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SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL PECULIARITIES OF VOLUNTEER- PARTICIPANTS OF ARMED CONFLICT

The article presents the results of an empirical investigation of personal peculiarities of randomized groups of military personnel of volunteer battalions, mobilized servicemen and personnel, depending on the freedom of choice of risk.

The methodological basis of the study was the scientific positions and conclusions of the natural–scientific theory concerning the regularities of higher nervous activity developed by V.M. Bekhterev, M.E.Vvedensky, I.I. Pavlov, I.M. Sechenov etc., ideas and provisions concerning psychological theory of personality (B.G. Ananiev, K.K. Platonov, S.L. Rubinstein, etc.), psychological theory of activity (O.M. Leontiev, B.F. Lomov, S.D. Maksimenko, D.N. Uznadze, etc.), practical psychology and psycho diagnostics (L.F. Burlachuk, K.M. Gurevich, V.S. Kompanets, R. Lazarus, M.D. Levitov, N.I. Nayenko, G. Selye, S.I. Yakovenko, etc.), psycho corrections (P.K. Anokhin, O.A. Konopkin, K.Rudestam, O.V. Timchenko, Ye.M. Potapchuk), theoretical and practical provisions of human psychology (A. Maslow, K. Rogers, etc.), as well as theoretical principles of management of personality development in a social environment (A.F. Bondarenko, T.S.Yatsenko).

To solve the problems posed in the research, the author was selected and a number of techniques were used that included the following methods: adapted versions of tests for MMPL 16 PF (FOO), multi-level test questionnaire "Adaptability", questionnaire of general health, (GHQ-28), Personal Health Questionnaire by G. Eysenck (EPI), the method of diagnostics of character logical features G. Shmyshek - K. Leonhard, patoharakterologicheskii questionnaire A.E. Lichko, the pollster of traumatic stress under the editorship I.O. Kotenko, T. Liri (interpersonal relations), a modified social-psychological questionnaire (Joint Study Project 1993) - a "questionnaire of dangers" and socio-psychological and sociometric methods that allow to evaluate interpersonal relationships, standardized interviews, individual psycho diagnostic conversation, observation, analysis of independent characteristics.

Excel 2010 spreadsheets (MS Windows) have been used as a database structure. The statistical analysis is carried out in the program Statistica 10.0 (Stat Soft) with the help of parametric and nonparametric criteria.

The hypothesis of the study is to assume that excessively reinforced individual personality traits will most clearly be manifested by the freedom of choice of a soldier of risk and have different dynamics and mechanisms for responding to specific psychogenic influences of armed conflict.

The use of adequate psychological aids to personality disorders will significantly affect the reduction of anxiety, frustration, aggressiveness on the results of professional activity and health of the staff of the armed forces.

Key words: servicemen of volunteer units, servicemen for recruitment, military personnel, armed conflict, accentuation of character, extraversion, neuroticism, freedom of choice of risk, perception of threats of hostilities, frustration.

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СОЦІАЛЬНО-ПСИХОЛОГІЧНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ДОБРОВОЛЬЦІВ УЧАСНИКІВ ЗБРОЙНОГО КОНФЛІКТУ

У статті порушена тема соціально-психологічних особливостей добровольців - учасників збройного конфлікту. Дане питання є малодослідженим, а отже потребує окремої уваги та вивчення.

Основною ідеєю статті є емпірично дослідити та порівняти особистісні особливості військовослужбовців добровільних підрозділів, військовослужбовців за мобілізацією та кадрових військовослужбовців, в залежності від свободи вибору ризику. Автори мали за мету науково, теоретично, емпірично дослідити та обґрунтувати психологічні особливості військовослужбовців - учасників збройного конфлікту та акцентуацій рис їх характеру.

В статті поданий методологічний аналіз наукових положень та висновків теорії закономірностей вищої нервової діяльності та психологічної теорії особистості. Стосовно емпіричної основи, то нею стала низка професійних, апробованих методик та опитувальників.

В якості порівняння вибірка тестувалась трічі: до участі в бойових діях, одразу після демобілізації та в сам момент обстеження. Проведене дослідження довело, що більшість симптомів психологічного неблагополуччя та більший відсоток акцентуацій особистості мають «недобровольці». Добровольці, в першу чергу, фрустровані соціальними факторами середовища, «недобровольці» - як соціальними так і психологічними факторами.

