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# Military Education in Ukraine

## Introduction

Modern stage of development of world civilization is characterized by the strengthening of the role of military factors and double standards in solving international political, economic, ethnic, interconfessional and other conflicts; the spread of uncontrolled migration, the activities of extremist, terrorist organizations; rapid growth of military science; research, development and testing of the latest weapon systems and military equipment, the principles of their systemic combat use in conflicts and signs of destructive infrastructure, social, economic, scientific and technical factors.

The accession of Ukraine to the European educational space, changes in the legislative framework on the development of domestic education, on the one hand, and the need to bring the parameters of military education in line with the current requirements of military activities of officers and a number of other problems, on the other hand, require significant changes in the system of military education as one of the key components of the stable development of the defense capability of the state.

The development of the education system, its radical reformation and the provision of the security system should become the basis for the reproduction of the intellectual potential of the people, the emergence of domestic science, technology and culture to the world level, national revival, the security establishment of statehood and the democratization of society in Ukraine.

The accumulation of problems in the system of military education is approaching the critical level. Neglecting the approaches to their qualified and timely solution leads to a non-equilibrium of the system and prevents it from fulfilling its main function – qualitative training of military specialists – from tactical to

operational-strategic levels. It is evidenced by the conclusions of the State Examination Commissions, the materials of inspections, feedback from the troops and the graduates of the Military Educational Institutions (MEI), shortfall of junior officers in units as well as the data of sociological research. At present, it can be stated that the state of military education, the pace, and effectiveness of the transformations taking place in it do not fully satisfy the requirements of national security of the state, the Armed Forces of Ukraine. It has become a trend over the last few years, which is connected with the conduct of ATO (Anti-Terrorist Operation) in the east of the country. The actual practice of warfare has put forward certain requirements for the theory of military pedagogy regarding the development of an appropriate concept for the quality of education and innovative approaches to its implementation in the educational process in MEI. In this context, the problem of guaranteeing the quality of training of military specialists is extremely important. Its solution carries a clear commitment to achieving the necessary final result in the training of highly professional officer personnel, capable of effectively performing their duties in peace and wartime.

## Retrospective of the Ukrainian military education institutions

Such Ukrainian scientists as Mykola Gerasimenko, Oleksandr Datsenko, Leonid Krivizyuk, Ivan Krylenko, Mykhailo Neshchadim, Yuriy Pikul and Dmytro Polyakov have conducted researches in the fields of the historical aspect of the development of the administrative-legal regulation of military training of students in higher MEI and the military educational units of higher educational institutions of Ukraine. Those scientists tend to divide the whole process into four periods.

The first stage should include the period of the 18th–early 20th century, when the military training of students was carried out based on regulatory acts of military departments of the Russian Empire. It is logical to note here that the military training of students in this period was carried out within the framework of the programs of military higher educational establishments only.

The second period of formation and development of the administrative-legal regulation of military training took place during the national liberation struggles in the Ukrainian lands of 1917–1920. During this period some regulative norms of preparation according to the political national course were created. Orders of the military education departments included such aspects as the Ukrainianization of the process of preparation, the use of Russian and Austrian experience, the opening of national military training facilities, plans and programs for Ukrainian military schools.

The third period – the Soviet system of administrative and legal regulation of military training of students – is characterized by the unification of norms, centralization of management, standardization of the military training system. In Soviet times, military training units of higher educational institutions appeared.

The fourth period is represented by the peculiarities of the legal regulation of military training in the modern period of independent Ukraine, from 1991 till present.

## The structure of Ukrainian military education system in the period of independence

In the years of independence, a unified system of military education (SME) has been created in Ukraine, which is a social institution and an integral part of the state education system, intended to provide the process of military education. It is formed from an organized set of educational institutions that implement military education following the current legal norms, educational rules and qualification levels established by the state, and are managed by special bodies. In addition to educational ones, this social institution may also include other agencies and facilities (scientific, methodological, practical training) that provide training and assistance to military specialists<sup>1</sup>.

The overall management of the military education system is carried out by the Department of Military Education and Science, which is the structural unit of the central apparatus of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

The network of military educational institutions of Ukraine includes:

- higher MEI and military training units of high schools that are capable of training citizens for military service on positions of sergeants and officers;
- higher MEI and military training units of high schools that are capable of training students for being reserve officers;
- military and naval lyceums and lyceums with intensive military-physical training<sup>2</sup>.

At present, the training of military specialists for the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military formations of the state is carried out on a wide range of directions and specializations. MEI train officers for tactical, operational-tactical and operational-strategic levels of command. Graduates of MEI receive a state-level diploma at educational-qualification levels: junior specialist, bachelor, specialist, master's degree.

