



Profiling Technologies in Law Enforcement: A Case Study of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia

VYACHESLAV E. YUZHANIN

Ryazan State University named for S. Yesenin, Ryazan, Russia, yuzhanin1950@mail.ru, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3123-1293>

DMITRII V. GORBAN'

University of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, Pushkin, Saint Petersburg, Russia, gorban.d.v@fsin.gov.ru, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9442-7712>

Abstract

Introduction: in the current conditions of societal development characterized by continuous digitalization, introduction of high technologies, and changes in the social environment, new methods to ensure security and maintain law and order are required. Profiling is an effective tool for analyzing persons' psychological characteristics and behavior to forecast their actions and prevent potential threats. Today, profiling is successfully used in the activities of some law enforcement agencies, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. The common feature of using profiling technologies in the activities of these law enforcement agencies is its focus on ensuring security and maintaining law and order. Nevertheless, problematic issues of an organizational and legal nature are identified. *Purpose:* to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the use of profiling technologies in the activities of law enforcement agencies using the example of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, to identify problematic issues in the considered area of public relations, to develop ways to address them, and to determine prospects for their development. *Methods:* analysis of scientific literature; study of law enforcement practice; comparative analysis of the use of profiling in various law enforcement agencies, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia; generalization of experience in using profiling technologies. *Results:* the main areas of application of profiling technologies in the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia are identified. In the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, profiling is used to ensure security at transport infrastructure facilities, to conduct public and mass events, to compile psychological and criminal profiles of offenders, and to prevent terrorism and extremism-related crimes. In the activities of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, profiling is used to organize preventive work with suspects, accused

persons, and convicts, to select personnel, to ensure penitentiary security, and to prevent destructive behavior. The main problematic issues are the following: insufficient standardization of profiling methods, limited access to personal data, shortage of qualified specialists, and the need for continuous improvement of technologies. The prospects for using profiling technologies in the activities of government agencies are outlined: integration of artificial intelligence technologies, standardization of profiling methods, development of a system for training specialists, and expansion of the areas of profiling application. *Conclusions*: profiling technologies are an effective tool for ensuring security in modern conditions. Their application requires a comprehensive approach, including improving competence of specialists, introducing modern technical tools, developing unified methods, and integrating with artificial intelligence systems. The use of profiling in law enforcement activities helps to improve the effectiveness of preventive work and ensure public safety. Further development of these technologies requires systematic and comprehensive approaches, as well as interdisciplinary interaction among specialists from various fields and areas of knowledge.

Key words: profiling; penitentiary security; law enforcement activities; specialist training; personnel selection; artificial intelligence; digitalization; profiling methods.

5.1.4. Criminal law sciences.

For citation: Yuzhanin V.E., Gorban' D.V. Profiling technologies in law enforcement: a case study of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. *Penitentiary Science*, 2026, vol. 20, no. 3 (75), pp. 250–260. doi 10.46741/2713-2811.2026.75.3.003.

Introduction

Contemporary society is marked by rapid advancements in high technology, including the integration of artificial intelligence and widespread digitalization. This evolution reflects a shift away from irrationality toward greater emotional awareness, while also giving rise to diverse needs across multiple spheres of human activity – material, spiritual, and social. In addition to these characteristics, modern society faces a number of threats in the field of ensuring its security. These developments are linked to a range of global challenges facing humanity, including the rise in terrorist and extremist activities, a growing number of cybercrimes, and a decline in social, cultural, and psychological well-being.

Under the given conditions, it is necessary to search for new, more effective measures in the field of ensuring both public and national security in general. One such measure may be profiling and its profiling technologies.

According to T.V. Vetrova and V.M. Statnyi, profiling is a method of analyzing a person's psychological characteristics and behavior in order to forecast their future actions.

Despite the general psychological focus and

content of profiling, as well as its technologies, its universality allows it to be applied in various areas of social life and scientific fields of knowledge, criminology, personnel management, business, education, etc. [2, p. 67].

The universality of profiling technologies makes it possible to use them in the activities of some law enforcement agencies in the process of ensuring security and maintaining law and order. Researchers actively discuss possible use of profiling technologies in this area of social relations [3, p. 10].

Research

The analysis of foreign studies shows a trend towards the broader application of profiling technologies in the activities of bodies responsible for ensuring security, legality, and law and order, despite disagreements regarding its reliability [4; 5].

This trend is driven both by the development of the methodological framework (integration with Big Data and artificial intelligence) and by the practical demand for the method in preventing and investigating offenses. At the same time, limited reliability of profiling requires further scientific study and standardization of procedures.

