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PECULIARITIES OF DESIGNING MASTER'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR TRAINING OFFICERS OF OPERATIONAL LEVEL

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The implementation of Ukraine's strategic course for integration into the Euro-Atlantic security space, taking into account the current stage of development of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and their staffing with professional, motivated and educated personnel necessitates the

transformation of the military education system for the training of military specialists.

Modern policy in the field of military education is aimed at developing its capabilities, which ensure the acquisition of the necessary educational degrees (bachelor, master, doctor of philosophy) and levels of military education (tactical, operational, strategic) in military educational institutions. Moreover, the introduction of updated educational programs for the training of military specialists, taking into account the experience of combat operations, training methods, NATO principles and standards, the best national traditions, is defined as one of the priority directions for the development of military education [1].

Annual national program under the auspices of the Ukraine-NATO Commission within the framework of Strategic Goal 2.5. and its Goals 2.5.2. the task of providing centralized training of operational-level defense forces personnel by 2025 has been determined [2]. Thus, an urgent task is the design (development) and implementation of new educational programs according to the levels of military education, in particular for the training of operational level officers.

With the amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Education” [3] in 2021, professional military education was introduced into the structure of military education, as a specialized military education, which is acquired through educational programs at the appropriate levels of military education with the aim of improving the professional level of a military specialist and acquiring professional competencies, which ensure the performance of service (combat) functions. This is one of the important steps on the way to the transformation of the system of training military specialists.

Also, in accordance with the Strategy for the Development of Higher Education until 2032, the internationalization of higher education in Ukraine is defined as one of the strategic goals of development. The development of professional military education in accordance with NATO’s guiding documents is envisaged as part of the tasks of the specified goal [4].

That is, at the moment, due to changes in the legislative and regulatory framework, all conditions have been created for the transformation of the training of military specialists, in particular at the operational level.

The system of professional military education provides for the training of military specialists in courses of professional military education. For officers of the operational level, this is the course of officers of the joint staffs (L-3), which must meet the requirements of the NATO standard “Education and

Individual Training Directive 075-007” [5] in terms of the scope and content of training.

At the same time, within the framework of higher education, training at the operational level is carried out in the field of knowledge “Military sciences, national security, state border security” under master's (educational-scientific, educational-professional) programs [6].

Taking into account the promising scheme of training military specialists [7], the L-3 program should be the first stage of training under the master’s program. An important condition for the design of these programs is the implementation of the principle of “Education throughout a military career”, the requirements of the NATO standard Bi-SCD 075-007, the standards of higher education of the relevant specialties (253 Military management (by types of armed forces) and 254 Supply of troops (forces)) and the professional standard of an operational level officer.

The advantages of introducing new educational programs are the combination of formal and informal education (air defense course L-3 and master's training). Training by profession (military accounting specialty) can be carried out within the blocks of selective disciplines, which will ensure the formation of an individual educational trajectory of those seeking education in accordance with the requirements of the Law of Ukraine “On Higher Education”. This approach will make it possible to make changes to the educational program as needed, in particular regarding the termination / initiation of training in new military accounting specialties without disrupting the general structure of training. It also significantly optimizes educational program management procedures and simplifies licensing (accreditation) with lower financial costs for educational institutions.

In general, this will ensure the unity of approaches to the training of operational-level officers, the improvement of the quality of education and the level of professional training, the flexibility and efficiency of management of the educational process. At the same time, optimization of the process of training of operational level officers will be ensured.

It should also be noted that after the development and approval of educational programs, it is necessary to synchronize this training with other levels of military education (tactical, strategic).

The expected positive results of the development and implementation of new educational programs will be:

- ensuring the centralized training of personnel of the defense forces at the operational level;

- transition to programs compatible with the programs of educational institutions of NATO member states and NATO partner states;

compatibility of the structure and content of professional military education with the corresponding structures of NATO member states on the basis of quality [8] defined by the standard “Education And Individual Training Directive 075-007”, unity of approaches to assessment, accreditation and certification.

Implementation of the mentioned measures will speed up the creation of a unified system of military education in accordance with the best practices of NATO member states with the prospect of its institutional accreditation in accordance with the NATO standard Bi-SC 075-007 [5].

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