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THE IMPORTANCE AND FACTORS AFFECTING THE FOSTERING OF CREATIVE THINKING OF KEY TACTICAL-LEVEL CADRES IN THE 9TH MILITARY REGION, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE NOWADAYS

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Abstract

In the context of the rapid and complicated developments in the regional and world defense and security, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the trend of high-tech warfare are posing new and extremely strict requirements for the cause of national construction and protection. For the 9th Military Region, Ministry of National Defense, an important strategic area in the Mekong Delta, the task of readiness to fight, protect the land, airspace, and sea of the South always puts key tactical-level cadres under pressure to innovate thinking and improve leadership and command capacity. In particular, fostering creative thinking for this cadre team is not only an objective requirement for the modern army development but also a key factor to ensure that the unit is always proactive, flexible, and effectively handles all situations. Fully recognizing the importance and clarifying the factors affecting the process of fostering creative thinking is of great significance, contributing to building a strong team of cadres to meet the tasks in the new situation.

Keywords: *Fostering creative thinking, key tactical-level cadres, the 9th Military Region, Ministry of National Defense.*

1. The importance of fostering the creative thinking of key tactical-level cadres in the 9th Military Region, Ministry of National Defense nowadays

Fostering creative thinking for key tactical-level cadres in the 9th Military Region of the Ministry of National Defense *is a process of organization with goals and plans to equip, train and develop flexible and creative thinking abilities for key tactical-level cadres, thereby helping cadres improve their capacity to detect, analyze, and solve military and defense issues proactively, independently, innovatively, and effectively in increasingly volatile, complex, and unpredictable practical conditions.*

Creative thinking in the military is not only the ability to come up with new ideas, but also the ability to quickly adapt to complex situations, handle problems flexibly and effectively in the context of modernization, digital transformation and high-tech warfare. Especially in new conditions, when the security and defense situation is changing rapidly and unpredictably, tactical cadres are required to constantly innovate their thinking, promote the initiative and creativity to complete their tasks well.

In the current period, the task of protecting the Fatherland, maintaining national independence and sovereignty, in the conditions of modern warfare and complex fluctuations in the regional situation, places high demands on the contingent of cadres of the Vietnam People's Army, especially key tactical-level cadres. Particularly in the 9th Military Region, the unit is garrisoned in a strategic area with a network of rivers and streams, requiring cadres to not only have strong political qualities and good professional expertise, but also have creative thinking in organization, command, training and combat readiness. Therefore, fostering creative thinking for these cadres is of particular importance.

First, creative thinking helps key tactical-level cadres handle situations flexibly, in accordance with topographical features and tasks. The river operational environment requires commanders to be proactive and creative, and cannot follow rigid lesson plans or traditional models.

Second, creative thinking is the foundation for innovating the training content and methods, close to battlefield realities. Creative cadres will know how to apply new technology, simulate battlefields, and computerize training, contributing to improving overall quality and practical effectiveness.

Third, creative-minded cadres will dare to think, dare to do, dare to take responsibility; thereby playing a leading role, inspiring innovation for the collective. This is an important factor in building a dynamic and positive unit environment, helping to improve the overall quality of work.

Fourth, creative thinking helps cadres enhance their ability to coordinate and collaborate with other forces. For the 9th Military Region, which regularly coordinates with the militia, police, and civil agencies in building a national defense posture, the ability to think strategically and flexibility in coordination is of decisive importance.

Fifth, fostering creative thinking for tactical-level cadres also has long-term strategic value, contributing to building a contingent of

successor with sufficient qualities, capacity, and qualifications to meet the requirements of building a “revolutionary, regular, elite, and gradually modern” Vietnam People's Army.

In short, fostering creative thinking for key tactical-level cadres in the 9th Military Region is not only an urgent immediate requirement but also a long-term strategic orientation. This is a key factor contributing to improving the quality of cadres, building a strong and comprehensive unit, meeting the requirements of tasks in the new situation.

2. Factors affecting the fostering of creative thinking of key tactical-level cadres in the 9th Military Region, Ministry of National Defense nowadays

First, political, socio-economic and cultural conditions. Vietnam is currently maintaining political and social stability, creating a solid foundation for military and defense activities. Political stability is the “launching pad” for implementing the training programs in the army in a systematic, scientific and synchronous manner. In that context, the Party and State's policies and guidelines, especially the resolutions of the Central Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense on building a modern army and improving the quality of cadres, all emphasize the role of innovative and creative thinking.

In the 9th Military Region, a special military base of the armed forces in the Mekong Delta, the political security and social order and safety situation is often complicated. This is both a challenge and a motivation for key tactical-level cadres to promote the initiative and creativity in handling unexpected situations. Since then, the objective requirements of practice have contributed to promoting the fostering of creative thinking to become the core content in training and coaching.

