Artículo de investigación

The use of special knowledge in the investigation of terrorism-related crimes

Использование специальных знаний при расследовании преступлений террористической направленности

El uso de conocimientos especiales en la investigación de delitos relacionados con el terrorismo

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Abstract

The article considers the use of special knowledge in the investigation of terrorism-related crimes. This includes the organization of forensic explosives examination and establishment of a list of necessary items and documents, namely physical evidence related to explosives and procedural documents. In addition to explosives examination, the article considers forensic firearm examination, which solves such groups of tasks as determining the properties of firearms and ammunition that serve in the case as physical evidence, identifying arms and establishing the circumstances of the use of arms. The authors conclude that the use of special knowledge in the investigation of terrorism-related crimes is one of the keys to successfully counteracting this type of crime.

Аннотация

В статье рассматриваются вопросы использования специальных знаний при расследовании преступлений террористической направленности. В частности, организация проведения взрывотехнической экспертизы и установление перечня необходимых для этого предметов и документов, а именно: вещественных доказательств в отношении которых предполагается, что они относятся к взрывоопасным объектам и процессуальных документов. Помимо взрывотехнической, также рассматривается судебно-балластическая экспертиза, которая решает такие группы задач, как определение свойств огнестрельного оружия и боеприпасов, фигурирующих в деле в качестве вещественных доказательств, идентификация оружия, установление обстоятельств

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Keywords: Explosives examination, forensic investigations, investigative actions, special knowledge, terrorist organizations.

применения данного оружия. Авторами предлагается вывод о том, что использование специальных знаний при расследовании преступлений террористической направленности является одним из залогов успешного противодействия данной группы деяний.

Ключевые слова: Специальные знания, террористические организации, следственные действия, криминалистические исследования, взрывотехническая экспертиза.

Resumen

El artículo considera el uso de conocimientos especiales en la investigación de delitos relacionados con el terrorismo. Esto incluye la organización del examen forense de explosivos y el establecimiento de una lista de artículos y documentos necesarios, a saber, pruebas físicas relacionadas con explosivos y documentos de procedimiento. Además del examen de explosivos, el artículo considera el examen forense de armas de fuego, que resuelve grupos de tareas como determinar las propiedades de las armas de fuego y municiones que sirven en el caso como evidencia física, identificar armas y establecer las circunstancias del uso de armas.
Los autores concluyen que el uso de conocimientos especiales en la investigación de delitos relacionados con el terrorismo es una de las claves para contrarrestar con éxito este tipo de delitos.

Palabras clave: conocimiento especial, organizaciones terroristas, acciones de investigación, investigaciones forenses, experiencia técnica explosiva.

Introduction

The modern world does not stand still. This thesis, despite its triviality, emphasizes the development trends of the world community. Information technology, the development of robotics, artificial intelligence and Internet technologies – this is not a complete list of directions, in which the modern world is heading. Innovations, of course, enrich people's lives and make them more accessible and even to some extent simplified. They are associated with many benefits both for society and states and for individuals. However, the occurring processes have a downside. Unfortunately, the criminal world doesn't stand still either. At present, organized criminal groups use many achievements of science and technology for their own criminal purposes. Many types of crime became possible only due to the development of the aforementioned technologies. Modern terrorism, in this case, is no exception. It is no secret that the largest platform for recruiting new terrorists is the information and telecommunications network Internet, namely various websites, social networks, mobile applications, instant messengers, video hosting sites and other products of modern production. In addition, terrorists are also improving methods of committing terrorist acts. The focus has recently shifted to a less expensive and more easily organized method of committing terrorist acts – vehicle-ramming attacks.

Moreover, in recent years, members of some terrorist organizations banned in the territory of the Russian Federation have actively used autonomous drones and quadrocopters, which make it possible to organize an explosion while being tens or even hundreds of kilometers away from its epicenter.

Considering the aforementioned, we can say that the use of special knowledge becomes crucial for the activities aimed at countering terrorism-related crimes.

Methods

The forms of the use of special knowledge include the involvement of relevant specialists in investigative actions, primarily examinations, as well as the appointment of expert studies conducted in specialized institutions (Shaevich et al., 2015).

Expert study acquires particular importance when a terrorist act is committed using an explosive device. In such a case, a comprehensive forensic explosives examination is commissioned. The purpose of this examination is to establish the nature of the origin and manufacture of the explosive device. The uniqueness of the general scheme of the explosive device, fuse design, solder composition, weld metal, etc. can be established. "The type and brand of machinist, milling, drilling, locksmith, welding and other equipment used in the process of construction, camouflage and deployment of an improvised explosive device can be established during the examination" (Khachatryan, 2016). In addition to the specified examination, commodity, metal, radio and other types of examinations can be commissioned.

