

Focusing on quality improvement and creating a new military education system

Ke Liu^{1,a} and Yi He^{2,b}

¹Associate Professor, Political Officer Education and Training Department, PLA Dalian Naval Academy

²Lecturer, Political Officer Education and Training Department, PLA Dalian Naval Academy

^amqson@qq.com, ^b353171244@qq.com

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Abstract: It is necessary to take the connotative development path for further teaching reform of military academies. Through the optimization and remodeling, a new type of institutional education system platform is established. In terms of adjustment of the system structure, it is necessary to focus on the "3 distinctive features"; in terms of the optimization of personnel training mode, it is necessary to innovate the "3 modes"; and in terms of further teaching and scientific research reform, it is necessary to achieve the "4 changes"; in terms of enhancement of faculty capacities, it is necessary to improve the "3 mechanisms."

1 Introduction

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, President Xi has issued a series important instructions such as "it is necessary to seize the key to the building of a contingent of talents, vigorously cultivate all kinds of new military professionals at all levels", "accelerating cultivating a large number of new high-quality military talents, effectively improving combat effectiveness."

The military academy education system is the basic platform for military talent cultivation and technological innovation, a cornerstone of the army construction and development. To build the army, it is necessary to build teaching. The Decision on Several Issues Concerning Army Political Work Against the New Situation issued by the Central Military Commission proposed the trinity talent cultivation system namely "building military academy education, troop training practice and military vocational education", focusing on study and talent cultivation, intensifying cultivation of military professional competence." To achieve the above goal, it is necessary to take the connotative development path to reform military academy teaching, focusing on quality improvement. It is necessary to systematically and scientifically design the current education system of military academies based on the improvement of quality and efficiency. Through optimization and remodeling, it is proper to create a new academy education system.

2 Adjusting the military academy structure

Adjusting and optimizing the military academy structure have always been the focus of educational reform in military academies. Since the reform and opening up, the size and structure of the military academy system has undergone 5 major strategic adjustments, forming the military academy structure consisting of intermediate and senior academy, comprehensive academy and specialized academy. However, as a result of the constantly changing situation and tasks, the contradiction between the system structures of military academies and the need for modern armed forces and the demand for preparations for military struggle has not yet been fundamentally

alleviated. Outstanding performance is the overall large scale, but the proportion of various academies is not reasonable, the academies of the same type are surplus, some academies have similar functions, and the planning task is unclear, the tasks have cross and overlap, application of cultivation and troops is out-of-step, integration of military and civil talent cultivation pattern is not yet mature. Therefore, it is necessary to take the goal of strengthening the armed forces and strive to improve the quality and efficiency. In accordance with the principles of harmonization and unification of structure, scale, quality, efficiency and characteristics, it is necessary to focus on the 3 characteristics of being refined, strong and new, and further adjust and optimize military academy scale, structure and layout.

First, it is necessary to resolutely eliminate swelling, focusing on refining. At present, what is most needed to enhance the reform of military academy system is the courage to refine, namely daring to make decisions, break barriers of interests, cutting, combining and integrating. Cutting means removing military and civil joint academies and majors, such as art, language, medicine, economics transportation and electronics. Relevant talents required by armed forces should exert advantages of local education resources. Combining means combining academies of the same type. In accordance with the scale of academic education, intensive occupational education, it is necessary to build comprehensive military academies, further reducing the number of academic academies, and reorganizing occupational education academies and disciplines. Integrating refers to straightening the affiliation and tasks of various academies. The most important is to sort out the affiliation. In principle, the comprehensive military academy of the armed forces and the joint command academy will be directly under the leadership of the Central Military Commission and other academies under the leadership of all military branches, at the same time it is necessary to plan teaching tasks of various academies according to senior, intermediate and junior occupational education, making distinction rational and linkage close.

Second, it is necessary to improve the quality. Connotative development is the only way for military academy reform. In particular, after the streamlining and swelling, the connotation-oriented development of military academies will surely be more favorable and the conditions will be even superior. All academies should grasp the rare historic opportunity, refer to the national "211 Project" and "985 Project" academy development standards, focusing on distinctive disciplines, leading innovation and development of military theory, serving ability overall enhancement, instead of hurrying for quick success. It is proper to concentrate the financial, material and human resources to develop the academies with characteristics, promoting development academies with their advantages.

Third, it is necessary to take lead and innovate. With the new military revolution, rapid development of new combat equipment and frequent appearance of new combat operations, the gap between new-type talents of combat forces and commanders of joint operations has been growing. Military academies should strengthen their sense of urgency, advance awareness and sense of responsibility, stepping up their efforts to build new disciplines and develop new fields, regard innovation as a new and leading cultivation and their sacred mission and important responsibility. At the top of the agenda, it is necessary to shift the focus of joint command and cultivation, accelerate the improvement of the cultivation system for senior, intermediate and junior commanding talents. Efforts should be made to further cultivate military talents in emerging areas such as the ocean, space, electromagnetism and the Internet, so as to reserve army new-style combat capability ahead of schedule.

