

Tactic of applying military units in conditions of a hybrid war conducting

Oleksandr Pechorin * ^A; Oleksiy Fakadey ^A

^ANational Defence University of Ukraine named after Ivan Cherniachovskyi, 28, Povitroflotsky, ave, Kyiv, 03049, Ukraine

Received: September 02, 2020 | Revised: September 22, 2020 | Accepted: September 30, 2020

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.4556016

Abstract

Hybrid war in modern conditions become a conflict of exhaustion, in a country of the defending gradually occurs destruction of material and technical, economic, civil and social infrastructure of the state. Is struggling with all sorts of terrorist groups (illegal armed groups), that supported and managed by the state aggressor, wherein the link with the militants completely denied. Tactics use of military units is strengthened by active use terrain, especially urban areas.

In modern conditions the concept of hybrid warfare involves skillful combination of the following major groups of factors – military, diplomatic, information, economic, social and political.

Wherein this group of military factors has versatile character, and one of the main forms of warfare in hybrid warfare is a combined arms battle, which will be marked large variety of tactics and their implementation.

Article listed the features of the application tactics of military units in the conditions of hybrid warfare, that allows to determine the priority ways of their further development, reform, AME modernization, development and adopting new models.

Key words: hybrid warfare, tactics, concept, military engagement.

Introduction

With the gradual development of mankind, the evolution of military conflicts also occurs. Their content, nature and characteristics are changing; new forms and methods of their conducting are appearing. At the same time, the mentality of both the direct participants in the conflicts and the population of the opposing sides are changing as well.

Recently, the leadership of world's leading countries has been actively developing and testing the concepts of new generation wars, known as hybrid wars. However, up to date, the ideas concerning the forms and methods of conducting such wars, options for the possible configuration of the latest systems and equipment based on high technologies, such as precision weapons, control systems at various

levels, communication systems, reconnaissance, and electronic warfare have not been finally formed yet. There is also a number of combined-arms military units and subunits applications during direct and indirect combat battles. In the doctrines of the world's leading countries, views on the order of conducting wars of the future are largely the same. Namely: combat operations will be characterized by high rates of offensive, transience, large spatial scales, rapid maneuver of forces and fire, the participation of various mobile units, as well as the widespread use of effective means of destruction using conventional weapons and weapons based on new physical principles in all environments of operations: on land, at sea, in the air, in space and in the information space.

* Corresponding author: PhD student, e-mail: desant27@i.ua, ORCID: 0000-0003-3130-2952

Analysis of recent research and publications

Analyzing the nature of military conflicts over the past twenty years, as well as the experience of hostilities in the east of Ukraine in 2014-2016, it can be concluded that classical hostilities have undergone significant changes, information operations, special operations, local clashes, intensity and whose duration is determined by the capabilities of regular and irregular military formations.

The spread of non-classical forms and methods of warfare in modern armed conflicts is due to a number of reasons. The main of these reasons is the presence of powerful destructive weapons, which makes classic wars extremely dangerous for both conflicting sides, and for the whole world. As a result, this can lead to mass casualties among the civilian population, the appearance of massive flows of refugees, the

transport and industrial infrastructure will be destroyed, trade and economic ties will be severed, and it may happen that there will be no winners in such a war, the whole of humanity may be under threat.

An equally important factor is the aggressor's desire to hide his direct place and role in the conflict, to avoid accusations and sanctions from other countries and international organizations, and to prevent the loss of his authority and position in the world arena.

Another reason for rejecting the open and large-scale use of force is the desire to establish control over the targets of aggression without unnecessary losses for oneself, which can harm the attackers in pursuing their own geopolitical and economic interests of the aggressor countries.

Results and discussion

Beginning from the second half of the 90s of the last centuries, elements of the concept of hybrid wars have been used in different countries and different regions of the planet. Russia in Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Karabakh, the United States in Kosovo, Iraq, Libya and Syria. Since the beginning of the 21st century. a similar scenario is actively used by Russia in relation to Georgia and Ukraine. Today, Ukraine has actually turned into a ground for testing modernized and new models of Russian weapons and military equipment, as well as for the practical implementation and testing of new forms and methods of using troops, for introducing information technology into management processes and conducting special operations.

