THE IMAGE OF SERVICEMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN UKRAINIAN ONLINE MEDIA: PROBLEMATIC AND THEMATIC ASPECT OF PUBLICATIONS

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Abstract. The article examines the problematic and thematic aspect of publications in Ukrainian online media about military personnel who became disabled as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian war, classifies the messages by topic and identifies legal, social, medical, rehabilitation, psychological and educational aspects; the problems that most often concern this category of people are identified. The study uses the methods of analysis, classification, synthesis, monitoring and statistical calculation. The author emphasizes the conflicting attitudes of the state, Ukrainian society and the media towards servicemen and women with disabilities caused by war. The positive attitude of the state and medical professionals towards them and their glorification in the media correlates with the bureaucracy of state institutions, disrespect for the military, for volunteers with disabilities, lack of digitalization and proper information, poor quality medical services, extortion of bribes for granting disability status, negligence and unpreparedness to work with the military, and inaccessibility to various institutions, lack of systematic modern rehabilitation, which forces Ukrainian military personnel to travel abroad to receive quality treatment and prosthetics, a paucity of publications on psychological and educational topics, ambiguous attitudes in society, as people have not yet been able to develop a culture of communication with people with disabilities, and a lack of information in the media. It has been found that in some media there is a tendency to increase the number of publications about servicemen who have received disabilities as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian war, while in some publications there is no such tendency.

Key words: servicemen with disabilities, conflict, media, online media, Russian-Ukrainian war, state, Ukrainian society.

Introduction. As a result of the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war in 2014 and the full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, the number of people with disabilities is constantly increasing. Before the war, the official figure noted in open sources was 2.7 million Ukrainians. At present, during hostilities, the authorities do not name their number. According to Minister V. Lyashko, «the number of amputations has tripled on average compared to previous years» (Kovalevskaya Ye., 2022), «From February 24, 2022 to March of this year, almost 10,000 people applied for prosthetics. Among them, only 680 soldiers. Others – 9118 people – are civilians» (Kovalevskaya Ye., 2022).

Since such situations are known in history (for V. Gordienko, G. Gordienko, S. Philips, V. Fefelov, etc.), when the authorities tried to more or less financially provide the military with disabilities at the end of the war, but did not care at all about their integration into society, in particular, even got rid of them physically (the island of Valaam), Ukrainian society should not allow repetitions and should constantly monitor this process at the state, public, and media levels. The goal is to explore what problems of the military, who received a disability as a result of the war, are raised in the media, what are the topics of these publications, what is emphasized.

Methods. The study used methods of analysis (publications about the military with disabilities were analyzed and it was established what problems are most often raised in the media regarding the military who received disabilities as a result of the war), classification (publications were analyzed dispersed by thematic aspects), synthesis (based on the study of publications, a holistic substantiation...
of the state of informing the public about the military with disabilities), monitoring (purposefully monitored publications about the military with disabilities in the indicated publications), statistical calculation (publications about the military with disabilities were counted in order to show conflict in the media).

Main part. According to the Law «On the Status of War Veterans, Guarantees of Their Social Protection», the status of a person with a disability as a result of the war is received by «persons from among the military personnel of the active army and navy, partisans, underground workers, workers who have become disabled as a result of injury, concussion, mutilation, diseases received while defending the Motherland…» (Khto nalezyht do osib z invalidnistiu vnaslidok viiny?). We understand that, first of all, this person must be protected both at the social and legal levels, since he defends the independence of Ukraine at the cost of his own life and health.

Accordingly, in order to legally protect a person with a disability as a result of the war, on the pages of the media, lawyers provide a detailed list of actions and documents that will help in the decision to obtain this status: the legal possibilities of the individual, documents, the passage of a military medical and medical and social expert commission, etc. d. (Novak A., 2022; Yak veteranam oformyty invalidnist, 2023). In addition, the site «ArmyInform» refers to the receipt of a lump-sum allowance in the event of a disability to a soldier. This happens only after the certificate of the MSEC (medical and social expert commission) is provided. A special nuance is that «the established disability must be associated with the performance of military service duties or a deterioration in the health of a serviceman without a disability, which occurred as a result of an illness or accident that occurred during his military service» (Berezynskyi I., 2022). With a clear commentary by a lawyer, information on cash payments and the necessary documentation is posted on the TSN website in the publication by P. Zaits «Payments to the military for injury or disability: how to receive monetary compensation». Similar information can be found on the pages of the publication «Left Bank», which is provided by the deputy of the Verkhovna Rada D. Maslov. For example, we are talking about the amount of the payment: «the third group of disability is about 570 thousand hryvnia, the second group is 680 thousand hryvnia. With the first group – almost a million hryvnias» (Maslov D., 2022). In addition, there are gaps in the legislation on increased assistance, since it is received by those defenders whose health has been deteriorating for two years. But there are different situations, and health problems appear later, so the deputy proposes to eliminate this social injustice.

