

Transformation of Forensic Expert Personality in Extreme Conditions of Wartime

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Through the use of dialectical, systematic, comparative methods and methods of analytical abstraction, modeling, and interpretation, the phenomenon of transformation of the forensic expert personality in extreme conditions (in particular, wartime) is analyzed; scientific achievements regarding this issue are summarized; the ways of overcoming effects of external negative factors on their personality are outlined. Attention is focused on the need to monitor the emotional and volitional stability of the forensic expert and the level of influence on their personality of external stressful factors of long-term action in the conditions of their conducting forensic examinations at the sites of war crimes and the consequences of military actions on the territory of Ukraine. In order to successfully perform official duties and overcome the consequences of the influence of external negative factors in wartime, it is advisable to add psychological training to the system of professional training of the forensic expert (develop a methodology for conducting psychological training as a form of active development of psychological qualities and personality skills: in particular, with the addition of group discussions, games methods, and psycho-gymnastic exercises) with its normalization in the corresponding by-law departmental acts. The mastering of psychological knowledge, skills and abilities by the forensic expert will contribute to detecting optimal solutions by them for the purpose of conducting forensic analysis and more thorough performance of professional

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duties. This paper proposes to create a structural division of professional training in each state forensic expert institution, which would (in cooperation with the personnel division) be tasked with organizing the psychological training of forensic experts.

Keywords: *personality in wartime; transformation of the psyche; forensic expert activity; forensic expert; professional training; psychological preparation; psychological training.*

Research Problem Formulation

Due to the war in Ukraine, there was an acute need for scientific research on the transformation of forensic expert personality under the negative influence of its consequences. Conducting expert research at the scene associated with human casualties and mass destruction worsens the psychological state of the expert, which negatively affects the quality of the conclusions drawn by them. In addition, living in a war zone significantly increases their level of anxiety.

The professional activity of forensic expert involves increased requirements for their individual and psychological properties: emotional and volitional, cognitive and communicative spheres. Therefore, it is urgent to study the specifics of the influence of extreme situations on the forensic expert's personality and to develop psychological methods and technologies that would provide free his psyche from the influence of negative factors, especially in wartime conditions.

Article Purpose

To study the phenomenon of the transformation of forensic expert personality in the extreme conditions of wartime and to determine the ways to overcome consequences of the influence of external negative factors on their personality.

Research Methods

The theoretical and methodological basis of this research are provisions contained in scientific works of foreign and Ukrainian scholars, educational and methodological manuals, specialized literature related to issues of influence of extreme conditions and negative factors on the personality, as well as the methodology of conducting psychological training. As a result of the dialectical method, the theoretical features of the psychological training of forensic experts have been clarified. The systematic approach made it possible to consider psychological training as a single system of forms and methods of improving personal characteristics. The method of analytical abstraction contributed to elucidating the mechanism of this preparation. The comparative method was applied to track the transformation of the forensic expert personality in the extreme conditions of wartime. For the purpose of scientific substantiation of psychological training, the method of modeling was used. The interpretation method was used during the study of the methodology's content of psychological training of forensic experts.

Analysis of Essential Researches and Publications

The issues on influence of the external environment on the psyche of the individual

was investigated by: Yu. I. Andrusyshyn¹, L. V. Vavryk², T. M. Dziuba together with co-authors³, N. H. Ivanova⁴, V. O. Lefterov⁵, S. S. Makarenko⁶, V. M. Onyshchenko⁷, A. I. Poltavska⁸, O. B. Stoliarenko⁹, V. O. Tiurina with co-author¹⁰, I. M. Khorzhevska¹¹, O. L. Khrystuk¹² and V. V. Yahupov¹³. Foreign scholars, in particular, S. R. Murthy and R. Lakshminarayana¹⁴ also paid attention to the influence of the consequences

