



MPHTI 78.21.04.

<https://doi.org/10.56132/2791-3368.2024.3-49-03>

N.S. Shamshiyeva

*Ministry of defense of the republic of Azerbaijan  
Military institute named after Heydar Aliyev, Baku, Azerbaijan  
(E-mail: naibashamshiyeva04@mail.ru)*

### **The significance of military sociological research in the process of building the modern army and organizing military administration**

In the article, the need to carry out military sociological research, their general characteristics, methods of conducting, features, and the importance of conducting empirical sociological research in the practical activities of the army command, as well as individually of each military leading officer, rules for organizing and conducting scientific research work in the military unit (department) issues related to have been investigated.

The author opened the content of the concept of "military-sociological research" in the article and deeply analyzed the procedures expected by a sociologist conducting research in a military unit.

In the end, the author's conclusions are reflected as a result of the research.

*Keywords:* army, sociological research, military sociological research, research strategy, sampling methodology, research methods

#### *Introduction*

Among the criteria of a strong army in modern times, the high combat readiness of the armed forces has a special place. The provision of high combat readiness directly depends on the formation of a healthy socio-psychological climate and mutual relations within the military unit. It is impossible to formulate and implement the process of building the army, the general military policy of the country, without learning the real state of social events and processes, interactions and relations within the army, and how and based on which criteria the set tactical and strategic goals are implemented in any military unit or division. It is not possible. In the current conditions, there is a need for non-traditional methods and approaches to ensure military policy, military development problems, unification, and high combat readiness of units. From this point of view, conducting military-sociological research in the army is particularly relevant in monitoring, recording, interpreting, and predicting the negative and positive trends that manifest themselves during the management of the military field.

Military sociology, a special field of sociology, deals with the study and analysis of the situation in the army. The main task of military sociology in the army is to focus on the regularities and contradictions that occur in this institution in the

context of studying the mutual relations of the subjects of the military field - military personnel, institutions, and groups. The field of interest of military sociology also includes the processes and relations between individuals and different groups within the military organization itself, as well as the social aspects of wars and military conflicts. At the same time, military sociologists adapt new and standard psychological methods to the conditions of use in the Armed Forces, study the views of military personnel on current problems in society, as well as the life of the army and navy, scientifically interpret the measures implemented within the framework of military reforms.

*The level of development of the problem in the sources of science.* The topic of military sociological research was discussed in foreign scientific sources at different times by different authors (J.Hart, G.Marshall, Y.Samokhvalov, R.Aron, A.Abbot, A.Skok, J.Giuseppe, A.Belyayeva, V.Bondarenko, V.Y.Vorobyov, L.G.Yegorov, G.A. Kabakovich, P. Tkachev, R. Grishayev, M.Baranovski, V.A.Yadov, B.Atesh, A.Başpinar, etc.) have been extensively and comprehensively investigated.

*The purpose of the article.* The main goal of the article is to determine the potential opportunities of conducting military-sociological research in the management of the military field, which is a vital field of the country, referring to the existing scientific literature (foreign and local). The realization of this goal requires solving the following tasks:

1. Determining the main directions of the research;
2. Opening the concept of military sociological research;
3. Determination of the purpose of military sociological research;
4. The procedure for organizing and conducting military-sociological research;
5. Study of research strategy and data collection methods in military sociological studies;
6. Investigating the types of military-sociological research;
7. Research the theoretical possibilities of the methods used in military sociological research.

*Research methods.* A systematic approach and theoretical and comparative analysis methods were used to solve the problems to be investigated in the article.

### *Methodological basis*

#### Concept of military-sociological research

Unlike other spheres of public life, the military sphere is characterized by several peculiarities. The main peculiarity here is the adjustment process, which is characteristic of the closed mode. Therefore, the rules of organization and conduct of military-sociological studies are slightly different from similar sociological studies. So let's try to clarify, what is military sociological research? Military-



sociological research is a type of sociological research and involves obtaining correct information about the studied social event and process and their use in military-social management.

