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Personal and social-psychological factors of fighting trim of military sub-units – participants of counterterrorism operations

In the article there are adduced the results of the empirical research of personal and social-psychological factors of fighting trim of groups of fast reaction and sub-units of security of composite battalion of control post of incorporated grouping of armies in the Chechen Republic. It is shown that personal characteristics, interpersonal needs of soldiers and a number of features of interpersonal relations in military collectives cause a type of fighting trim of military sub-units. In result of the research carried out it is described a social-psychological portrait of the young urgent soldier – participant of counterterrorism operation in the Chechen Republic.

Key words: *social-psychological factors of fighting trim of military sub-units, interpersonal needs, need for control, level of subjective control, social-psychological portrait of the participant of counterterrorism operation.*

At the present time of constant terrorist threat and local antiterrorist operations, attention of researchers is turned to the analysis of psychological factors of fighting trims of direct participants of counterterrorism operations. The literature analysis shows that efforts of researchers have concentrated, first of all, on questions of not regulative mutual relations, informal leadership, unity and stability of military collectives, features of leading style of commanders. There are insufficiently studied social-psychological features of personality of soldiers and fighting groups in conditions of performance of service-fighting tasks and continuous fighting duty in war zones, features of soldier's behavior in a fight. In the Chechen Republic, at performance of service-fighting tasks, in a structure of internal forces to sub-units of fast reaction they give the paramount role in reflection of possible attacks of terrorists, in suppression of acts of sabotage, in performance of tasks arising at extraordinary circumstances. Thus, the "human factor" role extremely rises at carrying out of counterterrorism operations. Thereupon an actual problem is studying of interpersonal relations in sub-units of fast reaction, social-psychological climate in these collectives, personal characteristics of soldiers – members of sub-units of fast reaction. There are below listed the results of our research which was spent in 2005 on the basis of the composite battalion which realizes tasks on protection and security of control post of incorporated grouping of armies, deployed in Hankala settlement of the Chechen Republic.

The aim of our research is to study personal and social-psychological factors of fight trim of sub-units of fast reaction and sub-units of security of composite battalion of control post of incorporated grouping of armies in the Chechen Republic. As the research object there have acted the soldiers of composite battalion on protection and security of control post of incorporated grouping of armies in the Chechen Re-



public, in number of 138 persons at the age of 19–20 years. The sample was made by 2 groups. The first group included 78 soldiers of sub-unit of fast reaction, daily carrying out fighting tasks on protection and defense of control post, who are in raised alertness. The second group included 60 persons of sub-units of security. All participants of research are the soldiers at call to military service.

As the research hypothesis there acted the assumption that personal characteristics, interpersonal needs of soldiers and a number of features of interpersonal relations in military collectives cause a type of fighting trim of military sub-unit.

The research methods: **1.** The color test of relations (A.M. Etkind, 1987). **2.** The questionnaire of interpersonal relations of V. Shutz adapted by A.A. Rukavishnikov (1992); it was used with a view to realize the diagnostics of degree of expressiveness of some basic social needs of personality: needs for belonging to various social groups, needs for controlling the others, needs for close emotional relations, needs for the others would include the subject in their activity, needs for control from the others and needs for the others would establish close relations. **3.** 16-factorial questionnaire of R. Kettel. **4.** The sociometric test (nonparametric procedure) is applied with a view to define positive and negative social-psychological status of the soldiers, and also features of interpersonal relations in sub-units. As positive and negative criteria following questions have been formulated: "With whom of group (battalion) members would you like to ..." and "With whom of group (battalion) members you wouldn't like to go to fight?" The quantity of elections wasn't limited. The sequence of elections also wasn't considered. **5.** The "Level of subjective control" technique of E.G. Ksenofontova (1999). With a view to find out the importance of distinctions between studied parameters among soldiers of military sub-units of fast reaction and security sub-units there has been used U criterion of Mann-Whitney.

