HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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THE ROLE OF OFFICERS OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENTS OF MILITARY SCHOOLS IN COMBATING ERRONEOUS AND HOSTILE VIEWS IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGY IN VIETNAM TODAY

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale of the study

In the system of military schools, the political department plays the core role as the strategic advisory body that directs, guides and inspects agencies, units and organizations in carrying out Party affairs and political work; it directly carries out political and ideological education; manages and grasps the situation and guides the thinking of cadres, Party members and trainees; builds a military cultural environment; and strengthens the protection of the Party's ideological foundation while resolutely combating erroneous and hostile views. The contingent of political department officers therefore occupies a particularly important position in building an “ideological shield” right from the Army's educational and training institutions. This is the force that directly advises Party committees and commanders on guiding awareness, building political steadfastness, and consolidating revolutionary faith and ideals. Through propaganda activities, political meetings, ideological management and the guidance of public opinion, political department officers make an important contribution to protecting the Party's ideological foundation. At the same time, they are also the direct subjects who organize the struggle to refute erroneous and hostile views, thereby raising the ideological “resistance” of cadres, lecturers, trainees, employees and soldiers against the negative effects of the modern information environment.

Over the past years, the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain has been promoted in many respects and has achieved positive results. In general, this contingent has proactively advised Party committees and commanders in developing appropriate plans, content and forms of struggle; has actively organized political education, propaganda and ideological guidance activities; and has promptly grasped the ideological developments among cadres, lecturers, trainees and soldiers so as to advise school leaders and commanders on effective handling measures. The struggle in cyberspace and the refutation of harmful and toxic information have begun to receive attention; many creative models and approaches by officers have been implemented; many comrades have truly become core elements in organizing the struggle against erroneous and hostile views, contributing to raising the awareness and political steadfastness of cadres, lecturers and trainees.

However, alongside these achievements, the fulfillment of the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain still reveals a number of limitations. The quality of advisory work is uneven in some places; the detection,

forecasting and handling of newly emerging ideological situations has not been sufficiently proactive; the methods of struggle are at times still administrative in nature and lack persuasiveness; the capacity of a section of officers to apply digital technology and modern media remains limited; the coordination mechanism among forces inside and outside the schools remains, in some respects, not close enough; and the forms of struggle in some places remain monotonous and lack persuasive force. These limitations have had a certain effect on the effectiveness of the task of protecting the Party's ideological foundation under new conditions.

At present, the international and domestic context is undergoing rapid, complex and unpredictable change. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, digital transformation, and the powerful development of the Internet, social networks and artificial intelligence have created a multi-dimensional information environment that expands the space for academic exchange, but has at the same time become a "front" on which hostile, reactionary and politically opportunistic forces increasingly distort Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought; deny the leading role of the Communist Party of Vietnam; incite "self-evolution" and "self-transformation"; and sow doubt and wavering about our country's path toward socialism. Subversive activities take place not only through traditional media but also spread across digital platforms with increasing speed, scale and sophistication, causing considerable difficulty for the task of protecting the Party's ideological foundation. The documents of the 14th National Party Congress state that "the world is undergoing epoch-making changes, generating many interwoven advantages, opportunities, and major difficulties and challenges; domestically, revolutionary strategic decisions are being carried out, posing many new issues and very high new requirements; at the same time, this is also a new turning point and a historic new opportunity for the cause of national construction, development and defense in the nation's era of advancement". [1] In this context, promoting the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain sets increasingly high requirements. Building a comprehensively strong contingent of political department officers that meets task requirements under new conditions is a key condition for holding firm the Party's ideological ground in military schools.

In theoretical terms, although there have been many studies on protecting the Party's ideological foundation, on carrying out Party affairs and political work in the Army, on combating and refuting erroneous and hostile views, and on the contingent of political officers, there remains to date a lack of studies that

[1] Documents of the 14th National Party Congress, Vol. I, National Political Publishing House - Su That, Hanoi, pp. 80-81.

take a systematic, in-depth approach from the specialized field of Scientific Socialism to the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain. In particular, there are not yet many studies that clarify the theoretical basis, content and methods for combating erroneous and hostile views; the content of manifestation and the factors determining the fulfillment of the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam; or the requirements and solutions for fully promoting the role of this contingent of officers under conditions of digital transformation, international integration and the powerful development of cyberspace.

Stemming from the pressing theoretical and practical requirements set out above, the choice of the topic **"The Role of Political Department Officers of Military Schools in Combating Erroneous and Hostile Views in the Political-Ideological Domain in Vietnam Today"** as a doctoral dissertation in the field of Scientific Socialism is of great necessity.

2. Research objective and tasks

2.1. Research objective

On the basis of elucidating the theoretical issues and the current state of the fulfillment of the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain, the dissertation clarifies the requirements and solutions for promoting the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam.

2.2. Research tasks

To achieve the above research objective, the dissertation focuses on resolving the following main tasks:

- Reviewing the state of research related to the dissertation topic.

- Clarifying the theoretical issues concerning the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam.

