





# Profiling in Operational-Search and Other Law Enforcement Activities

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**Keywords:** Operational-search activities, operational-search profiling, forensic profiling, screening profiling, digital profiling.


**Abstract:** The article focuses on the current trend of modern law enforcement activity - profiling. Profiling is considered in it with the help of hermeneutic, comparative, legal comparative and a set of logical methods, primarily in the operational-search, as well as other areas of law enforcement. Goal of the article: analysis of the available recommendations for the profiling implementation in law enforcement and the development of proposals for identifying certain types of compiling a psychological profile of a person, as well as justifying the need to use profiling methods. To achieve this goal, the authors solved the following tasks: differentiation of profiling types in law enforcement, emphasizing the need for professional training and obtaining relevant competencies for the effective performance of profiling. Taking into account the digitalization trends in all spheres of activity, both digital profiling (search for a person using open sources and electronic databases according to the given characteristics of a digital profile) and the use of hardware-software and software systems in the course of operational-search profiling during operational-search activities related with personal verbal and/or eye contact with the object. Basics of the tactics of such use of digital technologies in operational-search and investigative activities are considered. The authors suggest specific innovative directions as conclusions: in terms of practical law enforcement structures enrichment with relevant specialists; in terms of using profiling for general and private crime prevention; in terms of digitalization of investigative and operational-search activities related to digital profiling.


## 1 INTRODUCTION


Among the psychological methods used by operational-search bodies, a special place is occupied by the method of compiling a psychological profile of a person - profiling. The object of this research is a specific field of profiling application - operational-search activity. The issues of forensic and operational-search profiling were considered in the works of both domestic and foreign scientists. The following works can be noted: Vedenina A.I., Anfinogenova A.I., Bogomolova S.N., Obratsova V.A., Mironova D.V., Paul Ekman, J. Douglas, J. Gebert, J. Brassel, B. Tervey, D. Kanter, B. Ainsworth, D. Rossi and other authors. However, it seems insufficient to

consider just profiling techniques. The novelty of this work is a comprehensive study of the profiling opportunities implementation in operational-search and other activities, taking into account domestic and foreign recommendations. The task of our research is to analyze the available recommendations for the profiling implementation in law enforcement and the development of proposals for identifying certain types of compiling a psychological profile of a person, as well as justifying the need to use profiling methods. Moreover, a positive difference between work and similar ones will be considering the impact of digitalization on all spheres of human life.

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## 2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

A wide range of methods was used to accomplish the research tasks. First of all, it is necessary to note the universal dialectical method and its components. In course of the research such of general scientific methods as logical analysis, synthesis, analogy, hypothesis and others were implemented, as well as comparative legal and hermeneutic methods were actively used. The hermeneutic method made it possible to identify the origin of the "profiling" term and other categories used. These methods in the aggregate made it possible to provide the level of research complexity that is necessary to solve the stated tasks and comply with the logic of scientific knowledge in the questions posed. Profiling is essentially a diverse phenomenon, so the research of the "profiling" term is impossible without interdisciplinary and comparative approaches.

## 3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the light of interdisciplinary approach to solving the most important problems of detection, disclosure, investigation and suppression of crimes, it can be stated that through the evolution of sociopsychology, psychiatry, neurolinguistics, medicine, statistics, computer modeling, criminology, forensic science, such a concept as forensic profiling has entered the scientific circulation, which in the most general form can be defined as a certain type of professional behavior of specialists in various fields.

The range of definitions of the "profiling" category is quite wide and includes both consideration of profiling as a way of compiling a brief description of an unknown criminal (Ainsworth, 2001), and methods aimed at preventing crimes during security measures by identifying potentially dangerous persons using applied psychology (Obraztsov, 2003; Semenyuk, 2018).

The most reasonable opinion is that it combines the positive features of both of these approaches. So, E.S. Cherkasova, considering the areas of profiling application, names, first of all, an operational-search orientation, the compiling a psychological profile of an unidentified offender and preventive monitoring of the passengers' response and pre-flight inspection of persons characterized by suspicious behavior (Cherkasova, 2013). While researching the essence and directions of using the information obtained by the considered method, it seems expedient to classify this phenomenon.