The comparative analysis of personal characteristics, interpersonal needs, features of interpersonal collective relations and partially unconscious relations to a number of the major persons and concepts, social-psychological status of soldiers of groups of fast reaction and security sub-units has shown that there are essential distinctions between them.

Firstly, fighters of groups of fast reaction differ from soldiers of sub-units of security on a level of internality (the "general internality" index, the average rank of group 1 =75,35, the average rank of group 2 =61,90, $Z=-1,964$, level of significance =0,050). Fighters of groups of fast reaction, being in constant alertness, having experience of participation in counterterrorism operations, are assured that the forces influencing person's destiny are inside of them, first of all they consider themselves responsible for their life, instead of any external forces or other people. The results received on this scale confirm some essential distinctions between the studied groups: on the "I" subscale (influence of personal experience on an examinee: av. rank group 1 =78,22, av. rank group 2 =58,17, $Z=-2,939$, level of significance =0,003), the subscale of competence of interpersonal communication "IC" (av. rank group 1 =76,02, av. rank group 2 =61,03, $Z=-2,216$, level of significance =0,027), the scale of activity negation "AN"



(av. rank group 1 =61,88, av. rank group rank 2 =79,40, $Z=-2,573$, level of significance =0,010) and the subscale AI "Readiness for independent planning, realization of activity and responsibility for it" (av. rank group 1 =74,90, av. rank group 2 =62,47, $Z=-1,832$, level of significance =0,067). The received data allows to understand the nature of internality among the first group examinees more deeply. Fighters of groups of fast reaction, unlike soldiers of security, are pure internals, and not only at the world outlook level, but also at the level of readiness to activity. They are ready to plan, realize the activity independently and to take responsibility for it. Soldiers of sub-units of security have much more expressed indexes on the return scale "Activity negation" and more likely tend to a conclusion about unreasonableness, senselessness of realization of the activity incapable to lead to a positive result. Also significant distinctions on the "I" subscale allow to make a conclusion that on internality of the examinees of the first group, first of all, there affects their personal experience. Distinctions on the "IC" subscale show that soldiers of groups of fast reaction consider themselves competent of interpersonal relations in greater degree than fighters of sub-units of security.

Secondly, the comparative analysis of the indexes received on 16 factors of Kettel has found out significant distinctions on two of them: on the M factor (pensiveness/practicality: av. rank group 1 =79,10, av. rank group 2= 57,02, $Z=-3,319$, level of significance =0,001) and on the Q2 factor (nonconformism/conformism: av. rank group 1 =74,80, av. rank group 2 =62,61, $Z=-1,848$, level of significance =0,065). The received data was unexpected for us, as we assumed that in groups of fast reaction which are "on an attack edge", constantly risking life, there would be people more courageous, emotionally steady, self-assured, etc. The research results draw a little bit different, "romantic" portrait of a participant of direct counterterrorism operations: unlike practical, pragmatic, careful, realistic soldiers of sub-units of security, he is more pensive, has the developed imagination and own private world, is more self-sufficient and self-motivated. These soldiers more idealize military operations, experience heroic dreams. Communicating with this category of soldiers it is obvious their readiness for a feat, aspiration to strain to be in action. In addition to this, there are received close to significant distinctions on the Q2 factor, "conformism-nonconformism". Soldiers of groups of fast reaction prefer own decisions, independence, follow the way chosen by them, wish to make own decisions and try to operate independently; they are more independent. Soldiers of sub-units of security more dependent on group, follow public opinion, prefer both to work, and to make decisions together with other people being guided by social approval. Thus frequently they don't have initiative in decision-making. The data received in the research is coordinated with the conclusions made by G.U. Fomenko [3] on a sample of employees of power departments, shown that features of personality's existence in an extreme situation defines the modus of being: limiting or extreme.

