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**FOSTERING CREATIVE THINKING AMONG KEY TACTICAL
OFFICERS IN MILITARY REGION 9 OF THE MINISTRY
OF NATIONAL DEFENCE TODAY**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS IN PHILOSOPHY

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationales

The new demands of "the cause of building and defending the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," of "the development of the knowledge economy," and of the "scientific and technological revolution" in the military field have placed and continue to place demands on the quality of military officers and cadres. Therefore, the requirement for comprehensive development, especially the capacity for creative thinking in the new era, of military officers in general and key officers of Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence in particular is one of the important contents in building and improving the overall quality of the Vietnam People's Army today.

Military Region 9 (formerly War Zone 9), under the Ministry of National Defence of Vietnam, is one of the seven current military regions of the Vietnam People's Army. Its mission is to manage, organize, build, and command the fighting forces protecting the Mekong Delta and the southern sea region of Vietnam. On December 10, 1945, War Zones 8 and 9 (Military Region 9) were established. The Command Headquarters of Military Region 9 is located at 11-13 Cach Mang Thang Tam Street, An Thoi Ward, Binh Thuy District, Can Tho City. Military Region 9 comprises 12 provinces and cities in the Mekong Delta. Its agencies and units are stationed throughout the region, from inland areas to the border and islands. The Military Region 9's outstanding achievements and victories are marked by its excellent operations and battles in defending the southwestern border of the Fatherland, the islands, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Vietnam, participating in the historic Ho Chi Minh Campaign to liberate the South and unify the country. Given the characteristics and nature of military operations, the work of key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 requires a focus on the comprehensive development of qualities, physical fitness, and thinking abilities to meet the demands and tasks. In particular, key officers must possess creative thinking, be able to apply academic knowledge to combat operations, and effectively solve problems arising from practice to achieve high efficiency in their activities.

Recognizing the importance of creative thinking for the improvement and development of the personality of its officers, the 9th Military Region has recently paid great attention to promoting the role of creative thinking among its officers in

their work through the innovation of training content and programs, the renewal of training methods, the improvement of the quality of lesson plans and lectures, linking theory with practice, emphasizing practical application, combining knowledge with practical experience, and actively applying modern training equipment and techniques.

However, the current implementation of tasks reveals that the development of creative thinking among key officials in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence still faces some limitations and shortcomings that need to be studied and addressed. During their work and activities, some key officials at various levels have not been proactive, exhibiting a lack of enthusiasm and creativity, a dogmatic and rigid approach based on existing experience, knowledge, and lessons, and a lack of flexibility in their thinking. There is also a tendency towards half-hearted efforts, learning without understanding the essence, and limited application of knowledge to practice, resulting in low effectiveness.

For the reasons mentioned above, the author has chosen the topic "*Fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today*" as the subject for this doctoral dissertation.

2. Research objectives and tasks

2.1 Research objectives

Based on clarifying theoretical and practical issues, and analyzing the current state of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence, this thesis proposes several fundamental solutions to effectively cultivate creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence.

2.2. Research tasks

This dissertation focuses on addressing the following research tasks:

Firstly, an overview of research studies both domestically and internationally related to the dissertation topic.

Secondly, clarify the theoretical and practical basis for fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

Thirdly, objectively analyze the current state of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National

Defence and the issues that arise.

Fourthly, propose fundamental solutions to effectively foster creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

3. Research subjects and scope

3.1. Research subjects

Fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

3.2. Scope of the study

- *Regarding content*: Research on fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers.

In terms of scope: Research on fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence .

- *Regarding the timeframe*: From 2020 to the present.

4. Theoretical basis and research methods of the thesis

4.1. Theoretical basis

This dissertation utilizes the viewpoints of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the Party's guidelines and policies, as well as the laws and regulations of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Furthermore, the thesis also builds upon the research of previous authors on topics related to the thesis that have already been published.

In addition, the thesis also updates the documents of the Party Congress, resolutions of the Central Committee, and documents from Party committees and governments at the local level related to the topic.

4.2. Research methodology

This dissertation is based on the theoretical and methodological foundations of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, particularly the principles of objectivity, comprehensiveness, historical specificity, development, and the unity between theory and practice .