- Assessing the current state of the fulfillment of the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam over the past period, clarifying achievements, limitations, causes, and elucidating the issues currently arising.

- Determining the requirements and proposing solutions for promoting the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam.

3. Research subject and scope

3.1. Research subject

The role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam.

3.2. Research scope

- Content: Based on current regulations, the dissertation focuses on studying the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam with the following content: (1) advising Party committees and commanders on combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain; (2) guiding, organizing the implementation, urging and inspecting the struggle against erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain; (3) directly participating in the struggle against erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

- Space: The dissertation studies the contingent of political department officers at military schools, focusing on a number of academies and officer schools within the Army, including: the Political Academy, the Military Medical Academy, the Military Technical Academy, the Military Science Academy, the Border Guard Academy, the Air Defence-Air Force Academy, the Logistics Academy, the Naval Academy, the Political Officers School, Army Officers School 1, Army Officers School 2, the Chemical Officers School, the Artillery Officers School, the Special Forces Officers School, and the Tank-Armour Officers School.

- Time: The data and materials from field investigations and surveys used for the dissertation are limited mainly to the period from 2018 to the present (from the time the Politburo issued Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW dated 22 October 2018 on strengthening the protection of the Party's ideological foundation and combating erroneous and hostile views under new conditions).

4. Theoretical basis, practical basis, and research methods

4.1. Theoretical basis

The theory of Marxism-Leninism on class struggle and on social consciousness; Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the guidelines and viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam on protecting the Party's ideological foundation and combating erroneous and hostile views.

4.2. Practical basis

Through reports, materials, and preliminary and final review documents on the struggle in the political-ideological domain at military schools; reports of the Steering Committee 35 of the Central Military Commission; final review reports

on Party affairs, political work, education, training and scientific research activities at military schools; in-depth interviews; and the author's own survey and investigation data from field research.

4.3. Research methods

On the theoretical basis of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the theory of the Doi Moi (Renewal) path, the dissertation employs a combination of research methods from the social sciences and humanities. It relies mainly on the logical and historical method, analysis and synthesis, investigation and survey, statistics and comparison, in-depth interviews, and the expert method to achieve the research objectives.

5. New contributions of the dissertation

- Clarifying a number of theoretical issues concerning the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam.

- Proposing a number of specific and feasible solutions to promote the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam.

6. Theoretical and practical significance of the dissertation

- *Theoretical significance:* The research results of the dissertation contribute to supplementing, developing and deepening the theoretical system of the Scientific Socialism discipline concerning the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam.

- *Practical significance:* The research results of the dissertation help provide scientific and practical grounds for realizing solutions to promote the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam. The findings may be used as reference material in the training and fostering of political officers, in teaching subjects on political theory, Party affairs and political work, and national defence and security education; and as a reference basis for leaders, commanders and political departments in developing programmes, plans and organizing activities to combat threats and protect the Party's ideological foundation.

7. Structure of the dissertation

Apart from the introduction, conclusion, list of references and appendices, the content of the dissertation comprises 4 chapters (8 sections).

Chapter 1
LITERATURE REVIEW RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1.1. STUDIES RELATED REPRESENTATIVE TO THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1.1.1. Studies related to theoretical issues on the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain

The reviewed studies have clarified the pressing need to identify and respond to complex ideological challenges, and the importance of protecting the Party's ideological foundation today. These studies provide a multi-dimensional and in-depth perspective on the nature of erroneous and hostile views. They consistently affirm that the ideological and theoretical struggle is a crucial task that must mobilize the intellect and fighting spirit of every force, through appropriate content, forms and measures. Protecting the Party's ideological foundation is not only the work of specialized agencies but also the shared responsibility of the whole community; at the same time, there must be a contingent that is both “red and expert”, with political steadfastness serving as the “compass” guiding action. The research findings have mainly been published in the form of monographs, reference books, scientific journals and research projects; notable authors and bodies include: the Central Commission for Communication and Education, the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, the Political Department (Department of Propaganda and Training) of the General Political Department, Duong Quoc Dung, Xesa Hoen Xoaret Pegie, Angghen Acxuaga Regiet, Nguyen Ba Duong, Tran Van Phong, Le Quoc Minh, and others.

1.1.2. Studies related to the current state of the fulfillment of the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain

These studies have identified the characteristics of the forces participating in the struggle to refute erroneous and hostile views, including the contingent of political officers and lecturers in the social sciences and humanities; they analyze in depth and objectively assess the current state of this force's role in the practice of military activities. Notably, one study affirms that political officers are the “soul” and the most important link in translating Party resolutions and directives into concrete action within agencies and units of the Army. These studies identify the factors affecting the ideological and theoretical struggle in units, including military schools, and the new challenges facing this struggle amid digital transformation and the globalization of information. Notable authors and

bodies include: the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Nguyen Ba Duong, Nguyen Van Truong, Nguyen Minh Thang, Nguyen Van Yen, Pham Duy Vu, To Xuan Sinh, Cao Van Trong, and others.