- 1 Андрусишин Ю. І. Вплив емоційно-вольової стійкості особистості на її поведінку в екстремальних умовах. *Проблеми екстремальної та кризової психології* : наук. журн. 2013. Вип. 14. Ч. 1. С. 11–18. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14\(1\)__4](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14(1)__4) (date accessed: 20.01.2023).
- 2 Ваврик Л. В. Психологічні передумови успішної діяльності правоохоронців в екстремальних умовах. *Ibid.* С. 33–41. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14\(1\)__7](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14(1)__7) (date accessed: 20.01.2023).
- 3 Дзюба Т. М., Волошина Н. М., Пампуха І. В. Механізм інформаційно-психологічного впливу на психіку людини у гібридній війні. *Збірник наукових праць Військового інституту Київського національного університету імені Тараса Шевченка*. 2016. Вип. 51. С. 91–99. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Znpviknu_2016_51_14 (date accessed: 20.01.2023).
- 4 Іванова Н. Г. Формування мотивації фахівця до діяльності в екстремальних умовах. *Проблеми екстремальної та кризової психології* С. 130–138. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14\(1\)__19](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14(1)__19) (date accessed: 20.01.2023).
- 5 Лефтеров В. О. Особистісно-професійний розвиток фахівців екстремальних видів діяльності засобами психологічного тренінгу. *Психологія і суспільство* : наук. журн. 2012. № 2 (48). С. 91–107. URL: http://library.wunu.edu.ua/images/stories/naukovi%20zhurnaly/psychologia%20i%20suspilstvo/2012/2_2012.pdf (date accessed: 20.01.2023).
- 6 Макаренко С. С. Методи і способи психологічного захисту особистості в умовах екстремальних ситуацій. *Проблеми екстремальної та кризової психології* С. 203–211. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14\(1\)__28](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14(1)__28) (date accessed: 20.01.2023).
- 7 Онищенко В. М. Трансформація особистості в процесі подолання життєвих криз. *Актуальні проблеми психології* : зб. наук. пр. 2020. Т. І. Вип. 56. С. 118–124. URL: <http://appspsychology.org.ua/data/jrn/v1/i56/20.pdf> (date accessed: 20.01.2023).
- 8 Полтавська А. І. Роль та функції емоцій в екстремальних ситуаціях, що пов'язані із професійною діяльністю в особливих умовах. *Проблеми екстремальної та кризової психології* С. 253–260. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14\(1\)__34](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14(1)__34) (date accessed: 20.01.2023).
- 9 Столяренко О. Б. Психологія особистості : навч. посіб. Київ, 2012. 280 с.
- 10 Тюріна В. О., Солохіна Л. О. Вплив військових конфліктів на психічне здоров'я людини: короткий огляд зарубіжних досліджень. *Особистість, суспільство, війна* : тези доп. учасн. міжнар. психол. форуму (Харків, 15.04.2022). Харків, 2022. С. 116–118. URL: <http://dspace.univd.edu.ua/xmlui/handle/123456789/13818> (date accessed: 20.01.2023).
- 11 Хоржевська І. М. Професіоналізм та професійний розвиток особистості. *Наукові праці. Серія: Державне управління*. 2013. Вип. 202. Т. 214. С. 110–113. URL: <https://lib.chmnu.edu.ua/pdf/naukpraci/govermgmt/2013/214-202-22.pdf> (date accessed: 01.12.2022).
- 12 Христюк О. Л. Теоретико-методологічний аналіз вивчення проблеми психологічної травми: від історії до сучасності. *Науковий вісник Львівського державного університету внутрішніх справ. Серія психологічна*. 2017. Вип. 2. С. 183–191. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Nvldu_2017_2_22 (date accessed: 20.01.2023).
- 13 Ягупов В. В. Професійний розвиток особистості фахівця: поняття, зміст та особливості. *Наукові записки НаУКМА : Педагогічні, психологічні науки та соціальна робота*. 2015. Т. 175. С. 22–28. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/NaUKMAApp_2015_175_4 (date accessed: 20.01.2023).
- 14 Murthy S. R., Lakshminarayana R. Mental health consequences of war: a brief review of research findings. *World Psychiatry*. 2006 Feb; Vol. 5. Is. 1. Pp. 25–30. URL: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1472271/> (date accessed: 26.11.2022).

of military conflicts on the psyche of people. I. A. Petrova and O. S. Dontsova¹⁵ were interested in the phenomenon of the transformation of the forensic expert personality as an object of scientific research.

Hostilities in the territory of Ukraine caused the urgent need to study the emotional and volitional stability of the forensic expert, the impact of external factors on the transformation of their personality during forensic expert activity and life under the long-time influence of stressful factors. Achievements of specialists on the problems of personality transformation under the influence of external factors should become the basis for a scientific study of the phenomenon of the personality transformation of a forensic expert in extreme wartime conditions and the development of a methodology for conducting psychological training in the system of professional training of a forensic expert.

Main Content Presentation

The formation of the expert's professional knowledge and its application in forensic expert activity directly proportionally depend on the totality of the psychological qualities of the individual. The use of acquired knowledge is successful when the available psychological qualities of the individual correspond to the type of professional activity. Carrying out forensic expert activity in the extreme conditions of wartime not only affects the psy-

chological qualities of an individual, but also causes the transformation of such an individual.

In the dictionary of basic concepts from the course "Pedagogy" the concept of "personality" is interpreted, on the one hand, "as a subject of relations and conscious activity, which is capable of self-knowledge and self-development", and on the other hand, as a stable system of "socially significant qualities, attitudes, motives that characterize a person as a representative of society"¹⁶. So, individuals are born and become individuals in the process of development.

"The personality is characterized by the following signs:

- Activity, the subject's desire to expand the scope of their activity, to act beyond the requirements of the situation and role instructions;
- orientation — a stable dominant system of motives — interests, beliefs, etc.;
- deep meaning formations (dynamic meaning systems) that are formed in the joint activity of groups and collectives;
- degree of awareness of one's attitude to reality: ступінь усвідомлення свого ставлення до дійсності: adjustment, disposition, etc."¹⁷.

