



Causes and Consequences of Psychological Distress among Military Personnel



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ABSTRACT

Aims Military personnel are likely to encounter mental health problems due to high-risk occupations associated with significant levels of psychological distress. The present study aimed to determine the factors that caused psychological distress in Iranian military staff members.

Participants & Methods This qualitative research was done in two steps on psychological distress among military personnel. The first stage was a brief review. We studied texts related to psychological distress in the military, then we extracted the factors affecting psychological distress. The second stage was the interview with 15 experts. Purposeful sampling was used to select participants and continued until data saturation was reached. Data were collected using semi-structured interviews and analyzed through direct content analysis. The results were presented as codes, subcategories, and categories using an inductive approach.

Findings In the first stage, 25 studies were found, and in the second stage, 395 primary codes and two main categories, including demands and resources, were developed based on the opinion of experts.

Conclusion Different factors affect the military members' psychological distress, which are divided into two categories and six subcategories: Demands (military related demands, occupational-organizational demands, individual-occupational demands, and personal demands) and Resources (personal resources and job resources).

Keywords Psychological Distress; Military Personnel; Qualitative Research

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Introduction

High-risk occupations have remarkable levels of psychological and physical stress [1]. Encountering potentially traumatic events are common in the occupations of these people as a part of their job [2], and research has demonstrated the connection between passing such events and mental health problems among military staff members, police, as well as rescue and recovery workers [3].

While the military is defending the borders of the countries, it is also responsible for helping relief organizations when natural disasters and unexpected events occur. Hence, to constantly be well prepared and perfectly healthy is necessary. Instead, the Armed Forces' nature and missions are so special that their related organization is continually dynamic and efficient. Therefore, their organization is more likely to change than others, which brings inconsistency and stress [4]. Certainly, mental health problem rates have broadly been analyzed in the military, particularly among troops on combat deployments [3].

Psychological Distress (PD) is an unfavorable emotional state which has physical and emotional manifestations and can consider an indicator of psychological problems examined in studies and clinical collections with psychological, social, and behavioral symptoms which are connected to anxiety and depression [2, 5]. PD can be considered as an emotional suffering that poses a real or perceived physical or psychological threat to an individual. A person's emotional challenges and psychological reactions to fit into the environment are defined by PD as a key indicator that negatively influences the occupational capacity of a person, his/her family life, and well-being [6].

Psychophysiological and behavioral symptoms that are not specific to a given mental pathology illustrate PD, which is a mental health consequence. Symptoms such as anxiety, depressive responses, irritability, descending intellectual capacity, fatigue, sleepiness, etc., and PD seem to be prevented by conditions of a work organization related to skill application, decision authority, social support in the workplace, and satisfaction while psychological, physical and contractual needs usually increase it [7, 8].

Military jobs are constantly faced with psychological distress and physical pressures such as lack of sleep, recreation, high monotony of the environment, and ceremonial and repetitive tasks. High job stress, low autonomy, and long working hours are other stressors of a military work environment. Some military personnel are constantly and intensely lonely and do not have the opportunity to receive assistance. These demands can lead to adjustment difficulties that manifest themselves in the form of distress and psychological disorders, and even suicide attempts [9]. Research has demonstrated the connection between traumatic, unpredictable events [3], and also rapid changes [4] with PD in the military.

The psychological distress of military jobs has major and dramatic consequences in the family and organizational environment. Weakening of individual and group performance, low accuracy at work, emotional problems, alcohol and drug abuse, misplaced violence, lack of cooperation and partnership with the commander, withdrawal from operational areas, divorce and marital and moral problems, and difficulty in decision-making are the consequences of PD in military personnel [10].

Military occupations in which personnel face high demands from the unit lead to greater psychological distress. The Job Demand-Resource Model (JD-R) classifies the factors affecting employee well-being into two different categories: job demands and job resources. Job demand includes those factors (such as time pressure and workload) that reduce health and energy and cause severe mental disorders over some time and ultimately, poor employee performance. In contrast, job resources include a variety of factors (such as management support, supervisor feedback, skills, and independence) that motivate employees and reduce the negative consequences of the job. In this model, two paths are identified: the destructive path of health and the path of motivation. In the destructive path of health, increasing demands and reducing resources can harm a person's health and have negative consequences such as burnout. While on the motivational path, increasing resources (rather than just reducing demand) can lead to increased employees' motivation and thus, better organizational performance (Figure 1) [11].

