

Research on Promotion of the Quality and Benefit of Military Theory at Local Colleges and Universities of Yunnan

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Abstract—As a compulsory course for local college students, the course of military theory plays an important role in intensifying and promoting national defense education and construction. In addition, Yunnan, located in a special geographical location, is of great strategic significance with abundant war and history resources. Therefore, at local colleges and universities, military theory education is supposed to attach importance to new ideas of times, scientifically-arranged course content and flexible learning methods etc. to promote its teaching quality and benefit as well as to maintain its vitality and charm.

Keywords—military theory; theory course; quality and benefit

I. INTRODUCTION

At present, local colleges and universities have made great advances on the education of military theory. Nevertheless, there are still some shortcomings in acknowledging of the position, function, purpose and standard of the course, besides how to promote the teaching quality based on regional characteristics. In this paper, ideas and methods promoting the military theory education are discussed on the basis of regional characteristics of Yunnan province, expecting to provide some foundations theoretically to promote its quality and benefit.

Yunnan province is situated in southwest China, bordering Tibet in the west, Sichuan province in the north, Guizhou and Guangxi in the east, neighboring other three countries including Burma and Laos. In recent years, with the development of state economy and further advance of “One Belt and One Road” strategy, the Trans-Asian Railway throughout ASEAN countries, which is under construction, has gradually become a crucial part of passageways at southwest China, and its important position of economic and military strategy is coming out. Under this background, it is of great practical significance for local colleges and universities of Yunnan to speed up the construction of military course that is crucial to that of national defense and to promote the quality and benefit of the course so as to intensify the awareness of national defense and state security of college students. The above qualifications are essential

and are likely to lay a solid foundation for reserve soldiers and officers.

As a compulsory course, the course of military theory has the characteristics of martial courses as well as those of political courses. Therefore, its teaching shall meet the national strategic demands in the new period by updating ideas and intensifying the teaching. Besides, it is imperative to build a proper military theory education system suited to the national defense construction, social development and the strategic position of Yunnan to ensure favorable teaching quality and benefit of the military theory course.

II. KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES AND LAYING SOLID FOUNDATION OF MILITARY THEORY TEACHING

At present, there are sharp and complex struggles in the ideology and intensive culture contacts everywhere, and the world is stable generally but changeable locally. For example, in military domain, new theories and new ideas are put forward one after another. This requires that military theory education has to keep up closely with state policy, adapt to the changing situation and update ideas in time by following closely with the times to ensure the timeliness and progressiveness of the military theory education.

A. Developing the Awareness of “All-Out National Defense”

Strengthening national defense education to enhance entire people's awareness of its importance is a crucial strategic task proposed at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Under new circumstances and tasks, developing the awareness of “all-out national defense” is especially important for safeguarding strategic opportunities and realizing the great renewal of the Chinese nation. To achieve this aim, education sectors and supervisors of all levels together with party committees of colleges and universities are supposed to regard the military theory course as an essential part for strengthening people's awareness of national defense not only as a part of the school curriculum.

Additionally, they have to take their responsibilities to guide, supervise and promote the teaching of the course by checking and evaluating teaching results so as to create a favorable situation with cooperation and efforts from all parts.

B. Developing the Awareness of "Information Is the Key to Success"

At present, information technology revolution is happening all over the world and decides the direction of social development. The awareness of "information is the key to success" gradually becomes one of the necessary basic qualities for national defense and military. Therefore, the teaching of military theory has to closely connect with the times and provides students an access to the cutting-edge theory and information. Teachers are supposed to actively apply scientific and modern methods based on information technology to help students have a profound understanding of the characteristics, rules, success mechanism of modern military and the developing trend and strategic transformation of international relation and military form under new circumstances. In addition, teachers shall actively guide students to grasp the significance of information and enhance the modernity and effectiveness of the teaching of the course of military theory.

C. Developing the Awareness of "Research and Innovation"

Ideas guide behaviors, and researches bring theory innovation. Therefore, local colleges and universities shall intensify the research on military theory and construct a pool of knowledge and talent matching the teaching quality to lay a solid foundation for military theory teaching. Furthermore, the construction of talents studying military theory shall be strengthened by overall planning, attaching importance to talents and its echelon construction combining with talent protection and introduction project. In addition, mass academic discussions and activities about military theory education shall be intensively initiated, and besides theoretical training and academic exchanges activities of all kinds shall also be carried out regularly. The public is encouraged to participate in these activities to create good atmosphere for studying military theory. To enhance the construction of military theory studying conditions, the potential of military research capacity of the institution shall be tapped and built with the help of military academies. In this way, our university is expected to become a military research platform with multiple functions such as theory research, data storage, talents cultivation and external exchange to create a favorable environment to education and research of military theory.

III. ARRANGING THE TEACHING MATERIAL OF MILITARY THEORY SCIENTIFICALLY WITH HIGHLIGHTED KEY AND DIFFICULT POINTS

Military theory teaching is distinguished by its special purpose that is to serve national strategies and focused ideological education in addition to more content and less course time. Therefore, on the premise of integrated structure

of the course, its contents shall be arranged scientifically with highlighted key points under overall consideration so as to achieve the expected teaching purpose.