1.1.3. Studies related to the requirements and solutions for promoting the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain

The reviewed studies point to numerous groups of solutions with important orienting value for the dissertation in determining the requirements and solutions for promoting the role of political department officers in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain. The dissertation may inherit and selectively draw on these to analyze and elucidate the solutions for promoting the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam. Notable authors and bodies include: the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Nguyen Phu Trong, Tran Ngoc Hoi, Le Nhu Hung, Duong Quoc Dung, Vu Van Hien, Mai Duc Ngoc, Nguyen Tuan Anh, Cao Trung Ha, Pham Thanh Trung, Le Van Loi, Dao Dinh Hieu, Hoang Trung Dung, Nguyen Huy Diem, and others.

1.2. OVERVIEW OF THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEWED STUDIES RELEVANT TO THE DISSERTATION AND ISSUES REQUIRING FURTHER RESEARCH

1.2.1. Overview of the results of the reviewed studies relevant to the dissertation

Firstly, in terms of theoretical issues related to the dissertation topic

These studies have helped deepen the viewpoints of Marxism-Leninism on class struggle, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam on the ideological and theoretical struggle against erroneous and hostile views. The ideological and theoretical struggle against erroneous and hostile views is therefore a fundamental component of the class struggle in the political and ideological domain, and a factor that directly protects the Party's ideological foundation and ensures unity of awareness and action across the whole of society. On this basis, these studies clarify the characteristics, content and methods of combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain. A number of overview studies have clearly identified the requirements for the qualities and capacity of the subjects taking part in the struggle. This constitutes an important theoretical basis for the dissertation to approach and elucidate the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

Secondly, in terms of practical issues for the dissertation

These studies clarify the methods, tactics and subversive objectives of reactionary and politically opportunistic forces toward the political, ideological, educational, defence and security domains. From these materials and findings, the dissertation is well placed to objectively and comprehensively analyze and assess erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain and the current state of the struggle against them in Vietnam. These scientific studies have assessed the current state of the fulfillment of the role of organizations, forces and subjects in combating erroneous and hostile views, pointing out strengths, limitations and the causes of those limitations. This constitutes a multi-faceted picture that provides a favorable basis for the dissertation to draw on in assessing the current state of the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain today.

Thirdly, in terms of solutions for the dissertation

The reviewed studies have important orienting value for determining the requirements and solutions for promoting the role of political department officers in combating erroneous and hostile views and protecting the Party's ideological foundation. From the research findings on viewpoints, orientations, requirements and solutions for improving the quality of the struggle and promoting the role of political officers in combating erroneous and hostile views, the dissertation selectively inherits these to analyze and elucidate the requirements and solutions for promoting the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam.

1.2.2. Issues that the dissertation needs to focus on researching

The reviewed studies have contributed to establishing a theoretical and practical basis for researching the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain. However, these studies also leave gaps that the dissertation needs to focus on.

Firstly, clarifying the theoretical issues concerning the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam.

Secondly, clarifying the theoretical issues concerning political ideology; the political-ideological domain; erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain; and the struggle against erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam.

Thirdly, focusing on clarifying the theoretical issues concerning the role, the content of its manifestation, and the factors determining the fulfillment of the

role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam.

Fourthly, focusing on assessing the current state of the fulfillment of the role, and the issues arising from that current state, of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam today.

Fifthly, the dissertation determines the requirements and proposes a system of solutions for promoting the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam.

Chapter 2
SOME THEORETICAL ISSUES ON THE ROLE OF OFFICERS OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENTS OF MILITARY SCHOOLS IN COMBATING ERRONEOUS AND HOSTILE VIEWS IN THE POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL DOMAIN IN VIETNAM

2.1. SOME CONCEPTS

2.1.1. The concept of the political department and political department officers of military schools

The political department in military schools is an organization within the school's structure and establishment, placed under the leadership of the Party committee, the direct direction of the political commissar, the management and administration of the commander, and the guidance of the higher-level political department; it is the specialized agency responsible for advising, proposing, and organizing the implementation of Party affairs and political work, in order to ensure the Party's absolute and direct leadership in all respects.

In terms of organization and establishment, the political department comprises an executive board and affiliated sections (including: the Propaganda and Training Section, the Organization Section, the Personnel Section, the Security Protection Section, and the Planning-General Affairs Section, together with senior assistants for mass mobilization, policy, women's and youth affairs); at a number of schools that train unit-level officers, there is also a Mass Work Section.

In terms of function, it is the agency responsible for advising, proposing and organizing the implementation of Party affairs and political work, ensuring the Party's absolute and direct leadership in all respects over the school.

In terms of duties: the political department studies and thoroughly grasps resolutions, directives, orders and guidance from higher levels; advises and

makes proposals to the Party committee, the political commissar and the commander on Party affairs and political work; organizes, guides and inspects their implementation; directs political and ideological education, propaganda and training work, and the cultivation of steadfastness, will and discipline among relevant subjects; builds a clean and strong Party organization and contingent of cadres and Party members; manages and firmly grasps the internal situation, protects political security, and holds firm the Party's ideological ground; directs mass mobilization, policy, and external relations work; and carries out Party affairs and political work across all tasks.

