

TWILIGHT OR DAYBREAK OF GROUND FORCES

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Abstract: *The article deals with the settlement of the Ground Forces in history to the present day. It confronts this information with actual trends of development of some branches of the armed forces, weapons systems, techniques, and new requirements on tactics, combat and operational use. From the armed conflicts in the last years which took place in Irak, Afghanistan, Islam state, we can conclude that the crucial tasks in battles and conflicts require the involvement of forces from other branches (Air forces, Special forces). The paper focuses on the necessity and importance of providing more and more intelligence, education, preparation and global more knowledge for regular soldiers.*

Keywords: Ground Forces, soldier, weapons, combat, battle, tactics, requirement, operation

Introduction

„The war is not won, the territory is not captured, as long as there is not a foot soldier“. This motto of the theorists of military strategy and military art was valid in the last history (Persia, Greece, Rome) but in 1. or 2. World War in 20. Century too. Just changed the composition of the troops in the operational formation, infantry and cavalry was replaced by mechanized and tank brigades, the rocket systems and artillery. It goes within that, in parallel with the establishment of new branches of army, the armaments and equipment of troops has changed. Or, rather, on the contrary, it can be confirmed that the development of new weapon systems, carried new forms and methods of armed struggle, as well as the new tactic, armed combat and operational use. It means the value of combat and operational potention and destructive effect of weapons systems was fundamentally changed too. The development goes still ahead and still it is a deal old well-known true that every next war is completely other as that former.

1. Military development in 20. Century

If we compare separate historical periods or at least their time periods we can see that neither in one was not so much changes in military area as in 20. century. Two world conflicts on one hand and unprecedented science and techniques expansion on the other hand assisted to this situation. From particular branches of forces we can observe creation of air forces and him specialization on reconnaissance, transport, fighters, helicoptery, but also from operational using view on tactical or strategic aviation. There are developed unmanned vehicles and specifical form of struggle at all branches of aviation is begining electronic warfare. Evently some conflicts or wars obtain the name electronic (for example Israel – Arabian war in years 1967 – 1973 be often named as electronic war). Along side aviation development is changed his armament too, classic guns and bombs supply rackets, missiles, short, middle or long range. In a similar style is developed Air Defence too.

The classic anti-aircraft machine guns and cannons replaced air defence missile systems. Similarly, visual observers are replaced by the radars technique. The application have here new modern systems

munitions tracking on target – command , active, passive and combined systems. All of these weapons systems, created from Air Forces the most assault force of army for defensive and offensive operations.



Figure 1: Modern means of Air Force

Similarly, we can speak about the Navy. As air force the Navy has undergone by turbulent changes, which are reflected not only in equipment but also in its operational use, which has a direct impact on the strategic use of force and the leadership of the armed struggle or war. In addition to traditional means – frigates, cruisers or battleships, we can appear aircraft carriers which represent the floating air base. The combat potential in this case, it is no longer just a loud artillery of various types, or by the different range of the missiles, but also the most modern air force adapted for naval battles, aerial duels or support the ground operations. In addition to this the surface fleet is a new branch of Navy -submarine fleet. This has proved especially in the first part of 2. World War as a tough adversary, which proved not only destroying the surface means, but also effectively block the sea routes from Europe to the America, which was seriously disrupted supplies to the allies. The last generation of submarines will be able to effectively engage in air or ground fighting. On board have anti-aircraft missiles, cruise missiles or ballistic missiles

with a range of up to several thousand kilometers.

In addition using these missiles can be not only on the surface, but launching these missiles can be while sailing under the surface in the depth, so the presence of the submarine in the area of combat activities may not be identified at all. Effective involvement of the Navy to land-based operations, we could watch in case of war in the Persian Gulf, in the air war against Yugoslavia and in destroying terrorist bases in Afghanistan.

When comparing the development of the land force with the development of the air force or Navy is clear at first sight that the development of these forces we can not compare. In ground forces, although we can observe a shift in terms of the various types of weapon systems – for example. modernisation of tanks or armored vehicles for the tank or mechanized Corps, better or more efficient rocket or artillery, more modern means for engineer troops or logistics, but in terms of a strategic concept that we can rate just how incremental improvements.



