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Organization of interaction and management of units in combat in modern armed conflicts

The article deals with the issues of organization of interaction and management in combat. The analysis of wars and armed conflicts of modern times shows that in the conditions of using in the military sphere the advanced achievements of information and technological progress, improvement and creation of essentially new views on the management of units in combat, there has been a transformation of views on the conduct of armed struggle. Constantly changing conditions of modern military conflicts, where general combat plays an important role, the study of the effectiveness of tactics and operational art, the application of their principles in modern military conflicts, analysis and conclusions that can be used to develop more effective methods of combat operations.

On the basis of analyzing the experience of combat operations of the opposing sides in recent military conflicts, some new directions for the development of ways to manage and conduct combat by general military units and subdivisions are suggested.

Keywords: management organization, organization of interaction, fire control, raid-attack detachment, target designation.

Introduction

The relevance of the article lies in the experience of conducting modern armed conflicts, taking into account the peculiarities of the development trend of modern general military combat in modern armed conflicts and its peculiarities, and the impact on the conduct of combat on the tactics of tactical level units.

Armed conflicts taking place in the world in recent decades, the threat of global terrorism stipulates the need of the state in modern armed forces and their personnel reserve as a source of replenishment of human resources of units and formations of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



Modernization of the army and the emergence of new types of weapons and combat equipment require their mastering in the troops and the development of the most effective techniques and methods of combat operations.

Problem statement (task). In the course of various armed conflicts clearly traceable trend of development of means and methods of armed struggle. That contributes to changes in the nature of modern armed conflict. Analysis of the course and results of modern armed conflicts and the experience of fighting general army units (company tactical groups) in local conflicts of the last quarter of the century show that the creation and use of integrated groups in wars of a new type is becoming increasingly relevant. And the problems of their deployment and management include aspects that require thoughtful, detailed elaboration.

In preparing this material were defined, the object of the study: tactical units; the subject of the study - the organization of interaction and management in combat.

The study solved the problem: to assist and develop recommendations to unit commanders in the organization of interaction and management in combat of regular, attached and supporting units to perform the task.

The purpose of the study is: to analyze the forms and methods of conducting modern general military combat by general military units and subunits in interaction with units of other troops and military formations. The study of the task, tactical approaches and methods of conducting combat operations based on the experience of armed conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic (SAR), in Nagorno-Karabakh, in the zone of NWO of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, as well as in the Gaza Strip in the Middle East.

Purpose of the article. To disclose the most complex provisions on the conduct of tactical actions in modern general military combat in modern armed conflicts, to draw attention to some problematic issues and possible ways of their solution.

Materials and methods: the method of research is the study and generalization of experience in the conduct of modern combined arms combat from the point of view of foreign military specialists. Methodological basis for the study of forms and methods of combat in armed conflicts, we take the methods of comparative scientific analysis, generalization of information and systematization.

Main part

Organization of interaction: Modern combat is conducted by the combined interaction of all forces and means of various branches of the armed forces, other troops and military formations. This is accordingly reflected in the organizational structure of motorized rifle and tank units.

Interaction in modern combat apply a variety of forces and means of armed struggle. It involves missile, motorized rifle and tank troops, artillery, air defense



forces, airborne troops and formations, engineering and other troops and military formations. Every means of combat, every type of weapon and combat equipment, every unit (part), depending on its composition and armament have certain combat properties and capabilities, the ability to solve certain tasks. In combat they act simultaneously, solve a common combat task and must maintain a clear interaction.

Interaction is to coordinate the efforts of all units involved in the battle among themselves, as well as with neighbors on the tasks, directions, boundaries and time in the interests of the most successful performance of the task. The principle of interaction reflects the nature of modern combat, its general military nature. Success in combat can only be achieved by the combined efforts of all the combat means involved in the battle, units of different branches of the military on the basis of their close and continuous interaction.

