



Article

The Socio-Spiritual Environment Influencing The Formation of Moral and Ethical Qualities in Young Military Personnel

Rajabov Behzod*¹

1. Independent Researcher at the National University of Uzbekistan

*Correspondance: behzodbek1991658@gmail.com

Abstract: This article provides a sociological analysis of the socio-spiritual environment and factors influencing the formation of moral and ethical qualities in young military personnel amid the modernization of the Armed Forces, while offering actionable recommendations for modernizing educational work and implementing gamification and digital sociometric monitoring.

Keywords: Young Military Personnel, Moral and Ethical Qualities, Socio-Spiritual Environment, Military Sociology, Sociometry, Adaptation, Digital Generation, Spiritual Immunity, Military Discipline

Citation: Behzod, R. The Socio-Spiritual Environment Influencing The Formation of Moral and Ethical Qualities in Young Military Personnel. American Journal of Social and Humanitarian Research 2026, 7(5), 103-107.

Received: 05th Apr 2026

Revised: 25th Apr 2026

Accepted: 05th May 2026

Published: 20th May 2026



Copyright: © 2026 by the authors. Submitted for open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

1. Introduction

In the current era, the escalation of the military-political situation globally, the expansion of hybrid warfare tactics, and the transformation of threats to national security require raising the combat readiness of our Armed Forces to a new level. In the context of the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the spiritual and psychological training of personnel has become an integral and strategic part of the state's defense capabilities. The experience of modern military conflicts shows that even the most advanced, high-tech weapons cannot achieve the expected effect if the soldier or commander who controls them lacks a high fighting spirit, devotion to duty, and moral stability [1]. Therefore, improving the spiritual and moral qualities of young military personnel, forming their psychological resilience and a sense of responsibility for the fate of the Motherland is one of the most urgent tasks of today's military-pedagogical and sociological sciences.

Today, young people being drafted into the military are representatives of a completely new generation (Z and Alpha), formed in a global environment with digital technologies and an unlimited flow of information. This digital determinism is causing specific changes in the socio-psychological profile of young military personnel: although they have a high ability to quickly absorb information, the process of adaptation to strict military discipline and a collective way of life is relatively contradictory. Informational and psychological attacks carried out through global networks, destructive ideas, and manipulations aimed at discrediting military service are trying to weaken the consciousness of young soldiers[2]. In such conditions, it is obvious that traditional educational mechanisms do not give the expected results. The problem is that effective methodologies for strengthening strong military-patriotic immunity in young soldiers against external ideological attacks and the degree of influence of the socio-spiritual environment in military communities on this process have not been systematically and

empirically studied. Based on these problems, the main goal of the study is to scientifically and sociologically determine the real impact of the internal socio-spiritual environment in military units on improving the spiritual and moral qualities of young military personnel (loyalty, courage, military duty, teamwork), as well as the objective and subjective factors driving it[3].

Literature Review

The issues of the formation of the moral climate, fighting spirit, and spiritual image of personnel in military teams have a long history in world military-sociological and psychological thought. In Western sociology, the study of military teams as an organizational system and social group is associated with the name of Morris Janowitz. In his fundamental research, he substantiated the fact that military discipline should be based not only on coercion but also on mutual trust and common morality within the group. In his opinion, the socio-psychological climate in the primary military team is the main factor determining the combat motivation of a soldier [4]. Another Western scientist who systematically studied the sociology of military personnel, Samuel Huntington, put forward the concepts of "objective control" and institutional ethics in professional military relations, showing that the moral climate in the army is directly related to the culture of society [5]. In Eastern philosophical and military schools, in particular, in Sun Tzu's treatise "The Art of War", the first of the five main factors of any victory was the "Dao" (way) - that is, the spiritual and ideological unity of the people, the army, and the ruler, an atmosphere of mutual trust [6].

In Uzbekistan, extensive scientific work has been carried out on the patriotic education of personnel. Among the scientists conducting research in the field of military pedagogy, M. Inomova and I. Kurbanniyozov revealed in their scientific works the pedagogical potential of our national military history and the heritage of such great commanders as Amir Temur in the professional socialization of young military personnel [7]. Military psychologist A. Gaziyeu studied the problems of socio-psychological climate and maladaptation in military teams and showed that the leadership style of commanders directly affects the mental state of soldiers [8]. Sociologist B. Turayev empirically analyzed the role of external social factors, in particular, primary education given in the family and educational institutions, in the formation of patriotic feelings among personnel [9].