In domestic law enforcement practice, profiling

technologies are also used in the activities of certain law enforcement agencies [6, p. 330], in particular, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, which is due to the specific nature of the tasks they perform.

Profiling is used to prevent certain types of crime, protect citizens' rights, maintain public order, and carry out criminal penalties [7, p. 192]. Although the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia face different tasks, their activities are focused on ensuring safety and maintaining law and order. In this regard, it seems relevant to examine the issues of profiling and compare the specified activities within the law enforcement agencies stated above.

We will subsequently consider the areas of application of profiling in the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia.

Application of profiling technologies in the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia

The use of profiling technologies helps to prevent offenses, solve certain types of crimes, and ensure public safety. Their effectiveness depends on a number of factors, including professional training of employees and compliance with legal and ethical standards.

Researchers note the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs' interest in using profiling to carry out various tasks, but they also identify problems related to the classification of types, methodological support, and the reliability of profiling [8, p. 17].

In the system of Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs bodies, profiling is used in various areas of activity, ranging from personnel and professional-psychological selection of employees to conducting forensic psychological examinations.

The first area of application of profiling technologies in the activities of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs is the so-called transport or operational profiling, which is aimed at ensuring the security of transport infrastructure facilities.

According to S.M. Selimanova, D.M. Mirazov, and A.A. Ikanov, profiling is used to identify potentially dangerous individuals at facilities such as airfields and airports, railway stations and terminals, bus terminals and bus stations (Paragraph 5 of Article 1 of the federal law No. 16-FZ of February 9, 2007 "On transport security") [9, p. 15].

The profiling method enables law enforcement officers to quickly identify potentially dangerous individuals in conditions of high passenger traffic density, to prevent acts of unlawful interference,

terrorist threats, thefts, hooliganism, and other unlawful activities at transport facilities and transport infrastructure [10, p. 118]. When used in combination with technical monitoring tools, it enhances transport security without significantly increasing the time burden for most citizens.

Transport profiling involves creating a psychological profile of a person by analyzing their appearance, behavior, documents, personal belongings, and other characteristics. The goal is to classify an individual as non-threatening or potentially threatening. The method allows one to read non-verbal components of communication, identify hidden intentions, and forecast behavior. It complements technical screening measures (metal detectors, scanners), thereby enhancing transport security [11].

The distinctive features of transport profiling are its brevity, efficiency, comprehensiveness, and flexibility. All passengers are classified into risk groups and control questions and surveys are used [12, p. 143].

Specific examples of profiling in transport are not always disclosed in open sources for security reasons. However, there are some cases to dwell on. For example, in 2014, officers of the patrol service of the transport police used profiling on the platform of the Karymskaya station (Zabaykalsky Krai). They noticed a young man behaving inadequately. He looked like being intoxicated. During a personal search, drugs in large quantities were discovered and seized from him. A criminal case was initiated based on this fact.

The success of profiling depends primarily on the professional experience of specialists, their ability to analyze behavior and identify suspicious moments.

The use of profiling is associated with a number of problems. Among them are subjectivity and human error, limited time for verification, insufficient regulatory and legal framework, ethical and discriminatory risks, technical limitations, and the difficulty of adapting methods to different types of transport.

In our view, a comprehensive approach that combines the improvement of legislation, staff training, technological development, and ethical oversight can significantly enhance the effectiveness of transport profiling and reduce the risks of its improper use.

Thus, transport profiling is an important tool for ensuring transport security, combining psychological methods with operational tasks aimed at preventing unlawful actions.

Another type of profiling is behavioral screen-

ing – a technology for identifying individuals with potentially dangerous behavior in places with large crowds of people.

In accordance with Paragraph 6 of Article 12 of the federal law No. 3-FZ of February 7, 2011 “On the police,” police officers are obliged to ensure safety during public and mass events, which include meetings, rallies, demonstrations, processions, sports, entertainment, and other events.

The sheer scale, fast-paced nature, and large crowds pose significant challenges to traditional profiling methods. Under these conditions, it is impossible to analyze each participant in the event. The use of non-instrumental psychodiagnostics and surveys is difficult. To address these tasks, mass profiling technologies are used, i.e. technologies involving active, formalized observation of people in order to identify behavioral patterns that differ from the visual-behavioral profile typical of event participants. The visual-behavioral profile includes a set of external manifestations that are appropriate to the social role, context, time, and place [13, p. 10].

It should be noted that mass profiling does not yield a 100 % accurate result, as a person's behavior may not conform to standard models. However, when used correctly, this method helps to identify potential threats in a timely manner and respond to them ensuring the safety of mass and public events.

