

MAIN SOCIAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS FORMING THE PROPENSITY FOR DEVIANT BEHAVIOR IN CONTINUOUS MILITARY SERVANTS

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Abstract: This article explores the main social-psychological factors that contribute to the propensity for deviant behavior among continuous military servants. It examines how various influences, including peer dynamics, leadership styles, organizational culture, and individual psychological traits, interact to shape behavior within military settings. The study highlights the role of stress, group cohesion, and the impact of military socialization processes in fostering or mitigating deviant actions. By understanding these factors, the article aims to provide insights into preventing deviant behavior and promoting a healthier military environment.

Key words: Deviant Behavior, Military Servants, Social-Psychological Factors, Peer Dynamics, Leadership Styles, Organizational Culture.

Introduction

The phenomenon of deviant behavior within military settings poses significant challenges to organizational integrity, operational effectiveness, and the overall well-being of personnel. Continuous military servants, who dedicate their lives to the service, are not immune to engaging in behaviors that deviate from established norms and expectations. Understanding the social-psychological factors that contribute to this propensity for deviance is crucial for fostering a healthier military environment and enhancing operational readiness. One of the primary influences on deviant behavior is the social context in which military personnel operate. The military environment is characterized by unique peer dynamics, where camaraderie and group cohesion can either reinforce positive behaviors or encourage negative ones. In high-stress situations, individuals may feel pressured to conform to the group's expectations, leading to the normalization of deviant behaviors as a coping mechanism or a means of gaining acceptance among peers.

Leadership styles also play a critical role in shaping the behavior of continuous military servants. Authoritarian leadership may stifle open communication and discourage the reporting of misconduct, while transformational leadership can inspire ethical behavior and accountability. The relationship between leaders and subordinates significantly impacts morale and the willingness to adhere to or deviate from established norms. Organizational culture within the military further influences behavior. A culture that prioritizes mission accomplishment over individual well-being may inadvertently promote deviance as personnel seek to meet unrealistic expectations. Conversely, a culture that emphasizes ethical conduct, psychological support, and mental health awareness can mitigate the risk of deviant behavior.

Individual psychological traits, such as resilience, moral reasoning, and susceptibility to stress, also contribute to the likelihood of engaging in deviant actions. Personnel with lower resilience may struggle to cope with the demands of military life, leading them to resort to maladaptive behaviors. Moreover, moral disengagement can enable individuals to rationalize unethical actions, further increasing the propensity for deviance. The interplay of social dynamics, leadership styles, organizational culture, and individual psychological traits creates a complex landscape that shapes the propensity for deviant behavior among continuous military servants. By examining these factors, we can better understand how to prevent deviance and promote a culture of integrity and accountability within military organizations.

Addressing these issues is essential for maintaining the effectiveness and reputation of military institutions while ensuring the well-being of their personnel.

Analysis Of Literature On The Topic

The propensity for deviant behavior among continuous military servants has been a subject of interest for various scholars in the fields of psychology, sociology, and military studies. Several key social-psychological factors have been identified as influential in shaping this behavior.

Research by Hogg and Vaughan (2018) highlights the significant role of peer dynamics in military settings. The need for acceptance and belonging can lead individuals to conform to group norms, even when those norms may encourage deviant behavior. This phenomenon is particularly pronounced in high-stress environments where camaraderie is essential for coping with the challenges of military life.

The work of Bass and Riggio (2006) on transformational leadership suggests that effective leaders can inspire ethical behavior among their subordinates. Conversely, authoritarian leadership styles may suppress open communication and discourage reporting of misconduct, fostering an environment where deviance can thrive. Leaders who fail to model ethical behavior may inadvertently legitimize deviant actions within their units.

Schein (2010) emphasizes the importance of organizational culture in shaping behavior. In military contexts, a culture that prioritizes mission success over individual well-being may inadvertently encourage deviance as personnel seek to meet unrealistic expectations. Cultures that lack support for mental health and ethical conduct can create an environment where deviant behaviors become normalized.

The concept introduced by Bandura (1991) explains how individuals can rationalize unethical behavior through mechanisms such as diffusion of responsibility and dehumanization. In military settings, personnel may disengage from their moral standards, justifying deviant actions as necessary for achieving mission objectives or maintaining group cohesion. Research by Luthans et al. (2006) indicates that individual psychological traits, such as resilience, play a crucial role in coping with stressors in military life. Personnel with lower resilience may be more prone to deviant behaviors as a maladaptive response to stress. Understanding the psychological profiles of military servants can help identify those at risk of engaging in deviance.