- The thesis also employs specific methods: deductive, inductive, historical-logical, analytical, and synthetic methods; sociological research methods, expert opinion gathering; and systematic methods, practical summation, and comparison, which are frequently used in Chapter 4 to propose feasible basic solutions for

effectively developing the creative thinking skills of key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

5. Novel contributions of the thesis

The thesis makes the following contributions:

- *Firstly*, it systematizes and clarifies the general theoretical basis of the issue of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today. This study analyzes the importance, essence, influencing factors, and proposes some basic solutions to improve the effectiveness of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

- *Secondly*, the objective analysis and evaluation of the current situation in the thesis clearly identifies the causes of success and the limitations that need to be overcome, as well as the issues raised. Fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

Thirdly, it builds a solution system effectively addressing the practical issue of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today contributes to building a regular, elite, and modern force for Military Region 9 in particular, and the Vietnam People's Army in general, meeting the requirements of the times in the cause of national construction and defence.

6. Theoretical and practical significance of the thesis

6.1. Theoretical significance

- This dissertation researches, inherits, systematizes, and clarifies the general theoretical basis of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

- Analyze the importance, essence, influencing factors, and propose some basic solutions to improve the effectiveness of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

- Propose some basic and feasible solutions to foster creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

6.2. Practical significance

- The research findings of this thesis contribute to fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 in particular and the Vietnam People's Army in general.

- This dissertation can be used as a reference document for studying, researching, and teaching specialized topics in colleges, universities, and other units; and in political training courses of Military Region 9 under the Ministry of Defence.

- This dissertation can be used as a reference document and as a resource for research and teaching on topics related to Philosophy in Vietnam.

7. Structure of the thesis

Besides the introduction, conclusion, and bibliography, the thesis is structured into 4 chapters and 10 sections as follows:

Chapter 1

LITERATURE REVIEW

1.1. These scientific works relate to the general theory of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

1.1.1. Foreign works related to the general theory of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

This dissertation approaches and reviews nine research works by foreign scholars, including books and articles on thinking, creative thinking, and fostering creative thinking .

1.1.2. Domestic works related to the general theory of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

This dissertation provides an overview of 30 research works by domestic scholars related to the general theory of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today, including books, articles, dissertations, etc.

1.2. Scientific works related to the current situation and solutions for fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence.

The dissertation has accessed and reviewed 13 research works by domestic scholars related to the current situation and solutions for fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence, including books, articles, dissertations, etc.

1.3. The value of the scientific works presented in the overview is significant, but the issues raised in the dissertation require further research and clarification.

1.3.1. The value of scientific works has been summarized.

Through an overview of research related to the topic, it can be seen that the aforementioned works and many others have contributed to clarifying the following issues from a philosophical perspective:

Firstly, research studies have contributed to clarifying and deepening fundamental concepts from a philosophical perspective, such as: cognition, thinking, the structure and role of thinking, creative thinking, and fostering creative thinking.

Secondly, published works focus on research into issues such as the role of creative thinking in the intellectual development and personality development of young people; its role in the performance of work and problem-solving in life for leaders; and the requirements for enhancing creative thinking capacity in various fields such as literature, art, education, and the people's armed forces.

Thirdly, scientists and researchers have produced works that highlight the current state of education and the cultivation of creative thinking in general, and specifically the cultivation of creative thinking within the Vietnamese People's Army. In addition, some works have also outlined general guidelines, perspectives, and fundamental solutions for effectively fostering creative thinking in the current period.

However, regarding the issues mentioned above, many research studies lack depth and a systematic approach from a philosophical perspective; or they discuss issues related to the dissertation while simultaneously addressing other topics; many research works are outdated, and their results are no longer relevant to the rapidly changing realities of the present era. In particular, no studies have addressed the cultivation of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9

of the Ministry of National Defence today, based on philosophical principles. Therefore, researching the issue of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today is of profound significance both theoretically and practically, meeting the demands of the new era.

1.3.2. The issues that the dissertation focuses on researching.

This thesis focuses on the following topics:

In researching the topic "*Cultivating creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today,*" the doctoral candidate respectfully inherits the results and absorbs the scientific value of previous works, continuing to research and clarify the following aspects:

Firstly, to systematize theoretical and practical issues related to creativity, creative thinking, and fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence.

