

# Strengthening Education on National Defense and Security to Fulfill the Needs of Early and Distant Homeland Safeguarding

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## Abstract

*This article provides an analysis and evaluation of the current situation of national defense and security education in Vietnam, with a particular focus on the crucial role that education plays in the process of constructing and safeguarding the nation. The research highlights the accomplishments that have been made in the areas of leadership, direction, program development, teacher training, and infrastructure for the education of national defense and security forces. The article, which is based on this evaluation, suggests ideas to innovate and enhance the quality and efficacy of education regarding national defense and security in order to meet the criteria of early and remote homeland protection.*

**Keywords:** *National Defense, Security Education, Leadership, Program Development, Teacher Training.*

## Introduction

Based on the historical traditions and experiences of Vietnam, and guided by the principles of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology, our Party places great importance on national defense and security education. We consider it a strategic, regular, fundamental, and long-term effort in the construction and protection of our socialist country. It plays a vital role in military and national security activities, and is an essential component of the greater mission to develop the new socialist individual. National defense and security education is a deliberate and organized effort that primarily focuses on the younger generation with the goal of deepening their comprehension of the Party's values and perspectives. The purpose of this program is to provide individuals with crucial knowledge in politics, military affairs, national defense, and security. This will empower every citizen to exercise their rights and fulfill their responsibilities in the process of building and protecting the nation.

To ensure efficacy, this endeavor must be incorporated into the broader framework of human development and the national education goal. The execution should be carried out methodically and deliberately, incorporating appropriate material, programs, and strategies. To improve national defense and security education in the current situation, it is crucial for the central committees, ministries, agencies, and local authorities, as well as the political system, to strengthen their leadership and supervision. This involves promoting cooperation among all organizations and entities, creating and publishing legal regulations to serve as a basis for implementation, customizing content and programs to meet the needs of specific target groups, assembling a skilled team of educators, lecturers, and communicators to fulfill the requirements and goals, and ensuring sufficient material resources.

This article will assess the current state of national defense and security education by analyzing leadership and direction at all levels, as well as the implementation of national defense and security education for different target groups. Hence, we propose the implementation of measures to promote innovation and elevate the quality of education in the field of national defense and security. These actions should be in accordance with the demands and aims of protecting the country from both immediate and long-term dangers.

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## Research Results

Notable achievements in the field of national defense and security education in recent years

National defense and security education council leadership, direction, and operations at all levels

Acknowledging the significance of national defense and security education in safeguarding the nation, the Party and the State have published multiple documents to guide and oversee this area. The emphasis has been on: The user's text refers to several official documents related to the leadership and education of national defense and security in Vietnam. These documents include Directive No. 12-CT/TW issued by the Politburo in 2007, Regulation No. 07-QĐ/BTCTW issued by the Party Central Committee Organization Commission in 2008, the Law on National Defense and Security Education passed by the National Assembly in 2013, and Decree No. 139/2020/ND-CP issued by the Government in 2020, which amends and supplements Decree No. 13/2014/ND-CP from 2014. In light of this, the central committees, ministries, agencies, Party committees, local authorities, and organizations have fully understood, swiftly issued instructive papers, and efficiently carried out the implementation within their jurisdiction. Simultaneously, they have intensified propaganda and education efforts to enhance awareness and foster collaboration among organizations and entities in executing this crucial undertaking. The Central Military Commission, the Ministry of National Defense; functional agencies; Party committees, leaders, and commanders of agencies and units have always thoroughly grasped the documents, emphasized the sense of responsibility, actively and proactively played the role of advice and guidance, coordination, and organization of the implementation of national defense and security education according to their functions and assigned tasks, especially in state management, issuing legal normative documents as a basis for implementation; taking the lead, coordinating with relevant ministries and agencies to develop planning, submit to the Government for consideration and decision on the establishment of national defense and security education centers nationwide, decide on the establishment of centers under military schools; issue a framework curriculum for different target groups; compile teaching materials, textbooks, train, foster, and provide training for teachers, lecturers, and propagandists, and ensure material facilities.

