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TRAINING OF BORDER TROOPS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL SECURITY OF UKRAINE

TREINAMENTO DE TROPAS DE FRONTEIRA NO ÂMBITO DA SEGURANÇA NACIONAL DA UCRÂNIA

FORMACIÓN DE LAS TROPAS FRONTERIZAS EN EL MARCO DE LA SEGURIDAD NACIONAL DE UCRANIA

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ABSTRACT: This article presents the results of a study conducted at the Bohdan Khmelnytskyi National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (2021–2024), which analyzed the professional training of future border guard officers considering contemporary challenges to national security. The study's relevance stems from the need to increase the service's efficiency, which is essential for protecting the borders and combating threats such as terrorism, transnational crime, illegal migration, and smuggling. The research addressed curriculum modernization, the integration of innovative technologies and teaching methods, and the improvement of practical training for staff. Comparative, systemic, and structural-functional methods, as well as analysis and modeling, were used. The study emphasizes the importance of integrating international experiences into the training of border guards, strengthening their responsiveness to geopolitical instability and emerging global threats.

KEYWORDS: Professional training. Professional competence. Psychological readiness. Future border guard officers. National security.

RESUMO: O artigo apresenta os resultados de uma pesquisa realizada na Academia Nacional Bohdan Khmelnytskyi do Serviço Estatal de Guarda de Fronteiras da Ucrânia (2021–2024), que analisou a formação profissional dos futuros oficiais da guarda de fronteiras diante dos desafios contemporâneos à segurança nacional. A relevância do estudo decorre da necessidade de aumentar a eficiência do serviço, essencial para proteger as fronteiras e combater ameaças como terrorismo, crime transnacional, migração ilegal e contrabando. A pesquisa abordou a modernização dos currículos, a integração de tecnologias e métodos inovadores de ensino e o aprimoramento da formação prática do pessoal. Utilizaram-se métodos comparativo, sistêmico e estrutural-funcional, além de análise e modelagem. Destaca-se a importância de integrar experiências internacionais na formação dos guardas de fronteira, fortalecendo sua capacidade de resposta diante da instabilidade geopolítica e das ameaças globais emergentes.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Formação profissional. Competência profissional. Preparação psicológica. Futuros agentes da guarda de fronteiras. Segurança nacional.

RESUMEN: Este artículo presenta los resultados de un estudio realizado en la Academia Nacional Bohdan Khmelnytskyi del Servicio Estatal de Guardias Fronterizas de Ucrania (2021-2024), que analizó la formación profesional de los futuros guardias fronterizos ante los desafíos contemporáneos a la seguridad nacional. La relevancia del estudio radica en la necesidad de aumentar la eficiencia del servicio, esencial para proteger las fronteras y combatir amenazas como el terrorismo, la delincuencia transnacional, la migración ilegal y el contrabando. La investigación abordó la modernización curricular, la integración de tecnologías y métodos de enseñanza innovadores, y la mejora de la formación práctica del personal. Se emplearon métodos comparativos, sistémicos y estructural-funcionales, así como análisis y modelización. El estudio enfatiza la importancia de integrar experiencias internacionales en la formación de los guardias fronterizos, fortaleciendo su capacidad de respuesta ante la inestabilidad geopolítica y las amenazas globales emergentes.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Formación profesional. Competencia profesional. Preparación psicológica. Futuros agentes de la guardia fronteriza. Seguridad nacional.

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INTRODUCTION

Ensuring the national security of Ukraine is one of the key tasks of the state, especially in the context of current challenges related to armed aggression, terrorist threats, illegal migration and smuggling. An important role in this process is played by border guard officers who exercise control at the state border of Ukraine and are actively involved in combating offenses that threaten the stability of the country. The high level of their professional training is a key to the effective performance of their duties and ensuring the security of the state as a whole.

In modern conditions, the system of professional training of future border guard officers has undergone significant changes, caused by both technological development and the need to adapt to new challenges and threats. The introduction of innovative teaching methods, the use of modern technologies in professional training, and the integration of the experience of international partners are becoming the main areas of improvement in the educational process at the National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the NASBGSU). An important aspect is also the development of leadership skills, psychological stability and the ability to make decisions in the face of rapidly changing situations.