Academic Explanatory Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language interprets the concept of "transformation" in the first sense as

15 Петрова І. А., Донцова О. С. Особливості формування професійних компетентностей судового експерта-товарознавця. *Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики*. 2020. Вип. 21. С. 165—178. DOI: 10.32353/khrife.1.2020_11 (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

16 Словник базових понять з курсу «Педагогіка»: навч. посіб. для студент. внз. Вид. 2-ге, доп. і перероб. / укладач О. Є. Антонова. Житомир, 2014. С. 60. URL: <http://eprints.zu.edu.ua/12633/1/%D0%A1%D0%9B%D0%9E%D0%92%D0%9D%D0%98%D0%9A%20%D0%91%D0%90%D0%97%D0%9E%D0%92%D0%98%D0%A5%20%D0%9F%D0%9E%D0%9D%D0%AF%D0%A2%D0%AC%20%D0%90%D0%BD%D1%82%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B0.pdf> (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

17 Ibid. С. 61.

follows: “Change, transformation of a form, shape, essential properties, etc. of anything”¹⁸.

Analyzing the above, we propose to define the concept of “transformation of the forensic expert’s personality” as “a change in the system of their socially significant qualities, attitudes, instructions, and motives under the influence of social reality during their forensic expert activity”. The consequences of military actions affect the consciousness of a forensic expert directly both during their research of objects that were related to these actions and during their perception of changes in the surrounding social environment (death and injury of people, destruction of social infrastructure, deterioration of life quality and security, etc.).

According to V. M. Onyshchenko, personality transformation has its own stages, structure, and mechanism and is the result of external and internal influence. According to the scientist, thanks to this influence, the personality is transformed, which leads to a change in its value sphere, the accumulation of the necessary experience and the activation of abilities¹⁹.

O. B. Stoliarenko’s views on personality development deserve attention. In her opinion, this development takes place in the social environment under the influence of the environment and is called “formation” in adulthood. The following provisions put forward by her deserve attention:

- personality formation is the process of acquiring new forms and features of the psyche in the process of development (character, thinking, etc.);
- mental development of an individual is manifested in

heterochrony (uneven nature of the development of individual mental processes depending on age), staging (stages of mental development related to the social situation and leading activity), differentiation and integration of mental processes (a sequential complication of the psyche), change in the ratio of determinants mental development (social factor as a determinant of mental development), plasticity (the ability of the psyche to change);

- specificity of the personality consists in organic active maturation in the conditions of involvement in social culture, the ratio of natural and social, born and acquired. The genotype of the individual is the foundation on which mental neoplasms are forced under the influence of the social environment;
- social environment as a source of mental development of the individual, which has the following components: macro-environment (a socio-economic and political system of the state), meso-environment (social-cultural and national-cultural features of society), micro-environment (family and close environment);
- close combination of internal and external conditions of personality development;
- driving force of mental development lies in the contradiction between the individual and the environment, on the one hand, and

18 Академічний тлумачний словник української мови : в 11 т. / за ред. І. К. Білодіда. Київ, 1970—1980. Т. 10. 1979. С. 233. URL: <http://sum.in.ua/s/transformacija> (date accessed: 26.11.2022).

19 Онищенко В. М. Оп. cit. С. 122. URL: <http://appspsychology.org.ua/data/jrn/v1/i56/20.pdf> (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

between individual components of the individual's psyche, on the other;

- external contradictions lead to the development of personality only in the case of their active actions aimed at resolving internal contradictions and developing new rules of behavior;
- progressive development of personality occurs in the case of awareness and resolution of contradictions²⁰.

The above should be taken into account during the scientific study of the transformation of the forensic expert's personality in the extreme conditions of wartime.

We agree with the opinion of V. V. Yahupov regarding the role of the social factor in personality development. The researcher believes that individuals are not born, they become individuals much later in ontogenesis. The concept of "*personality*" has a social component, because personality can be formed only in society. The personality of a specialist is an imprint of a certain society and professional environment²¹.

The definition of the concept of "*professional development of personality*" by I. M. Khorzhevskiy is convincing, which sees in it the development of personality in general which includes the acquisition of new knowledge, skills and experience with the subsequent transformation of the motivation and interests of a specific personality²².

Yu. I. Andrusyshyn's conclusions regarding the psychological characteristics of the behavior of a person with increased anxiety are interesting, namely:

- a high-anxious personality reacts more emotionally to failure than a low-anxious person;
- a stressful situation significantly worsens work productivity;
- a highly anxious person is characterized by a fear of failure and a premonition of danger;
- a message of success is a stimulus for a high-anxious personality, and for a low-anxious one, on the contrary, the prospect of possible failure;
- an increased level of anxiety leads to the perception of objectively safe situations as dangerous²³.

According to L. V. Vavryk, the presence of two components is important for successful actions in extreme conditions²⁴:

- 1) appropriate level of professional training (knowledge, skills and abilities);
- 2) psychological readiness (the presence of the necessary psychological and psychophysiological personality qualities).

The scientist emphasizes that for the successful performance of job duties in extreme conditions, specialists must be psychologically prepared. The following conclusions of his regarding the mentioned issues are worthy of attention²⁵:

- extreme conditions during professional activity include those

20 Столяренко О. Б. Оп. cit. С. 120—122.

