

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF LEGAL SUPPORT FOR THE REHABILITATION AND SOCIALIZATION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND WAYS OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN UKRAINE

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INTRODUCTION

Armed aggression against Ukraine, caused by the direct and indirect use of the Russian Federation's armed forces against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, which began on February 20, 2014, as well as the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, necessitated the need to pay attention to the problems of rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel. The negative consequences for the physical and mental health of military personnel of more than 10 years of deterring and repelling armed aggression are obvious, so according to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (hereinafter – the Ministry of Health of Ukraine), almost 40% of military personnel have suffered injuries of varying severity from hearing damage to the loss of limbs and other vital organs. In addition, almost half of the military personnel who participated in active hostilities have varying degrees of post-traumatic stress disorder (hereinafter – PTSD) and need psychological assistance¹.

Such challenges for modern Ukrainian society necessitate the use of systemic approaches to the development of a comprehensive program of rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel and scientific substantiation of the conditions and procedure for its implementation, which should include: updating the regulatory framework, building and ensuring the organization of the activities of rehabilitation and social support centers for military personnel, developing and certifying rehabilitation methods. All this necessitates the study of foreign experience in legal support of rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel in wartime conditions and the implementation of its practices in Ukraine, which determines the relevance of the research within the framework of this article.

The state of research on the topic of the article. Research on the issues of rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel was carried out within various fields, from medicine and psychology to law and public administration. So, Sushchenko L., Kuksa V., Mikheyenko O. investigate the problems of medical and psychological assistance to veterans, including aspects of their social adaptation to peaceful life, Kolesnichenko O.S. within the science of psychology investigates the forms of combat psychological traumatization of military personnel and diagnostic methods, Lytvyn N.A., Kochugur I.V. also draw attention to the importance of psychological rehabilitation and problems associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among military personnel. From the position of legal science, this issue is investigated by such authors as K.M. Kurkova, L.I. Lutsenko-Myskiv analyze the state of current legislation in the field of medical rehabilitation and propose changes for its improvement; Basko A. V., Sobakar A. O., Myronyuk S. A. analyzes the methods of rehabilitation of military personnel, the state of functioning and development of rehabilitation

¹ Актуальна інформація з реабілітації. URL: <https://moz.gov.ua/uk/aktualna-informacija-z-reabilitacii>. (дата звернення – 20.04.2024)

centers as one of the areas of activity of local government bodies². The relevant foreign experience of legal support for the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel in wartime conditions is studied in the works: Makarova T.P. “Administrative and legal support for the protection of social rights of military personnel and their family members in Ukraine” (2024)” and Shostak S.L. “Public management in the field of rehabilitation of military personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine within the framework of a single medical space of healthcare in Ukraine” (2024).

At the same time, the analysis of modern research on the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel allows us to conclude that it is advisable to address the issues of rehabilitation and socialization of Ukrainian military personnel taking into account the analysis of foreign experience in administrative and legal support for the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel in wartime, which determines the purpose of the study.

To achieve the purpose of the study, the following research tasks are planned within the *framework of this article*:

- to analyze foreign experience of NATO countries in administrative and legal support for the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel in wartime;
- to identify advanced experience in the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel of the State of Israel, which has a long-standing practice of such activities;
- to determine ways to implement advanced foreign practices in the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel in Ukraine.

1. Features of the experience of NATO countries regarding administrative and legal support for the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel

To fulfill the objectives of the study below, it is advisable to analyze the best practices of rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel of NATO countries (in particular, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Kingdom of Sweden), which have a long-standing positive practice of such activities.

It should be noted that today the State of Ukraine "has the status of a strategic partner of the North Atlantic Alliance (hereinafter – NATO) and a candidate country for accession to the European Union (hereinafter – EU). Achieving the set goals, approaching international standards is carried out through thorough socio-economic reforms and improving state policy in key areas of public life. International cooperation provides an opportunity for Ukraine to gain experience in solving many issues and is one of the components of the development of state policy"³. And the implementation of the experience of the European Union and NATO member states regarding social protection of military personnel is one of the priorities of interaction with the Alliance and the development of state policy, which is defined in

² Баско А. В., Собакарь А. О., Миронюк С. А. Методики реабілітації військовослужбовців, стан функціонування та розвиток реабілітаційних центрів як один із напрямів діяльності органів місцевого самоврядування. *Rehabilitation & Recreation* : науковий журнал. Рівне : Видавничий дім «Гельветика», 2024. Том 18, № 1. 240 с. С. 78-94.

³ Івахненко О. А., Новиков О. В., Глущенко А. М. Правове регулювання реабілітаційної допомоги військовослужбовцям в період воєнного стану. *Journal «ScienceRise: Juridical Science»*. №2 (28)2024. С. 28-34.

numerous State Programs and Cooperation Plans⁴. In developed countries of the world, the policy of social protection of military personnel and their family members, including the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel, is a priority area of state administration. It should be noted that in NATO and EU countries, as well as in Ukraine, the category of military personnel who participated in hostilities belongs to war veterans or combat veterans.

