

# ORGANIZATION OF THE INFORMATION SUPPORT TO THE MILITARY SECURITY OF A STATE<sup>1\*</sup>

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**Abstract.** Global trends show that information factors in politics are strategic, playing an increasingly important role in shaping and implementing the military policy of states. In this regard, relevant is the issue of scientific recognition and understanding of the key role of information support to the military security of a state. The article gives the points of view on the main aspects of organizing a system of information support to the military security of a state and requirements to such a system.

**Keywords:** Analytical structures, communication systems, forecast, geopolitics, information support, military and national security, military policy, military-political processes, Ukraine.

**The Problem in general.** Recently, the information factor in resolving global problems of geopolitics has become increasingly important. The state's information infrastructure is becoming critical for national and military security, information is turning into a strategic resource for mankind, and the struggle for its possession is getting exacerbated. The dependence of social management systems, in particular, of military policy, on the functioning of information systems and technologies, problems of information security of vital functions of the individual, society and the state are getting exacerbated, informational weapons appear and strategies of information wars are being developed.

Global trends show that information factors in politics are strategic, playing an increasingly important role in shaping and implementing the military policy of states.

Given these trends, modern military policy is no longer conceived without taking into consideration information factors.

At present, the information factor is widely used in military policy. Developed states pay considerable attention to the build up of their own military information potential, priority development of information tools of military policy and strengthening of the information component in the structure of military force.

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In this regard, relevant is the issue of scientific recognition and understanding of the key role of information support to the military security of the state. An analysis of recent studies and publications shows that great attention has been paid to determining the role of information in the modern world and the information support to the military security itself [1-6], but there is still no single point of view on its role, place, tasks and methods, which are used during the information support to military policy of a state and ensuring the military and national security.

**Presenting the main material.** *National security* is traditionally interpreted as safety of vital interests of a person and a citizen, a society and a state when sustainable development of society is ensured, real and potential threats to national interests are timely detected, prevented and neutralized.

National security is ensured by a combination of interdependent and mutually conditioned measures of political, economic, legal, informational, military and organizational character. Their rational combination allows to minimize inevitable significant losses and guarantees independence of the state and its comprehensive development, protection of national interests, as well as well-being of citizens.

*Military security* as a structural element of national security characterizes the ability of the country and its armed forces to counteract or impede the damage to its national security by means of armed violence. This is its main specificity.

Ensuring military security is one of the important directions of the state's activities. The main objective in this sphere is to provide an adequate response to the threats that may arise with rational spending on national defense.

The main aim of ensuring military security of the state is to prevent, locate and neutralize threats of war.

The strategic goal of ensuring military security of the state is to create and maintain a political, international and military-strategic position of the country that would make it impossible for any state or alliances to weaken the role and importance of the country as a subject of international relations by changing the vector of its socio-economic development, to cause or create conditions for harming its national interests.

Information support is an important element in maintaining an adequate level of military security. Now this concept is mostly understood as the equivalent of software, but in the context of the military security, it is proposed by the *information support to military security* to understand collecting, analyzing and providing the relevant authorities with the information necessary for security activities, assessing the state of military security and the level of military threats, prevention of unwanted (dangerous) situations. The main requirements for information support are: completeness, reliability, targeting, and operational efficiency of providing information.

*Completeness* reflects the comprehensive nature of the correspondence of the received information to the tasks set and the adequacy of the data for decision-making.

*Reliability* (correctness) is an indicator of the accuracy of information support (measure of the proximity of information to the original source /the real situation/ or the accuracy of the transfer of information).

*Targeting* means that the activity has a specific addressee (person, group of people, authority, etc.).

*Operational efficiency* means the timeliness of information security, high speed of collection, processing and transferring the necessary data for decision-making, the ability to quickly reveal changes that occur.