The national defense and security education councils at all levels are consistently strengthened and managed in accordance with regulations. The advisory capabilities of the standing agencies and members of the education councils, as well as the part-time national defense cadres of the central and local committees, ministries, agencies, and organizations, have steadily improved. The activities of these councils are becoming more comprehensive and effective, with updated operational approaches that are tailored to the unique characteristics, circumstances, and realities of each locality, agency, and organization. Between 2015 and 2020, a total of 24 councils and units underwent inspections, with 70.8% of them attaining excellent results and the remaining 29.2% earning good results. Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, with its complex developments and implementation of social distancing measures, the levels and sectors have made significant efforts to adapt plans, implement appropriate policies and measures, and ensure the successful execution of national defense and security education. This has resulted in the achievement of high quality and effectiveness.

### *Results In Creating National Military and Security Education Programs, Content, Textbooks, And Curricula.*

In accordance with the regulations and guidance of the Party, the relevant ministries and agencies have increased their accountability, collaborated on research, and released programs. They have also developed teaching materials, textbooks, and curricula for national defense and security education that are appropriate for the target audience, as well as for each level of education and training. This content provides learners with fundamental knowledge regarding the Party's principles and perspectives, the State's regulations and legislation concerning national defense and security. It also covers the establishment of a comprehensive national defense system that is closely integrated with the people's security, the development of the people's armed forces, civil defense, and military expertise.

### *Develops National Defense and Security Education Professors, Presenters, And Propagandists*

The ministries, agencies, and localities have prioritized the training, development, and advancement of teachers, lecturers, and propagandists. They have focused on selecting individuals with exceptional qualities, capabilities, and responsibilities, and have organized various activities such as training sessions, workshops, and competitions to enhance their professional and technical skills. These efforts aim to gradually meet the prescribed standards. Up to this point, a total of 2,399 teachers and lecturers specializing in national defense and security education have been trained in the entire country. Among them, 1,036 individuals have completed undergraduate studies, while 1,363 individuals have obtained a second bachelor's degree. By the year 2020, high schools across the nation have appointed 5,203 out of 5,898 national defense and security education teachers, achieving a rate of 88.21%.

### *Builds National Defense and Security Education Institutions; Ensures Material Infrastructure*

Efforts have been made to develop, invest in, and enhance national military and security education centers, ensuring their compliance with legislation and improving their overall functionality. Currently, there are a total of 38 centers across the country, with 13 centers operating under military schools and 25 centers operating under educational institutions. These centers have successfully established their infrastructure and are functioning in accordance with rules. Their efforts have significantly enhanced the quality of national defense and security education for students. The provision of material resources and policies for national defense and security education is improving. The ministries, agencies, and localities have effectively collaborated in budget allocation, successfully fulfilling the requirements for this endeavor. In particular, they have ensured sufficient funds for the construction, reinforcement, and enhancement of national defense and security education facilities. This includes the development of lecture halls, training areas, practical spaces, dining facilities, and accommodations. Additionally, they have procured necessary supplies, learning materials, equipment, and teaching aids.

### *Different Target Groups' National Defense and Security Education Results*

The central committees, ministries, agencies, military regions, and localities have strictly directed the promotion of national defense and security knowledge among target groups 1, 2, 3, and 4. The scope of target groups for this promotion has been expanded, and the methods used are flexible, creative, and diverse. Many localities have successfully implemented innovative approaches in this regard. The designated institutions have diligently adhered to the yearly fostering plan, actively formulating strategies and initiatives for each training session. They have appointed educators, lecturers, and presenters to assemble and present relevant subjects to the intended audience. The training sessions have been meticulously and systematically organized, with the content, program, and curriculum being executed accurately and comprehensively. The institutions have successfully integrated theoretical research with hands-on field visits. After finishing the course, certificates of program completion are given out as instructed. Between 2015 and 2020, the entire nation has supported the growth of 3,015,833 out of 3,101,518 individuals, achieving 97.24% of the target. The target groups consist of 1,589 individuals in target group 1, 54,458 individuals in target group 2, 224,452 individuals in target group 3, 2,311,168 individuals in target group 4, 68,809 religious dignitaries and officials, and 355,357 individuals in other target groups. Between 2021 and 2022, the entire nation has provided care and support to a total of 522,466 individuals. The breakdown of the target groups is as follows: 443 individuals belong to target group 1, 8,751 individuals belong to target group 2, 43,463 individuals belong to target group 3, 400,708 individuals belong to target group 4, there are 3,958 religious dignitaries and officials, and 65,143 individuals belong to other target groups.