The art of command is reflected in the ability to clearly organize and continuously maintain coordination during combat, in organizational skills, tactical maturity, and the ability to manage units in battle. The main issues of coordination are determined in the commander's decision and communicated to executors when assigning combat tasks. To maintain continuous coordination, unit commanders must firmly know their combat tasks, the tasks of supporting and neighboring units, and the methods of their execution, constantly maintain communication with each other, and timely exchange data on the situation. They must know the reference points, control, alert, and coordination signals established by the senior commander and, if necessary, establish their additional signals. Coordination must be continuous from the beginning to the end of the battle. Even a short-term disruption introduces disorganization into unit actions, reduces the impact on the enemy, and leads to unjustified losses. The initiative of subordinate commanders is of great importance in maintaining continuous coordination. A disrupted coordination must be immediately restored without special instructions from the senior commander (superior). Coordination can only be achieved if each unit commander involved in combat firmly knows and correctly understands the objective of the battle, their own (specific) and overall combat tasks, and the methods of their execution, knows with whom, when, how, and for what purpose they coordinate, timely informs the senior commander (superior) about the situation, and demonstrates creative initiative aimed at maintaining continuous coordination.

In addition to reliable fire engagement, rapid and timely maneuvering of units, well-organized and continuously maintained coordination, the following factors influence the successful conduct of combat operations:

- Skillful use of terrain;
- Courage and audacity in battle;
- Initiative;
- Suddenness;
- Swiftiness of actions;

- Reliable air defense and protection against weapons of mass destruction;
- Skillful formation of battle order and comprehensive support for combat operations [1].

The battalion (company) commander organizes coordination with the participation of their deputies (deputy), company (platoon) commanders, separate and attached units. It is usually organized on the ground within visible depth and on a map (terrain model) for the entire depth of the combat task. When organizing coordination, the battalion (company) commander must align the efforts of organic, attached, and supporting units in accomplishing the assigned task; ensure a unified understanding among all commanders of the objective of the battle, combat tasks, and methods of their execution; plan and coordinate unit actions and measures for deceiving the enemy, based on the nature of their possible actions, and also indicate alert, control, and coordination signals. Coordination can be organized through the method of instructions from the battalion (company) commander or through reports from subordinate unit commanders with the sequential elaboration of unit actions by task, time, signal, location, and the simulation of key tactical episodes based on possible courses of action. Under extremely limited time conditions, coordination is organized through the method of instructions. During battle, coordination is continuous, constantly refined, and, in the event of sudden situational changes, reorganized anew [2].

Additionally, the battalion (company) commander organizes coordination with organic and attached units. The order of coordination is communicated to subordinate commanders, usually after issuing the combat order.

Experience shows that in armed conflicts, due to the uncertainty of the situation, units often have to simultaneously search for the enemy and immediately strike upon detecting their position. In this case, it is advisable to create special detachments capable of not only conducting reconnaissance independently but also destroying the identified enemy grouping. This means that the detachment must include both reconnaissance and strike forces – motorized rifle, tank, and artillery units. It is important that such a reconnaissance-strike detachment is supported by combat helicopters and drones capable of operating under the principle: detect – destroy.

If the enemy grouping is on the move, dispersed over a large area, then special-purpose raid-assault detachments (groups) can be formed to defeat it, meaning one detachment (group) is designated to destroy, for example, command posts, another to eliminate the rear (support) base, a third to defeat reserves, etc [3]. The advance of detachments to their targets (raid) can be carried out in various ways: on combat vehicles (sometimes on foot), by air (on helicopters), or in a combined manner – by land and air (airmobile raid). The most effective maneuver of a raid-assault detachment is the "double envelopment" of the enemy when a strike is delivered from multiple directions (front, flanks, and rear) by the forces of an



airborne strike echelon (airborne, airmobile detachment). Such a maneuver contributes to achieving surprise, splitting the enemy grouping, and dispersing their combat efforts.

Thus, in the above examples, when organizing coordination, the battalion (company) commander must determine the order and methods of maintaining communication between coordinating units, establish a system of signals, and provide a general reference scheme and unified target numbering. Other issues may also be coordinated, as well as all possible changes during the battle. Further work on organizing coordination involves clarifying individual issues in connection with receiving new data on the enemy, providing practical assistance to subordinate commanders in maintaining coordination during the execution of the mission.

