Profiling as a method of aviation security: a comparative analysis of such experience in Israel and USA

The paper aims to analyze the experience of Israel and the United States of America in providing security to improve profiling at airports in Ukraine. We have considered foreign articles, that describe the method of profiling itself.

Nowadays profiling is a necessary part of human life. Due to profiling, we can analyze a person not only by words but also by his behavior, which allows to find out about human’s true intentions. Profiling can be used both in everyday life and in situations where it is necessary.

Profiling is a set of methods for evaluating and predicting human behavior based on its unconscious actions. For the first time, this term was used to describe the method of making a psychological portrait of a person who committed a crime. The surgeon, Thomas Bond, was the first, who used profiling to describe the personality of Jack Cutter [1]. Also, this concept describes the actions of the airport security service, which detects potentially dangerous individuals, that endanger the people’s lives. The training of specialists in this field is very important because there is nothing more valuable than human life. In Ukraine profiling is at an early stage of development. Unfortunately, it is given very little attention, that’s why suffers a general level of security. Therefore, it is very important to seek the experience of countries, that have already used this system of hazard identification for a long time. Today Israel and the United States of America are such countries, that use the most recent threat detection methods.

Israel is the leading country in the world in the field of human security. There is no more country, that has encountered terrorist acts as often as Israel. That’s why this country should have the best security technologies and widely use them. However, Israeli security officials focus on a human factor. They believe that none of the machines can provide the exact identification of human motives. The officers follow the passengers as if from the side: they follow their behavior, their movements, their eyes. The security officer has only one minute to fully understand the person's mood, his intentions, his thoughts, taking into account the age, the race, the religion, and the language. The former airport security chief, Rafael Ron, thinks, that a terrorist is always a person, that was previously exposed to traditional methods of detecting security threats, namely, the removal of footwear, a public review of things, metal detectors, etc. This person will no longer behave calmly, as an ordinary tourist, who came to look at the beauty of the Land of Israel. Behavior – this is what shows the true intentions and mood of the individual. However, this opinion is not supported by most people and the security services of the Western world [2].

Israeli scientists try to modernize the system of profiling with special devices that can ease the process of detecting danger. For example, there is a “check-in kiosk” that scans body temperature, pulse and pressure. Also, this kiosk displays a certain thesis on the screen, which a possible terrorist can react to. Then it
is conducted for an additional conversation and verification. Unfortunately, such leading countries as the United States, Canada, Germany do not entertain a view of Israeli profilers and are limited to a minimum of human factor research, trusting modern scanning technologies. The proof of the importance of the study of the human factor is the 1986 event when Israeli officers were able to save the airport from the "unconscious" explosion: a terrorist hid a bomb in his girlfriend's bag and she did not even know about it. Only due to the vigilance of Israeli profilers who paid attention to the strange behavior of the terrorist, thousands of human lives have been saved [3].

Despite the high technological development, the world is still in the crosshairs of terrorists. The main task of today's security service is to provide the maximum protection to people in any way. Nowadays we have metal detectors, watching cameras and profiling itself. Experts believe that the usual scans and checks for prohibited objects are very predictable. Over the last 20 years experienced terrorists have already been able to explore the "truth verifier" machine, so it is much easier for them to get around these hazards and to implement the plan. Philip Baum, the aviation security consultant, believes that the focus is on specific things, rather than on individual ones. It is referred to a ban on bringing such items on board such as aerosols, bottles of water, objects that could cut. All of them are going to be thrown into a large container. But, is this a key to security? Providing protection is a bit more than just using modern scanners and throwing out the prohibited things. The officer is primarily an experienced psychologist, who is able to understand what is actually happening in the person's head, based on his gestures, eyes and the way of breathing. The questions put by the profilers are formed in such way, that a potential terrorist will react to them differently than a real tourist. Profiling is the focus of attention on the intention, on the something abstruse, which is hidden behind the eyes [4].

