

## **NATIONAL CULTURAL VALUES IN THE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE**

*The article deals with the problems of preserving preservation and further enrichment of national cultural values and spiritual heritage of the military personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The problem outlined in the article is the content and the direction of the Fatherland defender, an officer, and a soldier, inseparable from his spiritual personality formation, i.e. mastering and practical use of his historical and cultural heritage and spiritual potential of his nation. The profound transformations in the whole public life, in the political structure of Ukraine as a sovereign independent state, and the current socio-cultural situation in which the process of building and development of the Armed Forces occurs, set new high demands on the education of the Ukrainian people and armed defenders and on the culture achievements use.*

**Keywords:** national cultural values, military culture, patriotic education, the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

The modern development of Ukrainian society and the Armed Forces of Ukraine requires elevation of the role of culture in the process of democratic reforms, the establishment of spirituality, national values, national selflessness, patriotism of people in general and military personnel as equal citizens in particular [4].

Considering military personnel as potential carriers of national and cultural values, it should be noted that importance of cultural work in the Armed Forces of Ukraine is conditioned by necessity of the following factors: firstly, enrichment of the spiritual world of military personnel on the basis of their attraction to the spiritual values of the Ukrainian people and troops and to the best examples of Ukrainian and world culture; secondly, formation of spiritual interests, patriotic beliefs of the warrior as a defender of the Fatherland; thirdly, the development of spiritual unity, social and psychological elements of military collectives through spiritual development, the creative realization of aesthetic abilities and needs of each serviceman.

An effective solution to the question of Ukraine protection implies the presence of a certain cultural level for all categories of military personnel and purposeful efforts to increase it. The development of military culture is an indispensable condition for the humanization of all spheres of military activity, formation and satisfaction of social needs and interests of military personnel and their family members, their spiritual and cultural enrichment. The necessity and topicality of military personnel's spiritual development corresponds to the tasks of educational and social psychological work in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, since cultural work is a purposeful influence on all categories of military personnel and employees of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in order to form a high spiritual culture in them [4].

The peculiarity of the national culture, its uniqueness and originality are manifested both in the spiritual and material spheres of life and activity of the people. Ukrainian culture as national, original and unique has been formed over the centuries under the influence of many objective and subjective factors.

The undeclared war in the East of our State in 2014 has become the starting point for the new Ukrainian history and the ground of the new Ukrainian nation formation based on the spiritual unity of its citizens. That is why our State was able to use its spiritual defense potential to withstand resistance.

Restoration of the Constitution of Ukraine regulations, the processes of reformation and development of the current state of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in connection with the current events in the State determine the need to strengthen the educational influence on the personnel of the military units and subunits, respect for Ukrainian traditions and spiritual values, formation of national consciousness of the personnel, improvement of culture, formation of high moral and combat qualities, and psychological readiness to protect the Motherland. This is what helps each serviceman maintain his combat readiness.

This is particularly evident in the experience of military conflicts. The decisive force in the military is a human factor; social, spiritual, moral and psychological principles in a human. Neither military equipment and material support, nor maps and terrain begin and win a war, but a man. One can form and fully implement the inexhaustible spiritual and psychological capabilities of the military personnel of the Armed Forces, protect it from negative and demoralizing influence of the enemy's advocacy and mobilize the personnel for solving military and combat tasks largely by the influence of national cultural values.

National cultural values are objects of great importance for the cultural heritage of people and play an important role in the spiritual life of people (architectural monuments and historical memorials, works of art, religious or secular monuments, archaeological objects, museums, libraries, archives, theatres, etc.). Cultural values of exceptional importance are given special protection. The number of such objects is limited, and they are entered in the International Register of Cultural Property under special protection [1].

The spiritual "bridge" between the worldview and the value orientations of Ukrainian soldiers is the national historical and combat traditions of our people which include, first of all, love for Ukraine and its Armed Forces, devotion to the Motherland, respect for the national values and customs of our people, State and military symbols: the coat of arms, the flag, the anthem, the military brotherhood and so on. The preservation and enhancement of these traditions should be considered important tasks of our society, the State, and the army.

The Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 580/2015 "Strategy of National Patriotic Education of Children and Youth for 2016-2020" of 13 October 2015 clearly states that "the formation of value orientations and civic consciousness in children and youth should be carried out on examples of heroic struggle of the Ukrainian people for self-determination and establishment of their own state, the ideals of freedom, unity, and statehood, inherited, in particular, from the princely era, the Ukrainian Cossacks, the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen, the Armies of the Ukrainian National Republic and the West Ukrainian National Republic, members of the anti-Bolshevik peasant uprisings, the Carpathian Sich and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army detachments, Ukrainian rebels in Stalin's concentration camps, members of the dissident movement in Ukraine" and the like [5]. In addition, the mentioned Strategy emphasizes that " in the national patriotic upbringing of children and youth, it is important to use the educational potential associated with the heroism of Ukrainians who fought in the armies of the states-participants of the Anti-Hitler coalition and in the movements of resistance to Nazi Germany and its allies during World War II (1939-1945), and participants in international peace and security operations "[5].

One of the important factors of national patriotic education (as it is emphasized in the Strategy) should be "respectful attitude towards the victims of the communist and other totalitarian regimes in Ukraine, in particular, Holodomor victims, and victims of political repressions and deportations. At the same time, an important component of the national-patriotic education should become the information dissemination about the achievements of our compatriots and their contribution to the treasury of world civilization, in particular in the spheres of education, science, culture, art, sports" [5].

The purpose of the Strategy is to determine the priorities and main directions of national patriotic education of children and youth, the development of the corresponding institutes of the state and society, and to ensure the matter of the national patriotic education on the basis of: formation of national cultural identity and national patriotic outlook, preservation and development of spiritual and moral values of the Ukrainian people; awareness of the Ukrainian people's achievements, their intellectual and spiritual acquirements; improvement of active commitment in the development of Ukraine, formation of active civil and state position and self-respect among children and young people; promoting consolidation of Ukrainian society around the ideas of a common future and around the ideas of protecting the territorial integrity of Ukraine, reforms and State building.

The concept of "spiritual culture" includes cognitive, moral, artistic, legal and other aspects of culture. This is a set of non-material elements which consists of language, norms, rules, laws, spiritual values, ceremonies, rituals, symbols, myths, rites, customs.

The society spiritual culture includes folk art culture, art as a professional kind of artistic creation, aesthetic culture, the culture of scientific life, the culture of national education, the culture of freedom and conscience, the culture of moral and spiritual life, information culture, etc.

Spiritual values are people's soul and their image with which they face the world. They have accumulated the character and ideals preserved and multiplied during the historical development of national traditions. In value priorities, the people's past, their mentality peculiarities and the vicissitudes of historical development are coded. Therefore, to perceive the people one should reconstruct their spiritual values. The need to address the value wealth always appears in times when people get up from their knees, come to the path of national independence and build a new life, finding in their value priorities the landmarks for the present and the future.

National identity through a unique system of values and ideals provides the spiritual and ideological foundation for the State functioning. It promotes the development of promising landmarks for the growth of the professional Ukrainian army. Formation of spirituality is impossible without intellectual and national cultural upliftment of the army, which should be primarily a highly educated force because nowadays fighting is not so much with the help of weapons as by dint of intelligence. Moreover, the peoples that are civilized, cultural, and active reach the highest prosperity in military art as it gives them "scientific" means of warfare.

Intellectual and national cultural development begins with moral and cognitive activity by solving such basic tasks as:

- 1) learning of the spiritual heritage of the Ukrainian army, presented in many books and articles on the following topics: military history, State defense, military reforms, strategy, military art, Cossacks, education and upbringing, traditions, etc .;

- 2) military personnel familiarizing themselves with the thoughts and ideas of the ancestors, which would help them find spiritual support for solving many modern problems of Ukrainian military forces. The moral examples and models for imitation are the exploits of such people as B. Khmelnytskyi, P. Sahaidachnyi, I. Bohun, and many others each of whom deserves a separate representation in modern domestic and world military literature [7, P.210].

