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NATO STANDARDS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE COUNTRY’S DEFENCE CAPABILITY ENSURING

The research examines the current problems of NATO standards implementation in the security and defence sector. The author analyses the regulatory and legal governance in the field of national security and the main problems related to the security and defence sector and searches for areas of adaptation in accordance with NATO standards. Today, Ukraine is a key regional strategic partner of the United States, which is making tremendous efforts to reform its armed forces and increase their interoperability with the armed forces of NATO member states. The US-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Pact focuses on the importance of maintaining bilateral cooperation and the continued commitment of the United States to support Ukraine's aspirations to engage with NATO. The United States and its allies have established an Intergovernmental Joint Commission and a Joint Intergovernmental Training Centre to coordinate actions to assist Ukraine in building the necessary defence capabilities. Relations between Ukraine and NATO are essential for ensuring peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area. NATO standards will open up new opportunities for the development, production and sale of weapons and military equipment for the Ukrainian defence industry, as well as identify new areas of cooperation with Western partners. NATO standards will open up new opportunities for the development, production and sale of weapons and military equipment for the Ukrainian defence industry, as well as identify new areas of cooperation with Western partners. It is cooperation with NATO that will make it possible to organize joint ventures and production facilities, as well as create attractive investment conditions that will allow the transfer of the latest technologies for the production of components and assemblies to Ukraine in order to create conditions for the completion of weapons systems for the national armed forces, as well as joint production to enter the markets of third countries.

Keywords: global security; military standardization body; NATO standards; support.

Introduction

Relevance of the topic. The world today faces a much more complex security environment than it did a decade ago. Today's environment is inherently complex, with a growing number of key stakeholders and exponentially increasing interconnections between these players. Thus, as the epicentre of global security, NATO must be attuned to the challenges faced by its member and partner states.

Ukraine continues to develop its strategic partnership with the United States of America. America actively supports Ukraine's territorial integrity, defence capability, democracy and economic development. The United States' continuous support for Ukraine, expressed through cooperation in various programs, has significantly contributed to the development of a market economy, democracy and Ukraine's aspirations for integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. Ukraine's defence capabilities have been significantly strengthened by the US assistance programs. Therefore, the issue of implementing NATO standards is key to ensuring Ukraine's defence capability in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Analysis of recent research and publications. Scientific research in the field of implementation of NATO standards shows that the improvement of the regulatory framework for military standardization, taking into account international experience, is under close attention of scientists. The relevance of the research topic is to assess the factors that will influence the implementation of NATO standards in the field of security and defence on new regulatory requirements for weapons, military and special equipment [1–3].

The purpose of the article is to assess the existing system of development and implementation of NATO standards and their impact on the creation of national military standards, as well as to master the main areas of implementation of international law in the field of security and defence into the national legislation of Ukraine.

Main material

Official relations between NATO and Ukraine began as early as 1991, when Ukraine joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (later replaced by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council). In 1994, Ukraine became the first CIS member state to join the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme. Later, it demonstrated its loyalty by supporting NATO peacekeeping operations in the Balkans.

On 9 July 1997, in Madrid, the President of Ukraine and NATO Heads of State and Government signed the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine. This document became the official...
basis for NATO-Ukraine relations. The charter established the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC) as the governing body responsible for developing NATO-Ukraine relations and defining areas of joint activity.

The relationship between Ukraine and NATO is essential for ensuring peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.

The basis for the unification of the armed forces of all 28 NATO member states is the NATO standard, also known as the Standardization Agreement (STANAG), an international treaty that regulates general rules, defines a common procedure, establishes a common terminology and sets the conditions for the unification of technical processes, as well as weapons and military equipment, and other material parts of the armed forces of the Alliance and partner countries. NATO standards are combined into a complex and interconnected hierarchy of the Alliance's governing documents [4].

Standardization and interoperability of NATO member states' armies is the basis of the Alliance's security, as defined in the NATO Strategic Concept 2010 [5]. The Alliance itself defines standardization as “the development and implementation of procedures, designs and terminology to achieve an appropriate level of interoperability among Allies, or to recommend good practices for multinational cooperation” [6].

