

**BIOGRAPHICAL RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED
WITH THE INTEGRAL RISK PROFILE OF PROPENSITY
FOR DEVIANT BEHAVIOR AMONG MILITARY PERSONNEL
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ARMED CONFLICT IN UKRAINE**

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The armed conflict in Ukraine has brought renewed attention to the psychological conditions that shape dysregulated and norm-transgressive tendencies in military personnel [1–3]. Current work in military psychology increasingly treats behavioral risk as a configuration rather than a single isolated trait. Such a view opens space for a more precise reading of life-history variables, especially those linked to family instability, early violence, repeated interpersonal conflict, and difficulties in emotional self-regulation [1–6]. Within this framework, biographical data offer more than background description: they reveal the developmental contexts in which later behavioral patterns acquire their emotional tone, moral flexibility, and conflict style.

The aim of the study was to identify biographical risk factors associated with the integral risk profile of propensity for deviant behavior among military personnel. The sample included 90 military personnel aged 20 to 44 years, with combat experience reported by 95.6% of respondents. Data were collected in person during scheduled psychodiagnostic assessment sessions. The psychodiagnostic set combined four instruments: the Short Dark Triad questionnaire (SD-3), the Buss–Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BPAQ-29), the Moral Disengagement Scale (MD-8), and a biographical questionnaire. The biographical questionnaire used binary coding, where “1” denoted the presence of a factor and “0” its absence. The recorded variables covered marital status, family atmosphere, childhood physical or psychological violence, childhood bullying, participation in childhood

fight, substance use in the family, combat experience, and loss of control due to emotions.

The analytical core of the study consisted in constructing an integral risk-profile index. The index was calculated as the mean of three standardized overall indicators: SD-3, BPAQ-29, and MD-8. This procedure made it possible to summarize the joint expression of antagonistic personality tendencies, aggressiveness, and moral disengagement within a single metric. In the present study, the profile index served as a research indicator for comparing groups and tracing the biographical conditions associated with a more pronounced cumulative configuration of psychological risk. Its meaning remained analytical and comparative, which corresponds to the logic of exploratory profile-based modeling in psychology.

The statistical strategy relied on nonparametric methods. Group comparisons were performed with the Mann–Whitney U test, since the biographical variables formed binary groups and part of the key empirical distributions departed from normality. The analysis included median values in the contrasted groups, significance levels, and effect sizes. Combatant status was left outside the comparison procedure because the sample contained a highly concentrated combat-experienced majority, which made such a contrast methodologically unstable within the present dataset.

The clearest biographical differentiation of the integral risk profile was associated with participation in childhood fights. Respondents with such experience showed a median profile value of 0.553, whereas the comparison group showed -0.296 ; the difference reached $U = 1322.0$, $p < .001$, $|r| = .438$. A similarly expressive pattern emerged for loss of control due to emotions: the respective medians were 0.252 and -0.286 , with $U = 1271.0$, $p < .001$, $|r| = .370$. A conflictual family atmosphere produced the third strongest contrast, with median values of 0.651 and -0.176 , $U = 1114.0$, $p = .002$, $|r| = .335$. These three factors outline the central axis of the obtained profile: direct interpersonal confrontation, weakened emotional regulation, and family-context instability.

Two additional factors also showed statistically meaningful associations with the integral profile. Participants who reported childhood violence had a higher median profile value than those without such experience (0.120 vs. -0.194), $U = 1295.0$, $p = .010$, $|r| = .272$. A similar difference emerged for substance use in the family (0.078 vs. -0.169), $U = 1174.0$, $p = .019$, $|r| = .247$. The empirical pattern therefore converges around one broader developmental cluster: unstable and conflict-laden environments, early exposure to harmful interaction, and emotionally charged modes of responding are linked to a more pronounced aggregate expression of Dark

Triad traits, aggressiveness, and moral disengagement in the examined sample.

