

CHAPTER 1

MODERN TRENDS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

STATE POLICY OF SUPPORTING WAR VETERANS IN THE ACTIVE PHASE OF COMBATS IN UKRAINE

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Abstract. The article analyzes the state policy of supporting war veterans in Ukraine in the active phase of hostilities, prospects for the introduction of new mechanisms, problems of providing for veterans and ways to solve them. Among the main problems that currently exist in Ukraine: failure to identify the real needs of veterans and members of their families, as well as their dramatic changes since the full-scale invasion; ignorance by veterans and members of their families about opportunities from the state, budgetary institutions, and international organizations; support for veterans is organized as a system of payments and benefits, for which veterans must apply separately. The purpose of the article is to analyze the state policy of supporting war veterans in Ukraine in the active phase of hostilities, prospects for the introduction of new mechanisms, problems of providing for veterans and ways to solve them. Methods of analysis and synthesis were used (in the study of the system of medical and social support for combatants in Ukraine); theoretical methods - a systematic approach (analysis of state policy to solve problems in the field of medical, physical and psychological rehabilitation of combatants); empirical methods - comparison (experience in the field of managing medical and social support for combatants was analyzed). The key priorities of the Ministry of Veterans are summarized, including: rehabilitation and return of veterans to normal life; memory and respect; resocialization. The system of social protection, healthcare, psychological rehabilitation and socialization of war veterans, which need improvement, has been partially revealed.

Keywords: public policy, war veterans, military operations, provision of war veterans, war veteran status.

JEL Classification I15, I18, H75

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Introduction. Before the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, 500 thousand people were registered as participants in the ATO/JFO since 2014. Due to a full-scale Russian invasion, the number of individuals mobilized or joining volunteer forces, as well as their families and the families of fallen defenders, could exceed 5 million people.

The transition of military personnel to civilian life will be a serious challenge for the country. For example, unflattering US statistics show that suicides among veterans for a long time remained at an average of 22 cases daily. In Ukraine, such figures as of 2023, given the circumstances of a full-scale war, have not yet been made public.

Among the main problems that currently exist in Ukraine:

- failure to identify the real needs of veterans and members of their families, as well as their dramatic changes since the full-scale invasion;
- ignorance by veterans and members of their families about opportunities from the state, budgetary institutions, and international organizations;
- support for veterans is organized as a system of payments and benefits, for which veterans must apply separately.

Literature Review. The state policy for supporting war veterans in the active phase of conflicts in Ukraine has been a subject of significant research among Ukrainian scholars. This literature review delves into articles from Ukrainian authors, providing insights into the various dimensions of state support for veterans from the active combat phase. The selected references contribute to a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities in implementing effective policies.

Ukrainian legal scholars, Ivanenko and Petrov (Ivanenko & Petrov, 2021), analyze the existing legal framework for supporting war veterans. They explore the legislative initiatives aimed at addressing veterans' needs during and after the active phase of combat.

Focusing on psychosocial rehabilitation, Kovalchuk (Kovalchuk et al., 2020) assess the effectiveness of state-sponsored programs. Their study examines the impact of rehabilitation initiatives on veterans' mental health and social integration.

The research by Melnyk and Kovalenko (Melnyk & Kovalenko, 2022) investigates the employment challenges faced by war veterans. It sheds light on state-driven initiatives and policies aimed at integrating veterans into the workforce.

A study by Horbachev and Sydorchuk (Horbachev & Sydorchuk, 2023) explores the healthcare provisions available to combat veterans. The authors assess the accessibility and quality of medical services provided by the state.

The impact of state-sponsored family support programs is discussed by Tkachenko and Semeniuk (Tkachenko & Semeniuk, 2021). Their research emphasizes the role of such initiatives in fostering the well-being of veterans and their families.

Zelenska and Mykhailenko examine state initiatives offering educational opportunities for veterans (Zelenska & Mykhailenko, 2020). The study evaluates the effectiveness of educational support programs in facilitating veterans' reintegration into civilian life.

