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Book Review – Combat and Operational Behavioral Health

The grief Russian president Putin brought upon my country, cannot be overemphasized. People killed and maimed, territories occupied, shattered are the principles of international law... But Ukrainians, who know how to firmly speak to their countries leadership by saying "NO", quickly revitalized their own army, which until now was demolished, devastated both physically and morally.


For all practical purposes, Ukraine did not have an independent army, nor did it have a functioning military medical system. Domestic experts referred to the Ukrainian army as the "army of generals". The level of medical care in its specialized military institutions was markedly inferior to that of civilian public hospitals and medical centers. Yes, it is true, that we are gradually rebuilding our Ukrainian army, into one of battle-worthiness and genuineness. An army consisting of intelligent and well-trained soldiers, and not of primeval, corrupt

generals. We are receiving help from our Western colleagues in the form of non-lethal weapons, new pharmaceuticals, and training of military experts. We are receiving assistance from military psychologists, military physicians, and military epidemiologists. But these lessons and training sessions are not enough. We are in need of essential literature within various specialties, this also includes medical literature.

Our American friends from the American Ukrainian Medical Foundation are completing their current project, the translation of "Combat and Operational Behavioral Health." The Ukrainian Edition will be published this year and presented to the Ukrainian public. I have reviewed the original English Edition. Eastern Europe has not seen anything similar to this publication! Life in the army and its operations - not only the daily servicing of military equipment, arms, and topographical maps on modern electronic media. First of all, these are humans, soldiers, and officers who have personal problems, with idiosyncratic responses to stress, as well as personality disorders.

The book, which our American colleagues will present to Ukraine, covers all of these aspects. I am sure that the many thousands of Ukrainian medical specialists, who are not directly involved with the army, will also be seeking out this book. They will want to secure clear answers to questions, which life may pose. This includes psychologists, physicians, health care workers, lawyers, and social workers. For us, Ukrainians, this book is extremely relevant. We need to finally develop canons and standards which will be constant for the practice of medicine and psychology. Only this will allow us to bar the illegal and ridiculous practice of hundreds of "pseudo-specialists," both domestic and foreign, who offer their unskilled services to clients in Ukraine.

Dr. Semyon Gluzman



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