

# Social Work & Education

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UDC 364-87:355.08

DOI: 10.25128/2520-6230.19.2.5

**Olga Pezhynska,**

PhD, Associate Professor,  
Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatiuk  
National Pedagogical University,  
Ukraine

[opezhynska@gmail.com](mailto:opezhynska@gmail.com)

ORCID : 0000-0003-4904-084x

**Viktoriiia Hevko,**

Associate Professor,  
Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatiuk  
National Pedagogical University,  
Ukraine

[viktoriya.hevko@gmail.com](mailto:viktoriya.hevko@gmail.com)

ORCID : 0000-0001-7833-253x

**Pezhynska, O. & Hevko, V.** (2019). Features of social and pedagogical work with military personnel, *Social Work and Education*, Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 169-176. DOI: 10.25128/2520-6230.19.2.5

## FEATURES OF SOCIAL AND PEDAGOGICAL WORK WITH MILITARY PERSONNEL

**Abstract.** One of the aspects of work with servicemen is providing social and psychological support in adapting to military service. Ideally, this work can be done during having socio-psychological training sessions, which contributes to the development of reflection and constructing a communication process for regular servicemen at the adaption stage.

Training programs for adapting young people to military service should include the following points:

- adaptation of new recruits to military service;
- developing skills of constructive communication;
- uniting military personnel.

Consequently, social and pedagogical work with military personnel is aimed at organizing support to servicemen in resolving social and psychological problems by providing informational, psychological and corrective services. Social work with conscripted youth, servicemen and members of their families is complex and integrative. At the same time, together with the solution of specific problems related to the military service of young people, social workers implement a system of social preventative measures for negative phenomena (tendency to deviant, addictive, delictual behavior, spreading sexually transmitted infections and HIV / AIDS), crime and violations. Social workers also promote a healthy lifestyle, solve issues of meaningful recreation, leisure and secondary employment of pre-accused and conscripted youth, servicemen and young men who are released from the Armed Forces, Their job is to provide psychological, counselling and informational assistance to young people bound to military service and their families, as well as scientific, methodological and practical assistance to officers on educational issues.

**Keywords:** social work; military service; corrective services; social workers.

**Article history:**

Received: March 19, 2018

1st Revision: April 09, 2019

Accepted: June 30, 2019

## Introduction

Characteristics of the development of the Armed Forces of Ukraine are characterized by many contradictory processes at the current stage. Those processes have negative implication not only on its defense and aggression prevention functions, but on the personnel morale as well. The interaction of the personality and the environment the service man gets into, subject to the cadet's lack of preparation, may be accompanied by the generating of the negative maladjustment statuses that arise due to the following contradictions:

- between the aspirations to freedom of action, choice of activity and a necessary need of a strict compliance with statutory military requirements;
- between the declared high status of the military in the state and the real low status of the Motherland defenders in society;
- between the support of the Armed Forces by such certain social institutions as a school, church, state, and the negative attitude of individual organizations and the mass media of anti-military orientation.
- between the necessity of the forming of a unique personality of an officer in accordance with a contemporary humanistic tendencies and the pedagogical practice of developing a leveled personality of a non-initiative military officer.

The issue of the adaptation and maladjustment of a personality in a military environment is actively examined by many scientists – military psychologists and educators.

Such modern military psychologists as a I. I. Lipatov, L. F. Shestopalova, V. S. Afanasenko analyze processes of the psychological adaptation of the military to combat activity in their research papers.

The issue of the adaptation of various categories of military personnel such as a regular military troops (Lipatov, & Shestopalova, & Afanasenko, 1999. Voloshyna, & Zhydunova, & Kuznetsova, 2001) of the peacekeeping contingent (Agayev, 2006), graduate officers (Voloshyna, & Zhydunova, & Kuznetsova, 2001) became the object of scientific research of psychologists.

Researches of M. I. Diachenko and L.A. Kandybovych where they distinguish the adaptation to the conditions of the military service in peacetime and the adaptation to the combat situations should be noted.

Researchers avoid using the concept of the disadaptation, but they prefer to analyze the violation of the adaptation process in both cases.

According to the researchers' data almost in 50 percent of military personnel “a period of adaptation is delayed and accompanied by a deterioration of well-being and decreasing of physical and psychological capabilities” (Kandibovich, & Dyachenko, 2003, p. 28).