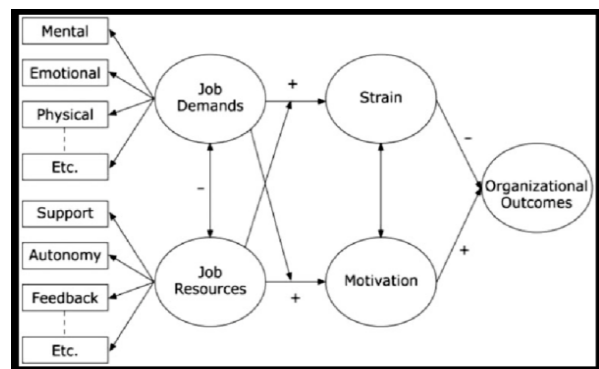


Figure 1) The job demand resource model [11]

Surprisingly, in our search, we did not find a study that comprehensively examines the factors influencing employees' psychological distress. Therefore, it is necessary to examine this concept in military personnel in depth without labeling it as a disorder and fear of stigma. In addition, especially this research type among the Iranian military personnel had a weak background in studies. Hence, there was a need for a better understanding of military psychological distress. We aimed to address the causes and patterns of PD in military personnel in

detail and fundamentally. Thus, in examining this concept, the question arose in the research literature and the views of military personnel: "What factors contributed to the occurrence of psychological distress?" Therefore, the present study aimed to determine the factors that caused PD in Iranian military staff members.

Participants and Methods

Study design

This study is a qualitative research, which was done in two steps on PD among military personnel. The first stage was a brief review. We studied texts related to the factors influencing "PD in the military" in ScienceDirect, PubMed, Medline, IranDoc, SID, Ovid, ProQuest, IranMedex and Google Scholar, and other related texts from 2010 to 2020. The keywords PD, depression, anxiety, and anger with the keywords military, armed forces, soldier, and family were searched. Then we carefully read the found articles and texts. Moreover, we extracted the factors affecting PD from the texts. The second stage was the stage of interviewing experts including interviews with military psychologists. The researchers performed an in-depth direct analysis of the military experiences. The results were presented as codes, subcategories, and categories using an inductive approach. Finally, the results were organized into the framework of the JD-R model.

The statistical population of the first stage was all studies in the research literature related to the PD of the military. For the second stage, Participants were selected through the purposive sampling method from several universities. Selection of samples was based on the objective of the study. Research samples included groups of military personnel and military psychologists. Interviews with personnel were done at their workplaces. The endpoint for sample selection was reaching data saturation. Data collection and analysis for this study were done from October 10th, 2019 to April 16th, 2020, through in-depth semi-structured interviews with the participants. Interviews with participants began with an explanation of the psychological distress concept, and according to the interview guidelines, general open-ended questions were asked, "In your opinion, what factors cause psychological distress in military personnel?" Or "What factors cause discomfort and anxiety in military personnel?" Then, depending on the context of the responses, the interviewer continued with exploratory questions, "Can you please give an example?" or "Could you explain more?" to clarify concepts for the researcher and participants. The interview duration ranged between 45 and 60 minutes, depending on the willingness and situation of the respondent. Finally, by adding this question, "Would you like to add anything else?" the possibility of having experiences or cases beyond the author's imagination was examined.

After each interview, verbatim transcriptions were prepared using MAXQDA 10. Each entire interview was considered as an analysis unit. The transcribed script was read several times to become familiar with the context. Then, the meaning units were identified. After that, the condensed meaning units were abstracted and labeled with a code, and compared based on differences and similarities, and sorted into sub-categories and categories. Finally, the results were organized into the framework of the JD-R model.

