bridges, buildings, crop edges, road intersections.

In general, the observation is carried out from the distant area to the near one by "maturing" the terrain.

Airspace surveillance is carried out circularly on two levels:

- the first level being concretized between the horizon line and approximately 30 degrees in the vertical plane;

- the second level from the angle of approximately 30 degrees to the vertical plane.

If there are unfavorable weather conditions for the surveillance mission such as: fog, blizzard, heavy snow, storm, or which endanger the life of the police officers such as electric discharges, they have the duty to report the situation to the shift chief and will thus occupy a duty station nearby, still continuing the mission as a covert observation post or surveillance patrol.

Hidden Observation Post:

"The hidden observation post is arranged for the purpose of detaining persons who violate the border legislation at the mandatory crossing points or on the probable directions of approach to the border."<sup>10</sup>

This post can also be used to collect data related to the actions taken by certain people in order to commit border crimes.

The special objectives that outline the hidden observation post are:

- surveillance of the land corresponding to the direction of observation indicated in the mission;

- apprehension of suspicious persons trying to cross the border in the direction of observation;
- supervising the performance of various activities.

Occupying, changing or leaving the place of duty by the hidden observation post is carried out only in disguise, using the terrain coverings and camouflage means provided.

Depending on the specifics of the area as well as the particularities of the area's terrain, they can be arranged in such a way as to ensure optimal conditions for observation and masking.

Mobile observation post:

He can act in plain sight or covertly, on the means of communication in order to prevent people from committing acts that violate the border legislation and participate in the discovery and apprehension of people who have violated the law.

The mobile observation post can be organized on Border Police vehicles, ships or aircraft.

The observation post of the technical means of observation:

It is carried out with two properly armed policemen equipped with a long-distance surveillance device.

The specific missions of the technical observation post have the following characteristics:

- discovery of border criminals operating in the observation area;
- discovery of airspace violations in the area of responsibility.

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<sup>10</sup>Ion Sultănescu, *Police tactics*, All Beck Publishing House, 2002

In any weather conditions, regardless of the season or weather conditions, both during the day and at night, the system allows the surveillance of a larger space in the area of responsibility.

The manual transportation of the surveillance system is carried out by the two policemen and is assembled in the two protective cases, it can be mounted on a tripod and then fixed in any place favorable for surveillance over a wide range.

It can be carried out in mountainous areas, and its placement must be carried out on dominant heights and especially on the probable directions of action of the perpetrators.

The most effective results of this system are highlighted when it is used on a car, also being provided with a 6 m high telescope, where the sensor is mounted to have the widest possible view.

The use of this system in this variant allows to achieve an economy of forces and means.

The use of the system requires the existence of an intervention crew to act immediately at the place indicated by the technical observation post, in order to apprehend the perpetrators.

When people are found violating the state border legislation, the police officers have the mission of coordinating the movement and action of the intervention crew by radiotelephone, thus following the action of the perpetrators with the help of the monitor.

By using the surveillance system at the parameters and under normal conditions, it allows obtaining the following performances:

- detects persons up to 1.75m tall at approximately 7 km and recognizes them on a clear video image at approximately 3 km;
- detects off-road vehicles at 11.5 km and recognizes them at 3 km;
- detects airplanes and helicopters that have violated the airspace at 17.7 km and recognizes them at 4.5 km;
- detects ships and boats at about 38.5 km and recognizes them at 9.7 km.

Regarding the water border, the use of the surveillance service is carried out by correlating the missions and by adapting the missions to the needs imposed by the specific areas of responsibility.

The observation post at the water border may additionally have several specific missions:

- Supervision of the surface of the water and the access roads to the islands or islets belonging to the Romanian state;
- Monitoring and registration in the observation book of ships traveling in border waters;
- Supervision of economic, tourist and leisure activities, which are carried out on the shore or in the border waters.

#### IV.2. Missions specific to the gendarmerie

The Romanian Gendarmerie is an institution with military status, specialized in Romania, member of the Ministry of Administration and Interior.

It exercises, under the conditions established by law, the powers and obligations that fall to it with regard to the defense of public order and peace, the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens, public and private property, to the prevention and detection of crimes and other violations of the laws in force, as well as the protection of state institutions and the fight against acts of terrorism.

Through its attributions, organization, training and territorial disposition, the Romanian Gendarmerie contributes to guaranteeing sovereignty, independence of authority, unity and security of the state, constitutional democracy throughout the national territory both in times of peace and in times of crisis.

The Romanian Gendarmerie represents a well-individualized pillar in society, which carries out its activities defending the fundamental rights of citizens, the community, but also coming to the defense and support of the state and its institutions. All these elements based on the execution and compliance of the constitutional law.

This institution, in addition to its important attributions, also aims to prevent and combat criminal acts, later referring to the ambush action through which they can achieve these objectives. This tactic, also used by the Romanian Gendarmerie, was exploited over time, along the experiences of the police bodies that proved to be useful in this action.

The trap within the attribution of the gendarmerie institution is an action whose objective is to catch red-handed some perpetrators of some anti-social acts or some pursued persons, this consists in the discreet surveillance of some buildings, mandatory crossing points, objectives or other places where illegal acts are committed or favorable places for committing such acts.

As a first step regarding the ambush, the terrain will be reconnoitred and the places where the gendarmes will be located will be determined.

The gendarmes, as in the case of the police, will carry out the ambush on their own initiative or on order based on some data held.

During the execution of the ambush, the gendarmes are placed in various places in order to be able to cover as wide an observation radius as possible.

Before the execution of this action, the time at which the actual ambush will begin and the time at which this action will end as well as the communication signals between the teams will be established.

As in the ambush situation at the border points, the ambush will be carried out quietly, without the gendarmes making their presence known by smoking, the use of lighting and sound devices.

Entry into the device will be done individually, following that at the set time the entire crew will be at the fixed places.

This intervention must be carried out by surprise.

The tactical rules to be followed during the ambush are as follows:

- As a first objective, the gendarmes establish the signs with the help of which they can communicate with each other during the service;
- The location of each location and the manner in which it will be acted upon are established in advance;
- The gendarmes have the duty to move to the place of the ambush as discreetly as possible, without being discovered by anyone;
- If there are different people passing by in the place where the ambush is carried out, their activity will be monitored by the gendarmes;
- When acting on suspicious persons, the gendarmes must be quick and take advantage of the moment when the suspects are taken by surprise and thus confused;
- If the goal pursued by the gendarmes is to observe the activity of the suspects, they must write down every detail they observe and draw up a report on the result of the ambush;
- If the gendarmes have been discovered by the suspicious persons, although they have respected all the terms imposed in order not to reveal their presence, they will act as if their presence there is simply accidental.

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