Political department officers of military schools are servicemen holding positions and responsibilities within the political departments of military academies and schools; they are trained and developed professionally, and are tasked with advising, proposing, organizing, guiding, inspecting and urging organizations and forces to carry out Party affairs and political work, thereby contributing to building comprehensively strong agencies and units that meet the requirements of their tasks under new conditions.

Each officer holds a different position, with specific corresponding duties and responsibilities, namely: the Head of the Political Department is the head of the political department, playing the role of advising, directing and organizing the implementation of Party affairs and political work. The Deputy Head of the Political Department assists the Head of the Political Department, is assigned to take charge of a number of areas of work, and is responsible to the Head of the Political Department for the content assigned. The Section Chief is the direct commander of the professional section, playing the role of organizing and administering professional activities in the assigned field. The Assistant is an officer under the management of the Section Chief or head of the professional unit, responsible to the immediate superior and the higher-level professional agency for the performance of assigned tasks.

The contingent of political department officers has a number of characteristics, namely: they possess sound political qualifications and are recruited and screened rigorously; they have deep, specialized professional qualifications corresponding to each area of Party affairs and political work, operating under a unified and in-depth inter-branch coordination mechanism; they perform their duties in a manner that “pedagogizes” Party affairs and political work within the educational and training environment of military schools, and they operate in a diverse, open and complex environment that demands a high level of adaptability and the ability to handle ideological situations.

2.1.2. The concept of the political-ideological domain in Vietnam

The political-ideological domain in Vietnam is a component of society's spiritual life, comprising the system of viewpoints, theories and political-

ideological activities under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, founded on Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought and the theory of the Doi Moi (Renewal) path, which functions to guide the awareness, beliefs and political conduct of cadres, Party members and the People, in order to achieve the goal of national independence and socialism.

In terms of nature, the political-ideological domain in Vietnam is a particularly important component of society's spiritual life, directly linked to the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the operation of the political system. *In terms of objective*, all activities in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam are directed toward the consistent goal of national independence and socialism, and toward building a Vietnam that is prosperous, powerful, democratic, equitable and civilized. *In terms of function*, the political-ideological domain in Vietnam plays the role of guiding awareness, shaping beliefs, and regulating the political conduct of cadres, Party members and the People. In terms of structure, it comprises the system of political viewpoints and theories; the subjects of political-ideological activity; the system of political-ideological activities; and the space and means through which it exerts influence.

2.1.3. The concept of erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam

Erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam are a system of notions, arguments and rhetoric that are distorted, misrepresentative of, or opposed to the Party's ideological foundation, guidelines and policies, and the State's laws and policies; put forward by hostile forces, politically opportunistic elements, or individuals with skewed perceptions, with the aim of distorting awareness, sowing doubt, eroding political trust, promoting "self-evolution" and "self-transformation", and weakening Vietnam's political system and socialist regime under specific historical conditions.

In terms of nature, erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam are not merely simple misperceptions, but are politically directed distortions that are antagonistic to the official ideology.

In terms of objective, erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam exert a direct and long-term impact on the ideological foundation, the political system and social life.

In terms of content, erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam mainly focus on the following: distorting and denying the Party's ideological foundation, guidelines and policies, and the State's laws and policies; distorting and denying the Party's leadership and the State's management; exploiting political events to distort and misrepresent political activities; and distorting history, culture, society, ethnicity, religion, democracy and human rights.

In terms of character, these views are often complex, intertwining elements of truth and falsehood, and objective information with deliberate distortion.

In terms of mechanism of impact, erroneous and hostile views operate by acting upon the constituent elements of ideological life, including awareness, sentiment and political belief.

In terms of scope of manifestation, erroneous and hostile views appear not only directly in the field of political theory, but also spread into the fields of history, culture, society, law and everyday social life.

In terms of the present-day mode of existence and dissemination: erroneous and hostile views are mainly disseminated through the digital media environment, especially social networks. They are characterized by speed, breadth, difficulty of control, and the capacity to generate crowd effects.

2.1.4. The concept of combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam

Combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam is the totality of organized, purposeful activities carried out by subjects within the political system and society as a whole, aimed at detecting, identifying, refuting, preventing and defeating erroneous and hostile views; protecting the Party's ideological foundation, holding firm the ideological ground, consolidating political trust, and ensuring the stability and development of the socialist regime under specific historical conditions.

The purpose is to firmly protect the Party's ideological foundation, uphold the leading role of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and maintain the socialist orientation in national development.

The subjects of this struggle comprise the entire political system and the whole people, with cadres and Party members under the Party's leadership and the State's management serving as the core force; Party committees, Party organizations, the political system and the whole people all bear responsibility for participating in the struggle against erroneous and hostile views.

The targets of the struggle are the erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain held by individuals and organizations, at home and abroad, with skewed or reactionary perceptions. These are people with distorted awareness, those dissatisfied with the regime, and politically opportunistic elements who have been bought over by hostile forces. They represent the views of a group of people, at home and abroad, that run counter to Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought; that have not agreed, or disagree, with the Party's guidelines and policies and the State's laws and policies in resolving practical issues of life and social policies; and that oppose the cause of building and defending the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland.