Secondly, this study analyzes and evaluates the achievements as well as the limitations, identifying the causes of these limitations in the education and fostering of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

Thirdly, based on the causes of the limited results and the problems raised (contradictions), the thesis proposes key solutions to improve the effectiveness of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence.

Chapter 1 Summary

In Chapter 1, the graduate student reviewed the scientific works related to the dissertation, grouped into the following main categories:

1. Projects related to creativity, creative thinking, and fostering creative thinking.
2. Published scientific works related to fostering creative thinking among officers in the armed forces.

Based on that, the doctoral candidate will generally assess the value of scientific works related to the dissertation. The values of the scientific works mentioned in Chapter 1 will serve as the basis for the doctoral candidate to logically

systematize general theoretical issues related to fostering thinking, creativity, and creative thinking for key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9; the importance, urgency, content, subjects, methods, objects, and factors affecting the effectiveness of fostering creative thinking for key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 within the Vietnam People's Army today.

In Chapter 1, the author also identified research gaps, which are areas where the dissertation can explore, evaluate, and propose solutions to improve the effectiveness of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Vietnam People's Army today. This forms the basis for the doctoral candidate to develop the following chapters.

Chapter 2

CULTIVATING CREATIVE THINKING AMONG KEY TACTICAL OFFICERS IN MILITARY REGION 9 OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE TODAY SOME THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES

2.1. Some theoretical issues regarding fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

2.1.1. Basic Concepts

2.1.1.1. Creative Thinking

To understand thinking and creative thinking, one must first start with perception, because perception is the process of acquiring information and knowledge through the senses and experience, while thinking is the process of processing, analyzing, and creating meaning from that information. Therefore, thinking is the highest stage of the human cognitive process.

Creative thinking: This refers to the system of operations and methods the brain uses to process and transform data and information in order to form ideas and solutions to creative problems.

Information and data serve as input materials for thinking. These can be derived from various sources: knowledge, experience (personal and acquired from society, but the creative subject does not become a "slave" to existing knowledge and experience), and the ability of the senses to grasp objects.

The creative problem (the object and purpose that thinking is directed

towards): Thinking arises from problematic situations; thinking (or creative thinking) always has a purpose, therefore its activity is goal-oriented, not rambling and undirected.

The system of operations and methods by which the brain processes and transforms data and information: This system operates on all three levels: conscious, subconscious, and unconscious.

In summary, creative thinking can be defined as the active thinking of human beings, born from the interaction between humans and the surrounding world, producing new concepts, ideas, and unique and valuable material and spiritual values.

Creative thinking is still thinking, but it is expressed in a deeper dimension and quality. Creative thinking is not merely the process of reflecting objective reality into the human mind based on practical experience to create concepts and ideas, but also relies on existing knowledge and ideas to create new, unique, and valuable knowledge and ideas. Thinking in general may only stop at the process of reflection, reproduction, and re-presentation, even if that reflection already possesses creative qualities such as generalization and abstraction – which are common characteristics of human consciousness. But creative thinking must go further, not only reflecting the attributes and laws of objective reality that humans already know and understand, or re-presenting and explaining existing ideas and concepts, but also changing them, creating new ideas and concepts that are truthful and valuable. Creative thinking is the central element that guides all creative activities of humankind.

2.1.1.2. Key tactical-level officers

In the military field, the tactical level is understood as the level within a military organization or system where specific plans and directives are implemented to achieve strategic objectives. The tactical level focuses on deploying and managing daily operations, ensuring effective coordination between units and resources to execute the planned objectives. The tactical level is one of the three operational command levels in the Vietnam People's Army. These include platoon, company, battalion, regiment, and brigade (depending on the organization of each branch of the military). Activities at the tactical level are direct military actions on the battlefield, aimed at fulfilling specific tasks in a campaign or battle.

Key personnel are defined as individuals holding positions of direct command, leadership, or core roles within a unit or agency. They have a significant influence on

decision-making, task implementation, and unit development .