Trustworthiness of data

Several strategies were used to ensure the credibility of the data. In this regard, data gathering lasted about one month, and the researchers were deeply oriented to data and the atmosphere of the field during this time. Some strategies were used to ensure the credibility of the data, including peer review (data and their interpretations were checked by other researchers) and member checking (data were rechecked by participants and, our interpretations from data were reviewed and confirmed by them).

Findings

Stage 1

In the first stage, it was found 25 studies related to the PD of the armed forces and synonymous terms. Factors affecting PD were extracted and presented in Table 1.

Stage 2

The participants of the study were 15 people (1 woman and 14 men). The participants were in the age range of 33 to 60 and included 8 psychologists and 7 staff with enough history of military experiences who were familiar with the PD of military environments. In the present study, participants referred to two general categories that contribute PD of military personnel. The first category included demands in four subcategories: Military related demands, Occupational-organizational demands, Individual-occupational demands, and personal demands. The second category was resources, including personal resources and job resources. The data from interviews showed 395 concepts in six subcategories, and two categories were obtained in this context (Table 2).

Demands

1. Military related demands

In the subcategory of military related demands, eight codes were found. These codes included the right to protest, social position for militarists, punishments and encouragement, military culture, military isolation, family satisfaction with being military, army facilities for families, and overcoming military identity.

Regarding the concept of protest rights, participants acknowledged that employees in some cases could not object to the decision made or express their opinions freely. For example, participant No. 11 said:

“The inability of employees to protest is not recognized so that subordinates can’t express peaceful protest.” Regarding the concept of social status, participant No. 4 said: “The weak social status of military personnel in society is one of the things that can increase the psychological distress of employees.”

Table 1) Factors affecting PD, extracted from the review of previous studies

No.	Title	Results
1	Military sexual trauma and PD among male military personnel and veterans [12]	PD was significantly higher in participants with a history of sexual.
2	Sleep, resilience, and PD in United States military veterans [13]	Poor sleep was associated with higher PD. Resilience can protect a person against the negative consequences of people with poor sleep.
3	the role of self-compassion in the relationship between moral injury and PD among military veterans [14]	Morale damage, guilt, embarrassment, and Self-compassion significantly predict PD and PTSD symptoms.
4	Last held military rank and well-being (PD) of army ex-servicemen [15]	The well-being of former service members is linked to several factors, such as inflexible commands and dealing with violence.
5	Predictors of emotional distress reported by soldiers in the combat zone [16]	Five dimensions of emotional distress include cognition/negative emotion, re-experiencing trauma and violence, negative symptoms, lack of interest/symptoms of numbness, and irritability/arousal. Attitude variables predicted more specific aspects of emotional distress. Specific symptoms of depression and distress were related to the female gender, recent deployment, and attitudinal factors.
6	Factors associated with PD among military police in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil [17]	There is a link between PD and factors such as the ability to react to difficult situations, life dissatisfaction, health problems (especially neuromuscular, muscular symptoms), work environment conditions, overwork, constant stress, and victimization.
7	Intimate partner violence in the Canadian Armed Forces: PD and the role of individual factors [10]	Intimate partner violence plays an important role in PD. Emotion-based coping, domination, and seeking social support are associated with PD.
8	Negative Life Events (NLEs) contributing to PD, pain, and disability in a U.S. military sample [18]	A significant proportion of participants who experienced more than one adverse event, compared with those who did not experience any adverse events, experienced PD (depression, perceived sadness, PTSD, and suicidal ideation) and poor coping with pain (rumination, helplessness, and less chronic pain acceptance). Events that are more negative were associated with greater PD and poor coping with pain.
9	Protective buffering by service members during military deployments: Associations with PD and relationship functioning [19]	Higher buffering was associated with less partner distress during deployment, but was also associated with higher service member (distress both during and after deployment.
10	PD and coping in military cadre candidates [20]	Efficient and inefficient coping styles were associated with lower and higher PD, respectively.
11	Rank, job stress, PD, and physical activity among military personnel [21]	Job stress and high PD is associated with lower levels of physical activity and exercise.
12	Symptoms of PD and post-traumatic stress disorder in United States Air Force “drone” operators [22]	Lower masculine traits, extra office/service duties, rotational work shifts, and long hours were the most common factors associated with distress.
13	Reassessment of PD and post-traumatic stress disorder in United States Air Force Distributed Common Ground System operators [23]	PD was most associated with high work pressure, low meaning, poor organizational leadership, and shift work.
14	Suicidal ideation and mental distress among adults with military service history: results from 5 US states, 2010 [24]	No significant association was found in young or older age groups. Differences in suicidal ideation between military and civilian individuals may occur in middle age.
15	Psychosocial risk factors, job characteristics and self-reported health in the Paris Military Hospital Group (PMHG): a cross-sectional study [25]	Job stress (high psychological expectations and low decision-making freedom) and isolation stress (high work pressure with low social support) were significantly associated with poor mental health.
16	Spouse psychological well-being: A keystone to military family health [26]	Family stressors, stress, low social support, low income, motherhood under the age of 24, and low education were associated with low psychological well-being and high PD.
17	The protective role of resilience in attenuating emotional distress and aggression associated with early-life stress in young enlisted military service candidates [27]	Early life stressful experiences are positively associated with PD and resilience. These events increase the severity of the vulnerability, and the most effective factor in reducing this vulnerability is resilience.
18	Prevalence of perceived stress and mental health indicators among reserve-component and active-duty military personnel [28]	Spirituality has the highest protective effect only on depressive symptoms and PTSD in people with war experience and predicts suicidal thoughts among those who had no deployment experience.
19	Mediation of cognitive appraisal on combat exposure and psychological distress [29]	Cognitive evaluation moderates the relationship between war exposure and PD, and the potential effect of stressful events on psychological well-being depends on the individual's evaluation of the event.
20	Distress, support, and relationship satisfaction during military-induced separations: A longitudinal study among spouses of Dutch deployed military personnel [30]	The results showed a significant decrease in relationship satisfaction, psychological health, and social support over time.