The United States of America is considered as a legislator of democracy and a high level of security. However, the American authorities consider behavioral profiling to be incorrect and generally unsuitable for security. The Transport Security Administration (TSA) notes that the Israeli experience of detecting terrorists by analyzing human behavior at major American airports does not work, because, that's impossible to pay enough attention to everyone through an endless stream of people, and because of this, this method is ineffective. TSA points out in its 100-page report, that American profilers analyze passengers, basing on subjective perception, rather than on weighty facts and pieces of evidence that can be used in giving an objective scanning verdict [5].

The most popular profiling movement in the United States security system is a racial profiling. Its peculiarities are the special observation of the people, who are from the Middle East. More and more of these passengers report a so-called "discrimination" by race while getting on an airplane. It is possible very often to observe such situations at the airports: profilers, that suffer from "Islamophobia" take passengers from an airplane only because they behave somehow "suspiciously" than others [6]. The aviation security consultant Philip Baum believes that focusing only on a race is not just meaningless, it's simply impossible since an act of terrorism can be prepared by anyone. In terms of politics, racial discrimination is
even incorrect [4]. American officers focus on the image of the enemy, which was formed on that day of 2001, thus giving the ability of true terrorists (no matter of race and religion) to manifest itself perfectly [6].

As it was mentioned above, in Ukraine profiling is at an early stage of development. We were trying to find any information about this method of security in Ukraine. Unfortunately, there is no any article regarding this method. The only article we could find is one regarding the enhanced security. Since summer 2014 not only passengers pass through the control points, but also welcomers and seers-off. There is nothing surprising in such a decision: the country is actually in a state of war, so the threat of terrorist attacks is growing. And the airport is one of the places of a large crowd of people. The press service of the airport "Boryspil" has reported, that at the entrances to the zones of arrival and departure additional security control points are established. To ensure the speed of movement at each entrance to the terminals there are working groups on the input and output. The inspection is conducted by the aviation security service of the airport in conjunction with law enforcement agencies. They say that this procedure is unpleasant but very necessary. It seems to be quite simple and logical to arrange a 100% inspection at the airport’s entrance. But experts doubt its effectiveness since it is certainly impossible to make a detailed inspection of all people entering the terminals. Therefore, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) recommend the scheme "unknown – a known passenger (that means, that operating airline or airline staff)" and to upgrade an inspection, which allows to speed up the control of "known" people with closer attention to the "unknown" ones. Unfortunately, such inspection of all people entering the terminals doesn’t carry out in other Ukrainian airports. [7]

During our work on this paper, we have conducted a survey of national aviation university students. 150 respondents were questioned regarding the profiling in Ukraine. 78% do not even know about this psychological method of inspection. And there is nothing surprising because there is almost nothing on the internet about profiling in Ukraine. Unfortunately, the English language can be complicated to most of the Ukrainian people, that’s why less of them can read the articles in English. However, almost 67% of respondents believe, that profiling is a very useful method of improving security service in Ukrainian airports. We are pretty sure, that most of the respondents after answering the first question (actually, what is “profiling”) googled this term on the internet, and that’s why there is a big percent of respondents, that find profiling very useful. The questionnaire is available via the following link https://goo.gl/forms/UAvrg2W7f2kJ1N142

The method of observation in psychology is considered as one of the most accessible and most effective because this method lets us study the body language [8]. We believe that modern Israeli profilers have chosen the right way to identify a potentially dangerous deviant person. Yes, they also use modern scanning technologies, but the human factor is brought to the forefront. In contrast, American officers are more confident in using the robotic machine, that never makes any mistake and does not analyze a person subjectively. Some people think, that American airports do not have any capacity to pay attention to all passengers’ behavior because of the endless stream of people; other say, that, relying on the
previous experience, each American will first of all pay attention to the representatives of the Arab world. Racial discrimination is an extraordinary instance of subjectivity. And actually in Ukraine our security system doesn’t want to accept this experience from their Israeli colleagues.

In conclusion, while analyzing human behavior and scanning his motives, it is necessary to pay attention to both the human factor and to trust the machine, which excludes the factor of subjectivity.

References


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