



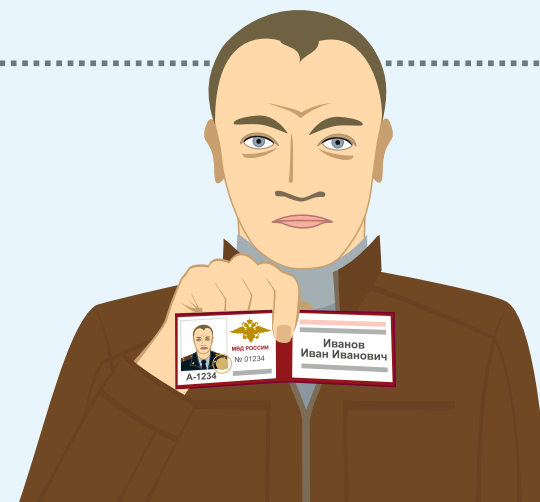
POLICE DETECTIVE IN CLEAR TERMS

*Investigating detective (formally referred to as an operative commissioner, non-formally as *operativnik*) is a member of the police force focused on the crime investigation and criminal tracking. As opposed to other police force members, an investigating detective is entitled to carry out secret activities including the use of covert human intelligence sources.*

Investigation Officer vs Detective: it's complicated

The ratio between the number of investigation officers and detectives is 1:0,88

Detective — Criminal Case — Investigation Officer



Their main concern is to make sure that the investigation officer is able to register a person as a suspect. Before this happens, this particular citizen needs to provide a full confession in the form of an 'acknowledgment of guilt'.

It is a shared concern for both the investigation officer and the detective to identify an individual with the status of an official suspect and a visible prospect for prosecution, immediately after filing a criminal case.



Before proclaiming a person an official suspect, she can reject the detective's work or refuse their materials.

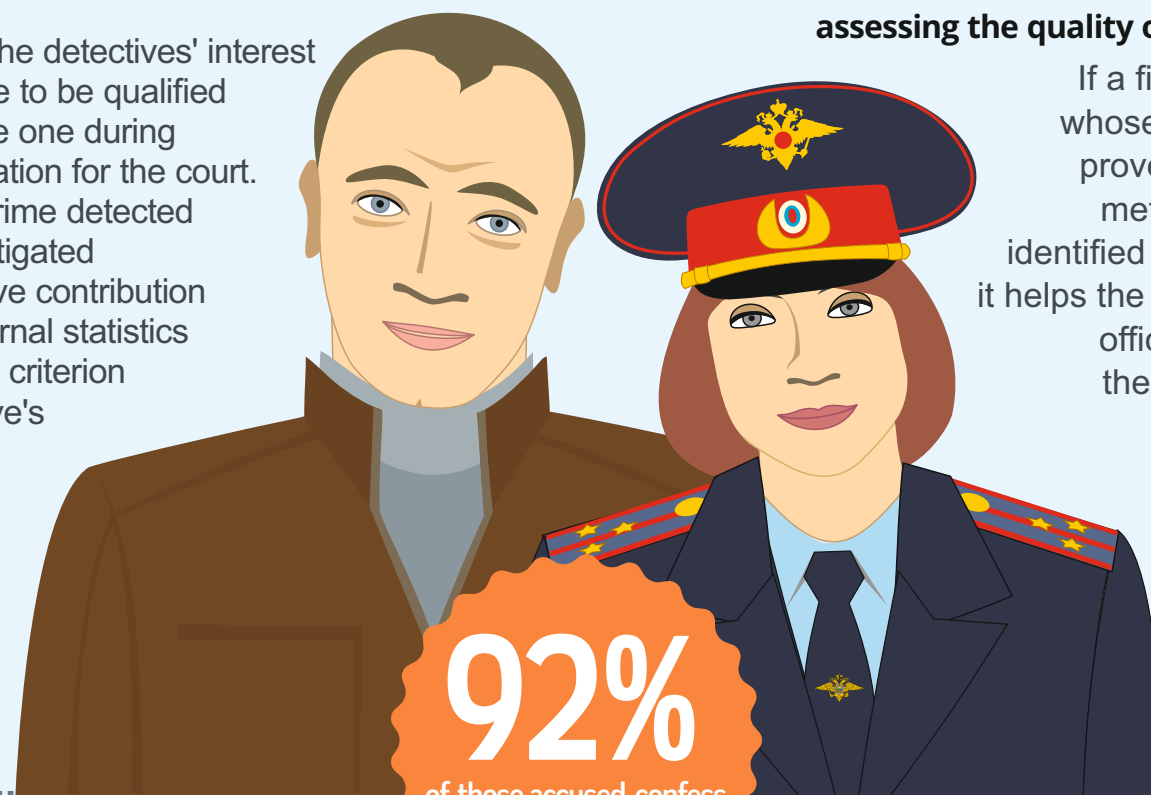
As soon as an official suspect appears, both the investigation officer and the investigating detective are focused on making a court case.

