

The Formation, Development Stages, And Functional Role Of The Patrol-Post Service In The System Of Internal Affairs Bodies

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Abstract: This article analyzes the process of formation of the Patrol-Post Service Institute, its historical origins, and the stages of its gradual development. It also highlights the role of the patrol-post service within the system of internal affairs bodies, its functional responsibilities in law enforcement, and its significance in ensuring public safety. The research is based on the analysis of normative-legal documents, historical sources, and the results of practical activities. Furthermore, the article proposes ways to enhance the efficiency of the patrol-post service under the conditions of modern reforms.

Keywords: Patrol-post service, internal affairs bodies, law enforcement, public safety, institution, stages of development, functional role, reforms.

Introduction: The patrol-post service has evolved as one of the oldest and most effective forms of maintaining public order within the system of internal affairs bodies. In its earliest stages, the activities of this institution were based on simple patrol practices aimed at preventing offenses and ensuring the peace and security of the population. Over time, however, its organizational and legal foundations were gradually improved.

In the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries, the centralization of law enforcement agencies created favorable conditions for the formation of the patrol-post service as a separate structural unit. Consequently, the patrol-post service became not only a mechanism for prompt response to offenses but also an important link performing preventive and supervisory functions. During its historical evolution, a complex mechanism for ensuring public safety was established, and today, the patrol-post service occupies a strategic position within the system of internal affairs bodies — guaranteeing citizens' rights and freedoms, maintaining social stability, and preventing offenses.

The stages of development of the patrol-post service can be conventionally divided into several periods. The first stage (late 19th century – early 20th century) was primarily limited to organizing patrol duty in public

places and taking immediate measures in response to incidents. The second stage (mid-20th century) was marked by the strengthening of the organizational structure of patrol-post units and the regulation of their powers through legal documents. The third stage (late 20th – early 21st century) was characterized by the introduction of modern technical means and the expansion of preventive activities aimed at reducing offenses.

In the period following independence, the patrol-post service underwent profound reforms. Its activities were developed based on democratic principles, emphasizing the protection of human rights and freedoms as fundamental values. Thus, throughout its historical development, the patrol-post service has transformed from simple patrol duties into a vital state institution ensuring social security and legal order.

Within the system of internal affairs bodies, the patrol-post service serves as a core element responsible for maintaining public safety, preventing offenses, and ensuring prompt response to their occurrence. Its functional role is twofold: on the one hand, it is directly related to the protection of citizens' rights and freedoms; on the other, it contributes to strengthening legality and law and order in society.

The patrol-post service operates as the closest and

most visible structure to the population — functioning as a “first response” mechanism within the law enforcement system. Therefore, its role extends beyond addressing the consequences of offenses: it also involves early detection, implementation of preventive measures, and the formation of legal culture among citizens. Consequently, the patrol-post service stands at the intersection of the strategic and practical activities of internal affairs bodies and plays a decisive role in ensuring the efficiency of the entire system.

The patrol-post service, as a specialized institution historically established within the law enforcement system, aims to maintain public order, guarantee citizens’ peaceful life, and prevent offenses. The issue of public safety has been a pressing concern since the early stages of human civilization. Historical sources indicate that in ancient cities, night watchmen, patrols along city walls, and supervisors in markets and squares were appointed to maintain peace and order. These simple practices later evolved into specialized state services, which can be regarded as the earliest prototypes of the modern patrol-post system.

The second half of the 19th century was marked by the centralization of law enforcement agencies. During this period, patrol and duty units began to be established throughout the Russian Empire, including in the Turkestan region. Their primary duties included maintaining order in public places, responding promptly to offenses, apprehending criminals, and ensuring the safety of the local population. These units largely bore a militarized character and operated as an integral part of the police structure.

The first half of the 20th century represents a period during which the legal foundations of the patrol-post service were solidified. After 1917, with the establishment of militia bodies across the former Soviet Union, the activities of the patrol-post service entered a new phase. During this time, the service operated under strict state control, and the maintenance of law and order acquired a distinctly political character.

The recognition of the patrol-post service as a separate division within the militia system significantly contributed to strengthening its organizational foundations. In the second half of the 20th century, the technical capabilities of the patrol-post service expanded considerably. The introduction of motor vehicles, communication devices, and portable radio stations enhanced the responsiveness and operational mobility of personnel. At the same time, the preventive aspect of the service was intensified, with targeted measures aimed at crime prevention being implemented. Particularly in large cities and industrial

centers, the patrol-post service became an essential mechanism for maintaining public safety and social stability.