21	Social support and postdeployment coping self-efficacy as predictors of distress among combat veterans [31]	Both perceived and indirectly received social support predict the severity of distress through post-dispatch self-efficacy and post-dispatch self-efficacy lower levels of distress.
22	Warring identities: Identity conflict and the mental distress of American veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan [32]	There are confrontations between military expectations in the absence of individuality, obedience, the chain of command, and isolation of war against urban expectations such as autonomy, self-defense, and communication.
23	Danish soldiers in Iraq: perceived exposures, PD, and reporting of physical symptoms [33]	Witnessing acts of cruelty, fear of physical harm, feelings of insecurity, fear of meaninglessness and contact with prisoners, confrontation with war, low social support, and multiple physical symptoms were associated with PD.
24	Does trauma risk management reduce PD in deployed troops? [34]	Lower levels of PD were observed in people who received trauma risk management. Also, personnel with higher social support during deployment experienced less PD.
25	Associations between work environment and psychological distress after a workplace terror attack: the importance of role expectations, predictability, and leader support [35]	Less role conflict, more role transparency, and higher leadership support are independently associated with lower PD. The work environment can facilitate mental health after stressful events.

Table 2) Concepts extracted from participant's experiences on psychological distress

Main theme	Categories	Subcategories	Concepts
Psychological distress	Demands	- Military demands	The right to protest, Punishments and encouragement, Military culture, Social position, Military isolation, Family satisfaction with being military, Army facilities for families, Overcoming military identity
		- Occupational-organizational demands	Role problems, Quantitative demands, Appropriate training, Predictability, Quality of leadership, Salary
		- Individual-occupational demands	Commitment, Meaning of work, Family-work conflict
		- Personal demands	Family conflict, Psychological problem, Physical illness
	Resources	- Personal resources	Hope, Adherence to ethics, Biological readiness, Creativity, Emotional intelligence, Attitude, and Resilience
		- Job resources	Social support, Trust, Justice

The reward and punishment system is another concept that has been raised in the field of organization and leadership. As participant No. 5 said: "Lack of proper reward and unbalanced and unstable reward distribution system are some of the things that lead to distress."

