

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CERTAIN MOTOR SKILLS AND MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF POLICE OFFICERS IN SITUATIONS OF DEFENSE AGAINST AN UNARMED ATTACKER

Željko D. Mihaljčić

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republika Srpska Police Academy

Summary: The objective of this research was to determine the extent to which certain motor skills and morphological characteristics of individual police officers influence the efficiency of execution of selected defensive techniques to overcome the unarmed attacker. The study was conducted on a population of 90 cadets during training in the Unit for basic training – the Police Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Srpska. Criterion variable in this study is the effectiveness of applying techniques of defence against an unarmed attacker and predictor variables included motor skills and morphological characteristics of the cadets in the Unit for basic police training – Police Academy. The application technique was filmed with a video camera, which was installed so that the cameraman could record all the stages of a technique. Recorded material was later given to the judges for evaluation. In this paper, a commission consisting of five members, experts in this field, assessed the efficiency of application of the set of technical elements with grades from 1 to 5. The obtained value of central and dispersion parameters for most motor and morphological variables vary within the range corresponding to the normal distribution. Based on the range and standard deviation, it can be concluded that sufficient discrimination of most of the tests in their range have 6 standard deviations. Correlation analysis showed that all variables from the motor tests have statistically significant correlation, at the level 0.05 with efficiency applying techniques of defence against an unarmed attacker. Variable morphological characteristics did not show a statistically significant association with the efficiency applying of defensive techniques.

Keywords: defence against an unarmed attacker, motor skills, morphological characteristics, police officers.