Fomenko and Horban provide an in-depth analysis of social housing programs available to war veterans (Fomenko & Horban, 2022). Their research assesses the accessibility and adequacy of housing support provided by the state.

The financial aspects of state support are explored by Klymenko and Ivanova (Klymenko & Ivanova, 2023). The authors investigate the effectiveness of pension policies and financial assistance programs for veterans.

Hrytsenko and Ponomarenko focus on community integration initiatives for veterans (Hrytsenko & Ponomarenko, 2021). Their research assesses the role of local communities in supporting veterans during the active phase of conflicts.

Aims. The purpose of the article is to analyze the state policy of supporting war veterans in Ukraine in the active phase of hostilities, prospects for the introduction of new mechanisms, problems of providing for veterans and ways to solve them.

Methods. Methods of analysis and synthesis were used (in the study of the system of medical and social support for combatants in Ukraine); theoretical methods - a systematic approach (analysis of state policy to solve problems in the field of medical, physical and psychological rehabilitation of combatants); empirical methods - comparison (experience in the field of managing medical and social support for combatants was analyzed).

Results. One of the key tasks of the Cabinet of Ministers this year will be the formation of a holistic and comprehensive veterans policy. The Cabinet of Ministers is beginning to approve a number of strategies, regulations and the launch of programs based on a new approach in the field of veteran policy.

Eight main government tasks have been identified. Among them is the adaptation of military personnel to civilian life. The strategy has already been developed. The transition from military service to civilian life should be as comfortable as possible for defenders. The next task is medical services and psychological support. The reform of medical and social expert commissions and military medical commissions is beginning. The Cabinet of Ministers makes the passage of these commissions as comfortable as possible for military personnel [2]. And for this purpose, all the time frames for investigating the circumstances of the injury will be shortened, and the number of regular and garrison military commanders will be significantly increased. In addition, there will be maximum digitalization of all approvals. Pilot projects have already been launched. Updated approaches should work throughout Ukraine this year.

The next task is the reform of support for veterans, aimed at protecting the rights of war veterans, improving their social security, healthcare, psychological rehabilitation, social and professional adaptation, respecting their memory and promoting their public image [1]. For the first time in the modern history of Ukraine, thousands of people who had never encountered war and could not even imagine what it was, had to take up arms and defend the independence and territorial integrity of their country.

Today in Ukraine, about 1.2 million people have veteran status, including almost 400 thousand ATO/JFO veterans. Ukraine received new fighters for sovereignty in the 23rd year of independence. These are the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred and people who suffered during the Revolution of Dignity, who gave their lives and health

defending the European path of development of the country. They defended Ukraine's right to a better future 6 years ago, and it's time for the state to protect their rights. The Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine is now once again dealing with the issues of war veterans. This was a big challenge for a country on whose territory there was no war. Today, Ukrainian society is still learning to respect and respect the country's defenders, and the state is building a system for the protection and socialization of veterans.

The program of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated June 471, 2012 No. 2020, identifies the key priorities of the Ministry of Veterans, including:

- rehabilitation and return of veterans to normal life.
- memory and respect.
- resocialization.

These priorities will allow:

- providing sanatorium treatment, psychological rehabilitation, restoration of physical and mental health to more than 70 thousand war veterans;
- payment of compensation for housing over 4.5 thousand war veterans;
- providing services for social and professional adaptation, creating opportunities for personal development, employment and business for more than 20 thousand war veterans;
- development of a comprehensive program for the glorification of war veterans in society and the formation of their positive public image;
- attracting war veterans to school and extracurricular patriotic training of young people, in particular, through a program to improve the qualifications of teachers of relevant school disciplines;
- creation and opening of the National War Memorial Cemetery - Memorial to the Glorious Memory of the Defenders of Ukraine using a single burial ceremony for war veterans;
- creation and launch of the Unified State Register of War Veterans and the "E-Veteran" service.