Its character is that of a task that is at once regular and long-term, and urgent and strategic, reflecting the nature of the class struggle: resolute, constant, persistent, and admitting absolutely no compromise on matters of principle. At present, it is a fierce struggle between proletarian ideology and non-proletarian ideology, between scientific revolutionary theory and reactionary, opportunist and revisionist doctrines.

The content of the struggle consists of detecting, identifying, criticizing, refuting and preventing erroneous and hostile views; and propagating, educating, building and disseminating positive and correct information and values. Here, propaganda and education are not merely about conveying viewpoints but are a process of forming and consolidating correct awareness, helping social subjects to deeply understand and place their trust in the nation's ideological foundation, guidelines and development goals. These two aspects do not exist separately but are unified in a dialectical relationship between negation and affirmation, between "combating" and "building". The close combination of these two aspects makes the struggle against erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain both resolute and incisive, yet flexible and sustainable.

The forms and methods of the struggle must be realized through concrete action, in diverse forms, both direct and indirect, such as: political education and ideological guidance work; the teaching and study of political theory; propaganda, education and current-affairs information; the organization of contests and competitions; the use of mass media and cyberspace; publication, scientific research and academic exchange; and cultural, artistic and mass-mobilization activities.

2.2. CONCEPTION, MANIFESTATION CONTENT, AND FACTORS DETERMINING THE FULFILLMENT OF THE ROLE OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS OF MILITARY SCHOOLS IN COMBATING ERRONEOUS AND HOSTILE VIEWS IN THE POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL DOMAIN IN VIETNAM

2.2.1. Conception and manifestation content of the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam

2.2.1.1. Conception of the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam

The role of political department officers of military schools in combating *erroneous* and hostile views in the political-ideological domain is their contribution, through advising, organizing, guiding and implementing activities to identify, combat and refute erroneous and hostile views, to holding firm the Party's ideological ground within the Army, thereby helping to strengthen the

political steadfastness, consolidate the trust, and unify the thinking of cadres, lecturers, trainees, employees and soldiers in military schools.

Political department officers of military schools play the leading and core role in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

Political department officers have become a multi-functional force, serving at once as advisers to Party committees and commanders at all levels, as educators, and as ideological fighters.

The role of political department officers is comprehensively manifested throughout the process of advising, guiding, inspecting, urging and organizing activities to combat erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

2.2.1.2. Manifestation content of the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam

Firstly, advising and making proposals to Party committees and commanders at all levels on guidelines and plans for combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

Secondly, organizing the implementation of the struggle against erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

Thirdly, directly participating in the struggle to refute erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

2.2.2. Factors determining the fulfillment of the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam

2.2.2.1. The Party's guidelines and policies and the State's laws and policies on protecting the Party's ideological foundation and combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain

2.2.2.2. The leadership and direction of Party committees and commanders, and the coordination mechanism among agencies and units within military schools

2.2.2.3. Conditions of facilities, technical equipment and information support serving the struggle in the political-ideological domain

2.2.2.4. The structure, number and quality of the contingent of political department officers of military schools

2.2.2.5. The characteristics and nature of the struggle in the political-ideological domain, in association with the requirements of protecting the Party's ideological foundation under new conditions

2.2.2.6. The objectives, requirements and tasks of national defence and of building a comprehensively strong Army that is "exemplary and outstanding" under new conditions

Chapter 3
THE CURRENT STATE OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THE ROLE OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS OF MILITARY SCHOOLS IN COMBATING ERRONEOUS AND HOSTILE VIEWS IN THE POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL DOMAIN IN VIETNAM AND ISSUES ARISING TODAY

3.1. THE CURRENT STATE OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THE ROLE OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS OF MILITARY SCHOOLS IN COMBATING ERRONEOUS AND HOSTILE VIEWS IN THE POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL DOMAIN IN VIETNAM TODAY

3.1.1. Advisory work in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain

3.1.1.1. Achievements

Over the past years, under the leadership of the Party committees and commanders of Political Departments, and the direction of political commissars, deputy political commissars and political departments at all levels, political department officers of military schools have performed well in their advisory work on combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain, most notably: political department officers of military schools have accurately grasped, analyzed and identified erroneous and hostile views; and have proactively advised and made proposals to Party committees and commanders on guidelines, plans and measures for combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

3.1.1.2. Limitations

However, alongside these achievements, a number of limitations remain, namely: some political department officers of military schools are slow and lack thoroughness in identifying erroneous and hostile views; and at times, the content of the advisory and proposal work of political department officers in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain has not been timely and has lacked depth.

3.1.2. Guiding, inspecting and organizing the implementation of the struggle against erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain

3.1.2.1. Achievements

Some achievements in this area include: the struggle against erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain has been organized in a synchronized manner suited to actual conditions; propaganda work and guidance for agencies and units to organize and participate comprehensively in the

struggle, with clear focal points, have consistently been carried out well; agencies and units have been regularly monitored, inspected and urged to carry out the task of combating and refuting erroneous and hostile views; there has been proactive coordination and cooperation with organizations and forces inside and outside the schools; there has been active participation in preliminary and final reviews and in drawing lessons from combat activities; and officers have participated in guiding and organizing, in a serious and high-quality manner, the Political Essay Contest on protecting the Party's ideological foundation at military schools.

