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THE ROLE OF A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN THE INTERCULTURAL INTERACTION OF MILITARY

The act of armed aggression committed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, has presented a significant challenge to our society. In light of this, it has become a top priority to form a coalition with partner countries, conduct joint training, and involve foreign citizens in countering the criminal and cynical invasion by the Russian army. These actions are paramount in safeguarding Ukraine, protecting Europe, and preserving civilization [1], [2].

The relevance of this research topic is derived from the current scenario, which involves foreign citizens from diverse linguistic backgrounds possessing an array of skills and experiences that enable them to participate in joint combat and particular tasks alongside the Ukrainian Defense Forces. This situation has highlighted the critical issue of internal communication among these servicemen during their missions. The language barrier has emerged as one of the significant challenges that must be addressed to establish and maintain effective communication protocols and enable the seamless coordination of units.

Internal communication among service members extends beyond everyday communication and encompasses tactical information exchange, including topography, terrain study, and orientation during combat missions, negotiations, and radio communication between units. Effective communication is essential for ensuring the successful execution of missions, as it equips each unit with relevant information to make informed decisions. The language barrier can be especially problematic in situations that

require rapid decision-making, as delays in communication can have disastrous consequences.

On February 27th, 2022, the President of Ukraine officially called upon citizens from foreign countries that have partnered with Ukraine to join the Armed Forces of Ukraine and help defend the nation against the ongoing Russian invasion during the Russian-Ukrainian war. This appeal marked the beginning of foreign nationals' involvement in the conflict, emphasizing the importance of Ukrainian units becoming proficient in the English language.

The participation of military volunteers in the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military formations during the 2014 formation of Ukrainian volunteer battalions highlighted a significant knowledge gap in English language learning among military personnel. This inadequacy negatively impacted the ability to engage military volunteers, thus compromising the effectiveness of the Ukrainian military. The lack of English language proficiency among military personnel underscores the need for a more comprehensive and structured approach to language learning in the military. This should be a priority for the military command, particularly in light of the increasing importance of English as a global language.

The primary objective of ensuring the fulfillment of the assigned tasks is to facilitate effective internal communication within military teams, both at group, division, platoon, company, detachment levels and inter-military units. The clarity and specificity of the tasks delegated to subordinates are paramount to prevent any ambiguity regarding their legitimacy [3, p. 12-13].

The International Legion units engage in combat missions with units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. To execute their duties successfully, militaries must possess intercultural communication skills that enable them to participate in a dialogue with military personnel from different countries. These skills include the ability to express their views, defend their position, confirm or refute the perspectives of others, and agree or disagree in specific communication situations.

Due to the aforementioned aspects, English plays a significant role in intercultural

interaction among military personnel. A lack of proficiency in the language may result in errors and, in extreme cases, fatalities. Therefore, militaries must develop their intercultural communication skills, especially in English, to ensure successful intercultural interaction in military contexts.

References:

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