

THE EMERGENCE AND PROSPECTS OF NEW TACTICAL METHODS OF UNITS IN BATTLE (COMBAT OPERATIONS)

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Abstract

This article studies how new tactical methods of combat units were formed and their historical process. The factors, reasons for the emergence of new tactical methods, and their development in current armed conflicts are analyzed. The prospects for updating tactical methods in future battles are also considered.

Keywords: Tactics, units, combat operations, new methods, military technology, strategy, innovation.

Introduction

Tactical methods of combat units have been constantly evolving in the changing conditions of war and armed conflicts. In each era, new factors and technologies have led to the emergence of these methods. In this article, we will analyze the formation and development of combat tactical methods of units using historical and modern examples. The factors of renewal of these methods in future battles are also discussed.

Combat tactics arose mainly in response to military conditions, technological progress and enemy strategy. Any new tactical method can arise due to the right decision against the enemy's actions and a sudden change in the situation in a combat situation. For example, the "testudo" (turtle-shaped) tactic of Ancient Rome provided protection for legionnaires from enemy fire in the form of a rampart. This method was one of the most effective approaches to military battles at that time. During the Napoleonic Wars, the large-scale line tactics of infantry troops created the opportunity to deliver a quick and powerful blow to enemy troops. At the same time, trench warfare tactics were developed during the First World War. This tactic served to strengthen the defensive strategy on the battlefields.

When studying new methods, the primary task is to analyze the factors and reasons that led to their emergence. The emergence of new tactical methods can be influenced by several factors:

1. Technological progress. The invention of tanks led to the emergence of blitzkrieg tactics. Germany successfully used this method in World War II. Modern weapons, intelligence and communication technologies are among the main factors shaping new methods of warfare. Drones and artificial intelligence the role of unmanned technologies in military reconnaissance



and air strikes is increasing. For example, drone strikes and autonomous systems make it possible to accurately and safely destroy enemy forces.

2. The asymmetric nature of warfare. In armed conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, there is a large disparity in military power and resources between the parties. This asymmetry gives rise to new approaches. In particular, small mobile units have successfully used rapid strike and rapid retreat tactics against large military forces. In modern armed conflicts, the side with limited resources is also widely using guerrilla methods, trying to avoid traditional warfare by using tactics that distract and exhaust the enemy. For example, guerrilla tactics (guerrilla) were successfully used against the US army in the Vietnam War.

3. Geographical and strategic conditions. The natural geography and infrastructure of the battlefield also have a significant impact on the formation of tactical methods. The vast open plains and urban infrastructure of Ukraine allow for the effective use of long-range strike weapons (drones, missiles, artillery). In mountainous or forested areas, on the contrary, we can observe that the secret actions of small groups are the priority.

4. Information warfare and psychological pressure. In addition to military operations during hostilities, information warfare conducted through social networks and the media is also becoming an important part of new tactics. Information warfare is recognized as the most important factor in determining the fate of modern armed conflicts today. For example, the use of disinformation and methods of demoralizing the enemy army during hostilities is no exaggeration to say that it is a form of information warfare and psychological pressure. The warring parties are also widely using the strategy of persuading the international community and obtaining various international support through propaganda.

Drones, artificial intelligence and cyber technologies also play an important role in the formation of new tactical methods in current armed conflicts. For example, in the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Azerbaijani army bypassed traditional defense systems using drones manufactured in Turkey and Israel. In modern battles, fighters are learning to use not only physical force, but also cyber weapons.

The Russian-Ukrainian armed conflict, which is currently the main focus of all military experts around the world, plays an important role in the formation and testing of modern combat methods. During this conflict, a number of new tactical methods are being used. Below we will consider the main trends and the factors that led to them:

1. Drones and their combat use. Drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) are widely used in reconnaissance, offensive and defensive operations. Reconnaissance drones have become the main means of today's combat operations in determining enemy positions and transmitting coordinates for artillery strikes. Kamikaze drones are widely used to destroy specific targets by detonating themselves. For example, Shahed-136 drones are used to strike strategic objects. Mass drone attacks are used to prevent the simultaneous use of many small drones to quickly destroy and restore enemy defenses. The following factors can be identified as the factors that lead to the mass use of such various drones and unmanned aerial vehicles:

- The possibilities of using drones on the modern battlefield have expanded with the decrease in the cost of technology;



- The accuracy and efficiency of drones have increased with the help of GPS systems and artificial intelligence;

- In conditions of asymmetric warfare, drones have become a convenient weapon for small and medium military units.