The implementation of national defense and security education in schools has garnered significant attention from all levels and sectors, resulting in notable accomplishments. Between 2015 and 2020, a total of 20,093,261 out of 20,149,910 students, learners, and trainees across the country were enrolled in the National Defense and Security Education subject, representing a participation rate of 99.71%. The number of pupils in high schools is 15,246,083, while intermediate vocational schools have 1,243,984 students. Colleges and universities have a student population of 3,382,297. Additionally, there are 220,897 individuals enrolled in political schools. Between 2021 and 2022, the total number of students, learners, and trainees

studying the subject of national defense and security education in the entire country is 6,661,871, which is comparable to the rate observed during the period of 2015–2020. The number of pupils enrolled in high schools is 5,220,918. Intermediate vocational schools have a student population of 161,674. Colleges and universities have a total of 1,155,273 students. Political schools have a student population of 124,006.

The distribution of national defense and security knowledge to the entire public has been enhanced, with more comprehensiveness, effectively advancing the function of press agencies and the media. This includes extending the duration, ensuring quality, and continuously developing propaganda tactics. In the present era, the majority of central and local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations allocate specific sections and programs to cover topics related to national defense and security. The armed forces have integrated and advanced the campaigns to mobilize the people, while concurrently spreading and promoting knowledge about national defense and security. These efforts primarily concentrate on the people and the transmission of information regarding border sovereignty, maritime affairs, and islands.

Nevertheless, there are still deficiencies in the national defense and security education that require attention. The effective management of national defense and security education by certain central ministries and local authorities has not been fully implemented, and there is a lack of regular direction, guidance, inspection, and review of its implementation. The efficacy of the National Defense and Security Education Councils in many locations is suboptimal, particularly at the commune level. The collaboration between agencies and organizations under the ministries, sectors, and municipalities with the military agencies has occasionally been inadequate, particularly in terms of assessing target populations, formulating plans, and executing them. Schools have not fully adapted their programs, content, and time allocation for the National Defense and Security Education subject. In certain areas, there is still a delay in implementing programs, creating textbooks, and designing curricula. There is still a deficiency in certain centers and resident lecturers. The infrastructure, training facilities, practice areas, teaching equipment, and learning models in certain locations have not yet met the required standards.

#### *Solutions To Improve National Defense and Security Education for Early and Remote Homeland Protection*

In the future, as the demands for strengthening the armed forces and safeguarding national defense and security become more stringent, the Resolution of the 13th Party Congress has emphasized the need to enhance and enhance the quality and efficacy of education and training in national defense and security knowledge for cadres, civil servants, public employees, and the general population, ensuring that it is tailored to the specific needs of each target group. Focus on education, unification, and increasing understanding regarding partners and targets; fully comprehend the principles, perspectives, and demands of national defense protection in the current circumstances. Strengthen the feeling of accountability and vigilant commitment to carrying out national defense and security duties" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, p. 159). In order to accomplish this objective, it is necessary for all levels, sectors, localities, the entire political system, and the entire population to consistently advance national defense and security education through determined and comprehensive measures. Specifically, the focus should be on successfully implementing the following pivotal measures:

#### *Improve The Leadership and Direction of Party Committees at All Levels, Sector, Locality, And Agency Party Organizations to Organize National Defense and Security Education*

This answer is of utmost importance, as it has a significant impact on enhancing the quality and efficacy of national defense and security education. The Party committees and leaders at all levels must fully understand and comprehend Directive No. 12-CT/TW of the Politburo (10th tenure) regarding the enhancement of the Party's control over national defense and security education in the current circumstances (Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, 2007). They should also familiarize themselves with the Resolution of the 13th Party Congress, the Law on National Defense and Security Education (National Assembly, 2013), as well as the relevant legal documents, plans, and instructions provided by the National Defense and Security Education Council of the Central Committee. Disseminate comprehensive propaganda regarding the significance, relevance, goals, prerequisites, substance, and attributes of national defense and security education. This will enhance the consciousness and accountability of the group of

officials, party members, particularly the leaders of institutions and organizations, and foster a shared agreement among all segments of the population over this crucial undertaking. Party committees at all levels should recognize national defense and security education as a crucial and consistent leadership focus. They should issue clear guidelines and measures to effectively and comprehensively lead and direct the content, programs, plans, forms, and implementation methods of this education. Additionally, they should mobilize the participation of the entire political system and enhance the effectiveness of state management in this area. Utilize the outcomes of implementing national defense and security education as benchmarks for evaluating the leadership and management capabilities of party committees, party organizations, authorities, and senior officials at all levels. Enhance inspection, urging, and addressing the issue of excessive reliance on local military and security agencies. Simultaneously, oversee and guide the proper implementation of the Party's leadership structure in military and national defense affairs for the purpose of national defense and security education, ensuring the efficient functioning of this endeavor.