Besides, the strong development of the country's economy in general and the Southwest region in particular has positively impacted the process of innovation in thinking in the army. Economic development activities create favorable conditions for the army to connect with localities, enhance cooperation, exchange, approach modern technology and resources to serve the work of training cadres. At the same time, facilities and equipment for training and education are also upgraded, helping the process of developing the creative thinking to take place more effectively.

On the other hand, the impacts of the 4.0 industrial revolution and digital transformation require cadres to not only be good at military skills but also have the ability to approach technology, logical thinking, flexibility and creativity to effectively apply them in command. In particular, the Southwest region is also heavily affected by climate change, natural disasters and epidemics, forcing cadres to have creative thinking in planning prevention and ensuring security and safety for people and units. However, we cannot ignore social challenges such as the gap between the rich and the poor, uneven educational levels in the provinces in the 9th Military Region, affecting the access to knowledge and modern technology of a number of cadres. This requires individualizing the training content to suit the cognitive level of each target group.

Presently, the Southwest region has a unique culture with a tradition of affection, creativity, openness and patriotism. This is an important foundation to help cadres absorb and develop creative

thinking in a people-friendly environment. If we know how to integrate local cultural elements into training and educational activities, inspiring creativity will become more vivid and accessible.

However, besides the positive side, modern socio-cultural factors also have a negative side. The penetration of a pragmatic lifestyle, the influence of social networks, and the mindset of complacency among a segment of young cadres can weaken the spirit of creativity and dedication. This is a challenge that requires initiative in political and ideological education, life value orientation and arousing the desire to contribute in the young cadres of the 9th Military Region.

Second, the impact of the scientific and technological revolution. The 4.0 industrial revolution has created a breakthrough change in the way of conducting modern warfare, from human warfare to high-tech warfare. The emergence of smart weapons, cyber warfare, information warfare, etc. requires military officers to not only be good at their profession but also have creative thinking and flexibility in approaching and using modern technology.

Key tactical-level cadres are the force that plays a direct role in organizing, commanding operations, ensuring training, and building units, and must be pioneers in applying science and technology to work. Creative thinking is no longer a supplementary quality, but a core ability to handle situations flexibly, make accurate and effective decisions in non-traditional, multi-dimensional, and complex operation conditions.

It can be seen that the scientific and technological revolution brings tools, means and favorable environment to improve the quality of training and fostering cadres in the army in general and cadres of the 9th Military Region in particular. Tactical simulation software, virtual reality systems, augmented reality, data modeling technology, etc. help make the training process vivid, close to combat practice, and stimulate cadres to develop their creativity in solving situations. Moreover, the Internet and digital knowledge repository allow key cadres to proactively study, research, and expand their thinking without time and space limitations. This is a favorable condition for building critical and creative thinking through approaching many different perspectives. Thanks to digital technology, training programs can be personalized to suit the abilities, qualifications and thinking styles of each cadre, thereby maximizing creative potential. On the other hand, online platforms create opportunities for cadres to exchange and learn from experiences from colleagues inside and outside the military, contributing to broadening their vision, innovating their thinking and updating modern knowledge.

Although bringing many benefits, the scientific and technological revolution also creates significant challenges for the fostering of creative thinking for key tactical-level cadres in the 9th Military Region in the current period. Some cadres are still limited in their ability to access and use new technology, especially older cadres or those working in remote areas in the 9th Military Region. On the other hand, old ways of thinking, empirical thinking, and fear of change still exist in some cadres, making it difficult to accept new things and apply modern technology...

Third, the environment and quality of education and training of military schools in Vietnam. In the cause of building a revolutionary, disciplined, elite, and gradually modern Vietnam People's Army, the team of key tactical-level cadres plays a particularly important role. This is the force that directly leads and

commands the unit to carry out the training tasks, be ready to fight, and protect the Fatherland. To meet the requirements of the new situation, these cadres not only need strong political will and good professional qualifications, but also need to have creative thinking, the ability to adapt quickly, and handle flexibly in all situations. In the process of forming and developing creative thinking of cadres, the environment and quality of education and training at military schools play a fundamental role, having a direct and long-term impact. The educational and training environment in military schools is the "cradle" for forming and developing the thinking of military cadres, including key tactical-level cadres. The harmonious combination of military discipline and the openness of scientific thinking creates a unique educational environment, helping students both have strong organizational skills and be encouraged to think independently and creatively within the allowed framework. In the current period, military schools often organize training associated with combat practice, simulated field situations, and joint operations, thereby encouraging students to proactively think and seek creative ways to deal with rapidly changing conditions. Additionally, organizing seminars, scientific discussions, practical research, technical innovation competitions, etc. have contributed to promoting innovative thinking, encouraging students to express their opinions, present their views, and train their critical and creative skills.