Figure 2: Modern means of NAVY

We do not observe new branch of army, no new weapons systems, which would affect on the character nature of the wars, or the strategy of armed struggle. What we have to say, it is essential to improving the quality of individual equipment and protection of

the soldier. Many versions of the soldier 21st century suggest more statures from science-fiction movies or robotic statures from stories than the typical soldier, footgear of 20th century



Figure 3: Modern means of Ground Forces

Despite the above-mentioned factors, and an increase in the importance of the air force and the Navy, land forces remain most numerous branch of the armed forces. In many cases, there is a tradition - Russia, Turkey, where quality is substituted of quantity, in other cases it was necessity to cope to traditional rival – Greece – Turkey, France – Germany.

The last armed conflicts and wars of the second half of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century clearly show that the gravity centre of activity has removed from the ground to the other types of forces.

2. War and conflict, where the Air Force and Navy played a crucial role

As one of the first wars in which played a crucial role Air Forces we can indicate Arab-Israeli war from 1967-1973. For nature and the massive operation of electronic systems, is often named as an electronic war. Despite the huge superiority of Arab military in troops, tanks and artillery (up to 10: 1), but also in Aviation (3: 1) a preventive strike of the Israeli Air Force has meant not only the destruction of more than 90% of Arabian Air Force (more than 80% on the ground) but also the complete air superiority and total domination. The systematic destruction of air defense, command posts, reserves and logistics brought that the first echelon practically did not engage with any

counteraction. In other cases, in particular on the Sinai peninsula Egyptian units resigned collectively. If a not-established stereotype in the leading of operations, for the final victory would be enough to make air paradrop to the banks of the Suez Canal and the result would be the same how to six

days draw across Sinai peninsula. Arab troops in the desert without the logistics and air support were quite vulnerable and dependent on blessing of Israel Army. In this spirit was carried all conflict, up to the Dayton peace agreement which brought an end for Arab countries patchy war(1).



Figure 4: Arab – Israel war

The second war where played a crucial role, Air Force and Navy, can be called Operation Desert Storm. The overrun of Kuwait oil fields by Iraqi give a occasion to Allies Forces to tackle with unpopular and for Russia-oriented Saddam Husain. The war began with a massive attacks of aircrafts and cruise missiles launched from

war ships US Navy. Nearly three weeks continued air attacks where in the first order were as targets command posts, aerodromes, aviation, radar stations, missiles systems of Air Defence and later defensive positions and the position of the Republican Guards(2).



Figure 5: NAVY in Desert storm

After the offensive of the ground forces the Allies remained pleasantly surprised that they did not meet any resistance. The front line of the Iraqi units practically did not exist and in front line were moved troops with raised hands without weapons. Even the Republican Guard units, as Iraqi Army elite well armed and famously trained, totally failed. The combat and the psychological effect created by the massive attacks of Air Force and missiles, brought fruit in the form of a rapid capitulation of Iraqi troops.

The last example of a military operation practically without the participation of the land forces is the current fight against the Islamic State. This is a serious threat for

civilized and democratic world and in addition, serve as a bastion of terrorism. Therefore, to fight against him involve more and more states, but this fight is limited on the air strikes aimed at crucial goals, such as the concentration of troops, training camps, state and military leaders and logistical base.

In the last period we can register between the Allies some of the Arab Islamic States, for example. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt. Air operation support on the ground Kurdish units focused to stop expansion of Islamic State of Syria and the Levant. In terms of military importance, their employment has only secondary importance.



Figure 6: Air strike

Conclusion

In addition to a clear confirmation of the increasing importance of Air Forces and the Navy against the Land Forces in contemporary operations, we can see another significant factor that affects combat using modern weapon systems. This factor is simply the man – his intelligence, education and technical thinking. Modern weapons systems, technical means and information technologies increasingly require

high-quality education, training, and their perfect mastery. It just showed in the above conflicts, strategic and tactical thinking, the ability to predict the development of the situation and the intentions of the enemy have been the cornerstone to the success of the Israeli troops. Their dominance in the use of aircraft and missiles systems have brought technical thinking. Arab soldiers often hardly handle the base of modern techniques and the use of different elements

of protection against jamming was beyond their power, by contrast, their incorrect use meant yet another reduction in the combat capabilities of the technique. Therefore, the crews of missiles systems during air attack left weapons in the positions and escaped to the desert.

It is obvious that this trend will continue; it can be assumed that the new branches of

armies will develop to cope with the challenges of the new age, such as the cosmic forces; the battle and the war will be decided by the sophisticated UAVs and on the ground there will rave the war of robots, controlled from centers hundreds of miles far away. Could this be science-fiction? Look once again at the development of the military system in the 20th century!

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