Several concepts, including daily practices, hierarchy, inflexible commands, missions, ranks, and military parade, are categorized as military culture. Because these concepts are specific to military occupations and for better management of codes, they are placed under the concept of military culture.

In the concept of daily practices, experts introduced exercises that military personnel are required to perform daily. Participant No. 7 said: "Practicing every day can be a kind of distress for a military person." Also, about the hierarchy of inflexible commands, participants talked about the lack of up-to-date commands, inflexibility, and strictness in executing commands. Participant No. 15 said: "Commands that are not in line with the conditions and have little flexibility lead to the distress of military personnel."

In the lack of support of family, participants acknowledged that in military organizations, they do not pay enough attention to families and their well-being. Participant No. 6 stated: "In military organizations, more attention should be paid to the welfare facilities of families, and more time should be spent for them."

Concerning the concept of social isolation, participants acknowledged that military personnel, as they usually live in military settlements, are far

from the heart of society and that separation can lead to distress for them and their families. "Social segregation includes separate workplaces, separate living spaces."

About family satisfaction, participant No. 3 said: "If the family accepts military service, they will more easily tolerate its problems."

The next concept was the dominance of military identity over individual identity. For example, participant No. 9 said: "Another argument is the role of individual identity in military personnel. Individuality decreases, and the military role becomes more prominent. He is an individual, and his role is not his personal personality and identity."

2. Occupational-organizational demands

Concepts raised in the category of demands were occupational-organizational demands, which included role problems, quantitative demands, appropriate training, predictability, quality of leadership, and salary.

Regarding the concept of role problems, participant No. 4 said: "A military person may not consider a job role appropriate for him/her, and the role assigned to him/her may be heavier than his/her ability, and this person is more likely to fail."

In the concept of quantitative demands, participants talked about working hours that are sooner or later than usual. For example, Specialist No. 9 said: "Militarists usually arrive at work earlier than usual." Regarding the concept of leadership, the participants emphasized the leadership style and characteristics of the leaders. For example, participant No. 6 said: "The characteristics of the leaders are very important

in increasing the distress of personnel. A leader creates so much hell for his staff that the distress of all the personnel increases, and another commander removes the distress from the personnel due to his special companionship and management.”

Regarding salary, financial difficulties were raised, such as housing problems, economic problems, and weak welfare facilities. Participant No. 15 said: “One of the most important causes of distress in military personnel can be financial problems.”

3. Individual-occupational demands

This subcategory included variables that depend on both the job and the individual characteristics of the employees. These concepts consisted of commitment, meaning of work, and family-work conflict. Finding meaning in work was another concept that experts said played an important role in reducing staff PD. For example, participant No. 5 said: “It is very important for a person to have a sublime meaning for what he does, especially in the armed forces.”

The concept of family-work conflict is like transferring a stressful work environment to the family or a military person being absent due to a mission. Participant No. 6 introduced this concept and said: “The absence of a military person in different life situations due to missions and busy schedules is another factor that causes distress.”

4. Personal demands

This subcategory included concepts that are only relevant to the person, such as physical and psychological problems and diseases.

Concerning family conflicts, for example, participant No. 2 said: “The relationship between the couple and the relationship between parents and children have a huge impact on the distress of military personnel.”

Resources

1. Personal resources

In the subcategory of personal resources, participants raised concepts that reduce distress and make a person resistant to it, such as hope, adherence to ethics, biological readiness, creativity, emotional intelligence, attitude, and resilience.

Hope is another concept that participants came up with. For example, participant No. 10 said: Feeling

hopelessness causes a lot of distress and should be avoided to eliminate it.

About adherence to ethics, participant No. 6 said: “As a military, if I try to reach morality and ethics, many problems will be solved, but now for us, individual interests are a priority, and major people suffer due to not achieving their priorities.”

The participants also mentioned biological readiness. For example, participant No. 1 said: “Fear has a biological basis, and some people are more cautious and take less risk.” The biological basis of fear is important in individuals.

Creativity was also a personality trait that was mentioned by the participants. For example, participant No. 7 said: “A person’s level of creativity is very important in reducing stress.”

