

## **GENDER STEREOTYPES IN THE MILITARY FAMILY AND THEIR CONTENT**

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### **Abstract**

The article reveals views on gender stereotypes, the distribution of roles in the family of officers, and gender issues.

**Keywords:** Opinion, consciousness, stereotypes, officer, roles, family, system, source, analysis, discussion, reflection.

### **Introduction**

Currently, the qualitative composition of female military personnel has changed significantly. The segment of female military personnel with a full military education has expanded. Their motivation for choosing military service is increasingly professional. And the military profession is perceived by the majority of military personnel, especially those with officer ranks, as a leading and long-term labor activity. These trends determine a new perspective on the role of women in the army and, as a result, a qualitatively different level of gender interaction between military personnel. It is also necessary to take into account the impact of the dynamic processes taking place in the gender system of modern Russian society on the state and dynamics of gender interaction between military personnel. The liberalization of gender relations in the main spheres of social activity in a certain way determines the change in the gender consciousness of Russians and, in particular, the ideas of the gender role of military personnel, which, in turn, determines changes in the gender structure of the army. Today, the army is at a new stage of military reforms, which affect the entire institutional system of the Armed Forces: the number of military personnel, central military command bodies, organizational structure and officer training system. The main goal of the reforms being implemented is the creation of a professional army. In this regard, the importance of studying the dynamics of the gender structure of the army is

increasing. After all, when forming a new personnel policy in the army, it is important to take into account the changes that have occurred in the qualitative composition of female military personnel, as well as the social processes that determine changes in the system of gender interaction of military personnel. For the development of such a branch of sociological knowledge as military sociology, the study of the dynamics of the gender structure of the army is necessary to understand the processes of gender-role change in the army as a social institution. From the point of view of military sociology, insufficient attention is paid to the dynamic dimension of the gender structure of the army in the study of the gender aspects of military service.

Today, in the era of the breakdown of established patriarchal norms, the existing scientific basis for studying the gender structure of the army requires revision in the modern context of a changing Russian society. At the same time, the scientific significance of this study lies in the need to create a multidimensional methodological framework for studying the dynamics of the gender structure of the army, based on an institutional approach, in its structural-constructivist version. Based on the theory of symbolic interactionism, the gender interaction of male and female military personnel is determined by the direction of their gender role stereotypes and attitudes. That is, the gender attitudes and stereotypes of military personnel are, in essence, symbols that form their gender-role interaction within a particular socio-professional group. Gender interaction of military personnel is considered as a way of implementing relations between military personnel of the opposite sex, determined by their stereotypes and attitudes towards their own and other sexes' ability to perform a military-professional role. In this case, relations between military personnel are understood as their mutual readiness in the process of interaction for certain types of actions. Military-professional activity should be understood as the activity of defending the Motherland, which includes two main types: combat, the content of which is characterized by the interaction of military personnel in a military environment, and everyday (peacetime activity). In addition to preparation for participation in hostilities, it includes command, training, engineering and operational, administrative and economic activities.

In the formation of gender stereotypes of military personnel, the dominant gender ideology in society plays an important role, which is a system of agreed views on what gender roles should be in a given culture, which determines the content of the

roles of men and women in Russian society as a whole. In scientific discourse, traditional (patriarchal), liberal and egalitarian gender ideologies are distinguished. Based on the cognitive content reflecting the existing sexual stratification in society and the dominant gender ideology of the state, the author of the dissertation divided the gender stereotypes of military personnel of the Russian army into three groups. The first group includes stereotypes based on traditional (patriarchal) ideas of military personnel; The second group includes stereotypes based on liberal ideas of military personnel; The third group consists of stereotypes based on egalitarian ideas of military personnel. Due to the different content of the cognitive and affective components, the gender attitudes of military personnel are divided by the author into six groups: egalitarian positive attitudes of military personnel; egalitarian negative attitude of military personnel; liberal positive attitude of military personnel; liberal negative attitude of military personnel; traditional (patriarchal) positive attitude of military personnel; traditional (patriarchal) negative attitude of military personnel.

Depending on the ratio of types of gender relations in the process of interaction of male and female military personnel, the author of the dissertation identifies three main types of their gender interaction: "partnership", "liberal" and "dependent on the dominant". By gender interaction of military personnel is meant a form of implementation of relations between military personnel of the opposite sex, whose positions in the process of formal and informal interaction are determined by a combination of gender relations with different cognitive and affective content. In studying the influence of external and internal factors on the formation and change of the gender structure of the army, we proceeded from the principles of social determinism, which allow us to determine the cause and legitimacy of dynamic processes in the system of gender interaction of military personnel. External factors of the formation and change of the gender structure of the state army are understood as processes within the framework of the gender system of Russian society, including the state and dynamics of gender relations in the political, economic, professional and family spheres of its society. Internal factors of the formation and change of the gender structure of the state army are defined as processes characterizing the formation and change of the qualitative and quantitative composition of female military personnel, since the main object of gender stereotypes and relations in the army environment is women. The dynamics of

external and internal factors and determine the change in the gender consciousness of military personnel (change in stereotypes and relations), and thereby determine structural changes in their system of gender interaction. The dynamics of the gender structure of the army is understood as changes in the system of gender interaction of military personnel, which is determined by changes in their gender stereotypes and relations, which, in turn, are determined by dynamic trends in the framework of external and internal factors. The methodological construction of the study of the dynamics of the gender structure of the army involves identifying changes in the system of gender interaction of military personnel through a comparative analysis of their gender stereotypes and relations, as well as the hierarchical structure of their types of gender interaction identified at the stages of formation and change of the gender structure of the army.

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