The concept of hybrid war, on the one hand, is formed spontaneously, under the influence of internal economic and political, physical and geographical conditions, using a large number of various weapons systems; on the other hand, it is purposefully developed by the ideologists of this war in order to establish control over profitable, economically profitable territories. The concept of modern hybrid wars assumes a skillful combination of the following main

factors: military, diplomatic, informational, economic, social, and political. The manipulation of these factors content by geopolitical power centers is the essence of the hybridity of the organization and order of conducting modern military conflicts.

The concept of hybrid war is not new in its content, but at each stage of the theory development and practice of warfare, it has some of its own characteristics.

At the preparatory stage, the leadership of the aggressor country, with the active participation of special operations forces and special services, takes measures to form political, informational, ideological and military prerequisites for future aggression. These events are carried out using modern information technology and include:

seizing (filling) the information space of the enemy's country and using it in their own interests, to form a favorable world public opinion for the aggressor country;

destruction of state power in the country (the target of aggression), including: bribery of influential government officials, politicians and the leadership of power structures; career development of their agents in key positions in

government; inciting confrontation between various political forces and establishing control over them;

creating conditions for splitting the population of the enemy country by stimulating and exacerbating internal contradictions of a political, interethnic and confessional nature, especially in the framework of the creation and support of various parties, movements and organizations of the corresponding extremist orientation;

imposing certain ideas and values on the enemy's population through an active information campaign using special techniques and methods of "zombifying" society with the broad participation of state, political and religious organizations.

For the implementation of the above measures, various options for the use of information technologies (Oxward technology), modern high-precision weapons, means of information influence and electronic warfare are widely used.

During the second, active stage, covert aggression is carried out against a separate country for the direct implementation of the set goals. For this, the following actions are planned:

in countries (targets of aggression), illegal armed groups are created from representatives of local anti-government forces, with the involvement of intelligence officers, mercenaries, local criminals, opposition forces and militants;

an internal conflict is provoked in the country on a political, socio-economic basis, as well as the processes of its escalation into mass demonstrations of the population, actions of civil disobedience, disorder and clashes of demonstrators with law enforcement agencies;

leaders of protest actions are nominated from among the opposition political forces at the national or local level, and alternative authorities are created;

the participants of the actions seize government buildings and important objects of transport and industrial infrastructure, as well as block the activities of power structures, with the widespread use of civilians as "human shields";

on the territory of the country (the target of aggression), regular armed forces are introduced under the cover of local armed groups (self-defense groups, police, ethnic minorities, etc.) in order to help the opposition and separatists seize power in the country or in its individual regions. At the same time, the hidden participation of regular armed units of the aggressor country in battles against the current government, the object of aggression.

At the final stage (unlimited time), the following work is carried out to consolidate their positions in the country (object of aggression):

comprehensive support is provided to the new (former opposition) government or separatist regimes in certain regions (including the creation of separatist governing bodies and security forces);

assistance is provided in the conduct of elections or referendums, to orient the profitable internal and external course of the country (object of aggression), the status of its regions;

conditions are created to ensure the military presence of the aggressor in the country (object of aggression) on a long-term or permanent basis (in the form of peacekeeping forces or militias, separatists), as well as for the implementation of other interests, including economic interests.

Special attention should be paid to the features of conducting combat operations from the point of view of hybrid warfare:

the unstable and small number of armed formations of the belligerent parties can fluctuate between 30-60 thousand people, and in moments of aggravation of the conflict, short-term growth at the expense of the aggressor country – up to 80-100 thousand. The hybrid warfare zone is limited and can range from tens to several hundred kilometers;

the zonal-focal nature of the hostilities in one territory in combination with the daily economic activities of the civilian population;

lack of a clear line of combat collision. Significant expansion of the conduct hostilities area with an indistinct boundary between the front and rear. For example, the brigade's range of operations can reach 100 km, in the absence