In practical terms, a new suspect means +1 to the crime solution rate which is the main criterion of a detective's work quality.

It serves the detectives' interest for a crime to be qualified as a grave one during its preparation for the court. A grave crime detected and investigated is a positive contribution to the internal statistics which is a criterion of detective's efficiency.

For an investigation officer an official suspect means +1 to the number of cases passed on to the court: the number of cases directed to the court is the main criterion for assessing the quality of their work.

If a fitting suspect whose guilt can be proven by routine methods can be identified immediately, it helps the investigation officer to reduce the risk of doing meaningless work.



92%

of those accused confess their guilt in the courtroom*

*based on 10,000 cases heard by district courts

Investigation officers complain that detectives' competence is in yearly decline and that detectives are not capable of solving complex cases.

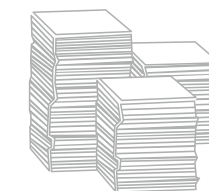
An assessment of statistical data supports this point of view. Most cases directed to the court are cases in which the suspect was obvious from the very beginning and/or was virtually arrested at the crime scene.

Two types of detective work

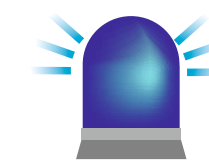
1) Working with criminal cases filed by the complainant

In public opinion, the main focus of a detectives' work is on interviewing the witnesses, searching for stolen property, interrogating representatives of the criminal world, cooperating with covert sources, assessing databases etc.

In fact there are two more activities, that consume a considerable amount of time:



Compiling vast numbers of reports for internal use. The number of such papers provides a basis for the assessment of the employee's diligence.



Weekly field operative duty as part of on-call operational units which respond when a crime is reported.

2) Working with crimes with no obvious victim or complainant; such crimes are usually identified on behalf of a detective or by a detective's demand



Crimes related to drug circulation



Illegal gun/weapon circulation



Economic crimes

How do detectives discover such crimes?

1 Performing 'operational work'

The detective needs to gather information from agent sources, conduct interviews, and evaluate documents. They will need to gather and assess all the information available in order to identify the offender and to provide enough evidence for the investigation officer to file a criminal case.

2 Sting operations

It could be a controlled buy of drugs or a seizure of weapons; a controlled purchase or delivery to prove certain economic crimes; it could also be an 'operational experiment' to document an act of bribery.

3 Report preparation

The detective prepares a report and attaches all the relevant documents in favour of the assumption that a person is guilty. They need to register this document as a report on a crime before submitting it to the investigation officer.



In particularly complex cases, the text of the detective's report is produced in advance in conjunction with the investigation officer. This happens in order to prevent 'cold cases' (*glukhar*, or 'woodcock' in Russian police jargon), where a criminal case is filed but no suspect could be identified.

The 'Open Police' web portal is being created in order to monitor the transparency and openness of law enforcement bodies and the police force in particular.



Created by the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Informational Culture"



More information on openpolice.ru



Nearly all detectives have access to secret information, which implies additional restrictions.

For example, upon quitting work, travelling abroad is restricted for between five and ten years.

Operational Units

Formally, the average number of employees active in an operational unit is between 4 and 20 persons including superiors.



In reality, only between 2 and 12 detectives work there.

Superiors, members of the police force on vacation or those on mission.

Deputy Head of Police Operational Activities

Crime Investigation Department

The main focus is on general investigative activities, criminal offenders' tracking.

Department of Economic Security and Corruption Enforcement

Formerly, Department Against Misappropriation of Socialist Property (OBKhSS). Investigators in economic affairs enjoy a greater independence in their activities.

Operational Search Department

The main responsibility includes operational-investigative activities in cases where the crime has yet to be committed; tracing suspects, searching for missing persons etc.

Department of Investigative Information

This department is formally responsible for covert sources information processing and database maintenance.

In reality, on the district level such separation of activities is extremely rare due to the generally insufficient number of detectives active.

It often happens that a detective on duty, having received a case while on a night shift, would carry on working on the case regardless of their area of expertise.