

TRAINING PERSONNEL FOR THE PUBLIC SECURITY SYSTEM IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE: REFORMS AND RESULTS

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Abstract: This article is dedicated to the reforms implemented in the field of training personnel for the public security system in Uzbekistan and their results. It provides information on the challenges in staffing the sector in the early years of independence, the measures taken to address them, the establishment of higher military educational institutions for training personnel in the system, and the continuous improvement of the educational process. Additionally, recommendations and proposals have been developed.

Keywords: public security, military personnel, public order, ensuring public security, national security, national personnel, personnel training, officer personnel, internal troops.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has undertaken fundamental reforms in its security system, including public safety, with significant measures implemented, particularly in personnel training for the sector. Based on the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the adoption of the Public Safety Concept of Uzbekistan played a crucial role in strengthening national security by further developing the public safety system and defining the strategic directions of state policy in this area. In this regard, the system for training personnel in the field has gone through unique historical stages during Uzbekistan's independence, and the trained specialists have been faithfully serving in the country's security system.

In the early years of independence, ensuring public safety and maintaining internal security and order became more critical than ever, prompting swift and systematic measures. This urgency arose because, in the wake of gaining independence, certain border regions experienced disorder. Additionally, in the early years of independence, many military personnel relocated to various republics of the former Soviet Union, their birthplaces, and places of previous service. As a result, strengthening the system for maintaining public order, along with defense and other sectors, became an urgent necessity. Given these circumstances, particular emphasis was placed on transferring the military and law enforcement structures, including

armed forces units and subdivisions, under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Furthermore, legislation in this area was improved, and its practical implementation was given close attention.

Despite numerous difficulties in staffing the internal troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) of Uzbekistan in the early years of independence, effective reforms carried out by the country's leadership, along with measures implemented at the Tashkent Higher Military Technical School, led to the establishment of a system to meet the personnel needs of the internal troops. In subsequent years, practical efforts in training, retraining, and professional development of personnel were further refined. The institution not only prepared highly qualified military specialists for the internal troops but also for all power structures within the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan, law enforcement agencies, and even for foreign countries.

The declaration "On the State Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan," adopted at the twelfth extraordinary session of the Supreme Council of Uzbekistan, stated: *"To protect state independence, territorial integrity, and the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, the Ministry of Defense and the National Guard shall be established in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, the USSR State Security Committee, and the Internal Troops stationed in the republic shall come under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Uzbekistan."*

This was legally reinforced in the Law "On the Foundations of State Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan," particularly in Article 6, which stipulated Uzbekistan's right to establish the Ministry of Defense, the National Guard, and alternative (non-military) service. This effectively granted the young republic the authority to implement its own military policy [1, 13-14].

January 10, 1992, became a memorable date for the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan. On this day, by decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Internal Troops Directorate under the MIA was established. It was tasked with protecting the constitutional system, maintaining public order, securing correctional institutions, safeguarding critical infrastructure and special cargo, providing security services for judicial institutions and convicts, combating terrorism and organized criminal groups, and participating in border protection operations of the state [2].

It is well known that after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, significant natural changes and shortcomings emerged in the field of military personnel. This was because, during

the Soviet era, many military personnel who had served in Uzbekistan relocated to various countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to continue their military careers.

During this period, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the command of the internal troops, and various military units and subdivisions carried out large-scale efforts to staff the internal troops. First and foremost, important work was undertaken in cooperation with defense departments in all regions, cities, and districts of the Republic to recruit reserve officers into active service. As a result, reserve officers were called to active duty. However, it must be acknowledged that the professional level, skills, and military preparedness of this personnel did not fully meet contemporary requirements.

The officer corps was supplemented by warrant officers who had undergone training in the evening courses of the Tashkent Higher Military School of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan, gaining a certain degree of experience. In this regard, significant work was carried out under the leadership of Lieutenant General Burkhan Khasanovich Sirojiddinov, former commander of the convoy division of the Internal Troops and later head of the Higher Courses of the Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Thanks to the dedication and perseverance of those who stood at the foundation of the Internal Troops and considered selfless service to be their primary mission, our troops have now developed into a system capable of reliably protecting our homeland and every citizen from all forms of crime.

We proudly and honorably mention the names of such esteemed individuals, including Colonel I.T. Mamadaliev, Major General Sh.N. Niyozov, Major General Kh.R. KhojimAtov, Major General V.A. Bukhteev, Colonel Kh.S. Ibragimov, Colonel T.T. Soatov, Colonel N.D. Sadatov, Colonel P.M. Kislenko, Colonel V.A. Mamo, Major General Isabayev, Major General K.A. Aliev, and others.