The basis of the SME consists of two important provisions: firstly, military specialists are intended for the management of highly organized formations of people, which have in its structure the latest achievements of modern science and technology. The staff of such units must perfectly possess techniques of armed struggle (tactics, operative art, and strategy) and the most effective ways of combat use of weapons and military equipment. There is no other specialty, which would aim at such a specific goal. Therefore, the training of officers should be assigned to the SME. Secondly, the management of military units in such combat situations that require the use of armaments and military equipment is constantly associated with the risk to the life of the commander and subordinate personnel. This demands the creation of a special relationship in the unit, defined by the requirements of the oath and military regulations, the basis of which are relations between the commander and subordinates, which are created in the process of appropriate education and training. Because of this, future officers, who are responsible for the subordinate personnel and their actions in a combat environment, must have a "relevant schooling" available only in MEI.

<sup>1</sup> S. Gurak, 'Defense Industry Complex: Key Aspects', *Defense Bulletin*, 2010, No. 9, pp. 29–31.

<sup>2</sup> Про створення єдиної системи військової освіти, Постанова Кабінету Міністрів України від 15 грудня 1997, No. 1410.

Today's period is characterized by serious structural and organizational changes in the field of state-building and military construction, including SME. A distinctive feature of the SME's functioning at the present stage is that it acts simultaneously as both an instrument and an object of the reformation of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. As a matter of fact, the development of the SME is an integral part and one of the priority directions in the construction of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, since the combat readiness of the troops depend on the professional training of officer personnel, their commitment to the Motherland and the ability to fulfill their military duty to the highest degree<sup>3</sup>.

On the basis of this, it should be noted that SME should provide training for military specialists with a high level of professionalism, competence, intellectual development, general and military-professional culture, capable of high-performance achievement of the tasks set for the defense of Ukraine, develop their own creative individuality, their persistent adoption of a new knowledge during military service, their capability of making optimal decisions in non-standard conditions in all specializations that determine the level of combat readiness of the Armed Forces.

## Main principles of the Ukrainian military educational programs

Military education in all leading countries is a corporate system that trains military specialists. Their appointment is to carry out tasks that are conditioned by the specifics of the functioning of the armed forces and the need for their application in specific conditions. An analysis of world practice suggests that today's military education is aimed at training intellectually and professionally qualified military specialists who meet modern requirements regarding the theory and practice of modern armed struggle; capable of mastering new knowledge at all stages of their career; manage the armed forces in battle, training, education, development, psychological training of personnel in peace and wartime; create, operate and use the most sophisticated weapons and military equipment; carry out fundamental, innovative military-scientific researches; train new generations of military scientists; to effectively act in the performance of tasks that arise in the conduct of international anti-terrorist and peacekeeping operations, participation in the elimination of local military conflicts<sup>4</sup>.

To raise specialists of comparable level the high quality of military education is vitally necessary. Nowadays, Ukrainian SME resolves the controversial task of achieving sufficient quality training of military specialists with limited resources and other capabilities, which in general can be characterized by such concepts as the state of uncertainty with the tendency to reduce even the existing potential. The problem, of course, has a solution, but it is not to the benefit of quality. The reality is that Ukraine

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<sup>3</sup> Адаптація нормативних основ функціонування системи військової освіти тактичного рівня в контексті євроінтеграційного процесу входження України в єдиний освітньо-науковий простір (заключний звіт НДР "Інновація-1Т"), Київ 2009, р. 350.

<sup>4</sup> S. Gurak, *op. cit.*, pp. 32–34.

declares rather than implements modern requirements for military education, as well as the quality of training of military experts.

The basis of the SME of Ukraine, which is also its main feature, is the fundamental and universal nature of the training. The Lieutenant of the Armed Forces of Ukraine upon arrival in the army is immediately able to begin to perform his official duties. In the armies of the leading countries of the world, graduates of the Secondary School, for the most part, need additional training<sup>5</sup>.

## The influence of the Ukrainian War on the principles of national military education

The war in Ukraine proved to be a real test for all the structures of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The conduct of high-intensity military actions revealed all the disadvantages of the Ukrainian Army and, in particular, prompted active work on improving the training of military personnel.