21 Ягупов В. В. Оп. cit. С. 23. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/NaUKMApp_2015_175_4 (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

22 Хоржевська І. М. Оп. cit. С. 113. URL: <https://lib.chmnu.edu.ua/pdf/naukpraci/governmgmt/2013/214-202-22.pdf> (date accessed: 01.12.2022).

23 Андрусишин Ю. І. Оп. cit. С. 14—15. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14\(1\)__4](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14(1)__4) (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

24 Ваврик Л. В. Оп. cit. С. 35. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14\(1\)__7](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14(1)__7) (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

25 Ваврик Л. В. Оп. cit. С. 39—40. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14\(1\)__7](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14(1)__7) (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

that threaten the life or health of a specialist, cause a high level of neuropsychological stress;

- performance of job duties in extreme conditions puts increased demands on the specialist's personality and, due to excessive psychological stress, reduces his work capacity, as well as worsens his health;
- for successful professional activity in extreme conditions, professional and psychological training, personal and business qualities and a set of relevant psychological factors are required;
- professional and psychological training of a specialist is a purposeful and organized process of formation of professional competence, psychological characteristics, professionally important qualities, and motivation to work;
- psychological readiness for activity in extreme conditions is the mental state of a specialist as a result of professional training, which is expressed in his understanding of the importance of professional activity and depends on the level of intellectual development, professional experience, and emotional and volitional self-regulation;
- professional qualities of a specialist are their psychological psychophysiological characteristics, which are formed and developed during professional training and further activities.

N. H. Ivanova notes that for the successful performance of official duties in extreme conditions (in addition to developed physiological, cognitive and emotional-volitional characteristics), motivation to work is necessary. In her opinion, the formation and development of this motivation are changeable, and dynamic, occur under the influence of certain factors and depend on the motivational sphere ²⁶.

We consider the opinion I. A. Petrova and O. S. Dontsova to be correct about the independence of the duration of the professional formation of a forensic expert on the personal qualities of the specialist and the ability of management and colleagues to provide him with necessary assistance ²⁷.

According to S. S. Makarenko, throughout life, an individual simultaneously receives positive and negative mental energy, which destroys this individual. To correct the mental state, the scientist suggests using a set of special methods, techniques and ways of psychological protection of the individual in conditions of the negative influence of certain factors of social, professional and personal life. Thanks to the acquired experience, a person is able to apply specific techniques and methods of psychological protection in extreme situations ²⁸.

A. I. Poltavska's opinion about the importance of emotions in special conditions as a regulator of behavior is interesting. She considers an extreme situation to be emetiogenic and an integral component of professional activity, which is connected with the influence of extreme factors. Performance of official duties in extreme

26 Іванова Н. Г. *Op. cit.* C. 130. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14\(1\)__19](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14(1)__19) (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

27 Петрова І. А., Донцова О. С. *Op. cit.* C. 173. DOI: 10.32353/khrife.1.2020_11 (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

28 Макаренко С. С. *Op. cit.* C. 210. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14\(1\)__28](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14(1)__28) (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

situations requires a high level of individual and psychological characteristics of a specialist, and significant activation of emotional, volitional and cognitive aspects of self-regulation ²⁹.

The conclusions of V. O. Lefterov regarding the personal and professional development of specialists in extreme types of activities by means of psychological training require detailed study. Among his main scientific provisions, the following should be singled out ³⁰:

- personal and professional development of a specialist is a socially determined individual, active, integrated process of professional and psychosocial growth of an individual, which aims at professional self-realization and self-affirmation;
- the success of professional activity depends on the level of personal and professional development of the specialist and the quality of their training;
- psychotherapy, psychocorrection and psycho-training should belong to the psychological means of specialist development;
- psychological training is a universal integrated system of targeted psychological training and personality development in accordance with the tasks of their professional activity;
- during the training, the intellectual, communicative, emotional, volitional and motivational

potential of the individual is activated.

Considering the issue of informational and psychological influence on the population during hybrid warfare, T. M. Dziuba emphasizes the use of methods of manipulating the psyche and mass consciousness: thanks to the use of mass media, one piece of information displaces another, due to which true information is replaced by false information in the psyche of an individual ³¹.

A review of foreign scientific publications by V. O. Tiurina and L. O. Solokhina on the impact of the consequences of military operations on the mental state of an individual shows that most often it leads to the following negative manifestations: depression, anxiety, psychotic illnesses, post-traumatic stress disorder, aggressiveness and sometimes — to suicidal intentions. Scientists emphasize the need to use preventive and therapeutic measures, strengthening social support to reduce acute stress reactions ³².