The study of international experience should be carried out according to such categories as entities that implement the state policy of rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel, regulatory and legal support, and the main areas of activity in the field of rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel.

The experience of the USA. The most systematic approach to the rehabilitation of military personnel is used in the USA, as a country with the most powerful army in the world, which quite often, compared to the armed forces of other countries, takes part in combat operations to protect territorial integrity and international security in the so-called "hot spots" or in countries (continents) where there is a threat to world security, therefore the experience of the USA is useful for Ukraine. The problems of those who returned from the war physically, but remained in it mentally, are currently being dealt with by one of the departments of the US Department of Veterans Affairs, which is the second largest after the Department of Defense with a staff of about 280 thousand people and a budget of about 200 billion dollars per year. The Ministry deals with the health of veterans, their benefits, insurance and mortgages, the appointment of pensions and assistance, and is responsible for the burial of veterans – from the payment of burial allowances to the maintenance of military cemeteries. Almost 40% of the \$200 billion departmental budget is allocated for veterans' medical care. More (57%) goes only to the payment of various benefits, compensations and pensions. The US Department of Veterans Affairs has 153 hospitals, 103 rehabilitation centers, 962 municipal clinics, 139 homes for the elderly and disabled, 139 units providing home medical care, 300 multifunctional veteran burial grounds. And this is not counting half a thousand different regional services throughout the country that are exclusively engaged in social security and support for veterans. The American rehabilitation system is focused both on the physiological recovery of military personnel and on providing group and individual consultations to their families. In this case, the social worker monitors the observance of the rights of the military, for example, receiving proper and timely treatment, and provides the necessary support to both the veteran and his family. Special attention is paid to physiotherapy of veterans and military personnel. Physiotherapists, occupational therapists and doctors specializing in rehabilitation, prosthetics and orthopedics help people get their lives back. Physiotherapists examine each person and develop a treatment plan⁵.

The USA has an extensive system of active treatment and rehabilitation centers for military personnel – rehabilitation centers in Massachusetts, Miami, Rancho Los Amigos in California, Tampa in Florida, Vegas; Mississippi; New Jersey; Rhode Island; Texas. About

⁴ Макарова Т.П. Адміністративно-правове забезпечення захисту соціальних прав військовослужбовців та членів їх сімей в Україні – Кваліфікаційна наукова праця на правах рукопису. Дисертація на здобуття наукового ступеня доктора філософії за спеціальністю 081 «Право». Таврійський національний університет імені В. І. Вернадського, м. Київ, 2024. 273 с.

⁵ Шостак С. Л. Публічне управління у сфері реабілітації військовослужбовців Збройних Сил України у рамках єдиного медичного простору охорони здоров'я України. Дисертація на здобуття наукового ступеня доктора філософії за спеціальністю 281 «Публічне управління та адміністрування». Міжрегіональна Академія управління персоналом, Київ, 2024. 240 с.

160 thousand psychologists and rehabilitation specialists are serving in the US Army, distributed among military units, who provide advisory and primary educational and psychological assistance. It should be noted that a specialized practice has been formed in the USA – military social work, which is aimed at providing support to military personnel, war veterans and their family members. Military social workers provide counseling, crisis intervention, supervision, are engaged in preparation and training, participate in mental health support activities, etc.⁶.

In the United States, the veterans' benefits system includes a wide range of rehabilitation services provided through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (va.gov). These services include post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment, physical rehabilitation, vocational retraining, and housing assistance. VA is actively using innovative techniques, including telemedicine and virtual reality, to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of rehabilitation services.⁷.

Rehabilitation of military personnel in the United States is carried out through a comprehensive government program, The Army Recovery Care Program (ARCP) and the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), which provide medical services, psychological support, assistance in finding a job and education, as well as preparation for civilian life through special units, Soldier Recovery Units (SRUs). After completing their service, veterans gain access to medical care through the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In 2023, \$303 billion was allocated to the Department of Veterans Affairs, making it the second largest government department after the Department of Defense. The United States has its own government programs for military rehabilitation. The main one is the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). It includes training and resources for obtaining medical services, finding a job, educational opportunities, etc. It also provides defenders with information about their rights and benefits provided by the government. Another program that specializes in helping the wounded is called The Army Recovery Care Program (ARCP). The project returns soldiers to service or grants them veteran status through comprehensive medical rehabilitation. ARCP provides policy oversight for Soldier Recovery Units (SRUs) – special units on military installations that provide rehabilitation services to injured soldiers, as well as support for their families. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) provides resources for finding employment, obtaining education, and information about benefits provided by the US government after discharge from military service. Psychological rehabilitation of the military in the US is regulated by special programs for the restoration of the mental health of soldiers, in particular for combating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)⁸.

⁶ Гордієнко Є. П. Зарубіжний досвід в організації системи соціального захисту учасників бойових дій. Теорія і практика публічного управління та адміністрування у XXI сторіччі : матеріали Першої всеукраїнської наук.-практ. конф., 30 листопада 2018 р. Київ. URL : <http://academy.gov.ua/pages/dop/198/files/9e0c6916-89d9-4e68-bae0-7122d804a470.pdf> (дата звернення : 01.06.2024).