The profile also gains depth when viewed alongside the group differences observed on separate scales. Childhood fights were associated with higher overall SD-3 scores and higher psychopathy. Loss of control due to emotions was associated with higher overall aggressiveness and higher physical aggression. Conflictual family atmosphere was linked to elevated overall aggressiveness. Childhood violence and substance use in the family were especially tied to physical aggression. Bullying showed a weaker place in the integral profile and appeared more closely tied to anger at the level of separate indicators. Together, these results portray the integral profile as a cumulative pattern in which several psychologically adjacent dimensions converge into one measurable configuration.

From a substantive point of view, the findings support a layered understanding of vulnerability. Participation in childhood fights carries the imprint of early conflict normalization. Emotional loss of control contributes a regulatory dimension marked by rapid escalation and reduced modulation of affect. Family conflict, childhood violence, and substance use in the family supply the interpersonal and environmental background in which coercive, unstable, or dysregulated interaction becomes familiar. In the studied military sample, the highest integral profile values appeared precisely at the intersection of these lines. Such a configuration speaks in favor of a multicomponent view of deviant behavior propensity, where personality antagonism, aggressiveness, moral disengagement, and biographical burden form one coordinated empirical field [4–8].

Interpretation of the results requires attention to the empirical architecture of the study. The sample size equaled 90 participants; the data were obtained through self-report measures; the biographical factors could overlap within the same respondent; the resulting effects therefore describe statistical associations within the sample. Within that frame, the findings carry clear scientific value. They sharpen the understanding of how life-history variables enter the structure of a cumulative psychological risk profile in military personnel and set a productive direction for further studies with larger samples, expanded external criteria, and finer differentiation of developmental pathways.

Conclusions. The integral risk profile proved sensitive to a distinct group of biographical factors. The strongest differences were associated with childhood fights, loss of control due to emotions, and conflictual family atmosphere. Childhood violence and substance use in the family also contributed meaningful differentiation of the cumulative profile. The resulting picture joins developmental conflict, family-context strain, and affective dysregulation into one empirical pattern.

For military psychology, this result matters because it shifts attention from single indicators toward coordinated configurations. In the present sample, the integral profile captured the joint expression of antagonistic traits, aggressiveness, and moral disengagement and showed that higher cumulative values clustered around specific forms of adverse life experience. Such evidence enriches the study of deviant behavior propensity in military personnel and opens a clear path for further work on biographical vulnerability, profile-based screening, and multilevel models of psychological risk under conditions of armed conflict.

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DOI <https://doi.org/10.36059/978-966-397-619-8-67>

РЕТРОСПЕКТИВНА РЕФЛЕКСІЯ ЯК МЕХАНІЗМ ТРАНСФОРМАЦІЇ ТРАВМАТИЧНОГО ДОСВІДУ В ОСОБИСТІСНИЙ РЕСУРС

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В умовах сучасних реалій українського суспільства, що характеризуються перманентним станом невизначеності та загрозою життю, проблема трансформації травматичного досвіду в особистісний ресурс набуває особливої гостроти. Травматичний досвід стає викликом для ментального здоров'я нації. Проте, окрім деструктивного впливу (ПТСР, депресія, тривожність), кризові ситуації містять у собі потенціал для розвитку особистості. Ключовим інструментом, що дозволяє перетворити травму на особистісний ресурс, виступає ретроспективна рефлексія – здатність особистості свідомо звертатися до минулого досвіду, аналізувати його та переосмислювати.

Проблема перероблення травматичного досвіду та посттравматичного зростання широко висвітлена у західній психології. Фундаментальне значення для розуміння позитивних наслідків пережитої травми мають праці Р. Тедескі та Л. Калхуна [3], які ввели термін «посттравматичне зростання», тоді як екзистенційний аспект подолання кризових станів глибоко розкрито у роботах В. Франкла [6]. Водночас механізми опрацювання такого досвіду деталізуються у дослідженнях Дж. Пеннебейкера [2], який довів терапевтичний ефект експресивного письма як форми рефлексії, та у працях С. Нолен-Гуксеми [1], де ґрунтовно розмежовано конструктивну рефлексію та румінацію як процес нав'язливих роздумів.