We must state that, as of today, due to the long war in Ukraine, a significant part of the population is affected by stressful situations and (as a result) feels a certain uncertainty. In such a state, an individual cannot adequately control their actions, which leads to a change in their mental qualities, namely: lack of confidence in their own strength; fear, panic and anxiety; constant depression; loss of their identity; inability to control their mental state. A forensic expert (as a member of society) is exposed to the same stressful situations as any other

29 Полтавська А. І. Оп. cit. С. 259. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14\(1\)__34](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Pekp_2013_14(1)__34) (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

30 Лефтеров В. О. Оп. cit. С. 104. URL: http://library.wunu.edu.ua/images/stories/naukovi%20zhurnaly/psychologia%20i%20suspilstvo/2012/2_2012.pdf (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

31 Дзюба Т. М., Волошина Н. М., Пампуха І. В. Оп. cit. С. 97. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Znpviknu_2016_51_14 (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

32 Тюріна В. О., Солохіна Л. О. Оп. cit. С. 118. URL: <http://dspace.univd.edu.ua/xmlui/handle/123456789/13818> (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

person. In addition, in this state, the forensic expert must still conduct a full expert investigation and provide an objective expert opinion. Therefore, today there is a need for a scientific study of the raised issue and the application of appropriate scientifically based practical response measures.

The formation of professional experience and its further improvement directly depends on the personal characteristics of the forensic expert. The more mental qualities of an expert correspond to the specifics of forensic expert activity, the higher productivity of their work. Any negative impact on the psyche affects the expert's ability to work, and the higher the level of this impact, the lower the expert's ability to perform their official duties.

First of all, the individual psychophysiological feature of the forensic expert, such as perception characterized by psychological guidance, i.e. selectivity, is prone to negative influence. During the expert investigation, the forensic expert focuses attention on those points that belong to the object of the investigation. In addition, the presence of traces of human victims and mass destruction around the object of research reduces the level of concentration of his attention and negatively affect his mental processes. Conducting expert research involves the perception and processing of the obtained information, which directly depends on the features of the expert's mental processes. It is during the analytical stage of expert research that such psychophysiological qualities as feelings and perceptions are involved, which are the first to be affected by the negative effects of the brutal consequences of war. The stressful and tense psychological state of the expert reduces the level of his observation, and the ability

to concentrate in accordance with the target instruction. In addition, the mobility of mental processes decreases.

At the stage of a comparative study, deficiencies in the expert's working memory, which is important during a specific examination, can cause an expert error. Obtaining excessive operational information during the investigation at the scene, which does not relate to the object of the investigation and distracts the expert from the task set before them, reduces the quality of this investigation. A stressful or tense state of the expert's psyche reduces the speed of physiological processes involved in the operation of working memory.

Psychological traumas suffered by the expert during their stay in war zones may be the result of, for example, loss of home, change of residence with the subsequent acquisition of the status of a displaced person, the humiliation of human dignity in the case of a temporary stay in the occupation (sometimes even in the form of temporary deprivation of liberty), etc. The concept of "*psychological trauma*" is not clearly defined in modern Ukrainian psychology. O. L. Khrystuk defines it as a residual phenomenon of affective experiences of the individual, caused by external stimuli that cause mental discomfort and have a pathogenic effect on the individual ³³.

Researchers S. R. Murthy and R. Lakshminarayana concluded that almost half of the population from the war zone remained mentally resistant to the effects of being there, while other victims needed immediate psychological help and rehabilitation. To this end, the World Health Organization and some other organizations associated with the United Nations have created a task force to develop mental and psychosocial

33 Христук О. Л. Оп. cit. С. 189. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Nvldu_2017_2_22 (date accessed: 20.01.2023).

support for people in emergency situations³⁴.

Professionally significant mental qualities of a forensic expert develop throughout their professional activity and are based on their individual potential. The dynamics of this development are influenced by both positive and negative factors, including the consequences of the war. In this regard, the process of development of professionally significant qualities of a forensic expert should be coordinated by control or management entities, as well as the expert themselves (by self-regulation methods).

Thus, the negative impact on the psyche of the forensic expert in the extreme conditions of wartime is caused both by their direct participation in forensic expertise and by the psychological trauma they suffer as a result of being in war zones. However, in both cases, their mental qualities, which have come under this negative influence, require mandatory correction.

A necessary condition for successfully overcoming the effects of external negative factors on the personality of a forensic expert in the extreme conditions of wartime should be the development of a methodology for conducting psychological training in the professional training system as a form of active development of psychological qualities and skills. During these trainings, it is appropriate to apply the following teaching methods: lectures, seminars, business and role-playing games, computer programs, group discussion, psychical therapy, mediation techniques, etc. Psychological training is primarily aimed at changing the consciousness of the individual, as well as the formation and devel-

opment of such personal characteristics: a high level of stress resistance, self-control, decisiveness, poise, perseverance, the ability to make optimal decisions in extreme conditions and lack of time, etc.

Academic Explanatory Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language interprets the concept of “training” as “training, as well as a special training regime”³⁵.

Training (as an interactive form of training of a forensic expert) contributes to the maximum accumulation of existing knowledge, abilities and skills, and is also aimed at finding and mastering new ones. Interactive learning belongs to the practical form of learning, during which the teacher and the student actively interact. During training (as the most common form of group training), a person makes sense of their own actions and behavior, acquires psychological qualities aimed at personal growth, and establishes interpersonal relationships. The training also promotes the acquisition of new reflective skills and methods of mutual assistance, teaches empathy, etc.³⁶. For the personality of a forensic expert in the extreme conditions of wartime, the most useful thing from the use of a training form of training is learning to adequately perceive and understand both oneself and others, to expose one's own stereotypes and outdated worldview or behavioral patterns, as well as to overcome them.