The information support to military security is extremely important for successful resolving of crises and ensuring military and national security. Information support involves collection, processing and transferring of information on military-political and military-strategic situation, trends in its development, changing geostrategic environment, real national and state interests of actual and potential opponents, military (military-economic) potentials of the countries, composition, condition and the possible nature of the actions of the armed forces of the opposing side and other data. At this, as already noted, the operational efficiency, completeness and reliability of receiving and transferring of information should be ensured. Of special importance in the information support to military security is the protection of the national interests of the state in the information sphere.

The main functions of information support to military security are:

- collecting, analyzing and providing relevant government bodies with the information necessary to carry out security activities in order to ensure decision-making processes;
- detecting and forecasting external and internal threats to the whole system of national interests, as well as to vital military security objects;
- taking a set of operational, tactical and strategic measures to prevent and neutralize them;
- taking measures to counter the informational influence of other states.

To realize the vital task of the state – to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity, the state creates forces, means and bodies, capable of jointly fulfilling this task. Their activities are united by common goals, objectives and methods of implementation, based on a single legal basis and general principles of ensuring national security, carried out in a unified strategic management style. The combination of these forces, means and bodies is a *system for ensuring military security*. It is the most important and the only state mechanism designed to implement the state's conceptual and doctrinal views in the sphere of ensuring military security.

One of the components of the system of ensuring military security is the *information support to military security* under which we propose to understand the totality of relevant governing bodies, subunits of ministries and departments, non-state institutions (with the information and analytical capabilities for analyzing the

threats to military security of the country in the military sphere), with functions established by regulatory legal acts for the search, collecting, analysis, processing, accumulation and transferring of information to government bodies authorized to conduct state policy in the military security sphere.

In the general sense, information support is to provide relevant information for the activities in the sphere of the military security of a state.

Now we can distinguish two main points of view on the essence of information support.

According to the first, information support is mainly the provision of the necessary information to the subjects of the military policy, which eventually allows to adequately use military force. Obviously, in this case, the information flows have a clear orientation – to the subjects of military policy.

The second point of view suggests that information support is first of all aimed at creating the necessary conditions, favorable information environment for the activities of the subjects of military policy, implementation of military-political decisions. Such activities are carried out to a greater extent by disseminating appropriately selected and prepared information among the citizens of the state, the personnel of the armed forces, the world community and other reference groups.

In our opinion, these two points of view cannot be divided, because *de facto* they are two closely interrelated functions of information support to the military policy aimed at ensuring the military security of a state.

Information support, as a specific activity, is one of the elements of the overall system for ensuring military security of a state.

Let's consider the main aspects of information support (Figure 1).

In determining the aim of information support it is appropriate to proceed from the fact that it should be seen as activity aimed at supporting other activities, in this case – military policy. Therefore, improving the effectiveness of military policy serves as the aim of information support.

To achieve the goal of information support, its subjects need to fulfill a number of tasks (Figure 2).

Among these tasks, it is necessary to prioritize the informational (reference) task, which is the main one, since the information consumers need to know about the actual phenomena and processes of military-political nature, and their description in a generalized form.

The explanatory task is that the information support is intended not only to inform and describe the military-political processes and phenomena, but also to some extent to contribute to the explanation of complex cause-effect relationships, the main tendencies of military policy, to show the direction of its development.