The relevance of the research is determined by the need to train highly qualified specialists who are able to effectively perform their duties in difficult conditions of border service and border control and respond to the latest challenges in the field of national security of Ukraine. Growing threats, such as hybrid warfare, international terrorism, illegal migration and cross-border crime, require border guards to possess in-depth knowledge, professional skills and readiness to act in extreme conditions.

Modern technologies and methods of border service require the introduction of new approaches to the education and training of future border guard officers. The importance of the research is also stipulated by the need to strengthen cooperation with international partners, improve legal mechanisms of regulation and introduce the best international practices into the system of professional training of future border guard officers. Therefore, reforming curricula, applying innovative teaching methods and developing interagency cooperation are key aspects of ensuring the effective functioning of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (hereinafter – SBGSU).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The results of the analysis of the viewpoints of Ukrainian and foreign scholars have shown that a number of Ukrainian researchers have studied the issue of professional training in the context of national security in their works. In particular, Hrechaniuk (2016) and

Shevchenko (2017) studied the issues of training for the SBGSU in the context of ensuring national security and the specifics of border service. Yermolenko (2017) devoted his study to the features of professional training of future border guards, analyzing the role of this training in ensuring the national security of Ukraine and combating cross-border crime.

Savchenko (2020) and Kalinina (2022) in their scientific articles emphasized the importance of military education and special training of border guards for the effective protection of Ukraine's borders, in the context of modern hybrid threats. Prytula (2018) studied the organization of the Border Guard Service in the context of modern threats to the national security of Ukraine, including the training and education of young officers. Kovalchuk (2019) discusses the importance of theoretical and practical aspects of border guard training in the context of external and internal threats.

Piskun (2017) studied the system of training future officers in Ukraine. Bondarenko (2021) examined the process of training border guards in Ukraine in the context of Euro-Atlantic integration. Sydorenko (2019) studied the issues of ensuring the national security of Ukraine in the context of modern threats. In the studies of Zakharchenko (2020), we find the topic of applying innovative technologies in the system of professional training of border guard officers.

Among the foreign scholars who have studied the issues of training border guard officers in the context of national security, we can distinguish the scientific works of Wagner (2021), who studied border security, law enforcement strategies and risk management. Hamidu (2022) and Hanlon and Herbert (2015) conducted their studies on border security and transnational crime. Horii (2012), Gaveika (2023), Miller (2014), Rodriguez (2023) studied the specifics of border control as well as border management strategies and training for the service. Cote-Boucher et al. (2014) studied the US border control policy and border security issues. Manjarrez (2015) examined the impact of globalization on border security and mechanisms for countering illegal flows across borders. Rivera (2015) and White and Clark (2013) analyzed the role of the military and law enforcement agencies in ensuring state border security.

However, there is currently an urgent need to increase the effectiveness of countering threats at border crossing points and on the "green border" by SBGSU officials. The training of high-quality managerial leaders who are able to perform their duties at a high professional level, make motivated decisions and prevent violations of legislation on border issues is the key to high-quality service at the borders of the state; therefore, the purpose of the research is to analyze the main aspects of professional training of future border guard officers in the context of ensuring the national security of Ukraine, to identify the key challenges faced by the system of their training, and to develop practical recommendations for its improvement.

In order to achieve the purpose outlined, the theoretical foundations of training future border guard officers, modern teaching methods, the experience of foreign countries

and their impact on the system of professional training in Ukraine are considered in the research. Particular attention is paid to the issues of improving regulatory and legal support, development of the material and technical base and use of digital technologies in the educational process.

In accordance with the purpose, the following main objectives of the research were identified:

1. Analyzing the current state of training of future border guard officers, identifying features, problems and trends in training for the SBGSU, in particular, in the light of the latest challenges to Ukraine's national security.
2. Assessment of the role of the SBGSU in the system of ensuring the national security of the state, the impact of professional training of border guards on the effectiveness of their functioning in the context of modern threats.
3. Identification of the main ways to improve the process of professional training of future border guard officers and development of practical recommendations for heads of structural units.

RESEARCH METHODS

A comprehensive methodological approach was used to solve the research objectives, which involved the application of a number of techniques and methods, the combination of which made it possible to achieve the purpose of this research. The approach was based on the idea of synthetic theorizing, which led to the use of various scientific approaches not as oppositional but as complementary ones.