Some problems had to be solved in the field of SME, namely:

- insufficiently effective management of the military education system, analytical and informational support for the implementation of projects and decisions, the absence in many cases of a systematic, comprehensive, transparent and promising approach to solving existing problems, the delay in the development and approval of fundamental documents that are adequate to the new conditions for the development of SME;
- the incompleteness of the modernization of MEI, training centers and training military units, their organizational structures, and staffing levels;
- redundancy and inconsistency between the list of specialties for which military specialists are preparing in the MEI and civil specialties;
- large outflows of young army officers (up to 40%) at the time of their signing of the 2nd contract; incompleteness of primary officer positions;
- insufficient compliance of the training of military specialists with the experience of combat and operational training of troops, their application in peacekeeping operations, local conflicts and wars;
- insufficient experience of military service in corresponding positions in the troops of a significant part of scientific-pedagogical workers of MEI;
- insufficient efficiency of integration processes in civil and military education and science;
- the outdated educational-material base of the MEI – up to 90% of the armament and military equipment (AME) is morally and physically obsolete – the lack of a sufficient number of modern educational training systems and complexes, computer equipment;
- insufficient effectiveness of measures to popularize military education in society and attract young people to join MEI;
- falling prestige and motivation for military service;

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<sup>5</sup> И. Попов, *Война будущего: взгляд из-за океана. Военные теории и концепции современных США*, Москва 2004, pp. 12–67.

- insufficient financial support for SME, aggravation of social problems of servicemen, workers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and members of their families (especially concerning financial and housing maintenance).

Elimination of these shortcomings requires some transformations in the organization of SME. Taking into account the practice of modern training of military specialists, improvement of the system of higher military education can be carried out in the following directions:

- further integration of military education and science;
- formation of a new generation of training models of highly skilled military specialists capable of effectively managing troops in combat;
- bringing the structure and size of MEI in line with the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine;
- formation of military tutors of a brand-new mindset;
- preservation and strengthening of the main scientific and pedagogical schools in the key areas of training of military specialists;
- improvement of the material and technical base of higher military educational institutions.

Ukrainian officers and military scientists engage world-wide experience in the following areas of modernization:

- training highly qualified military personnel capable of managing troops in the conduct of appropriate military operations and exercises in peacetime;
- research, development, and use of the most sophisticated AME;
- effective enforcement of tasks arising from the implementation of international anti-terrorist and peacekeeping operations<sup>6</sup>.

## International cooperation in the field of Ukrainian military education

In 2017, the Government of Ukraine proclaimed and legally approved the priority of NATO membership for the country's foreign policy. Getting membership in the North Atlantic Alliance involves the introduction of common military standards. In particular, in the training system of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. A gradual transition to NATO standards (Standardization Agreement, STANAG) in Ukraine is scheduled for 2019. According to Defense Minister Stephan Poltorak, four NATO programs for the training of the Ukrainian Army have already been implemented. In the structures of the Ministry of Defense and General Staff, there are 29 foreign advisers, including the United States, Canada, Lithuania, and the United Kingdom.

With the support of 14 NATO member countries, the DEEP program (Defence Education Enhancement Programme) has been actively operating in Ukraine for three and a half years. 2017 marked the end of the first phase of the program, the main

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<sup>6</sup> О. Сальнікова, Г. Ситник, 'Тенденції розвитку оборонно-промислового комплексу провідних країн світу', *Аспекти публічного управління*, 2014, No. 9–10, pp. 56–65, <https://doi.org/10.15421/151468>.

themes of which were institutional and organizational changes and the improvement of the professional level of the teaching staff. Starting from 2017, DEEP Ukraine has been focusing on improving its SME under NATO standards.

In recent years, Ukraine has undergone structural changes aimed at the effective implementation of training programs and educational activities for new officers and the establishment of large-scale links with leading defense universities and academies of NATO member countries for this purpose.

First Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine Ivan Rusnak notes that “the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and the Armed Forces of Ukraine carry out systemic, ambitious reforms. The work within the DEEP program is very important in the context of these changes, the final result of which should be the training of new professionals. In today’s environment, we are concentrating our efforts on training our troops, commanders to carry out tasks in NATO with the use of NATO experience”<sup>7</sup>.

Ukrainian armed forces take part in multinational military exercises since 1994. In accordance with the text of the Draft Law No.7428 “On approval of the decision of the President of Ukraine regarding the admission of units of the armed forces of other states to the territory of Ukraine in 2019 for the participation in multinational exercises”, the following international military exercises have been or will be conducted on the territory of Ukraine in 2019<sup>8</sup>:

- Multinational exercises for the training of units of the armed forces;
- The Ukrainian-American “Rapid Trident – 2019” exercises;
- Ukrainian-American “Sea Breeze – 2019” exercises;
- The Ukrainian-Romanian “Riverine – 2019” exercises;
- Multinational “Maple Arch –2019” exercises;
- The Ukrainian-British “Warrior Watcher” – 2019 exercises.