In order to receive one-time assistance, military personnel with disabilities must prove that they have a disability. Journalist Irina Ukhina calls this process a «bureaucratic hell for the military», which has been functioning for a long time and creates significant obstacles for the military after they receive a disability: “Wounded servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, while collecting documents and passing through military medical commissions, face endless queues and bureaucracy [32]. This issue is raised by Masi Naem, who was injured and lost an eye: «Queue lines and sometimes unfriendly attitude are not the only things that wounded soldiers face. The most difficult thing is to understand what documents you need to collect in order to apply for disability, receive a lump sum cash payment for injuries, leave for health reasons or additional rehabilitation means» (Ukhina I., 2023). With his assistance, a legal navigator was launched for wounded servicemen, where the following information was collected: «evacuation and transportation for treatment, treatment and a certificate of the circumstances of the injury, passing the military medical commission, treatment abroad, establishing a disability group in the MSEK and receiving one-time financial assistance» (Ukhina I., 2023).

Changes in this system, N. Nay believes, will help develop respect from civilians and the state in relation to the military. This problem is also highlighted on the pages of the Okna media resource in an interview with N. Naem, where he concludes that there is no culture of granting disability to the wounded in the Ukrainian space: «Then these approaches were Soviet with the humiliation of human dignity in principle. There was no philosophy. Now we want to create a certain philosophy, because
in society we have a feeling of great gratitude to the military. That is, now there is a moment when past mistakes can be corrected» (Brenzei Ya., 2023). The introduction of a legal navigator with the assistance of Masse Naema is mentioned in the Facts publication «Legal navigator for wounded soldiers. Masse Nayem on how to overcome the bureaucratic hell when applying for disability. The headlines in the publications speak for themselves on this issue “The problems with obtaining UBI status for thousands of our defenders have already gone beyond common sense. Many give up» (Cherniev Ye., 2023). Since quality medical services are not always provided to the military who have received injuries and disabilities, human rights activist Lyubov Galan and military man Masi Nayem created the Princip center. According to them, «the organization will first of all ensure that the state treats military personnel with dignity, who risk their lives and lose their health for its sake. We will ensure that the military is provided with services, in particular medical services, of high quality and with respect» (V oitiuk T., 2023). The publication raises the following issues: lack of knowledge about the actions that await the fighter and his family after being wounded; lack of escort of a wounded soldier abroad; sometimes extorting bribes while passing a commission to confirm their disability; failure to receive full rehabilitation and return to «zero» in this state; problems with the medical system, lack of digitalization, which is why the military is forced to stand in lines for days. One of the servicemen, Miroslav Otkovich, noted: «There is nowhere to sit down – you stand against the wall. Many guys are seriously injured. There are no information boards on which a list of documents should be written with which you need to go to the surgeon» (V oitiuk T., 2023).

The problems associated with the work of MSEK and VLK and their imperfect work are raised in the publication «The burnt warrior, miraculously survived, still cannot receive a disability». At the same time, it is noted that the military man is the father of three children, and his wife is a military man who has been defending Ukraine for a year. According to her, she was shocked by the attitude towards the military and spoke about the lawlessness that occurs in the medical and social expert commission ... Why did we go to this war? So that they can now take out our brains like this? (Obpechenyi voin, shcho dyvom vyzhyv, dosi ne mozhe otrymaty invalidnist, 2023). This is not a subjective opinion, since the publication contains the opinions of different military men and each of them confirms the lack of respect for the military when receiving a disability, corruption, and the bureaucracy of the system: «It's a pity that this is not an isolated case. The guys fought, got injured, and then they still prove that they were there and really suffered. ... We must bow at the feet of these guys. ... My heart bleeds when I see guys with amputations or on crutches in the queues in the offices, «Fellows complain about the shameful attitude towards them, corruption. Some are simply «chased» for half a year: they review documents for 3-4 months, then they are sent for aftercare, and in the end, they are refused» (Obpechenyi voin, shcho dyvom vyzhyv, dosi ne mozhe otrymaty invalidnist, 2023).