The comparative method made it possible to identify the best international practices and apply them in the training of future officers, to identify the most effective strategies from different countries and to adapt them to the specific conditions of today.

The method of system analysis allowed to identify certain aspects of training future border guard officers, such as the use of the latest technologies, psychological stability, ethics of decision-making, interagency coordination, crisis management, etc. *The structural-functional method* was applied to develop a model of professional training in the context of ensuring the national security of Ukraine.

In addition, the research was conducted using the following scientific methods, which allowed to create a holistic vision of the process of training future border guard officers, effectively evaluate its results, and adapt strategies to specific conditions and future challenges:

- *Component analysis*, which divided the professional training process into its component parts for a detailed study of each aspect; *generalization, systematization and interpretation of a number of scientific sources and materials*;

- *Modeling*, which was used by the authors to successfully simulate crisis situations for the purpose of training officers, namely: creating virtual or realistic scenarios that simulate real combat or emergency situations, which allowed them to determine the procedure for officers' actions in different conditions, to identify weaknesses in the training process;
- The use of *the case method* made it possible to analyze specific real-life situations and the experience of other countries in the context of training officers for crisis conditions;
- The use of *the empirical method* helped understand the real difficulties and challenges that occur in the process of professional training of future border guard officers;
- In order to create a multifaceted approach to the professional training of future border guard officers, authors used *an interdisciplinary approach* that allowed to integrate knowledge from different disciplines: military sciences, psychology, ethics, management and information technology, etc.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research was conducted over a period of four years (2021–2024) *in three stages* at the Bohdan Khmelnytskyi National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (NASBGSU). *At the first stage*, two groups of future border guard officers were formed: an experimental group (EG) and a control group (CG). Cadets of the control group studied under the general (basic) professional training program.

The process of professional training of cadets of the experimental group was significantly expanded and supplemented. In the process of their training, the latest technologies, the current available base of technical means and programs were actively used as well as international specialists (trainers) were actively involved, etc. *At the second stage*, the state of formation of the professional competence of future border guard officers of each group was determined through various tests (questionnaires).

To determine the state of formation of professional competence of future border guard officers, three criteria (value-motivational, cognitive, professional and personal) and levels (high, medium, low) were determined by the method of expert evaluation. It has been found that the cognitive criterion characterizes the ability to make decisions and logical thinking, the value-motivational criterion—the ability to implement their capabilities, self-development, and the professional-personal criterion—the professional growth of future border guard officers, their professionalization. *At the third stage*, in order to optimize the professional training process, practical recommendations were developed for heads of structural units, research and teaching staff, etc. The results of this study are presented below.

According to the authors of the research, the structure of the formation of professional competence of future border guard officers should be reflected in the form of the diagram below (Figure 1).

Figura 1

Structure of professional competence development of future border guard officers



Note. Compiled by the author.

The process of forming *the professional competence of future border guard officers* is currently underway at the NASBGSU and includes a number of components that contribute to the training of highly qualified specialists capable of effectively performing their tasks, ensuring the protection of the state border and responding efficiently to crisis and non-standard situations. The main components of the professional competence of future border guard officers include: *professional, psychological and organizational (managerial) competence*. We propose to consider in more detail each type of competence, characterize its components and determine what is currently relevant in the process of training the future management of the SBGSU.

We believe that *the components of professional competence* are as follows:

1. Possession of *theoretical knowledge* of basic training subjects (border service, border control, general tactics, firearms training, etc.) Knowledge of the legislation and regulations of Ukraine, the ability to be well versed in national and international legal norms in the aspects of state border protection, migration policy, combating smuggling, as well as international humanitarian law is the key to the successful fulfillment of the assigned tasks.

Future officers should be thoroughly familiar with the main functions and tasks of the *Border Guard Service*, including the procedure for protecting the state border, responding to violations and coordinating the actions of other law enforcement agencies on the above issues. In addition, the legal and organizational aspects of the service should be studied in

depth, including the interaction between different agencies responsible for border security. This will help future officers assess the situation more effectively and make informed decisions when performing tasks. *Border control* is a critical element of state security.