Despite the fact that NATO's standardization policy does not open the door to membership, more than 70 countries have shown interest in this policy in recent years. The process of standardization takes place within the framework of various initiatives: “Partnership for Peace” (it is within the framework of this initiative that the transition to NATO standards is being carried out in Ukraine), “Istanbul Cooperation Initiative”, “Mediterranean Dialogue” etc. due to the desire of partner states to increase their own security through integration into a democratic system [7].

The state of implementation of NATO standards in the daily activities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine should begin with a review of strategic documents in the field of security and defence.

The National Security Strategy of Ukraine provides for “ensuring maximum interoperability of the Armed Forces of Ukraine with the armed forces of NATO member states through the implementation of NATO standards”.

The Military Doctrine of Ukraine defines the development of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in accordance with NATO standards and achievement of full compatibility with the respective forces of NATO member states.

The Strategic Defence Bulletin of Ukraine stipulates that in order to carry out defence reform in Ukraine, gradually increase the operational capabilities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other components of the defence forces, the procedures for standardization and bringing them in line with the requirements of NATO member states will be regulated at the legislative level. And, as you know, on 6 June 2019, the Verkhovna Rada adopted the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Military Standards”, which provides for amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Defence of Ukraine”, streamlining the use of the terms “military standardization”, “military standard”, “NATO standard”, “NATO defence standard”, “military standardization body”.

In addition to the above-mentioned documents, the tasks of implementing NATO standards are also defined in the annual Annual National Programs under the auspices of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, Government Priority Action Plans etc.

The priority for partner states to implement NATO standards is determined by the set of NATO-Ukraine Partnership Goals, which is formed during the Force Planning and Assessment Process, updated every two years and approved at the level of the heads of permanent delegations of NATO member states.

Of course, most of NATO's operational and administrative standards are intended to be implemented in the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

At the same time, Ukraine's strategic defence documents provide for interoperability with NATO forces and the armed forces of NATO member states not only for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, but also for other components of the security and defence sector (e.g., the Security Service of Ukraine, the National Guard, the State Border Guard Service etc.) Thus, it is advisable to consider the need to introduce a certain percentage of NATO standards in these structures (e.g., in the areas of operations planning, logistics, medical support etc.), especially those envisaged by the Partnership Goals.

The introduction of material standards requires, in turn, the involvement of the capabilities of the defence industry and other industrial enterprises.

In addition, there are NATO standards, the implementation of which is impossible without the involvement of central executive authorities [8].

Education and training are two of the main areas of cooperation between NATO and partner countries. Education and training play an important role in the application of NATO standards for planning operations. It is they that encourage NATO to shift its focus from weapons systems to joint, multinational and interagency education and training of people who can more broadly develop and apply doctrines, strategies and policies that integrate all instruments of power – political, military, economic and information – to produce leaders better equipped to meet the range of challenges that define the twenty-first century security environment: “smart power”.

The Alliance's education and training programs,
which were initially focused on enhancing interoperability between NATO and partner forces, have been expanded. They now also provide a means by which Allies and partners can cooperate in the establishment, development and reform of security, defence and military education institutions [13].

In line with international standards, it is important to take into account the experience of relevant military education programs and institutions in NATO and partner countries in the process of continuously updating education, training and assessment methods. International cooperation aimed at maintaining existing capabilities can certainly improve the quality of education in military educational institutions. This leads to the interoperability of the armed forces with NATO and their success in joint operations.

NATO standards provide for comprehensive training of military personnel in all aspects of military activities, including combat training, physical training, leadership, communications, cultural and ethical education. The training is based on a modular system, where each module has a clearly defined purpose, content and outcomes.

Compared to traditional methods of training, which are based on routine teaching of techniques and procedures, NATO standards provide a deeper understanding and analysis of the situation on the battlefield, develop decision-making skills and leadership qualities.

The advantages of NATO standards also include the use of innovative technologies and approaches in the training process, including the use of simulators, virtual reality and other modelling tools. This allows training to be as close as possible to real combat conditions and ensures more effective training of military personnel. In addition, the use of such technologies reduces training costs and increases the effectiveness of training.

Training the military according to NATO standards and methods has several advantages over traditional methods. One of the main advantages is the use of active learning methods, which allow the military not only to learn theoretical knowledge but also to experience it in practice.