From the very first days, the Internal Troops began forming anew. The past years have been a highly responsible period of testing for the personnel of the Internal Troops, as nearly all work had to be started from scratch. What made this process particularly challenging was that, alongside fulfilling their daily combat duties, the troops had to address extremely complex tasks such as establishing new military units and subdivisions, constructing military townships, and organizing personnel and officer staffing.

Reforms in military personnel training in Uzbekistan have been carried out on a large scale, especially over the past six years. In particular, according to the presidential decree “On Further Improving the System of Training Professional Personnel in the Field of Public Safety,”

the Military-Technical Institute of the National Guard was reorganized into the Public Safety University of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

According to this decree, the university was designated as a fundamental higher military education and research institution responsible for the targeted training of qualified personnel in the following areas:

- For the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Guard: maintaining public order, ensuring road traffic safety, and managing the passport system requirements within the field of public safety.
- For the Armed Forces and other law enforcement agencies: military diplomacy, jurisprudence and economics, engineering and technical fields, educational psychology, and command-tactical activities [3].
- For government and economic management bodies with their own security structures: organization and implementation of security activities across all relevant areas.

In today's era of globalization, as thousands of tourists visit Uzbekistan, there has arisen a necessity to train highly intellectual specialists who possess knowledge that meets modern requirements and are fluent in at least two foreign languages. Taking this into account, the decision was made to ensure the supply of highly qualified personnel in the fields of maintaining public order, road safety, and passport system requirements.

The issue of personnel was also given special attention in the presidential decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "On Measures to Introduce a Qualitatively New System of Professional Training for the Internal Affairs Bodies." A completely new system of specialist training for the internal affairs bodies was introduced. The academy's educational system is now focused on targeted professional training, with an intensified curriculum starting from the first year that includes specialized and legal subjects, as well as advanced combat and physical training [4]. The primary goal of teaching legal subjects to every cadet is to ensure the rule of law in society.

Additionally, the academy's bachelor's degree program has been organized in both full-time and part-time formats. Admission is now conducted through an individual interview process based on a special professional selection and transparency criteria, overseen by the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs. The purpose of individual interviews is to comprehensively assess the intellectual, moral-psychological, professional, and physical readiness of military personnel, selecting only the most deserving candidates.

In ancient times, swords and bows wielded by strong warriors, later firearms and cannons, and in the 20th century, tanks and military aircraft ensured victories in wars. Today, intelligence and modern technology, particularly remotely controlled drones, continue to evolve. These weapons are playing a crucial role in military operations worldwide in the first quarter of the 21st century [5].

In this context, training professional personnel in public security who are in line with modern times has become a pressing issue. On June 7, 2024, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the Coordination and Monitoring Center of the Public Security Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This center was established as part of Uzbekistan's strategy for developing its public security system. The complex underwent a complete renovation, was equipped with modern technology, and was launched in March of this year. The center serves as a unified information space encompassing public security processes, where the situation on the ground and the actions of officers are analyzed through digital technologies.

The head of state paid special attention to this matter, emphasizing that personnel in this field must be well-versed in advanced technologies.

Today, artificial intelligence is expanding its role in all sectors. Along with the development of software that provides convenience to people, cybercrime and fraud techniques are also increasing. To prevent, detect, and expose such crimes, internal affairs officers must be even more advanced and vigilant.

Therefore, rectors of higher educational institutions under law enforcement agencies were invited to the meeting at the center. It was emphasized that their curricula should be improved in this regard, a dual education system should be introduced, and academic and research activities should be closely aligned with real-life challenges [6].

In particular, the University of Public Security, which plays a significant role, has established a multi-stage military education system that integrates several educational institutions to train command and technical personnel. This institution provides modern education in public order maintenance, road traffic safety, and passport system management for the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Guard. Additionally, it offers military diplomacy, jurisprudence, economics, engineering and technical disciplines, psychological and pedagogical training, and command-tactical activities for the Armed Forces and other law enforcement agencies.

There is now a pressing need to modernize the curricula in these fields, increase the number of hours dedicated to exact and natural sciences, and introduce new disciplines such as information technology and cybersecurity.

Looking at the history of the University of Public Security, the Tashkent Higher Military Technical School previously offered specializations in network repair and maintenance engineering, as well as radio telemechanics systems operation and maintenance. The entrance exams for these specializations prioritized physics and mathematics.

In 1992, preparatory courses for the head of the Tashkent Higher Military Technical School of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) were established, allocating one-third of the total study hours to mathematics and physics.

As information technologies continue to develop globally, their overall importance and influence also grow. Accordingly, the knowledge and qualifications of professionals in the public security sector must advance in line with these trends.