Future officers must master modern methods of document verification, biometric identification and screening of people crossing the border at checkpoints and vehicles. It is also necessary to develop risk analysis skills to timely identify potential threats such as illegal migration, smuggling, human trafficking and terrorism.

Particular attention should be paid to an integrated approach to border control, including cooperation with the State Customs Service, international organizations and law enforcement agencies of neighboring countries. Future officers should understand the legal aspects of border crossing, international agreements with other countries, etc. *The general tactics* of border guards should include the skills of rapid response, surveillance, organization of checkpoints, pursuit of border violators and special operations in various conditions (on land, water, in mountainous and forest areas).

It is also necessary to develop skills in tactical movement, camouflage, interaction with other units and the use of modern weapons and special equipment. It is important to study the tactics of warfare in the border area, in cases of armed invasions or hybrid threats. The training should include patrolling methods, ambushes, and the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for reconnaissance and coordination in crisis situations.

2. Future border guard officers should possess several *practical skills* in basic training subjects. At the stage of training, they should already be able to use the available specialized equipment and technologies for border protection (visual surveillance systems, electronic warfare equipment, unmanned aerial vehicles, technical means of the border guard service and border control, etc.).

A high level of physical fitness is a key to successful performance of tasks, especially in remote areas, in difficult weather conditions, when detaining border law violators, guarding/convoying detainees, etc. Decision-making skills in critical situations, quick response to possible threats and violations, and effective management of the unit are also essential. Medical training is an integral part of the professional training of future border guard officers since they often work in difficult and extreme conditions where the lives and health of both military personnel and civilians may depend on their first aid skills.

Border guards often face wounds, traumas, frostbite, dehydration and other critical conditions, especially in combat zones or during special operations. Effective medical training includes learning the basics of tactical medicine, algorithms for providing first aid in combat conditions, evacuating victims and stabilizing vital functions until medical professionals arrive. Particular attention should be paid to training in the use of first aid kits, tactical turnstiles, bleeding tampons and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. In addition, future border guard officers should possess

knowledge of epidemiological safety and disease prevention in the field, particularly during long stays in remote areas or when performing tasks in difficult climatic zones. Medical training also contributes to the stress resistance of personnel, as the ability to act confidently in critical situations reduces panic and contributes to greater efficiency of overall operations.

3. *Psychological competence* combines a number of components that are developed and improved by cadets at the NASBGSU already at the training stage. Future border guard officers face a number of factors that affect their psychological stability, in particular: extreme conditions of service (work on the front lines, combat clashes, operations to counter illegal activities that require immediate reaction and informed decisions); interaction with border violators (smugglers, illegal migrants, organized criminal groups, etc.), which requires a high level of psychological training. Therefore, they should possess the following features:

– *Stress resistance and self-regulation* (the ability to maintain composure in extreme conditions, respond adequately to stress, and quickly adapt to changing conditions). In order to maintain combat capability in extreme situations, future border guard officers should be trained in psychological self-regulation techniques, including methods of concentration, emotional control, anxiety reduction, and management of physical and psychological stress;

– *Leadership skills* (the ability to motivate and lead subordinates, make responsible decisions in difficult situations). A border guard officer acts as a leader, organizer and motivator for subordinates. The cohesion of the unit depends on his ability to make operational decisions and communicate effectively. The Academy's training programs include courses on leadership skills, emotional intelligence and teamwork.;

– *Emotional stability* (the ability to cope with emotional stress, avoid burnout, and effectively maintain the psychological state of the team). In the course of training, future border guard officers are simulated in crisis situations, which allows them to master the skills of making quick and correct decisions under stressful conditions, and they are trained in conflict management, negotiation and behavior in the face of life threats;

– *Self-help and mutual assistance in the team*. Future border guard officers may take part in combat operations; they may be exposed to difficult situations and may experience various psychological traumas;

– *Emotional intelligence and social interaction* (a high level of emotional intelligence helps officers to communicate effectively with subordinates, local population, partners from international organizations, law enforcement agencies, etc. This contributes to building trust, mutual understanding and improving the efficiency of service activities).