Formation of the spiritual component of the army takes place in the process of self-awareness by a serviceman of the personal dimension of being and the development of his attitude towards himself. This determines the desire to recognize and disclose the individual qualities of each person with whom the relationships are adjusted.

High ideals, according to V.A. Sukhomlynskyi, "cannot be accessible to a person who is heartless, incapable of empathizing" [9, P.421]. Insensibility generates indifference to people, indifference leads to selfishness, and selfishness is cruelty. Therefore, in the activity of the

modern Armed Forces of Ukraine, there should be set a goal of forming an ideal of a faithful warrior, loyal to the people of Ukraine, a warrior, who is characterized by developed intellect, professionalism, ability to conduct combat actions effectively, steadfastness of spirit, patriotism, discipline, loyalty to the best combat traditions and psychological stability. He must honor the national shrines and symbols, national history and culture.

Consequently, the main spiritual values of our people are state language, common historical memory, folk traditions and customs, national symbols, psychological stereotypes of social behavior, the system of education and science, humanistic worldview guidelines and moral norms, state-building political consciousness.

The ideal of a man-citizen of a sovereign Ukraine, which traditionally embodies benevolence and hospitality, hard work and talent, kindness and mercy, singing talent and musicality, spiritual wealth and invincibility of spirit, is created in years of national cultural values revival in the national consciousness. In the process of establishing the state, a system of national cultural values can be formed using such basic means as the native language, the history of Ukraine, national mythology, folklore, national symbolics, religious educational traditions, national traditions, and customs.

The Ukrainian language has a long history of development. A treasury of its expressive means and cognitive educational methods is practically inexhaustible. It can play an important role in culture, spirit, people and history cultivation.

The Ukrainian system of national cultural values is based on facts, information, and scientific knowledge of the history of the Motherland – Ukraine. The great educational potential includes the history of the Ukrainian Cossacks and the Hetmanate. The profound knowledge of every young boy or girl about the glorious hetmans and the Kosh otamans of the Zaporizhska Sich, who were leaders of Ukraine's freedom and independence, the rise of the liberation spirit of the people, as well as the facts of despair in the primordial national patriotic ideals, or even a direct betrayal touch the secret heartstrings of young Ukrainians, cause the deepest feelings and understanding of the glorious and difficult path of their people in history.

Ukrainian legends, parables, and myths are the most popular genres of folk mythology, which embodies a powerful cognitive and educational potential. In the mythology one can find origins of the Ukrainian national character, the way of thinking, mental outlook, and philosophical comprehension of reality.

The national folklore reflects the multifaceted and deep soul of the people, their spiritual wealth. It contains the first sources of the original worldview, the original interpretation of the phenomena of nature and human life. The entire cultural historical and artistic path of the Ukrainian people, the entire past, and the fate of Ukraine are reflected in a highly poetic and

deeply lyrical form in the poems, songs, refrains and sayings, patters and nursery rhymes and other folk pearls. The song is a constant companion of the Ukrainian people. It accompanies them over the entire life course. Folklore education awakens love for life, the energy of a national creator, the warmth of the heart, the tenderness and depth of the Ukrainian soul. Folklore education is the most important part of ethno-pedagogy, the core of the national education system.

The people's energy of history, their stability, the wealth and the beauty of their national spirit have been transformed and accumulated in various kinds and genres of art, e.g. song, music, dance, decorative and applied arts, and others. Art as a powerful means of upbringing is valuable since imperceptible by the eye and often incomprehensible by the mind national spirit, the highest expression of the creative genius of the people is materialized in its concentrated aesthetic form.