The quality of training at military schools directly affects the formation of creative thinking capacity of cadres. Lecturers, who are highly qualified, have modern thinking, and are updated with new technology trends and strategies, will inspire creativity in students. On the contrary, if the lecturers still teach in an imposing manner without openness, students will be limited in developing the creative thinking. Furthermore, updating new scientific and technological achievements, modern operation trends and practical situations into the curriculum helps students practice their thinking and problem-solving skills. If the content is outdated, heavily theoretical, and has little connection to combat reality, it will be difficult to develop creative thinking.

However, it is also necessary to recognize that in some cases, the military education environment is still stereotyped, heavily theoretical, and does not really promote the learner-centered role, which somewhat affects the ability of students to think independently and creatively after graduation.

Fourth, the working environment of key tactical-level cadres in the 9th Military Region. The practical working environment has clear positive effects on the formation and development of creative thinking of key tactical-level cadres in the 9th Military Region. The diverse and complex nature of the tasks at the 9th Military Region forces cadres to constantly think and find effective solutions which are suitable for each location and each specific situation. From there, creative thinking ability is trained naturally and continuously. At work, contact with people, local authorities and mass organizations in mass mobilization work helps cadres learn many organizational models and problem-solving methods from outside the military, thereby broadening their vision and developing multidimensional thinking.

In addition to the positive impacts, the working environment in the 9th Military Region also has some limitations that affect the ability to develop creative thinking of cadres. Tactical-level cadres often have to take on many tasks at the same time, leading to a lack of time for research, study, and personal development, which are core factors in fostering the creative thinking. The organization of work

in some units is still heavily stereotyped, rigid, and lacks flexibility. Without strong innovation in management, this can easily cause cadres to gradually lose their motivation for innovation and creativity. On the other hand, the recognition and evaluation of initiatives and proposals for innovation in work in some places is not clear, and does not create motivation for cadres to boldly propose ideas and initiatives for improvement.

Fifth, the key tactical-level cadres themselves in the 9th Military Region. In all activities of training and developing intelligence, humans always play the role of the subject. Creative thinking is a high-level thinking ability, requiring self-motivation, self-study, and self-renewal of perception, so the role of the cadres themselves becomes even more important. Any method, program or training environment is only effective when the cadres are truly proactive in receiving, analyzing, applying and creating on the basis of equipped knowledge.

Key tactical-level cadres at the 9th Military Region are the ones who directly carry out leadership, command, and training activities, which set out many creative practical requirements. Therefore, only when they proactively perceive the role, responsibility and importance of thinking innovation will the process of fostering creative thinking truly take place voluntarily, effectively and sustainably.

Creative thinking is only formed when cadres have a clear awareness of the importance of thinking innovation, understanding that creativity is not the privilege of outstanding individuals but an ability that can be nurtured and developed. When cadres clearly identify their motivations (such as improving work efficiency, affirming their abilities, contributing to the unit, etc.), they will proactively learn, think, explore, and be creative in their work. On the contrary, if cadres have a complacent mentality, are afraid of change, are afraid of risks, or do not see the practical benefits of creativity, then the ability to think creatively will be stunted, no matter how favorable the environment and surrounding conditions are. Additionally, the ability to self-learn and adapt to new things is a key factor in the context of rapidly changing science and technology. Cadres who actively read books, research, update knowledge, learn from teammates and from practice will continuously innovate their thinking and working methods. On the contrary, cadres who only follow the beaten path and lack a spirit of progress will find it difficult to develop creative thinking in the long term. Moreover, creativity is not only a product of inspiration but also the result of persistent, tenacious intellectual work, overcoming failure and psychological barriers. Cadres with courage, who dare to think, dare to do, are not afraid of making mistakes, know how to learn from experience and adjust will have more opportunities to mature and innovate their thinking more effectively.

Conclusion

Fostering creative thinking for key tactical-level cadres in the 9th Military Region, Ministry of National Defense, is currently both an urgent requirement and a long-term task to improve the quality of leadership, command, and staff in conditions of high-tech warfare and the strong development of military science and technology. Recognizing the importance of the issue helps Party committees and commanders have high political determination, thereby proposing effective training solutions. At the same time, fully analyzing both objective and subjective factors is the basis for applying flexibly, suitably with the characteristics of the area and

the characteristics of the tasks of the 9th Military Region. Synchronously implementing solutions to foster creative thinking will contribute to building a team of key tactical-level cadres with steadfast character, sharp intelligence, and breakthrough thinking, contributing to enhancing the overall strength and combat readiness of the armed forces of the 9th Military Region in all situations.

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