It is extremely important to instill in the minds of future officers the right *ethical and moral principles*, the ability to make decisions based on ethics and human rights, in compliance with international law, in particular, in the context of the border guard service, where they often have to interact with civilians. In addition, honesty and transparency are important traits

of a future leader (absence of corrupt traits, ability to act openly and fairly in all situations, etc.) Future border guard officers must adhere to military discipline and law and order, strictly comply with disciplinary requirements both at the level of personal and collective actions (Kapustian, 2018; Liashenko, 2020).

The Academy pays much attention to the development of *interpersonal skills*. These include: teamwork (the ability to work in a team, communicate with different categories of people, maintain effective interaction between units); interpersonal and professional foreign language communication skills: the ability to communicate clearly, quickly and understandably, both orally and in writing, with other services, citizens crossing the state border, local residents, etc.

Training to respond to crisis situations is a key aspect of officers' psychological training. This includes the ability to act effectively in conditions of instability, unpredictability and extreme situations that may arise during military operations or in civil emergencies. Development of skills in quick decision-making, coordination with other units, and effective resource management is an important part of this training. Future border guard officers must be able to quickly assess the situation and make decisions based on limited information. This requires the development of strategic thinking, the ability to anticipate possible consequences of actions and adapt plans in a rapidly changing environment.

The term "organizational (managerial) competence of a border guard officer" refers to the set of knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for a manager to effectively plan, coordinate, control and evaluate the activities of subordinates in order to achieve strategic and operational goals. According to the authors of the research, this type of competence should include the following main components:

- The ability to formulate goals and priorities in accordance with the tasks set;
- The ability to conduct qualitative analysis and risk assessment;
- The ability to motivate the team to productive work and self-development;
- The ability to develop strategic plans and action algorithms to achieve long-term goals;
- Flexibility in decision-making in the face of changing external and internal factors;
- The ability to allocate responsibilities and delegate authority to subordinates;
- Formation of a corporate culture and maintaining a positive moral and psychological climate within the team; prompt resolution of problem situations and search for optimal solutions in critical conditions;
- The ability to rationally use material, financial and human resources, etc.;
- Control over the allocation of resources based on priorities;
- Ensuring efficient logistics and logistical support;
- The ability to implement innovations and use new technologies in operational and service activities;

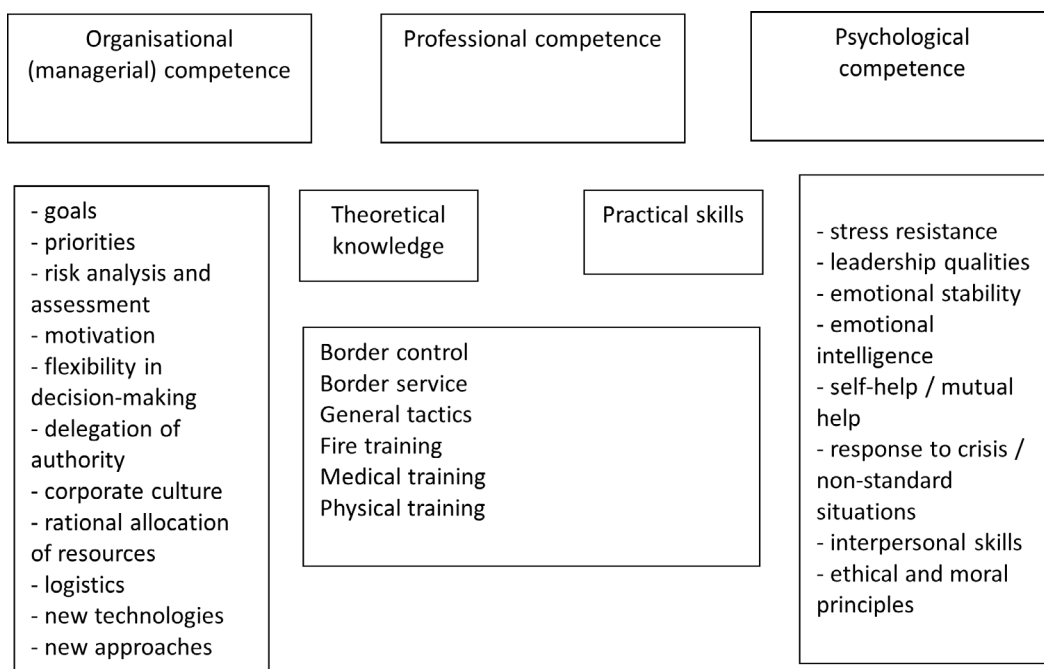
- Analysis of information and forecasting the consequences of management decisions;
- Adaptation to changes and development of new approaches to management in unstable conditions.