The object of military-sociological research can be military personnel as a social group or social processes and events existing in the military field. The object exists independently of the explorer. The subject of military-sociological research is the features of the object that cover the studied problem more fully. The subject is the part of the object that is allocated for study by the researcher.

*The purpose of conducting military-sociological research*

Military-sociological research can be conducted with the following goals:

- obtaining new and rich theoretical and empirical information about the military sphere of society's life;
- improvement of pre-existing research methods and preparation of new ones, taking into account the specificity of the military-social field;
- assessment of the state of the military organization the state, detection of existing problems and contradictions, the direction of their development, and the search for scientifically based solutions;
- to inform the board and state authorities about the dynamics of changing social processes in the army and navy (to make recommendations for them to make appropriate and effective management decisions)
- to make sure of the efficiency of the adopted decisions;
- study of public opinion on the actual issues of life activities of military personnel;
- forecasting the main tendencies of the development of social processes in the army and navy, etc. [1].

In the research process, the study of existing problems in the field of military education, and the analysis of the state of work on the military-professional orientation of various categories of military personnel for admission to the civilian population and special higher education institutions existing in the defense system is also important.

In addition to the above, military-sociological research can be a successful option in solving family-household problems, which play a direct role in the service motivation of military personnel. During the sociological research carried out last year using the method of interviews with a limited number of contingents (mainly senior officers) selected from among the personnel in the collective where I worked, it became clear that military personnel with unstable livelihoods still have certain issues that have not been thoroughly worked on. there are socio-psychological and household-oriented problems.

Timely detection and elimination of those problems requires a specialist approach. It is from this point of view that sociological studies can shed light on



those problems that occur in their families from time to time to keep the service motivation of each military personnel high [2].

On the other hand, the purpose of the military-sociological research is to analyze, describe, interpret the obtained data, summarize the results, improve and change the studied social mechanism, as well as give advice.

Conducting sociological research in the military field is very important in studying the following issues:

- To learn the importance of social justice in strengthening the military collective.

- To clarify the realization of objective and subjective factors of social justice in the military collective.

- To analyze the difficulties and problems in the realization of social justice, and the causes and forms of social injustice in the military collective[3].

The level of fairness in interpersonal relations can be determined as follows:

- between the leadership, command, and rank-and-file staff;
- between servicemen with the same service level and status;
- between personality and collective;
- between social groups of different categories[4].

As a rule, the correctness of the theory is verified in practice. Empirical sociological research provides information about the state of this practice, and described social tactics. The specific role of empirical sociological research in raising the scientific level of military management is manifested in three main directions:

- in the forecasting and planning of general development in the military field;
- in making optimal decisions about military management;
- in creating a single social information system.

#### *Organization and conduct of military-sociological research*

The organization and conduct of military-sociological research goes through four main stages:

- The first stage includes preparation for research. This includes defining and preparing the goal, program, plan, research period, methods of information analysis, etc. includes.

- The second stage consists of the process of collecting primary sociological data. This includes information collected from various sources (excerpts from documents, notes of the researcher, opinions of some of the respondents, etc.).

- The third stage involves the development and processing (or recycling) of the data collected in the course of sociological research (questionnaire survey, interview, content analysis, etc.) for processing in EHM.

- The fourth, last stage is the analysis of the processed material, the preparation of a report dedicated to the results of the research, the preparation of results and proposals for the client or the management entity [5].



### *Sampling methodology in military-sociological research*

Considering that the sociologist who plans to conduct a military-sociological study does not have the opportunity to study each of the research units separately, the researchers should determine the sample group, or total, with the potential to represent the main characteristics of the general group of respondents selected from among the personnel.