Шляхи вирішення даної проблеми автори вбачають в необхідності створення індивідуальних, корекційних та психотерапевтичних програм, а також в потребі прогнозування можливих психічних травм.

Ключові слова: військовослужбовці добровільних підрозділів, військовослужбовці за призовом, кадрові військовослужбовці, збройний конфлікт, акцентуації характеру, екстраверсія, нейротизм, свобода вибору ризику, сприйняття загрози бойових дій, фрустрація.

Analysis of recent research and publications

According to various authors, the psychological characteristics of military personnel include sociability, emotional stability, developed sense of duty, responsibility, persistence, social activity and responsibility, empathy, self-confidence, high level of internal control, energetic about social behaviour [6, 7, 12, 13, 17, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29].

To psychological characteristics of volunteers R. Knapp relates religiosity and introverts, while S. Elshaug claims that the volunteers are inherent in the extra vertically oriented orientation of the individual.

In his own study of students H. Paterson does not identify significant differences in extraversion and neuroticism between volunteers and students who are not volunteers [8, 9, 13, 16].

Behind prosocial behaviour there is the motive of altruism, which manifests in the wish to protect and care for those who need help [10].

However, according to the theory of social exchange, selfish motives may be at the heart of voluntary activity.

So, according to research by Azarov E.S., the motives of participation in volunteering are mainly pragmatic and are distributed as follows: 1 – "getting practical experience", 2 – "to live more interestingly", 3– "to find new friends". Often, as a voluntary motive, there is a need to overcome the feeling of loneliness, reduce feelings of guilt or strengthen self-esteem [1].

However, the study of the psychological characteristics of volunteer soldiers was conducted at volunteers of non-governmental organizations, and the peculiarities of the individual-typological characteristics of volunteers with combat experience remain unexplored.

The purpose of the research is to provide scientific and theoretical substantiation of the psychological characteristics of a serviceman of the volunteer units - participants of armed conflict and to determine the features of the accentuation features of his nature depending on the freedom to choose the risk.

Presentation of the main research material

Participation in hostilities and inadequate perception of life threats may have a disintegrative and disadaptational impact on personality [10,11,12,13,14,15].

Therefore, the necessity of creating individual corrective and psychotherapeutic programs, the need to predict possible "mental traumas", optimization of criteria for professional selection among participants in combat actions, encourage scientists to study their psychological features.

The factors that can minimize the effect traumatic effects include the freedom to choose the risk and the personal qualities of the soldiers.

The study involved 108 soldiers from volunteer units (group I) at the time of the survey ($M \pm SD$) 54.48 ± 4.23 years; 61 servicemen mobilized (group II) at the time of the survey ($M \pm SD$) $55, 53 \pm 3.61$ years.

81 participants of armed conflict, personnel soldiers (group III) at the time of the survey was 32.32 ± 8.89 years, who were undergoing treatment and rehabilitated at the medical institution.

The assessment of the personality of the participants was conducted three times: before participating in battlefields (retrospectively), immediately after demobilization (retrospectively) and at the time of the survey.

Results and discussion. It was found that the largest percentage of volunteers was observed in a group of servicemen – volunteer units.

A retrospective analysis of the individual-typological peculiarities of a person, estimation of the general health and socio-psychological factors of the environment of volunteers and "non-volunteers" in each group was conducted.

It was found that more symptoms of psychological distress and a higher percentage of personality accentuation are "not volunteers." Volunteers, first of all, are frustrated by social factors of the environment, "not volunteers" - both social and psychological factors.

Among the volunteers involved in the armed conflict there are social factors dominated, and among non-volunteers, along with social ones, there are psychological factors.

Social factors are positively correlated with depression in the group of volunteers, with scales of social dysfunctions and severe depression in the group of volunteers in armed conflict and with all the scales of the non-volunteer general health questionnaire, reflecting the inadequate perceptions of social threats.

The characteristics of the serviceman of the volunteer units are as follows: communicability, activity, predisposition of risk, expression, insufficiency of reflection and responsibility, emotional instability, impulsiveness, ambition, principledness, long-term tendency to experience a traumatic event, courage, resolve, thirst for recognition, aggressiveness, increased reactivity and low volitional control.

In the group of volunteer servicemen, the percentage of volunteers is significantly higher than among military mobilized servicemen ($p < 0.001$) and members of armed conflict personnel ($p < 0.05$).