⁷ Державні програми та плани співробітництва Україна – НАТО. URL : <https://nato.mfa.gov.ua/dokumenty/derzhavni-programi-ta-plani-spivrobitnictva> (дата звернення : 01.06.2024).

⁸ Діна Вишневські. Як у США повертають до мирного життя солдатів, які повернулися з війни. URL: <https://kp.ua/ua/life/a669399-jak-u-ssha-povertajut-domirnogo-zhittja-soldativ-jaki-povernulisja-z-vijni>. (дата звернення: 20.04.2024).

A separate direction of military socialization is the reintegration of war veterans into civilian life, and here the experience of the United States will be interesting.

Some researchers note that “the American practice of reintegration of the military into civilian life involves participation in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) – a program of assistance during the transition period, which is supervised by the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, Education, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, the Small Business Administration and the Human Resources Management. Becoming a participant in the program is very convenient: you can do it online and even while still in active service. One of the components of the program is the Transition GPS (goals, plan, success) training, the purpose of which is the formation of life competencies at the transition stage, financial planning skills and the development of an individual transition plan. It should be noted that the process of transition from military service to civilian life is a certain life challenge, which involves the transformation of life skills, professional retraining, changing social life attitudes, etc. And as a result, veterans face psychological barriers – stigmatization and misunderstanding of their own needs. And therefore, the main areas of reintegration of military personnel into civilian life in the USA are: social adaptation; psychological support; professional retraining; housing support”⁹.

The U.S. military reintegration system is a comprehensive federal and state program that addresses the transition from service to civilian life through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL), offering education, employment (including TAP courses, entrepreneurship support through VBOCs/SBDCs), and housing, relying on coordination between the Department of Defense and civilian agencies, and leveraging state resources to assist veterans in their job search, housing, and social adjustment. Key elements of this system are: 1) Transition Assistance Program (TAP): Mandatory pre-release courses that teach financial planning, job search, and use of veteran benefits; 2) Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): A central agency that provides health care, education (through GI Bill certificates), housing loans, and support programs; 3) Department of Labor (DOL) – through its Veterans Affairs Service (VETS) deals with employment, providing career counseling and job search assistance; 4) Veterans Advice Centers (VBOCs) and Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) – are funded by the government and help veterans start their own businesses by offering grants and microloans; 5) State-level support – States, such as Texas, California, and Virginia, provide additional resources (grants, microloans, training programs) for veteran entrepreneurs.

Social and psychological support is provided through military social workers and local programs that help with adaptation to civilian life. Its features are: 1) coordination – the system works through a partnership between the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the Department of Labor (DOL); 2) emphasis on entrepreneurship – there are special programs that encourage veterans to become entrepreneurs.

The effectiveness of the military reintegration system in the US is that most veterans quickly find work after discharge, although some believe that preparation for civilian life

⁹ Джон Грехем Керрінгтон. Огляд міжнародних практик у сфері реінтеграції ветеранів: міркування щодо воєнного та повоєнного контексту України. 2023. 102 с. URL : <https://www.undp.org/uk/ukraine/publications/ohlyad-mizhnarodnykh-praktyk-u-sferireintehratsiyi-veteraniv-mirkuvannya-shchodo-voynnoho-ta-povoyennoho-kontekstu-ukrayiny> (дата звернення: 20.04.2024).

could be better. Thus, the veteran policy on the reintegration of veterans in the US is relevant in the context of implementation in Ukraine. Comprehensive state support should primarily be aimed at ensuring mental health and well-being on the basis of barrier-free access to state support and reducing the bureaucracy of this process. The Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine, together with the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, should develop a program for the transition from a military career to civilian employment following the example of the US armed forces to ensure a comfortable integration of a person's military service experience into a civilian profession.

Experience of the United Kingdom of Great Britain. The UK has a well-developed system of support for veterans, in particular for those who have experienced stressful situations and PTSD. The main elements of the program include: 1) support groups: veterans can join support groups where they receive help from former military personnel who have experienced similar stresses; 2) therapy through art and sports: The UK actively uses art therapy and sports programs for veterans, which helps reduce anxiety, depression and stress.

In the UK, rehabilitation departments are established at every hospital and contain gymnasiums, a swimming pool, a physiotherapy room and an occupational therapy room. As a result, the number of specialized rehabilitation centers is limited, they are intended only for people with disabilities who have suffered very serious injuries, the treatment of which requires long-term rehabilitation. British rehabilitation centers are grouped into two classes: 1) medical institutions specializing in comprehensive rehabilitation for specific diseases; 2) mixed centers for post-hospital rehabilitation ¹⁰.

A separate issue is the significant breakthrough of Great Britain in implementing the policy of reintegration (socialization) of military veterans. This is discussed in detail in the analytical report of the Ukrainian Veterans Fund "State Policy of Support for Veterans: Experience of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland".