The President of Uzbekistan's remarks on the necessity of introducing a dual education system and ensuring that academic and scientific activities are closely aligned with real-world applications are reflected in two key documents.

The first document is the presidential decree on “Measures for Introducing a Qualitatively New System of Professional Training for the Internal Affairs Bodies,” which stipulates that first-degree master’s students must complete mandatory internships under the direct mentorship of department heads in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and regional internal affairs agencies. Additionally, they are to attend training courses at foreign law enforcement educational institutions to enhance their management skills.

Furthermore, this decree mandates the implementation of a high-quality two-tier higher education system, the organization of educational processes based on the latest pedagogical and information technologies, and the improvement of the scientific and pedagogical qualifications of teaching staff, including training at foreign educational institutions. The decree also calls for retraining and upgrading the skills of all categories of internal affairs personnel using innovative information and pedagogical technologies. Additionally, it outlines the introduction of distance and mobile field courses to allow internal affairs officers to improve their qualifications without interrupting their service [7].

The second document, the presidential decree on “Further Improving the System of Professional Training for Public Security Personnel,” establishes the following:

- Organizing the educational process based on modern teaching methods and technologies, ensuring the integration of theory and practice;
- Training highly qualified scientific and pedagogical personnel and conducting comprehensive scientific research on the most pressing public security issues, including attracting local and international grants;
- Engaging qualified specialists from prestigious foreign educational and research institutions in the training process, as well as fostering continuous international cooperation in conducting joint scientific research and exchanging pedagogical experience.

Additionally, the decree grants the University's leadership the authority to:

- Implement joint education programs with leading foreign educational and research institutions, and establish direct agreements and memorandums on cooperation in training and professional development;
- Organize training, retraining, and professional development programs for foreign military personnel within the framework of international cooperation and bilateral agreements [8].

The introduction of a “dual education” system in the country's education sector provides an opportunity to integrate theory with practice and keep up with the times. A key issue in traditional education is the low competitiveness of graduates due to discrepancies between educational outcomes and employer demands. This mismatch makes it difficult for graduates to secure employment. Therefore, a new mechanism of interaction with employers is necessary to identify required additional competencies and develop them in consideration of labor market demands.

The achievements in military personnel training in Uzbekistan have led to an increase in demand from foreign countries. A special decision was made to introduce a system for training and educating foreign military personnel at higher military educational institutions of the Ministry of Defense and the National Guard of Uzbekistan.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Defense of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education established a Department for Work with Foreign Military Personnel within the higher military educational institutions (HMEIs) of the Ministry of Defense. The main tasks of this department include accepting, training, and organizing graduation events for foreign military personnel; assisting the scientific and educational departments of HMEIs in organizing, supervising, and monitoring training and methodological

work; and improving the content, forms, and technologies of training foreign military personnel in collaboration with other leading educational institutions in the country.

Additionally, the department is responsible for providing comprehensive support for the adaptation of foreign military personnel to the conditions of Uzbekistan and ensuring their compliance with the legal regulations of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It also oversees cultural exchange programs between foreign military personnel and Uzbekistan's military personnel, as well as the organization of high-quality cultural and educational events [9].

Training foreign military personnel at HMEIs is conducted in accordance with bilateral international agreements. The annual admission quotas for foreign military personnel at HMEIs are determined by the President of Uzbekistan. Admission is planned based on requests submitted by authorized defense and public security agencies of foreign states to the Ministry of Defense and the National Guard of Uzbekistan. The annual quota, distribution by specialty, and training type for foreign states are determined by the Ministry of Defense and the National Guard of Uzbekistan in coordination with the Security Council Office under the President of Uzbekistan.

Training foreign military personnel at HMEIs is conducted in compliance with the state educational standards and legal regulations of Uzbekistan. The main educational programs are designed to meet the qualification requirements for military-professional training. Instruction for foreign military personnel is provided in Uzbek and Russian. Moreover, introducing foreign military personnel to Uzbek culture, traditions, and the history of Uzbekistan has been identified as one of the key objectives. The importance of this initiative lies in promoting the Uzbek language and culture internationally, thereby enhancing Uzbekistan's global standing.

In conclusion, reforms in military personnel training are crucial for ensuring the security, peace, and stability of the nation. The University of Public Security of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Academy of Internal Affairs have established an entirely new system for training military specialists. The introduction of a dual education system not only allows specialists to obtain a diploma in a specific field but also enables them to independently handle professional tasks, taking into account the characteristics of the organization or enterprise where the dual training was conducted.

A professional specialist is defined as an individual capable of effectively using modern technology and information systems, thinking independently and critically, and making rapid decisions based on thorough event analysis. Preparing such specialists is a key task for every higher military educational institution.

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