Responsibilities for the organization of psychological training for forensic experts should be assigned to separate structural units of professional training, creating them in each specialized state institution of forensic examination. It is appropriate to

34 Murthy S. R., Lakshminarayana R. Op. cit. Pp. 28–29. URL: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1472271/> (date accessed: 26.11.2022).

35 Академічний тлумачний словник С. 245. URL: <http://sum.in.ua/s/treningh> (date accessed: 02.12.2022).

36 Карпенко Є. В. Основи психотренінгу : навч. посіб. Дрогобич, 2015. 78 с. URL: <https://dspace.lvduvs.edu.ua/handle/1234567890/2360> (date accessed: 02.12.2022).

involve both specialists of the psychological research units of these institutions, as well as scientific and pedagogical workers of educational institutions, etc., in conducting trainings.

During the training sessions, the tutor models interpersonal interaction, gives examples of difficult work and life situations and guides experts in finding adequate and effective ways to solve them. Thanks to group facilitation, the working capacity of each training participant increases and interpersonal support increases, which contributes to the growth of the effectiveness of the educational process, and the intensity and effectiveness of individual work on psychological qualities.

It is necessary to distinguish between the concepts of “*education*” and “*psychological training*”. According to the Academic Explanatory Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language, “*teaching is an action meaning to teach and learn*”³⁷. That is, learning is the process of acquiring new knowledge, abilities and skills. In the same dictionary, training is “*training, as well as a special training regime*”³⁸. Thus, **training** is a form of educational process. Therefore, **psychological training** is a form of teaching behavioral skills and developing psychological qualities. We believe that any training always has a psychological component (except the cognitive component). It should be noted that mentally healthy individuals participate in professional psychological training (as opposed to those who suffer from various nervous, mental or somatic diseases and require the intervention of specialist psychotherapists). Psychological training is not a treatment: its leading task is to provide psychological assistance to specialists

who have suffered a negative psychological impact from the consequences of military actions.

The benefit of psychological training lies both in the development of discrete characteristics of an individual's inner world and their holistic development³⁹. Training (as a form of educational process) is characterized by the same methods as training. Although the training is a practical type of learning, it still contains elements of lectures and seminars. However, given the specifics of forensic expert activity, it should be dominated by role-playing games and group discussions, combined with a short course of lectures and seminars.

We emphasize that the success of psychological training depends on the personal interest of the expert, because the main goal of the training is the formation and development of the desired type of personality behavior. In addition, a necessary condition for achieving the goal of the training is feedback from each of its participants.

The following rules should become the basis of the psychological training of forensic experts:

- proper preparation of the tutor for the training and their constant reflection of what is happening in the group with further coordinating influence;
- activity of all participants throughout the entire training;
- personal interest of each participant in achieving the set goal;
- creating an atmosphere of trust, a creative approach to the generation of ideas and business criticism;

37 Академічний тлумачний словник Т. 5. 1974. С. 43. URL: <http://sum.in.ua/s/navchannja> (date accessed: 03.12.2022).

38 Ibid. Т. 10. 1979. С. 245. URL: <http://sum.in.ua/s/treningh> (date accessed: 03.12.2022).

39 Карпенко Є. В. Оп. cit. С. 10. URL: <https://dspace.lvduvs.edu.ua/handle/1234567890/2360> (date accessed: 02.12.2022).

- ensuring the gradual transfer of participants' behavior from an impulsive level to an objective one;
- composition of the training group should not exceed 5-10 people.

When preparing for the training, the following factors should be taken into account: the specifics of the situation, the capabilities of the tutor, the content of the training, and the specifics of the group of participants. The topic of psychological training should correspond to its purpose. The success of the training depends on the originality and novelty of the information, the personal experience of the tutor and their psychological and pedagogical abilities, and interest in the material.

We offer the following stages of psychological training of a forensic expert:

- 1st stage — a concise theoretical course with a problem statement;
- 2nd stage — introducing training participants to the topic (activation);
- 3rd stage — direct work of the entire group according to the “*information processing — action*” scheme;
- 4th stage — summarizing the results of the training.

It is important to follow the sequence of stages of psychological training, 90 % of which time is practice and only 10 % is theory. It is also worth noting that the effectiveness of the training is influenced by the interior and spaciousness of the room in which it is held. Each participant of the training program should feel comfortable and nothing should distract them during the session. The tutor does not force but helps to solve the problem with the active role of the participant in this process. Each participant should be interested in solving the problem posed at each training, which will contribute to increasing the level of their mental readiness to work in the specific conditions of forensic expert activity during martial law.