An important regulatory act for the implementation of this policy was the adoption by the Government in 2018 of "The Strategy for our Veterans", which is designed for 10 years and establishes a sustainable vision and principles for the whole of Great Britain, is applied throughout its territory and extends to all spheres of life: public, corporate, charitable and individual. The strategy identifies five cross-cutting factors that create the basis for a general system of providing services to veterans: 1) cooperation between organizations; 2) coordination of veteran services; 3) collection of data on the veteran community; 4) public perception and understanding; 5) recognition of veterans.

In addition to the objectives, the Strategy also identifies key areas for its implementation, including: 1) reintegration of veterans into the community; 2) employment, training of veterans and development of their skills and their application; 3) ensuring adequate financing of veterans' needs, including resolving issues of restructuring and partial repayment of debt obligations that arose in connection with the reintegration process; 4) health and well-being – veterans are provided with improved physical, mental health and well-being, which allows them to contribute to the overall development of society; 5) housing – veterans receive safe housing through purchase, rental or social housing services; 6) minimizing factors that lead to violations of laws by veterans, including minimizing their aggression. These objectives

¹⁰ Державна політика підтримки ветеранів: досвід Сполученого Королівства Великої Британії та Північної Ірландії. Ветеранський фонд (Поруч з ветераном). URL : <https://veteranfund.com.ua/support-for-veterans-of-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland/> (дата звернення : 28.06.2024).

and areas for the implementation of such a policy are planned to be implemented by 2028, that is, in a fairly short period, and knowing the British punctuality, there is confidence in their achievement ¹¹.

Thus, it can be found that the experience of the United Kingdom of Great Britain in the field of rehabilitation and socialization of veterans includes the creation of a comprehensive support system covering physical and mental health, education, career and family support. This involves both a nationwide level of support and the involvement of local communities. Britain has developed an approach where the entire state, as well as society as a whole, is involved in the rehabilitation and social adaptation of veterans. It is advisable to highlight the main areas of the British experience in the rehabilitation and socialization of the military: 1) the use of a comprehensive approach to rehabilitation, which consists in providing standardized care in the field of physical and mental health, including the treatment of combat injuries, support in the field of education, which helps veterans acquire new skills or continue their education; 2) support in socialization and career, which includes assistance in employment and career development, ensuring a worthy place in society and creating conditions for full social adaptation; 3) family support – providing assistance and support to families of veterans; 4) involvement of all levels of government and society – creating a support system that works at the national and local levels, involving various state institutions to provide comprehensive assistance to veterans.

It should be noted that the British experience helps to create a sustainable system of rehabilitation and social adaptation in Ukraine, which can become the basis for future policy on veterans. Joint projects can help implement modern services, rehabilitation and opportunities for the development of Ukrainian veterans, ensuring their worthy place in society.

Experience of the French Republic. The French experience in the rehabilitation of the military is based on an integrated approach, covering medical, psychological and social support, professional adaptation and prosthetics, implemented through key institutions such as the National Office of Veterans and Victims of War (ONACVG) and the Support Service for the Wounded of the Land Forces (CABAT), which allows for the effective reintegration of Defenders into civilian life.

The main elements of the rehabilitation system in France are: 1) coordination – the National Office of Veterans and Victims of War (ONACVG) and CABAT coordinate support for the wounded and the families of the deceased; 2) comprehensive support – includes medical care (treatment of combat injuries, rehabilitation), psychological support, social care and professional adaptation; 3) integration – the system aims at the successful reintegration of veterans into society and their self-realization through training, prosthetics and new work; 4) emergency preparedness – the medical system is preparing for the flow of wounded by training personnel to deal with combat injuries and resource shortages, as well as deploying special points near important facilities.

This systemic approach, combining assistance at all stages – from the battlefield to return to civilian life – is valuable for Ukraine.

¹¹ Державна політика підтримки ветеранів: досвід Сполученого Королівства Великої Британії та Північної Ірландії. Ветеранський фонд (Поруч з ветераном). URL : <https://veteranfund.com.ua/support-for-veterans-of-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland/> (дата звернення : 28.06.2024).

Experience of the Kingdom of Sweden. The military rehabilitation system in Sweden focuses on psychological recovery, burnout prevention and exchange of experience, in particular through cooperation with Ukrainian foundations such as the Repower Charitable foundation, which organize programs for Ukrainian doctors and military personnel, combining rest with professional development and meetings with high-ranking Swedish officials. Sweden also actively supports the creation of rehabilitation centers for the military directly in Ukraine, planning to launch one by 2027.

The main areas of the Swedish rehabilitation system are: 1) psychological support – programs aimed at reducing stress levels, treating PTSD and preventing emotional exhaustion; 2) burnout prevention – organizing activities that help military personnel "switch focus" and restore strength; 3) exchange of experience – meetings and trainings with representatives of the Swedish Armed Forces; 4) high level of support – projects often have support at the highest level, including meetings with the Ministers of Defense and Foreign Affairs of Sweden.