The whole aggregate, which is the focus of military-sociological research, is called the sample aggregate (also called the sample total). In other words, the sample population is the part selected by the researcher to obtain information about the whole population. Here, to obtain a suitable sample set, the use of a sampling method by the methodological prism, conditions, and purpose of the research acts as the main condition. In the course of the research, the results obtained through the study of a sample set consisting of non-representative elements, which are not determined based on properly formed procedures, are not considered reliable.

In military sociological studies, especially small-scale studies of military personnel serving in border areas, the sample size is not always as large as intended, and in most cases, it is lower. The main reason for this is the shifting service arising from the requirements of continuous combat training. It is for this reason that the researcher may not be able to establish contact with the sought respondent. To increase the probability of respondents' participation, researchers can achieve their objective if they use different types of alternative means. If the researcher-sociologist replaces the standard time selection with the respondent's time adaptation method, he will not face any difficulties in obtaining the desired result.

Two types of sampling methods are commonly used in sociological research: random sampling and non-random sampling.

In *random sampling*, individuals are not selected based on any characteristics or qualities. Here, the units within the group of respondents are selected purely by chance.

A characteristic feature of *non-random sampling* is that the researcher is interested in studying only those respondents who meet certain criteria. Non-random sampling methods include quota, purposive chain sampling (snowball), and most appropriate sampling methods [6].

### *Main body*

#### *Basic theoretical procedures in military sociological research*

The preparation of military sociological research does not begin with the process of formulating a questionnaire, as some think, but with the formulation of a research program. The scientific design of the research program is of great importance. Because the results of the military-sociological research to be conducted largely depend on the level of this document. The program forms the

theoretical-methodological basis of the procedures (collection, processing, and analysis of information) to be carried out by the sociologist who plans to conduct a sociological survey in the military unit.

Theoretical (methodological) and methodical (procedural) sections can be distinguished in the program. The first of these concerns aspects from setting the problem to the selection of respondents, and the second concerns the collection, processing and analysis of data. The first section requires substantial theoretical preparation from the sociologist. He should be able to subject the research object to logical analysis. The second part of the program defines the characteristics of primary social information collection methods[7].

When conducting sociological research in the military field, it is required to follow certain procedural rules. Among them, the requirements for a sociologist who will conduct sociological research in the military unit have a special place. So, a sociologist conducting research in military units must know the following:

To determine the goals and objectives of the research based on the prepared program.

Clarify the selection (clarify the military units, location region, and the category of the respondents - whether it will be held with officers, ensigns, or MAXEs).

Increase funds.

Prepare the assignment plan.

In connection with the study, establish contact with the headquarters of the military unit to provide information about the plan of the work to be done and its history, and to specify the options for selection inquiries in the military unit.

6. If an external representative who is not on the staff is involved in the research, they should be instructed on the following issues: explaining the purpose and tasks of the research in the military unit (ship); explaining the forms and methods of the conducted research[8].

Carrying out research according to the task plan requires a sociologist conducting research in the military to follow several procedural rules:

- To be presented to the commander of the military unit.

Getting to know the state of preparatory work for research in the military unit.

- To have a conversation with the commander of the military unit about the studied issue, to get acquainted with the documents.

Specifying the temporary work schedule according to the task plan.

- To carry out a preliminary analysis of the obtained data with the help of calculators.

Prepare reference report.

- To familiarize the command of the military unit with the general results of the research.



– To speak about the actual social problems of the Armed Forces in front of the personnel (with the approval of the unit command).

To collect materials, questionnaire samples, methodical studies, and existing interesting data for other sociological studies while conducting research in military units[9].

A sociologist conducting research in military units should also consider the following:

Researchers to start work directly with the contingent where the research will be conducted.

Except in sociometric surveys, the preservation of anonymity in questionnaire surveys and interviews will enable respondents to give more honest answers about any issue that affects them. The presence of the commanding staff to whom the respondents are directly subordinated may lead to non-objective answers.

The organization of the survey affects the reliability of its results. Therefore, choosing the right place, ensuring that it is bright, clean, and comfortable, and ensuring that those who are asked to sit at a certain distance from each other, will make them answer more independently and anonymously.