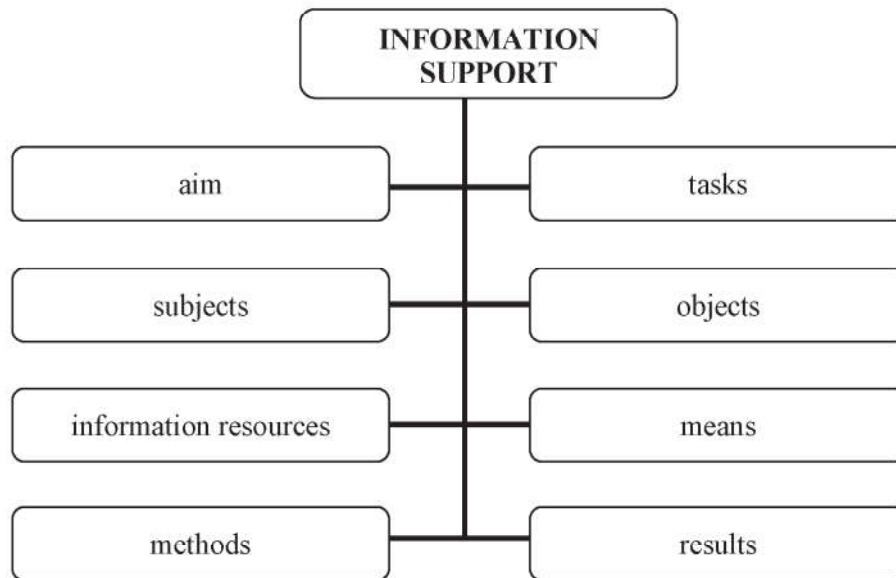


Figure 1. The main aspects of information support

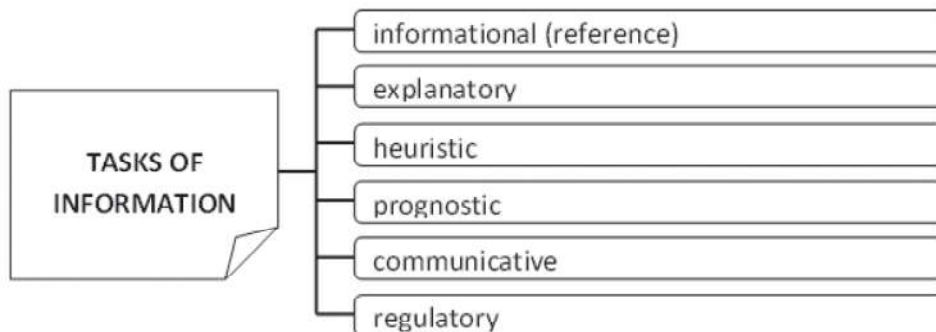


Figure 2. The tasks of information support

The heuristic task is to acquire new knowledge that broadens the perceptions of the problems of military policy.

The prognostic task reflects the diagnostic potential of information support and is to identify and forecast trends in military-political processes, the development of military policy objects. In resolving this problem, a proactive influence on the objects of military policy, military-political processes and phenomena is ensured. In this regard, information support serves as a method of military-political monitoring.

The process of determining the limits and conditions for the use of means of armed violence of the state implies the interaction between the subjects of military policy. Therefore, the transfer of information, the achievement of agreement between military-political players serves as a communicative task of information support. At this, social relations between all elements of the political system of the state get stronger, which influences the military policy.

The regulatory task is in the fact that information support through the provision of objective and full information about a phenomenon or process of military-political reality contributes to the removal of the tension arising in the relations between subjects of information activity caused by inadequate or uneven distribution of knowledge.

At the same time, tasks being resolved in the process of information support can be divided into external and internal, depending on their orientation.

The subjects of information support should include all users, all bodies, units, structures that directly or indirectly carry out information activities in the sphere of military policy of the state. Conditionally the subjects of information support can be divided into two main groups. The first group should include the actual subjects of military policy, which can act as sources of information, while being its intense consumers.

The second group is composed of special information and analytical structures supplying information both to subjects of military policy and to that part of the objective social reality that is the object of military policy. The structure of this group is extremely complex. It includes intelligence, information-analytical, advisory and expert structures that may be directly related to the subjects of the military policy, state news agencies and press services of the subjects of military policy, research institutions, mass media and means of communication.

Objects of information support play a relatively passive role regarding the subjects, they are being provided with information, can have favorable conditions created for them or be subject to destructive information influence on them. The subjects of the military policy of the state act as an important object of information support to the military policy of the state. Besides, the military security of the state, the system of the adoption and implementation of a military-political solution (for example, the moral and psychological state of military personnel, public opinion in the country and beyond its borders, the psyche of the enemy) are also objects of information support. In addition, the communication system, information communications and relations, information flows that arise in the military-political sphere are also one of the objects of information support.