According to scientific researches of the military scientists, the adaptation of the military personnel is determined by individual characteristics and psychological readiness of the person. Besides, it can be accelerated subject to the positive experience during military service preparation process.

At the same time, these researchers also pay attention to the processes of the adaptation of personality to the conditions of the military activity on the basis of psychological and educational aspects.

They have come to the conclusion that the process of adaptation is characterized not only by the adaptation of a human to the new conditions, but it is also expressed mainly by "the development of fixed ways of behavior that allow coping with difficulties" (Kandibovich, & Dyachenko, 2003, p. 25).

The authors state that the successful adaptation is caused by the capability of the serviceman to achieve the balance between the internal state and the requirements of the environment.

The scientific research of V.V. Ryutin, which is devoted to the issue of socialization of conscripts, has become a definite achievement in the development of social pedagogy in the military area. He sees the process of adaptation as a content component of the process of socialization (Ryutin, 2006, p.101). The author points out to psychological, social, military, military-technical and military adaptation of conscripts (Ryutin, 2006, p.105).

V.V. Yagupov makes the right point that the social environment of a serviceman influences on the quality of the process of adaptation. That is why he says that the: "Adaptation of a warrior to the conditions of a military service can be temporary, constant, indifferent, situational and fragmentary" (Yagupov, 2004, p. 290).

Due to the modern military scientists' research, it can be assumed that a relatively small number of domestic scientific works consider the socialization of the personality of servicemen in various aspects such as a socio-philosophical (O. Dzhoiban), pedagogical (V. Yagupov, V. Tyurina), sociological (E. Afonin, O.Tarska), psychological (M. Y. Variy). The socialization of a personality in the direct military service process is mostly considered. Modern "social military pedagogy" (O. Myroshnychenko, G. Pyankovskyi, M. Rudenko, I. Khorev), in its object and subject, duplicates general military pedagogy unfortunately, and it is limited in its field of research, because of the issue of viewing a personality in the context of education, formation and development, but not in the context of the socialization, which integrates all of these concepts into itself.

The features of social work with military personnel was researched out by M. Babenko, I. Zvereva, A. Karabetska, I. Kozlova, G. Laktionova, A. Lugova, S. Motsar, M. Rotan, V. Torokhtiy, L. Khomenko. General approaches to the organization of the rehabilitation process are presented in the research completed by L.Vakulenko, T. Dobrovolska, I. Mysula, M. Frolova, S. Kharchenko, L. Yakovleva and others. The psychological factors of military operations on the condition of the personnel have been analyzed in the studies of such Ukrainian scholars as O. Blinov, O. Boyko, A. Borodiy, V. Kraynyuk, E. Lytvynovskyi, A. Makarevych, A. Romanyshyn and others. Various aspects of rehabilitation work with servicemen are studied by V. Aleschenko, O. Karaman, V. Leskov, M. Maslova, N. Oleksyuk, N. Ponomarenko, O. Savchenko, V. Turban, O. Khmilyar and others.

Intensive introduction of new methods and technologies for diagnosis, treatment, correction and prevention of stress influences into the process of complex rehabilitation of soldiers who were involved in ware fare has taken place recently.

However, it still feels there is some insufficient development on the issue of this article from the standpoints of ideas of social pedagogy and social work, despite the increasing of numbers of domestic and foreign studies, which are dedicated to this problem. It is obvious that the full rehabilitation of military personnel who were involved in the combat operations will be ineffective without using those ideas.

The fact that the insufficient research on the issue of social formation of the personality in the military environment caused the absence of the "military socialization" term in the scientific literature is also worth paying attention.

Therefore, in our opinion, the process of interaction between personality and a military environment should be seen as a process of military socialization.

We can define military socialization as a process of learning, reproduction and development of the personality from the military and social experience, norms, traditions and rituals, military culture, as well as the ability to understand his place and role in military and social environment since the definition of socialization is a central category in researching the processes of social development of the individual.

Thus, researching the features of social work with military personnel becomes particularly relevant in today's conditions of the development of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Moral norms are adopted, military duty is profoundly recognized, the relations of servicemen of the regular service are built mainly because of the specificity of the military conditions, as well as of the daily training and service process in overcoming of the difficulties of combat training.

