Psychological features of military men’s personality, deserted from troop command

The importance of the studies of different forms of avoidance of the military service, is determined by the fact that they violate the order of bringing up to strength of Armed Forces, lead to the weakening of the military discipline, and as the result the battle readiness is demolished and, as a consequence – defensive capacity.

The applicable legislation provides criminal responsibility for crimes against military service, under which they conceive socially dangerous actions, encroached upon the established order of military service, made by military men and citizens in reserve during military training [art. 33 CC of RF]. All the crimes against military service are divided into the following types: 1) crimes against military interrelation policy (p. 332 – 336); 2) crimes against career program (p. 337 – 339); 3) crimes against duty (guard) types of military service (p. 340 – 345); 4) crimes against order of military equipment safety (p. 346 – 348); 5) crimes against usage of military and technical equipment (p. 349 – 352) [Criminal Code of Russian Federation, 1999. p. 44; Military and criminal legislation, 2002. p. 83].

Particular interest is attracted to the crimes against the order of military service, or, as some authors [Gaikov V.T., Ivanov V.D., 2003] call it, crimes against career program. The public danger of these criminal actions is connected to the fact that they occupy considerable place in the structure of military men’s criminality. The special anxiety arises from the fact that the quality side of this kind of crimes has been recently changing. The data of official statistics, investigative and legal practice, testify, that more often these illegal actions are combined with other crimes – bodily injury of different degree of the heaviness, aggressiveness towards comrades-in-arms and commanding officers, major offences, stealage of fire arms and weapons, robberies, assaults and others. All the above mentioned increases public danger of these criminally punishable acts and determines the necessity to study them in order to find effective preventive measures.

It is necessary to underline high latency of the observed kind of crimes [Dolguova A.I., 2003].

It is necessary to note that the main criteria, joining together these crimes against order of military service, which we found in the scientific literature is the aim–subject’s unwillingness to carry out military service and to fulfill duties, resulting from it [Markelov V.A., 2005].

Measures to reconstruct criminal conditions, relating to the concrete person are created on the basis of deep studies of his personality. As U.M. Antonian has absolutely fairly written, «the efficiency of educational and preventive work with criminals depends on the level of cognition of criminal’s personality...» [1987. p. 183]. The efficiency of the fight with this kind of military crimes and their successful prevention require in depth and well-rounded studies of criminal’s personality.

However in scientific literature this problem is out of sight of the researchers.
There is a number of works dedicated to criminological studies of the personality of the deserters and people, trying to escape military service. So, for instance, P.V. Zhestterov [2003] among the most criminogenically significant characteristics of the military man-deserter distinguishes the following: unstable mental state in combination with criminogenic-active age; unfavorable social origin and status; a general low educational level, a serious shift in the motivational components and impossibility to provide critical self-assessment of his own drift off behavior and immaturity of consciousness. Leaving apart the unknown to the science term of «drift off» behavior, we'd like to notice, that enumerated by the author characteristics (criminogenic-active age, unfavourable social origin and status; low general educational level and etc.) by the force of the existing system of call-in are characteristic to the most soldiers of involuntary service, not only typical to the people deserted from the troop command.

Interesting studies of military men’s personality, deserted from troop command, were carried out by V.V. Logvinenko [2007]. Unfortunately, deserters were a control group in his study, the author concentrated the attention upon military men of involuntary service, who committed suicide attempts. However results of the research of personal features of the deserters clearly point out to the specific problems of the relationship building with their comrades-in-arms.

The object of our studies is military men, who committed crimes against the order of military service, or, as we found in some sources [Gaikov V.T., Ivanov V.D., 2003], crimes against career program. 82 people took part in our research, among them 47 soldiers deserted from their place of service (art. 337); 35 military men tried to escape military service or didn’t come to the place of service (art. 338).

The preliminary results of the carried out empirical research among military men, deserted from troop command, proves the existence of psychological features, decreasing the efficiency of interpersonal interaction.

The detection of typical personal characteristics of these military men seems to be of extreme importance in order to create the system of preventive measures, destined to be protected from this kind of crimes, as well as to carry out regular educational work with soldiers.

The Literature