Important in the information support to military security are, of course, information resources, representing a set of information, an array of reference data, regardless of the form of representation, as well as information links, flows and channels of information. Information resources are the source from which the subjects of information support to military security receive the necessary information for their activities.



Means of information support to military security is one of the main elements through which information activities are organized and implemented. On the extent to which the means of information support meet the tasks set, depends largely its effectiveness. Therefore, it is important that subjects of information support have a set of modern tools: legal, organizational, technical, and program.

The methods of information support to the military policy can be divided into two main groups: informational and analytical, which relate to the collection, processing and evaluation of the quality of information (systemic, situational, factor, dispersion and other types of analysis, expert evaluations, observation, modeling, document analysis etc.) and informational influence, which is mainly related to the dissemination of information (informing, advertising, influencing, persuading, etc.).

The choice of methods is determined first of all by the specifics of the tasks of information support. On the one hand, they allow to provide high quality information materials on military-political reality, on the basis of which the subjects of military policy can evaluate and diagnose military-political processes, forecast trends in their development and search for effective ways to resolve current and future problems. On the other hand, most various methods of information influence are intended to contribute to the effective achievement of the aims of the military policy.

As already mentioned, increasing the effectiveness of military policy and, accordingly, the level of military security of the state is the aim of information support. So, the result of information support can be the degree of satisfaction of the information needs of the objects of information support (first of all of the subjects of military policy) and their intensive information interaction with the social environment both within the country and on the international arena, which will increase the effectiveness of military policy.

At this, the important issue of building a system of the information support to military security of a state remains unresolved.

Along with the growing role of information support in decision-making processes on the issues of ensuring military and national security, the need is growing to create an appropriate system that would ensure the timely provision of up-to-date, reliable and diverse information.

However, at the moment Ukraine does not have such a system in a stable form. The tasks of information support are fulfilled by some organizations, not connected between themselves, which leads to sprawling efforts and low effectiveness of their work. In addition, there are no feedback links between consumers and suppliers of information, the procedure of ordering and assessing intelligence information, which also negatively affects the work of intelligence agencies.

These problems have led to the serious crisis that covers virtually all spheres of public life, while most significant decisions, in particular on military-security issues, are adopted in the current situation without a deep and comprehensive analysis of their consequences.

The authors propose a schematic seeing of information support to military security (Figure 3).

It includes such components as national (military) security bodies, intelligence agencies, coordination bodies and information infrastructure. They are in close interaction, and information coming from intelligence agencies allows the leadership of the country (intelligence information users) to make grounded decisions regarding ensuring national (military) security.

Let's consider the main aspects of the proposed structure. We believe that information support (intelligence work) is one of the form of information work, the basic principle of which is the clear division of concepts: data, information and knowledge.