Active learning methods include, in particular, gaming technologies, simulation training, interactive exercises etc. This approach allows the military to better understand the theory, acquire skills and abilities, and increase their motivation to learn.

Another advantage of training according to NATO standards is its focus on real-life situations that the military may encounter in the course of their activities, especially during combat operations. This allows the military to prepare for effective action in various conditions and ensures that theory is linked to practice.

It is also worth noting that the NATO training system has a high degree of standardization and international recognition, which allows the military to easily switch from one training system to another.

Compared to traditional methods, the NATO-standard training system is more intensive and effective, providing a high level of training and ensuring that the military can operate effectively in real-world conditions. This is especially important in a conflict zone, where every mistake can cost lives.

In general, the NATO training experience is more effective and modern than traditional training methods. It allows the military to gain practical experience and knowledge that can be decisive during real combat operations, and reduces training costs.

In Ukraine, the mechanism for adopting NATO standards is defined by the Procedure for the Development, Adoption, Amendment, Cancellation, Renewal, Promulgation, Implementation and Application of Military Standards – it is on the basis of this document, the name of which is hard to remember at first, that the Armed Forces of Ukraine are adopting NATO standards, which are unified for all NATO members and partner countries. However, it should be emphasized that the Alliance’s partners have the right to adopt NATO standards that have already been published and entered into force.

NATO's standardization policy is pursued through the achievement of Alliance objectives and depends on coherent and close cooperation between national, multinational structures, capabilities and assets of NATO, primarily on the principle of interoperability.

The essence of the principle of interoperability is the ability of member states to act together in a coherent and effective manner to achieve the Alliance’s tactical, operational and strategic objectives. Accordingly, the NATO standardization process is a sequence of actions that result in the creation of NATO standardization documents, followed by their ratification, approval, implementation and support throughout their life cycle [9].

The most important stage in the process of adopting and implementing NATO standards is the study and comparative analysis of the NATO standard with the national legal and regulatory framework. It is then that common areas and significant differences, feasibility of implementation, time parameters, financial costs, procedure for conducting activities etc. are identified. It is on the basis of this analysis that a decision is made on the feasibility and scope of implementing the NATO standard [10].

The following options exist for NATO member states and partner countries to adopt and implement NATO standards:

- Adoption and implementation – when the requirements of the NATO standard fully meet the interoperability criteria and a clear date of its implementation is determined;
Adoption and implementation with reservations – the requirements of the NATO standard generally meet the interoperability criteria, but there are some limitations and reservations that do not allow full implementation of the standard (e.g., reservations related to national legislation or certain requirements of national military standards are stricter than the corresponding requirements of the NATO standard, lack of sufficient financial resources etc);

Adoption and implementation in the future – the requirements of the NATO standard fully meet the interoperability criteria, but a clear date for its implementation cannot be determined at this time (for example, the NATO standard on search and rescue operations was analyzed in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. It was determined that the implementation of this standard requires significant financial resources for the restoration (modernization) of aircraft, the creation of relevant units and training of personnel etc. Thus, according to experts, Ukraine will be able to introduce this standard only in 2025, as NATO was informed [12];

Acceptance and implementation in the future with reservations – the requirements of the NATO standard generally meet the criteria of interoperability, but there are some limitations and reservations that do not allow the full implementation of the international military standard, and a clear date for its implementation cannot be determined at this time;

Non-adoptions – indicates that there is no need to apply the NATO standard (for example, the Armed Forces of Ukraine do not have aircraft carriers and submarines in service, which currently indicates that it is not appropriate to adopt the relevant NATO standards for Ukraine’s needs) [11].

In March 2016, NATO introduced a new Standardization Policy. First of all, this policy concerns the development and implementation of procedures, design solutions and terminology in order to achieve the necessary level of interoperability required by Allies to provide guidance on multinational cooperation. Brussels notes that NATO must maximize the interoperability and capability of Allied forces. Standardization helps to achieve, maintain and improve interoperability between NATO forces and between the military units of NATO’s partner countries, strengthening the Alliance’s defence capabilities and enhancing its effectiveness and efficiency. Therefore, standardization to support interoperability is not an end in itself, but a key factor in enhancing capabilities. Thus, the main goal of NATO standardization is to ensure that interoperability and multinational cooperation are achieved. NATO terminology defines three levels of standardization – compatibility, interchangeability and unification. So, let’s add a bit of formality and give the generally accepted wording of these levels of standardization [14].