By means of the examinations, among other things, the investigator establishes whether they chose the correct direction in the investigation and accurately reconstructed the events. This information can reverse the course of the investigation, indicating a different, correct direction, in which the investigator needs to work. An important issue in organizing an explosives examination is establishing a list of necessary items and documents. Depending on the nature of the origin and form, this list includes two categories of objects, namely:

1. Physical evidence: substances, devices (dismantled), which are assumed to belong to explosive objects; devices, objects from the explosion site, which are assumed to belong to the remnants of explosive devices and their elements; items (parts) from the crime scene: carriers of explosive traces (fragmentation damage, scorching, smoking, deformation, etc.) and alleged carriers of the remnants of explosives and products of explosion (burning); soil and samples of the substance from the location of the most severe damage (craters, dents, splits, rifts); scrapings and washes (acetone and water) from the location of the most severe scorching and smoking; drawings, schemes, plans of explosive devices made by the suspect; possible samples for comparison (substance, device, soil, etc.) (Vasalatiy, 2010).

2. Procedural documents: investigative protocols: protocols of crime scene investigation with photo tables, video materials, interrogation reports of victims and witnesses of the incident, as well as specialists who participated in the dismantling of the explosive device, etc.; conclusions of other experts (forensic physicians, auto technicians, etc.), which may contain initial data for explosives examination.

The list of questions addressed to the person conducting explosives examination is very long. They may refer to the design of the explosive device (form, manufacturing method, method for detonation, etc.), its charge (homemade or industrial manufacture, what components were used in the manufacture, whether there are foreign inclusions in the manufacture, etc.), shell, body (appearance, shape, dimensions), as well as conditions and circumstances of the explosion (radius and degree of impact of submunition, whether a spontaneous explosion was possible, whether the explosion was directed at a particular person or group of persons who were at the time of the explosion in a certain place, etc.).

In addition to explosives examination, forensic firearms examination is of particular importance in the investigation of criminal cases. It is commissioned if firearms were used in a terrorist act. Firearms examination solves three groups of tasks:

1. Determination of the properties of firearms and ammunition that serve in the case as physical evidence;

2. Identification of firearms based on the trace evidence left from the shot fired;

3. Establishment of the circumstances of the use of firearms (Meretsky, 2013).

Results

Based on the analysis of these tasks, it can be concluded that forensic investigations of arms, ammunition and trace evidence of their use allow establishing important factual circumstances.

Based on this type of examination, an object is categorized as a firearm and it is determined whether it works properly and is suitable for shooting. With the help of forensic investigations, the essence of the incident is determined, as well as the fact of the use of firearms, place and method of committing the crime, direction and distance of the shot fired, relationship between actions and consequences, number of shots fired

and their sequence and many other facts (Kurdyukova, 2009).

Studies of arms and ammunition contribute to the establishment of their group affiliation and individual identification. It is possible to identify a specific weapon by bullets and shells. Investigating ammunition (bullets, pellets, wadding, etc.) allows determining their common source. All these data are crucial in the investigation of terrorism-related crimes (Koretsky, 2013).

The considered types of examinations are the most common and frequently used in cases of terrorism-related crimes. The use of the rest of them is associated with particular cases and is dictated, as a rule, by a particular investigative situation and the version of events put forward in the context of this situation.

For example, a comprehensive medical and explosives examination can be commissioned, raising the question "What is the radius of action of this explosive device dangerous to human life and health?" (Dildin, 2010).

Since numerous objects are usually found at the scene of the incident, examinations may be commissioned investigating metals, alloys and items made from them. If a fire occurred during a terrorist act, then a forensic fire investigation is commissioned. Forensic medical examination, including the study of corpses and living persons, is a fairly common type of examination conducted in cases of terrorism.

When commissioning a forensic examination of a corpse, questions regarding damage characteristic of a blast injury or thermal burn, in addition to traditional questions, must be raised (Kolotushkin, 2016).

Discussion

Recently, the use of special knowledge in the investigation of terrorism-related crimes committed using the information and telecommunications network Internet has acquired a special role. In this case, it is necessary to involve specialists from the field of information technology and the Bureau of Special Technical Measures in the investigation of this type of crime. It is also necessary to establish interaction with moderators of social networks, video hosting sites and mobile applications in order to quickly determine the mechanism of the committed crime and the role of information technology used in the process.

International cooperation is also important. Often, the use of new technologies by terrorists in committing crimes is impossible without the help of developed countries. In this regard, it is necessary to organize work on the global counteraction to such phenomena at the highest levels of law enforcement.

Conclusion

Thus, we can say that the use of special knowledge in the investigation of terrorism-related crimes is one of the keys to successfully counteracting this type of crime. As has been noted, for cases belonging to the category under study, a large number of expert studies, significant in terms of volume and time, is typical. Therefore, the solution of issues related to their appointment must be included in the number of events held at the initial stage of the investigation.

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