Ukrainian national symbols fulfill historically important functions of consolidating the nation into a single ethnographic, cultural-historical community and uniting the original Ukrainian lands into a single sovereign State. National symbols of Ukraine which are the emblem, the flag, and the anthem "Ukraine has not died yet" symbolize the State, political, economic and national independence of Ukraine in the historical memory of the people. Thanks to the ethnic symbols in the minds of every Ukrainian there appear images of childhood, native land, and family hearth dear to their hearts.

Christianity, the faith of our ancestors confirms universal human ideas and ideals of goodness, truth, beauty, justice, nobility, and mercy. Under the influence of religion, humane attitudes towards a man, nature, and society are formed. For centuries, religion and the church have developed effective educational traditions and customs.

National traditions, customs, and rites combine the past and the future of the people, the older and younger generations and integrate the ethnic community of people into a highly developed modern nation. Traditions and customs are kind of eternal spiritual principles of people and national development that embody the best achievements in ideological, moral, labor and aesthetic life. Today, the appeal of the Ukrainian people to national cultural values stems from the tasks of development of national statehood, the construction of a civilized society and the national and spiritual revival of Ukraine.

Understanding the role of national cultural values in the Armed Forces of Ukraine provides purposeful influence on the spiritual development of military personnel and the formation of patriotism with the examples of selfless fulfilling of the military duty by the defenders of the Motherland, including those during the Joint Forces Operation (JFO). Hence, the patriotism of soldiers, their feelings of love for the Motherland, which are embodied in

serving its interests, is of fundamental importance for the development of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

A vivid proof of this opinion is the life of Vasyl Slipak, a world-renowned opera singer from Lviv, a soloist of the Parisian National Opera, a volunteer, a participant in the Revolution of Dignity and military actions in the East of Ukraine. His call sign was Myth. V. Slipak was killed in a battle by a sniper bullet. Cavalier of the Order For Courage of the first degree, the Hero of Ukraine, the Knight of the Order of the Gold Star. He died at the very height of his creative powers, having given his life for the Motherland.

The spirit of patriotism is a universal moral ideal. It is at the heart of any national military system. Analyzing the manifestation of the patriotism of a warrior, it should be noted that it has deep historical and social roots. This is a natural sense of self-preservation, protection of your place of residence, and your native land from different conquerors. This feeling was being shaped by long historical experience. Ukraine with its dramatic fate was suffering from it, and now it is passed on from generation to generation.

In the era of Kyivan Rus', the educational ideal of Ukrainian society, which was formed in the pre-Christian period - a strong, skilful worker, a good ploughman, a smart hunter, a courageous defender of his land - was supplemented since the adoption of Christianity by new features: faith in God, truthfulness, respect for the elders and parents, the train of knowledge, to education. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. the education of princes, boyars, ordinary people was mainly family-like. In the family, the youth received the necessary military knowledge and skills: riding, archery, overcoming obstacles. After some training young men took military campaigns. In the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the education of children of the nobility and ordinary people began to differ significantly. The training of the children of the princes and the boyars to the military affairs was started by the voivods in order to form officially recognized generals, warriors, military commanders.

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significantly. Voivods started the training of the princes' and boyars' children for the military art in order to form officially recognized generals, warriors, and military commanders.

The history of the Cossack troops is a real treasure of military traditions. The ideal of a Cossack-patriot that united a firm faith in God, devotion to the Church, and sacrificial love for the Motherland was formed. Ukrainian Cossack pedagogy has found its expression in the educational activities of the Cossack, Sich, brotherly schools, the Ostroh culture and educational center, and the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. It is recognized that Ukrainian Cossack pedagogy was a deeply distinctive phenomenon. Its originality and effectiveness were manifested at all levels: family, family and school education at colleges, academies, and at the military level. It is characteristic that experienced Cossacks continued family-related educational traditions in the army for the Juras (armor-beaters). Such Cossacks, in the face of their conscience, committed themselves to be called the parents of their pupils, who, together with their mentors, lived in kurenas and at the same time studied in Sich school, achieving significant progress in physical training, military sports, occupation with folk medicine, cooking, etc. The Cossacks had a system of martial arts: hopak (training to music), goidok (for scouts), spas (for self-defense). The high art of the Cossacks for carrying out offensive and defensive battles, digging trenches, and creating stationary and movable cart camps were famous in Europe.