Thus, the professional competence of a border guard officer is a complex concept that includes professional, psychological, ethical, tactical and managerial aspects. All of these components interact and help to form specialists who are able to perform their duties effectively and professionally in any conditions.

Schematically, the results of the theoretical analysis of the authors of the research on determining the components of the professional competence of future border guard officers in the context of ensuring the national security of Ukraine can be displayed in the form of the model below (Figure 2).

Figure 2

Model of professional training of future border guard officers in the context of ensuring the national security of Ukraine



Note. Compiled by the author.

During 2023–2024, we conducted a study on the state of formation of professional competence of border guard officers of the third and fourth years of study. We analyzed the responses of their immediate supervisors, who were asked to evaluate the professional activities of young graduate officers according to various parameters (the essence of these

parameters was reduced to the components of professional competence), the results were processed and added to Table 1.

Table 1

State of formation of professional competence of graduates of the National Border Guard Service of Ukraine (according to feedback from officers of the first year of service)

Year	Area of training	Number of participants	% share	Indicator "Ability to organize operational and service activities"			Indicator "Ability to provide moral and psychological support"		
				"excellent"	"good"	"bad"	"excellent"	"good"	"bad"
2023	"State Border Security"	91	72 (79,12%)	19	47	6	10	41	21
	"Law Enforcement"	62	53 (85,48%)	14	33	6	12	29	12
	Philology	29	24 (82,76%)	7	13	4	8	12	4
	Psychology	12	8 (66,67%)	4	2	2	2	2	4
	Total	194	157 (80,93%)	44	95	18	32	84	41
2024	"State Border Security"	94	46 (48,94%)	14	27	5	8	22	16
	"Law Enforcement"	79	35 (44,30%)	10	21	4	10	15	10
	Philology	28	11 (39,29%)	4	6	1	5	3	3
	Psychology	18	10 (55,56%)	3	5	2	3	5	2
	Total	219	102 (46,57%)	31	59	12	26	45	31

Note. Compiled by the author based on empirical data obtained.

The results of the analysis of the responses of immediate commanders regarding the assessment of the level of professional training of officer graduates of all training areas indicate a sufficient level of professional training in terms of the ability to organize operational and service activities and the ability to provide moral and psychological support. However, a significant part of the graduates was assessed negatively according to certain indicators, in particular, according to the indicators "Ability to manage personnel during the performance of tasks to protect the state border" and "Ability to implement psychological and preventive measures and resolve conflicts".

Nowadays, it is extremely important to be able to use a large number of modern approaches in the process of operational and service activities. The integration of modern technologies into the professional training of future border guard officers is an extremely important step in the development of the border department, since technologies significantly speed up all processes, help save time, etc. In the process of professional training at the NASBGSU, when

studying various disciplines (military component), some computer simulators are used to simulate combat conditions and various situations, which allows cadets to practice decision-making in various situations.

The use of virtual simulators to practice tactical actions in crises helps create an atmosphere of real conditions. Visualization of cartographic data helps improve orientation in difficult conditions. The integration of robotic systems and drones into the process of professional training of future border guard officers allows them to master new methods of performing reconnaissance and combat tasks. During special classes, cadets gain skills in controlling unmanned aerial vehicles, which are currently extremely actively used both in border protection and in the process of conducting combat operations.

Special attention is paid to cybersecurity during the training process, as border databases and communication systems are one of the main objects for potential hacker attacks by the enemy. Officer training includes studying cyber defense methods, analyzing threats in cyberspace, and working with digital traces of illegal activity. All these technologies can significantly increase the effectiveness of the professional training of future border guard officers, allowing them to adapt to a rapidly changing environment and technological challenges.

Ukraine's European integration requires compliance with international standards in the field of border protection. This involves enhanced interaction with EU and NATO member states, information exchange, and joint development of security strategies. Ukraine actively participates in international initiatives, such as the EU Integrated Border Management System (IBM), and also cooperates with FRONTEX in the field of data exchange and personnel training. The introduction of international experience in officer training is an important aspect of increasing the level of professionalism, adaptation to modern standards, and maintaining interaction between law enforcement agencies of different countries.