It is also very important to time the interview with military personnel correctly. It is better to use the time provided for educational work by the rules of the day [10].

#### *Methods used in military sociological research*

Military sociological research can be conducted using a variety of sociological research methods. These include:

Questionnaire survey;

- Observation;
- Interview;
- Expert assessment;
- Document analysis method;
- Sociometric survey etc [11].

*Questionnaire survey method.* This survey can be conducted in person, by phone, or by mail. When preparing the questionnaire, the questions should be extremely precise, thoughtful, and specific, and anonymity should be expected. The list of people who will participate in the survey should be clearly defined. The questionnaire survey should meet all the requirements of the research so that the result meets the expectations.

A typical survey consists of:

1. introduction (information about the content of the questionnaire and the purpose of the research);
2. information part (questions about the content);
3. classification part (socio-demographic information about the respondent);
4. final part[12].

*Observation method.* Observation is a method of collecting primary sociological data about the object of study through direct perception and direct recording of all factors that are important for the research.

Types of observations:

connected and unconnected; field and laboratory; standardized and non-standardized; systematic and random[13].

Depending on the degree of participation of the observer in the social situation under study, they distinguish between attached and unattached observations. During unattached observation, the researcher or his assistants are located outside the object of study, they observe the processes taking place from the outside. During the connected observation, the observer enters the given process to one degree or another, joins, establishes contact with the observed people, and participates in their activities. Observations are divided into field and laboratory conditions according to the place and conditions in which they are conducted. Field observation is carried out in natural conditions, in relation to the studied object. Laboratory observation is a type of observation in which the environmental conditions and the observed situation are determined by the researcher. Systematic and random observations can be distinguished according to their regularity. Systematic observation is characterized by the regularity of recording actions, situations, and processes over a certain period. Incidental observation refers to the observation of unplanned events, activities, and social situations.

*The interview method.* An interview is a type of research in which a sociologist, or researcher (explorer) establishes a direct dialogue with the person whose opinion is being asked and the person being studied. Questions can be asked directly or indirectly during the interview. There are the following types of interview methods used in practice:

standard (questionnaire sheet);• undirected (free);• individual or group;• indirect[14].

*A sociometric survey method.* A sociometric survey is a special test method to reveal a certain degree of psychological reaction of a person to the people surrounding him in various situations. It was first used by the American psychologist J. Moreno to measure the level of friendship, it is a unique method of quantitative assessment of interpersonal relationships. It is mostly used for studying small groups (12-15 people).

*Expert evaluation method method.* The method of expert evaluation consists of obtaining sociological data by conducting an expert survey. The essence of this method is the formal processing of the problem, its qualitative or quantitative evaluation, and analysis and results by experts.

From the analyzes conducted, it is possible to conclude that the sociological research methods chosen for the effective management of the military collective can achieve the desired effect if they are implemented taking into account the current





conditions, contingent, development trends of events and processes. A contrary study will not achieve its intended purpose.

### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, it can be said that the military-sociological provision of social experience in the army is of great importance today. Military sociology provides the country's military organization with direct social experience. When approaching the issue from this context, conducting military-sociological research in the army is useful in several ways:

- For the timely detection and study of military-social events and problems that hinder military policy and the development of the army;

- To prepare forecasts, proposals, and recommendations aimed at increasing the efficiency, effectiveness, and organization of the military organization of the society;

- For the optimization of the decisions made in the field of military management and the interpretation of their social consequences;

- To create a single military-sociological data bank of the Armed Forces;

- To identify and optimally solve the main problems of military servicemen's families.

The tasks facing military sociologists at present are rather complex, multifaceted, and more than required, given that the army is a social institution with a dynamic character. The experience of military development shows that without a comprehensive analysis and research of the social processes and changes occurring in the Armed Forces, the preparation of scientifically based proposals and recommendations for both state bodies and the military command cannot be so effective and optimal.

