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FORMATION OF PATRIOTIC FEELINGS IN MILITARY PERSONNEL (CADETS) THROUGH SPORTS

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Abstract

The article analyzes the issues of forming patriotic feelings in military personnel and cadets through sports. The relevance of the problem is determined by the need to conduct military-patriotic education not only through propaganda and agitation, but in inseparable connection with the cadet's daily activities, physical training and sports sessions. The article substantiates the components of patriotic feeling, the functions of sports in its formation, the educational potential of national and military traditions, as well as a three-level model for forming patriotism through sports and evaluation criteria. The ways of strengthening feelings of loyalty to the Motherland, national pride, collective responsibility and readiness for service duty in cadets through sports competitions, team training and national sports are shown.

Keywords: patriotic feeling, military serviceman, cadet, sport, physical education, national traditions, military-applied sports, collective responsibility, military-patriotic education, evaluation criteria.

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Introduction

Patriotism is a feeling that constitutes the spiritual core of any military serviceman. It embodies love for the Motherland, respect for national and military traditions, loyalty to service duty, and responsibility before one's people and state. One of the important tasks facing military educational institutions is to form this feeling in cadets not only at the level of knowledge, but at the level of personal conviction and practical behavior [1].

In practice, patriotic education is often conducted through lectures, conversations, and propaganda events. These forms are important, but they alone are not sufficient. Patriotism is not an abstract concept, but a feeling manifested through concrete action, endurance, responsibility, and a sense of duty to the collective. Therefore, it is necessary to form it in inseparable connection with the cadet's daily activities, in particular sports training.

Sport is a unique and effective channel for forming patriotic feeling. Because in sport, situations such as defending the name of the Motherland, upholding the honor of the team, and worthily representing one's country before an opponent are directly experienced. On the sports field, the cadet feels responsibility for his unit, his educational institution, and ultimately for the Motherland — this is the deepest emotional root of patriotism.

The purpose of the article is to substantiate the pedagogical possibilities of forming patriotic feelings in military personnel and cadets through sports and to develop practical recommendations.

To form patriotic feeling through sports, it is first necessary to identify its components. As a result of the analysis, the following components were identified: emotional-value component — love for the Motherland, national pride, respect for military traditions; cognitive component — knowledge about the history of the Motherland, national and military traditions, service duty; volitional component — overcoming difficulties, taking responsibility, perseverance; activity component — manifestation of patriotism in practical

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actions, including sports activities; collective component — responsibility to the collective, mutual assistance, defending the honor of the unit; reflective component — evaluating one's actions from the perspective of the interests of the Motherland and the collective.

Sport simultaneously influences all six of these components. In sports training, the cadet connects knowledge about the Motherland with emotional experience, strengthens his will, feels responsibility to the collective, and analyzes his actions. It is precisely this multi-layered influence that makes sport an effective means of patriotic education [2].

As a result of the analysis, the following four functions of sport in forming patriotic feeling were substantiated:

Experience of defending the name of the Motherland and the collective. In competitions, the cadet represents his team, unit, and educational institution. His victory or defeat is connected not only with personal result but with the honor of the team. This experience is the strongest emotional channel of patriotism — it forms the feeling “I am defending what is mine.”In military service, this feeling directly transforms into the understanding “I defend my Motherland.”

Strengthening respect for national and military traditions. Sports ceremonies — the state anthem, flag, symbols, collective traditions — strengthen national pride and respect for military traditions in the cadet. Through national sports (national wrestling, archery, etc.), the cadet directly connects with the history and culture of his people. This is the cultural-historical root of patriotism.

Formation of volitional qualities and responsibility. Sports training requires constant exertion, overcoming fatigue and obstacles. The cadet develops volitional qualities such as determination, perseverance, goal achievement, and self-control. Patriotism manifests itself precisely in volitional action — in fulfilling one’s duty despite difficulties. Without will, patriotism remains only in words [3].

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Strengthening the culture of collectivism and mutual assistance. Team sports, relay races, and competitions teach the cadet to work in a team, provide mutual assistance, and share responsibility. The cohesion of the military collective is an important factor in combat training. In sport, the cadet internalizes the principle "one for all, all for one" — this principle is the foundation of military unit life (Table 1).

The above four functions complement each other: the experience of defending the name of the Motherland creates an emotional basis, respect for national traditions strengthens the cultural root, volitional qualities ensure readiness for action, and collective culture strengthens this feeling in the social environment.

Table 1. Functions of sport in forming patriotic feeling

Function	Essence	Educational result
Defending the name of the Motherland and the collective	upholding team honor in competition	strengthening the feeling of loyalty to the Motherland
Respect for national and military traditions	ceremonies, symbols, national sports	awareness of national pride and historical roots
Formation of volitional qualities	overcoming exertion and obstacles	readiness to fulfill duty
Culture of collectivism and mutual assistance	team exercises and relay races	unit cohesion and sense of responsibility

In forming patriotic feeling, national and military-applied sports occupy a special place.