To improve the effectiveness of mass profiling, it is necessary to expand the scope of its scientific research and also to implement positive experience in its application.

In our opinion, promising areas for the use of mass profiling in law enforcement activities include:

- integration with information systems. Data on the behavioral and psychological characteristics of individuals obtained through profiling can be entered into automated systems and databases. For example, in the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, this will subsequently speed up the investigation of repeat crimes and help forecast criminals' actions. In the Russian Federal Penitentiary Service, this information can contribute to the prevention of destructive phenomena in institutions;

- use of big data and artificial intelligence technologies. Analyzing large volumes of data using machine learning can increase the accuracy of profiling, reveal hidden patterns in criminals' behavior, and help forecast risks.

Another key area where profiling technologies are applied in the work of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs is the development of a psychological and forensic profile of a criminal. This process

entails examining the criminal case materials, the crime scene, the offender's actions, and the circumstances surrounding the victim. Based on the results, a profile (portrait) of the criminal is created, which includes, among other things, data on their age, social status, psychological traits, motives, and the so-called “modus operandi”. Creating a psychological and forensic portrait (profile) of a criminal makes it possible to significantly narrow down the circle of suspects and choose the necessary tactics for conducting investigative measures. These profiles can be entered into specialized automated record-keeping systems of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs and other law enforcement agencies, which subsequently significantly facilitates the search for these individuals in cases of repeated offenses.

According to L.M. Isaeva, V.V. Nesterova and O. I. Prokof'ev, a psychological and criminalistic profile should be based on the following main elements: the typicality of the time and place where the crime was committed, the age and type of the victim, his/her behavior, the method and tool used to commit the crime, and actions of the perpetrator [14, p. 79].

In our view, the psychological and criminalistic profile needs to be supplemented with such characteristics as the offender's personality traits and motivation; the dynamics of his/her behavior at all stages of the crime; and the social context (the victim's ties and regional specifics). This will help avoid simplistic profiling and reduce the risk of erroneous conclusions, especially when investigating atypical or isolated crimes.

It is also worth noting that the use of this type of profiling in the practical work of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs gives rise to a number of problematic issues. Insufficient standardization of its implementation and a lack of uniformity in methodological approaches reduce the level of reliability and validity of the results, as well as the possibility of using them as evidence in a criminal trial. The access to certain personal data of the person in relation to whom it is carried out is limited. A full-fledged creation of a portrait (profile) often requires access to personal (individual) information, as well as psychological data of the offender, which may be restricted in accordance with provisions of the current legislation. What is more, specialists may lack required competences, skills, and abilities [15, p. 5].

The personnel problem is complex and systemic in nature. Researchers note the need to include training in profiling and its specific types in the education system and in the professional development of employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of

Russia, including within the framework of an independent discipline entitled "Profiling, Methods for Identifying Individuals Who Are Planning Criminal Acts" [16, p. 197].

This proposal is also relevant for employees of other law enforcement agencies, in particular, the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia.

In our opinion, the problem of accessing an individual's personal data during profiling can be partially solved by analyzing open data and sources (social media, publications, and official registers), i.e., the so-called digital footprint that a person leaves on the Internet. When working with databases, anonymization methods can also be used to prevent the identification of a specific individual while still allowing for the analysis of general characteristics and trends. Nevertheless, when profiling, it is necessary to take into account the ethical aspects and risks, to strike a balance between the need to obtain information for solving crimes and carrying out other tasks and protect citizens' rights to confidentiality and privacy. Any action by an employee must comply with requirements of the current legislation.

Besides, profiling is also used in conducting investigative and law enforcement intelligence operations and carrying out various types of examinations.

Today, it is crucial for employees of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs to use profiling for preventing terrorism and extremism-related crimes. These types of crime have shown significant quantitative growth over the past three years. Thus, in January–November 2025, the number of terrorism-related crimes increased by almost 60 % (a total of 5,334 crimes of this type were registered), and the number of extremism-related crimes – by almost 20 % (2,104 crimes were registered).

Today, the use of profiling technologies by employees of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs is becoming particularly relevant in preventing crimes of a terrorist nature and those of an extremist nature. These types of crime have shown significant quantitative growth over the past three years. Thus, over the eleven months of 2025, the number of crimes of a terrorist nature increased by almost 60 % (a total of 5,334 crimes of this type were registered), and the number of crimes of an extremist nature increased by almost 20 % (2,104 crimes were registered).

