

**ISSUES OF PECULIARITIES OF MILITARY EDUCATION ON DIFFERENT LEVELS:  
THE MODERN NOTION OF LEGAL PREPARATION FOR CADETS**

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**Abstract.** National security and sustainability are the main priority of any state. Therefore the Republic of Lithuania as well as any other state follows its National Security Strategy which establishes the interests of national security, directions of its evolution, the security and defence policy in general, means and types of risk factors and threats to the national security. This study investigates the issues of legal preparation in the military high school. The topical issues directly related to the national defence and security which arise in the run of the training course for the military, especially junior leaders at the institution of higher education in the sphere of providing them with the basic legal knowledge, are presented and examined in the article. In the process of training and upbringing of a junior leader more attention is paid to their professional skills and competencies, and a leader's and subordinate's personality, therefore, a system of legal preparation and training provided for students of this kind of educational institutions, its role and degree of influence on personal qualities of a future leader have not yet been studied and described in scientific publications. The above mentioned observations determined the rationale for choosing the topic for the research paper. Its relevance is without doubt. It has been concluded that a leader who is politically correct and competent in the legal sphere can ensure that the decisions made are well-reasoned, consistent and adequate, and they are aimed at the elimination of possible disagreements which might emerge in the sphere of human resource management, management of military units in the run of resolving their daily tasks, holding negotiations at any levels, as well as enhancement of the army's defensive power in general.

**Keywords:** national security; military education; legal preparation; cadets; development; knowledge

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## 1. Introduction

Issues in the field of military security in particular military education at different times were raised in the discussions of various scientists (Tvaronavičienė 2018a; Tvaronavičienė 2018b; Tvaronavičienė et al. 2018; Jatautaite, Kazimienec 2018; Kokina 2016; Zahars, Stivrenieks 2016; Tumulavičius et al. 2016; Tumulavičius 2017, Laužikas, Miliūtė, 2019; Chehabeddine, Tvaronavičienė, 2020, Plēta et al., 2020 etc.), but the issue of providing legal knowledge to military people remains not more studied, therefore, in this discussion, an attempt will be made to analyze the need and progress in providing the legal basis for training leaders' officers using the example of the General Jonas Žemaitis military academy of Lithuania. Nowadays there is an urgent necessity for strengthening the ties and relations between the society and army, which would encourage the youth's better understanding of the concept of a legal state and society, rapidly changing global geopolitical

situation, changes and destabilizations of social processes in the modern society, since under the conditions of a rapid development of economy and globalization, some factors threaten the national security (Lietuvos Respublikos...1997), as well as significantly influence the internal environment at military educational institutions which, in fact, determines the readiness of a young person to choose a military career. In this case, a political and legal decision made by the state administration institutions of the highest level – which strategy of military training and upbringing of future officers we choose in order to provide and enhance the European Union (EU) security – is also important. Currently, there are several alternatives to this tendency: compulsory military service for young and healthy people in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (1992), alternative service and voluntary military service on a contract basis (Lietuvos Respublikos...1996; Lietuvos Respublikos...1998).

The experiences of other states demonstrate that all the above mentioned types of military service and army organization exist, but in order to implement all these types, first of all it is essential to educate and train a military officer-leader. General Jonas Zemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania (Academy) is the main basis for the training and educating of military officers-leaders in Lithuania.

The Academy is a university whose mission and aim are by means of following the Lithuanian traditions and providing a qualitative academic and military education as well as professional knowledge and practical skills which are necessary for a junior officer of the Lithuanian military forces, to train a motivated military officer who is ready to manage the military units during war and peace time and who serves the Lithuanian state, by developing his intellect and leadership qualities (The General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania Home Page, lka.lt). The cadets of the Academy alongside the general academic education are provided with the legal knowledge which they need for their future military service in the NATO and EU forces (Makštutis, 2006).

## **2. The significance and tasks of the cadets' legal preparation**

The groups of cadets studying at the Academy are not identical in their structure and they are of different levels. This difference might be revealed in a number of factors, such as motivation, age, life experience, the level of education obtained before the Academy, individual psychological characteristics of a cadet relevant for training at a high military educational institution, etc.