Therefore, according to the thesis author, *key tactical-level officers of Military Region 9 are the main commanding and leading officers in tactical-level units within Military Region 9. They play a direct role in organizing and managing training and combat readiness activities, leading ideological and political work within their units, ensuring discipline, order, and unity within the armed forces, and are the core force in building a strong and comprehensive Military Region 9 .*

2.1.1.3. Creative thinking of key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence

** The concept of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence*

Creative thinking in the military is the process of perceiving, analyzing, evaluating, and making decisions in a flexible, unique, and scientifically-based manner to effectively resolve complex and unexpected situations in training, combat readiness, and combat. Especially in modern, asymmetrical, fast-paced, and unpredictable warfare, creative thinking plays a crucial role in tactical success.

- *Firstly*, key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 possess flexible thinking in handling situations.

- *Secondly*, dare to think, dare to act, and dare to take responsibility.

- *Thirdly*, in their work, officers know how to creatively apply the principles of military theory to the actual situation of their unit and locality.

- *Fourth* , proactively update and apply new technologies to training (battlefield simulation, training management through software, etc.), improving the quality and efficiency of the work.

- *Fifth*, The ability to think independently, quickly analyze situations, anticipate appropriate combat options, organize mobile command, disperse forces, use deception tactics to mislead the enemy, and preserve forces

- *Sixth*, The ability to coordinate and cooperate with forces in the defense zone, leveraging the combined strength of the political system, promoting public support, and building a comprehensive and solid defense zone.

In summary, the creative thinking of key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defense is the ability to flexibly perceive and analyze the practical situation, based on political acumen, knowledge, and military experience, to propose and organize the implementation of new or improved policies,

measures, and methods that are appropriate and effective in leadership, command, training, and combat readiness, meeting the requirements of national defense in the new situation.

** The constituent elements of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence*

Firstly, firm political and ideological resolve is the foundation for cadres to correctly orient their thinking, remain steadfast in the face of difficulties and challenges, and protect the fighting principles of the Party and the army.

Secondly, the ability to observe, analyze, and evaluate practical situations is essential for officers to identify problems, understand their true nature, and propose solutions appropriate to the unit's reality .

Thirdly, the ability to synthesize and generalize helps officers transform information into systematic knowledge, which is useful for formulating operational command plans.

Fourthly, the spirit of innovation is demonstrated in proactively seeking new training methods and organizing activities that are closely aligned with the practical realities of the local area.

Fifthly, the ability to forecast and think strategically helps officials proactively address emerging situations, especially in coordinating with relevant units.

Sixth , the ability to apply science and technology in management, command, and training contributes to improving work efficiency.

Seventh , the spirit of daring to think, daring to act, and daring to take responsibility is a crucial mental factor that shapes the character of a creative official.

** Characteristics of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence*

Firstly, They possess flexible thinking and high adaptability in practical conditions. Tactical officers in Military Region 9 frequently operate in unique natural environments such as a dense network of rivers and canals, low-lying terrain prone to flooding, and limited transportation.

Secondly, proactive and positive thinking.

Thirdly, creative thinking is linked to the application of science and technology in practical work.

Fourthly creativity does not come with arbitrariness.

Fifthly, creative thinking is composed of rich practical experience and arises from complex and challenging situations.

Sixthly, creative thinking is practical and forecasts future development .

2.1.1.4. Training

In the Vietnam People's Army, "training" is understood as a purposeful process aimed at improving the level, capacity, political qualities, ethics, lifestyle, and work skills of officers and soldiers, meeting the requirements of tasks in each stage of the revolution. This activity includes updating new knowledge, practicing skills, and developing creative thinking, to ensure that officers have sufficient capacity to perform their assigned tasks.

2.1.1.5. Fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence.

Fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence *is a goal-oriented and planned process aimed at equipping, training, and developing flexible and creative thinking abilities for key tactical-level officers. This helps officers enhance their capacity to proactively, independently, and effectively identify, analyze, and solve military and defence problems in an increasingly volatile, complex, and unpredictable practical environment.*

2.1.2. The Importance of Fostering Creative Thinking Among Key Tactical-Level Officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence

Firstly, creative thinking helps key tactical-level officers handle situations flexibly, adapting to the terrain and mission characteristics.

Secondly, creative thinking is the foundation for innovating training content and methods, making them relevant to battlefield realities.

Thirdly, officials with creative thinking will dare to think, dare to act, and dare to take responsibility; thereby playing a leading role and inspiring innovation in the collective.

Fourthly creative thinking helps officers enhance their ability to coordinate and cooperate with other forces.