The leading task of psychological training is personal growth, which consists in the awareness of each participant of their negative instructions and internal beliefs that hinder their development, and the creation of conditions for achieving a life goal. During this training, the participant has the opportunity to consider their problem in a different way, to understand the circumstances and to change negative instructions. Psychological training also helps to overcome personal fears and anxiety, harmonize their own life, to adjust their values, therefore, review their past and present, to plan for the future. The result: a person's ascent to another level of life, in which self-confidence reigns.

As a part of psychological training, it is necessary to single out as a subspecies the training of emotional stabilization of the personality, the main goal of which is to get rid of internal tension due to the influence of external negative factors. Such training is usually conducted in a circle for greater openness of the participants to each other with the help of eye contact. The positive effect of the use of emotional stabilization training is due to:

- the formation of internal guidelines and psychological positions thanks to various forms of communication of the participants;
- creating an atmosphere of self-acceptance (self-acceptance in general);
- focus on the communication partner.

In its essence, psychological training has all the characteristics of an educational process. Thus, during the training, the participants acquire new knowledge, skills and abilities: the ability to act rationally in difficult situations, and to change their behavior in a professional manner and in a timely manner depending on the situation. The knowledge, skills and abilities

acquired during the training can be useful in any life situation. In addition, new information on the basics of psychology increases the general educational level of an expert. Ultimately, all this should emotionally stabilize the forensic expert, which will have a positive effect on their performance of official duties.

It is worth emphasizing that it is in the group that emotional warmth arises from contact with another person. The exchange of experience under the guidance of a tutor contributes to finding the optimal solution for further actions and stabilization of the emotional state of the individual. The advantage of group learning is also feedback when participants are able to support each other. During communication, a person identifies themselves by comparing himself with the environment, and evaluates their own behavior, experiences and feelings. A positive aspect of group training is also the simultaneous involvement of quite a large number of people who need help or strengthening of their emotional state for further work in the conditions of the influence of negative factors on the psyche of the individual.

A necessary condition for the success of the training system for the training of forensic experts is the optimal choice of the goal, which should unite all participants, namely:

- identification of psychological problems with further assistance;
- improving the subjective well-being of individuals, strengthening their mental health;
- promoting the development of self-awareness to prevent emotional disturbances;
- harmonization of the optimal level of life activity;
- adjusting the psyche of the individual to achieve success at work and in personal life.

We believe that it is appropriate to use basic methods, including group discussion, game methods, and psychogymnastic exercises, to conduct psychological training of forensic experts.

During a group discussion, the individual gradually moves away from their egocentric thinking and begins to listen to the opinions of others. At the same time, the motivation of each participant to solve the existing problem increases, their work capacity is activated, and their emotional state improves, which contributes to the formation of an optimal solution. A group discussion with the participation of forensic experts in training, in particular psychological training, is primarily a joint discussion of a professional problem. In such a discussion (thanks to the opinions, positions and instructions of all participants) the truth is born. Such a discussion should be structured, i.e. plan the topic for discussion in advance, regulate and coordinate its course. The most useful for forensic experts are thematic discussions, during which the participants discuss the most problematic issues, and biographical ones, aimed at analyzing the mental problems of the individual, related to both professional activities and the personal life of the expert. The most useful for forensic experts are thematic discussions, during which the participants discuss the most problematic issues, and biographical ones, aimed at analyzing the mental problems of the individual, related to both professional activities and the personal life of the expert. The advantage of this method is the opportunity for each participant in the discussion to find out their own position, compare it with the positions of others and (on the basis of various approaches and points of view on the problem) find their own understanding. In addition, the benefit of the discussion for each of its participants lies in mastering the following skills:

- analyze real situations;
- listen to others and interact in a group;
- distinguish the important from the secondary;
- overcome stereotypes and fear of the unknown, and see a variety of possible ways to solve a problem.

A Group discussion involving forensic experts must comply with the following principles:

- equality regardless of position;
- free conduct of the discussion with its topic;
- programmed driving order;
- admissibility of a reasonable compromise.

We suggest structuring the group discussion in the following stages:

1st stage — indicative: definition of the topic and purpose of the discussion;

2nd stage — gathering information about each participant necessary to achieve the goal of the discussion;

3rd stage — direct discussion using the methodology of its conduct;

4th stage — summarizing the results of the discussion and providing recommendations to its participants for further self-training.

It is worth noting that procedural moments of group discussion of the psychological training, intensity and duration depend on the set goal and the psychological characteristics of its participants.

Game methods of psychological training contribute to increasing the level of activity of its participants thanks to the use of the sensory system. We believe that game methods are quite useful during the psychological training of forensic experts, as they allow to work out situations that are as close as possible to real ones (especially to the conditions of conducting expert

investigations at the scene of the incident). The benefit of game methods also lies in practicing the professional skills and abilities of a forensic expert as a practical form of training. Therefore, during the training system, a complex result of both professional and psychological training of the forensic expert is achieved (thanks to the modeling method - theoretical and practical mediated cognition, creation, and manipulation of an object that replaces a real object). The main goal of the game method is to practice actions in conditions that correspond to the real situation. Training participants are offered a problem situation and organize joint work to find ways to solve it. During the game, experts work out some psychological nuances of professional activity, thanks to which they get a scenario of behavior in the future. Each training participant must master a selection of ways to behave in extreme situations and psychologically prepare for them. Therefore, it is advisable for forensic experts to organize psychological trainings using a role-playing game with elements of dramatization, i.e. with the creation of a situation similar to the real one, which should contribute to the change of the psychological instructions available in the individual and the formation of new, more functional ones. This will improve the emotional, cognitive and behavioral components of the individual's psyche.