1. Compatibility is the ability of two or more units or supplies (parts of equipment, materials) to function in the same system or environment without mutual interference;

2. Interchangeability is the ability of two or more units or items of supply that have the same function or characteristics to be replaced without re-equipping or retraining (for units) or reworking or modifying (for items of supply) [15];

3. Commonality – the highest level of standardization, i.e. the realized ability of groups or individuals, organizations or countries to use common doctrines, procedures or equipment.

In general, NATO's standardization activities are based on 7 main principles:

1. Comprehensive and systematic approach;
2. Timeliness;
3. Commitment to implement NATO standards;
4. Transparency;
5. Use of civilian standards;
6. Consistency and coherence;
7. Terminology.

The goal of Ukraine's achievement of NATO standards is not only dictated by the National Security Strategy and the Military Doctrine of Ukraine, but, above all, meets the global national interests of the state in any sphere. Indeed, the primary goal of introducing NATO standards is to achieve better interoperability with NATO forces and strengthen the country's defence capabilities by implementing the best practices of NATO allies. However, it should not be forgotten that NATO standards do not only cover purely military or military-technical aspects or requirements. In a general sense, Ukraine's transition to NATO standards will mean that our state will achieve standards of democracy, the rule of law, fundamental freedoms and human rights, and the effective functioning of the economy.

Conclusions

The implementation of NATO standards and guidelines ensures a systematic increase in the combat capability of troops (forces) and achievement of interoperability with the forces and means of the world's leading countries, and contributes to the more efficient use of state resources in the defence sector. However, it should be understood that it is not necessary to mechanically implement NATO standards in Ukraine's defence sector. Achieving 100 per cent implementation of NATO standards is not an end in itself, especially since none of the NATO member states has achieved this. The main goal is mutual understanding, interchangeability and interoperability between us and our partners, both at headquarters at all levels and on the
battlefield.

In addition, it should be understood that NATO standards and guidelines are constantly being reviewed, new standards are being developed in line with current challenges, outdated ones are being cancelled etc.

So it would be somewhat wrong to talk about any timeframe. This is an ongoing process in both NATO member states and partner countries.

In general, the implementation of NATO standards is not an exclusive obligation of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, but a specific targeted work of all components of the security and defence sector of Ukraine.

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У статті розглянуто актуальні проблеми запровадження стандартів НАТО у секторі безпеки й оборони. Проведено аналіз нормативно-правового управління у сфері національної безпеки та основні проблеми, які пов’язані із забезпеченням сектору безпеки й оборони та здійснено пошук напрямів адаптації у відповідності до стандартів НАТО. Сьогодні Україна є ключовим регіональним стратегічним партнером США, яка спрямовує колосальні зусилля на проведення реформ збройних сил і підвищення їх оперативно-бойової сутісності зі збройними силами країн-членів НАТО. В Американсько-українському пакті про стратегічне партнерство основна увага приділяється важливості підтримання двостороннього співробітництва та подальша прихильність зобов’язання з боку США підтримувати національність України на взаємодії з НАТО. Сполучені Штати Америки та їх союзники сформували Міждержавну спільну комісію та Спільний міждержавний навчально-тренувальний центр з координації дій, спрямованих на надання допомоги Україні у створенні необхідних оборонних спроможностей. Відносини між Україною та НАТО мають важливе значення для гарантування мирну і стабільність на євроатлантичному просторі. Стандарти НАТО відкриють нові можливості з розробки, виробництва та реалізації зброєнь та військових техніків для української оборонної промисловості, а також визначать нові напрями співпраці із західними партнерами. Саме співпраця з НАТО дозволить організувати спільні підприємства та виробництва, а також створити привабливі інвестиційні умови, що дозволять передати на територію України новітні технології виробництва вузлів і агрегатів з метою створення умов для комплектації систем зброєнь для національних збройних сил, а також спільно виробництво для виходу на ринки інших країн.

Ключові слова: глобальна безпека; орган військової стандартизації; підтримка; стандарти НАТО.