This is due to the higher percentage of these groups of volunteers.

Table 1.

Distribution of volunteers in groups (%)

	Servicemen of volunteer units (n=108)	Servicemen for mobilization (n=61)	Soldiers frame (n=81)
11.	22,22	72,13	55,56
22.	77,78	27,87	44,44

A group of volunteers was distinguished for comparative analysis of personality profiles in each group.

Among the servicemen of volunteer battalions 1a (n = 24), 1v (n = 84) - persons who were sent by order. Among the servicemen for mobilization: 2a (n = 44) and 2v (n = 17); among personnel troops: 3a (n = 45) and 3v (n = 36) - respectively.

In the group of volunteer personnel, immediately after leaving the armed conflict area, there was no significant increase in the number of pronounced accentuation, however, the percentage of hypertensive (p <0.001) and cyclothymic (p <0.05) and dilatation (p <0, 05) accentuates.

According to the results of the Eysenck's personal questionnaire any significant changes immediately after leaving the armed conflict area were not determined. At the present time, the level of extraversion (p <0,001) has decreased, the level of neuroticism (p <0,01) has increased. Among the "non-volunteers" in these group, immediately after demobilization, the number of pedantic (p <0,05), excitatory (p <0,05) and distributive (p <0,01) of accentuates grew.

At present in comparison with volunteers, the number of hypertensive (p <0.001) increased and also increased the number of emotional (p <0,001), pedantic (p <0,01), anxious (p <0,05), cyclothymic (p <0,001), excitatory (p <0.001), distomatical (p <0.001) and exalted (p <0.05) accentuation (Table 2).

The level of extraversion immediately after demobilization has not significantly changed, at present decreased (p <0,001), and the level of neuroticism increased (p <0,01).

Personality of servicemen who did not have the freedom to risk had undergone more significant deformations than the personality of volunteers.

In the comparative analysis of the averaged values of the profiles in groups 1a and 1b differ significantly higher levels of jamming and demonstrability among volunteers (p <0.05).

This can be explained by the characteristic of a demonstrational personality: determination, courage, the desire to implement socially approved standards in their own activities, the desire to be a leader.

Characteristic of a jamming person is: the desire to protect those who find themselves in the crisis in life and in relation to whom the injustice has occurred, as well as the desire to respect and recognize of in any way [4, 7, 8, 10].

The percentage of pronounced accentuation in the group of participants in the armed conflict after engagement in combat operations has increased significantly on the scale (Table 2) of the distility (p <0,05); among soldiers on call - on scales: excitability (p <0,01), distility (p <0,01) and exaltation (p <0,05). The level of extraversion has decreased, neuroticism has grown in a group of mobilized and in a group of troops on the call.

When comparing the percentage of pronounced accentuations to participants in an armed conflict, a higher percentage of hypertensive and demonstrative characterizations was observed in the group of servicemen of volunteer units, although this difference was unreliable and significantly more excitatory ($p < 0.01$) and exalted ($p < 0.05$), which reflects the main characteristics of the volunteer's personality, and a significantly ($p < 0,0001$) greater number of people under the age of 30 (group 3a 60,00%, 3b-30,56%)

Personality trait	Serviceman of volunteer units Group 1a		Serviceman of volunteer units Group 1b		Serviceman for mobilization Group 2a		Serviceman for mobilization Group 2b		Soldiers frame Group 3a		Soldiers frame Group 3b	
	Before an etconflict	At the time of survey	Before an etconflict	At the time of survey	Before an etconflict	At the time of survey	Before an etconflict	At the time of survey	Before an etconflict	At the time of survey	Before an etconflict	At the time of survey
hypertension	61.11	13.64	35.71	14.86	48.65	21.62	66.67	23.08	61.29	48.39	42.31	25.93
jamming	33.33	31.82	21.43	33.78	10.81	13.51	8.33	15.38	9.68	25.31	15.38	25.93
emotionality	50.90	15.45	31.43	66.22	27.03	51.35	25.02	46.15	9.68	6.45	7.69	14.81
pedantry	16.67	40.91	15.71	36.49	16.22	45.95	-	23.08	6.45	16.13	3.85	11.11
anxiety	5.56	-	4.29	16.22	5.41	13.51	8.33	46.15	9.68	-	-	3.70
cyclothymy	11.11	45.45	10.00	35.14	8.11	37.84	-	38.46	16.13	35.48	15.38	25.93
demonstration	46.67	22.73	11.43	12.16	10.81	5.41	33.33	15.38	25.81	19.35	15.38	7.41
excitability	16.67	27.27	7.14	33.78	2.70	18.92	-	30.77	29.03	51.61	-	29.63
distemper	-	40.91	5.71	45.95	5.41	40.54	8.33	61.54	6.45	25.81	3.85	33.33
exaltation	11.11	13.64	12.86	27.03	13.51	21.62	8.33	23.08	22.58	29.03	3.85	22.22

in the group of volunteers.