As a result of organizing coordination, the commander must achieve a unified understanding among the commanders of organic and attached units (fire assets) of the assigned task and the methods of its execution, as well as ensure that all personnel are familiar with alert, coordination, and control signals and the procedures for acting upon them.

Command and control of units during combat operations: Command and control of units involve the purposeful activities of unit commanders, their deputies, and headquarters to maintain constant combat and mobilization readiness, prepare units for battle, and lead them in accomplishing assigned tasks [4].

Combat experience from past years and training exercises indicate that the success of a battle depends on the thoroughness and completeness of its organization. This principle becomes especially important in modern conditions due to the sharp reduction in the time available for battle planning.

Command and control during combat primarily consist of the commander's continuous influence on the course of actions, directing efforts, ensuring that subordinates complete assigned tasks within the specified timeframes with minimal expenditure of forces and resources.

The commander must:

- Continuously and rapidly respond to all changes in the situation;
- Timely refine previously made decisions and adjust unit tasks if required by the situation;
- Ensure continuous coordination of unit actions;
- Influence the course of battle using the forces and resources available to them;
- Maintain constant communication with their units, neighboring forces, and higher command;
- Exercise ongoing control over the execution of assigned tasks [5].

If no significant changes occur in the situation during combat, the commander's decision will be of a partial nature, aimed at developing and refining the initially made decision. By observing the results of battle and receiving reports



on the situation from subordinates, the commander evaluates the situation, refines aspects of the decision, and conveys combat tasks and coordination details to the executors. Orders given to the units are reported to the higher commander, and neighboring units are informed when necessary.

The evaluation of the situation during battle follows the same elements as during battle planning. However, the primary focus is on new data, as it may have a decisive impact on the decision. Previously known data is taken into account and, if necessary, analyzed further. By continuously knowing and analyzing the evolving situation, the commander anticipates possible changes, calculates potential enemy and friendly actions, implements countermeasures against enemy intentions, and prepares a basis for making partial decisions.

When evaluating the enemy, the commander first determines:

- What changes have occurred in the enemy's composition due to airstrikes, artillery fire, and direct fire assets;
- Which targets remain undamaged;
- Where and what new objects (targets) have been identified;
- The significance of these targets and their potential impact on friendly unit actions if left unengaged.

Based on the enemy assessment, the commander determines:

- Which important targets, both undamaged and newly identified, should be suppressed or destroyed using platoon fire assets and which require suppression by senior commanders' assets.

When assessing their own units, the commander clarifies losses in personnel and equipment and evaluates the overall combat capabilities of the unit.

In their decision on this matter, the platoon commander determines:

- Which enemy targets (newly identified and undamaged) need to be engaged;
- When and what forces and means should be used for this purpose;
- What maneuver should be performed with available forces and means.

After this, the commander refines the fire engagement tasks for the units and resolves other related issues.

In cases where changes in the situation during combat allow for reporting the decision to the senior commander first, the platoon commander reports it and then assigns tasks to subordinates. However, in an intense combat environment, situations often arise that require immediate action. In such cases, based on the decision made, the platoon commander must immediately issue the necessary orders or commands to subordinates and only then, when the situation allows, report the decision to the senior commander.

When assigning tasks in such conditions, it is crucial to follow a justified sequence in delivering them. Tasks should first be assigned to the units that need to act earlier and require more time for preparation. The commander's position in battle is determined by combat regulations and rules of engagement. In combat, the



unit commander must be positioned where they have a good view of the enemy and their own units, as well as neighboring forces, both in the front and in depth.

During combat, the battalion (company) commander controls units from a command-observation post (COP), usually positioned in an infantry fighting vehicle (IFV), armored personnel carrier (APC), or tank behind the battle formation. The platoon's COP is chosen at a location that provides the best observation of the terrain, the enemy, friendly unit actions, and neighboring forces while ensuring continuous platoon control.

In defense, the commander is usually positioned within the strongpoint up to 200 meters deep. In an offensive, when operating in vehicles, they remain within the platoon's battle formation, and when advancing on foot, they stay behind the platoon's line [5].