Based on the goals/directions of using profiling, it seems appropriate to highlight

operational-search profiling - used to assess the subject in the course of interrogation and observation and other operational-search activities.

forensic profiling - compiling a psychological portrait of a serial offender in order to find him.

preventive profiling - aimed at solving the issue of identifying an offender in a crowd based on an assessment of his behavioral evidence,

screening profiling used to resolve the issue of recruiting persons prone to illegal activities/criminal behavior.

The profiling is equally important in the penitentiary system, which allows to identify the person who provokes conflicts and disposes other prisoners to sabotage.

Profiling in operational-search activity is a certain range of knowledge and competencies of general profiling, used in the operational-search activities of specially authorized state bodies, openly and secretly, and in other official tasks performance. In its most general form, profiling can be defined as a system of non-verbal and operational psychological diagnostics of the subject's personality.

Operational-search profiling in a "pure" form is implemented as a survey, observation and some other activities related to personal communication. An operative, observing physiognomic and some other behavioral reactions of a person, may suggest that the person is concealing certain circumstances or an outright lie. Basically, one cannot but agree with Korobkov V.A., Vedenin A.V., who indicate that the problematic aspect of the psychological support of OSA is the diagnosis and assessment of the man. In this context, from the current scientific and practical research, it is possible to distinguish the method of compiling a psychological profile (profiling) as a promising direction for improving the effectiveness of the professional activities of law enforcement bodies (Korobkov, Vedenin, 2015).

These authors point of view on the importance of developing educational and methodological support, timely training of specialists who acquire knowledge and skills in behavioral psychology and profiling for solving problems of operational-search activities using operational-search profiling merits consideration (Korobkov, Vedenin, 2015). The graduated specialists should have a set of modern competencies and proper psychological training to apply their knowledge in the operational-search activities.

It was no coincidence that the researchers of the assessment of the personal and professional qualities

of the profiler come to the conclusion that the employees of the operational-search activity departments and educators have natural boundaries for stopping the profiling when the communication problem is solved. Perhaps that is why the ability to empathy is highest among psychologists, who are obliged to go to the end in their profiling behavior, that is, until stable personality changes are obtained (Hamidov, 2019).

In the face of active digitalization of all spheres of human life, it seems necessary to propose the introduction of digitalization elements into the profiling activities. The issues of external non-verbal display of internal reactions and emotions were developed in sufficient detail by P. Ekman (Ekman, 2016). A certain index was assigned to each mimic, articulatory and gestural reaction. A conclusion on the reaction is made under the set of indices. It seems that modern developments in biometric face identification also make digital recognition of physiognomic facial reactions possible. Certainly, even a hardware-software complex will not be able to fully read a person's thoughts, but it is possible to program the identification of several basic emotions and reactions that make it possible to diagnose dichotomous pairs of lie-truth, joy-sadness, as well as aggression. Such a hardware-software complex will make it possible to at least partially cover the needs of the operational-search bodies for professional profilers. At the same time, subjective factors will be excluded from the assessment of reactions. In terms of the tactics of such complex use, we allow both direct monitoring by an operative of the indicators displayed on the screen, and the allocation of an experienced employee for placement in a separate room and for monitoring indicators and giving recommendations to the person conducting the survey in the micro-headset. It seems that such methods are also applicable in verbal investigative actions.

Following the approach of Paul Ekman, forensic profiling can be defined as a forensic tool, the essence of which is to determine a person by the nature and method of committing a socially dangerous act (Ekman, 2016). We see the essence of forensic profiling in the use of correlations and interdependencies that specialists establish between the personal behavioral characteristics of an offender and forensic signs of a crime in order to identify, disclose, investigate and prevent crimes. A similar correlation, according to Goodwill Alasdair M. Lehman, Robert J., Eric. Beauregard, Andrei, Andreea can serve as the main confirmation of the effectiveness of forensic profiling, especially in the situation of finding a serial sex offender (Goodwill,

Lehmann, Beauregard, Andrey, 2016). Separately, it is worth mentioning the geographic profiling of offenders, which, according to foreign studies, shows high efficiency (Lino, Calado, Belchior, Cruz, Lobato, A. 2018). Partly, the role of profiling in the differentiation of neurological and mental disorders in offenders and the prospective pre-diction of their behavior can be noted (Camperio, Andrea, 2019).

Cases of the help of a psychologist specialist in compiling a psychological portrait of an unidentified offender, narrowing the search circle and capturing him have become world-famous. In addition, a behavioral reconstruction of the crime event took place in compiling a psychological profile of an unidentified offender (Logunova, 2011). Likewise, forensic profiling contributes to the fulfillment of investigation tasks. The effectiveness of a database of offenders' profiles has been repeatedly emphasized by foreign researchers (Fox, Farrington, 2018.)