Thanks to media publicity, the military and journalists, firstly, try to make life easier for the military with disabilities by providing the list of documents that they need to establish disability, and secondly, they keep abreast of changes in the medical examination, since this process humiliates the dignity of the military since Soviet times, respectively, this needs to be changed.

The violation of the rights of people with disabilities is the restriction of their movement, the inaccessibility of premises, transport, etc. In order to find out the opinion of the military, who received a disability during the hostilities, regarding the accessibility of cities and suburbs, journalists conducted a survey and established the following. So, for example, in Lviv, servicemen complain about inaccessibility, the inability to reach their destination. S. Kostyshin, sergeant of the 24th mechanized brigade, his right leg was amputated, notes: «When you ride a wheelchair on the sidewalk, you can’t always get off it. ... When I came to Lviv in a wheelchair for rehabilitation with my wife, the two of us could hardly cope with normal movement, and when I was left alone, I drove 20 meters from the house and realized that this was unrealistic, I returned on a crutch» (Varenyk N.). This publication raises the problems of unsettled public transport, few low-floor trams, lack of ramps or, if they really exist, they
are not always convenient. The military compare conditions in the US and Europe and note the real responsibility of social services in arranging the home of a person with a disability, which cannot be said about Ukraine.

They must think over the route in detail, since they cannot move freely everywhere. The article expresses the opinions of not only the military, but also the leadership of Lvov. In their opinion, they «strictly comply with state building codes. .... there is a housing accessibility program for persons with disabilities in wheelchairs and with visual impairments. ... Urban bus transport is predominantly low-floor. As for trams, this percentage is usually lower here, because the rolling stock is mostly old» (Varenyk N.). The popularity of the social taxi in Lviv is mentioned by its founder Yu. Lopatinsky, but this service does not work today, because it is not supported financially by the state. Therefore, the problem of getting to their destination is still acute for people with disabilities. The author of the publication takes care that in the future they are going to open rehabilitation centers in Lviv, such as «Indestructible» and «Superhumans», but the problem with accessibility has not yet been resolved (Varenyk N.).

In addition, the military needs psychological support, since not everyone can cope with and accept the events that have changed their lives. «How to psychologically rehabilitate the Ukrainian military» – this is the name of the publication on «VoksuKraaine», which deals with adequate psychological assistance to military personnel. The website of the Gluzd media resource provides a list of organizations and centers where military personnel with disabilities can receive psychological assistance. For example, «Brothers», «Veteran Hub», Servicemen's Families Support Office, Crisis Center for Medical and Psychological Assistance, Veteran's House, etc. Despite the fact that this aspect is one of the most important, it has received insufficient attention from the media. There are single publications that do not constitute a system.

It is important to highlight the rehabilitation aspect, because in this way the user has the opportunity to understand what is being done by the state now in order to restore the health of the military. So, in the publication of G. Tereshchuk «If I could, I would return to the service» – defenders who are waiting for prosthetics, "we are talking about soldiers who have received disabilities and are undergoing rehabilitation. The journalist finds out how the rehabilitation of wounded soldiers takes place, how difficult it is for them to recover, talks about the peculiarities of the work of the rehabilitation center «Galicia», where about 250 people who have lost their arms or legs live for rehabilitation. The author is fond of the desire of the military with a disability to return to the battlefield after prosthetics: «And if there was an opportunity, I would return to the service», «... it makes me nervous that I am so fast because I wanted to fight more. ... I don’t know if I can get back to the guys, I understand that they are unlikely to be taken to the front line. I want to go there and that’s it» (Tereshchuk H., 2023). But many people have questions about how to proceed further: The sequence of actions is not clear: how does rehabilitation end, what is the period. And if during this period the stump is not ready for prosthetics, then what's next? Return where? Where to go for further rehabilitation until the prosthesis is ready and the hand is restored? (Tereshchuk H., 2023). So far, systemic rehabilitation has not been established in Ukraine. This is stated in the publication «Rehabilitation only on paper»: how in Ukraine they restore the health of the military after injuries. First of all, there is a shortage of rehabilitators, as well as the presence of a clear and understandable rehabilitation: “We have such a resort and sanatorium system, when people go to some sanatoriums, they do something there for 20 days and it’s something like Soviet-style rehabilitation. ... In modern rehabilitation there is no massage, all kinds of baths, mud, leeches – this is some kind of game, this is some kind of Middle Ages.