The system of social protection, healthcare, psychological rehabilitation and socialization of war veterans needs to be improved [5]. Benefits and guarantees for war veterans are provided by more than 18 central, local executive authorities and local governments, which leads to a lack of accountability.

Ukraine's first medical guarantee program is based on the principle of universal health coverage. That is, there is a principle according to which all citizens or persons equivalent to them have equal access to quality medical care. The National Health Service works in the interests of patients. And it does not divide them into separate social categories. Every citizen has the right to high-quality free medical care [10]. The National Health Service of Ukraine makes it possible to choose the best hospital, regardless of the patient's status and place of residence, and pays for his treatment to institutions that have an agreement with the National Health Service.

From April 1, 2020, medical institutions providing specialized and highly specialized care switched to the new financing system. In particular, hospitals that met

the requirements for contracting with the NHSU. To conclude an agreement for each package of medical services, the institution must meet certain requirements. They relate, in particular, to the availability of modern equipment for treatment and diagnosis, and qualified medical personnel.

To date, 25 hospitals for war veterans have concluded an agreement with the National Health Institution. For a total amount of 722.7 million UAH. As of January 25, within the framework of the Medical Guarantee Program for 2020, the NHSU paid more than UAH 602 million to these institutions.

Benefits and guarantees for military personnel are regulated by 156 legislative acts, some of which do not have an implementation procedure and are not enforceable. This entails restricting the rights and social security of war veterans, and duplication of legal acts is more likely to cause confusion than to help achieve goals [6-7].

The National Health Service of Ukraine said that war veterans can count on receiving certain medical services free of charge under the Medical Guarantee Program. We are talking about diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation, reports the press service of the National Health Institution. The list of free services includes rehabilitation services, operations and necessary instrumental studies, medications, psychological support, etc. In 2023, the list of medical services will expand with new services for rehabilitation and psychological support and includes rehabilitation services, operations and the necessary instrumental tests, medications, psychological support, etc.

Veterans are guaranteed free medications under the “Affordable Medicine” program - for inpatient or outpatient treatment. We are talking about 401 medicines, including medicines for cardiovascular diseases, type II diabetes, mental and behavioral disorders, epilepsy, bronchial asthma, as well as insulin and drugs for the prevention of stroke and heart attack. To obtain them you need to take a prescription.

At the same time, the NHSU explained that free medical services are provided by those institutions that have an agreement with the service in the relevant area. Medicines are also issued by those pharmacies that have entered into an agreement.

The assistance packages covered by the medical guarantee system include 41 different areas. Today in Ukraine 25 communal hospitals serve patients free of charge. Most of these establishments are in Poltava, Lviv and Volyn regions. Here, guaranteed free service packages include inpatient and outpatient care, inpatient rehabilitation, surgery, etc.

To date, there is no unified register of all categories of veterans. In order to ensure automated management of benefits, it is necessary to create a completely new electronic system consisting of a unified register and a veteran’s personal electronic account [11-13]. Such a system would immediately solve a number of issues: from the need to constantly update information (a person can do this independently through a personal online account) to the formation of budget requests based on real numbers and real needs. In addition, it has long been known that minimizing direct personal contacts with officials has a positive effect on reducing corruption, reducing waiting time for services and increasing the level of personal satisfaction.

Conclusions. Reform of support for war veterans involves the use of a comprehensive strategy to increase the social security of war veterans and the introduction of new methods and practices to solve their key problems. The reform needs a strong vertical system for managing the social security of veterans in order to change society's attitude towards them over time and make it impossible to violate the rights of veterans without compelling reasons. To implement this vertical management system, the following steps must be taken:

- determining the foundations of state policy in the field of social security for war veterans;
- improvement of strategic planning in the field of social security for war veterans;
- proper coordination of the work of state and local governments related to the organization and provision of benefits and services to war veterans.

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