

Substantial Aspects of Psychological Preparation of Operational Staff to Work with Persons Convicted for Terrorist Activities

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Abstract: The need for psychological training of employees of the operational services of the penitentiary system of the Russian Federation to work with convicts, and in particular with persons convicted of terrorist activities, is obvious. The need for a targeted approach to both convicts of a certain category (in this case, those who convicted of terrorism) and to each convicted in particular is becoming increasingly urgent. The implementation of this provision determines the necessary competence of the employees of the operational service in the issue of the general characteristics of convicts, and in particular in the content of their socio-psychological characteristics. The purpose of this study was to determine the substantive aspects of the psychological preparation of operational officers to work with convicts for terrorist activities. The tasks: the definition of the methodology for organizing the training of operational staff, the principles of its construction; identification of social and psychological characteristics of persons convicted of terrorist activities that are important for carrying out operational work. the following methods were used: a method for analyzing documentation, characteristics of convicts, materials on the analysis of their disciplinary practice; the questionnaire; the method of psychodiagnostics: 1). the questionnaire LSI (LIFE STYLE INDEX) P. Pluchic, 2). the methodology "Standardized method of personality research" (SMIL) Sobchik L.N., 3). the methodology "Temporary perspective of a convict" Zimbardo F., 4). the research methodology of self-attitude Panteleev, R.S., 5). Bass-Darki personality questionnaire, 6). the methodology "Comprehensive study of the personality of a convict" Chebalova, E.A., 7). the test "Life-meaning orientations" Leontyeva, D.A. Based on the results of the study, the theoretical and methodological aspects of psychological training of employees of the operational service of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia to work with convicts for terrorist activity are revealed, presented in the form of valid principles of its construction, determined by interpreting a significant array of empirical material.


1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to determine the substantive aspects of the psychological preparation of operational officers to work with convicts for terrorist activities. Accordingly, the tasks of the research work were defined, which together reveal the general content of the research goal, and in particular: the definition of the methodology for organizing the training of operational staff, the principles of its construction; identification of social and psychological characteristics of persons

convicted of terrorist activities that are important for carrying out operational work.

Based on the results of the study, the goal and objectives were fully met. The importance of the results obtained is determined by the disclosure of theoretical and methodological aspects of the psychological training of employees of the operational service of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia to work with people who convicted for terrorist activity, presented in the form of valid principles for its construction, determined by interpreting a significant array of empirical material.

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The theoretical and practical significance of the results is also emphasized by the established socio-psychological characteristics of persons convicted of terrorist activities, which are necessary for effective operational work with them.

The main prerequisite for starting this research work of studying of the personal characteristics of convicts for terrorism, which was necessary for effective operational work with them, was the situation of insufficient data regarding this category of persons obtained by analyzing real empirical material. Most of the research on the identity of the terrorist (Vityc, V.V., 2003; Sochivco, D.V., 2011; Doosje, B. Loseman, A., Bos, K. Van den, 2013; Hogg, M., Adelman, J., 2013) and aspects of psychological preparation of the operative service officers of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia to work with convicted persons (Babichev, I.V., 2011; Boeva, M.V., 2013; Kudruavcev A.B., 2012; Polyakov, A.V., 2015; Williams, K.S., 2013) are built on the hypothetical assumptions of the authors and do not have conclusions and methodological proposals based on the results of interpretation and processing of the necessary valid empirical material in the form of grounds.

In this situation, the novelty of the research is the definition of the principles of building the psychological preparation of operational staff to work with convicted terrorist activities, as well as the socio-psychological characteristics of persons convicted of terrorist activities, necessary to conduct effective operational work with them, established by interpretation a significant array of empirical material. This is precisely the research contribution of the authors to the study of the issue of training operational officers of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia for successful work with convicts for terrorist activities, this will be discussed in this article.

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to accomplish the tasks set in the introduction, our empirical study, some of the results of which are discussed in our publication, was organized and conducted from 2013 to 2020 in correctional institutions of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia in thirty territorial bodies of the penal system. The sample of persons convicted of terrorist activities amounted to more than seven hundred people.