The Cossack era laid a solid foundation for Ukrainian patriotism, which received its philosophical and pedagogical justification in the legacy, for example, of Grigory Skovoroda.

A noticeable recovery in the development of Ukrainian patriotism occurred in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and developed in the context of the general struggle of our people for their national revival. This is evidenced by appearance of the Ivan Kotlyarevsky's poem "Aeneid", a work that affirms the spirit of the Cossack combat community, courage and patriotism.

Great contribution to the further development of the national recovery was made by Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Lesia Ukrainka, Mykhailo Drahomanov, Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky, Borys Grinchenko, Dmytro Yavornytsky, Panteleimon Kulish, Bohdan Lepky, Mykhailo Maksymovych, and Mykhailo Hrushevsky.

In the conditions of the anti-national policy of the tsar, Ukrainian patriots Mykola Lysenko, Panas Myrny, Ivan Krypiakievych, Volodymyr Hnatyuk, Marco Kropyvnytsky, Ivan Nechuy-Levytskyi, brought Ukrainian culture and science to the European level with their creativity.

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The song "The Glory and Freedom of Ukraine have not died yet!", written by a well-known Ukrainian poet and ethnographer Pavlo Chubynsky and a composer Mykhailo Verbytsky in 1862-1863, became the anthem of Ukraine.

The military traditions of our people developed and flourished thanks to the activities of Western Ukrainian patriotic organizations: Sich, Sich Riflemen, Sokil, Plast, who brought up young people in the spirit of patriotism and readiness for liberation rivalry. The greatest merit of shooting was the armed uprising on November 1, 1918, the creation of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic (ZUNR) and its Armed Forces – the Galician Army (GA). The organizational and governing body of the patriotic education of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen and the GA was the Press Apartment, whose activities included military, ideological, political, educational and cultural spheres. Its main task was to propagate knowledge of the people's history and their competition for freedom. A powerful factor in patriotic education was the publication of magazines in the USS Legion "Noviniana", "Samoohotnyk", "Bomb", "Chervona Kalyna", etc. In the UGA legion, there were "Sagittarius", "Cossack's voice", "Rifleman's way" and others. The revival of Ukrainian military awards, the adoption of its own military oath were of great significance in the formation of patriotic feelings. A rifleman's song contributed to the education of patriotism of both riflemen and people.

Thus, patriotic education in Ukrainian armed formations was based on the best traditions of the Ukrainian people, which provided for their combat ability, high morale, and combat spirit.

The revolution in 1917 caused the rise of patriotism among Ukrainians, which led to the creation of the Ukrainian People's Republic. On January 22, 1918, the Fourth Universal proclaimed Ukraine an independent, free, and sovereign State.

The state-building process since 1991 raised the issue of building attributes of statehood extremely urgently. An important event on this path was the creation of the Armed Forces – the guarantor of the State independence protection, territorial integrity, and sovereignty of the country. The former system of ideological work, having established an ideological dictate in the humanitarian field, greatly deformed the spiritual development of military personnel, limiting access to the achievements of national culture and national consciousness of Ukrainians. In 1991, the Government of Ukraine adopted many documents that determined the need for patriotic orientation in the education of military personnel, the use of the Ukrainian language, the return to national-historical traditions.

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 20 November 1991 "On the Provisional Regulations on the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine" identified one of the main tasks

of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine – to organize the moral-psychological and military-patriotic education of the personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The Laws of Ukraine "On Defense of Ukraine" and "On the Armed Forces of Ukraine" stipulate that the Armed Forces of Ukraine use the official language, while military-patriotic education of military personnel is carried out on the basis of national-historical traditions of the Ukrainian people. Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "On the Text of the Military Oath" approved the text of the oath in Ukrainian.

