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Vladimir Kniazev
Detektor lzhy na strazhe istiny
(Lie detector guarding the truth)
Print-Center, Minsk 2009, 360 pp. (book in Russian)

Published in Russian, the book by Vladimir Kniazev, an officer of the Belarusian Ministry of the Interior, who – to quote the publisher's information – helped to discover over 400 crimes by using polygraph tests, in which he helped to popularise the polygraph and its "mass use" in Belarus.

The book begins with a presentation of the history of lie detection from the earliest times to the instrumental attempts at such detection in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Lombroso, Mackenzie, Benussi, Marston, Larson, Keeler). The discussion of the activity of Reid and Backster follows. This is generally available knowledge, in a sense akin to course book content. Beyond doubt the most interesting part of this chapter refers to the history of lie detection in Russia (and also in the USSR) that is generally unknown to the Western reader.

Mentioned in the book are works by I. Tarchanoff (1846–1908) on galvanic skin response, Vladimir Bekhterev (1857–1927) on the physiological mechanism of emotion and methods of measuring it, and finally the works of Alexander Luria (1902–1977) in the scope of psychophysiology and psychoneurology that are known in the world. The author describes also the practice of using the polygraph in the USSR. Late in the 1960s, it was used by units of the Main

Headquarters of the Red Army. At the same time first research on polygraph examination began to appear in the USSR. All information, whether on the use of polygraph in practice or on experimental research in the scope, were covered by the clause of highest secrecy. In 1970 the first candidate (i.e. doctoral) dissertation in the field was defended.

In 1975, the then head of KGB, Yuri Andropov, issued the first regulations concerning the use of the polygraph into state security organs of the USSR.

The construction work on the Russian polygraph followed in parallel. The first such machine was constructed by a member of the Academy of Sciences, Dr Valery Alekseevich Varlamov.

Already in 1959, Andrei Sichev and Varlamov, working at a psychiatric hospital in Krasnodarsk, constructed two machines, three- and six-channel polygraphs, to be used for light detection in psychiatry and in forensic diagnosing. In 1962 Varlamov – as the author claims – constructed the world's first non-contact polygraph machine. Varlamov is also the constructor of the "Edelveis-4" and "Eskulap" units produced in short series by Invaset in the 1980s.

In 1991, polygraph was used to the commission of the Office of the General Prosecutor of the USSR in the trial that followed the murder of Russian Orthodox theologian, Fr Aleksandr Men.

Approved in March 1992, the Act of the Russian Federation on operational reconnaissance actions provided the general basis for using polygraph examination in criminal investigations.

The first detailed act of law that regulated the use of polygraph in the work of law enforcement was the Order of the Minister of the Interior of the Russian Federation of 30th July 1992 on legal and normative standards for using the polygraph in the organs of law enforcement of the Russian Federation.

On 1st March 1993, the Office of the General Persecutor and the Ministry of Justice of Russia accepted the use of polygraph for the organs of state security in Russia.

The arrival of the imported state-of-the-art IBM computers and software in Russia in the 1990s as a result of the withdrawal of the embargo made the

construction of computer polygraphs possible. The first local products made it to the Russian market in the mid-1990s; they were the "Aviks" and "Ineks" in three-, four-, five-, and six-channel versions.

The author states that in 1996 the "Aviks" and "Geolig" machines of the KPS-06 and KPS-07 types accounted for over 80% of all the polygraphs used in Russia. Later, new firms producing polygraph devices arrived in the market; they were Epos producing "Epos" machines, and Nova which turned out "Alfa" and "Delta" polygraphs.

Beginning with 2000, the "Diagnoz" unit was produced on the grounds of the experience of the Federal Security Service (FSB) of Russia. Two years later, a new version of device was marketed under the name "Polarg". In 2004, new polygraph machines made it to the market: "PiK" from Areopag-Centr, "Diana", made by Polikonius-Centr, and APK "Konkord" produced by Konkordia. In 1994, the Forensic Science Institute of Federal Security Service of Russia held the first conference on unconventional methods of combating crime, with one of the three main themes being the use of polygraphs for operational reconnaissance actions. 28th December 1994, the date of publishing appropriate bylaws by the Ministry of the Interior (the Ministry's Order No. 437) marks the beginning of general use of polygraphs by law enforcement organs reporting to the Minister of Interior. In 1993–1995, the device also began to be used for commercial purposes.