## Prospects for the development of the Ukrainian military education facilities

In Ukrainian realities, taking into account the international practice of training military specialists, the improvement of the system of higher military education would be rational in the following areas:

- strategic directions – systematic, integrative, continuity of education, inclusion of non-institutional forms of education in this system; advance military education practice of the use of troops; a combination of general and vocational education; fundamentalization, informatization, democratization, humanization,

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<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, ‘Іван Руснак провів зустріч з делегацією НАТО на чолі з Директором програми DEEP Маріушом Солісом’, 25.10.2017, <http://www.mil.gov.ua/news/2017/10/25/ivan-rusnak-proviv-zustrich-z-delegacziyeu-nato-na-choli-z-direktorom-programi-deep-mariushom-solisom> [accessed: 20.07.2019].

<sup>8</sup> Про схвалення рішення президента України щодо допуску підрозділів збройних сил інших держав на територію України у 2019 році для участі в багатонаціональних навчаннях, Відомості Верховної Ради, 2019, No. 10, ст. 56, <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2687-19> [accessed: 20.07.2019].

technologization, standardization; introduction of distance and correspondence training; creation of comprehensive conditions for access to education; stimulating the motivational sphere; management in the educational sphere; quality management of military specialists training. The strategy for the development of military education is in organic communication with the changes taking place in politics, armed forces, the economy, social relations, and public consciousness<sup>9</sup>;

- normative-legal support – codification of normative-legal and systematization of scientific and methodological support; provision of a variety of forms of training and retraining of military specialists;
- network of military educational institutions – wide infrastructure of establishments for the training of officers; in the tactical link (in primary positions) – courses, schools, colleges; in higher and postgraduate education – courses, schools, centers, colleges, institutes, academies, universities; presence of a network of military units at universities; use of specialized training ground for acquiring practical skills;
- management of military education – the subordination of MEI to commanders of the armed forces, relatively wide activity autonomy; optimality of functions and management structures; accentuation and management flexibility; clarity of the hierarchical structure of governing bodies, lack of functional duplication; a wide range of autonomous powers of the hierarchical structures of governance;
- content of military education – the priority of national interests and national security in determining the content of military education; lack of strict standardization of the content of training; orientation to the basic theoretical training on humanitarian, socio-economic, natural and engineering disciplines with limited narrow specialization (in higher educational institutions) and applied military specialty (in schools and secondary schools); approximation of training of military specialists (especially practical) to the real needs of troops in peace and wartime; training of military specialists with higher education on an integration basis with the corresponding civilian specialties with a priority given the specificity of military-professional activity; psychological comfortability of the volume and content of curricula;
- organization of the educational process and everyday activities – creation of the best possible conditions for the comfort of knowledge acquisition, life and leisure; prestige of teaching, respect for history, traditions and rituals; intensity of training, especially in physical training; high demanding military discipline and execution of the day; the practice of training military specialists according to individualized curricula (within certain limits);
- differentiation and integration of learning; purposeful and thorough orientation of educational and methodological documents on the training of military

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<sup>9</sup> В.М, Телелим, Ю.І. Приходько, 'Підготовка військових фахівців у контексті сучасних форм і видів збройної боротьби', Збірник наукових праць Військового інституту Київського національного університету імені Тараса Шевченка 2013, No. 42, pp. 198–210, [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Znpvkn\\_2013\\_42\\_38](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Znpvkn_2013_42_38) [accessed: 20.07.2019].

specialists; the priority of practical classes; a small proportion in the curriculum of lecturing forms; orientation to self-mastery of knowledge; high didactic and material and technical provision; use of information technologies; a considerable length of independent preparation and use for the purpose of the appointed time; strict system of observance of the schedule of educational process, reporting and control of educational activities on the implementation of curricula and programs; rating assessment of the training activities of future specialists; a large percentage of deductions in the learning process; pragmatic style of teaching staff<sup>10</sup>.

## Conclusions

Higher education, including the military one, has always been regarded as a historically formed social institution responsible for the continuity, accumulation, and reproduction of scientific knowledge. Therefore, a special role is assigned to preserving the educational, scientific potential and strengthening of the main scientific and pedagogical schools in the key areas of training of military specialists. Among the tasks to be solved by the forces of the scientists of MEI, the creation of new educational technologies that organically combine deep scientific research with the educational process, providing training of highly qualified military personnel. The consideration of the above-mentioned prospects for the development of military education in Ukraine should ensure its innovative, dynamic movement, prestige in the future in the domestic society and a significant contribution to the credibility of Ukraine's defense capabilities.