Consequently, the laws of Ukraine adopted in 1991, first and foremost highlighted the issues of the formation of national consciousness in military personnel, love for Ukraine, the Ukrainian language, their people, their traditions, culture, and history. During the next years, the Ukrainian legislative framework was improved and was adapted to the realities of life.

Today in Ukraine the core of national-patriotic education has become Ukrainian culture with its folk songs, dances, festivities, customs, artistic products, other creative manifestations of national life and national cultural values. There are the following means of patriotic education: national cultural traditions, customs, rituals, language, folk morality, ethics, aesthetics, genealogy, native history, ethnography, folklore, folk art, national calendar, national symbols, religious educational traditions, Ukrainian forms and methods of ethnopedagogy.

In order to honor the courage and heroism of the defenders of the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, military traditions and victories of the Ukrainian people, promoting the further strengthening of the patriotic spirit in society, the President of Ukraine signed the Decree "On the Day of the Defender of Ukraine" dated 14 October 2014, No. 806, establishing the Day of the Defender of Ukraine – a holiday that is celebrated annually on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

The tradition of honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary as a patron of the Ukrainian army moved from the Russian princes to the Cossacks. The holiday of the Protection (Pokrova) of the Blessed Virgin Mary was one of the most important holidays of the Cossacks for which it received the second name - the Cossacks' Intercession. On the holiday of the Protection, the Cossacks also held councils on which they chose a new hetman or members of the Cossack sergeant. Honoring of the Protection by the Cossacks also affected the toponymy of their residence toponymy: today many villages in Ukraine bear the names "Pokrovka", "Pokrovske", "Novopokrovka".

The cult of the Protection (Pokrova) also became widespread in the Ukrainian Cossack state – the Hetmanate. Due to the respectful attitude of the Ukrainian Cossacks, the holiday began to be associated with such concepts as military honor, victory, courage, protection of borders and native land, and brotherhood.

In the twentieth century, the Cossack traditions were followed the most by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. The symbolic day of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army formation is considered 14 October 1942. The Ukrainian Insurgent Army operated until September 1949, after which it was reorganized into an armed clandestine activity that operated until the beginning of the 1960s. The Ukrainian Insurgent Army is the only military force in World War II which determined creation of an independent Ukrainian State its strategic goal. Accordingly, its struggle unfolded against all the states that tried to prevent this.

Today, the Armed Forces of Ukraine are undergoing profound changes. Cultural work with personnel as an integral part of national cultural values in the Armed Forces of Ukraine is carried out according to priority directions, namely:

1. One of the important tasks is the process of conferment of our compatriots' glorious names by military collectives, the preservation of historical museums and the rooms of military glory of the military units, that have a battle road, which is manifestation of honoring the State military history. Among them, there are educational institutions and separate units, military units, for example, Hetman Petro Sahaidachnyi National Army Academy, Ivan Chernyakhovsky National Defense University of Ukraine, Ivan Kozhedub Kharkiv University of Air Forces, Ivan Bohun Military Lyceum, etc.

2. The combat traditions of the Armed Forces have a special value for the cultural upbringing of military personnel. Their inheritance and continuation contribute to the formation of the necessary moral and combat qualities in the personnel.

3. A great educational effect on the consciousness and preservation of national cultural values of personnel have the measures regarding celebrating state and military professional holidays, as well as conducting military rituals, among which the following can be noted: daily raising and lowering of the State Flag, the solemn acceptance of the Military Oath, the solemn handing of arms and combat technology, honoring the Military Flag, and so on.