In this regard, the use of profiling technologies to prevent crimes of a terrorist nature and extremist activities at the stage of preparation and attempted crimes has significant potential. Profiling can be

used to prevent impending terrorist acts, identify individuals involved in already committed terrorist acts or extremist activities, search for individuals who have committed or prepared a terrorist act, establish involvement in a terrorist act or terrorist activities as part of investigative actions, prevent the spread of terrorist and extremist ideology, and identify witnesses or individuals who can provide information about suspects.

The use of profiling technologies in the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia requires further improvement and development. In addition to the proposals mentioned above, it seems relevant to use modern technical tools equipped with artificial intelligence technologies when applying profiling. If suspicious behavior is detected, the system can signal this to an authorized employee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, who will make further decisions regarding each specific situation. Using artificial intelligence, it is possible to identify individuals who do not conform to the typical visual and behavioral profile for a given situation and to forecast their future behavior.

Thus, profiling in the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia is an effective multifunctional tool. Its key value lies in its preventive focus: profiling technologies make it possible not only to solve crimes that have already been committed but also to prevent unlawful actions at the stage of preparation (or attempt). Profiling is a tool for comprehensive security. Its effectiveness depends on the balance between technological capabilities, professional training of personnel, and compliance with citizens' legal guarantees. Further development of the methods under consideration requires a systematic approach: from standardization (unification) to the implementation of innovative solutions based on artificial intelligence technologies.

Application of profiling technologies in the activities of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia

Today, the application of profiling technologies within the penitentiary system is undergoing active development. This is due to the positive effect and results of profiling, as well as the possibility of successful solution of the tasks assigned to the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia.

Profiling in the activities of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia is a set of socio-psychological methods aimed at diagnosing, assessing the reliability of information, and analyzing the motives behind the behavior of subjects involved in penal relations. Profiling is applied to employees, suspects, accused persons, convicts, as well as to other in-

dividuals involved in the sphere of the social relations under consideration (individuals located on the territory of penitentiary institutions, candidates for service, etc.) [17]. It includes the assessment of verbal and non-verbal manifestations, appearance, emotional states, and other factors to forecast behavior, identify potentially dangerous situations, and ensure penitentiary security [18, p. 57].

After analyzing and summarizing the approaches of scholars and the practice of using profiling technologies in the activities of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, we identified the main areas and types of activities under consideration.

The main area of application of profiling technologies in the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia involves working with suspects, accused persons, and convicted individuals.

Profiling technologies are applied to newly arrived suspects, accused individuals, and convicts during performance review of convicts, their preparation for parole, replacement of the unserved part of the sentence, and placement on preventive registration. Various profiling methods are also used when analyzing group conflicts or crimes in penitentiary institutions (criminal profiling).

The use of profiling technologies in the activities of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia when organizing work with suspects, accused persons, and convicts is aimed at:

- timely identification of suspects, accused persons, and convicts who are prone to violating the established order and conditions of serving a criminal sentence or being held in custody;
- prevention of group conflicts, disobedience, and mass riots;
- improving the efficiency and effectiveness of preventive work.

Profiling helps to identify potentially dangerous signs in the behavior of suspects, accused persons, convicts, employees (workers), as well as other individuals involved in the sphere of penal law relations, to analyze information about person's personality and take actions to prevent unlawful acts.

Profiling technologies are used in practical activities by employees of operational units, regime and supervision units, psychological services and laboratories, and departments responsible for educational work with convicts.

In the context of ensuring penitentiary security, profiling complements traditional methods involving the use of technical and special tools, which do not always make it possible to identify unlawful intentions of suspects, defendants, and convicts.

According to A.V. Agarkov and V.A. Agarkov, pro-

filing can be used in the activities of operational and other units as a "hardware-free polygraph," and its effective probability can approach 90%. Profiling can also be successfully applied in solving problems related to operational investigative psychology [19, p. 5].

Profiling technologies become particularly relevant in the activities of penitentiary institutions when identifying suicidal behavior and other deviant behavior in suspects, accused persons, and convicts.

In our view, profiling can be an effective tool for identifying suspects, accused persons, and convicts who are prone to committing various destructive actions, which may subsequently facilitate their inclusion in preventive records in accordance with the provisions of the order No. 17 of the Ministry of Justice of Russia of January 26, 2026, "On the approval of the procedure for conducting preventive records of suspects, accused persons, and convicts in correctional institutions and investigative detention facilities of the penal system of the Russian Federation".

Paragraph 25 of the order stipulates the following: if, with the help of profiling technologies, intentions to commit various illegal actions on the part of suspects, accused and convicted persons are identified, an employee of the penitentiary institution within one working day from the date of receipt of such information draws up a reasoned report addressed to the head of the institution. Further, according to Paragraph 21, the decision to place a suspect, accused and convicted person on preventive registration is decided at a meeting of the specialized commission of the institution.