National sports — national wrestling, archery, equestrian sports, and others — directly connect the cadet with the history, culture, and customs of his people. By practicing these sports, the cadet becomes aware of his national identity and regards the experience of his ancestors with respect. National sport is the cultural-historical channel of patriotism [4].

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Military-applied sports — obstacle course, grenade throwing, shooting, military orienteering, hand-to-hand combat — bring the cadet closer to military service conditions. By practicing these sports, the cadet feels like a military serviceman, and the feeling of readiness for service duty is strengthened. Military-applied sport is the professional-applied channel of patriotism.

Team competitions and relay races teach the cadet to act within the unit. Here patriotism manifests itself not only as personal but as collective responsibility. Team sport is the social channel of patriotism.

The harmony of these three channels — national identity, professional readiness, and collective responsibility — ensures the holistic formation of patriotic feeling. The proposed model forms patriotic feeling through sport at three levels.

The first level — motivational-value level. Through sport, loyalty to the Motherland, national pride, and respect for military traditions are formed in the cadet. Means: meetings with military sports luminaries, conversations about sports history and traditions, ceremonies with the participation of state symbols and the anthem, familiarization with national sports. At this level, the cadet accepts sport not only as physical exercise but as a form of serving the Motherland [5].

The second level — practical-activity level. The cadet is involved in systematic sports training and participates in competitions. Means: training in national and military-applied sports, team relay races, competitions. At this level, the cadet directly experiences the experience of defending the name of the Motherland and the collective — this is the strongest emotional experience of patriotism.

The third level — integrative-reflective level. The cadet analyzes his sports experience and connects it with patriotic values. Means: reflective conversation, personal portfolio, collective discussion, instructor evaluation. At this level, the cadet finds answers to questions such as ‘Why did I struggle?”, “How will this help me in service?”, ‘Which value moved me to action?’ and sports experience becomes a personal value.

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The essence of the model is that patriotism is formed not only through explanation, but through experience, action, and reflection. Sport combines precisely these three stages — emotional acceptance, practical action, and analysis — into a single system.

Table 2. Model for forming patriotic feeling through sport

Level	Goal	Main means	Expected result
Motivational-value	Loyalty to the Motherland, national pride	meetings, conversations, ceremonies, national sports	formation of value attitude
Practical-activity	Experience of defending the name of the Motherland and the collective	national and military-applied sports training, competitions	emotional strengthening of patriotism
Integrative-reflective	Connecting experience with values	reflective conversation, portfolio, discussion	stable patriotic conviction

To evaluate the effectiveness of forming patriotic feeling through sport, the following criteria are proposed: emotional-value criterion — the level of love for the Motherland, national pride, and respect for military traditions; cognitive criterion — knowledge about the history of the Motherland, national and military traditions;volitional criterion — the level of overcoming difficulties, perseverance, and responsibility;activity criterion — participation in sports activities and experience of defending the team name;collective criterion — responsibility to the collective, mutual assistance, and defending the honor of the unit; reflective criterion — the ability to evaluate one's actions from the perspective of the interests of the Motherland and the collective.

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These criteria allow evaluating the effectiveness of patriotic education both qualitatively (value attitude, conviction) and quantitatively (participation in sports activities, competition results).

Practical recommendations. Based on the analysis results, the following practical recommendations are put forward.

1. Enriching sports training with patriotic content. Integrate the theme of military traditions, loyalty to the Motherland, and collective responsibility into every training session and competition, and apply elements of respect for state symbols and military traditions at the beginning of training.
2. Widespread introduction of national sports into the curriculum. Strengthen national identity and respect for historical roots in cadets through national wrestling, archery, and other national sports.
3. Regular holding of team competitions and relay races. Form the experience of defending team honor and mutual assistance by organizing regular sports competitions between units.
4. Organizing meetings with sports luminaries and military veterans. Strengthen emotional-value attitude in cadets through real examples linking the defense of the Motherland and sports achievements.
5. Systematic establishment of reflective analysis. Conduct conversations and discussions at the end of each competition and training session that help the cadet connect his experience with patriotic values.
6. Enhancing the educational competence of instructors. Organize special advanced training courses for physical education instructors on the methodology of patriotic education through sport.

Conclusion

Sport is an effective pedagogical channel for forming patriotic feeling in military personnel and cadets. It performs four functions: it creates the experience of defending the name of the Motherland and the collective, strengthens respect for

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national and military traditions, forms volitional qualities, and develops a culture of collectivism. National sports strengthen the cultural-historical root, military-applied sports strengthen professional readiness, and team competitions strengthen social responsibility — their harmony ensures the holistic formation of patriotic feeling.

The proposed three-level model ('motivational-value — practical-activity — integrative-reflective") and the six-criterion evaluation system can serve as a practical basis for systematically organizing patriotic education through sport in military educational institutions. The important thing is that patriotism must manifest itself not only in words but in action — in the struggle on the sports field, in responsibility to the collective, and in the worthy defense of the name of the Motherland. Sports education organized on the basis of this principle becomes a reliable factor in forming stable patriotic conviction in the cadet's personality.

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