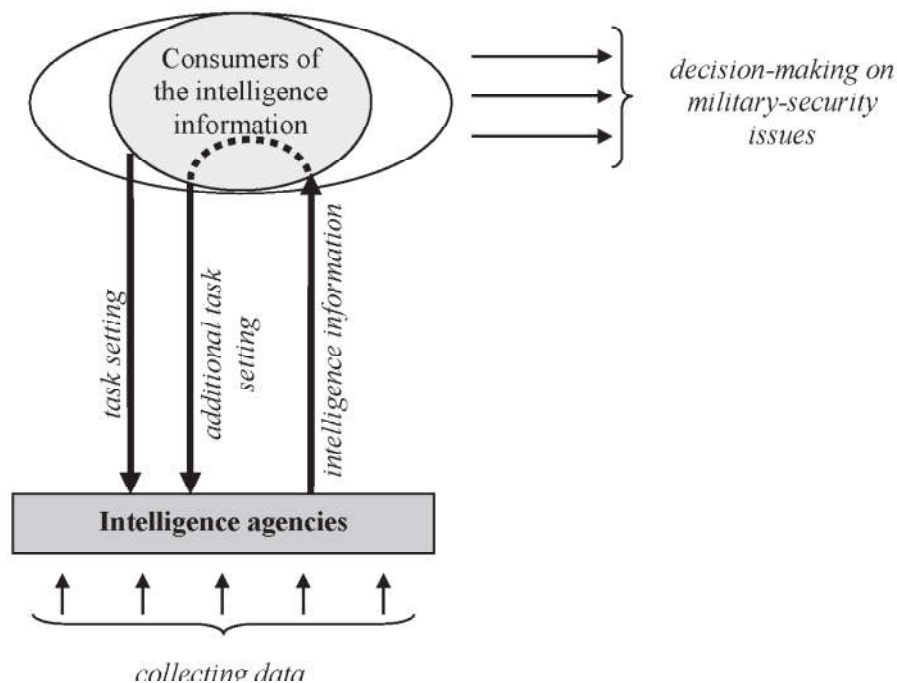


Figure 3. Conceptual structure of a system of the information support to military security (base-case scenario)

Data can be statistics, excerpts of information etc., about what is of interest, however, one cannot make the right decision based on data alone, regardless of how accurate or voluminous it is.

Information, on the contrary, is a collection of data that have been selected, processed and analyzed, after which it can be used for further actions.

Prepared solutions and recommendations are the ultimate information product – knowledge. The decision maker needs information and knowledge, not just data.



Such a gradation corresponds to the provisions of the concept of the hierarchy of intelligence information [7] and the types of activities defined in it (operational analytics, information work, analytical activity), at this the chain of actions performed does not change regardless of the level of information.

All the information transferred from intelligence agencies to consumers is divided into (Figure 4):

- strategic – information on global processes in the economy, politics, military sphere etc., which can reveal any influence (positive or negative) on the state. Such information is necessary for making strategic decisions regarding the global goal of the state's development. Strategic intelligence information is the intelligence information that is needed for shaping the state's policy and planning at the national and international levels. This is the highest level of intelligence on national and international political, economic, military, and other issues, collected in response to the consumers' specific demands. Strategic intelligence information refers to external threats to the national interests of the state and international issues;
- tactical – information for making decisions on optimizing the ways of reaching the global goal, taking into account the changing situation. Tactical intelligence information is the intelligence information needed for planning at a tactical level, for example, for conducting hostilities or special operations;
- operational – information for the leadership to make grounded decisions on solving current problems of the state.

Strategic and tactical information should be provided to planners who are responsible for making strategic decisions. Besides, it is necessary not just to provide the received information to all interested persons, but also at the same time to ensure control over its intended use.

It should be noted that there is no universal list of intelligence information, that is, what is useful information for one level or consumer, for others it can be simply information noise (information that is useless for making managerial decisions).

The proposed in Figure 3 conceptual structure contains the main provisions of the concept of cyclicity of information support [8], namely:

- planning and task setting;
- collecting data;
- processing of intelligence data – turning them into intelligence information;
- analysis and synthesis of intelligence information (transformation into knowledge – conclusions and recommendations);
- distribution (transferring to consumers).