Additionally, profiling technologies can be successfully used to identify suspects, accused individuals, and convicts who may be expected to commit terrorism or extremism-related crimes, as well as individuals prone to spreading extremist ideology [20, p. 348].

Overall, according to M.A. Madoyan and S.M. Madoyan, successful application of profiling technologies in the penitentiary system can contribute to ensuring their psychological safety, including through the analysis of the virtual portrait of both current and potential employees, as well as convicts serving various types of sentences at different stages of their incarceration [21, p. 28].

The analysis of virtual portraits of employees and convicts indeed makes it possible to comprehensively assess risks, to forecast destructive scenarios, and to take preventive measures. This approach is especially important at the stages of

personnel selection and convict adaptation, where early diagnosis of psychological problems helps reduce conflict and increase the overall stability of the system.

In addition to activities aimed at ensuring penitentiary security, profiling technologies, as mentioned above, can be used in the selection of candidates for service. The methodology and technologies of personnel profiling are similar to those generally used when hiring candidates for service in other law enforcement agencies, but they have their own specific features due to the particular nature of the tasks assigned to the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia.

The purpose of personnel profiling in the penal system is to determine whether a candidate's profile meets job requirements, to identify their strengths and weaknesses, to verify the accuracy of the information provided, and to rule out any criminal history or criminal intentions.

Let us identify the problems associated with the use of profiling technology in the activities of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia.

The main set of problematic issues is related to ensuring the reliability of the conclusions obtained as a result of profiling and their causal attribution (the presence of a cause-and-effect relationship between the parameters and the conclusion), which may be due to the incompleteness of the source data, data errors, the limitations of analysis methods, the subjectivity of interpretation, and the dynamic nature of the data.

To improve the reliability of profiling results, it is necessary to apply validation methods as well as statistical analysis methods. It is also necessary to use multi-level approaches, including automated monitoring and human verification.

Artificial intelligence technologies can serve as an auxiliary tool when applying profiling in the activities of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. They make it possible to automate data analysis, increase the objectivity of assessments, and optimize management processes.

By using artificial intelligence technologies in profiling activities, the following tasks can be successfully addressed:

- to analyze the behavior of suspects, accused individuals, convicts, employees (workers), and other persons involved in the sphere of penal law relations, and to identify various manifestations of destructive behavior, as well as preparatory actions leading to destructive behavior;
- to create digital profiles of suspects, accused individuals, and convicts, including data on their

personality, the incriminated act, the presence of criminal records, psychological characteristics, and a history of violations. Such profiles can facilitate the profiling process due to the existing informational basis of the initial data.

- to forecast the degree of rehabilitation of suspects, accused persons, and convicts [22];
- to automate official and documentation processes related to profiling, etc. [23; 24].

In the practical activities of penitentiary institutions, the use of artificial intelligence technologies is reflected in the "Digital pre-trial detention center" and "Digital correctional facility" projects. These projects are implemented to improve safety, automate monitoring processes, and optimize staff performance.

The pilot project "Digital pre-trial center" supported by the government was implemented in 2022 in the pre-trial center No. 2 of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia in Moscow.

The key elements of the project were the following:

- an Incident Management system. It includes more than 350 video cameras with automatic incident detection in six scenarios: a fight, escape, suicide, poor visibility, smoke, and finding a prisoner at a window (to prevent cell-to-cell communication);
- biometric identification for identifying arrested persons,
- an analytical system for a quick search for information, generating reports, developing and printing all-points bulletins,
- automation of processes. It covers entrance control, security screening, movement tracking, and monitoring of the situation.

The project's database includes more than 300 individuals who are prone to delinquency. It takes about 20 seconds to find information about a special agent. As of today, this project is considered one of the most technologically advanced.

The pilot project "Digital correctional facility" was launched in July 2025 in the correctional facility No. 6 of the Directorate of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia for the Vladimir Oblast.

The project's distinctive features include:

- recording of voice and facial images (the neural network digitizes these data forming digital profiles of convicts);
- biometric registration, which includes the use of fingerprints, iris patterns, and voice timbre;
- intelligent algorithms that track movements within the territory, promptly identifying suspicious activity;
- non-contact biometric systems that record

people's movement trajectories without physical contact;

- automation of routine operations (maintaining accounting documentation and processing video materials).

The project is aimed at enhancing security, optimizing record-keeping, and improving the responsiveness to potential threats. The Vladimir Oblast is the first region in Russia where such a system has been installed in a correctional facility.

In our opinion, these projects have already proven their effectiveness in practice and require further scaling up within other territorial bodies of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia.