Thirdly, the comparative analysis of social-psychological needs among soldiers of the first and second groups has revealed significant distinctions of 2 kinds of needs: needs for inclusion into various social groups at other people initiative (av. rank group



1 =63,98, av. rank group 2 =76,68, $Z=-1,874$, level of significance =0,061) and needs for control from other people (av. rank group 1 =63,79, av. rank group 2 =76,93, $Z=-1,940$, level of significance =0,052). Thus, social-psychological needs of fighters of groups of fast reaction differ from soldiers of security in "inclusion" and "control" spheres at a level of behavior demanded from the others. Soldiers of groups of fast reaction have lower index of expressiveness of need for inclusion, preferring to communicate with small quantity of people that is characteristic for members of the group "closed" on their problems, daily carrying out various fighting tasks. On the contrary, soldiers of sub-units of security have more expressed needs for acceptance by the others and belonging to them. The significant distinctions received in control sphere, allow to conclude that soldiers of groups of fast reaction have much more poorly expressed need for dependence, for control from other people, for someone another would make decisions and assume a responsibility. The staff of sub-units of security is more subject to control from the others, they are more dependent, hesitate at decision-making.

Fourthly, studying of partially unconscious relations to significant persons and concepts among the soldiers of both examined groups hasn't revealed significant distinctions in intensity of relations to a collective, to army service, to contract service, to the battalion's commander, to the platoon (sub-unit) commander, to life, to death, to love, to friendship, to life threat. We assumed that men constantly endangering life, face to face meeting with terrorists in fight, have any special system of relations to universal values, companions and danger. Significant distinctions are found out only on the "Service in Hankala" index (av. rank group 1 =62,51, av. rank group 2 =78,58, $Z=-2,371$, level of significance =0,018), and relation to service in Hankala is more positive among the staff of rear sub-units which doesn't leave on fighting tasks. This data is coordinated with other known inquests showing that soldiers of rear divisions highly estimate service in Hankala.

The special interest cause the results of sociometric procedure by which results there have been built sociometric matrixes on each of eight sub-units participating in the research. During the research the soldiers of groups of fast reaction did sociometric choice from the companions on sub-unit whereas in service sub-units sociometric elections of the soldiers were extended on all battalion. The highest sociometric status had the soldiers of fighting sub-unit in battalion – platoon reconnaissance. The positive sociometric status varied from 0,28 to 0,44 whereas the negative status has been diagnosed only among insignificant part of the staff of this sub-unit and was insignificant on numerical expression. More than 30 % of the staff had mutual elections that speaks about high unity of the collective being in constant alertness and tempered in daily performance of fighting tasks. This sub-unit significantly bypasses all other examinees group. The similar picture was observed in a tank platoon. Besides among the soldiers of these two divisions there is a high level of emotional effusiveness. By the features of interpersonal relations these sub-units differ from all the others, even from other groups of fast reaction. In our opinion, it is caused by their fighting tasks: scouts and tankmen are ready to set out the disposition post and to carry out service-



fighting tasks outside of a control post. They are more rallied; the division penetrates a network of mutual relations of sympathy and support.

Generally, the staff of groups of fast reaction has higher social-psychological status, than the soldiers of groups of security (av. rank group 1 =81,51, av. rank group 2 =53,88, $Z=-4,030$, level of significance is less than 0,0001). The status of each member of group in sub-units is significantly more among the soldiers serving in groups of fast reaction, rather than among the soldiers of sub-units of security.

The conducted research has shown that a number of personal and social-psychological characteristics of soldiers cause a level of their performance of tasks on alertness. First of all they concern to them: high social-psychological status, internal control locus, nonconformism, pensiveness and degree of expressiveness of need for contacts and control from other people. The obtained data has allowed to create the social-psychological portrait of a young urgent soldier taking direct part in counterterrorism operation in the Chechen Republic. First of all, this is the person assuming responsibility for events around, independent, pensive, with developed imagination, able to build strong interpersonal relations with companions, with high social-psychological status and lowered needs for dependence and wide social contacts.

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