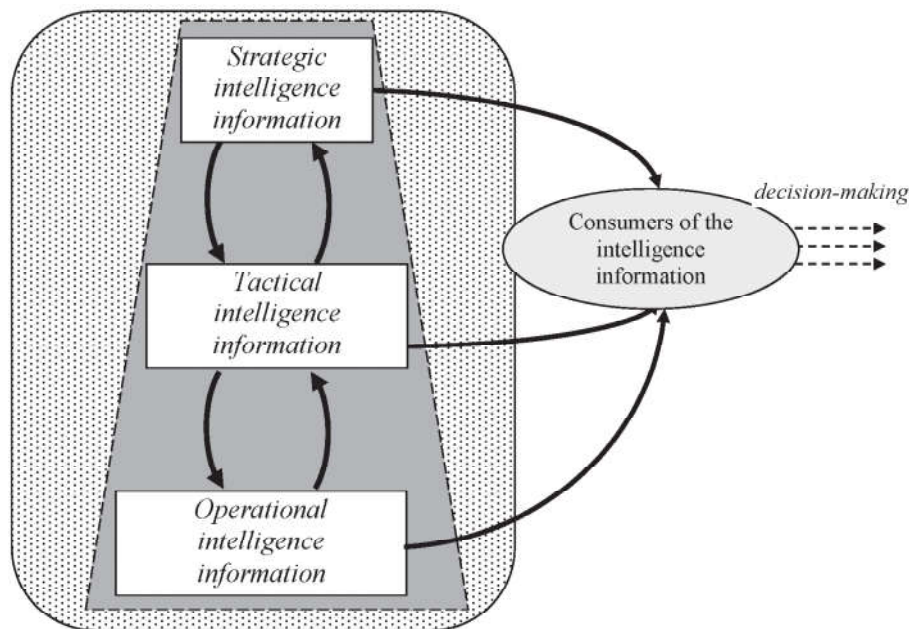


Figure 4. The hierarchy of intelligence information by levels

In order to further define the requirements for the information support to military security, we propose to divide it into three levels:

- higher, which includes the subjects of the military security support – intelligence information users who directly manage the information support to military security and are responsible for the preparation and adoption of managerial decisions to ensure the proper degree of military security of the state;
- middle – where information work and analytical activity on processing of the received intelligence information is being done;
- lower – the level at which the intelligence is collected and the initial operational processing of it is carried out (operational analytics).

Thus, the structure from Figure 3 turns into a more detailed one (Figure 5).

In accordance with this structure, it is proposed to determine the requirements for the information support to military security by levels (higher, middle, lower). This will allow for a more flexible and rational definition of the composition of the required forces and means at each level, determine the needed efficiency of their work to ensure the appropriate level of information support of the high quality managerial decisions taken and of the military security of the state as a whole.