3 Optimizing the cultivation model

Talent cultivation model refers to certain standard construction style and operation model of cultivation process to achieve the cultivation objectives under the guidance of certain educational thoughts and educational theories. It is an important factor that determines and influences the quality of education and talent cultivation in academies. Looking at the development of talent cultivation model in military academies over the past more than 30 years, the overall outlook has shifted from "single" to "pluralistic" and from "relatively closed" to "fully opened." However, if these models are taken into consideration in trinity military talent cultivation system, there will obviously be problems such as "out of tune" and "discordance." Therefore, it is necessary to aim at cultivating new-type military professionals of high quality and, in accordance with the requirements of being more open, more flexible and more practical and effective, optimize the "3 models" of cultivating qualified talents in military academies.

First, it is necessary to create "academy/troop relay cultivation" models. This cultivation model creates a complex teaching process and a comprehensive educational environment. Through the special teaching process and influence and role of the educational environment, the knowledge, ability and quality of occupational education cadets will be comprehensively promoted, meeting the needs of the armed forces and individual development potentials. Academy/troop relay cultivation model consists of the 5 stages of "Basic cultivation of Vocational Education Academy", "Training of Military Positions", "Vocational Education Academy Professional Cultivation", "Professional practice of Troops," and "Academy/Troop Joint Examination". The implementation of this model can strengthen the ties between academies and troops, realizing resource sharing, information exchanges, talent interaction, complementing mutual advantages and giving full play to respective advantages in occupational education of military academies and troops.

Second, it is necessary to create "military and civil joint cultivation" model. This model is actually further revision and improvement of cultivation of military talents relying on national education. In the past over a decade, our army has adopted the 3 models of cultivation of officers through selecting and enrolling national defense students from regular colleges, and directly recruiting graduates from regular colleges. The main problems are that the students are inferior to military academy cadet graduate in terms of command quality and capability, failing to meet troop needs. The main reason is that these models are not suitable for cultivation of officers in command and other specialized military specialties. The major advantage lies in cultivation of military and civil joint professional and technical officers. Therefore, the "military and civil joint cultivation" model can be applied, but subject to adopting advantages and avoiding shortcomings. It is proper to meet the general requirements of the Central Military Commission for military and civil integrated development, exerting the role of excellent resources of regular colleges for national defense and military building.

Third, it is necessary to create the model of "relying on network lifelong cultivation". Lifelong learning and lifelong education are important educational concepts resulting from the development and progress of the times. In the past, due to the constraints of objective conditions, it was difficult for people to achieve the educational concept through effective large scale and effective organization. However, with the rapid development of the Internet technology in recent years, there are no technical obstacles. It is necessary for military academies to focus on lifelong education and network information and modern educational technologies, creating the life-long cultivation models for talent cultivation through the functional long-distance network education platform. Relying on his model, occupational education of military academies and troops will be coordinated.

4 Further reform of teaching and research

President Xi Jinping pointed out "military academy education must keep pace with the times, focusing on the battlefield, the army, actual combat, and winning the war, centering on talent cultivation, making cultivated talents in conformity with the needs of army building and future wars."^[1] To this end, the headquarters specifically formulated and promulgated *Comments on Strengthening and Improving the Teaching Work of Military Academies*, conducting the strategic deployment for military academy further teaching and research reform of military academies. At present, it is necessary to focus on the "4 improvements" of the teaching and research concept, contents, methods and environment.

First, it is necessary to transfer the teaching and research concept to war-oriented research and education". The Party's goal of strengthening armed forces against the new situation requires military academy scientific research should focus on actual combat and the troops. However, it is necessary not to simply interpret this requirement as following the principles of troop-oriented learning, practicing and researching. Today's preparation is for tomorrow's war, and tomorrow's war means and ways are not available yet. In this sense, academies and troops are on the same starting line. Academies should strengthen their sense of missions and principles, striving to break peace long-standing practices, actively establishing the concept of "war-oriented research and education", positively exerting their own advantages, vigorously studying wars and consciously applying the research results to teaching practice. It is necessary to establish the sense of self-confidence - "What I say in the classroom today is what will be used in the battlefield tomorrow." It is necessary to promote a slogan - "What should I teach today means how to fight tomorrow".