So, the benefit of using a role-playing game to improve the psychological qualities of a forensic expert's personality is as follows:

- 1) participants revealing their feelings and highlighting the problem;
- 2) finding ways to solve personal problems through joint discussion;
- 3) change in psychological guidelines of the individual thanks to the application of the method of active action;

- 4) elimination of the gap between real professional activity, personal life and training of a forensic expert;
- 5) change in psychological characteristics of the individual;
- 6) strengthening self-control over feelings and emotions.

During group discussion and game methods of psychological training of forensic experts, it is advisable to use elements of psychological gymnastics, including various verbal and non-verbal exercises that contribute to the creation of a group atmosphere to ensure the success of psychological training. Psychological gymnastics restores working capacity and reduces the level of anxiety of the individual.

Taking into account the challenges of today, in particular the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, there is an urgent need to start psychological training as a component of the professional training of forensic experts, which, in turn, requires appropriate administrative and legal support, in particular the reform of the entire personnel policy of forensic institutions and its implementation in their work modern forms and methods of working with personnel ⁴⁰. The successful psychological training of forensic experts will be facilitated by the development and introduction of a special legal act, which should regulate all types of professional training of forensic experts, in particular psychological ⁴¹.

Conclusions

Therefore, the transformation of the forensic expert's personality in the extreme conditions of wartime is an

objective reality that needs to be monitored and corrected. In order to successfully overcome the consequences of the impact of external negative factors on the personality of a forensic expert related to the consequences of war, they must be personally interested in the development of their personal characteristics, which will reduce the impact of external negative factors on the psyche and generally increase work productivity.

Adding psychological training to the professional training system of a forensic expert will contribute to improving his general professional level and reducing the negative impact on their psyche of the consequences of the war. The main form of psychological training should be psychological training. The question of the training system of forensic expert preparation has great prospects for further scientific research.

The development in the system of professional training of forensic experts of psychological training methods, aimed at acquiring the necessary knowledge and developing emotional and volitional qualities, is very relevant today. The mastering of psychological knowledge, skills and abilities by a forensic expert will help them find optimal solutions for the purpose of solving forensic research and more thorough performance of professional duties. For this purpose, it is expedient to create a structural unit of professional training in each state forensic expert institution, which would (in cooperation with the personnel department) take care of the psychological training of forensic experts.

40 Курдес О. В. Щодо кадрової політики судово-експертних установ України. *Проблеми та перспективи розвитку судової експертизи та криміналістики* : мат-ли Міжнар. наук.-практ. конф. (Одеса, 16.10.2020). Одеса, 2020. С. 312.

41 Його ж. Особливості психологічної підготовки судових експертів як складової процесу адаптації до умов праці. *Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики*. 2021. Вип. 23. С. 118. DOI: [10.32353/khrife.1.2021.08](https://doi.org/10.32353/khrife.1.2021.08) (date accessed: 03.12.2022).

Трансформація особистості судового експерта в екстремальних умовах воєнного часу

Олег Курдес

За допомогою діалектичного, системного, порівняльного методів і методів аналітичної абстракції, моделювання й інтерпретації досліджено феномен трансформації особистості судового експерта в екстремальних умовах (зокрема воєнного часу), узагальнено наукові досягнення із цього питання й окреслено шляхи подолання наслідків впливу зовнішніх негативних чинників на його особистість. Акцентовано увагу на потребі відстежувати емоційно-вольову стійкість судового експерта та рівень впливу на його особистість зовнішніх стресових чинників довготривалої дії в умовах проведення ним судових експертиз на місцях воєнних злочинів та за наслідками воєнних дій на території України. Для успішного виконання посадових обов'язків і подолання наслідків впливу зовнішніх негативних чинників у воєнний час доцільно додати до системи професійної підготовки судового експерта підготовку психологічну (розробити методику проведення психологічних тренінгів як форми активного розвитку психологічних якостей і навичок особистості: зокрема із долученням групових дискусій, ігрових методів та психогімнастичних вправ) із унормуванням її у відповідних підзаконних відомчих актах. Опанування судовим експертом психологічних знань, вмінь і навичок сприятиме знайденню ним оптимальних рішень із метою розв'язання судово-експертних досліджень та більш ретельному виконанню професійних обов'язків. Запропоновано в кожній державній судово-експертній установі створити структурний підрозділ професійної підготовки, на який би (у співпраці з підрозділом роботи з персоналом) покласти обов'язок організува-

ти психологічну підготовку судових експертів.

Ключові слова: особистість у воєнний час; трансформація психіки; судово-експертна діяльність; судовий експерт; професійна підготовка; психологічна підготовка; психологічний тренінг.

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