As the practice proves, all these factors influence the legal preparation and education of the cadets. Their striving for self-development and perfection in the legal sphere is determined by their behavior model and position for achieving this aim and the tasks set. Therefore, while organizing the study process in the sphere of cadets' legal preparation, it is necessary to take into account a general professional orientation of academic education on the chosen specialities as well as the set tasks of military study disciplines for the cadets's preparation at the Academy. Their creativity, activity and systematic approach in this sphere play an important role for the efficient acquisition of legal knowledge. Apparently, a teacher in the process of fulfilment of this task should form and later develop the necessity for cadets' legal education and preparation, to render every assistance and motivate this striving (Malovikas, 2004).

It can be stated that determining the level of legal preparation of school graduates who enter the Academy and its analysis enable orientation whether this process is necessary for its implementation at the Academy activating internal directives and provisions. All this is related to the development of corresponding motivation and adequate positive attitude of school graduates towards the acquisition of as much legal knowledge as possible.

Long-term observations and their analysis show that the attitude and striving of the cadets from the Academy's junior courses for the improvement of their legal knowledge are determined by the following factors:

- ▶ systematic, purposeful and methodic work, as well as their individual skills for the development and improvement of a personal legal culture;
- ▶ development of a stable interest for the improvement of individual personal qualities;

- ▶ ability to organize the self-improvement in the legal sphere and implementation of a long-term perspective for professional military activity.

Formation of the need for legal development and preparation involves taking into consideration the necessity for the variety of relations between different elements of this process, as well as forecasting the changes which, finally, emerge in relation to such factors as:

- ▶ increase or decrease in the need for the development of legal knowledge of one cadet or the whole platoon;
- ▶ increase or decrease in the needs for legal development of personnel within the whole military element.

The emergence of the need for legal education and development is a complex process based on a variety of components. The following stages in the formation of emergence of the need for this process can be highlighted:

- ▶ the necessity for formation of the need for legal preparation in the cadets' consciousness and its development;
- ▶ clearly stated necessity for the need for formation of the need for transformation into a motivation for legal education and preparation.

These stages characterize the emerging natural two-way relation between the need and activity, where the need at its initial stage is interpreted as a prerequisite for the start of the individual work on the development of a cadet's personality towards this direction (Malovikas, 2002).

It is noticed that a lot of cadets know very well that in order to develop their personality they also need to develop and improve their legal knowledge, but not all of them have a clear understanding of the importance of this knowledge. The cadets were asked a question: "What personal qualities do you find important to develop and improve?". Many of them said that they found it difficult to answer this question or did not provide an answer at all, and only a few of them mentioned – leadership, tenacity, persistence, resiliency, management skills, etc., including the improvement in the sphere of legal knowledge.

Analysis of the influence of the above mentioned factors showed that specification and purposeful formation of the need for legal education and preparation occupy a special place in the education of the junior class cadets. This is one of the most important directions within this process which encourages the achievement of the set goal.

The cadets' interest to acquiring more legal knowledge is formed depending on their interest in their future occupation as the military, but it also has its own specific character. It has been determined that the higher the cadets' interest is, the richer and more effective the process of development and improvement of their legal knowledge is, as well as the more active and more planned their involvement in this process is (Morozov, 2000).

The formation of interest in legal education and its development in the process of the cadets' academic education consists of the following elements (Puzinavičius, 2001):

- ▶ rational (*which allows understanding the meaning and significance of this process*);
- ▶ emotional (*which encourages the cadets' positive emotions, feelings of self-satisfaction and self-confidence*).

Therefore, the cadets' interest towards improvement of legal knowledge is generated in the process of development and enhancement of the above mentioned elements, causing a temporary interest in the beginning which later is transformed into a stable and long-term one.

The perception of the necessity for legal education by the cadets at the junior courses is revealed on the example of the performance efficiency by the cadets at the senior courses. At the same time this process acquires its own distinctive and individual peculiarities and becomes more sustainable in relation to external factors which influence it. So, the cadets' legal development and education acquires new forms and their content becomes more varied.