Table 2.

Dynamics of changes in the frequency of personality accentuation (%) by questionnaire G.Smyshek – K.Leongard

In the comparative analysis of the average profiles of groups 3a and 3b, it was found that the group of volunteers differed from the group of demobilized before participation in an armed conflict with a significantly higher level of extraversion ($p < 0.01$), neuroticism ($p < 0.001$), demonstrability ($p < 0.01$) and excitability ($p < 0.01$).

At present, they significantly differ in the higher level of extraversion ($p < 0.01$), demonstrability ($p < 0,05$) and excitability ($p < 0,05$) among volunteers.

Extroverts are characterized by activity, energy, the need for contacts, impulsiveness, and a tendency to risky behaviours. Neurotic personality is characterized by sensitivity and vulnerability, emotional instability [4, 7, 8, 18, 19].

A demonstrational personality is characterized by the desire to take care of others, the ability to obtain benefits and even in severe conditions, high level of harassment.

The exciting personality is characterized by the ability to defend his own position, to advocate for justice, his socially expressed role as the "defender of the weak", and this type is characterized by the possibility of displaying nonverbal and verbal aggression.

From the data obtained, we can assume that the listed character traits are prominent in making the decision to become a volunteer.

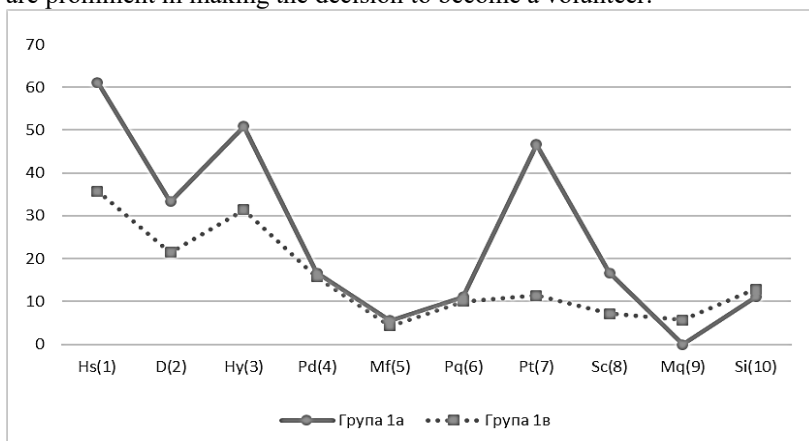


Fig. 1. Comparative analysis of the averaged profiles of soldiers of volunteers' battalions to traumatic events (the methods of FPI and G. Shmyshek - K. Leongard

The servicemen of the volunteer units for the traumatic events did not significantly differ from the military on mobilization.

At the same time, as compared with the group of personnel, there was a significantly higher level of neuroticism, demonstrability and excitability.

Participants in the armed conflict (mobilization troops) who did not have the freedom to choose the traumatic events differed significantly in the level of emotion and anxiety (Fig. 2).

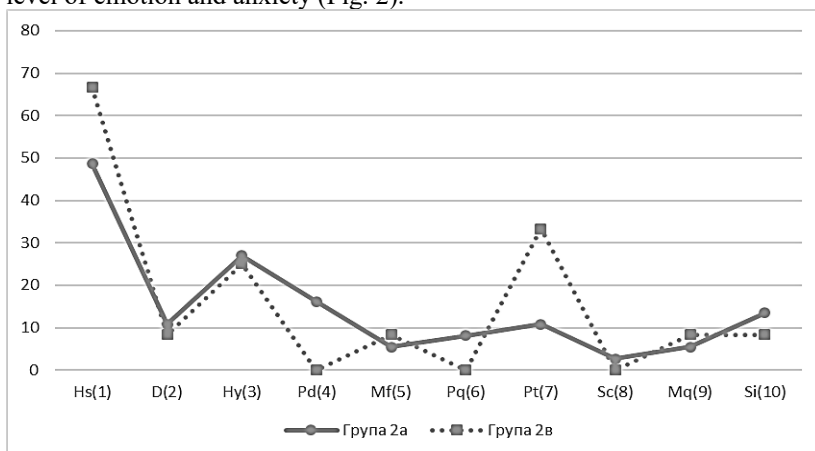


Fig. 2. Comparative analysis of the averaged profiles of mobilized serviceman before traumatic events (methods of FPI and G.Smyshek - K.Leongard).