According to Tajfel and Turner (1986), individuals derive a sense of identity from their group memberships. In military contexts, strong identification with one's unit can lead to in-group favoritism and out-group discrimination, potentially resulting in deviant behaviors aimed at protecting the group's interests. The propensity for deviant behavior among continuous military servants is influenced by a complex interplay of social-psychological factors, including peer influence, leadership styles, organizational culture, moral disengagement, individual resilience, and social identity dynamics. Understanding these factors is essential for developing effective interventions to promote ethical behavior and well-being within military organizations.

Methodology

The research methodology for studying the social-psychological factors that influence the propensity for deviant behavior among continuous military servants involves a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative techniques to provide a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon. The first step involves conducting an extensive literature review to identify existing theories and empirical studies related to social-psychological factors in military contexts. This review will help in framing the research questions and hypotheses. A structured questionnaire will be developed to collect quantitative

data from military personnel. The survey will include validated scales measuring variables such as peer influence, leadership styles, organizational culture, moral disengagement, resilience, and social identity. Demographic information will also be collected to analyze differences across various groups. A stratified random sampling technique will be employed to ensure representation from different branches of the military, ranks, and demographics. This approach will enhance the generalizability of the findings. Surveys will be administered online or through paper forms, ensuring anonymity to encourage honest responses. Additionally, focus group discussions will be conducted with selected participants to gain deeper insights into their experiences and perceptions related to deviant behavior. Quantitative data will be analyzed using statistical software (e.g., SPSS or R) to perform descriptive statistics, correlation analyses, and regression modeling to identify significant predictors of deviant behavior. Qualitative data from focus groups will be analyzed using thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns. The study will adhere to ethical guidelines, ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and the right to withdraw from the study at any time without repercussions. By employing this mixed-methods approach, the research aims to uncover the complex interplay of social-psychological factors influencing deviant behavior in continuous military servants, providing valuable insights for interventions and policy development.

Results And Discussion

The propensity for deviant behavior among continuous military servants can be influenced by several key social-psychological factors. Understanding these factors is crucial for developing effective interventions and promoting a healthy organizational culture within military settings.

One of the most significant factors is the influence of peers. In military environments, where camaraderie and group cohesion are emphasized, individuals may feel pressured to conform to group norms, even if those norms involve deviant behavior. This peer pressure can lead to a normalization of misconduct, as individuals seek acceptance and approval from their peers. The approach taken by leaders within the military can greatly impact the behavior of subordinates. Authoritarian leadership may foster an environment of fear and compliance, leading to hidden resentment and potential deviance. Conversely, transformational leadership that encourages open communication and ethical behavior can mitigate the likelihood of deviant actions by promoting a sense of shared values and accountability.

The overarching culture within a military unit plays a critical role in shaping behavior. A culture that prioritizes results over ethical considerations may inadvertently encourage deviance as individuals strive to meet unrealistic expectations. Conversely, a culture that emphasizes integrity, respect, and ethical conduct can deter deviant behavior by aligning individual actions with organizational values. Many military personnel may experience moral disengagement, where they rationalize or justify unethical behavior. This psychological mechanism allows individuals to detach from their moral standards, making it easier to engage in deviant acts without feeling guilt or shame. Factors such as desensitization to violence or exposure to morally ambiguous situations can exacerbate this phenomenon.

The concept of social identity is particularly relevant in military contexts. Soldiers often derive a sense of self from their affiliation with their unit or branch of service. When this identity is threatened or undermined, individuals may engage in deviant behavior as a means of asserting their belonging or retaliating against perceived injustices. The ability to cope with stress and adversity also influences the likelihood of deviant behavior. Military personnel who possess strong resilience and effective coping strategies are less likely to

resort to negative behaviors when faced with challenges. Conversely, those who struggle with stress management may be more prone to engage in deviance as a maladaptive coping mechanism. The propensity for deviant behavior among continuous military servants is shaped by a complex interplay of social-psychological factors, including peer influence, leadership styles, organizational culture, moral disengagement, social identity, and resilience. Addressing these factors through targeted interventions and fostering a positive organizational climate can help reduce deviant behavior and enhance overall military effectiveness.

Conclusion

Deviant behavior among continuous military servants stems from a complex interplay of social-psychological factors inherent to military life. Prolonged exposure to combat stress, psychological trauma, and the often-isolated military subculture can significantly increase a predisposition. Inadequate social support networks, ineffective leadership, and difficulties associated with post-service reintegration into civilian society are also critical contributors. Such underlying issues often manifest as aggression, substance abuse, or disciplinary infractions, directly impacting individual well-being, unit cohesion, and overall mission effectiveness. A comprehensive understanding of these multifaceted dynamics is essential for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies to safeguard military personnel's health and maintain organizational integrity.

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