Monitoring of the processes of a university education and professional preparation of the Academy's cadets shows that the improvement of the knowledge acquired by the cadets of senior courses begins already from the moment when they have any legal issues and practically resolve these issues, which provides them with the additional motivation for legal preparation and which is a new element in the management of this process. The process of observation has also showed that the growth rates of a higher activity in the cadets' legal improvement in the process of their studies depend on its full-scale and comprehensive stimulation.

The motivation emerges here and influences the whole process, and it is determined as a significant and objective stimulus for the achievement of this goal, encouraging a person to actively acts in self-improvement. Stimulation as an impulse encouraging the cadets to active work, is necessary for maintaining the need and necessity for the cadets' legal education and preparation, as well as further development of their personal qualities in the process of establishing a positive motivation. A lot of educational and pedagogical methods and forms of study process are some particular objective and motivational means which influence the cadets' motivation (Morozov, 2000).

### **3. Prospects of the processes of legal education and preparation**

Peculiarity of the process of study and education, strict military discipline and manifestations of the legal culture of all participants of this process promote and positively influence the process of the cadets' legal self-improvement. Nevertheless, in order to achieve this aim it is necessary to observe psychological, educational and pedagogical conditions for legal development and self-improvement. These conditions are (Puzinavičius, 2001):

- ▶ complete understanding and comprehension of all levels of meaning and aims of stimulation by teachers and leaders of platoons;
- ▶ wide use of possibilities for stimulation during the whole process of study and education;
- ▶ optimization of the processes of legal development and formation of corresponding individual criteria for the assessment of a personality.

The reason for stimulation of legal self-improvement of the cadets at senior courses is mainly their positive and stable attitude, understanding of the necessity for improvement and development of their theoretical knowledge and skills in this area, as well as the adequate awareness of the requirements to the choice of their future profession, improvement of the legal culture and personal qualities of a military officer. Stimulation of specific tasks of the process of legal preparation provided by the leaders and teachers is original and varied. In general, the tasks are aimed at a complex and stimulating development of legal improvement of the cadets.

One of the prerequisites of this influence is presentation and explanation to the cadets of the relevant requirements which promote the increase in the quality of university education, professional training and self-improvement process. The ability every time to present these requirements in an unusual, vivid and lively way is one of the success factors in the achievement of the set aim. Creation of relevant legal normative acts (orders, acts, provisions, instructions, rules, etc.) in the run of the training is also one of the most efficient means of this presentation. The assessment of the cadets' individual work in this field will allow the teachers objectively seeing the efficiency of the process of legal education and self-preparation, as well as adequately to evaluate the internal legal culture of every cadet and identify a further direction for his legal development.

A complex, detailed and integral explanation and presentation of requirements for future graduates is also an extremely significant condition for successful legal education, preparation and self-improvement of the cadets. Therefore, teachers who require the relevant professional preparation also have a great potential for influence. The efficiency of this kind of a teacher's influence on the formation of the study of the legal process will be higher if the requirements are higher. A cadet should not only understand the studied subjects but he has to possess excellent abilities to apply and impement theoretical knowledge acquired during the study process to his daily military service.

Teachers should set the same requirements which encourage the interest and improvement in the sphere of legal knowledge to all cadets. Cadets' legal preparation should be aimed at fulfilment of tasks in specific spheres of their activity: educational, cultural, and leisure. Therefore, a scientific approach, organization and planning in these spheres of their activity at the initial stages of training have a positive influence on the quality and efficiency of legal education, training and preparation at the later stages of their training, as the intensive development of cadets' personal qualities is achieved by means of creation of internal and external conditions for their development (Puzinavičius, 2001).

Later on, new components of study process appear in the training activity of the cadets at senior stages – preparation and writing of written assignments, reports, course papers (projects), diploma work for Bachelor's degree.