Emotional intelligence was also a personality trait that was mentioned by the participants. For example, participant No. 8 said: “A person’s level of awareness of their emotions and how they manage them play a role in a person’s level of distress.”

Individual attitudes were also personality traits that were mentioned by the participants. For example, participant No. 3 said: “The stress perceived by different people can affect a person’s distress rate.”

Resilience in military personnel was also a personality trait that could reduce distress. For example, participant No. 1 said: “Military personnel must have high resilience and strengthen it to perform properly in sensitive situations.”

2. Job resources

This subcategory included social support, trust, and justice. Participant No. 11 said: “The organization’s psychological support of staff is important. For example, personnel who have a problem can be better handled if the organization and the commander understand them.”

Another concept was justice. For example, participant No. 12 said: “Justice can make employees feel good.”

The concept of trust in the organization is another issue that raised. For example, participant No. 5 said, “I think the sense of belonging and confidence is vital. It feels like you could do something for me.”

In Figure 2, the factors extracted from the study were included in the demand-resource model.

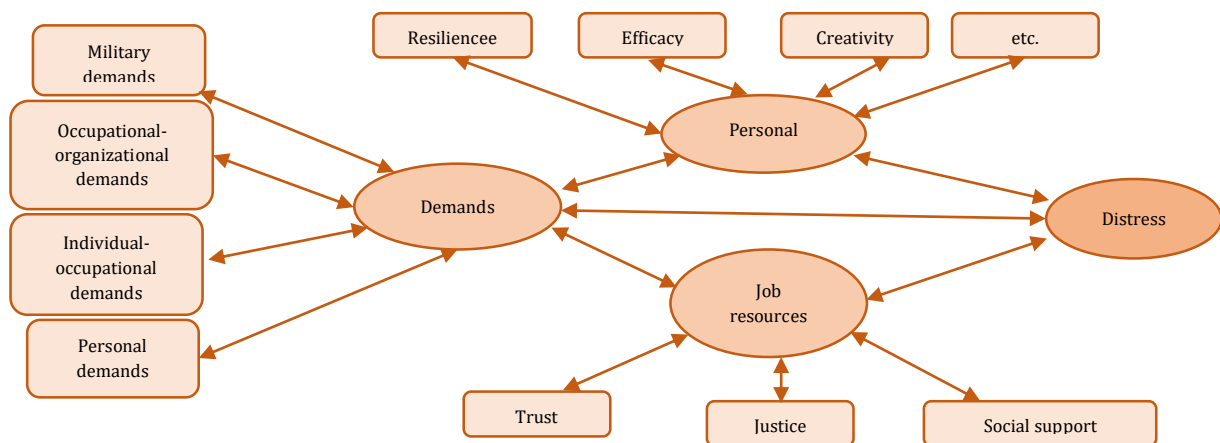


Figure 2) Iranian military JD-R model

Discussion

The present qualitative study examined the PD factors in Iranian military personnel. Findings included two main categories, including demands and resources. These concepts included the right to protest, punishments and encouragement, military culture, social position, military isolation, family satisfaction with being military, army facilities for families, and overcoming military identity. Organizational structures, arrangement, and codes determine the meaning of a military culture which is significantly unique. Military staff and their family are limited by military rules, regulations, conventions, ethics, and values that are different from those of civilians [36]. The military culture contains both ceremonial discipline acts, like shining shoes, uniforms, and salutes, as well as a functional discipline where commanders' orders are followed by service members. For example, the chain of command is a hierarchical structure of seniors and subordinates [36]. Leaders in boot camp deconstruct the recruits' civilian status and give them a new identity. The recruits go through a harsh, humiliating, physically and emotionally exhausting process. They are exposed to their new norms, languages, codes, and identities. In the military, cutting hair, common uniforms, enduring hard situations, and collectively eating, exercising and accommodating, as well as being kept apart from friends and the family, are necessary [36]. Veterans who had reported higher levels of the military identity, had also reported higher levels of PD [37].

In any form of social congruity and culture, specific worldviews are developed and shared. In 1978, Sue defined a worldview and its importance to the formation and maintenance of a person's identity by stating that it was related to the individual's perception of and relationship with the world. In other words, these acted as a "filter" through which one read reality [38].