With Uzbekistan’s attainment of independence, a fundamental transformation occurred in the activities of the internal affairs bodies, including the patrol-post service. The protection of human rights and freedoms became a state policy priority, which necessitated making the service more people-oriented and transparent. For this purpose, a series of normative-legal acts were adopted that clearly defined the legal status, duties, and obligations of patrol-post officers.

For instance, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Internal Affairs Bodies” (1992), along with subsequent Presidential Decrees, served as key legal instruments regulating the professional activities of the service.

Between 2017 and 2021, in the framework of large-scale law enforcement reforms, the patrol-post service was modernized in accordance with contemporary requirements. During the “Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interests,” special emphasis was placed on strengthening the proximity of internal affairs bodies to the population, establishing continuous dialogue with citizens, and intensifying preventive efforts. Furthermore, the system of providing patrol-post officers with modern uniforms, transport, and communication tools was improved, along with the creation of mechanisms for regular professional training.

At present, the patrol-post service functions not only as a structure ensuring public safety but also as an effective institution for preventing offenses, fostering legal awareness among citizens, and providing legal assistance to the population. Integration with modern information and communication technologies has made the service faster, more reliable, and efficient.

In his congratulatory address to employees and veterans of the internal affairs system on October 25 — the Day of Internal Affairs Officers, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that the implementation of the “Safe Neighborhood” and “Safe Territory” principles in cooperation with the National Guard and community institutions has produced tangible positive results in a short period of time.

He emphasized that to enhance the operational capacity of territorial divisions and improve their logistical support, between 2016 and 2021, nearly 3,500 new vehicles and over 16,000 special and technical tools were allocated to the sector.

Statistical analysis demonstrates the tangible effects of these measures. Based on internationally recognized methods of crime statistics, the ratio of crimes per

100,000 inhabitants was introduced. Considering the population growth from 32.12 million to 34.86 million, it was established that during the first six months of 2021, there were 132 crimes per 100,000 inhabitants.

As of mid-2021, among the 9,251 neighborhoods (mahallas) in the Republic, 4,559 (49.3%) recorded no crimes at all. Out of the total 45,630 registered crimes, 15,881 (34.8%) were offenses committed in previous years but officially recorded during the reporting period. Moreover, 15,434 crimes (33.8%) were identified through the proactive efforts of patrol-post officers — an improvement of 71.4% compared to the same period of the previous year (from 9,004 to 15,434 cases).

In the first half of 2022, a total of 46,529 crimes were registered nationwide, which corresponds to an average of 131 per 100,000 inhabitants. Nearly half of these crimes (19,099 cases or 41%) were uncovered through the initiative of law enforcement personnel — a 23.7% improvement compared to the previous year (15,434 to 19,099 cases). Of all recorded offenses, fraud and theft accounted for roughly one-third (15,669 cases or 33.7%). Among the fraud-related crimes, 821 involved employment or academic admission schemes, 765 involved housing or loan-related fraud, 643 were connected to private lending disputes, 401 concerned automobile sales, and 68 involved the fraudulent cashing of funds from plastic cards.

Regarding thefts, 1,441 were committed in residential premises, 1,363 involved mobile phones, 388 targeted bicycles, 411 were cases of livestock theft, and 260 were incidents of pickpocketing. Additionally, in 3,119 neighborhoods, the number of crimes per 10,000 inhabitants exceeded the district or city average, placing them in the “red” risk category, while another 1,279 neighborhoods were classified as “yellow zones.”

Statistical analysis also indicates that the highest crime rates occurred during August, October, and November, while the lowest were observed in January and June. The seasonal increase in offenses during August, October, and November correlates with specific social processes: in August, the influx of thousands of applicants to Tashkent for university entrance exams increases urban crowding, while in October–November, the arrival of farmers selling agricultural products contributes to a rise in street crimes.

Moreover, it was found that the majority of crimes occurred in the middle of the week (Thursday and Friday), while the fewest were recorded on Mondays. In terms of time of day, crimes most frequently occurred between 18:00 and 23:59, whereas the fewest were committed between 04:00 and 06:59. The

sharp increase in offenses between 18:00 and 03:00 is explained by several factors:

- 18:00–21:00: a rise in robbery cases due to citizens returning from work;
- 21:00–00:00: an increase in hooliganism, coinciding with the busiest hours for cafes, bars, and restaurants;
- 00:00–03:00: a surge in vehicle thefts and similar offenses due to unattended property.

