

MILITARY SOCIAL WORK AS A MEANS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR SERVICEMEN

Hashimova Gulsina Ismoilovna

*Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and National Idea Fergana State University Email:
ismoilovnagulihonim@gmail.com*

In a context where rapid global transformations are taking place and a new balance of power is emerging in the international arena, new threats are also arising. This situation compels countries around the world to seek adequate solutions to emerging challenges and to revise their political and economic strategies. Addressing the numerous problems facing humanity—such as ensuring peace and security, combating extremism and terrorism, mitigating the adverse effects of climate change, and responding to pandemics and other natural disasters—requires the active involvement of the military.

In this regard, each country is paying particular attention to the development of its military social sphere, both spiritually and economically, allocating a significant portion of national expenditures to this sector.

Globally, the strength of national defense is largely determined by the formation of a truly patriotic, morally mature generation that dedicates its knowledge and experience to the service of the homeland. It is also reflected in the high efficiency of public administration, a well-defined military-industrial strategy, and the production of modern weapons and technologies. Given current conditions, all countries are placing increasing emphasis on developing modern mechanisms for the advancement of the military sector.

Reforming the military sector, developing effective mechanisms for the comprehensive advancement of the armed forces, improving the moral and psychological well-being of personnel, and enhancing the system of social protection have become key strategic priorities.

Today, one of the most pressing and significant issues in society is the development of effective social protection and the provision of support to various segments of the population, including military personnel and their family members, as well as the advancement of social work. The successful resolution of these challenges requires the consolidation of efforts by specialists from various fields, particularly professional social workers equipped with diverse theoretical knowledge and practical approaches to addressing social issues.

Military culture, along with military social work, constitutes one of the most important components of the moral and psychological support of troops' combat activities. It represents a system of organizational, legal, and educational measures aimed at ensuring the socio-legal framework of the Armed Forces. Military social work is directed toward protecting the legal rights of servicemen, meeting their social needs, and ensuring an adequate socio-legal status and socio-psychological well-being. The effective fulfillment of these tasks is a crucial condition for fostering the psychological readiness of military personnel for dedicated military service [1].

Military social work within the Armed Forces encompasses the following areas:

— creating socio-legal conditions that ensure military personnel can fully perform their functional duties, with strict observance and implementation of all legal and social guarantees;

— organizing and implementing cooperation with governmental and judicial bodies to address the socio-legal problems faced by servicemen and their family members;

— organizing legal education for all categories of military personnel, civilian staff, and their family members, as well as providing prompt socio-legal assistance;

— explaining to personnel the laws applicable in both peacetime and wartime, clarifying the rights and duties of servicemen, fostering a sense of personal responsibility for adhering to military social norms and fulfilling obligations, and ensuring the necessary support and legal protection in the implementation of the principle of social justice.

Strengthening the unity of command, organizational effectiveness, law and order, and military discipline—especially in the process of accomplishing combat tasks—also involves the role of the social worker. In this context, social workers contribute to the socialization of military personnel and their families and assist them in adapting to changing service conditions. They also play an important role in shaping the social environment in accordance with the needs of servicemen and their families, as well as regulating the relationships and cultural interactions between military personnel and their social surroundings [2].

Military traditions and rituals embody a process of human formation aimed at cultivating a distinct type of individual characterized by a national mentality and a unique way of organizing life [3]. The role of military culture in ensuring the independence of a country and nation is invaluable; it strengthens the position of every citizen within the national way of life and enhances the organization of the state's armed defense. Moreover, military culture provides substantial support to the activities of state institutions, public organizations, and mass media, while fostering a strong sense of patriotism among both military personnel and the broader population [4].

Enhancing the political culture and legal literacy of youth, as well as fostering their moral and ethical development—particularly among unorganized youth—in the spirit of military patriotism, plays a crucial role in shaping historical memory, national pride, self-awareness, and respect for both national and universal values. In this regard, the study of military culture in contemporary society significantly contributes to the moral and ethical education of young people and further promotes the development of national identity, pride, and respect for shared human values.

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