Therefore, at this stage, the cadets of senior courses already actively participate in the research activities. This participation provides the cadets with the opportunities for legal development. The cadets, while researching and analyzing scientific problems discussed in their course and diploma papers, have to apply their legal knowledge acquired in the process of training. The task of the advisors of course and diploma papers is to help the cadets not to be afraid of making mistakes and to encourage the cadets to make use of the legal knowledge they have acquired, as well as to expand their legal culture as they are future leaders. But at the same time it should be taken into consideration that some cadets participate in the research activity only because of the “assessment”. This kind of attitude towards research activity does not promote diligence and it does not have a due influence on their opportunities for legal improvement.

It can be stated that research work encourages legal development of cadets under the following conditions:

- ▶ active and creative attitude towards research work;
- ▶ striving for the improvement of already acquired knowledge and readiness to apply it;
- ▶ profound and high requirements towards research work set by advisors;
- ▶ tight relations between the undertaken research work and practical military activity applying legal knowledge for resolving the research problems.

In general, the legal improvement of the cadets at senior courses can be stimulated at the end of the process of formation of professional features while conducting a preliminary individual interview with the cadets. In the run of this interview the positive moments in their work are noted down, the downsides of their work are identified and the reasons for them are analysed, the ways for improvement are discussed. These individual interviews hugely affect the cadets' subconsciousness, as they can be used by a teacher as a kind of pre-evaluation and help him to finalize a cadet's final assessment.

The following stages of this individual interview can be singled out:

- ▶ a profound preparation for the interview which allows getting to know a cadet closely;
- ▶ a serious and objective assessment of a cadet's achievements and flaws;
- ▶ amiability and sincerity of the interview.

The legal improvement of the cadets at senior courses is also possible if this activity is well-stimulated. This stimulation should be performed in two directions:

- ▶ creation of external conditions;
- ▶ impact on cadets' internal personal orientations.

The external conditions here are the following: consistent and precise observation of the internal regulations and provisions of the Academy and military service; research and methodological and legal organization of the cadets' working time and other activities; formation of an internal legal micro-climate; cadets' involvement in activities on the application of their legal knowledge.

The impact on cadets' internal personal orientations appears in the formation of the psychological mood of a cadet towards his participation in application of his personal legal knowledge and its improvement.

Activation of improvement of the legal knowledge acquired by the cadets in the process of their university education and military and professional preparation requires:

- ▶ special preparedness of all participants of this process;
- ▶ use of psychological and pedagogical mechanisms for improvement and understanding of its core;
- ▶ ability to distinguish between the impact of subjective and objective factors;
- ▶ ability to apply forms and methods for knowledge improvement;
- ▶ ability to provide the cadets with the methodological help if necessary;
- ▶ ability to perform pedagogically founded control over the process of the cadets' knowledge improvement and set requirements and recommendations for the enhancement of quality of their work; as well as the ability to set the example of the legal culture exposure.

## Conclusions

Modern globalization processes, rapidly changing geopolitics, processes of regionalization and emerging threats require re-thinking military potentials in any state. Therefore, the views on military profession and all-around training for the military, structure and organization of the military forces are undergoing profound changes. In relation to this, summarizing the theoretical and practical outcomes of the research, it is possible to identify and present the following conclusions:

The cadets' legal education is a significant element of the system of their military and professional preparation which is a purposeful and systematic pedagogical process whose aim is to form and develop the cadets' readiness to apply the acquired knowledge to their professional activity and in this way to promote the growth of their personal legal culture.

The analysis of the cadets' legal education shows that this process is a complex system which unites objective and subjective factors which are related to some elements constituting and enabling an integrated and continuing process by forming and developing the cadets' personal leadership qualities which they need for provision of their future successful military service.

The cadets' legal education is developed in order to resolve some dialectically connected tasks which reflect the main aspects of this process:

- periodical review, update and practical application of legal knowledge;
- development and expansion of already existing legal skills and knowledge;
- improvement of the acquired legal development and preparation in order to competently resolve daily professional and common issues.

The cadets' legal preparation, education and self-improvement should be performed continually in the run of the whole study process.

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