Fifthly, fostering creative thinking among tactical-level officers has long-term strategic value, contributing to building a successor team of officers with sufficient qualities, capabilities, and qualifications to meet the requirements of building the

Vietnam People's Army into a "revolutionary, regular, elite, and progressively modern" force.

2.1.3. Subjects, content, and methods of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

2.1.3.1. The subjects responsible for fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

Firstly, the Party Committee of Military Region 9.

Secondly, there are specialized agencies such as the Political Department, the Organization Department, the Personnel Department, the Propaganda Department, the Training Department, etc.

Thirdly, the academies and military schools where tactical-level officers of Military Region 9 are studying play a key role in providing foundational training.

Fourthly, the Party committee and its subordinate units.

Fifthly, the officials themselves (the subjects of self-improvement).

2.1.3.2. Target audience for training

Firstly, the group of commanding and managing officers at the regimental, brigade, and equivalent levels includes the regimental commander, brigade commander, deputy regimental commanders, deputy brigade commanders, chief of staff, political commissar, and political officer.

Secondly, the key personnel at the battalion level and equivalent units include the battalion commander, political commissar, deputy battalion commanders, and battalion political officer.

Thirdly, the group of officers at the tactical levels includes the heads and deputy heads of staff, political, logistics, and technical departments; and the heads and deputy heads of various branches.

Fourthly, key personnel in local armed forces such as commanders, political commissars, and deputy commanders of the Military Command Boards of communes, provinces, and cities; key personnel of local army units and core militia and self-defence forces.

Fifthly, the group of cadres under planning and succession planning consists of young, promising cadres who have been and are being considered for key tactical-level positions in the future.

2.1.3.3. Training content

Firstly, political and ideological training involves fostering and enhancing understanding of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, the Party's guidelines and viewpoints, and the State's policies and laws; strengthening political fortitude and loyalty to the Fatherland, the People, and the Party.

Secondly, fostering knowledge of national defense and security means equipping individuals with knowledge about the task of protecting the homeland, national defense and security strategies; and enhancing their understanding of the global, regional, and domestic situations.

Thirdly, professional development involves improving command skills, technical and tactical abilities, technological skills, decision-making capabilities, training, and combat readiness.

Fourth, fostering moral qualities and leadership and management skills within the military.

Fifth, foster creative and innovative thinking capabilities, encourage officers and soldiers to develop creativity in their work, training, and combat readiness; and apply science and technology to practice.

Sixth, in addition, creative thinking is an important condition for key tactical-level officers to develop their leadership, guidance, and organizational skills.

2.1.3.4. Training methods

Firstly, through education and training.

Secondly, practical experience is the most important environment for training and developing creative thinking.

Thirdly, through organizing seminars, exchanges, and discussions within the military.

Fourthly, training and educating through role models is considered the most direct and profound form and method of education.

Fifthly, this is achieved through inspection, supervision, and summarizing lessons learned from organizations and forces throughout the entire army.

Sixthly, organizing competitions and sports events not only provides a platform for recreation and enhances professional skills, but also gives staff an opportunity to demonstrate their creative abilities in performing their duties.

Seventhly, promote the role of self-cultivation and the development of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers.

2.2. Some practical issues in fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

2.2.1. Overview of Military Region 9 and key tactical-level officers of Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence

2.2.1.1. Overview of Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence

Military Region 9 is stationed in 05 provinces and cities in the Mekong Delta region, including: Can Tho city, and the provinces of An Giang, Ca Mau, and Dong Thap. Vinh Long.

The area where the Military Region is stationed is one of the strategic and important areas for national defence and security; in addition to industrial development, it is a key region for agriculture (rice granary, tropical fruit), aquaculture, and exploitation of aquatic and marine resources of the country (both freshwater and saltwater); with a large area and a large population, but uneven population distribution; the road transport system is still underdeveloped; and the economy, culture, society, and people's lives still face many difficulties.

The current armed forces of the Military Region consist of:

- Military Region Command; functional agencies of the Military Region: Staff, Political, Logistics - Technical.

- Agencies directly under the Party Committee and the Military Command of the Military Region: Military Region Party Committee Inspection Committee, Military Region Defence Inspectorate; Military Region Office, Military Region Finance Department.