In the process of the research work, the following methods were used:

- a method for analyzing documentation related to the personality of convicts for terrorist activities (personal files of convicts, materials of court decisions (sentences), characteristics of convicts, materials on the analysis of their disciplinary practice);

- the method of conversations with persons convicted of terrorist activities,

- the questionnaire survey of persons convicted of terrorist activity using author's questionnaires;

- the method of psychodiagnostics (testing): 1). the questionnaire LSI (LIFE STYLE INDEX) P. Pluchic, 2). the methodology "Standardized method of personality research" (SMIL) Sobchik L.N., 3). the methodology "Temporary perspective of a convict" Zimbardo F., 4). the research methodology of self-attitude Panteleev, R.S., 5). Bass-Darki personality questionnaire, 6). the methodology "Comprehensive study of the personality of a convict" Chebalova, E.A., 7). the test "Life-meaning orientations" Leontyeva, D.A.

All the empirical material obtained in the course of research work underwent appropriate mathematical and statistical processing using the methods of the package IBM SPSS Statistics 23.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The processes are taking place not only in our country but throughout the world, and include migration and integration processes, actualize the problem of countering terrorist activities. These dynamic processes reflect not only the contradictions of different countries, religions, political doctrines, but also different cultures and mentalities. (Kazberov P.N., Spasennicov B.A., Tuncov V.V., 2019).

In these conditions, the problem of preventing and countering terrorism becomes relevant for the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, and in particular for the employees of the operational service of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. The optimization of the existing psychological training of operational staff to work with convicts for terrorist activities is also determined as relevant. A natural requirement for the organization of such training will be its conducting at the appropriate methodological level, at the level determined by the definition of the principles of building psychological training of operational officers to work with convicted terrorist activities, as well as the level of deterministic use in the preparation of authentic socio-psychological characteristics of persons convicted of terrorist activities which are necessary to carry out effective

operational work with them, established by interpreting a significant array of empirical material.

Comprehension of all the empirical material obtained by the study made it possible to determine the principles of building the psychological preparation of operational officers to work with convicts for terrorist activities. Thus, the principle of axiology assumes that the training of employees of the operational service of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia to work with convicts for terrorist crimes should be based on the mandatory consideration of the value system of each person, respectively, and convicts of the category in question. This can be achieved by providing operational staff with knowledge in the field of axiology, a scientific discipline that studies the values of a person's vital activity, which determine the qualitative state of the substructure of the orientation of his personality.

To implement the principle of axiology, the main part of the training of operational staff should be devoted to teaching them the use of psychological techniques to understand the mechanisms of manipulative influence to which persons convicted of terrorist crimes were previously subjected (Chabriev R.Y., Pertlu L.F., Spasennicov B.A., 2019).

In the process of psychological training of operational staff, it is necessary to reveal the main problematic aspects of the functioning of the cognitive, behavioral and affective levels of individuals convicted of terrorist activities. Problems of their cognitive level are characterized by the presence of: irrational attitudes, cognitive distortions, destructive thoughts, often leading to social disintegration of the personality and inadequacy in self-esteem. Problems at the affective level are expressed in the manifestation of anger, aggression, hostility; in the manifestation of feelings of guilt and fear, nightmares. At the behavioral level, problems are indicated in hostility, social deprivation, impulsivity and in the dominance of less constructive mechanisms of psychological defense. (Muzichyk T.L., Kulakova S.V., Spasennicov B.A., 2019).

It is indisputable that to bring the convicted person to the thought of correction is necessary to understand the motives due to which he committed the crime. (Doosje, B., Moghaddam, F.M., Kruglanski, A.W., 2016). It is necessary to take into account the vivid typical characteristics of the motivation of those convicted of terrorism, which include subordination to radical political and religious ideas. In psychological terms, such ideas can be defined as destructive irrational attitudes (Bovin B.G. Bovina I.B., 2020).

The training of the operational service staff should presuppose the formation of their competencies to work with the most traditional irrational attitudes and cognitive distortions of a mental and religious nature, which are often encountered in work with convicts of terrorist crimes.

We also note that the content aspect of the effectiveness of training operational employees should be expressed, among other things, by such indicators as: knowledge of taking into account irrational attitudes and cognitive distortions inherent in representatives of a monotheistic mental civilization, behavioral patterns (Victuc V.V., 2003); as well as the possession by employees of the operational service of psychological methods: labialization, identification, moral empathy and anticipation (Tsvetkova, N.A., Kulakova, S.V., 2020).