The body responsible for ensuring the health of Swedish military personnel is the Center for Defense Medicine of the Armed Forces. The Center recruits and trains medical personnel to meet the needs of all Armed Forces, and also develops methods and tactics in the field of health care. The Center pursues two main goals – the development and provision of emergency care (administering field hospitals and ambulance services) and ensuring the safest possible conditions for service in all units of the Armed Forces.

Sweden does not participate in active armed conflicts, the need for a developed medical infrastructure for the military has long been in doubt. However, the coronavirus crisis has shown that civilian infrastructure may not be able to cope with some challenges. Against this background, the importance of military medical care had to be reassessed. The result was the development of the concept of Total Defense Healthcare (TDH).¹² The concept involves deep cooperation between both medical systems: interaction of all non-medical and medical elements of crisis management, such as command, control, communication, exchange of information and resources, standard recommendations and treatment protocols, etc. One example of the above-mentioned cooperation is conducting military medicine courses for civilian medics in the field. Thus, civilian medics will be able to join military special operations if necessary. In addition, the Armed Forces offer a number of medical positions, which include: nursing and medical practice, veterinary medicine, environmental and health inspection, dentistry, pharmacy and biomedical analytics. The features of military rehabilitation in Sweden are as follows: 1) high-quality medical care – the Swedish healthcare system provides comprehensive rehabilitation, which can last from several months to several years, depending on individual needs; 2) physical rehabilitation – specialized physical rehabilitation programs aimed at restoring body functions and improving the quality of life; 3) psychological support – military personnel have access to psychological assistance that helps them cope with traumatic experiences, stress and other psychological consequences of service; 4) social integration – social integration programs help military personnel adapt to civilian life, including assistance in finding work and housing; 5) systemic support –

¹² Khorram-Manesh A, Robinson Y, Boffard K, Örtengren P. The History of Swedish Military Healthcare System and Its Path Toward Civilian-Military Collaboration From a Total Defense Perspective. *Mil Med.* 2020 Sep 18;185(9-10):1492-1498.

Sweden's policy is aimed at providing full social support for military personnel, allowing them to return to a full life after service.

2. Features of the experience of the State of Israel in terms of administrative and legal support for the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel

More than half a century of constant wars and conflicts have forced Israel to develop a special approach to people who have experienced combat operations, especially if they have returned to civilian life, having received injuries or disabilities. The state of emergency in Israel has been in effect continuously since 1948, and the armed forces are formed on a mass conscription principle. In fact, it is a people's army, where almost all Jewish young men and women (and some other ethnic and religious groups) fall under the conscription law, starting at the age of 18.

It is important to note that in Israel there is no concept or status of "veteran". All citizens are conscripts, reservists, or recognized as unfit. A person who participated in hostilities does not stand out in any way, and war participants receive a bar of a participant in a particular military campaign, which, however, does not give any status or accompanying privileges or obligations. There is also the status of a disabled person in the Israel Defense Forces ("nehe tsaal"). The Israeli Ministry of Defense is responsible for all assistance to soldiers in all of the above-mentioned statuses (especially when it comes to disability). In this case, in different cases, different departments and structures of the ministry are involved in this ¹³.

Israel has the most effective system of psychological rehabilitation of military personnel, especially the practice of rehabilitation of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other psychological problems associated with the experiences of military personnel of combat stress. Israel has many years of experience in solving this problem. It is in this country that perhaps the best organization in the world for psychological assistance to military personnel, veterans, and their family members is located. In Israel, there is a general awareness of the importance of psychological support for veterans. This is manifested in the assistance of the state, society, and military structures in the development and implementation of programs aimed at ensuring the well-being and psychological health of veterans, which is very important. The country has developed various programs and services aimed at providing support and improving the quality of life of veterans who face psychological problems associated with combat stress. The main essence of these programs is a comprehensive and individualized approach to the rehabilitation and support of veterans, focusing on their needs and unique situations of personal experience.¹⁴ The Israeli rehabilitation program for military personnel after demobilization deserves special attention, aimed at ensuring that no soldier is left alone, even with a minor problem. This program involves preparing the relatives and friends of the demobilized person before his return home. The activities of the rehabilitation and work with demobilized persons unit are aimed at developing rehabilitation programs,

¹³ Ігаль Левін. Як Ізраїль піклується про своїх ветеранів? Публікація від 4 листопада 2024 року. Інформаційно-аналітичний центр «Мілітарний». https://militaryni.com/uk/blogs/yak-izrayil-pikluetsya-pro-svoyih-veteraniv/#google_vignette.

¹⁴ Вдовіченко Оксана, Соколова Ірина, Педченко Олександра, Степанова Сніжана, Фролова Ольга. Психологічна реабілітація і супровід ветеранів війни: досвід Ізраїлю. *Zeszyty naukowe wyższej szkoły technicznej w katowicach*. 2023, nr 16. s. 107-118.

creating and/or supporting special centers for anonymous assistance, supporting military personnel with disabilities, supporting soldiers with combat mental trauma, and providing social assistance. Israel, as a country in a constant state of conflict and hostilities, has a wide range of programs and services aimed at supporting and rehabilitating its veterans. It has been determined that the Israeli system consists of five large units: the diagnostic, profiling, and career guidance unit; the psychological support service for military personnel; rehabilitation and demobilization units; civilian crisis support services; services for working with families of victims. Israeli psychologists, psychotherapists, and rehabilitation specialists have developed effective methods aimed at improving both the physical and psychological condition of veterans, helping them overcome post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological problems that arise after experiencing combat stress.