We don’t have a rehabilitation school and there are very few people who understand what it is (Steblovska A., 2023). Now the number of centers with modern rehabilitation and the number of military people who need it are disproportionate. These words are confirmed in the publication «Steel limbs: how the military returns the legs and arms lost in the war with Russia». Expert A. Tolkacheva,
head of the Azov patronage service, notes that «Ukraine is sorely lacking rehabilitation centers and professional rehabilitation specialists. All this slows down the system» (Kovalevska Ye., 2022), rehabilitation and prosthetics have been developed in Ukraine in recent years; completely satisfied with the quality of the prostheses: «Vlad is very happy that he managed to get prosthetics abroad. He is reminiscent of his brethren who received a prosthesis in previous years. They complained about the discomfort and non-functionality of the product» (Kovalevska Ye., 2022).

In fact, immediately after the start of the war, the authorities adopted a law on the rehabilitation of victims during the war, in particular, «providing auxiliary means for the rehabilitation of persons who, during service, work and other activities, as well as as a result of living in the relevant territory, were injured, contused, mutilated or ill as a result of Russian armed aggression» (Rada ukhvalyla zakon pro reabilitatsiiu postrazhdalykh pid chas viiny rosii proty Ukraine, 2022). After some time, a decree appeared according to which the military can receive a prosthesis and begin to rehabilitate before the status of a person with a disability is established, since previously this could only be done after this process (Ukrainski viiskovi zmozhut otrymaty protez i rozpochaty reabilitatsiiu do vstanovlennia invalidnosti, 2022). In particular, in the media, you can find out what is the algorithm for obtaining auxiliary rehabilitation means. Thus, we can establish that systemic rehabilitation, which often echoes Soviet sanatorium treatment, has not been established now, there is modern rehabilitation, but there are not enough centers and specialists. Often, due to uncertainty about the quality of Ukrainian prosthetics, the military turn to foreign doctors, respectively, the state should take care of the proper quality of the production of Ukrainian prostheses and the modernity of the rehabilitation recovery of people.

In the educational environment, innovations have appeared regarding the military with disabilities, where we are talking about obtaining vouchers for training in order to be competitive in the labor market. We are talking about construction, structural engineering, cybersecurity, software engineering, etc. That is, the military, despite the acquisition of disability, have the opportunity to get an education and realize themselves in life.

Ukrainian society is in the process of integrating people with disabilities, so it does not always behave tolerantly either out of ignorance or unwillingness to delve into other people's problems. Journalists focus on changes in public consciousness regarding the perception of soldiers with disabilities, which is not always positive. As an example, the podcast «People on crutches, wheelchairs and prostheses will increase: how war will change our society» raises issues such as overcoming stress, depression after receiving a disability. Oleksandr Tereshchenko, cyborg, «People's Hero of Ukraine, emphasizes the importance of striving for independence. No one owes us anything» – this motto is the leading one among the military who received a disability. They come together and support each other. One of the problems, according to the military, is the attitude of society towards people with disabilities: «Sometimes it pissed me off when they stared at me. I wanted to come up and ask what was wrong with me or just, excuse me, send. There are many such compassionate ones who look at you through tears, pity you, cross themselves. This in abundance brings you back to what happened to you» (Yermolaieva V., 2022). The importance of general support is noted by V. Ilchuk, a veteran specialist in working with stress and overcoming the consequences of psychological trauma. He states: «PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) develops more in civilian life. When misunderstood by others. General support is very important» (Yermolaieva V., 2022).

In order to prepare society for the fact that the number of people with disabilities will increase, journalists publish stories from the life of the military, who survived injuries, amputations. As an example, in «Focus» in the article «Kadyrovites seized, in Donetsk they amputated a hand. The story of the captivity and rescue of Nikolai from Mariupol» Khodko talks about Nikolai Burlak, who lost a hand that could have been saved in captivity. In the publication «I woke up in a new body and did not know how to live on». The story of a military woman who lost her leg, «the main character Ruslana
Danilkina was afraid that the world would not accept her and that no one would need her, that is, for the victims, in the first place there is how they will be perceived by the environment. The author of the publication notes that the Danilkin family decided to make sure that Ruslana never felt like a «disabled person», but only as a heroine girl who will be of proud» (Kovalevska Ye., 2023).