**The purpose** of this article is to find out the characteristics of the functioning of servicemen in the military environment, to distinguish the social-pedagogical mechanisms of socialization, to explain the main directions, tasks, methods and stages of social and pedagogical work with military personnel.

### **Methodology**

Such general scientific methods of research as analysis, synthesis, study of scientific socio-psychological, pedagogical, educational and methodological literature on the subject of research; systematic structural analysis of normative documents which regulate the organization of rehabilitation activities with military personnel were used in the process of research.

The usage of these methods allowed us to study developments in the sphere, to review and to analyze the data which were received by other scientists for their further systematization and synthesis.

### **Key findings**

The study of the characteristics of the individual functioning in the military environment suggests that they are characterized by limited spontaneity and a circle of strictly determined agents of socialization in the military environment. The institutional mechanism of socialization is stipulated and characterized by the significance and specific rules and norms defined by the Statutes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, namely, the obligation and the imperative, the availability of certain methods of persuasion and coercion.

The stylized mechanism of socialization explains the presence in the military environment of such a phenomenon as "grandfather", which is the result of the army subculture - an autonomous, relatively holistic entity. The interpersonal mechanism of socialization is stipulated by the socio-psychological factors of the military personnel and the dynamic change of persons who were and become referential for the serviceman of the regular service.

The socio-pedagogical work with the military aims at providing support to servicemen in solving their socio-psychological problems through delivering information, psychological and correctional services.

The main objectives of social work in the military service are to restore the physical and mental power of those who are given assistance, to adjust the personal mindset of clients, teaching them to perceive correctly the coercive moments of his life; to introduce elements of social justice into the framework of subordinate attitudes typical for military service (Mozharovskiy, 2012, p. 149-156).

Servicemen need to protect their rights and to organize educational, adaptational, cultural and recreational events that develop the habit of staying in rather monotonous conditions of military service, in the constant environment of the same people.

Social work with servicemen is being done both directly in the conditions of the Armed Forces, and in society as a whole. In our opinion, under existing conditions, attempts can be made to protect servicemen of temporary service, to improve social control in military groups, to establish more trusting relationship among soldiers, junior commanders and officers, and to apply strict sanctions for each case of violence against a serviceman. In this regard, of course, it is necessary to put an end to the practice of silencing crimes against servicemen of temporary service, to inform servicemen about their legal status, to explain the mechanism of using these rights, to advise on specific situations and conflicts.

Socio-pedagogical work is aimed at solving the following tasks: reducing the number of crimes among servicemen, creating a comprehensive system of social assistance for young people in need of support.

The activities of social work are aimed at working with the following categories of clients:

- recruits aged 18 who are called for a real military service; servicemen – chief military officers, ensigns, midshipmen, servicemen of regular and contract military service under the agreement of the Armed Forces of Ukraine;

- members of the families of conscripts and servicemen: parents, wives, children and other close relatives of conscripts and military personnel, as well as guardians and persons caring for recruits;

- young people who resigned from the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

While dealing with servicemen of regular service in military units of Ukraine, the most urgent problems are the ones of personal and emotional character, such as emotional stress and personal anxiety "hidden" conflicts, lack of skills for positive conflict resolutions; psychological incompatibility; the problem of adequacy of self-esteem.

Experience has shown that the most effective methods of working with military personnel are: individual counseling using projective techniques; relaxation methods; gaming techniques of personal growth. These methods are effective due to the use of the specifics of the military service.

Therefore, in addition to physical development, it is also necessary to develop the morally-psychological level of servicemen.

The critical mass of negative experiences increases, and at a certain stage it changes into the condition that can be qualified as a borderline psychic. Therefore, in a military environment it is important for servicemen to develop the ability to recognize and manage their emotions, feelings and experiences.

There are a number of main problems encountered by servicemen who are in need of individual counseling regarding the following issues:

- personality problems: intrapersonal conflicts, problems with the environment, adaptation to the military, getting rid of psychological stress, overload, social isolation, maintaining connections with the family;

- aspects of army life: non-statutory relationships, problems of the first and last periods of service, suicidal and homicidal intentions;

- family issues: intra-family conflicts, raising children in the family.

During individual sessions it is necessary to use conversations with elements of persuasion and suggestion as methods of psychological influence.