- Judicial agencies of the Military Region: Military Court of the Military Region, Military Procuratorate of the Military Region, Criminal Investigation Department of the Military Region, Enforcement Department of the Military Region.

2.2.1.2. Key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence

- *Characteristics of key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9*

Firstly, they must be steadfast in their political convictions and absolutely loyal to the Party and the people.

Secondly, maintain close ties with the people and do a good job of mobilizing the masses.

Thirdly, the key tactical officers of Military Region 9 are those who understand

the terrain and are flexible in organizing combat operations in the unique riverine environment of the Mekong Delta.

Fourthly, key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 have a strong will to learn and improve themselves, with many having risen through the ranks from the grassroots level.

In general, key tactical-level officers of Military Region 9 possessed the capacity for effective organization, command, and inter-agency coordination.

- Positions and roles of key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9.

Key tactical-level officers play a direct role in organizing, commanding, managing, and executing combat readiness tasks, training, and building strong, comprehensive units. In the context of Military Region 9 – the Mekong Delta region – the key tactical-level officers possess both the general characteristics of the Vietnam People's Army and unique qualities specific to the riverine environment, complex terrain, and numerous sensitive factors related to national defence and security.

2.2.2. Factors affecting the fostering of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence today.

Firstly, political, socio-economic, and cultural conditions.

Secondly, the impact of the scientific and technological revolution.

Thirdly, the environment and quality of education and training at military schools in Vietnam.

Fourthly, the working environment of key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9.

Fifthly, the key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 themselves.

Chapter 2 Summary

Chapter 2 of the dissertation systematically and logically presented and clarified the theoretical and practical issues related to fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence. In the general theoretical section, the dissertation clarified basic concepts such as: thinking, creative thinking, key officers, key tactical-level officers, and fostering creative thinking for key tactical-level officers. The dissertation clearly identified the importance of researching this issue, as well as the subject, content,

object, and methods for fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9.

In particular, Chapter 2 delves into and clarifies the outstanding characteristics of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, thereby highlighting the necessity of strengthening creative thinking training for this force. Characteristics such as flexible thinking in specific practical conditions, high adaptability, a willingness to think outside the box and take action, proactive application of technology, and practical thinking combined with forecasting development... form the basis for developing appropriate and effective training programs.

Chapter 3

CURRENT SITUATION AND SOME ISSUES ARISING IN FOSTERING CREATIVE THINKING AMONG KEY TACTICAL OFFICERS IN MILITARY REGION 9, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

3.1. Current status of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers of Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence

3.1.1. Achievements in fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers of Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence today.

3.1.1.1. Regarding the subject

Over the years, under the close leadership and guidance of the Party Committee and the Command of Military Region 9, the work of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers has seen many positive changes, achieving important results and contributing to improving the thinking capacity, working methods, and command and management capabilities of officers throughout the military region.

In addition, political, staff, logistics, and technical agencies throughout the military region have proactively coordinated closely in organizing emulation movements, technical innovation competitions, forums on "Promoting creativity in training and work," and scientific seminars on innovation in leadership, management, and command methods in modern combat conditions.

3.1.1.2. Regarding content

Firstly, it involves fostering a scientific worldview and methodology, as well

as theoretical knowledge of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought.

Secondly, fostering creative thinking in building clean and strong Party committees and grassroots Party organizations, and enhancing the overall capacity and fighting strength of Party organizations .

Thirdly, fostering creative thinking in building a team of cadres with sufficient qualities and capabilities to effectively implement military policies, formulate plans, demonstrate fighting spirit, and effectively direct, guide, and organize their execution.

Fourthly, foster creative thinking in unit management and command, in combat operations, disaster prevention and control, addressing non-traditional security threats, and in the struggle to protect the ideological foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Fifthly, the awareness, responsibility, and organizational capacity of training entities and forces are increasingly being improved and emphasized.

Sixthly, the creative thinking of key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 has undergone a positive transformation.

Seventhly, the performance of key tactical-level officers in fulfilling their duties and the completion of tasks by tactical-level units in Military Region 9 have continuously improved.

3.1.1.3. Regarding the forms and methods of fostering

- Through education and training
- Through training and learning
- Through practical activities
- Through organizing seminars and discussions.