Society does not yet understand how to behave, causing Ruslana to become even more depressed: «A person first looks at my legs, then looks up at me. At that moment, our eyes meet, and they are also uncomfortable. ... I try to smile at people who look at me, especially children, who are looking at what happened to me with interest. Parents try to divert their attention without explanation» (Kovalevska Ye., 2023). As you can see, there is a problem of perception of people with disabilities in society, the lack of a culture of social behavior contributes to the rooting of stereotypes and the deterioration of the moral state of a person.

A. Budko, who lost both legs at the front, also noticed that people often lower their eyes when they see amputations. To change the perception of society, Lviv-based photographer Marta Sirko, remembering «how in museums people stand in long lines to look at beautiful ancient Roman statues, although many also have no arms, legs or nose, I decided to make a photo shoot for this guy, to show people» living monuments, «the closest witnesses of the war», which should be carried away. This was also done in order, according to Alexander, to «inspire brothers not to be shy» and to emphasize that society must learn to manage their emotions and adhere to a culture of behavior towards people with disabilities: «... people are gradually overestimating the situation that exists and will be in our country» (Hromliuk I., 2023). Having been in America for prosthetics, Alexander shares his impressions of the attitude towards people with disabilities there: was common and is now considered normal (Hromliuk I., 2023). The military believes that we "have a few remnants of the «scoop», in which «there were no disabled people, because they were not seen» (Hromliuk I., 2023). The experience of people, both civilian and military, who lost limbs during the war, researches Associated Press photojournalist Emilio Morenatti (Pavlenko A., 2022), finds out how these people are trying to come to terms with the new reality, publishes their photos as evidence of this brutal war.

Not only the perception of the environment, but also the attitude in the family is changing towards a military man returning home with a disability. While it is the family that should be the support and support for the veteran, misunderstandings often begin, and the family is destroyed. There are cases when, on the contrary, it unites and becomes stronger. It depends on respect, lack of overprotection, perception as a full-fledged person. This is stated in the publication of A. Ivantsiv «If disability becomes a reason for people to end a relationship, this is not a relationship». The history of the family of a veteran of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The military with disabilities sees the ideal society in «when there is respect for each other, regardless of whether I have an injury, whether I served, whether I did not serve. You need to help if you see that it is difficult for someone, or you can simply come to help anyone, regardless of whether it is a person with or without a prosthesis» (Ivantsiv A.).

Given the freshness of events, journalists, expressing admiration for the military with disabilities, often glorify them. On the one hand, this helps to increase respect for them in society, motivates those who find themselves in a similar situation and, only looking at someone's situation, the case finds the strength to live on, on the other hand, heroizing them, journalists impose on these people a mythical responsibility in doing something unrealistic, as a result of which society expects them to continue to perform heroic deeds.

For example, in Ukrainian society, they react negatively to those men who evade the draft and try to break through abroad. In this context, they glorify the military, who have a disability, but at the same time go to serve and defend Ukraine from the enemy. In the publication «About the military with disabilities who protect us, and healthy dodgers breaking through the border», V. Kruk, a Telegraph journalist, spoke about acquaintances who have disabilities and may not be called up for service, but acted differently. Yes, the author says that the question «How did it work?» notes that
he heard the answer of a «real man». For example, they remained silent at the military registration and enlistment office about their disability, because they understood that they would not be accepted like that: «I couldn’t do otherwise – after all, an enemy attacked my country and Ukraine needs to be defended by someone» (Kruk V., 2022). That is, society will expect the same act from other soldiers with disabilities who, for health reasons, cannot afford it.

The military with disabilities is especially glorified, who, despite the difficulties, perform heroic deeds and thus help to raise large funds to help the Armed Forces of Ukraine. This is stated, for example, in the article by A. Khodko «How a veteran of the ATO on a prosthesis collected 7 million for the Armed Forces of Ukraine – the incredible story of Alexander Shvetsov». This man was injured in the east of the country, lost his leg to help the Armed Forces of Ukraine, decided to walk through Ukraine. The author admires this veteran and says: «This story is about extreme ingenuity, faith in victory and the Ukrainian character» [33]. Alexander’s phrase testifies to patriotic loftiness and enduring character: It is not easy to walk on a prosthesis, but when this happens, you do not notice physical difficulties. ... it often happens that the stump of the leg hurts. And this time, the healthy leg also hurt, probably because it was under load» (Khodko O., 2022).

