



Article

# The Moral Ideal in the Activities of Military Personnel

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**Abstract:** This article provides a comprehensive socio-philosophical analysis of the manifestation of the moral ideal in the activities of military personnel. It examines the essence and content of the moral ideal and reveals its role in shaping the moral and spiritual character, professional duty, and social responsibility of military personnel. The dialectical interrelationship among such moral values as patriotism, loyalty, duty, honor and dignity, courage, discipline, responsibility, justice, and humanism under the conditions of military service is also analyzed.

**Keywords:** moral ideal, military personnel, military activity, social philosophy, moral values, moral and spiritual maturity, patriotism, military duty, professional responsibility

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## 1. Introduction

The intense emotional strain, psychological pressure, and extreme situations that arise during military service test an individual's moral position, capacity for self-control, and attitude toward professional duty. From this perspective, it is insufficient to interpret the psychological resilience of military personnel and their ability to act rationally in complex situations solely within the framework of psychological training [1]. This process should also be studied in close connection with the moral ideal, spiritual convictions, and sense of duty and responsibility developed within the military individual.

In general, "The moral ideal is based on such values as goodness, justice, conscience, duty, honor, humanism, and patriotism. In ethics, goodness is regarded as one of the principal criteria for evaluating human activity and is interpreted in close connection with the moral ideal" [2]. In this sense, the moral ideal serves as an important factor enabling military personnel to regulate their behavior in complex and extreme circumstances on the basis of internal moral principles.

## 2. Materials and Methods

This study employs a qualitative socio-philosophical research methodology aimed at identifying and interpreting the nature, structure, and manifestation of the moral ideal in the professional activities of military personnel. Since the subject of the research concerns moral values, professional duty, responsibility, patriotism, courage, honor, dignity, discipline, justice, and humanism, the study primarily relies on philosophical and theoretical methods rather than quantitative measurement.

The methodological framework is based on the principles of dialectical analysis, axiological analysis, comparative analysis, content analysis, interpretation, generalization, and synthesis. The dialectical method is used to examine the interrelationship between individual moral consciousness and the normative requirements of military service, as well as the interaction between personal freedom and professional discipline, individual interests and collective responsibility, and the use of force and humanistic principles. This

approach makes it possible to consider the moral ideal not as a static set of virtues, but as a dynamic system shaped through the interaction of personal convictions, professional obligations, and social expectations.

The axiological approach is applied to determine the value-based foundations of the moral ideal of military personnel. Particular attention is given to patriotism, loyalty, military duty, courage, honor, dignity, justice, responsibility, and humanism as key moral values guiding professional conduct. These values are analyzed in terms of their role in regulating behavior, strengthening professional identity, and supporting morally responsible decision-making.

In addition, comparative and content analysis methods are employed to examine philosophical works, scholarly publications on military ethics and military professionalism, studies of moral responsibility and moral injury, as well as normative documents concerning military-patriotic education. Relevant academic literature is comparatively examined in order to identify common theoretical approaches to military virtues, professional ethics, moral responsibility, and the relationship between military effectiveness and ethical conduct.

### 3. Results

The stable internalization of such moral values as patriotism, loyalty, courage, military duty, honor and dignity, discipline, responsibility, justice, and humanism not only strengthens an individual's resilience to high psycho-emotional stress but also establishes the moral and normative foundations of decision-making in complex situations. "It is precisely under such conditions that it has become necessary to educate the youth of our country in the spirit of patriotism, including military patriotism and high moral and spiritual values; to deeply instill in their minds the need to preserve peace and harmony as the apple of the eye; and, based on the noble idea that 'The people and the army are one body and one soul!', to unite the strengths and capabilities of ministries and agencies responsible for youth education around a common idea and a common goal" [3], [4].