Haslam argued Social Identification Theory (SIT). Social identification played a key role in establishing the important organizational behaviors and higher levels of physical and emotional well-being. Van Dick *et al.* argued that the main prediction of SIT for organizational contexts is that the more an individual defines him or herself in terms of a member of an organizational group (for instance, the Armed Forces), the more his/her attitudes and behaviors were governed by this group membership [39].

Other concepts raised in the context of occupational demands were role problems, quantitative demands, appropriate training, predictability, quality of leadership, and salary. These concepts rely on theoretical frameworks, such as the Effort-Reward Imbalance model or the Job Demands-Control model, that provide insights regarding the impact of an individual's job design. In 2002, Michie and Williams showed that the most common work factors

associated with psychological illness are work demands (long hours, workload, and pressure), a lack of control over work, and poor support from managers, as well as, the Organization Climate (OC) that concerns the meaning employees attach to the tangible policies, practices, and procedures they experience in their work situation including (1) leadership characteristics, (2) group behaviors and relationships, (3) communication, and (4) structural attributes of the quality of work life [40].

Commitment, the meaning of work, and family-work conflict were concepts that participants raised in the individual-occupational demands subcategory. Work-family conflicts significantly lead to health consequences as well as burnout. Baruch-Feldman *et al.* showed that work-family support was negatively associated with burnout. Parasuraman *et al.* found significant indirect effects of emotional support on job satisfaction and life stress with a mediating role of family-work interaction [41]. Organizational commitment is partly the result of intrinsic and partial characteristics of the individual and how employees perceive the organization and the immediate role of their work. Also, organizational identity leads to the individual's high effort to achieve organizational goals [42].

About personal demand, concepts including family conflict, psychological problems, and physical illness were found. To get higher performance and behavior, individuals set requirements for themselves that force them to exert efforts in their work and are consequently connected with physical and psychological costs; these requirements are termed personal demand. As Bakker said, personal demands and personal resources should be studied together [43]. In this study, concepts such as hope, adherence to ethics, biological readiness, creativity, emotional intelligence, attitude, and resilience were found. He argued that the nature of the personal demands would define the process as a motivational process or health impairment process. Personal demands are considered challenges for employees that energize or motivate them to participate in their work. Similarly, personal resources also have a positive attitude towards the work environment, which is evident from various studies. Personal demands and personal resources lead to an opportunity to meet basic needs, which in turn creates a positive connection with the work environment [43].

Job resources included social support, trust, and justice. According to literature, organizational climate encompasses a broad range of individual and contextual level factors that form the immediate environment of individual workers. Organizational justice is a key aspect of a supportive climate. It has been found that organizational justice affects outcomes of an organization, including welfare, satisfaction, emotional fatigue, and accomplishment [44]. In general, Judge and Colquitt noted: "Justice can reduce the uncertainty and lack of control that are at

the heart of feelings of stress". In addition, organizational justice theories implicitly include distress due to imbalance and motivation to change the situation. Presumably, injustice, similar to what Lazarus and Folkman (1984) stated, is strongly related to an anticipated threat and thereby lies at the heart of the primary appraisal processes [45].

The current study tested the strain hypotheses based on the Job Demand-Control-Support (JDCS) model framework. Specifically, the direct effect of job demands on depression, as well as the moderating role of job control, social support, and their joint effect (job control × social support) on the job demand-depression link were investigated. Social support and, to a partial extent, job control buffered the negative effects of job demands on depression. High social support intensified the buffering effect of job control on the organizational demands-depression link. The concept of the JDCS model is quite supported by the results and give more perception of processes resulting in police officers' illness in their workplaces [46].

Military organizations and leaders should consider the factors of psychological distress raised by specialists and assign policies to improve the mental health of military staff members.

Conclusion

Different factors affect the military members' psychological distress, which are divided into two categories and six subcategories: Demands (military related demands, occupational-organizational demands, individual-occupational demands, and personal demands) and Resources (personal resources and job resources).

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