In this context, we can cite the publication «The Rada proposed to recruit people with disabilities into the army: conditions for mobilization», since such a title can attract attention and emphasize that even people with disabilities go to war. Thus, they try to show the differences between healthy men who refuse to go to serve, and people who have a disability and can go to serve voluntarily (U Radi zaproponovaly nabyрати в армію людей з інвалідністю: умови мобілізації). Similarly, it is said about the military with disabilities in the message «Let’s put a foot and go on to fight: the wounded soldiers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine are ready to return to battle after rehabilitation» (Zhurbenko O., 2023). The desire to return to the front line is mentioned in the article by E. Kovalevska «Steel limbs: how the military return the legs and arms lost in the war with Russia», where the disabled military after rehabilitation or plan to return to «zero» («I will ask back because this war must be ended», or they have already done it («After prosthetics and rehabilitation, the military returned to serve in the Armed Forces of Ukraine») (Kovalevska Ye., 2022).

about a military man who lost his leg by stepping on an anti-personnel mine, showing his efforts despite the pain: «The man did not stop training despite the pain. Six-time champion of Ukraine in middle-distance running Mykola Zaritsky visits the gym almost every day ... In the nearest future – to return to the army» (Vtratyv nohu i povertaietsia do viiska – istoriia biitsia Mykoly Zaritskoho z Sumshchyny, 2023). In the title «The story of an indestructible warrior who lost his leg in the war, and after treatment in Vinnitsa and prosthetics, descends from the mountains on a snowboard» and in the text Maxim Datsenko is heroized, giving him features of invincibility because of his attempts to ride, despite the missing limb, on a snowboard (Istoriia nezlamnoho voina, yaky vtratyv nohu na viini, a pislia likuvannia u Vinnytsi i protezuvannia, na snoubordi spuskaietsia z hir, 2023). It is clear that these are the actions that arouse the admiration of readers, but the latter will consider that all other military men should show themselves in this way.

Journalists glorify not only the military with disabilities, but also ordinary people with disabilities, and at the same time help the military. «At street concerts, a disabled singer collected more than 210,000 hryvnias for the Armed Forces of Ukraine». Ivan Zamiga arranges concerts in different communities, raising funds for the military of the Armed Forces of Ukraine «He donates funds to volunteers or for targeted requests from the military – for the manufacture of trench candles, smoke bombs and other things. Now he is collecting for a car for the military», Ukrinform reports (Na vulychnykh kontsertakh spivak z invalidnistiu zibrav dlia ZSU ponad 210 tysiach hryven, 2023). Or «In the Lviv region, a blind schoolgirl collected more than half a million hryvnias for the Armed Forces of Ukraine». For these funds, a drone, a car, medical aid walkie-talkies, clothes, etc. were purchased for the military. In the publication, the author V. Andreeva emphasizes that «the young performer is
blind, but has many talents and hobbies. She plays the bandura, participates in various competitions and wins prizes» (Andrieieva V., 2023).

«Clothes for the Armed Forces of Ukraine from persons with disabilities – this article refers to the help from people with disabilities and seeking to contribute to the development of a common cause. Larisa Zhukova, head of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and Social Adaptation, speaks about their morale: «By helping the army and migrants, people with disabilities feel like part of something bigger, part of a big cause. This helps them feel needed and useful, raises their self-esteem, and improves their general moral state. And the highest award for them is the photo reports of grateful soldiers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine» (Osoby z invalidnistiu shyiut odiah dla ZSU). People with disabilities, helping the Armed Forces of Ukraine, are trying in this way to draw the attention of society, on the one hand, to their active citizenship, on the other hand, by reminding them of their existence, problems, etc. Thus, one of the activists of the «We care about us» group notes: «People with disabilities have gathered in the park today to show their active citizenship and show their attitude to the state in which we are now. … we, like others, are actively joining the events, like the rest of the citizens of Ukraine» (Klymenko N., 2022).