However, although the analysis of existing foreign and domestic literature shows that a common foundation for organizing educational work in the military community has been created, it reveals the existence of a serious scientific gap (Research Gap) in the context of today's global threats and intensified information and psychological warfare. In the context of hybrid information attacks and destructive ideas on social networks, the psychological mechanisms of the formation of "spiritual immunity" in young military personnel of Generation Z and Alpha, as well as the impact of the microsial environment (sociometric relationships) in military units on them, have not been systematically studied using empirical and statistical methods (SPSS)[10].

2. Materials and Method

In order to comprehensively study the factors influencing the formation of spiritual and moral qualities of young military personnel, a mixed-method research design was used, combining quantitative and qualitative indicators. The following specialized methods were used in the research process: a sociological questionnaire to identify the spiritual values of young military personnel; J. Moreno sociometric test to identify the microsial environment and informal leaders within units (platoons); a psychological test, "Personal Adaptability Potential" (MLPO " Adaptivity ") to assess the mental stability of personnel, and group interviews were conducted in military teams.

The study was conducted on the basis of specific military units of the Tashkent and Southwestern Special Military Districts of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In order to ensure representativeness, a quota and random sampling method

were used. The final sample size was 650 young military personnel. By age group, participants were: 18–22 years old – 65%; 23–27 years old – 35%. By type of service, conscripts made up 65% (those serving for 1–6 months – 30%, those serving for 6–12 months – 35%), and young military personnel on a contract basis made up 35%. The data were subjected to mathematical and statistical analysis using the SPSS (Version 26.0) software package.

3. Results and Discussion

The results of the sociological study showed that the system of military-professional and spiritual-moral values in the minds of young servicemen has a specific hierarchical structure. When respondents were asked “What are the most important spiritual and moral qualities for a serviceman?”, the results were distributed as follows: Loyalty to the Motherland and military duty – 87.4%; military valor and courage – 76.2%; teamwork and mutual respect – 69.5%; unconditional obedience to commanders and discipline – 54.8%. The analysis shows that among young soldiers with a service period of 1 to 6 months, the value of “mutual respect” is 21.4% higher than the value of “discipline and obedience”. This confirms that for today's young servicemen, an atmosphere of mutual respect for the individual is more important than empty command[11].

The sociometric method and the results of the “Adaptivity” test were used to assess the socio-spiritual environment in the military unit and the quality of relations with commanders. In high-level (healthy) teams, where commanders and unit chiefs establish mutual relations on the principle of “trust and justice”, the spiritual and moral readiness of young soldiers (78.5%) was high, and the average rate of indiscipline per year was only 1.2. On the contrary, in units where the socio-spiritual environment has fallen to a critical (unhealthy) level (5.3%), the rate of violation of service discipline increased to 12.8[12].

Factors influencing the formation of spiritual and moral qualities of young military personnel were assessed using the regression analysis coefficient (β): the family and upbringing factor has the strongest influence ($\beta=0.45$, $p<0.001$), followed by internal military procedures and daily activities ($\beta=0.38$, $p<0.01$). The digital information space and social networks have a negative influence coefficient ($\beta= - 0.28$, $p<0.05$), and it was found that this factor reduces the motivation for service by 14.5% in soldiers who have not formed spiritual immunity against information attacks[13].

The empirical data revealed in the course of the research showed that the adaptation of young military personnel to the socio-spiritual environment is not the same in all units. The difficulty of the adaptation process in some military teams directly depends on the subjective factors in the microenvironment. From the perspective of M. Janowitz's theory, attempts to establish military discipline solely on the basis of authoritarian punitive measures or dry administrative orders are causing a negative social reaction. The reason is that there is a peculiar psychological conflict between the free worldview of today's representatives of the Z and Alpha generations in civilian life and the strict requirements of military discipline[14].