Another key issue is the training of qualified specialists in the field under consideration. Employees of the penal system should know the basics of profiling and be able to apply it in practice.

For example, in 2020–2022, a pilot project on profiling training was implemented at the Tomsk Institute for Advanced Training of Employees of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. The training included studying temperament, character accentuations, emotional states, anti-manipulative behavior, communication aspects, and professionally important qualities of a profiler specialist. The conducted training helped increase the percentage of employees using profiling methods to assess the behavior of inmates: from 70 % in 2020 to 83 % in 2021–2022. An increase was also noted in the number of convicts placed on preventive registration using profiling methods: from 6 people (13 % of the total number placed on registration) in 2020 to 32 people (52 %) in 2022 [25, p. 55].

Some educational organizations of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, in particular the Vologda Institute of Law and Economics of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, offer advanced training programs and academic disciplines related to profiling, for example, "Profiling Technologies in Ensuring Personal Safety." At the University of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, a professional development program "Ensuring Security in Institutions and Bodies of the Penal System" includes a topic devoted to profiling technologies.

A number of territorial bodies of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia have accumulated positive experience in training employees to use profiling technologies, including as part of group training. For example, in March 2023, the training methods meeting on the use of profiling in the activities of the agency was held at the Angarsk juvenile correctional facility of the Main Directorate of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia for the Irkutsk Oblast. The category

of trainees included psychologists, operational staff, and employees of the regime and supervision departments. In addition to theoretical training, practical classes on detecting lies and conducting negotiations using profiling tools were conducted with the participants of the training methods meeting.

In our opinion, the activities aimed at training employees of the penal system in profiling technologies need to be further scaled up. They should begin with training cadets and students as part of obtaining higher education at departmental universities of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. The practices of retraining and professional development for employees (mainly psychologists, operational staff, and employees of the regime and supervision departments) should also be expanded as part of studying various types of profiling. Consolidation of the acquired knowledge should be carried out as part of the team training of employees, which should be implemented at least once every six months.

Thus, the use of profiling technologies in the activities of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia is a key tool for improving the overall efficiency of the service, ensuring security, and preventing destructive behavior. Presence of highly qualified specialists and continuous improvement of work methods are required. A promising direction is the continued advancement of personnel profiling, as well as the incorporation of profiling techniques into the routine operations of field units, security departments, and oversight agencies.

Foreign experience in applying profiling in law enforcement covers several areas: criminal profiling for crime detection, ensuring security on transport and at mass events, and training specialists. Profiling technologies are evolving taking into account new methods of data analysis and behavioral patterns. In addition, abroad, profiling is also used in the penitentiary sphere of social relations.

In the United States, profiling began to develop actively in the 1970s. In 1972, a behavioral sciences unit was established at the FBI Academy, which became the foundation for the development of criminal profiling. Specialists analyze the type of crime, motives, and method of committing the act in order to create a profile of the offender, including data on his/her gender, age, social status, and psychological characteristics.

In American correctional facilities, the technologies under study are used to monitor inmates' behavior in real time using sensors and cameras. Smart video surveillance systems with artificial intelligence algorithms automatically detect suspi-

cious events (discipline violations, aggression, and escape attempts) and immediately inform the security staff.

In the UK, profiling is included in the Murder Investigation Manual and is used to train senior detectives. In the penitentiary system, it is used to determine the level of a prisoner's security (minimal, moderate, and strict). In some prisons across the country, a monitoring system with video surveillance is used, with an emphasis on psychological work with inmates. For example, some facilities offer opportunities to participate in educational and labor programs, thus reducing the level of violence and aggression.

We believe some positive foreign practices could be implemented in domestic law enforcement, such as:

- establishment of specialized units engaged in profiling on a permanent basis. At the initial stage, it is possible to introduce one staff position in the psychological units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia with subsequent staff expansion.

- introduction of clear algorithms and methodologies that will help standardize the profiling process, making it more predictable and effective; development of geographical profiling, which analyzes the connection between the locations where crimes are committed and the place of residence (or location) of the offender;

- development of interdisciplinary cooperation, involving experts from various fields of knowledge to conduct a more in-depth analysis of the causes, conditions, and nature of specific types of crime; thus, more factors when creating a criminal profile can be considered.

- integration of modern technologies into the profiling process, development or adaptation of software systems for data analysis, use of lie detection systems and other technical tools;

- development and implementation of profiling educational programs for law enforcement officers, basic courses, and training using simulators (for example, virtual reality) to practice skills in conditions close to real-life ones.