3.1.3.2. Limitations

The organization, guidance, monitoring and inspection of the task of combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain by some political department officers remain slow and lack resolve. Coordination and cooperation by some political department officers are not regular, and at times and in some places remain insufficiently close.

3.1.3. Direct participation in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain

3.1.3.1. Achievements

Over the past years, political department officers of military schools have directly participated in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain through various forms and methods. The results achieved include: they have directly organized and maintained regular political and legal education work in schools; the great majority of political department officers of military schools have proactively participated in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain; and they have proactively and firmly grasped the ideological situation of cadres, lecturers, trainees, employees and soldiers through various channels, promptly detecting manifestations of ideological deviation arising within the schools.

3.1.3.2. Limitations

Alongside these achievements, participation in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain has also revealed a number of limitations: some political department officers of military schools remain slow to renew the content and methods of political and ideological education. The quality and effectiveness of the participation of a section of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views remain limited. At certain times and in some agencies and units, the grasp of the ideological situation of cadres, soldiers and trainees has not been sufficiently thorough or timely.

3.2. CAUSES OF THE CURRENT, AND ISSUES ARISING FROM THE CURRENT STATE OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THE ROLE OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS OF MILITARY SCHOOLS IN COMBATING ERRONEOUS AND HOSTILE VIEWS IN THE POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL DOMAIN IN VIETNAM TODAY

3.2.1. Causes of achievements and limitations

3.2.1.1. Causes of achievements

Firstly, the achievements of the Doi Moi (Renewal) process and international integration.

Secondly, the attention, leadership and direction given by the Central Military Commission, the Ministry of National Defence, and the leadership and command of the Party committees and Boards of Directors (Boards of Management) of military schools to the task of combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

Thirdly, the training, fostering, education and cultivation of the contingent of political department officers at military schools have been renewed and have achieved quality and effectiveness.

Fourthly, the efforts and endeavors of the contingent of political department officers of military schools.

3.2.1.2. Causes of limitations

Firstly, the Party committees and commanders of some military schools have not paid sufficient attention to the role of political department officers in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

Secondly, the sense of self-study and self-improvement, as well as the qualifications and capacity, of some political department officers remain limited and do not yet meet the requirements of combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

Thirdly, the content, forms, methods and procedures for organizing the struggle at some schools remain slow to renew and lack flexibility.

Fourthly, the mechanisms, policies, conditions and resources ensuring that political department officers of military schools can combat and refute erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain remain limited in many respects.

Fifthly, the negative impact of the global political situation, the downsides of the market economy, and the sabotage activities of hostile forces.

3.2.2. Issues arising from the current state of the fulfillment of the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam today

Firstly, the increasingly high demands of the task of combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain, set against the still-limited capacity and steadfastness of a section of political department officers.

Secondly, the fast-paced, open and multi-dimensional nature of cyberspace, set against the still-slow renewal and lack of flexibility in the methods of struggle employed by some political department officers.

Thirdly, the requirement for synchronized and unified coordination among forces in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain, set against the reality of "fragmentation" and "dispersion" within the schools.

Chapter 4

REQUIREMENTS AND SOLUTIONS FOR PROMOTING THE ROLE OF OFFICERS OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENTS OF MILITARY SCHOOLS IN COMBATING ERRONEOUS AND HOSTILE VIEWS IN THE POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL DOMAIN IN VIETNAM

4.1. REQUIREMENTS FOR PROMOTING THE ROLE OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS OF MILITARY SCHOOLS IN COMBATING ERRONEOUS AND HOSTILE VIEWS IN THE POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL DOMAIN IN VIETNAM

4.1.1. Ensuring political, ideological and methodological correctness

This is a requirement of a fundamental, principled nature that governs the quality and effectiveness of efforts to promote the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

First of all, there must be firm and steadfast adherence to the Party's political stance and viewpoints, as the foundation governing the entire struggle.

Secondly, the ideological content of the struggle must be scientific, revolutionary and persuasive, through the close combination of "criticizing what is wrong" and "affirming what is right".

Thirdly, scientific methodology must be applied correctly and creatively, especially the methodology of dialectical and historical materialism, in analyzing and refuting erroneous and hostile views.

Fourthly, the quality of argumentation and evidence used in the struggle must be improved, ensuring logic, rigor and a solid practical basis.

Fifthly, the procedures, methods and quality-control mechanisms of the struggle must be standardized, ensuring that every product of the struggle meets political, ideological and scientific standards.

Sixthly, deviant tendencies in the struggle must be proactively identified and corrected, while a standardized, scientific and cultured style of struggle must be cultivated.