A group of personnel troops after participation in combat operations differed in a significantly lower level of emotion and anxiety and a significantly higher level of excitability and demonstrability (Fig. 3).

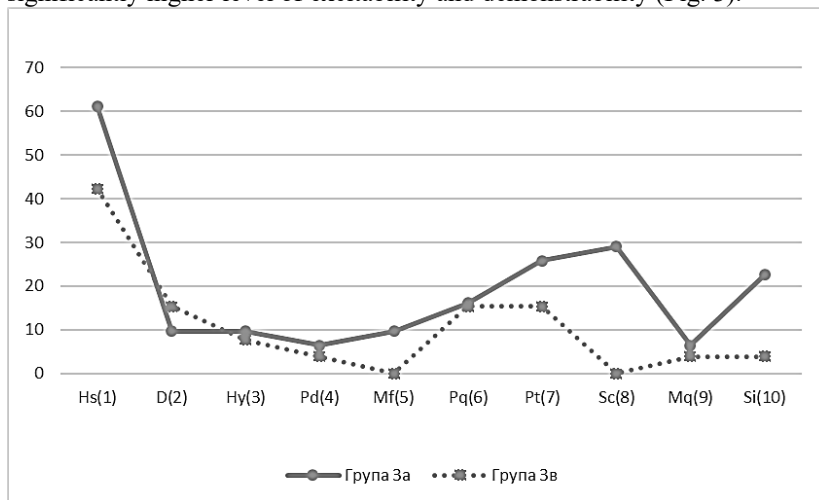


Fig. 3 Comparative analysis of the average military personnel profiles before traumatic events (FPI and G.Smyshek - K.Leongard).

According to the results of the general health questionnaire, there were no significant changes in the groups. In all groups, the scale of "somatic concern" dominates (Table 3).

Table 3.

Characteristics of general health by questionnaire GHQ-28

Scales	Servicemen of volunteer battalions		Servicemen mobilized		Military man	
	(m±sd)	(m±sd)	(m±sd)	(m±sd)	(m±sd)	(m±sd)
Somatic concern	8,95±3,55	10,08±4,67	9,33±4,24	10,42±5,07	8,18±5,12	8,17±4,97
Anxiety and insomnia	7,37±5,21	7,42±5,21	8,67±4,42	8,50±5,07	7,45±6,42	7,72±6,13
Social depression	8,95±3,32	9,03±3,32	9,56±3,26	9,09±4,28	7,39±3,10	7,69±2,67
Severe depression	2,37±2,48	2,37±2,48	3,11±4,00	4,18±4,34	3,94±4,68	2,76±3,69
GHQ-sum	28,16±11,00	30,27±11,00	30,74±13,14	32,82±17,22	26,94±16,40	26,52±15,17

Consequently, the personality of the volunteer is characterized by such individual-typological features as: extraversion, neuroticism, jamming, demonstration, excitability and exaltation. However, these traits during traumatic effects undergo decompensatory changes and impede adaptive mechanisms of personality.

Conclusions

The personality of the volunteer is characterized by communicability, activity, predisposition to risk, expression, insufficiency of reflection and responsibility, emotional instability, impulsiveness, ambition, principle, tendency to experience strong feelings for a long period, courage, determination, thirst for recognition, aggressiveness, high reactivity, low volitional control.

Since individuals with a high level of neuroticism are prone to neurotic diseases, and excitable accentuates - to addictive behaviour, the lack of timely psychotherapeutic and corrective work will lead to the disintegration of the individual.

The prospects of further exploration are seen in the creation on the basis of the data of individual programs of correctional and psychotherapeutic work, since one can assume that in the absence of psychological assistance to participants in armed conflict in the future, they will have signs of social and personal maladaptation.

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