3. One of the key areas for meeting the spiritual needs of the personnel is the work of the institutions of the armed culture. The basis for the cultural life of modern Armed Forces of Ukraine is an extensive network of military museums and libraries, the main place of which is the National Military History Museum; activity of military-musical centers (military orchestras), houses of officers of garrisons, military clubs under the patronage of which Women Councils, studios, circles, amateur creative groups, and others actively work.

Directly in the military units, Ethnographic front rooms as the element of a barrack room should be transformed into the rooms of traditions.

4. Since ancient times, the military community, the fighting brotherhood, and the mutual aid have been and remain the defining feature of the Ukrainian soldiers' personal qualities. As

everybody knows, the main carrier of these qualities is the Officer Corps. Today, the leadership of the military department, together with material incentives, tries to pay more attention to the moral aspects of the officer's personality formation, the satisfaction of spiritual and aesthetic needs, the development of a sense of duty, responsibility for subordinates. In order to accomplish this task, officer assemblies and officer councils of units are used. Each graduate officer of a military academy receives an "Officer's Code of Honor" in a solemn atmosphere. An example of honoring personal accomplishments among the officers was the military patriotic action "Officer of Honor" launched in 2003 on the initiative of lieutenant-general P.P. Tkachuk – the Chief of the Hetman Petro Sahaidachnyi National Army Academy.

Since the beginning of the Joint Forces Operation for the military personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine located in the area of hostilities, more than 1,400 cultural activities were carried out to improve their moral and psychological condition. In the framework of cultural work, many events were organized. They included military and musical units of the Armed Forces, officers' houses and creative collectives under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture, some well-known performers, commercial structures, amateur creative associations, volunteers, etc. At the end of 2015, Ukrainian musicians and band members of the "Shadow of the Sun" and "Oleum" united into the "Musical Battalion" (the commander is Vasyl Panchenko).

It is interesting that in 2017 among the Ukrainian military personnel there was issued a disc with military patriotic songs under the general name "Songs of War", which included over 15 compositions written by soldiers of the Joint Forces Operation under the influence of the experience during the war on the East of Ukraine. All of these songs were recorded in a professional studio and performed by unique duets of the authors-fighters and famous Ukrainian artists. Volunteers note that a significant number of soldiers have the song "I Will not Give up without a Fight" by Sviatoslav Vakarchuk as their ringtone.

Recently, the Ukrainian army has established the tradition of holding annual charity balls on the Day of Defender of Ukraine with the participation of military personnel that took part in combat operations and volunteers. These balls took place in Kyiv, Dnipro, Kramatorsk, and Lviv.

The National and Patriotic Education Strategy for Children and Youth for 2016-2020 points out the following indicators of the effectiveness of national-patriotic education events:

- increase of attendance of institutions by children and youth that promote the cultural and national-artistic traditions of the Ukrainian people, as well as exhibitions in the museums devoted to the national liberation struggle for Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity;

- raising the level of knowledge among children and young people about prominent personalities of the Ukrainian State, prominent domestic scientists, educators, athletes, leading figures of culture and art, as well as spiritual leaders of the Ukrainian people;
- increase of subscriptions and distribution volumes of Ukrainian-language printed publications for children and youth;
- increase of viewers of cinematic works revealing the heroic past and present of the Ukrainian people;
- expansion of the sphere of the Ukrainian language application by children and youth;
- increase of the number of meetings of children and young people with war veterans, fighters for Ukraine's independence in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and members of the Joint Forces Operation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions;
- increase of the number of young people ready to fulfill their duty to protect the homeland, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine;
- increase of the number of events to honor the heroes of the Ukrainian people's struggle for the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine [5].

Thus, national cultural values are one of the priority powers in the spiritual development of the military personnel of the Armed Forces. After all, the spirituality of a military officer is an extremely important tool that has a significant impact on the formation of moral principles and values, orienting personal behavior in accordance with the rules and patterns that exist in society and its traditions, finding expression in such qualities as responsibility, discipline, tolerance, physical and spiritual harmony, high morale, dedication, selflessness, and patriotism.

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