4.1.2. Linking the promotion of the role with the comprehensive strengthening of the capacity of the contingent of political department officers of military schools

This is a requirement that directly determines the effectiveness of the struggle against erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain. This requirement is linked to the specific nature of the work of political department officers in military schools, where the task of struggle in the political-ideological domain is bound up with the performance of education, training and scientific research tasks. It stems from the relationship between role and capacity: the role can only be realized through capacity, and capacity directly determines the scope, degree and effectiveness of the fulfillment of the role.

To achieve this, the promotion of the role must be grounded in political capacity that has been firmly internalized and manifested in consistent steadfastness of action. Political capacity is not merely an understanding of the Party's guidelines and viewpoints, but also the ability to "position" oneself in the face of multi-directional influences, especially in complex and sensitive political-ideological situations. It is a process of transforming theoretical awareness into firm political conviction, and conviction into conscious and responsible conduct. Officers must not only be correct in their awareness but must also remain steadfast in their choice of attitude and approach to handling issues, without wavering in the face of conflicting streams of information.

4.1.3. Closely linking the struggle against erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain with the practical building of the socialist political regime in Vietnam

This is an important requirement, ensuring the comprehensiveness and sustainability of efforts to promote the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain. This requirement stems from the law of motion governing political and ideological work, in which there is always a unity between "combating" and "building".

In the political-ideological domain, refuting erroneous views only resolves the outward manifestation, whereas building conviction, a system of values and a new theoretical foundation is the decisive factor for the depth and stability of awareness. Combating and building are not two simple, parallel tasks but two aspects of a single, unified process.

At present, erroneous and hostile views not only deny but also seek to substitute other systems of values, which are often "disguised" as progressive,

democratic or modern. If the struggle stops at mere refutation without simultaneously consolidating and disseminating correct values, the resulting gap in awareness can easily be filled by distorted rhetoric. Building is therefore an indispensable condition for the struggle to achieve genuine effectiveness, ensuring both the "elimination of what is wrong" and the "shaping of what is right".

4.1.4. Ensuring the proactiveness, timeliness and adaptability of political department officers of military schools amid the new environment and conditions

This is an important requirement, ensuring the conditions for promoting the role of political department officers in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain. For military schools, this requirement is of particular significance, since this is an educational environment where every influence in the political-ideological domain directly affects the process of forming the awareness and political steadfastness of cadres, lecturers, trainees and employees. Political department officers must therefore adapt to the rapid changes of reality, flexibly adjusting their methods, forms and approaches to suit each subject, space and moment.

To fulfill this requirement, focus must be placed on the following main content: making a strong shift from a "reactive" mindset to a "proactively leading" mindset; establishing and effectively operating a mechanism for continuously and systematically grasping, analyzing and forecasting the political-ideological situation; ensuring timeliness in organizing and carrying out the struggle; continuously renewing methods, forms and approaches to adapt to the new political-ideological environment, especially cyberspace; and flexibly adjusting content and methods according to each specific subject and situation.

4.2. SOLUTIONS FOR PROMOTING THE ROLE OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS OF MILITARY SCHOOLS IN COMBATING ERRONEOUS AND HOSTILE VIEWS IN THE POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL DOMAIN IN VIETNAM

4.2.1. Raising the awareness and responsibility of organizations and forces regarding the promotion of the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain

This is a key solution of decisive significance for the quality and effectiveness of efforts to promote the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain. To achieve this, focus should be placed on the following main content:

Firstly, raising the awareness of political department officers regarding the nature and characteristics of the struggle in the political-ideological domain.

Secondly, bringing about a strong shift in the awareness of organizations and forces regarding the struggle in the political-ideological domain.

Thirdly, bringing about a shift in the responsibility of organizations and forces regarding the struggle against erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

Regarding measures: First, the quality of political education and the dissemination of legal education directly related to the task of combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain must be raised for all relevant subjects.

Regularly maintaining and improving the quality of Party-committee and Party-organization meetings of political departments, with attention to guiding the struggle against erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

Linking improvements in the quality and effectiveness of task performance with organizing the struggle against erroneous and hostile views for agencies and units within the schools.

Improving the effectiveness of coordination among forces inside and outside military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

Regularly inspecting, supervising, and conducting preliminary and final reviews of the struggle against erroneous and hostile views carried out by Party committees and commanders of political departments in military schools.

4.2.2. Improving the quality of the contingent of political department officers of military schools to meet the requirements of combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain in Vietnam

This is a long-term solution, since every mechanism, policy, piece of equipment or method of struggle can only truly prove effective when there is a sufficiently strong contingent of officers to operate and organize its implementation. In essence, this solution consists of building the contingent of political department officers into genuine experts, who possess firm political steadfastness, are proficient in theory, and are highly skilled in their profession.

This requires the comprehensive implementation of the following content and measures to build the contingent of political department officers in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

Firstly, improving the quality of the selection, planning and deployment of officers working in the political departments of military schools.

Secondly, renewing and improving the quality of training and fostering for officers working in the political departments of military schools.

Thirdly, cultivating political steadfastness and revolutionary ethics, and developing the skills to combat erroneous and hostile views, for the contingent of political department officers.