Conclusion

The analysis of the use of profiling technologies

in the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia demonstrates the effectiveness of profiling a tool for ensuring security in modern conditions. Its versatility allows the technology to be applied in various fields, especially in law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies, primarily the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, are actively implementing profiling technologies to address the tasks assigned to them.

- in the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, profiling technologies are used in the following areas: transport profiling, mass profiling, creating psychological and forensic profiles, and preventing terrorism and extremism-related crimes;

- in the activities of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, profiling is used to organize preventive work with suspects, accused persons, and convicts, to carry out personnel selection, to ensure penitentiary security, and to prevent destructive behavior;

- the use of profiling technologies in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia is hindered by the insufficient standardization of its methods, limited access to personal data, shortage of qualified specialists, and the need for continuous improvement of the technologies;

- the prospects for the development and improvement of profiling technologies are linked to the integration of artificial intelligence technologies into profiling activities, the standardization of profiling methods, the development of a system for training specialists, and the expansion of the areas in which profiling is applied;

- to improve the use of profiling technologies, it is necessary to draw on positive foreign experience in this field. In particular, it is necessary to consider the creation of specialized units within the staffing structure of law enforcement agencies. At the initial stage, this idea can be implemented by introducing appropriate staff positions in the psychological departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia.

REFERENCES

1. Vetrova T.V., Statnyi V.M. Place of profiling in the system of human sciences. Types and industries of profiling. *International Journal of Professional Science*, 2019, no. 12, pp. 13–21. (In Russ.).
2. Teplyashin P.V., Nazmutdinova R.R., Pristavka E.E. Criminological profiling: theoretical frameworks and areas of application. *Nauchnyi komponent Scientific Component*, 2022, no. 3 (15), pp. 66–71. (In Russ.).
3. Kulik A.V. Terminological basis of profiling: comparative analysis and unification. *Voprosy bezopasnosti = Security Issues*, 2024, no. 3, pp. 1–13. (In Russ.).
4. Ribeiro R., Soeiro C. Analysing criminal profiling validity: Underlying problems and future directions. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 2020, vol. 74, p. 101,670.
5. Fieldable mass spectrometry for forensic science, homeland security, and defense applications. In: Evans-Nguyen K, Stelmack A.R., Clowser Ph.C. et al. *Mass Spectrometry Reviews*, 2020, no. 40, pp. 628–646.
6. Glovatskaya A.I., Maslina V.A. Profiling in law enforcement agencies. In: *Sudebnaya vlast' v usloviyakh novykh vyzovov : sb. st. II Vseros. stud. nauch.-prakt. konf.* [Judicial power in the context of new challenges: collection of art]. Moscow, 2025. Pp. 325–332. (In Russ.).
7. Grachikyan E.V. Tasks and structure of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation. *Molodoi uchenyi = Young Scientist*, 2024, no. 18 (517), pp. 191–194. (In Russ.).
8. Abramovskii A.A. Methodological foundations of profiling. *Vestnik Baltiiskogo federal'nogo universiteta im. I. Kanta. Seriya: Gumanitarnye i obshchestvennye nauki = Bulletin of the Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University. Series: Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2021, no. 2, pp. 16–24. (In Russ.).
9. Selimanova S.M., Mirazov D.M., Ikanov A.A. Application of profiling technology in ensuring public safety. *International Conference on Adaptive Learning Technologies*, 2025, vol. 13, pp. 11–17. (In Russ.).
10. Molodtsova E.Yu., Alekseenko I.A. Use of profiling technology in training security specialists for the transport industry. *Pedagogika vysshei shkoly = Higher Education Pedagogy*, 2015, no. 3, pp. 116–120. (In Russ.).
11. Vozzhenikova O.S., Kuznetsov D.A. *Nekotorye aspekty primeneniya tekhnologii profailinga v sfere obespecheniya aviatsionnoi (transportnoi) bezopasnosti* [Some aspects of applying profiling technology in the field of ensuring aviation (transport) security]. Available at: <http://e-koncept.ru/2014/14368> (accessed June 1, 2026).
12. Gribunov O.P. The use of profiling technologies in the activities of law enforcement agencies to detect, suppress, and prevent crimes at transport infrastructure facilities. *Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo universiteta MVD Rossii = Vestnik of the St. Petersburg University of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia*, 2015, no. 4 (68), pp. 142–146. (In Russ.).
13. Kudin V.A., Statnyi V.M. Profiling in the activities of internal affairs bodies: from theory and methodology to practice. *Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo universiteta MVD Rossii = Vestnik of the St. Petersburg University of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia*, 2013, no. 3 (59), pp. 4–15. (In Russ.).
14. Isaeva L.M., Nesterova V.V., Prokof'ev O.I. *Teoriya i praktika sostavleniya psikhologo-kriminalisticheskogo portreta: monogr.* [Theory and practice of creating a psychological-criminalistic portrait: monograph]. Moscow, 2010. 148 p.
15. Vardanyan A.V. The scientific potential of the methodology for constructing a psychological and criminalistic portrait of a typical criminal's personality in the context of the problem of improving the criminalistic characteristics of crimes. In: *Kriminalistika: aktual'nye voprosy teorii i praktiki: sb. tr. uchastnikov XII Vseros. nauch.-prakt. konf.* [Criminalistics: current issues in theory and practice: collection of papers by participants of the 12th All-Russian scientific and practical conference]. Rostov, 2015. Pp. 3–11. (In Russ.).
16. Nezhkina L.Yu., Dushkin A.S. Content and technologies of the discipline “Profiling, methods for identifying individuals who harbor criminal intentions” in educational organizations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia. *Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo universiteta MVD Rossii = Vestnik of the St. Petersburg University of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia*, 2021, no. 1, pp. 195–201. (In Russ.).
17. Aleksandrov B.V. et al. *Profailing v deyatelnosti ugolovno-ispolnitel'noi sistemy: ucheb. posobie* [Profiling in the activities of the penal system: study guide]. Ryazan, 2023. 84 p.