*Encourage Ministries, Agencies, Local Authorities, The Vietnam Fatherland Front At All Levels, And Agency And Organization Heads To Implement*

The central committees, ministries, agencies, local authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at all levels, and the heads of agencies and organizations should strengthen their obligations, fully understand, and promptly issue instructive documents to arrange the implementation within their jurisdiction, in accordance with the Law on National Defense and Security Education. Simultaneously, advocate propaganda and education to enhance awareness and foster the collaboration of organizations and resources in executing this crucial endeavor. The Central Military Commission, the Ministry of National Defense; functional agencies; party committees, leaders, and commanders of agencies and units always thoroughly grasp the documents, emphasize the sense of responsibility, actively and proactively play the role of advice and guidance, coordination, and organization of the implementation of national defense and security education according to their functions and assigned tasks, especially in state management, issuing legal normative documents as a basis for implementation; taking the lead, coordinating with relevant ministries and agencies to develop planning, submit to the Government for consideration and decision on the establishment of national defense and security education centers nationwide, decide on the establishment of centers under military schools; issue a framework curriculum for different target groups; compile teaching materials, textbooks, train, foster, and provide training for teachers, lecturers, and propagandists, and ensure material facilities.

The national defense and security education councils at all levels must be consistently strengthened and operated in accordance with the regulations. They should enhance the advisory function of the standing agencies and members of the councils, as well as the part-time national defense cadres from central and local committees, ministries, agencies, and organizations. These individuals should provide advice to the Party, Government, party committees, authorities, and heads of military regions and localities regarding leadership, direction, and organization of implementation. This includes approved plans and projects. Additionally, there should be increased focus on inspection, review, summarization, commendation, and handling of violations in accordance with regulations.

*Innovate National Defense and Security Education for Varied Audiences*

The field of national defense and security is vast and complex, characterized by its abstract and inflexible nature. It can be challenging to comprehend and internalize if the information presented lacks appeal and persuasiveness. Therefore, it is crucial to regularly implement innovative approaches to education, both in terms of content and delivery, in order to effectively convey knowledge in this field and keep up with the evolving reality. The ministries and agencies should adhere closely to Circular No. 172/2020/TT-BQP, issued by the Ministry of National Defense on December 30, 2020, which outlines the programs and framework for enhancing national defense and security knowledge. They are responsible for creating appropriate programs, content, textbooks, and curricula tailored to the specific target audience and educational levels. It is important to focus on adding and updating new content related to the military, national defense, and security. This will help to increase awareness and confidence in Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought, as well as the Party's guidelines and views, the State's policies and laws.

Additionally, it is crucial to strengthen the spirit of patriotism, love for socialism, and the ability to rely on oneself. It is also necessary to understand the relationship between the two strategic tasks of the Vietnamese revolution: building and defending the Fatherland. It is important to be aware of potential partners and targets, as well as the plots and tactics used by hostile forces to promote "peaceful evolution" and encourage "self-evolution" and "self-transformation". In addition, it is crucial to focus on innovating the formats and approaches of education, fostering diversity and enhancing engagement for learners. Efficiently structure the instruction of the National Defense and Security Education subject inside educational and training institutions. Integrate the target groups involved in promoting national defense and security knowledge with the appropriate disciplines, and complement this with extracurricular activities that are acceptable for the target group. Additionally, establish a connection between theoretical knowledge and practical application. Facilitate the widespread distribution of national defense and security information to the entire population through public speakers, propagandists, and mass media, as well as community activities, the initiatives of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, cultural events, arts, sports, and other suitable means, in accordance with the specific circumstances of the locality and residential community.

#### *Increase The Caliber of Teachers, Speakers, And Propagandists*

This force is responsible for directly disseminating national defense and security education to certain groups, so increasing their awareness and sense of duty towards the task of constructing and safeguarding the country. Hence, it is crucial to prioritize the nurturing of the team of educators, instructors, and communicators who possess the necessary traits and competencies as per the established criteria and standards. In order to guarantee the desired amount, it is imperative to efficiently execute the Project aimed at training teachers in national defense and security education from 2021 to 2030. This entails ensuring an adequate number of teachers for educational and training institutions, and making concerted efforts to satisfy the stipulated requirements. Party committees at all levels, authorities, and heads of agencies, units, and schools should prioritize leadership and guidance, ensuring that qualified and capable individuals are carefully selected and allocated to this force in a suitable manner.