On the website of the online edition «Ukraine», in the publication «Kindness without barriers: how people with disabilities help during the war», people with disabilities are volunteers who help the military. In particular, D. Schebetuk «informs people with disabilities about the possibilities of evacuation, receiving payments, humanitarian aid», V. Shabunin «repairs cars for the Armed Forces of Ukraine and sends them to the front. Adapts vehicles for soldiers with disabilities», Yu. Ponkin «evacuates people with disabilities from Krivoy Rog and provides them with humanitarian aid», U. and V. Pchelkins «evacuate people with spinal cord injuries, help with humanitarian aid. … organize training for volunteers on accompanying people with back injuries who use wheelchairs» (Dobro bez barieriv, 2023), A. Murizidi, T. Gerasimova, Y. Mironyuk, A. Naumenko and others. By their example, they show how, if desired, you can help Ukrainian people during the war, despite certain disorders and health conditions.

After the start of the war, people with disabilities became more active and, in order to help those who received disabilities as a result of hostilities, they prepared a number of guides where they give advice to amputees who use a wheelchair, those with visual impairments, hearing impairments, and are also provided psychologist's advice to people with disabilities as a result of the war, their families, legal support, etc. As an example, «Inclusive society in Ukraine. Handbook of practical recommendations» in 2 parts.

The Ukrainian society financially helps defending soldiers who have received disability as a result of combat wounds. Volunteers often collect funds for them for treatment and prosthetics. Media support and place these messages on their pages. For example, «In Lviv, funds will be raised at an auction for the military Mikhail Varvarich, who lost his legs» (Your place), «Volunteers collected a million hryvnia in a day on a military prosthesis, which lost both arms, one leg and one eye in the war» (Svidomi), «I lost my left leg, doctors are fighting for my right: a military man from Zhytomyr region needs help» (Pershiy Zhytomyrsky), etc.

In addition, the media publishes stories from the life of disabled military men, which is a positive trend, because in this way the reader learns at what cost Ukraine’s victory is won, on the other hand, it motivates those who received a disability: «A Volhynian who lost his legs in the war began to walk again», «Touching: Ukrainian stars united to support the military who lost the ending in the war», Back from hell. A photo report from a rehabilitation center that brings evacuees from Azovstal back on their feet, «Soldiers who lost their legs in Ukraine are learning to walk again in America», «An American company moved to Transcarpathia for the sake of the Ukrainian military», «The Carpathian soldier who lost his legs is returned to the USA and vision», «In the USA, free prostheses are provided for those soldiers who have lost their legs or arms of the Armed Forces
of Ukraine». Obshchestvenny publishes stories of military men with disabilities, tells how the wound was received, how a person adapts to life: «I lost my leg at the front, defending the Kherson region: a military man from Odessa is a pseudo «Maestro», he is waiting for a prosthesis», «It’s as if they stuck to the body plasticine». A soldier from Chernivtsi lost his leg in the war and is learning to walk again on a prosthesis» and others.

Volunteers, psychologists, journalists, presenters express their opinion on their own pages on social networks regarding the military who received a disability. For example, the editor-in-chief of the editorial office of documentary programs on Channel One, Evgenia Podobnaya, expressed her opinion about the social and legal model in relation to people with disabilities, when «not veterans need to be adapted to the rest of society, but the country should be adapted to veterans», she focuses on the fact that at the moment, it will be easy to get grants for various kinds of public associations or «rehabilitation of veterans» stories, while there will be many who will only strive to earn money, therefore, in her opinion, the best option is for veterans to work with veterans, mastered new professions, helped their brethren morally, psychologically: «And above all, that veterans become psychologists and engage in the psychological rehabilitation of their brethren. It's about credibility and better understanding because people speak the same language» (Podobna E.). We believe that both those who received similar injuries and those without disabilities should work with the military with disabilities, since in this way the military will not close in on himself and will not interact in a limited environment.

Yulia Zabelina, a political journalist, volunteer, psychologist, notes: the military, who received a disability, usually do not want to be helped, they are treated in a special way «neither as a superman or hero, nor as someone who constantly needs emergency care. And to be treated as a person – a living person, accustomed to a different reality and wishing to be met here, in this new experience. We are talking about his injury, but we do not focus on it in order to continue to see the person after the injury» (Zabelina Yu.). The journalist watches how people try to mold the image of a hero, a superman, as if they a priori need a different relationship than other people. Dehumanization, the creation of a superhero, a myth, the bracketing of another part of society is happening, whether they want it or not. … «We need to combine return with integration» (Zabelina Yu.). Accordingly, society should learn as much as possible about the life of military personnel with disabilities, interact with them and integrate them into society as much as possible, adapt to new realities and adapt themselves.