One of the most effective types of preventive and corrective work in military collectives is the socio-psychological training. Training sessions facilitate and accelerate the process of mastering the knowledge and skills of effective social behavior, promote the optimization of the communicative capabilities of man, create opportunities for more complete self-identification and self-determination.

It is worth noting that, as a rule, work in military units is being done in a few steps. At first, psychologists develop a general psychological picture of a unit, then using some psychological techniques, a diagnostic stage of work is completed, further, as needed, preventative and corrective work aimed at improving the moral and psychological climate in military units, harmonizing interpersonal relationships, promoting psychological comfort of military personnel, uniting military groups, strengthening communication with families, preventing manifestation of negative phenomena and conditions, removing psychological stress.

One of the aspects of work with servicemen is providing social and psychological support in adapting to military service. Ideally, this work can be done during having socio-psychological training sessions, which contributes to the development of reflection and constructing a communication process for regular servicemen at the adaption stage.

Training programs for adapting young people to military service should include the following points: adaptation of new recruits to military service; developing skills of constructive communication; uniting military personnel.

### Conclusion

Consequently, social and pedagogical work with military personnel is aimed at organizing support to servicemen in resolving social and psychological problems by providing informational, psychological and corrective services. Social work with conscripted youth, servicemen and members of their families is complex and integrative. At the same time, together with the solution of specific problems related to the military service of young people, social workers implement a system of social preventative measures for negative phenomena (tendency to deviant, addictive, delictual behavior, spreading sexually transmitted infections and HIV / AIDS), crime and violations. Social workers also promote a healthy lifestyle, solve issues of meaningful recreation, leisure and secondary employment of pre-accused and conscripted youth, servicemen and young men who are released from the Armed Forces, Their job is to provide psychological, counseling and informational assistance to young people bound to military service and their families, as well as scientific, methodological and practical assistance to officers on educational issues.

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## ОСОБЛИВОСТІ СОЦІАЛЬНО-ПЕДАГОГІЧНОЇ РОБОТИ З ВІЙСЬКОВОСЛУЖБОВЦЯМИ

**Ольга Пежинська**, кандидат філологічних наук, доцент, Тернопільський національний педагогічний університет імені Володимира Гнатюка, м. Тернопіль, [opezhynska@gmail.com](mailto:opezhynska@gmail.com)

**Вікторія Гевко**, кандидат історичних наук, доцент, Тернопільський національний педагогічний університет імені Володимира Гнатюка, м. Тернопіль, [viktoriya.hevko@gmail.com](mailto:viktoriya.hevko@gmail.com)

**Анотація.** Одним із напрямів роботи з військовослужбовцями є надання соціально-психологічної підтримки в адаптації до військової служби. Оптимально ця робота може здійснюватися під час проведення соціально-психологічних тренінгових занять, що сприяє розвитку рефлексії і конструювання процесу спілкування у військовослужбовців строкової служби на стані адаптації.

Тренінгові програми щодо адаптації молодого поповнення до військової служби мають вміщувати такі моменти: адаптація нового поповнення до військової служби; навички конструктивного спілкування; згуртування військового колективу.

Отже, соціально-педагогічна робота з військовослужбовцями спрямована на організацію допомоги військовослужбовцям у вирішенні соціально-психологічних проблем шляхом надання інформаційних, психологічних і корекційних послуг. Соціальна робота з призовною молоддю, військовослужбовцями та членами їхніх сімей є комплексною та інтегративною. Водночас із вирішенням специфічних проблем, пов'язаних із проходженням молоддю військової служби, соціальні працівники впроваджують систему заходів соціальної профілактики негативних явищ (схильності до девіантної, адитивної поведінки, розповсюдження хвороб, що передаються статевим шляхом, та ВІЛ/СНІДу), злочинності та правопорушень, пропагують здоровий спосіб життя, вирішують питання змістовного відпочинку, дозвілля, вторинної зайнятості допризовної та призовної молоді, військовослужбовців та юнаків, які звільнилися з лав Збройних сил, надають психолого-консультативну, інформаційну допомогу військовозобов'язаній молоді та членам їхніх сімей, а також науково-методичну та практичну допомогу офіцерам з питань виховної роботи.

**Ключові слова:** соціальна робота; військовослужбовці; корекційні послуги; соціальні працівники.

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