### References:

1. Bondarenko, V., Timoshev, R. (2012). Sociology of military management in the system of military-sociological knowledge Society. [Electronic resource]. – URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/journal/n/armiya-i-obschestvo> [in Engl.].

2. Shamshiyeva, N. (2024). Hərbi qulluqçu ailələri sosial-psixoloji kontekstdə. Baku, [Military Knowledge. Military scientific-theoretical journal]. N2, P. 58-65. [Electronic resource]. – URL <https://mod.gov.az/images/pdf/917a381ed868b89> [in Azerbaijan].

3. Samokhvalov, Yu. P. (2010). Osnovy voyenno-sotsiologicheskikh issledovaniy [Fundamentals of military-sociological research]. Ekaterinburg. - 112 p.

4. Bashpınar, A. (2010). Military Sociology: History and Sources. Unpublished master's thesis, Istanbul University, Institute of Social Sciences, Istanbul.

5. Atesh, B. (2020). Military Sociology: An Assessment of its Establishment, Development, and Future // Turkish Journal of War Studies 1.No. 1. – P. 53-74 [in Turkish].

6. Marshall, G. (1994). –Sociological studies of– military and militarism.The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Sociology içinde (s.330-331). Oxford University Press.

7. Tkachev, R. (2011). Methodology of sociological research of motivation of military-professional activity of officers // Bulletin of the Military University. No. 3 (27). P. 25 – 28
8. Bondarenko, V. (2009). Sociology of military management: textbook. – M.: Military University. – 67 p.
9. Giuseppe, C. (2017). Military Sociology. Ankara, Nobel. 40 years Akademik Yayıncılık. – 504 p.
10. Egorov, L. (2010). Military sociology and management of social processes in the S.A. and the Navy // Actual problems of development of military sociology in the conditions of restructuring of the army and navy. – M.: VPA. – 77 p.
11. Baranovsky, M. (2021). Doverniye v sotsialnom upravlenii voyennoy organizatsii. [Trust in the social management of a military organization. Abstract of a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Sociological Sciences: 22.00.00 ]. – M.: 48 p.
12. Bashpinar, A. (2012). Army and Soldier as the Subject of Sociology: Military Sociology // Sociology Journal, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, 24<sup>th</sup> Issue. – P. 279-277
13. Yadov, V. (2011). Sociological research: methodology, program, methods. – M.: Science. – 25 p.
14. Egorov, L. (2010.). Military sociology and management of social processes in the S.A. and the Navy // Actual problems of development of military sociology in the conditions of restructuring of the army and navy. – M.: VPA. – 77 p.

Н.С. Шамшиева

### **Значение военно-социологических исследований в процессе строительства современной армии и организации военного управления**

В данной статье исследованы необходимость проведения военно-социологических исследований, их общая характеристика, методы проведения, особенности и значение проведения эмпирических социологических исследований в практической деятельности командования армии, а также индивидуально каждого военного руководящего офицера, правила, за организацию и проведение научно-исследовательской работы в воинской части (отделении) по исследованным вопросам.

В статье со стороны автором раскрыто содержание понятия «военно-социологическое исследование», а также глубоко проанализированы процедуры, которые ожидают социолога, проводящего исследование в воинской части. В итоге результате исследования отражены выводы автора.

*Ключевые слова:* армия, социологическое исследование, военно-социологическое исследование, стратегия исследования, методология выборки, методы исследования.

Н.С. Шамшиева

### **Қазіргі армияны құру және әскері басқаруды ұйымдастыру жүйесіндегі әскери әлеуметтік зерттеулердің мәні**

Мақалада әскери әлеуметтанулық зерттеулерді жүргізу қажеттілігі, олардың жалпы сипаттамасы, жүргізу әдістері, армия қолбасшылығының практикалық қызметіндегі эмпирикалық социологиялық зерттеулерді жүргізудің ерекшеліктері мен маңызы, сондай-ақ



әрбір әскери жетекші офицердің жеке-жеке әскери бөлімде (бөлімшеде) ғылыми-зерттеу жұмыстарын ұйымдастыру және жүргізуге қатысты мәселелер зерттелді.

