

**METHODS TO IMPROVE THE TRAINING OF MILITARY PERSONNEL:  
THE CASE OF UZBEKISTAN**

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USULLARI: O'ZBEKISTON MISOLIDA**

**МЕТОДЫ СОВЕРШЕНСТВОВАНИЯ ПОДГОТОВКИ  
ВОЕННОСЛУЖАЩИХ: ПРИМЕР УЗБЕКИСТАНА**

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**Annotatsiya:** O'zbekiston mustaqillikka erishganidan so'ng, mamlakatning harbiy tizimi yangi xavflar, tahdidlar va zamonaviy urush uslublari talablariga javob beradigan harbiy tayyorgarlikni modernizatsiya qilishga alohida e'tibor qaratilganligi hamda O'zbekistonning harbiy tizimi, texnologiyalarni joriy etish, xalqaro hamkorlik va qo'shma mashqlarni o'tkazish, harbiy ta'limni professionalizatsiya qilish, liderlikni rivojlantirish va psixologik barqarorlikni oshirishni o'z ichiga olgan bir qator islohotlarni amalga oshirdi. Ushbu maqolada O'zbekistonning harbiy professional kadrlarni tayyorlashni modernizatsiya qilishga yo'naltirilgan asosiy yo'nalishlari va usullari ko'rib chiqilgan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** O'zbekiston, harbiy tayyorgarlik, modernizatsiya, xalqaro hamkorlik, qo'shma mashqlar, harbiy ta'lim, texnologiyalar, psixologik barqarorlik, harbiy professional tayyorgarlik, kadrlar tayyorlash, kiberxavfsizlik, harbiy oliy o'quv yurtlari.

**Аннотация:** После обретения Узбекистаном независимости военная система страны претерпела ряд реформ, включая модернизацию военной подготовки с учетом новых рисков, угроз и требований современной войны, внедрение технологий, международное сотрудничество и совместные учения, профессионализацию военного образования, развитие лидерских качеств и повышение психологической устойчивости. В статье рассматриваются основные направления и методы работы Узбекистана по модернизации подготовки военных кадров.

**Ключевые слова:** Узбекистан, военная подготовка, модернизация, международное сотрудничество, совместные учения, военное образование, технологии, психологическая устойчивость, военно-профессиональная подготовка, подготовка кадров, кибербезопасность, военные вузы.

**Abstract:** Since Uzbekistan gained independence, the country's military system has undergone a number of reforms, including the modernization of military training to meet new risks, threats and demands of modern warfare, the introduction of technologies, international cooperation and joint exercises, the professionalization of military education, the development of leadership skills and the enhancement of psychological stability. The article discusses the main areas and methods of Uzbekistan's work to modernize military personnel training. Keywords: Uzbekistan, military training, modernization, international cooperation, joint exercises, military education, technologies, psychological stability, military professional training, personnel training, cybersecurity, military universities.

Uzbekistan, a country in Central Asia with a strategic position and a rich military history, has faced a complex security environment since its independence in 1991. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Uzbekistan, like many of the former Soviet republics, inherited a legacy military system that was predominantly Soviet in structure, equipment, and doctrine. However, over the last few decades, Uzbekistan has focused on modernizing its military to address new regional and global security threats, diversify its defense partnerships, and improve the readiness of its armed forces. One of the key areas of reform has been military training, which has become an essential component of the country's overall military modernization program.

The process of enhancing military training in Uzbekistan has involved several methods, including revising and modernizing the training curricula, adopting new technologies, fostering international cooperation, and emphasizing the importance of leadership and mental resilience. This article examines these efforts and looks at how Uzbekistan is improving the training of its military personnel to meet the challenges of contemporary warfare and regional security dynamics.

### **1. Introduction: The Need for Improved Military Training in Uzbekistan**

Since gaining independence in 1991, Uzbekistan has pursued a policy of neutral foreign relations and sought to maintain its sovereignty while managing the complex security challenges of Central Asia. The region is characterized by diverse threats such as terrorism, extremism, border disputes, organized crime, and the instability in neighboring Afghanistan. These challenges, coupled with the emergence of hybrid warfare, cyber threats, and the evolving nature of military engagements, have underscored the need for continuous military modernization, particularly in training.