The commander's method of controlling units during combat may vary. The platoon commander controls units personally and sometimes through messengers.

During combat in infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs) or APCs, the platoon commander controls the platoon via radio, verbal commands, and signals. When using radio communication, commanders must strictly follow communication protocols. All combat commands within the platoon are transmitted over the radio in clear text. When issuing commands, squad leaders are called by call signs, and terrain points are identified using reference points and code names.

The procedure for issuing commands (signals) over the radio, provided communication quality is good, is as follows:

- The call sign of the receiving radio station is stated once.
- "I" and the call sign of the transmitting station are stated once.
- The command (signal) content is given once.
- "I" and the call sign of the transmitting station are repeated once.
- The word "Over" is stated once.

Example: "Bars-3, this is Arystan-1, advance towards ref. 3, road bend, this is Arystan-1, over."

Upon receiving the command (signal), the squad leader immediately confirms it by either repeating it exactly or responding with "Understood" followed by their call sign.

Fire control is the set of actions taken by a unit commander during combat preparation and execution to maximize the effectiveness of firepower and support assets in engaging enemy fire positions and personnel. This is a primary duty of the platoon (tank or squad) commander [6].

It includes:

- Studying and assessing the terrain;
- Selecting and designating reference points;
- Observing the enemy;
- Choosing and setting up firing positions;



- Establishing fire control signals;
- Reconnaissance of ground and aerial targets, determining their priority and order of engagement;
- Selecting weapons, ammunition, and firing methods;
- Target designation and issuing fire commands;
- Monitoring fire results and making adjustments;
- Maneuvering fire;
- Controlling ammunition expenditure.

During terrain assessment, the following factors are determined:

- Conditions for observation and firing;
- Likely locations and appearances of enemy fire positions;
- Probable directions of aircraft and helicopter actions;
- Presence of obstacles and barriers, and fire support measures for overcoming them;
- Which types and methods of fire are most appropriate for specific directions, lines, and sectors;
- The outer limits of fire zones and engagement procedures against enemy tanks using tanks, IFVs, and grenade launchers, as well as infantry targets using small arms.

To maintain effective and continuous fire control, the following signals are established:

- Fire initiation (call) and ceasefire signals;
- Fire shift signals;
- Fire concentration signals for the unit;
- Target designation signals between tanks and motorized rifle units and between neighboring units;
- Recognition and target designation signals for friendly aircraft and helicopters.

Signals should be short and easy to remember.

The selection of weapons, ammunition, and firing methods for engaging targets depends on the target type, location, and distance [7]. To effectively use weapons in combat, the commander must be well-versed in the fire capabilities of their unit's weapons, attached and supporting fire assets, their effective ranges, ammunition types, preparation time, firing rates, and effectiveness against various targets. When selecting weapons, it should be considered that initial shots typically engage targets within direct fire range. The type of fire and ammunition expenditure are determined based on the target's nature, the type of weapon and ammunition, and the relative position of the weapon and target. Fire methods may change depending on the situation, such as when the target changes position or distance.

Target designation is a concise, clear, and precise indication of target locations and other terrain objects.



The key requirements for target designation are:

- Indicating target locations quickly, concisely, clearly, and accurately;
- Following a strict order when identifying targets, using standardized measurement units;
- Ensuring the sender and receiver have common reference points and are familiar with their positions, using a shared terrain coding system.

Target designation can be conducted using reference points (terrain objects) and movement (attack) direction, azimuth indicators, tracer bullets (shells), shell bursts, signal means, as well as by aiming instruments and weapons at the target.

Issuing fire commands and assigning fire missions is one of the most critical aspects of fire control.

The general sequence for issuing a fire command for small arms could be:

- 1) Who should open fire (“Rifleman,” “Grenadier”);
- 2) Target designation (“Reference point one, 50 meters left, grenadier”);
- 3) Sight setting (“Fixed,” “Five”);
- 4) Sight correction or aiming point adjustment (“Sight two left,” “Two figures left,” “Hold below the target,” “Aim at the waist”);
- 5) Fire mode (“Short bursts,” “Long bursts,” “Continuous fire”), and if necessary, ammunition expenditure.