In Israel, unlike Ukraine, the issues of socialization of military personnel are enshrined in the Israeli Law "On the Social Adaptation of Discharged Military Personnel" (1994), according to which a discharged military personnel is a person who has completed his/her military service, even if he/she was legally discharged before the end of the period he/she was obliged to serve, provided that he/she served at least 12 months, as well as a person who was discharged before the end of the above-mentioned period due to health reasons or due to disability, as defined in the Disabled Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Law; for the purposes of this definition, each month of national-civilian service under the separate system is counted as half a month of service, and each month of national-civilian service under the intermediate system is counted as three-quarters of a month of service. The Israeli rehabilitation program for military personnel after demobilization deserves special attention, aimed at ensuring that no soldier is left alone, even with a minor problem. This program involves preparing the relatives and friends of the demobilized person before his return home. The activities of the rehabilitation and work with demobilized persons unit are aimed at developing rehabilitation programs, creating and/or supporting special centers for anonymous assistance, supporting military personnel with disabilities, supporting soldiers with combat mental trauma, and providing social assistance. Israel, as a country in a constant state of conflict and hostilities, has a wide range of programs and services aimed at supporting and rehabilitating its veterans. It has been determined that the Israeli system consists of five large units: the diagnostic, profiling, and career guidance unit; the psychological support service for military personnel; rehabilitation and demobilization units; civilian crisis support services; services for working with families of victims. Israeli psychologists, psychotherapists, and rehabilitation specialists have developed effective methods aimed at improving both the physical and psychological condition of veterans, helping them overcome post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological problems that arise after experiencing combat stress.

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under the intermediate system is counted as three-quarters of a month of service. Most of the discharged soldiers are transferred to the reserve (previously this issue was regulated by the Law "On Service in the Armed Forces", but after 2008 – by the Law "On Social Adaptation of Discharged Servicemen"), but some are exempted from reserve service (for example, women who hold non-combat positions are exempted from this obligation after the birth of their first child; both men and women are exempted from reserve service after reaching a certain age). In Israel, there is no Ministry of Veterans Affairs, the functions of rehabilitation and socialization of veterans are entrusted to the Ministry of Defense – the Department for Work with Injured Servicemen and Members of Their Families (IDF Casualties Department). The purpose of the Department's creation is to implement the policy of social, medical and rehabilitation support for servicemen and their families within the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Defense. The Department is tasked with ensuring communication between the IDF and servicemen and their families, relatives of those killed in combat and in other cases, as well as implementing a policy on their social protection and rehabilitation. The Department is also responsible for processing benefits, treatment, conducting professional and functional rehabilitation of servicemen, organizing the provision of social and psychological support to them and their families, and social security depending on the degree of injury or disability.

In addition, the Ministry of Defense of Israel has a Rehabilitation Department, which is a state agency designated by law to support and serve veterans who were injured while serving in the IDF or other national security structures. The Rehabilitation Department of Disabled Veterans of the Ministry of Defense is the main state structure dealing with the rights of discharged military personnel with disabilities. Its goal is to rehabilitate disabled IDF personnel and integrate them into society in order to ensure their maximum possible working capacity and care for their well-being. The Rehabilitation Department of Disabled Personnel operates under the Disabled Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Law of 1959. According to the definition given in the Law, a "person with a disability" is a demobilized serviceman who has received a disability as a result of military service, or a serviceman who has received a disability as a result of extended service. In this case, "disability" is the loss of the ability to perform ordinary actions, both physical and mental, or a decrease in such ability, which appeared in a demobilized serviceman or a serviceman on extended service as a result of one of the events that occurred during his service and as a result of this service: injury, illness, complications of the disease. After demobilization from the army, work with the wounded person and his family members is continued by employees of the district branch of the Department of Rehabilitation of the Disabled, to which he belongs, and in accordance with the type of certificate received from the subsidy officer. The main goal of the Department of Rehabilitation of the Disabled is to assist in the rehabilitation of a person with a disability, i.e. ensuring optimal inclusion in society, creating appropriate conditions for his stable and continuous employment. Social inclusion accelerates the integration of a person with a disability into society, improves their self-perception and has a positive impact on other aspects of their lives. Disabled members of the Israel Defense Forces who are assigned a 20% or higher degree of disability are entitled to assistance during rehabilitation, which includes psychological and social support, orientation and assistance in drawing up a rehabilitation program and its implementation. Rehabilitation workers (usually social workers) work in cooperation with the district medical team and the disabled person himself, seeking to accelerate the rehabilitation process. Each wounded person recognized as

disabled is assigned a rehabilitation worker who manages the rehabilitation process (coordinator – case manager, CM). A significant part of the individual and professional rehabilitation processes is associated with actions to strengthen and develop internal and external resources that help cope with disability and the changes associated with it. Rehabilitation workers and the district staff are ready to assist the disabled person in any need related to his rehabilitation. The rehabilitation program is built on the basis of his abilities and professional aspirations, taking into account the recognized disability and in accordance with the instructions of the Department of Rehabilitation of Disabled Soldiers¹⁵.