The principle of the axiological nature of the training of operational staff determines the need for the formation of such competencies as the basis of psychodiagnostics work, as well as scientific, intersectoral and intercultural. It is intercultural competence that determines the availability of knowledge and skills of employees in the field of accounting in preventive work with those convicted of terrorism of data on their irrational attitudes and cognitive distortions inherent in representatives of a monotheistic mental civilization that affect their behavioral patterns and life in general. In their professional activities, employees of the operational service need to understand and perceive the subjectivity of the perception of the situation by any of its subjects. The observed situation is perceived and understood by each subject differentially, based on his attitude to certain social, political, religious groups, life experience, system of values, orientations and individual characteristics. For example, by blowing up architectural monuments of the Hellenistic era in Syria, that is, essentially committing acts of vandalism in accordance with European criminal law, terrorists believe that they are destroying objects of idolatry, that is, they are fighting the dark legacy of polytheism (paganism).

Compliance with the principle of integrability is also mandatory in the psychological preparation of operational staff to work with convicts for terrorist activities.

Psychodiagnostics characteristics of convicts who are on preventive records as persons studying, propagandizing, professing or spreading extremist ideology often do not disclose to operational officers their individual characteristics related to the substructure of the personality orientation. Our

research made it possible to determine the personality model of those convicted of terrorist crimes as a set of integrative personal characteristics of these persons. In accordance with the content of the model, these persons are defined as socially active marginals with a conversion personality profile, capable of committing terrorist and extremist crimes based on irrational attitudes of a mental and religious nature.

The presence of integrative properties shows that the properties of the system, although they depend on the properties of the elements, are not completely determined by them. Thus, firstly, the system is not reduced to a simple set of elements, and secondly, dividing the system into parts, studying each of them separately, it is impossible to know all the properties of the system as a whole.

The integrative personality characteristics of convicts, being elements of the personality structure, reflect the experience of their life, are manifested in their behavior, consciousness, and feelings.

It is important to note one of the provisions revealed by the researchers of the studied issue that the basis of integrative personal characteristics is the person's awareness of the need for his own changes, transformation of his inner world and the search for new ways to increase personal self-awareness (Nokhrina, I.G., 2004). Perhaps this provision contains one of the foundations, ways of the possibility of corrective action on convicts. Both cognitive and regulatory and integrative personality characteristics are distinguished, which are the basis for the development of socially important personality traits (Nokhrina, I.G. 2004).

In the process of psychological preparation, it is important to bring to the operational service staff knowledge about persons convicted of terrorist crimes as typical owners of a conversion type of personality profile. With short-term contacts, persons convicted of crimes of a terrorist nature are able to impress themselves as self-confident people, confident in themselves in social aspects, easily establishing social contacts. But this, as a rule, is a fake identity disguise. Possessing a conversion type of personality profile characterizes them as people who have experienced significant mental trauma. Those worried about dramatic events do not diminish. The experiences of resentment and insults have severely hurt the person. As a rule, the need for affective discharge with the awareness of the need for revenge led to the commission of a crime (Kazberov, P.N. Bovin, B.G., Fasolya, A.A., 2019).

Convicts with such patterns are owners of hysterical personality traits, which manifest themselves in emotional instability, in the

replacement of reality with cognitive distortions and irrational attitudes, in fantasizing of reality (Kazberov, P.N., Spasennikov, B.A., Tyunkov, V.V., 2019). Therefore, persons convicted crimes of a terrorist nature, as a rule, do not have a high educational level, so easily succumb to all-different radical religious mysteries of attitudes and dogmas. The totality of the provisions specified in the publication on the personal characteristics of convicts of this category must be taken into account when organizing psychological training for operational officers to work with persons convicted of terrorism.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The research work made it possible to determine the following conclusions:

1. Based on the results of the study, the theoretical and methodological aspects of psychological training of employees of the operational service of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia to work with convicts for terrorist activity are revealed, presented in the form of valid principles of its construction, determined by interpreting a significant array of empirical material.

2. The principle of axiology established by the study in organizing the training of operation staff assumes that the training of employees to work with convicts for terrorist crimes should be based on the mandatory consideration of the value system of each person, respectively, of the convicted category.

3. Compliance with the principle of integrability is also mandatory in the psychological preparation of operational staff to work with convicts for terrorist activities. Integrity in the training of operational staff should be observed both in the plane of intrasubject connections of training, and in the plane of intrasubject connections.

4. Knowledge of the basic social and psychological characteristics of persons convicted of terrorist activities is a prerequisite for effective operational work with this category of convicts.

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