3.1.2. Limitations in fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence

Firstly, there is the awareness and responsibility of some Party committees regarding the cultivation of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9.

Secondly, the content of training to foster creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 has not been accurately defined.

Thirdly, a number of key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 have not been proactive or diligent in self-study and self-improvement.

3.2. Causes of the current situation and some issues arising in fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence.

3.2.1. Causes of the results and limitations

- The reasons for the achievements.

Firstly, the great achievements of the country's reform process.

Secondly, the correct and wise leadership of the Party, consistently and directly by the Politburo, the Central Military Commission, the General Political Department, and the Party Committee of Military Region 9.

Thirdly, most key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 have a good sense of responsibility and actively study and train to improve their skills.

- Causes of the limitations

Firstly, there are the negative impacts of the market economy and the fierce opposition from hostile forces.

Secondly, the awareness of some leaders and managers regarding the importance and role of fostering creative thinking has not yet been given sufficient attention.

Thirdly, the training and development of staff in some schools and units still does not truly focus on fostering creative thinking.

Fourthly, the tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 have not yet truly focused on self-improvement and self-study to enhance their creative thinking capabilities.

3.2.2. Some issues arising in fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today.

Firstly, the importance of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 has been highlighted, but the training program's content has not been truly aligned with practical realities.

Secondly, there is a need for innovative and creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, as there is currently a lack of a consistent and continuous environment for learning and practicing creative thinking.

Thirdly, there is a need to foster creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, given the low level of awareness and responsibility among some leading and managerial officers.

Summary of Chapter 3

From a materialistic standpoint and dialectical methodology, in Chapter 3 of the dissertation, the author objectively and honestly analyzes and explains the current state of the topic, considering both successes and existing limitations. This content forms the basis for the author's generalization of four major contradictions commonly encountered in the process of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 in the current period .

The issues raised in the practice of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 are important requirements and suggestions that enable the author to propose feasible solutions in Chapter 4 of this thesis.

Chapter 4

REQUIREMENTS AND SOLUTIONS FOR ENHANCING CREATIVE THINKING SKILLS OF KEY TACTICAL OFFICERS IN MILITARY REGION 9, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE TODAY

4.1. The need to strengthen the cultivation of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 today.

Firstly, fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 must aim to strengthen the effectiveness of the Party's leadership mechanism and the State's management and administration of *the* army and tactical-level units in Military Region 9, as well as the effectiveness of implementing the one-person system and discipline. The commander is associated with the system of political commissars and political officers in the army.

Secondly, fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 must contribute to improving their work quality and capabilities, and help them successfully fulfill their assigned responsibilities and tasks.

Thirdly, fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 must be regular, continuous, and comprehensive.

Fourthly, the forms and methods for fostering creative thinking among tactical-level commanding officers in Military Region 9 must be appropriate and practical.

4.2. Solutions to enhance creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence, in the coming period.

4.2.1. Creating a strong shift in awareness and responsibility of organizations and forces regarding the cultivation of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence.

Key tactical-level officers need to be pioneers in fostering creative thinking.

First and foremost, Party committees and commanders at all levels need to incorporate the development of creative thinking into their leadership resolutions, action programs, and annual work plans, considering it an important criterion in evaluating the capabilities of cadres.

Furthermore, it is necessary to strengthen propaganda, education, and awareness-raising efforts regarding the role of creative thinking in the current context.

4.2.2. Accurately identify the content and creatively apply forms and methods in fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence.

Firstly, the training content must stem from the actual task requirements of tactical-level officers.

Secondly, it is necessary to apply diverse and flexible forms and methods of training.

4.2.3. Strengthening the training and development of leadership and teaching staff responsible for fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9.

Emphasis must be placed on improving the political qualities, character, sense of responsibility, and innovative thinking of the staff and lecturers.

It is important to prioritize building an open, democratic academic environment that encourages initiative.

4.2.4. Strengthening the leadership of Party committees at all levels and the guidance and direction of relevant agencies in fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 today.

Party committees at all levels need to clearly identify the value and strategic role of creative thinking in leadership, command, and combat training, and then incorporate the cultivation of creative thinking into leadership resolutions and annual work plans.

Party committees at all levels need to play a comprehensive and direct

leadership role in building mechanisms, processes, and a favorable environment for fostering creative thinking.