2. Widespread use of the “strongpoint” strategy. Rather than attempting to capture large areas, the method of capturing and holding strategic points (for example, transport routes, infrastructure facilities, logistics centers) is becoming more common. For example, in the battles between Russia and Ukraine, the struggle for strategic cities such as Bakhmut and Mariupol was based on this principle. The Ukrainian side’s “defense in depth” strategy relies on the mobile and flexible tactics of small units. The legitimate question arises as to why such a tactical method is used in modern battles and what are the factors that lead to its use, the answer to this question can be found in the following:

- The need to save resources and control key areas in the conditions of a long-term war;

- Concentration of forces at strategically important points in order to reduce losses.

3. Tactics of small, mobile units. A rapid attack on the enemy using small and mobile groups rather than large military operations and a retreat can be cited as one of the popular methods of combat operations. The Ukrainian armed forces are trying to break up large units of the Russian army with this tactic. Rapid reconnaissance for artillery and missiles is being carried out using small groups. The emergence and use of this tactical method are influenced by the following factors:

- The need to limit the rapid movement of large Russian forces and constantly strike them;

- The effectiveness of flexible groups in complex geographical areas.

4. Cyber warfare and information manipulation. The aim is to disable the enemy's military and civilian infrastructure through cyber attacks and information operations. Ukraine is conducting cyber attacks on Russian infrastructure. Disinformation and psychological pressure campaigns are being conducted on social networks. The formation of this method is influenced by the following factors:

- The global scale of the conflict and the intensification of information warfare.

- The increasing importance of cyber weapons in modern warfare.

New tactical methods of the future will take on a new form with the rapid development of weapons and technologies, cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence and changes in global strategies. Below are some predictions about what new tactical methods of the future may look like:

1. Methods based on artificial intelligence and robotics. That is, drones and robots controlled by artificial intelligence will be able to perform reconnaissance, attack and defense tasks without human intervention.

2. It will be possible to model attack or defense strategies through artificial intelligence and choose the most effective tactics. That is, the level of accuracy of the ability to predict and model battles in advance through artificial intelligence will continue to increase.

3. Commanders will use artificial intelligence to make tactical decisions faster before and during combat operations at all levels.



4. Cyber attack tactics are expected to develop, and methods of influencing the enemy without the use of physical force are expected to expand.

5. New tactical methods will be created in the space domain. That is, due to the struggle to occupy space territories, new strategies will be developed based on attacking satellites, using space weapons or space reconnaissance tools.

6. The main focus in future battles will be on reducing the human factor, that is, human participation. In this case, remote attacks and defense actions using air and underwater drones will become widespread due to remote battles.

7. The influence of biotechnology and genetic experiments will increase. In order to optimize the activities of military personnel (fighters) for combat operations, human strength and endurance will be increased using bionic prostheses and genetic modifications.

In conclusion, it can be said that the emergence of new tactical methods of units depends on military conditions, technological progress and strategic needs. The formation of new tactical methods is increasingly influenced by technological progress, asymmetric warfare conditions and information strategies. Each side in the conflict is developing flexible and innovative approaches, in accordance with its resources and conditions. This leads to constant changes and the emergence of new methods on the battlefield. Historical experience shows that each new approach to combat operations is designed to adapt to and defeat the enemy's movements. Today, technology, in particular drones and artificial intelligence, is accelerating this process. In future battles, new technologies, autonomous systems and information warfare will play a leading role. Therefore, military units must constantly adapt to new developments and be ready to use innovations.

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