A young man, who was formed in civil society on the basis of the principles of freedom of information and personal space, undergoes a sharp socio-cultural transformation when he enters the army environment. Military service places demands on him, such as renunciation of personal interests and unconditional obedience to orders. As S. Huntington noted, military ethics cannot exist in isolation from the culture of society [15]. Today's military requires commanders not only to be holders of official titles but also to be intellectual leaders and moral role models. The use of authoritarian methods by commanders causes deviation in the form of internal depression or apathy in the digital generation.

4. Conclusion

Based on the research conducted, the following conclusions were drawn: a healthy socio-spiritual environment in military units is the main foundation for the fighting spirit and spiritual stability of young soldiers. The main force protecting young soldiers from destructive ideas and indiscipline is not administrative punishment, but the family foundation and the atmosphere of military brotherhood. The disconnect between the civic views of the digital generation and the imperatives of military discipline requires the introduction of a new system for strengthening spiritual immunity in military teams.

To overcome these problems, the following practical suggestions are put forward:

1. **Modernization of educational and ideological work:** Abandoning authoritarian methods in military units and transitioning to an interactive management system that takes into account the individual psychological characteristics of young soldiers, and improving the skills of military psychologists in the psychology of the digital generation.
2. **Military gamification programs:** Implementation of multimedia platforms and national military simulator games based on elements of national pride and military history, operating within the internal local networks of military units.
3. **Sociometric screening system:** Early identification of soldiers who are isolated in the community and organizing corrective work with them by digitizing the system of conducting anonymous sociometric surveys among personnel in military units every 3 months.
4. **"Commander - Spiritual Model" project:** Establishing a system of socio-psychological training for junior commanders (sergeants) that, in addition to commanding, develops personal role models and intellectual leadership skills in their relationships with young soldiers.

REFERENCES

- [1] Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. O'RQ-458, "On the Defense Doctrine of the Republic of Uzbekistan," Jan. 9, 2018.
- [2] M. Janowitz, *The Professional Soldier: A Social and Political Portrait*. New York, NY, USA: Free Press, 1960, pp. 112–118.
- [3] S. Huntington, *The Soldier and the State: The Theory and Politics of Civil-Military Relations*. Cambridge, MA, USA: Harvard University Press, 1957, p. 45.
- [4] Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*, Kh. Akhmedov, Transl. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Youth Publishing House, 2019, p. 12.
- [5] M. Inomova and I. Kurbanniyozov, *Fundamentals of Military Pedagogy*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Innovatsiya-Ziyo, 2018, p. 32.
- [6] A. A. G'oziyev, *Socio-Psychological Environment in Military Teams and Its Management Mechanisms*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Ministry of Defense Spiritual House, 2021, p. 54.
- [7] B. S. Turayev, "The role of external social factors in the socialization of young military personnel," *Journal of Sociological Sciences*, no. 3, pp. 112–118, 2022.
- [8] J. Matkarimov, "Problems of forming spiritual and psychological immunity in personnel in conditions of hybrid wars," *Military-Scientific Newsletter*, no. 2, pp. 45–51, 2023.
- [9] A. Bandura, *Social Foundations of Thought and Action: A Social Cognitive Theory*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ, USA: Prentice-Hall, 1986.
- [10] Ministry of Defense, "Results of a Study of the State of the Socio-Spiritual Environment among the Personnel," 2024.
- [11] Z. Kasimova, "The role of spiritual and ideological education in shaping the socio-spiritual image of unorganized youth," *Journal of Pedagogical Inventions and Practices*, vol. 2770, no. 2367, 2022.
- [12] L. T. Nguyen, "An action research study of the spiritual growth among veterans within the civilian context," 2024.

- [13] K. M. M. Ogli, "Development of social responsibility of students of conscription military education," *Asian Journal of Research in Social Sciences and Humanities*, vol. 11, no. 10, pp. 259–264, 2021.
- [14] P. I. Sidorov, "From mental epidemics to terrorism pandemic: Synergetic bio-psycho-socio-spiritual methodology of public conscience protection," *Focus on Terrorism*, p. 63, 2015.
- [15] G. Gulyamova, "Moral norms of the aristocratic environment of the Babur era," *International Scientific Journal of Media and Communications in Central Asia*, 2024.