A. Intensifying the Guiding Function of the Course

As an important element of national defense education, the course of military theory is to serve the construction of national defense. In this case, it is required that the teaching of military theory has to be centered on intensifying emotional identification of patriotism. By focusing on the theme of "strong country with strong army, teachers shall properly pay more attention to the ideological guiding function, and deepen and extract fresh ideological contents that are from but above the texts in the practice of military theory teaching. To achieve this aim, actions shall be taken, for example, propagating the development and construction achievements of our country to awaken students' patriotic feelings, stating national ignominy to arouse their striving spirits. Besides, teachers are supposed to introduce national defense status to develop their views of honor, and intensify the idea of "Studying for a prosperous and rising China" to enlighten and elevate their minds to distinguish right from wrong. In this way, strong spiritual impetus is likely to be provided to people to achieve the dream of strong army and strong country.

B. Highlighting the Key Points

According to Syllabus of Military Course in Universities and Colleges amended in 2007, the course of military theory covers five aspects including Chinese defense, military thoughts, international strategic environment, military high technology and information war. Apparently, this course contains extensive contents and information, but students' time is limited. Consequently, in the teaching practice of this course, emphasis shall be adjusted and highlighted according to different majors to avoid the sameness and uselessness. For example, the defense history shall be focused on for history majors, defense laws and regulations for law majors, national defense economy for economic majors and military high technology for engineering majors. In a word, highlighting key points can help students raise interests to dive in this course and get good acquirement of it.

C. Combining with Geographical Characteristics to Enhance Studying Experience

Yunnan with special geographical location and abundant war and history resources is of great strategic significance and is a terrific source from all local colleges and universities when it comes to military theory teaching based on geography. In the teaching practice of this course, information of local war history, strategic situations and hot topics students discuss shall be collected and applied in the teaching practice. Only in this way, can the teaching keep closely up with the changing situation and geopolitical actualities and reflect the characteristics of times. In addition, based on the peripheral security situations, some topics can be raised such as "security situation at Yunnan border" "international relations outlook of Yunnan with neighboring countries" "developing trend of the strategic position of

Yunnan". Besides, discussing the happening issues about military and national defense, such as starting the course "Sino-Vietnam, Sino-Burmese and China-Laos relations at past and present" is also a good measure to attract the attention and enhance the learning experience of students.

IV. ENSURING A SATISFYING TEACHING RESULTS THROUGH OVERALL ARRANGEMENTS AND FLEXIBLE MEANS

At present, the military theory at local colleges and universities is not in the same knowledge level with the majors students are learning, and because of the different learning directions, students lack interests in learning the course and taking part in the class. Therefore, in order to increase students' learning interests and consciousness and attain a favorable teaching result, teachers have to make overall arrangement of the class and encourage students to participate in the class through multiple ways.

A. *Employing Different Teaching Methods to Promote the Learning Consciousness of Students*

A good teaching result is easier to be achieved only when wonderful contents are combined with the same terrific forms and expressing ways. Hence, in the practice of teaching military theory, methods based on case analysis and discussion together with guidance and elicitation methods should be applied in the class to arouse students' learning interests. For example, teachers can encourage students discuss current events, such as a military case, and express their thoughts and then reach resonance by relating to their professional knowledge. Additionally, psychological training and counseling also can be provided for the students. Military theory education shall be associated with political and ideological education together with collective and cooperative training. Besides, by utilizing multimedia teaching technology, battlefield environment is simulated to deepen students' understanding of war and eliminate their fear for war so as to arouse their learning consciousness.

B. *Initiating Extracurricular Activities to Expand the Coverage*

Objectively, military theory education is mainly to learn and acquire theories, but theory based military knowledge shall be applied in practice. Therefore, class teaching cannot ensure a wide knowledge cope and coverage of people, so extracurricular activities shall be paid attention and carried out to extend the potential of military education. For instance, the campus network platform can be employed to set up a page for military education where knowledge contests can be hold. With the help of civil organizations, a school club of military enthusiasts can be formed to expand the influence and coverage of military theory education. Activities of all types shall be initiated including holding speech, essay and debate competitions around the theme of military at Army's Day, National Day, etc..In addition, colleges and universities can also cooperate with local army garrison to hold activities such as "national defense in military camps" or inviting students to visit the military camp or giving students a lecture about military knowledge. In this way, students are

expected to become more interest in military in different extracurricular activities.

C. *Examining Teaching Results from Multiple Aspects through Different Methods*

Examination is a direct method to assess the teaching results of the military theory course, but the evaluation effects are not satisfied due to the unitary examination mode and partial aspect. As a result, military theory shall be examined from multiple aspects by combining theoretical knowledge with practical ability, and military theory with specialized knowledge, so as to reach the expected evaluation result and inspire innovation. Test questions about theoretical knowledge shall be properly designed as combining military theory with professional knowledge. This kind of examination can not only assess students' military theory acknowledge but also their professional knowledge to develop their innovative ability in this way. The examination content for evaluating students' practical ability shall be arranged based on current hot and difficult topics such as international and domestic strategy status and developing trend of future war. In short examination contents shall be designed with the purpose of developing students' ability to apply their theory knowledge to guide the practice.

V. CONCLUSION

In the teaching of military theory, colleges and universities shall adhere to the idea "advance with the times" and the teaching purpose of the course. Besides, the teaching is supposed to combine with the geography characteristics and profound history heritage of Yunnan to enrich its contents, and highlight key points according to the characteristics of different majors and theory specialty. Multiple approaches are employed in the teaching practice to promote teaching results. With the above measures, the education of military theory course at local colleges and universities is expected to be promoted.

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