An important component of the rehabilitation process for military personnel in Israel is psychological rehabilitation, or assistance. It is believed that Israel has one of the best psychological assistance organizations in the world for military personnel, veterans and their family members. Israel has over 2,500 professional military psychologists. However, during the intensification of active military operations, reservists are called up for service. The ratio of professional psychological support specialists is approximately as follows: one specialist for 70–90 military personnel.

In Israel, psychological support is provided by the following units:

1. The Diagnostics, Profiling and Career Guidance Unit, whose representatives are responsible for a comprehensive medical examination of young people, starting from the age of 15, forming a military medical record (his personal profile), and accompanying him throughout his life. The initial psychological assessment determines: the intellectual level of personality development, psychological and social status, motivational characteristics and leadership qualities, all indicators are entered into the personal card, and it is on their basis that the career guidance of a potential serviceman to the appropriate branch of the military is carried out. At the same time, some researchers draw attention to the fact that conscripts with disabilities are allowed to serve in the Israeli army, including those with a psychiatric diagnosis (for example, with autism, mild debility, schizophrenia in long-term remission, Down syndrome, affective disorders, etc.). Special methods of rehabilitation and socialization in the army environment have been developed for such servicemen. Israeli military psychologists are also engaged in post-crisis testing. The competence of this department also includes the diagnosis of combat mental trauma, combat shock and post-traumatic stress disorder. According to their system of psychological support, all participants in hostilities undergo this type of testing without exception.

2. The unit for psychological support of military personnel is engaged in ongoing psychological assistance, which is aimed at developing stress resistance of personnel, at forming their psychological readiness to perform official and combat tasks, and at providing psychological assistance to military personnel and members of their families who have been exposed to extreme factors of official and combat activities. A significant role in the Israeli army is given to the training of commanders, since it is combat commanders who are directly next to their subordinates every day and, in fact, they are entrusted with the role of primary diagnosis and, if necessary, referring a soldier to the necessary specialist.

3. The unit for rehabilitation and work with demobilized war veterans. The Israeli rehabilitation program for military personnel after demobilization deserves special attention,

¹⁵ Осьодло В.І., Хміляч О.Ф. Психологічна допомога військовослужбовцям: досвід армії Ізраїлю. Військова психологія у вимірах війни і миру: проблеми, досвід, перспективи: матеріали Всеукраїнської науково-практичної конференції з міжнародною участю. Київ. 2016. С. 80-83.

which is aimed at ensuring that no soldier is left alone, even with a minor problem. This program also includes preparing the demobilized person's relatives and friends for their return home.

4. Civilian Support Service in Crisis Situations. Israel also has a specific system of assistance to the civilian population in times of war. In each neighborhood of the country's settlements, volunteer crisis headquarters, population alert points, and emergency assistance points operate during crisis situations.

5. Service for working with families of victims. Thus, it can be seen that the psychological service in Israel has a multi-level structure and provides psychological assistance not only to military personnel, but also to their relatives and the civilian population as a whole.¹⁶

Thus, Israel has many years of experience in rehabilitating military personnel who have suffered severe injuries, including those resulting from combat. A feature of the Israeli military rehabilitation system is its comprehensive and multi-stage structure, which includes both medical and psychological rehabilitation. It focuses on long-term and intensive care to ensure full recovery from injuries, including physical (e.g., amputation or spinal cord injury) and psychological. The system provides a wide range of services, including individual recovery plans, which can last longer and include more sessions than in many other systems. The key features of the Israeli military rehabilitation system should be highlighted: 1) the use of a comprehensive approach – a combination of medical, physical and psychological rehabilitation is provided, which contributes to comprehensive recovery from injuries; 2) long-term rehabilitation – the rehabilitation period can be significantly longer compared to other countries, which allows military personnel to fully recover, especially after severe injuries; 3) individual approach – each case is considered individually, and rehabilitation programs are adapted to the needs of a particular military personnel; 4) psychological support – important attention is paid to psychological recovery to adapt to a new life situation, which is an integral part of the overall rehabilitation process; 5) high intensity – intensive rehabilitation programs can be carried out in several stages to achieve better results, even if this takes more time; 6) support system – the state support system provides financial assistance and other services that contribute to the fastest and most effective recovery of military personnel after injuries.

CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of generalizing the unique experience of individual NATO countries and the State of Israel in ensuring the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel, which is based on a comprehensive approach that includes administrative and legal guarantees, medical, psychological and professional support, key aspects of the experience of NATO countries and the State of Israel in this area are highlighted.