The Armed Forces of Uzbekistan, under the Ministry of Defense, are tasked with ensuring national security and protecting the country's borders. Given the region's volatile geopolitical environment, enhancing military training is vital for maintaining defense readiness. The Uzbek military is increasingly focusing on improving its

operational capabilities through modern training methods, integrating new technologies, and adapting to the changing nature of warfare.

## **2. Soviet Military Legacy and Post-Independence Reforms**

When Uzbekistan became an independent state following the collapse of the Soviet Union, it inherited a military structure heavily influenced by Soviet doctrines, technologies, and strategies. While these elements provided a solid foundation for defense, the country's military personnel and equipment were not sufficiently adapted to the new challenges of the post-Soviet world. At that time, the Uzbek military faced several issues, such as outdated equipment, insufficient training in modern tactics, and the absence of a professional military officer corps.

### *The Soviet Military System*

Under the Soviet system, military training was characterized by centralized command, mass conscription, and a focus on conventional warfare and large-scale military operations. Training was standardized across the USSR, with an emphasis on physical fitness, battlefield tactics, and discipline. However, the post-Soviet Uzbek military needed to undergo a transformation to meet the demands of modern warfare, which involves irregular warfare, counterinsurgency operations, cyber threats, and regional instability.

### *Post-Independence Reforms*

Following independence, Uzbekistan began a series of reforms aimed at modernizing its armed forces and adapting to a new security environment. The country's leadership recognized the necessity of professionalizing the military, improving the quality of training, and reducing the dependence on outdated Soviet practices. As part of this effort, Uzbekistan has taken steps to create a more modern, mobile, and technologically advanced military force capable of responding to regional threats.

In the first decade of independence, Uzbekistan focused on reorganizing its military, reducing the size of the conscripted forces, and increasing the number of professional, contract-based personnel. This transition allowed the country to invest more in specialized training programs, better suited to modern military needs.

## **3. Modernizing Military Training: Key Methods**

Uzbekistan's efforts to improve military training can be categorized into several key areas: the integration of modern technologies, international cooperation and joint exercises, the professionalization of military education, the development of leadership, and the integration of psychological resilience training.

### *1. Technological Integration in Training*

In the context of modern warfare, technology plays a crucial role in both the training of military personnel and the operational readiness of the armed forces. Uzbekistan has increasingly incorporated new technologies into its military training

programs to enhance the capabilities of its soldiers and ensure they are equipped to handle complex scenarios.

### **Simulation-Based Training**

One of the most important advancements in military training has been the adoption of simulation-based technologies. Training simulators and virtual environments allow soldiers to practice various combat situations, including urban warfare, counterinsurgency operations, and tactical movements, without the need for live ammunition or costly field exercises.

The use of simulators also reduces the risk associated with training in hazardous environments, such as explosives training or high-stress combat simulations. Uzbekistan has partnered with other countries and defense contractors to acquire modern simulation tools, such as battle simulators and flight simulators for its air force and air defense units. These simulators offer soldiers a realistic environment to practice decision-making, situational awareness, and coordination among different units.

### **Digital Training Platforms and E-Learning**

Uzbekistan has also invested in digital training platforms that offer a range of training modules, including language skills, technical knowledge, and general military education. These e-learning platforms help military personnel improve their skills in specific areas, such as cyber defense, intelligence gathering, and advanced weaponry. By incorporating digital tools into the training process, Uzbekistan is helping to ensure that its military personnel are well-prepared for the digital and information warfare challenges of modern combat.

### **Cybersecurity Training**

In line with the global shift toward digital warfare, Uzbekistan has developed training programs in cybersecurity to protect critical infrastructure and military communications systems. Cybersecurity training has become an integral part of the military curriculum, as defense forces must defend against attacks that target not only physical assets but also digital networks and information systems.

## **2. International Cooperation and Joint Training Exercises**

Uzbekistan recognizes the importance of international cooperation to address regional and global security threats. As part of its efforts to modernize its military, Uzbekistan has participated in various joint training exercises and has built partnerships with foreign militaries to improve the readiness of its armed forces.