4.2.3. Renewing the content and diversifying the forms and methods of combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain at military schools

This is a breakthrough solution aimed at promoting the role of political department officers of military schools in combating and refuting erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain today.

Regarding the renewal of content, focus should be placed on combating erroneous views on fundamental theoretical issues; attention should be given to combating erroneous views on current, pressing matters of social concern; the content of the struggle should be linked to the requirements of the revolutionary cause, the task of building the Army, and the practical needs of cadres and soldiers; attention should be given to protecting internal political security and maintaining internal purity and strength; and the content of the struggle should be renewed in a manner closely linked to education and training tasks.

Regarding forms and methods of struggle, these must be diversified so as to ensure both educational value and combative strength. In addition to the existing curricular forms of teaching political theory and conducting political and ideological education, schools need to expand forms of democratic dialogue and youth forums to create an open space for exchange, and to strengthen dialogue, debate and the application of digital technology.

4.2.4. Ensuring favorable conditions and environment for promoting the role of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain

This is an important solution that closely links the Party's guidelines and policies with the practical implementation of tasks at military schools, in order to ensure that political department officers have full legal, organizational, human and material conditions to carry out their combat tasks in a proactive, creative and effective manner. To implement this solution, focus should be placed on the following main content and measures:

Firstly, perfecting mechanisms, policies and regulations to create a legal basis for promoting the role of political department officers in combating erroneous and hostile views.

Secondly, ensuring facilities, and promoting the application of information technology and digital transformation in the struggle in the political-ideological domain.

Thirdly, building an exemplary and wholesome pedagogical and cultural environment, with a democratic, disciplined, united and standard-compliant political-ideological environment at its core, in order to create favorable conditions for promoting the role of political department officers in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

Fourthly, developing policies and mechanisms of encouragement and appropriate remuneration, creating motivation for political department officers of military schools to be active and creative in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

4.2.5. Activating the subjective factor of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain

This is a solution of particular importance, directly determining the effectiveness of efforts to promote the role of political department officers of military schools. The capacity for theoretical thinking, political steadfastness, and the ability to identify, analyze and refute erroneous and hostile views cannot be sustainably formed through school- and unit-based training and fostering alone, but must also be continuously cultivated through self-study, self-research and self-cultivation in the course of one's work.

Implementing this solution requires focusing on the following content and measures:

Firstly, raising the awareness, motivation and sense of responsibility of political department officers in self-study, self-cultivation and self-improvement of their capacity to combat erroneous and hostile views.

Secondly, promoting the proactiveness of political department officers of military schools in developing and implementing plans for self-improvement and cultivating their combat capacity.

Thirdly, political department officers proactively overcoming difficulties and strictly implementing plans for self-study, self-improvement and self-cultivation in order to raise their capacity to combat erroneous views in the political-ideological domain.

Fourthly, strengthening the leadership, direction, management, inspection and supervision by Party committees and commanders at all levels over the self-study, self-improvement and self-cultivation activities aimed at raising the capacity of political department officers of military schools to combat erroneous views in the political-ideological domain.

CONCLUSION

The political-ideological domain in Vietnam is a component of society's spiritual life, comprising the system of viewpoints, theories and political-ideological activities under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, founded on Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, which functions to guide the awareness, beliefs and political conduct of cadres, Party members and the People, in order to achieve the goal of national independence and socialism. This is a domain that is constantly exploited by hostile forces for subversive activities, employing sophisticated and dangerous tactics. Combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain is therefore an objective necessity, aimed at identifying, refuting, preventing and defeating the plots and tactics of hostile forces. This is the responsibility of the entire Party, the entire people and the entire armed forces, with political department officers of military schools serving as the core force. Given their advantages in terms of qualities, capacity, conditions and working environment, this contingent undertakes the advising, organizing and directly participating in activities to detect, identify and refute erroneous and hostile views.

Over the past years, political department officers of military schools have performed relatively well in their advisory, organizing and directly participating roles in the struggle, contributing to strengthening political steadfastness and consolidating the trust and unity of thought among cadres, lecturers, trainees, employees and soldiers in military schools. However, some content of the advisory and proposal work has not been timely; guidance, monitoring and inspection work has not been regular and has lacked resolve; the organization of the struggle by some political department officers has been slow and lacking in synchronization; some officers have not been bold in renewing the content and methods of political education, and the grasp and handling of emerging ideological issues has at times been passive.

In the new context, as erroneous and hostile views continue to evolve rapidly, in complex and unpredictable ways, promoting the role of political department officers must ensure political, ideological and methodological correctness; must be linked to comprehensively strengthening the capacity of the contingent of officers; must closely combine combating with building; and must ensure proactiveness, timeliness and adaptability to the new environment. To meet these requirements, a synchronized and systematic set of solutions must be implemented, namely: raising the awareness and responsibility of organizations and forces; improving the quality of the contingent of political department officers; renewing the content and diversifying the forms and methods of combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain; ensuring favorable conditions and environment for promoting the role of political department officers; and activating the subjective factor of political department officers of military schools in combating erroneous and hostile views in the political-ideological domain.

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