of a solid front line. The main aim of the combat operations of the parties will be the seizure and control of populated areas, taking control of the most important roads with the setting up of checkpoints on them in the form of platoon and company strongpoints. The absence of a continuous line of contact between troops facilitates penetration into the enemy's rear in a large number of reconnaissance, sabotage, special, partisan groups. All these groups can carry out the tasks of aiming aviation, adjusting artillery fire, installing small-sized jammers;

the fire capabilities and potential of military units and subunits sharply increase and, as a result, the density of their combat formations decreases;

high maneuver ability, which is achieved as a result of two main factors of the first due to the development of the military transport system, the second by an increase in the capabilities of the reconnaissance and command and control system, frequent change of positions, especially fire weapons;

the tactical success of company's actions, battalion tactical groups significantly depends on the provision of intelligence data, which can come from all possible external sources of reconnaissance (space, air, special, radio intelligence). Participants in a hybrid war may not have a developed system for collecting intelligence data, then the provision of intelligence is assumed by the aggressor country, which is interested in the outcome of the war;

long-range fire support between units and subunits;

the emergence of new tactics in the conduct

of blocking actions, including the use of fire coverage, fire combing and others;

combat operations with greater intensity will be conducted in urban conditions, in the context of growing territory urbanization. A special feature will be the fact that in conditions of urbanization, hostilities are often conducted against the background of the daily activities of the local population, the operation of numerous civilian infrastructure facilities (utilities, passenger transport, telecommunications, radio and television, retail);

a combination of combat methods of guerrilla and counter-guerrilla warfare, namely the use of fire strikes from close range (ambushes), raids on military columns, checkpoints, mining of areas and routes;

organization of hostilities by initiating frequent local combat clashes, in the form of reconnaissance and sabotage actions;

an important distinction of the new generation of wars is the simultaneous combat use of outdated systems and modern high-tech models. At the same time, the combat use of modern weapons systems is usually provided by highly qualified specialists;

The massive use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) during the conduct of hostilities and the performance of special missions is also taking place at a fairly rapid pace. The versatility of the UAV is tested in various conditions, as well as for solving various problems, one of the main ones being reconnaissance. During the conduct of hybrid wars, tactical techniques and methods of using UAVs are being worked out, ensuring their survivability, stability in control, and performing various tasks.

Conclusions

Thus, modern military conflicts, which are carried out according to new schemes and options, are called hybrid wars, they combine classical and irregular, combat and non-combat, permitted and prohibited forms and methods of warfare, special, information operations. This is a war without rules, with constant influence on critical enemy targets (not only military, but also civilian), with the use of diplomacy, international and political pressure, economic

sanctions, combined with military actions, makes these wars special in terms of understanding their essence.

The following features of the conduct of hybrid wars can be distinguished: aggression without an official declaration of war; concealment by the aggressor country of its participation in the conflict; widespread use of irregular armed groups (including under the cover of the civilian population); disregard by

the aggressor of international norms of waging war and the corresponding agreements and agreements reached; mutual measures of political and economic pressure (with the official

preservation of ties between the two countries); widespread propaganda and counter-propaganda using “dirty” information technologies; confrontation in cyberspace.

References

Peters. Ralph. Our Soldiers. Their Cities. Parameters, Spring 1996.

Russia: electronic warfare – myths and truth [Electronic resource]. – Available from: <http://geopolitikym.org/rossiyaelektronnaya-vojna-mify-i-pravda>.

Radio electronic warfare: what lessons the US Army can learn from the Ukrainian conflict [Electronic resource]. – Available from: <http://cont.ws/post/107188>.

Combat Operations Center (COC). GENERAL DYNAMICS. C4 SYSTEMS [Electronic resource]. – Available from: <http://www.gdc4s.com/content/detail.cfm?item=58543087c533-457b-833c-deb873b09c5a>.

US Air Force Charter FM 3 – 38 Cyber Electromagnetic Activities – CEMA. – 2014. [Electronic resource]. – Available from: <https://fas.org/irp/doddir/army/fm3-38.pdf>.

Urban Environment // FM 3-06 (FM 90-10) Urban Operations. June 1003