In the context of military activity, the moral ideal represents a spiritual and normative orientation that reflects an individual's consistent embodiment of such values as military duty, patriotism, loyalty, honor, dignity, courage, discipline, responsibility, and humanism in professional activity [5]. It is not merely a set of external requirements imposed on military service, but rather a criterion of moral maturity that is harmonized with the military individual's internal convictions, conscience, and professional responsibility.

The specific nature of the military profession lies in the fact that personal and collective interests, individual freedom and service discipline, as well as professional duty and human values, constantly exist in a particular relationship with one another. Therefore, the moral ideal of military personnel is primarily based on the principle of the unity of duty and conscience [6], [7], [8]. While duty motivates a military individual to fulfill assigned responsibilities, conscience enables the person to understand the moral boundaries and human significance of such activity.

From this perspective, patriotism is one of the fundamental values within the moral ideal of military personnel. However, it would be insufficient to reduce patriotism solely to loyalty to the homeland or readiness for military service. Its philosophical content is defined by an awareness of responsibility toward the homeland, the people, and society; conscious service aimed at ensuring state and societal security; and recognition of human dignity as a supreme value. "Understanding one's duty to the homeland and the people is a sign of high spirituality. Indeed, strength and power are embodied in spirituality and enlightenment [9], [10]. A person who is not spiritually mature cannot fully understand what the homeland means. A person who fails to understand this aspect cannot fully understand himself either. Patriotism is connected with human spirituality, because

spirituality also has its own history. It is rooted in our historical culture and heritage, and first and foremost, we must not forget this process" [11], [12]. Thus, genuine patriotism is characterized not only by the ability to use force but also by a culture of responsible use of force [13].

Courage also occupies a special place in the moral ideal of military personnel. From a philosophical perspective, courage does not mean the absence of fear; rather, it is the ability to recognize danger and fear while acting rationally in accordance with duty and moral principles. In this regard, interpreting courage exclusively as physical heroism would constitute a one-sided approach. Courage also encompasses moral determination, willingness to assume responsibility, the ability to make appropriate decisions in difficult situations, and commitment to human values.

Military honor and dignity are likewise essential components of the moral ideal. While military honor is associated with a person's profound awareness of responsibility toward their professional status, military unit, and homeland, dignity serves as an internal moral criterion that helps preserve this status in a worthy manner [14]. Within such an approach, discipline is no longer merely an instrument of external control but becomes the individual's capacity for self-control and for assessing personal conduct in accordance with moral principles.

Humanism, in turn, is a fundamental value that provides substantive balance to the moral ideal of military personnel. Although military activity is associated with issues of force and security, its ultimate social objective is to ensure the safety of individuals, society, and peaceful life. Therefore, the professional competence of military personnel is determined not only by their capacity to use force but also by respect for human life and dignity, the ability to assess situations rationally, and a responsible approach aimed at preventing unnecessary violence [15].

The moral ideal of military personnel is not an abstract image of the "ideal service member"; rather, it is a normative and spiritual model that guides individuals toward harmonizing professional duty, civic responsibility, moral convictions, and universal human values in the course of military activity. Its essential meaning does not lie in turning force, discipline, and obedience to orders into ends in themselves, but in harmonizing them with legality, justice, responsibility, human dignity, and the interests of society.

#### 4. Conclusion

The establishment of a high moral ideal within society positively influences the spiritual character and behavior of individuals and contributes to strengthening mutual trust, solidarity, respect, and social responsibility in interpersonal relations. The significance of the moral ideal becomes particularly evident within military communities. This is because collective cooperation, mutual trust, discipline, loyalty, and responsible action toward a common goal constitute important moral factors in the effective performance of military duties.

From this perspective, the moral ideal of military personnel manifests itself not only as a set of individual moral qualities but also as a social phenomenon that shapes the moral and spiritual environment of a military community. The stable internalization of high moral values among military personnel strengthens mutual respect, commitment to duty, professional responsibility, and collective solidarity. As a result, an individual's personal moral maturity becomes a factor influencing the overall moral environment of the military community, while the moral environment of the military community, in turn, affects the social effectiveness of military service.

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