Based on the above, it can be concluded that in the process of designing the deployment of patrol units, taking into account the temporal dynamics of crime is one of the key factors in ensuring the effective organization of patrol-post service activities in streets and public places. Moreover, when allocating the forces of various divisions participating in public order protection within the internal affairs bodies (IAB), their specific workplaces and working hours are taken into account. At the same time, the merging of patrol units from different services is not permitted.

Within the district (city) internal affairs bodies, the main document that formalizes decisions regarding the deployment of patrol-post service units is the Plan for the Integrated Use of Forces and Means to Maintain Public Order (Unified Deployment Scheme). This document provides essential preliminary information required by the IAB leadership for determining the daily deployment of patrols. The preparation of this plan involves the participation of the public order departments, commanders of patrol-post service (PPS) units, traffic safety departments, and, when necessary, other relevant officials.

The unified deployment scheme is approved by the head of the directorate coordinating the activities of the internal affairs bodies. The success of management decisions largely depends on the proper selection and distribution of personnel. Therefore, it is crucial that commanders and unit leaders ensure that officers fully understand and consciously execute the assigned tasks through effective training and briefings.

The quality organization of the PPS units' activities requires ensuring that personnel clearly understand their tasks and the most effective ways to fulfill them. It should be emphasized that the achievement of the service's objectives depends on the adequacy of the instructions provided to patrol units. The effectiveness of PPS operations is directly linked to the organizational and methodological level of these briefings. Briefings are typically conducted by the head of the IAB or the commander of the formation (or their deputy) in specially equipped classrooms. During these sessions, the use of maps, charts, models, and other visual aids

to analyze non-standard situations is considered highly beneficial. This approach not only deepens but also reinforces the patrol officers' professional knowledge and practical skills.

Based on the analysis of legal literature, academic research, and law enforcement practice, the information utilized in managing the activities of district (city) patrol-post service units can be classified into five types:

a) Conceptual environment information — this type defines the goals and objectives of PPS units as management objects, sets operational boundaries, and establishes regulations governing their activities. This includes laws and other authoritative decisions of state power bodies.

b) Information on the service area's geographical, socio-economic, and demographic conditions — covering the area's size, development status, population figures, age composition, employment levels, migration processes, records of previously convicted persons, and related data.

c) Information reflecting the state of external influence factors — including details on offenses, their causes and enabling conditions, deviations from established social norms, and data on individuals who have committed or are serving sentences for illegal acts.

d) Information reflecting the state and performance of the internal affairs system itself — which evaluates the efficiency of internal organizational processes and the execution of external management functions.

e) Information on the condition and performance of external actors cooperating with the internal affairs bodies in maintaining legal order — encompassing data on law enforcement agencies not included in the IAB system, as well as public associations engaged in ensuring legal order and safety in administrative territories.

Taking into account these theoretical definitions, it should be noted that modernization of the information system used in managing PPS activities has become one of the most successful practical innovations. District (city) IABs have equipped patrol officers with service tablets connected to the electronic information databases of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

This advancement allows rapid transmission and retrieval of data concerning crimes, missing persons, stolen property, and other issues relevant to law enforcement operations — thereby ensuring prompt and accurate decision-making.

In ensuring public order and safety, the authorized state bodies and institutions may engage, in accordance with the law, public organizations and

individual citizens. In this regard, district (city) patrol-post services cooperate closely with other IAB divisions, governmental agencies, and community structures, carrying out joint tasks based on mutual decisions, plans, directives, and instructions.

As stipulated in the relevant normative-legal acts, the duties of PPS units include:

- Exchanging information on criminogenic situations and notifying patrol units of committed crimes and offenses;

- Conducting briefings and training sessions to develop tactical actions, work methods, and operational styles, engaging experienced personnel in these processes;

- Providing mutual assistance during duty, conducting joint operational-preventive measures, and exchanging practical experience;

- Participating in the implementation of tasks outlined in the special plans of internal affairs bodies — including counter-terrorism measures, the release of hostages, suppression of group disorders and mass riots, defense of guarded facilities and categorized sites, and repelling armed attacks on vehicles or convoys.

