



Factors Affecting the Morale of Combatants in Modern Wars

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Abstract: *This article discusses the analysis of factors affecting the moral and spiritual condition of military personnel in modern wars.*

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The characteristics of the current threats to the national security of the Republic of Uzbekistan show that the threat of large-scale aggression is unlikely in the foreseeable future. At the same time, in the context of the processes of world globalization, new forms and methods of achieving political goals have appeared by causing local wars and conflicts, exerting political, economic, and informational pressure and carrying out subversive activities among opposing parties.

The main characteristics of modern military conflicts are as follows:

providing information and psychological influence in advance to form political reasons and international public opinion about the need to use military force to resolve conflicts;

use of high-precision weapons, radio-electronic warfare, unmanned aerial vehicles and robotic complexes, network automated control systems;

high mobility and adequacy of troop formations; active participation of special operations forces, illegal armed organizations, private military companies and other mercenaries in military conflicts using subversive and terrorist methods of fighting;

the widespread involvement and extreme vulnerability of the local population in military conflicts;

well-directed strikes on critical state infrastructure facilities, the destruction of which can cause large-scale emergency situations, including transboundary emergency situations (disruption of operations);

the high probability that one form of military conflict will soon change to another form. 1

The experience of local battles and armed conflicts in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe in the last decade shows that, along with the use of a number of conventional means of injury, weapons based on new physical principles (YaJTbQ (Russian ONFP) 2) were also used during hostilities. Among them are energy-directed weapons, kinetic energy weapons, projectile launchers based on a new principle, as well as non-lethal weapons 3 (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Existing and developing types of weapons according to the new physical principle

According to the US military-political leadership, in modern military conflicts there is a desperate effort to gain an advantage over the enemy using the fewest means.

In particular, one of the sections of the "Armed Forces of the 21st Century" concept refers to the targeted use of the US Army in order to successfully fulfill the tasks of operational and tactical operations carried out by the US ground forces in order to break the enemy's goals and combat capabilities. As a rule, these weapons are used to destroy and damage ordinary tools. In particular, the US Army developed the XM1006 grenade for the 40-mm underbarrel grenade launcher mounted on the M16 automatic rifle. In addition, the Saber-203 blinding laser mounted on a 40-mm grenade launcher was developed and successfully used during operations in Somalia (1995) and Afghanistan (2015). As a result of its use, the eye of the personnel will be blinded for 2-3 minutes, while the tracking and targeting devices working in active mode will be disabled. The production and improvement of anti-aircraft weapons is carried out not only in NATO countries, but also China has produced the "ZM-87 system" - a complex of low-power laser weapons, which looks like a machine gun. The power of the laser is 15 milliwatts, which temporarily destroys the ability to see the eye at a distance of 8-10 km in combat mode 4.

It is known from the published foreign military publications that in the future, the samples of the anti-aircraft missile system acting on the basis of new biological and chemical principles are included in the weapons. Some of them are based on the application of blocking, temporary neutralization and deception of personal content 5.

Analyzes show that in the conditions of the use of ATS by the enemy, the psychological losses of servicemen increase as a result of the impact of personal content, not only physical, but also 5-7 percent uncertainty about the situation, as well as other negative psychological factors. In particular, the use of acoustic weapons by the enemy can lead to a depressed mood and impaired psychomotor functions. The effect of laser weapons causes fear of damage to the retina and blindness, mainly for the gunner-operator or snipers to fall into this state, and other aspects can lead to an increase in pathological reactions related to the psyche of the personnel 6.

In addition to them, it is known that another factor affects the moral and spiritual condition of military personnel in modern combat operations.

For example, the former Minister of Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Lieutenant General A. Azizov, said, "The results of the analysis of the hostilities in the Middle East region in recent years have shown that where there is no loyalty and training, there the problems take root. In particular, both Syria and Iraq had large garrisons of military personnel, which were easily defeated by small

terrorist groups. Because there was corruption and fraud. This was caused by the factor of insufficient spiritual-moral and moral-spiritual training 7.

In modern warfare, the constant threat to life and health, rapid and constant changes in the situation, long-lasting workloads, often exceeding the limits of human capabilities, the loss of comrades, and participation in brutal violence against the enemy have a strong effect on the spirit of warriors.

According to American experts, about 90 percent of military personnel clearly feel intense fear in battle. At the same time, in 25% of them, fear is accompanied by nausea, vomiting, and in 20%, the inability to control the function of the intestines. A number of studies have shown that about 30% of military personnel experience fear before combat, 35% during combat, and 16% after combat 8 (Chart 1).



Diagram 1. The experience, course, and duration of fear in combat operations

Russian, US, FRG and French military experts say that only 20-25 percent of soldiers independently perform the necessary actions in battles (shooting at a target, purposeful movement on the battlefield, etc.), and the rest are active only when they see the commander. In his absence, they hide in a safe place, simulate the failure of equipment, weapons, mental and physical injuries in their actions, and also try to join the back of their wounded colleagues 8.