4.2.5. Strengthening the cultural and democratic environment in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defense, aims to improve the quality of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers.

Democratic centralism is the dialectical unity between the two elements of centralism and democracy.

Understanding and effectively implementing the principles of democratic centralism is a crucial factor in motivating cadres to develop creative thinking.

Strengthen propaganda among officers and soldiers regarding the Party's viewpoint on the task of building an advanced Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity.

4.2.6. Leveraging the combined strength of organizations, forces, and the people in fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defense.

Party committees and organizations at all levels play a key political role in comprehensively leading activities aimed at fostering creative thinking.

Military authorities and unit commanders at all levels are the forces directly responsible for organizing and implementing programs and activities to foster creative thinking.

Political and social organizations within the military, such as the Youth Union, the Military Personnel Council, and the Defense Trade Union, need to strongly promote their role in supporting, accompanying, and encouraging the movement to cultivate creative thinking among young officers.

The specialized agencies and training and research centers of the Military Region, such as the Staff, Political, Logistics, and Technical Departments, and local military schools, need to play a central role in training, providing materials, and offering professional guidance for the development of creative thinking.

4.2.7. Promoting the proactive, independent, and self-motivated approach of key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 in self-training and enhancing creative thinking.

It is necessary to make key tactical-level officers deeply aware of the position, role, and significance of self-improvement and enhancing creative thinking in

fulfilling their assigned responsibilities and tasks.

It is necessary to combine the development of critical thinking skills through practical situations in training and combat readiness with the updating of modern military knowledge, science and technology, especially regarding cyber warfare, electronic warfare, and the application of digital technology in command and control.

Raising awareness is closely linked to building the right motivation and attitude in self-improvement and enhancing creative thinking.

Summary of Chapter 4

Chapter 4 focused on clarifying the influencing factors and necessary requirements for enhancing creative thinking training for key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today. Based on this, Chapter 4 proposed a comprehensive, practical, and feasible system of solutions to improve the quality of creative thinking training, meeting the requirements of building a revolutionary, regular, elite, and progressively modern armed force.

Thus, Chapter 4 affirms that fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 is both a long-term strategic task and an urgent immediate requirement. The proposed solutions are not only significant from a theoretical standpoint but also possess profound practical value, directly contributing to improving the quality of the officer corps and building a strong and comprehensive Military Region 9, capable of successfully fulfilling all tasks in the new situation.

CONCLUSION

In the current context of the country, fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in general, and in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence in particular, is an extremely important and necessary task to meet the requirements of building and defending the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. At the same time, this is also one of the important aspects in building and improving the overall quality of the Vietnam People's Army today.

This dissertation focuses on clarifying theoretical and practical issues related to creativity, creative thinking, and fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence. Simultaneously, the dissertation analyzes the current state of fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence ; based on an assessment of achievements, limitations, the causes of these achievements and limitations, and the challenges facing the fostering of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence today . Based on this, the dissertation also outlines several requirements and proposes solutions to enhance the fostering of creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 of the Ministry of National Defence in the future.

It can be said that fostering creative thinking among key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9 is not only a strategic requirement but also a specific task for each individual tactical-level officer to enhance their ability to meet all mission requirements in the context of unpredictable global and domestic developments. This is a task with profound theoretical and practical significance, requiring special attention, investment, and encouragement from the Military Committee and Military Region leadership. At the same time, it is also an important political task contributing to improving the quality of the Vietnamese People's Army officers ; meeting the practical demands of the country and fulfilling the requirements of building and defending the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the current period .

**LIST OF PUBLISHED WORKS BY THE AUTHOR
RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC**

1. Chiêm Thống Nhất (2025), “Factors affecting the fostering of creative thinking for key tactical-level officers of Military Region 9 today”, *Youth Magazine* , August.
2. Chiêm Thống Nhất (2025), “Cultivating the Ho Chi Minh style of independent, self-reliant, and creative thinking for key tactical-level cadres in Military Region 9 of the Vietnam People's Army today”, *Journal of Philosophical Studies*, August.
3. Chiêm Thống Nhất (2025), “Some issues raised in fostering creative thinking for key tactical-level officers in Military Region 9, Ministry of National Defence”, *Communist Magazine* , September.