### **CSTO and SCO Joint Exercises**

Uzbekistan's participation in multinational military exercises, particularly within the framework of the **Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)** and the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**, has been crucial in improving the interoperability of its armed forces. These joint exercises are designed to enhance coordination between military units from different countries and simulate real-world

scenarios, such as peacekeeping missions, counterterrorism operations, and border control.

For example, Uzbekistan has participated in the **Peace Mission** exercises conducted by the CSTO, which simulate peacekeeping operations in conflict zones. These exercises allow Uzbekistan's military personnel to train alongside troops from other CSTO member states such as Russia, Armenia, and Kazakhstan, which enhances their ability to work in multinational coalitions.

Additionally, Uzbekistan has collaborated with neighboring countries, such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, to strengthen regional defense cooperation and improve their collective security capabilities. These joint exercises often focus on counterterrorism, border security, and emergency response, which are essential concerns for countries in Central Asia.

### **Bilateral Training with Western Partners**

While Uzbekistan maintains a policy of non-alignment, it has also engaged in bilateral training exercises with Western countries such as the United States. These exercises are focused on improving counterterrorism skills, urban warfare tactics, and border security operations. Uzbekistan's participation in the **Partnership for Peace (PfP)** program with NATO has facilitated the exchange of knowledge, training practices, and military techniques with NATO member states.

By engaging in joint training exercises, Uzbekistan's military personnel have access to diverse military doctrines and techniques, which enables them to adapt to a range of operational environments and improve their overall combat readiness.

### **3. Professionalization and Officer Education**

A key aspect of improving military training in Uzbekistan has been the emphasis on the professionalization of the military. This includes the development of modern officer training programs, which aim to produce highly skilled and capable leaders who can manage complex operations and make strategic decisions.

#### **Military Academies and Officer Schools**

Uzbekistan has invested in reforming and modernizing its officer education system. The **Tashkent Higher Military Aviation School**, the **Military Institute of the Ministry of Defense**, and other military institutions have undergone significant reforms to offer more comprehensive training programs that meet international standards. These institutions provide officers with training in military strategy, leadership, logistics, and technical fields, with a focus on both theoretical knowledge and practical experience.

In recent years, the Uzbek military has adopted a more Western-style approach to officer education, placing greater emphasis on leadership skills, critical thinking, and decision-making. This shift has led to the creation of advanced courses and



programs that focus on modern military tactics, including the use of drones, advanced weaponry, and hybrid warfare techniques.

### **NCO Training**

Non-commissioned officers (NCOs) play a crucial role in the Uzbek military, as they serve as the backbone of the armed forces, providing leadership at the tactical level. Uzbekistan has developed specialized programs for NCOs to ensure they receive adequate training in both combat and leadership skills. These programs are designed to enhance the NCOs' ability to lead soldiers in combat, manage logistical operations, and perform administrative duties.

### **4. Psychological Resilience and Mental Health Training**

The psychological aspect of military training has gained increasing attention in Uzbekistan's efforts to improve the training of its personnel. Modern warfare often exposes soldiers to high levels of stress, trauma, and mental strain. Uzbekistan recognizes the importance of psychological resilience in ensuring the mental well-being of its armed forces, especially in counterterrorism operations and peacekeeping missions.

### **Mental Health Support Programs**

Uzbekistan's military has introduced mental health and psychological resilience programs that focus on stress management, coping mechanisms, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) prevention.

### **Proposals**

1. Personalizing military training: Introducing an individual approach, taking into account the physical, psychological and intellectual capabilities of military personnel. This will help increase the effectiveness of military training.
2. Strengthening psychological training: Organizing special psychological training for military personnel to manage stress, make decisions and ensure mental stability in combat situations.
3. Introducing new methods and technologies: Using modern methods and technologies in military training, especially modern teaching methods to increase the intellectual knowledge of military personnel.

### **Conclusion**

The process of military-professional training is a necessary, complex and constantly improving system for state security. The development of physical, psychological and intellectual training is of great importance in ensuring highly qualified and effective service of military personnel. The training of military personnel can be further improved through the use of modern technologies and methods, as well as the implementation of individual approaches.

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