A special unit for polygraph examinations has existed in the Ministry of Interior since 1995. In spring 1998, the Russian Ministry of Defence published an instruction that allowed polygraph examinations of civilians and military in connection to admission to secret information. In 1999–2004, the polygraph was allowed for examining civil officers in different branches/fields. In many regions of Russia, polygraph examinations are made in court cases, and their results are admitted as proofs by courts of various levels, including the Supreme Court.

Further, the author describes the use of polygraphs in the Republic of Belarus (independent since 1991). The use of polygraphs in this form in this former Soviet Republic is regulated by the order of KGB No. 91 of 22nd August 1998. According to the book reviewed, practical polygraph examination was began by an employee of the Personnel Department of the KGB, I.A. Archipov, who had received an appropriate training in Moscow. In Belarus, the polygraph is

used for "multiple purposes" including, as the book states, HR purposes and operational reconnaissance work. The machine used is the "Barier".

The first doctoral dissertation on polygraph examination was defended at the Belarusian Academy of Interior in 2000. A year later, on the power of the Order No. 206 of 31st October 2001, the principles of applying polygraphs in the organs reporting to the Minister of the Interior was introduced in Belarus.

The author reviews the clauses of the Belarusian Code of Criminal Procedure from the angle of using the polygraph for providing proofs in criminal procedures.

He believes that since 2000 polygraph has been in general use in Belarus, while polygraph examiners received their training mostly in Russia. Belarus cooperates very deeply with Russia in this scope by exchanging experience and conducting scientific research. Established in 2007 in Moscow was the International Association of Polygraph Examiners that gathers, as can be guessed, polygraph examiners, mostly from the former states of the USSR.

The further section of the book contains the basic information concerning the polygraph, its construction and operation, and presents the essence of polygraph examination. Even though the author does not go here beyond the course book knowledge, he proves his knowledge of American practice in the scope, and familiarity with American literature. He quotes the principles of using the polygraph defined by the American Department of Defence, and describes cases from Belarusian practice, both in criminal investigations and in personal (HR) matters.

Describing in a further part of the book the instrumental and non-instrumental methods of light detection, the author quotes the practice and works by American services and institutions (Defence Security Service, Department of Defence Polygraph Institute, Defence Academy for Credibility Assessment), the latest research and practices from Russia (earlier the USSR), and also, though in a much more modest scope, practices from other countries.

What deserves special attention is the history and description of the operation of the APK Mind Reader device and system, and its latest versions used in Russian airports for examining passengers to eliminate people connected to terrorism from among their stream. What can be quoted as a curiosity is the

fact that the examples of airports furnished with such a system provided by the author include Moscow's Domodedovo Airport, where a recent terrorist attack ended in bloodshed/loss of life. The description of the essence of the "Mind Reader" procedure itself deserves a separate analysis. Enough to say that the use of this procedure in the APK Mind Reader-2 version allows examining approximately 12 people per hour for selection purposes.

The author describes also contemporary attempts at using EEG for lie detection, the use of magnetic resonance (MRI) for the same purpose, and also the latest methods of noncontact polygraph examination (including those by the noncontact "Centurion-2" polygraph device constructed by V.A. Varlamov).

Among the noncontact methods, the author provides a general description of "laser Dopplermetry" that allows remote examination of muscular tension, voice changes, pulse, heart rate, the breathing process, and trembling. There is also a general description of the method for examining the trajectory of the eyeballs.

Quoting British research, the author briefly describes the examination of microexpression, whose analysis also serves lie detection.

What deserves special attention is the description of the so-called "Egoskop" produced by the Russian company Medikom MTD, which is used for parallel observation of all the changes in the human organism registered with all the available methods used in instrumental lie detection.

The book includes photographs and descriptions of contemporary Russian computer polygraph machines, namely MCP-2611.33, "Diagnoz-01", "Polarg", "Pik-01.A", "Alfa", "Delta", "Konkord", "Epos", "Diana-01", "Korsar", "Rif", and "Barier–14".

Most of the bibliography presented at the end of the book, comprising 89 items, are examples of Soviet, Russian, and Belarusian literature generally unknown in the West. The annexes include Belarusian acts of law and instructions on polygraph examinations.

Disregarding the fact that the book is carelessly edited, the chapters are not numbered, and there is no clear distinction between individual chapters, subchapters and other bodies of text, it has its value. It is a priceless source of

knowledge about polygraph examinations in Russia and in Belarus, presenting for the first time such an extensive scope of literature, mostly unknown in the West.

With this in mind, one cannot but agree that the book is worthy of being recommended to all those who are interested in polygraph examinations for professional reasons.

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