However, checking the reactions of passengers at airports and refusing to allow persons suspected of a possible terrorist attack to board the plane are no less effective. Partly, similar actions can be made in any place where people gather. In the profiling selection of suspected people from the general mass, the tasks of both suppressing an incipient crime and preventing crimes can be solved. The important role of the profiling control of passenger reactions is emphasized by many authors (Wagoner, 2020).

It seems that this cannot be limited, and in order to prevent corruption and other delinquent behavior, it is necessary to introduce a profiling interview with applicants for positions in law enforcement bodies, as well as a periodic interview with a profiler during recertification. We call this type of profiling as screening one.

The issue of digital profiling deserves a separate consideration (Balogun, Zuva, 2018). Of course, in the digital profiling the primacy of development belongs to German scientists (Hoffman, Musolff, 2000). The raster scan for an offender allows to create a digital profile of a person according to specified characteristics (modus operandi, personal qualities, social indicators, an of-fender's handwriting, etc.), to search through open and departmental social networks and databases, private and state information arrays. After that, the identified suspected person is subject to verification by operational-search and investigative methods.

As noted by A.P. Sukhodolov, M.A. Kaluzhina, B.A. Spasennikov, V.S. Kolodin, the digital profiling process is a sequential cycle of six steps:

1. Definition of the original goal: what information is needed in relation to a specific case.
2. Collection, evaluation of data containing the necessary information.
3. Selection of relevant information and extraction of indicators for each of the analyzed areas of knowledge.
4. Comparison of information indicators to identify inconsistencies or similarities.
5. Determination of criteria by comparison and creation of a “digital pro-file”.
6. Analysis of the obtained “digital profile” in comparison with the original goal (Sukhodolov A.P., Kaluzhina M.A., Spasennikov B.A., Kolodin V.S., 2019).

An alternative is the Entity Profiling with Binary Predicates (EPBP) user profiling method, which analyzes the non-volatile data remaining on digital de-vices. Based on data attributes, the EPBP method model generates user pro-files and performs similarity analysis to differentiate users (Kwon, Lee, Jeong, 2021).

An important role is played by automated checks and other potential of-fenders. Thus, the automatic analysis of texts on social networks, according to foreign scientists, will help to identify potential so-called “school shooters” (Neuman, Assaf, Cohen, Knoll, 2016).

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

The research underlines the high efficiency of profiling research in law enforcement, which leads to an increased need for specialists with relevant competencies. Therefore, we propose the following innovations.

In terms of practical law enforcement structures enrichment with relevant specialists:

- fixing in the educational and methodological materials of universities of the systems of law enforcement agencies (Ministry of Internal Affairs, FSB, Investigative Committee, etc.) of the section related to profiling as mandatory for study;
- professional development or retraining of practical employees in the profiling basics;
- intensification of the specialists training in profiling and an increase in their number until they are fixed as a mandatory staffing unit at anybody per-forming operational-search activities;

- inclusion of general and private prevention based on profiling research in forensic and operational-search methods.

In terms of using profiling for general and private crime prevention:

- preliminary interview, before hiring, with a profiler, an applicant for a position in law enforcement (and, first of all, operational-search) bodies, as well as a subsequent periodic (once every 3 years) interview with a profiler;
- introduction of profiler specialists or at least persons who have obtained the initial profiling skills for high-risk and high-density facilities (train stations, airports, venues for public events, etc.) to prevent terrorist attacks;
- using the specialist profilers when planning an investigation to compile a psychological profile of a wanted person or an offender (it acquires particular importance in the commission of serial crimes);
- using the help of a profiler or hardware-software in the verbal operational measures and investigative actions, specially designed for contactless assessment by voice, physiognomy and other parameters of the testimony and explanations of the questioned or interrogated person.
- using the unmanned aerial vehicles and video cameras equipped with special hardware-software systems designed for profiling assessment of verbal and non-verbal manifestations of a behavioral nature, installed in crowded places.

In terms of digitalization of operational-search and investigative activities:

- active introduction of digital profiling like the German "raster scan";
- development and implementation of hardware-software systems for tracking non-verbal reactions of a person during operational-search activities and investigative actions.

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