When it comes to educational content, it is crucial to enhance a thorough comprehension, with specific emphasis on elevating the level of political theory, fundamental knowledge of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, the Party's principles and perspectives, the State's policies and legislation, and specialized expertise in military and national defense.

Integrate training and fostering by utilizing various forms such as training courses, contests, and sports events. Encourage this group to engage in self-study, practice, and make efforts to fulfill the requirements and tasks. Simultaneously, it is crucial to prioritize both the material and spiritual well-being of teachers, lecturers, and propagandists by implementing suitable preferential policies that foster a sense of job security and dedication to their vocation.

#### *Maintaining Material Facilities; Improving Inspection, Review, And Summary*

Material facilities and means are crucial in assuring the effectiveness of national defense and security education, which is a specialized subject. The ministries, agencies, and localities should prioritize leadership and guidance, ensuring adequate budget and funding for this task. They should fully implement Decision No. 161/QĐ-TTg dated January 30, 2015, issued by the Prime Minister, which approves the Planning of the national defense and security education center system for the period 2015-2020 and beyond. Additionally, they should adhere to Decision No. 1841/QĐ-TTg dated November 18, 2020, also issued by the Prime Minister, which supplements the planning of the national defense and security education center system for the period 2021-2030, with a vision extending to 2050. The focus should be on investing in the construction and upgrading of facilities, specialized classrooms, training grounds, and practice areas to meet the requirements of the subject matter. The training units responsible for the National Defense and Security Education subject must address the deficiencies and limitations, enhance the efficiency of fund utilization, particularly in ensuring the provision of equipment, materials, teaching aids, models, and uniforms for teachers, lecturers, and trainees. Additionally, they should strengthen training facilities and practice areas.

Simultaneously, it is imperative for the central committees, ministries, agencies, local authorities, national defense, and security education councils at all levels to enhance inspection, supervision, periodic assessment, consolidation, and evaluation of the current state of affairs. This entails identifying the underlying causes and suggesting remedies to address areas of weakness and vulnerability. Additionally, thorough research and counsel should be provided to develop appropriate leadership and guidance documents that align with the task at hand. Simultaneously, effectively execute the process of recognizing and rewarding outstanding performance, and disseminate positive experiences throughout the organization's implementation efforts.

## Conclusion

The central committees, ministries, agencies, Party committees, local authorities, and heads of agencies and organizations in the political system have consistently prioritized national defense and security education. They have implemented various innovative measures, delving into the subject matter and attaining favorable outcomes. The legal framework for national defense and security education has been comprehensively and systematically established, ensuring its alignment with the current situation. This framework provides a legal basis for consistent application across the country. The national defense and security education councils at all levels have been efficiently consolidated and operated in accordance with regulations. The advisory capacity of the standing agencies and members of the councils, as well as the part-time national defense cadres of the central and local committees, ministries, agencies, and organizations, have steadily improved. The activities of these councils have become more comprehensive and effective, with updated methods of operation that are tailored to the specific characteristics, situation, and reality of each locality, agency, and organization. The organization of national defense and security education for diverse target groups has been conducted with seriousness, proactivity, and ingenuity, employing a range of formats and approaches, resulting in notable efficacy. The scope of individuals being nurtured has been broadened, and the overall quality has been enhanced. Comprehensive national military and security education has been uniformly integrated into all levels and types of schooling, guaranteeing high standards and efficacy. The distribution of knowledge on national defense and security has been enhanced and broadened, encompassing a wide range of topics and formats tailored to the specific characteristics of each region and population. This effort aims to strengthen and solidify the national defense posture of the entire population, by closely integrating it with the people's security posture, particularly by fostering a strong sense of patriotism and loyalty starting from the local level.

Nevertheless, there are still constraints that must be surmounted in the realm of national defense and security education. Hence, it is imperative for all levels, sectors, localities, agencies, and organizations to fully implement the guidelines and solutions in order to enhance the quality of national defense and security education, thereby fulfilling the demands and objectives in the current circumstances.

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