Мақалада «әскери-әлеуметтанулық зерттеу» ұғымының мазмұнын автор ашып, әскери бөлімде зерттеу жүргізетін әлеуметтанушы күтетін процедуралар терең талданды.

Соңында зерттеу нәтижесінде автордың тұжырымдары көрініс табады.

*Кілт сөздер:* әскер, социологиялық зерттеулер, әскери социологиялық зерттеулер, зерттеу стратегиясы, іріктеу әдістемесі, зерттеу әдістері.

#### Список литературы:

1. Bondarenko V., Timoshev R. Sociology of military management in the system of military-sociological knowledge Society [Электронный ресурс]. - Режим доступа. <https://cyberleninka.ru/journal/n/armiya-i-obschestvo> (дата обращения: 07.07.2024).

2. Shamshiyeva N. Hərbi qulluqçu ailələri sosial-psixoloji kontekstdə. Baku N2, P. 58-65. [Электронный ресурс]. - Режим доступа: <https://mod.gov.az/images/pdf/917a381ed868b89eb0c8ee83d747466d.pdf> (дата обращения: 07.07.2024).\

3. Самохвалов Ю.П. Основы военно социологических исследований : учеб.пос./ Ю.П. Самохвалов. – Екатеринбург, 2010. – 112 с.

4. Bashpınar A. Military Sociology: History and Sources. Unpublished master's thesis, Istanbul University. Istanbul «Institute of Social Sciences». – 2010. – 77 p.

5. Atesh B. Military Sociology: An Assessment of its Establishment, Development, and Future. Turkish Journal of War Studies, 2020. - № 1. P. 53-74.

6. Marshall G. Sociological studies of – military and militarism. The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Sociology içinde. Oxford University Press, 1994. P.330-331

7. Tkachev R. Methodology of sociological research of motivation of military-professional activity of officers // Bulletin of the Military University. – 2011. - № 3(27). P. 25 – 28.

8. Вондаренко В. Социология военного управления. учеб. пос./ С.Н. Бондаренко. - М.: Военный университет, 2009. - 67 с.

9. Giuseppe C. Military Sociology. Ankara, Nobel. 40 years Akademik Yayıncılık. - Ankara, Military 2017. - 504 p.

10. Egorov L. Military sociology and management of social processes in the S.A. and the Navy // Actual problems of development of military sociology in the conditions of restructuring of the army and navy. – М.: VPA, 2010.

11. Барановский М. Доверие в социальном управлении военной организации: автореф. дисс...22.00.00. на соискание уч. степени д.соц.н.: / М.Барановский. – М. 2021. - 48 с.

12. Bashpınar A. Army and Soldier as the Subject of Sociology: Military Sociology // Sociology Journal, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, 24<sup>th</sup> Issue. - 2012. - P. 279-277

13. Ядов В. Социологические исследование: методология, программа, методы. – М.: Наука, 2011. - 25 с.

14. Egorov L. Military sociology and management of social processes in the S.A. and the Navy // Actual problems of development of military sociology in the conditions of restructuring of the army and navy. – М.: VPA, 2010. –77 p.



Шамшиева Найба Сабировна	Гейдар Алиев атындағы Әскери институттың «БҮҮ бейбітшілік үшін біріккен гуманитарлы пәндер кафедрасының оқытушысы, Баку, Әзірбайжан
Шамшиева Найба Сабировна	Военный Институт имени Гейдара Алиева, преподаватель кафедры «НАТО/ Партнерство ради мира и гуманитарные науки», Баку, Азербайджан
Shamshiyeva Naiba	Military Institute named after Heydar Aliyev, Department «NATO/Partnership for Peace and Humanitarian Sciences», Baku, Azerbaijan