Second, it is necessary to transfer the contents of teaching and research to "war familiarity and awareness". The content is the central link in the success of reform. It is the fundamental purpose of teaching and research to make teaching effective and practical. It is necessary to make the latest achievements of current troops, cutting-edge knowledge needed for future wars enter the classroom, reflecting consistent requirement of military education, current need of further reform of teaching and scientific research of military academies. However, under the influence of long-term peace practice, it is common to have teaching and scientific research out of line with military practice and future wars, serving as the chronic diseases restricting the quality of academy running. Therefore, it is necessary for military academies to focus on the "3 connections", namely connection with job requirements, connection with actual combat cultivation, and connection with military transformation, and promote the transformation of teaching and scientific research contents to "war familiarity and awareness". It is necessary to earnestly refrain from forming separation of teaching by military academies and learning by troops, avoiding tomorrow's war in name but yesterday's war in fact.

Third, it is necessary to transfer the teaching and research means and methods to "learning fighting in fighting". In recent years, military academies have been constantly improving their teaching and research means and methods. However, judging from the results, there is still a long way to go to meet actual combat requirements. Learning and studying war in war used to be important practice of our army in the past. It shows that the reason why current methods and means lack of "war taste" is that we lack of one important condition in application - actual combat. To improve the insufficiency and exert the immense power of teaching and research, it is necessary to transfer innovative means and methods to "learning fighting in fighting", that is, making teaching or research simulate actual combat conditions as far as possible or creating innovative means and methods so as to achieve the purpose of learning fighting in fighting and learning wars in wars.

Fourth, it is necessary to transfer the teaching and research environment to "capable and competent fighting". The environment should be pleasant and effective. As a special educational environment, military academies should take martial orchestral as the essential requirement of environmental governance so as to achieve the purpose of military education. Therefore, it is necessary to make the hard environment capable, namely, making all facilities and equipment focus on actual fighting. It is necessary to improve the soft environment, creating the culture of favoring martial orchestral, actual fighting, and honoring victories, namely "competent fighting" culture of military academies, striving to strictly manage the army, teaching and learning, advocating honor, and winning victories^[2]. At present, it is especially necessary to center on the sense of mission, dedication, discipline and combat style, shaping fine military academy style, and highlighting diligent learning and earnest teaching academy style, promoting diligence, morality, clear discrimination and honesty, creating the sound learning style, providing the fine environment to cultivate a new generation of revolutionary military talents.

5 Enhancing faculty capacities

The special attributes of military occupational education require military academies to center on faculty practical ability and quality. Compared with foreign troops, the faculty of some military academies generally lacks work experience, subject to inconsistency with the requirements for cultivation novel and qualified military professionals. President Xi Jinping pointed out that famous faculty will be familiar with actual combat^[3]. Therefore, at present, it is necessary for military academies to focus on actual combat requirements, enhance their capacities and make every effort to perfect the "3 mechanisms".

First, it is necessary to improve the faculty evaluation system. The evaluation system is the key and engine leading and driving faculty building. For this mechanism building, the key is to set up a scientific evaluation index system. It is necessary to reconstruct the evaluation index system and take the cadet actual combat cultivation effectiveness as the fundamental guidance, focusing on the core indicators of teaching abilities, practical experience and qualifications, capacities of scientific research serving the troops. It is necessary to simplify some unnecessary items, refine and quantify indicators as much as possible, rationally arrange weights, making the faculty evaluation mechanism play a correct guiding role in talent cultivation.

Second, it is necessary to improve the faculty replacement and exchange mechanism. Two-way exchanges between faculty members and army officers are the basic ways to enhance the actual combat effectiveness of the faculty. The instructor system is the core of the faculty replacement and exchange system. However, the reform of the instructor system in the army has not progressed over the past few years. Therefore, it is necessary to vigorously promote the reform of the education system and establish the methods of engaging some suspended officers as faculty members, making it vital to the reform in current military academies, attaching great importance and earnestly seeking results. At the same time, it is necessary to take the initiative, actively coordinating and clearing existing 2-way replacement channels, improving the mechanism for faculty participating in the major exercise activities in troops, improving the military and civil contracting cultivation system, providing platform support and policy assurance to the improvement of faculty capacities.

Third, it is necessary to improve faculty reward and punishment mechanism, stepping up efforts in teaching rewards, improving teaching achievements of military academies, achievements in scientific research on military education, selection of excellent faculty members in the army. It is necessary to conduct selections of brand majors, excellent teaching materials, excellent programs

(battle examples), centering on the teaching posts. At the same time, it is necessary to establish the faculty qualification authentication system, exploring ways for lowliest place elimination, making academy scientific research serve teaching and combat-oriented development, improving evaluation of scientific research results, sharing and transformation mechanism, enhancing punishment of conduct of anomie and academic misconduct, making the incentive mechanism truly play a positive role.

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