INTEGRAL COMPONENTS ANALYSIS OF THE PROFESSIONAL READINESS FOR ACTING IN EXTREME SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT:

Extreme social environment is an intricate set of internal and external environmental factors resulting from the occurrence of contradictions and conflicts in the sphere of social relations. This report dwells on the professional readiness of the law-enforcement structures personnel for action in extreme social environment.

KEYWORDS:

Extreme social environment, professional readiness

1. Introduction

The modern stage of development of mankind is characterized by a radical, intense, deep, wide-specter and often unpredictable transformations of reality.

The world exists in conditions of a poorly-controlled increase in crime, extremism and terrorism, widespread arms proliferation, combined with social, religious, ethnic and national conflicts.

The actuality of the topic of this research is determined by the changing security environment in the recent decades in which the evolution of today's threats is projected in an expanding range of

manifestations of extreme social environment (Gadzalov & Krastev, 2013).

Experts define the term “hybrid threats” as various activities that combine conventional and unconventional methods which state or non-state actors can use in a coordinated manner in the absence of an officially declared war. Their purpose is not only to inflict direct damage and target at vulnerabilities, but also to destabilize societies and create confusion, thereby hindering the process of decision making.

The fight against hybrid threats is largely a matter of national competence and the basic responsibility for it lies with state

security structures (Nikolov, 2015).

The actuality of the topic corresponds with the need to improve vocational training in line with the upward trend of joint military-police operations in complex extreme social environment, and the need for collaboration with other national and international institutions and bodies (Krastev, 2013).

The implementation of the tasks of law enforcement institutions related to the protection of public order and security – the national police, border police, National Security State Agency, together with military units and departments, especially amongst the European immigrant crisis arising since 2015, due to the significant increase of the flow of refugees and economic migrants coming from countries mainly in North Africa and the Middle East, and the unpreparedness of the EU to accept and distribute them – has become rather complicated. The complicating of the situation also worsens due to the potential social contradictions that this exodus is expected to cause and has already caused in European societies.

Extreme social environment is an intricate set of internal and external environmental factors resulting from the occurrence of contradictions and conflicts in the sphere of social relations characterized by a large number of extreme situations and combinations of them which have knowingly and deliberately been planned, organized, prepared and conducted

to achieve political, economic, religious, criminal and personal goals, and which can affect the individual and the society, leading to the disintegration of functions and their systems.

The breaking of the balance of public relations – political, economic, ethnic, religious, causing serious contradictions, conflicts and wars – is the basis of the occurrence of extreme social situations and their evolution to an extreme social environment. Their catalysts may be different circumstances causing social unrest such as unemployment, corruption, inflation, crime, riot, terrorist acts, etc. The prolonged impact of negative factors leads to severe and extreme conditions, as well as to sublimation of the accumulated negative energy of social processes in active participation in the socio-political conflicts (Madanski, 2013a).

2. Structure and Components of Professional Readiness

After the theoretical analysis of the problem of formation of readiness in military personnel and police officers to act in extreme environment and the analysis of the required for this purpose specialized training, we reached some basic conclusions about the structure of professional readiness for action in extreme social environment (Figure no. 1).

Figure no. 1. Structure and components of professional readiness

The professional readiness of the staff of law-enforcement structures for action in extreme social environment is a complex of psycho-physical, technical and tactical knowledge and skills aimed at carrying out professional tasks in overcoming the impact of external and internal environment factors in order to preserve the health, life and fighting capacity of the staff.

2.1. Psycho-Physical Readiness

Psychological readiness is a major factor, since mental processes and thinking help to evaluate extreme factors and predict their development and the opportunities for reaction (to avoid or overcome) through performing of adequate actions.

Physical readiness is determined by the unity of the manifestation of the physical properties such as strength, endurance, speed, flexibility and agility necessary for the performance of various actions in the practical activities.

According to Kaykov, D. (1998) the mental and physical readiness are mutually determining each other and build a common *psycho-physical readiness* that makes all kinds of activities possible and is an integral component of other types of readiness. The psychophysical component of readiness includes the functioning of the psyche in general and of the physiological systems (primarily neuromuscular, etc.) ensuring the effective performance of the specialist. Any activity places demands for perception, memory, thinking, imagination, higher nervous activity properties, psychodynamic properties (temperament) of the man as well as his physical attributes – strength, endurance, speed, flexibility, agility, etc. Moreover, the psycho-physical component provides the functioning of the other components of readiness.

The term “psychophysical readiness” is understood as a state of mobilization of all psycho-physical systems of the body to ensure effective performance of the required activities. It has several nuances of its meaning:

- possession by the man of all the knowledge and skills required for successful performance;
- readiness for extreme implementation of the existing program of action in case of occurrence of a particular situation;
- determination and willingness to perform the necessary actions.