18. Pavlova M.V. Expert profiling in the work of a psychologist in the penal system. *Vedomosti ugolovno-ispolnitel'noi sistemy = Vedomosti of the Penal System*, 2019, no. 7, pp. 35–41. (In Russ.).
19. Agarkov A. V., Agarkov V. A. Prospects for using profiling in the operational and investigative activities of the penal system. In: *Sbornik nauchnykh trudov sotrudnikov i partnerov kafedry organizatsii operativno-rozysknoi deyatel'nosti po problemam prepodavaniya ORD. Materialy po operativno-rozysknoi deyatel'nosti po aktual'nym i problemnym voprosam po itogam 2020 g.* [Collection of scientific works by staff and partners of the department of the organization of operational and investigative activities on the problems of teaching operational and investigative activities. Materials on operational investigative activities on topical and problematic issues based on the results of 2020]. Saint Petersburg, 2021. Pp. 4–6. (In Russ.).
20. Bichenova A.R., Lobanov D.A. Profiling as the basis of operational investigative activities in the penal enforcement system. *Evrasiiskii yuridicheskii zhurnal = Eurasian Law Journal*, 2024, no. 11 (198), pp. 348–349. (In Russ.).
21. Madoyan M.A., Madoyan S.M. Virtual portrait analysis in audiovisual psychodiagnostics for improving psychological safety in the penal system. *Vedomosti ugolovno-ispolnitel'noi sistemy = Vedomosti of the Penal System*, 2025, no. 3, pp. 22–29. (In Russ.).
22. Zazulin G.V. Improving the objectivity of assessing the rehabilitation of convicts using vibration imaging technology. *Uchenye zapiski yuridicheskogo fakul'teta = Scientific Notes of the Faculty of Law*, 2022, no. 2, pp. 9–15. (In Russ.).
23. Anisimova A.M., Burdo E.P., Volkova M.A. Prospects for the use of artificial intelligence in institutions of the penal system. *Zakon i pravo = Law and Legislation*, 2023, no. 11, pp. 187–191. (In Russ.).
24. Kovalev S.D. Prospects for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Correctional Institutions of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. *Agrarnoe i zemel'noe pravo = Agrarian and Land Law*, 2025, no. 1, pp. 241–243. (In Russ.).
25. Pisarev O.M., Prokhorova M.V. Evaluation of the effectiveness of a pilot project for implementing a series of training sessions aimed at studying the basics of profiling by employees of the penal system (using the example of the FPS of Russia in the Tomsk region). *Vedomosti ugolovno-ispolnitel'noi sistemy = Vedomosti of the Penal System*, 2024, no. 2 (261), pp. 50–56. (In Russ.).

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTHORS

VYACHESLAV E. YUZHANIN – Doctor of Sciences (Law), Professor, Honored Worker of Higher Education, professor at the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology of the Ryazan State University named for S. Yesenin, Ryazan, Russia, yuzhanin1950@mail.ru, <https://orcid.org/00000003-3123-1293>

DMITRII V. GORBAN' – Candidate of Sciences (Law), Associate Professor, Head of the Regime Organization Department of the Law Faculty of the University of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, Pushkin, Saint Petersburg, Russia, gorbani.d.v@fsin.gov.ru, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9442-7712>

Received on January 26, 2026