In order to see changes in the media regarding the emergence of these problems and their activity in covering information about the military with disabilities, based on monitoring the publications of Suspіlne Novyny for March 2021, 2022, 2023, we have established: on average, this publication publishes an average of 400 articles in 1-day messages. Over the course of three years, the number of publications about people with disabilities, although slowly, has been increasing. In March 2021, 40 notes were published, in March 2022, during a full-scale war, this number was 42, in March 2023, a trend became noticeable, despite the fact that the war has been going on since 2014, before the appearance of publications about military with disabilities. So, out of 50 messages, 10 were devoted directly to the military, where, first of all, we are talking about the wounded and rehabilitation actions: «A rehabilitation center for veterans is being equipped in Rivne. How it should work», «Re-learn everyday movements and recover from injuries», «How the rehabilitation department in Chernivtsi works», «I am a military man, so I’m not used to giving up: a fighter rehabilitated in the Rivne region dreams of becoming a psychologist», Lost his leg at the front, defending the Kherson region: a military man from Odessa pseudo «Maestro» is waiting for a prosthesis. These and other notes testify to the position of the media to focus on the needs of the military with disabilities, their losses, heroism, so that society understands and does not forget how Ukraine acquires independence and freedom. This trend should be followed by other media. Now, having compared the notes in Ukrayinska Pravda for the same period of time (March, 2023), we can note: there are 10 notes on the Suspilny website,
and only 1 on the Ukrayinska Pravda website (140 notes per day) («Upgrade» body. How modern technologies help the Ukrainian military to recover), on the Suspіlny website (up to 60 notes per day) – also 1 («How to undergo rehabilitation after amputation and install a prosthesis with state support»), which indicates a certain lack of interest in this problem, which today is extremely relevant in a full-scale war.

There are many lawyers, media workers, practitioners of social services and other improvements in the fact that Ukrainian legislation needs to be changed, improved, ale, as it is indicated on the website of the National Assembly of people with disabilities, with which it is obvious е «as the unpreparedness of the state, so is the unpreparedness of the state to adapt to the new reality, ask and reform institutions» (Zhurbenko O., 2023).

Now lawyers, media professionals, social service workers and others are confident that Ukrainian legislation needs to be changed, improved, but, as noted on the website of the National Assembly of People with Disabilities, at the same time, «both the unpreparedness of society and the unpreparedness of the state to adapt to the new reality is obvious, simplify and reform institutions» (Zhurbenko O., 2023).

Conclusions. Thus, taking into account the study of publications in the media, we can name the aspects that are most often paid attention to: legal, social, medical, rehabilitation, psychological and educational. We note the conflict nature of the state, Ukrainian society, media in relation to the military with disabilities. With a positive attitude of the state towards the Ukrainian military, the passion for their courage, it is problematic to obtain the status of a person with a disability. This process is corrupt, bureaucratic, there is disrespect for the military, volunteers with disabilities, there is no digitalization service and proper information. The benevolent attitude of medical personnel correlates in some places with poor-quality medical services, extortion of bribes for granting disability status, negligence and unpreparedness to work with the military.

Problems with inaccessibility are even more acute than before the war, as there are now more people who are unable to reach their destination due to an acquired disability. The lack of systemic modern rehabilitation contributes to the departure of the military abroad in order to receive high-quality treatment and prosthetics. Educational and psychological aspects are presented sparingly in the media. Publications on this topic are rare. The problem of the perception of people with disabilities has been and remains one of the most important, since it is important for the military with disabilities to be able to adapt to the realities in which they find themselves. From the comments of the military, we see that this is important for them, and society has not yet been able to develop a culture of communication with these people. In this situation, it is necessary to use the military with disabilities as much as possible in all areas of life, not to let them close in a limited circle of contacts, and to treat them as full members of society. In the publications today, there is a noticeable tendency to glorify the military with disabilities, which, on the one hand, increases respect for them, contributes to the motivation of other people, on the other hand, imposes on them the responsibility to implement unrealistic things in some places.

Using the Suspilne Novyni website as an example, we note a trend towards an increase in messages about people with disabilities, in particular about the military who received a disability during the war. This indicates the activity of journalists, their interest in the topic. This trend should be clearly manifested in other publications, which is not always reflected in the media.

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