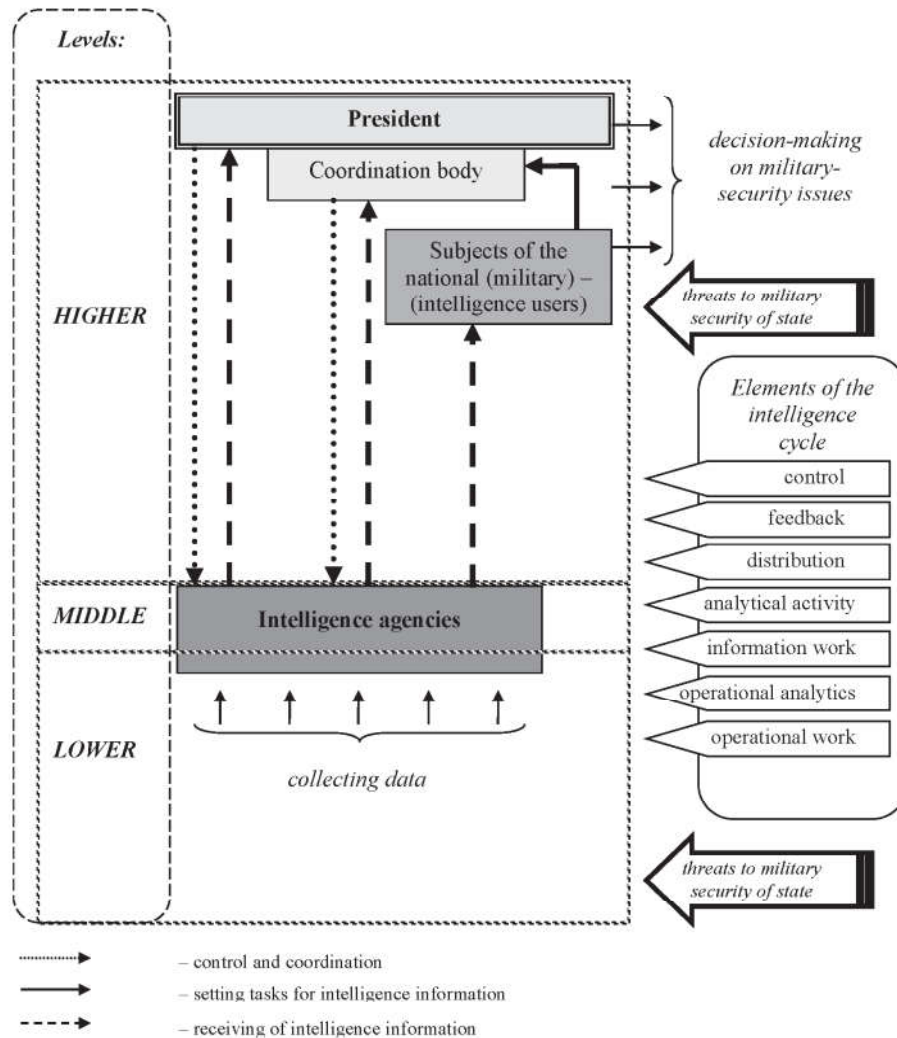


Figure 5. Conceptual structure of a system of the information support to military security (detailed version)

That is, when determining the requirements for the information support to military security of a state, it is expedient to consider the following levels:

- management (higher);
- informational-analytical (middle);
- executive (lower).

At each level, there the list of opportunities to which, in fact, must determine the requirements. Such requirements in general include:

- systematicity;
- balance of rights and responsibilities of the person(s) making the decision;
- single leadership;
- ensuring the validity of decisions;
- reality of the tasks and terms;
- flexibility, operational efficiency, adaptability;
- concreteness and targeting;
- consistency;
- completeness and comprehensiveness;
- level of professional qualities of the personnel;
- the quality of the expert environment.

These abilities, in turn, depend on a number of indicators, which will be discussed in detail in further publications. It should be noted that although there is a single set of possibilities for all levels of the information support to military security, which significantly facilitates research, demands to their importance at each level may vary. For example, the level of professional qualities of the personnel is more important at the lower level in comparison with the quality of the expert environment, but at the middle level the demands to them are actually the same, and at the higher level, professional qualities are more important than the quality of the expert environment.

Besides, the requirements for the information support to military security at different levels depend to a large extent on the level and direction of threats to military and national security, which in turn requires the creation of an appropriate apparatus for assessing threats.

**Conclusion.** Thus, the proposed approach allows to determine, firstly, a generalized view of a system of information support to the military security of a state, and, secondly, an approach to determining the requirements to such a system. This approach means a consistent hierarchical analysis of all sections of the information support to military security and determining requirements for certain abilities of its components.

In the future, on the basis of this and previously proposed concepts [7]–[9], an appropriate method of grounding the requirements for the system of information support to the military security of Ukraine will be developed.

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#### ORGANIZACJA WSPARCIA INFORMACYJNEGO DLA WOJSKOWEGO BEZPIECZEŃSTWA PAŃSTWA<sup>2</sup>

**Streszczenie.** Globalne trendy pokazują, że czynniki informacyjne w polityce są strategiczne, odgrywają coraz większą rolę w kształtowaniu i wdrażaniu polityki militarnej państw. W związku z tym istotna jest kwestia naukowego poznania i zrozumienia kluczowej roli wsparcia informacyjnego dla bezpieczeństwa militarnego państwa. W artykule przedstawiono punkty widzenia na główne aspekty organizacji systemu wsparcia informacyjnego dla wojskowego bezpieczeństwa państwa i wymagań dla takiego systemu.

**Słowa kluczowe:** struktury analityczne, systemy komunikacji, prognoza, geopolityka, wsparcie informacyjne, bezpieczeństwo wojskowe i narodowe, polityka wojskowa, procesy militarno-polityczne, Ukraina.

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<sup>2</sup> Autorzy, prof. I.S. Romanchenko i dr V.I. Hvoz, są wykładowcami nauk wojskowych oraz analitykami Borysfen Intel – Niezależnego Centrum Analitycznego Studiów Geopolitycznych na Ukrainie (borysfenintel@gmail.com).