After this, the commander gives the execution command: “Fire!”

Fire control in units can also be carried out by assigning fire missions. Unlike fire commands, fire missions do not specify initial settings or the moment of fire initiation but only provide target designation and the task (“Suppress,” “Destroy”).

Conclusion

The main scientific novelty of this article lies in the extensive use of non-classical forms and methods of conducting tactical actions during an armed conflict, which yields positive results in achieving the set objectives.

Thus, the characteristic features of organizing interaction and managing units in combat in modern combined-arms warfare at the present stage include:

- The order and methods of maintaining communication between interacting units;
- Establishing a signaling system, providing a general orientation scheme, and a unified numbering of targets;
- Actions with a limited composition of forces and means, often in the absence of a clearly defined front line, in dispersed and frequently isolated directions;
- The diversity of applied tactical techniques, combat actions, and forms of maneuver;

- Fighting an enemy who often employs unconventional methods of combat (guerrilla tactics).

Based on the trends in the development of modern armed conflicts, I propose:

- To revise the training procedures for commanders and units, considering the experience of modern warfare;

- To instill in junior commanders a sense of decisiveness and the ability to make rapid decisions in a rapidly changing environment while managing units and firepower;

- To focus training efforts on joint preparation of platoons with their anticipated reinforcement assets.

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Қазіргі заман қарулы қақтығыстар кезіндегі ұрыстағы бөлімшелердің өзара іс-қимылын және бақылауын ұйымдастыру

Мақалада қазіргі заман қарулы қақтығыстар кезіндегі ұрыстағы бөлімшелердің өзара іс-қимылын және бақылауын ұйымдастыру мәселелері қарастырылады. Қазіргі замандағы соғыстар мен қарулы қақтығыстарды талдау әскери салада ақпараттық-техникалық прогрестің озық жетістіктерін пайдалану арқалы, ұрыстағы бөлімшелерді басқару және басқару мәселелеріне принципті жаңа көзқарастарды жетілдіру және құру контекстінде қарулы күресті жүргізуге көзқарастардың өзгергенін көрсетеді. Қару-жарақпен күрес маңызды рөл атқаратын қазіргі заманғы әскери қақтығыстардың үнемі өзгеріп отыратын жағдайында тактика мен жедел өнердің тиімділігін зерттеу, олардың принциптерін қазіргі



заманғы әскери қатығыстарда қолдану, соғыс жүргізудің неғұрлым тиімді әдістерін әзірлеу үшін қолдануға болатын талдаулар мен қорытындылар зерттелген.

Соңғы әскери қатығыстардағы соғысушы тараптардың жауынгерлік іс-қимылдарының тәжірибесін талдау негізінде құрама қару-жарақ бөлімшелері мен бөлімшелерінің ұрысты басқару және жүргізу әдістерін дамытудың жаңа бағыттары ұсынылды.

Кілт сөздер: бақылауды ұйымдастыру, өзара іс-қимылды ұйымдастыру, оқ атуды бақылау, рейдтік-шабуылдау топтар, нысана белгілеу

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Организация взаимодействия и управления подразделениями в бою в современных вооруженных конфликтах

В статье рассматриваются вопросы организации взаимодействия и управления в бою. Анализ войн и вооруженных конфликтов современности показывает, что в условиях использования в военной сфере передовых достижений информационного и технологического прогресса, совершенствования и создания принципиально новых взглядов на управление подразделениями в бою, произошла трансформация взглядов на ведение вооруженной борьбы. Постоянно изменяющимися условиями ведения современных военных конфликтов, где общевойсковой бой играет важную роль, изучение эффективности тактики и оперативного искусства, применение их принципов в современных военных конфликтах, анализ и выводы, которые могут быть использованы для разработки более эффективных методов ведения боевых действий.

На основе анализа опыта боевых действий противоборствующих сторон в последних военных конфликтах предлагаются некоторые новые направления развития способов управления и ведения боя общевойсковыми частями и подразделениями.

Ключевые слова: организация управления, организация взаимодействия, управление огнем, рейдово-штурмовой отряд, целеуказание.

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