This allows officers to gain an idea of the latest approaches in military affairs and also ensures improved coordination and cooperation during joint operations. International cooperation includes joint exercises and training with representatives of border agencies of other countries, which allows officers to adopt best practices and adapt modern approaches to border protection. In addition, participation in internship and exchange programs plays a special role, which contributes to improving the level of personnel training and increasing their professional competence.

For effective communication with international partners, officers must be fluent in foreign languages, know the basics of international law, and have skills in intercultural interaction. In this regard, special courses that contribute to the development of these competencies are included in the professional training of officers. One of the most effective ways to implement international experience is for officers to participate in joint exercises with representatives of other countries.

Such training allows not only to improve technical skills but also to learn how to work in multinational teams, considering cultural and operational differences. Joint operations with allied forces help border guard officers become familiar with various tactical approaches and command standards, which makes them ready to participate in multinational missions under the auspices of international organizations such as NATO.

Studying international training and education standards, such as NATO standards or the experience of countries with a developed military infrastructure (for example, the USA, Great Britain, and Germany), helps standardize the processes and practices of training border guard officers. Exchange of experience through military delegations or training courses allows officers to be introduced to advanced approaches in strategy, tactics, cybersecurity, logistics, and personnel management. It should be noted that currently, some European countries offer specialized international courses for officers that cover various aspects of military training.

These are training courses dedicated to command, intelligence, medical training, management of military equipment, etc. Integration of international experience also includes the development of intercultural competencies. Officers must be prepared to work in multinational teams, understand cultural differences and be able to adapt to various cultural traditions. Learning foreign languages and getting acquainted with the cultural characteristics of the partner country is an important aspect of achieving effective interaction during international operations.

The experience of leading countries in Europe and the world in creating integrated security systems, and interaction between various military departments and civilian organizations makes it possible to improve national defense strategies. The introduction of international experience into officer training allows for a higher level of professionalism, improved operational efficiency, and closer cooperation between different armed forces in a global context. It also contributes to the development of interaction and trust between states, which is critically important in today's international security environment.

The study showed that the results of implementing the author's program for the formation of professional competence of future border guard officers showed the following changes in the EG compared to the CG: 1) by the *value-motivational criterion*: high level – ($\Phi_{\text{EGM}}^* = 2.007$; $p=0.022$), average level – ($\Phi_{\text{EGM}}^* = 0.327$; p does not differ significantly), low level – ($\Phi_{\text{EGM}}^* = 1.734$; $p=0.042$); 2) by the *cognitive criterion*: high level – ($\Phi_{\text{EGM}}^* = 2.052$; $p=0.02$), average level – ($\Phi_{\text{EGM}}^* = 1.208$; $p=0.10$), low level – ($\Phi_{\text{EGM}}^* = 1.308$; $p=0.098$); 3) by the *professional-personal criterion*: high level – ($\Phi_{\text{EGM}}^* = 2.080$; $p=0.018$), average level – ($\Phi_{\text{EGM}}^* = 0.799$; p does not differ significantly), low level – ($\Phi_{\text{EGM}}^* = 1.244$; $p=0.10$) (Table 2). Statistical hypotheses are constructed as follows: main H_0 – the distribution of respondents by the specified criterion in the EG and CG groups does not differ; competing H_1 – the distribution of respondents by the specified criterion in the EG and CG groups is significantly different.

Table 2

Dynamics of formation of professional competence of future border guard officers of the EG in comparison with the CG

Area of training	Total number of people		Levels	Criteria for assessing professional competence						
				value-motivational		cognitive		professional-personal		
	CG	EG		CG	EG	CG	EG	CG	EG	
"State Border Security" "Law Enforcement" Philology Psychology	259	121	high	58	39	75	48	46	33	
			φ_{EM}^*	0,986	1,207	1,137	1,363	0,871	1,100	
			p	0,022	0,02	0,018				
			average	129	58	154	64	161	70	
			φ_{EM}^*	1,567	1,531	1,762	1,629	1,817	1,729	
			p	0,10						
			low	70	24	30	9	52	18	
			φ_{EM}^*	1,113	0,922	0,695	0,551	0,930	0,793	
			p	0,042		0,098		0,10		

Note. Compiled by the author based on empirical data obtained.