Arguments are presented regarding: 1) the feasibility of introducing in Ukraine positive foreign experience (in particular, the United States of America and the State of Israel) regarding the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel, in particular regarding the adoption of a comprehensive Law of Ukraine "On the Rehabilitation and Socialization of

¹⁶ Гордієнко С. П. Зарубіжний досвід в організації системи соціального захисту учасників бойових дій. Теорія і практика публічного управління та адміністрування у XXI сторіччі : матеріали Першої всеукраїнської наук.-практ. конф., 30 листопада 2018 р. Київ. URL : <http://academy.gov.ua/pages/dop/198/files/9e0c6916-89d9-4e68-bae0-7122d804a470.pdf> (дата звернення : 20.04.2024).

Military Personnel of Ukraine and Persons Ensuring Defense Capability, Security and Law and Order in Ukraine”, which should regulate the categories of military personnel in need of rehabilitation, determine the basic criteria by which the necessity and expediency of rehabilitation is determined, determine the forms, methods and methodologies of rehabilitation, establish the rights, obligations and responsibilities of public authorities that must ensure the rehabilitation of military personnel, determine the levels of rehabilitation of military personnel depending on their physical and psychological health, determine the legal status of rehabilitation institutions and social support institutions (types, forms and procedure for activity), establish general requirements (licensing requirements) and criteria for providing rehabilitation services, including for the personnel of such institutions, to determine the sources and procedure for financing the activities of such institutions (following the example of the State of Israel); 2) create a separate Department of Rehabilitation and Socialization (Reintegration) of Ukrainian Military Personnel within the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, which should be a key body that ensures coordination of other departments and services engaged in the rehabilitation and socialization (reintegration) of Ukrainian military personnel (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Veterans, Ministry of Social Policy), following the example of the USA; 3) ensure the effective operation of the electronic service "Veteran's Electronic Cabinet" as a separate resource modeled on the Unified Electronic Portal of State Services of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, in which it is advisable to place access to the following services: veteran status (data from the state register on the legal status of a veteran) – the service allows you to obtain an electronic veteran's certificate with a QR code to confirm status in the registers; submitting an application to a specialist for the support of war veterans and demobilized persons; information on benefits and guarantees (for travel, education, utilities), as well as viewing information on various statuses (participant of hostilities, participant of the war); application for social assistance and social support; application for psychological support; application for medical rehabilitation in rehabilitation centers. The administration and legal and informational support of this service should be entrusted to the Ministry of Veterans, which should interact with the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Social Policy, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Digital Affairs of Ukraine during its maintenance.

SUMMARY

The article summarizes the unique experience of individual NATO countries and the State of Israel in ensuring the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel, which is based on a comprehensive approach that includes administrative and legal guarantees, medical, psychological and professional support, and highlights key aspects of the experience of NATO countries and the State of Israel in this area.

Arguments are presented regarding: 1) the feasibility of introducing in Ukraine positive foreign experience (in particular, the United States of America and the State of Israel) regarding the rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel, in particular regarding the adoption of a comprehensive Law of Ukraine “On the Rehabilitation and Socialization of Military Personnel of Ukraine and Persons Ensuring Defense Capability, Security and Law and Order in Ukraine”, which should regulate the categories of military personnel in need of rehabilitation, determine the basic criteria by which the necessity and expediency of rehabilitation is determined, determine the forms, methods and methodologies of rehabilitation, establish the rights, obligations and responsibilities of public authorities that

must ensure the rehabilitation of military personnel, determine the levels of rehabilitation of military personnel depending on their physical and psychological health, determine the legal status of rehabilitation institutions and social support institutions (types, forms and procedure for activity), establish general requirements (licensing requirements) and criteria for providing rehabilitation services, including for the personnel of such institutions, to determine the sources and procedure for financing the activities of such institutions (following the example of the State of Israel); 2) create a separate Department of Rehabilitation and Socialization (Reintegration) of Ukrainian Military Personnel within the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, which should be a key body that ensures coordination of other departments and services engaged in the rehabilitation and socialization (reintegration) of Ukrainian military personnel (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Veterans, Ministry of Social Policy), following the example of the USA; 3) ensure the effective operation of the electronic service "Veteran's Electronic Cabinet" as a separate resource modeled on the Unified Electronic Portal of State Services of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, in which it is advisable to place access to the following services: veteran status (data from the state register on the legal status of a veteran) – the service allows you to obtain an electronic veteran's certificate with a QR code to confirm status in the registers; submitting an application to a specialist for the support of war veterans and demobilized persons; information on benefits and guarantees (for travel, education, utilities), as well as viewing information on various statuses (participant of hostilities, participant of war); application for social assistance and social support; application for psychological support; application for medical rehabilitation in rehabilitation centers. The administration and legal and informational support of this service should be entrusted to the Ministry of Veterans, which during its maintenance should interact with the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Social Policy, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Digital Economy of Ukraine.

Key words: rehabilitation and socialization of military personnel, legal guarantees, medical, psychological, social rehabilitation of military personnel, international experience, ways of implementing international experience.

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