In addition, PPS units conduct special-tactical and command-staff exercises, as well as monitor the proper performance of service duties.

Furthermore, according to the researcher Dina Bajramspanich, who studies this area, a well-organized system of control can also help identify and prevent corruption and illegal behavior among law enforcement officers. In support of this definition, it can be stated that, when discussing the supervision exercised over the organization and performance of service by patrol-post units within district (city) internal affairs bodies, this process should be carried out through regular inspections. The inspection of the service performance of patrol-post units in district (city) internal affairs bodies is conducted both openly and covertly in accordance with established procedures and based on a special register.

At present, the introduction of body cameras to monitor the service performance of patrol-post units in district (city) internal affairs bodies can be regarded as a positive development. The implementation of this form of supervision enables the district (city) internal affairs bodies to ensure that, during their daily activities, patrol-post units adhere to proper procedures when communicating with citizens, address complaints through lawful means, and prevent corruption.

At the same time, this form of supervision not only

serves as a control mechanism over the performance of patrol-post units but also provides them with protection in various problematic situations (such as slander or blackmail).

The procedures, timelines, and authorized entities for conducting inspections of the patrol-post units' activities within district (city) internal affairs bodies are clearly defined in normative-legal documents.

Accordingly, when authorized entities conduct inspections of the patrol-post units' activities, they must pay attention to the following aspects:

- The compliance of the deployment of forces and means with approved decisions;
- The patrols' awareness of the situation along their routes, their assigned tasks, rights and obligations, and other necessary information;
- The adequacy of the patrols' equipment and readiness in accordance with established standards;
- The quality of service performance, including their activeness in preventing and detecting crimes and administrative offenses;
- The organization of cooperation with other departments of the internal affairs system, state bodies, and public associations;
- Adherence to service discipline and legality;
- The state of crime and administrative offenses along patrol routes and the measures taken in response;
- The proper maintenance of service documentation, among others.

In addition, depending on the purpose of the inspection, inspectors may pay attention to other relevant circumstances.

To accurately assess the real state of law and order in the service area, to determine the correspondence between the deployment of forces and means and the criminogenic situation on streets and in public places, and to ensure personal responsibility of employees for the performance of their duties, the results of patrol-post units' activities are recorded and evaluated.

Accounting forms the basis of any control activity; it is carried out during the control process and serves as the final function in the management cycle. Accounting refers to the collection, processing, analysis, and systematization of data — typically expressed in quantitative indicators — about the performance of the system and the results of task fulfillment by personnel.

Based on this understanding, it can be concluded that the analysis of factors and conditions reflecting the criminogenic situation enables the organizers of patrol-

post services to better comprehend ongoing events, identify trends in public order and crime, and make more informed management decisions.

It should be noted that the following indicators related to the activities of patrol-post units in district (city) internal affairs bodies should be recorded and analyzed:

- Crimes committed along patrol routes (posts);
- Crimes and administrative offenses detected or solved by patrol-post units;
- Persons detained who were wanted or hiding from investigative bodies and courts;
- Information on the state of service discipline and legality among employees;
- Complaints and appeals from individuals and legal entities concerning the maintenance of public order on streets and in public places.

Proper organization of accounting — particularly the accurate recording of employees' performance results — fosters a sense of personal responsibility among personnel for the state of law and order in their service area. It also allows drawing correct conclusions about the state of public order, ensures the rational deployment of personnel based on an in-depth study of their professional qualities, and enables a more comprehensive and objective evaluation of patrol activities, which directly influences work efficiency.

Evaluation, as one of the key managerial functions aimed at determining work effectiveness, implies that within district (city) internal affairs bodies, the continuous assessment of patrol-post service performance — rewarding high-performing officers while instructing, explaining, or warning underperforming ones — can significantly enhance operational efficiency.

Evaluation constitutes an integral component of managing patrol-post units in district (city) internal affairs bodies. It ensures the consistent maintenance of high-quality and effective service performance within administrative territories and contributes to the professional development of personnel.

From the above considerations, it can be concluded that evaluating the activities of patrol-post units — including their assistance to citizens, legal awareness campaigns, and contributions to increasing public legal culture — requires a clearly defined procedure for collecting public feedback through various means, such as surveys conducted within their service areas or via social media. Moreover, it is advisable to expand this positive practice on a nationwide scale.

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