The structure of professional readiness can be separated into two: an objective and a subjective layer

The objective layer consists of the interacting moral and motivational, intellectual, operational and psycho-physical components that can feasibly be assessed in accordance with the requirements of operation and optimal model of functioning of the specialist.

The subjective layer is the system of self-assessment of their readiness which determines the self-regulation system of the individual. On a subjective level the specialists themselves evaluate their willingness (self-assessment system): what image as professionals (or future professionals) they create, how satisfied or dissatisfied with their training they feel, what they do to raise their level of readiness, i.e. how capable of regulating their activities they are.

2.2. Technical Readiness

Technical readiness ensures the optimal realization of complex actions as a specialized system of simultaneous and successive ones in the professional sphere, the objective being to achieve focus, economy and precision.

As far as the formation of adequate specialized readiness in extreme social environment is related to acquiring the skills for shooting firearms and modeling of practical situations for its use, here comes the question of improvement of the weapons training in the part aiming at the mastering of such complex motor acts, biomechanical structure that would be sufficiently effective. Such an approach to the optimization of weapons training has

practically never been studied. Application of more efficient methods aimed at improving the tactical and technical actions, taking into account the peculiarities of motor actions would increase the reliability of actions in extreme environment. These methods require that the workload of musculoskeletal system be regulated in order to increase the working capacity in performing firing exercises and maneuvers; they also require adaptation to instant changes in the load of the various elements of the motor system, forming a special stamina and ability to manifest strong driving power. The analysis of the sources and the present state of preparation for action under extreme social conditions indicates the need and opportunity for its improvement through application of methods, forms and training tools based on complex courses bringing together the formation of more than one component of readiness for action under extreme conditions.

The formation of specialized readiness requires the application of these methods and conditions in the process of training:

- Complicating the learning tasks in already familiar exercises;
- Acquiring experience for action in a state of psychophysical pressure with elements of risk;
- Conducting classes under the influence of factors specific to the professional activity in extreme environment (heat, cold, rain, etc.).
- Varying the conditions determining the degree of difficulty and danger of exercises (height, speed, spatial location, duration, etc.).

2.3. Tactical Readiness

Tactical readiness represents the optimal variant of systematic, conscious, purposeful actions to protect life, adequate to the nature of the extreme situation, based on a tactical program including: a tactical conception, a tactical plan and tactical actions (Madanski, 2013b).

The tactical plan defines the organization and implementation of the

system of actions; the tactical plan contains the main tactical tasks, resources, methods and tactical practices for their implementation, and through the tactical actions these two are practically implemented.

Tactics involves the individual's skill of properly evaluating the situation, correctly formulating the problems, defining the range of tasks to be completed, and the adequate for the situation means, techniques and actions needed for its solution, ensuring timely implementation.

Therefore, the tactical training for action in extreme environment should be aimed at developing the capacity for action planning.

Tactics lies in finding the optimal option to solve the problem; setting precise goals; anticipating the possible problem situations characterized by uncertainty of information; determining the extreme factors associated with difficulty and danger, and their effects on people; support – organizational and technical – of the activities.

The prerequisites for reaching the goal are the existence of a detailed action plan; following of rules of movement, camouflage and concealment of actions; wise use of time – unnecessary haste leads to fatigue and reduced alertness, whereas patience and determination are a guarantee of success; regular water and food consumption; saving strength for critical situations, proper organization of breaks; idea of ethnic characteristics, customs and habits of the local population.

In accordance with these provisions, the complex of theoretical and methodical, tactical-special, specialized technical knowledge, methods, means and actions in extreme social environment that are necessary to perform professional tasks in the preservation of health, life and fighting capacity of officials, is described as the professional readiness of personnel of law-enforcement structures to act in extreme social environment.

3. Conclusion

The problem of the professional

readiness of law-enforcement structures' personnel in carrying out their professional activity is particularly relevant because it is directly connected to the preservation of life and health in action in extreme social environment.

However, there is a discrepancy between the requirements for professionalism and the inadequate preparation for action in extreme social environment. The analysis of the actions of the personnel in extreme social environment and situations shows insufficient knowledge and skills of orientation in these situations, indecision, and as a result – tactically wrong actions.

The analysis of the training system shows that preparation does not ensure full implementation of the revised requirements for the content and its capacity for action in extreme social environment, where the need for generalization appears, along with the need for systematization and development of methodology for the formation of professional readiness of law-enforcement structures' personnel for action in extreme social environment.

Developing a specialized methodology for the professional readiness of the law-enforcement structures' personnel for action in extreme social environment is a must.

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