As can be seen from Table 2, a comparison of the obtained empirical values with the critical ones made it possible to assert that the number of people with a high level of professional competence formation in the EG compared to the CG significantly increased, respectively, the number of people with a low level of professional competence formation significantly decreased.

The share of people with an average level of professional competence projection differed insignificantly. Reliability was not less than 97%. The results of the formative experiment confirmed the possibility of purposeful formation of professional competence of future border guard officers in the conditions of a higher military educational institution. Based on the results of the study, practical recommendations were developed for heads of structural units, scientific and pedagogical workers, etc. regarding the use of the program for the formation of professional competence of future border guard officers: the formation of positive motivation for the future profession of a border guard at all stages of professionalization, starting from the first year of training of the cadet.

Below are *practical recommendations* that, in the opinion of the authors of this article, have contributed to a significant improvement in the process of professional training of future border guards in the context of ensuring the national security of Ukraine.

1. *Constant updating of training programs.* Continuous process of introducing modern technologies into training and operational activities (for example, unmanned aerial vehicles, surveillance systems, etc.). Officers should actively use the acquired knowledge and skills while

performing their duties to protect and defend the borders of Ukraine. Since modern threats to state security include cyber threats, it is important to add specialized courses on cybersecurity and information systems protection to the training of future border guards;

2. *Active use of international experience.* Studying international experience in combating cross-border crime, terrorism, and other threats at the state border to use it in Ukraine, taking into account today's realities;

3. *Improving the process of practical training.* Using realistic scenarios during practical training (training), such as violation of the state border, smuggling, attempted terrorist act, etc., to practice the algorithm of actions in conditions close to real ones. Organizing joint exercises of border guards with representatives of the National Police, Security Service, Armed Forces of Ukraine, as well as military contingents of foreign states. It is also advisable to introduce programs for exchanging experience with international partners, and organizing internships in European border agencies to gain experience in combating transnational threats;

4. *Training of psychological resilience and readiness for action in conditions of a sharp change in the situation.* Organizing psychological training programs to train readiness for action in stressful situations, conflicts, and extreme conditions of service at the border and during combat operations. Actively conducting training to develop leadership qualities, communication skills, etc;

5. *Continuous improvement of the educational and material base.* Continuous updating of existing modern equipment, training equipment, and special means for conducting practical classes (computer programs, simulators, drones, surveillance cameras, communication systems, etc.);

6. *Continuous monitoring of the effectiveness of professional training.* Introduction of an effective assessment (certification) system: development of test programs for various types of activities, taking professional (practical) exams, which will allow monitoring of the level of readiness to perform the tasks set at the state border of Ukraine in the context of ensuring national security.

The results obtained are consistent with the conceptual provisions on modern approaches to managing border services and ensuring border security proposed in the works of Melnyk (2021), Mykolenko (2018), Tymchenko (2020), Fiott and Parkes (2019), Martin and Ferris (2017), Ramos-García et al. (2020), Wagner (2021) for the Ukrainian, European, and global context.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the research conducted by the authors made it possible to determine the state of professional training of future border guard officers and offer practical recommendations

for its improvement. Training of future border guard officers in the context of ensuring the national security of Ukraine requires a systematic approach that takes into account modern challenges and trends. Integration of the latest technologies and active use of international experience are key factors in the formation of highly qualified personnel.

Preparation for actions in conditions of crisis (non-standard) situations have a great impact on the readiness of officers for operational and morally complex decisions in emergency conditions, including through simulations, modelling, and psycho-emotional training.

Ethical and moral aspects are also important for the professional training of future border guard officers since decision-making in such conditions can have long-term consequences for both personnel and the civilian population. Improving the training system for future border guards will contribute to strengthening the security of the state border and increasing the effectiveness of Ukraine's national security in the face of modern global challenges.

The conducted research does not exhaust all aspects of this problem. A promising direction of research is the development of adaptive training technologies, analysis of the impact of new technologies on the moral and psychological state of future border guards, and analysis of the use of practical experience of other law enforcement agencies and military formations, including foreign states.

The results of the study are not sufficiently representative since they were conducted based on one higher military educational institution and the example of one training stream.

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