The German researcher E. Dinter found that the process of adaptation to military operations lasts 15-20 days, and then the soldier's moral and spiritual potential reaches the highest level. After 30-40 days, as a result of direct non-stop clashes with the enemy, a decrease in moral and spiritual strength occurs. A. Gabriel believes that if the soldiers are not sent behind the front after 45 days of continuous stay on the battlefield, they will become ineffective according to their moral and spiritual capabilities. According to these views, the American psychiatrist R. Swank and U. Marchan also have their own views. According to them, 98 percent of military personnel who continuously participate in combat operations for 35 days develop some form of mental illness. The mental state of the personnel is affected by the violation of the norms of daily activities (alteration of the usual activities such as sleep, rest, eating), unfamiliar terrain, frequent changes in climate, and bad weather conditions. A complex combat situation leads to serious mental illnesses and complete loss of combat ability in fighters with a weak type of nervous system (about 15 percent of them among military personnel). Under similar conditions, military personnel with an average nervous system (about 70 percent) will overcome the effects of negative factors in combat in a short time. Warriors with a strong nervous system (about 15 percent) are not subject to the serious psychological effects of a combat situation 9.

In a combat situation, the psyche of a soldier is exposed to many different influences. In some, the life-threatening and difficult situation of the battle provokes combat excitement, excitement, which leads to the strengthening of all sensory organs, attention, memory and thinking, which helps to mobilize and concentrate the physical and moral-spiritual capabilities of a person, to increase combat activity, bravery and self-sacrifice. . In others, on the contrary, negative sensations and the general state of the psyche caused by the battle may cause a decrease in sensations and feelings, the state of exposure (reaction) to external stimuli slows down, the consistency and compatibility of actions and activity decreases, attention and memory weaken, the serviceman's destroys combat activity, blocks access to the reserves available in the body, destroys the work of the psyche and nervous system. Still others have no discernible effect on combat behavior.

A combat situation requires a great mental and emotional strain from a military serviceman, and a great exhaustion of the nervous system. Any healthy person has a limit (norm) of physiological (physical) resistance to psychogenic (mental) damage. After that, the psyche cannot withstand any more stress, and after crossing the threshold, mental disorder develops.

Factors that affect the moral and spiritual condition of military personnel in combat operations, cause mental injury, reduce combat ability or limit it in general are the following:

visual factors include: destruction (destruction) of buildings, equipment, structures, landscape (landscape); the appearance of fires, explosions, corpses, wounded and injured;

auditory factors include: noises, shouts, rumbles, etc.;

sensing factors include: vibrations, air shocks, falls, shakes, etc.;

interactive factors include: death of loved ones, comrades and friends;

approaching (being in a relationship) with a large number of wounded and injured, etc. 10;

Concomitant exposure to all or most of the trauma factors of combat mainly destabilizes the nervous system.

It also has a huge impact on the morale of a soldier in modern warfare:

danger - perception by military personnel of a situation that threatens his life and health;

accident - an unexpected change in the situation for a military serviceman during the performance of his duties;

Uncertainty - the absence, scarcity or contradiction of information about the content and conditions of the combat mission, the enemy and his movement patterns;

novelty - a military serviceman performs a previously unknown combat mission. The novelty is determined by the qualification of the serviceman;

lack of time - conditions in which the task cannot be successfully completed with the implementation of normal movement speed 10.

In general, the following factors affect the moral and spiritual state of military personnel in modern combat operations and daily activities:

unexpected levels of psychological stress on the battlefield;

death in front of the eyes of colleagues and relatives;

thoughts of the fighter being injured or killed;

the superiority of the enemy in terms of numbers, the availability of modern weapons, their loss factors and lack of confidence in their own weapons;

psychological traumas caused by the use of electromagnetic, particle, acoustic, laser, radio frequency, infrasound, extremely high frequency and similar new types of weapons;

that there is a danger of the enemy using weapons of mass destruction, high-precision target destruction, and drones;

successive loss of occupied territories to the enemy; depression of colleagues;

prolonged hostilities;

destruction of cities and villages in front of eyes;

the death of innocent people;

unhealthy morale-ethical environment in the military community about the warrior's capture;

informational-psychological effects intended to cause disorder among the personnel and the population by the enemy;

Corruption, eye makeup, etc., caused by insufficient moral education and moral training among the personnel;

tactical-technical indicators of military equipment and weapons are not compatible with the combat task facing the troops (for example: flight speed, distance, height and maneuverability of the aircraft, the power of combat weapons to show damage, etc.);

the risk of an enemy ambush and so on.

Based on the above, it is necessary to research approaches to moral and spiritual training in the leading foreign armies in order to improve the quality of work on the formation and development of military personnel's immunity against these factors.

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2. ОНФП – оружие, применение которого основано на использовании качественно новых или ранее не использовавшихся физических, биологических и других принципов действий или технических решений, базирующихся на достижениях в новых областях знаний // Моисеев В.М. Место, роль оружие нелетального действия в вооруженной борьбе (бою) и задачи, выполняемые с его применением. Сергиев Посад: Материалы НТК «Актуальные проблемы оружия на новых физических принципах». Т. 1. 2012. С. 11-13.
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