The urgency of further reformation of the military educational system is conditioned by the following factors:

- adoption of several significant state normative documents on the security and defense policy of the state, development of the Armed Forces of Ukraine;
- bringing the infrastructure of the military education system (MEI, training centers, polygons, etc.) in line with the current and future needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the military specialists of the personnel and reserve taking into account their planned and projected outflow;
- the loss of previous needs, opportunities, and circumstances to respond adequately to the challenges posed to military education during the last, rather long time.

The above issues actualizes the problems of studying trends and defining the main directions that should enhance the defense and security of the state in the context of the human factor – the use of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to ensure the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state, to increase the professionalism, competence of specialists in the system of military education capable of actions in various types of modern armed struggle, which are components of the military power of the state as an integrated value, embodying not only the strength of its armed forces, but also the military economy, science, the moral spirit of the people and the soldiers of the armed forces.

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## *Szkolnictwo wojskowe na Ukrainie Streszczenie*

Artykuł poświęcony jest analizie systemu wyższego szkolnictwa wojskowego na Ukrainie oraz podstawom zapewnienia i zagwarantowania wysokiej jakości kształcenia wojskowych kadr specjalistycznych w dedykowanych im instytucjach edukacyjnych. Pokazuje on rolę i znaczenie Sił Zbrojnych Ukrainy i systemów edukacji wojskowej jako ważnych elementów bezpieczeństwa i obrony państwa. Uwzględniono także podstawowe narodowe i światowe trendy w rozwoju edukacji wojskowej, których skuteczne wdrożenie powinno ułatwić kształcenie specjalistów wojskowych zdolnych do opanowania nowoczesnych form i rodzajów walki zbrojnej, użycia sił zbrojnych oraz odpowiedniego reagowania na wyzwania obrony i bezpieczeństwa państwa.

**Słowa kluczowe:** ukraińskie instytucje szkolnictwa wojskowego, system kształcenia wojskowego, Siły Zbrojne Ukrainy, reformacja ukraińskiego szkolnictwa wojskowego

## *Military Education in Ukraine*

### *Abstract*

The article is dedicated to the study of higher military education in Ukraine and the foundations for ensuring and guaranteeing the quality of training of military specialists in higher military educational institutions. The article shows the role and significance of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and systems of military education as important intellectual components of the system of security and defense of the state. The basic national and global trends in the development of military education are substantiated. The effective practical implementation should facilitate the training of military specialists capable of mastering modern forms, types of armed struggle, the use of troops, and adequately respond to the challenges of security and defense of the state.

**Key words:** Ukrainian military education institutions, military education system, Armed Forces of Ukraine, reformation of Ukrainian military education

## *Militärische Bildung in der Ukraine*

### *Zusammenfassung*

Der Artikel ist der Analyse der militärischen Hochschulbildung in der Ukraine und den Grundlagen für die Sicherstellung und Gewährleistung einer qualitativ hochwertigen Bildung der militärischen spezialisierten Offiziere und Unteroffiziere in den für sie gegründeten Bildungseinrichtungen gewidmet. Er zeigt die Rolle und Bedeutung der Streitkräfte der Ukraine und der Systeme der militärischen Bildung als wichtiger Elemente der Sicherheit und der Verteidigung des Staates. Es wurden auch grundlegende nationale und globale Trends in der Entwicklung der militärischen Bildung berücksichtigt, deren wirksame Einleitung die Ausbildung der militärischen Fachleute erleichtern soll, die zur Beherrschung der modernen Formen und Arten des militärischen Kampfs, der Nutzung der Streitkräfte und entsprechender Reaktion auf Herausforderungen der Verteidigung und der Sicherheit des Staates fähig sind.

**Schlüsselwörter:** ukrainische Einrichtungen der militärischen Bildung, militärisches Bildungssystem, Streitkräfte der Ukraine, Reformation der ukrainisches militärischen Bildung

## *Военное образование в Украине*

### *Резюме*

Статья посвящена изучению высшего военного образования в Украине и основам обеспечения качества подготовки военных специалистов в высших военных учебных заведениях. В статье показана роль и значение Вооруженных сил Украины, системы военного образования как важных интеллектуальных составляющих системы безопасности и обороны государства. Обоснованы основные национальные и мировые тенденции развития военного образования, эффективная практическая реализация которых должна способствовать подготовке военных специалистов, способных овладеть современными формами, видами вооруженной борьбы, использованием войск, адекватно реагировать на вызовы безопасности и обороны государства.

**Ключевые слова:** украинские военные учебные заведения, система военного образования, Вооружённые силы Украины, реформа украинского военного образования

