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SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO INCREASING COMBAT TRAINING OF SMALL UNITS: THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ANALYSIS OF «BATTLE DRILL» ALGORITHMS

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Abstract

This study comprehensively analyzes the role of the "Battle Drill" system (standardized combat action algorithms) in fundamentally increasing the combat readiness, proactive action skills, and professional training of small units under conditions of modern armed conflicts and high-intensity combat operations. The tactical doctrines and practical experiences of the Armed Forces of leading foreign countries (the USA, Great Britain, China, Turkey, and Ukraine) were deeply and comparatively studied. Within the framework of the study, it was scientifically substantiated that standardized combat drills ensure the mutually coordinated actions of a unit and sharply reduce losses by reacting within seconds to enemy fire.

Keywords: Battle Drill, combat training, small units, standard operating procedures (SOP), tactical actions, proactive approach, decentralized command.

Introduction

KICHIK BO‘LINMALARNING JANGAVAR TAYYORGARLIGINI OSHIRISHDAGI TIZIMLI YONDASHUV: “BATTLE DRILL” ALGORITMLARINING NAZARIY VA AMALIY TAHLILI

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СИСТЕМНЫЙ ПОДХОД К ПОВЫШЕНИЮ БОЕВОЙ ПОДГОТОВКИ МАЛЫХ ПОДРАЗДЕЛЕНИЙ: ТЕОРЕТИЧЕСКИЙ И ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ АЛГОРИТМОВ «BATTLE DRILL»

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Annotatsiya
Mazkur tadqiqotda zamonaviy qurolli to‘qnashuvlar va yuqori intensivlikdagi jangovar harakatlar sharoitida kichik bo‘linmalarning jangovar shayligi, proaktiv harakat qilish ko‘nikmalari hamda kasbiy tayyorgarligini tubdan oshirishda “Battle Drill” (standartlashtirilgan jangovar harakatlar algoritmi) tizimining o‘rni keng qamrovli tahlil qilingan. Dunyoning yetakchi xorijiy davlatlari (AQSh, Buyuk Britaniya, Xitoy, Turkiya va Ukraina) Qurolli Kuchlarining taktik doktrinalari va amaliy tajribalari chuqur qiyosiy o‘rganildi. Tadqiqot doirasida standartlashtirilgan jangovar mashqlar bo‘linmaning o‘zaro muvofiqlashgan harakatlarini ta’minlashi, dushmanning o‘t ochishiga soniyali reaksiyalar bildirish orqali yo‘qotishlarni keskin kamaytirishi ilmiy jihatdan asoslab berildi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Battle Drill, jangovar tayyorgarlik, kichik bo‘linmalar, standart operatsion protseduralar (SOP), taktik harakatlar, proaktiv yondashuv, markazlashmagan boshqaruv.

Аннотация
В данном исследовании всесторонне проанализирована роль системы «Battle Drill» (стандартизированных алгоритмов боевых действий) в коренном повышении боевой готовности, навыков проактивных действий и профессиональной подготовки малых подразделений в условиях современных вооруженных конфликтов и высокоинтенсивных боевых действий. Были глубоко и сравнительно изучены тактические доктрины и практический опыт вооруженных сил ведущих зарубежных стран (США, Великобритании, Китая, Турции и Украины). В рамках исследования было научно обосновано, пошагово доказано, что стандартизированные боевые упражнения обеспечивают

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слаженность действий подразделения и резко сокращают потери за счет секундной реакции на огонь противника.

Ключевые слова: Battle Drill, боевая подготовка, малые подразделения, стандартные операционные процедуры (СОП / SOP), тактические действия, проактивный подход, децентрализованное управление.

INTRODUCTION

The intensity and technological complexity of 21st-century military conflicts demonstrate that the modern battlefield is characterized by a highly dynamic, unpredictable, and psychologically severe environment. Under such conditions, the individual skill of military personnel is insufficient; perfecting the combat action algorithm based on the "Battle Drill" system within small units (squad, team, group) is one of the most urgent tasks of today.

"Battle Drill" refers to a pre-designed, repeatedly practiced, and strictly standardized system of collective actions for small units. Its core philosophy is the instantaneous, unified, and coordinated response of every unit member to highly critical and unexpected tactical situations arising in combat. Unlike traditional reactive approaches, "Battle Drill" relies on a proactive principle, meaning that instead of wasting time searching for new solutions on the battlefield, it ensures the seizure of the initiative based on pre-mastered scenarios.

RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

The intensity and technological complexity of 21st-century military conflicts demonstrate that the modern battlefield is characterized by a highly dynamic, unpredictable, and psychologically severe environment. Under such conditions, the individual skill of military personnel is insufficient; perfecting the combat action algorithm based on the "Battle Drill" system (standardized combat action algorithms) within small units (squad, team, group) is one of the most urgent tasks of today. The relevance of this study is determined by the urgent need to revise approaches to psychological support for troops on the frontline in order to reduce psychiatric-profile sanitary losses (combat psychological trauma, acute stress reactions). Furthermore, the scientific novelty of the study lies in conceptualizing and scientifically substantiating a decentralized model of the "horizontal framework of combat morale,"

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which is based on the microsociological cohesion and rapid self-governance of the primary military core (fire team, unit, trench group) rather than external macroeconomic incentives.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The theoretical and methodological foundation for studying combat morale and the stability of small units is formed by the fundamental works of military sociologists and psychologists. Specifically: T. A. Bensler detailed the correlations between social protection measures for local conflict participants and their psychological readiness for self-sacrifice.A. V. Sokolovskiy outlined the general principles of psychologically preparing personnel for the chaos and uncertainty of modern combat. The operational features of the Moral and Psychological Support (MPS) system in ground forces and the specifics of combat rehabilitation were deeply analyzed in classical dissertation research from the early 2000s. At the same time, modern researchers emphasize that technological innovations and the integration of unmanned aerial vehicles into combat formations require a fundamental revision of mechanisms for preserving soldiers' mental health. Empirical materials published in recent years indicate a sharp increase in the number of military personnel exhibiting symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). However, a systematic analysis of the psychogenic impact of specific factors of modern armed conflicts (such as "drone fear" and the constant radar transparency of positions) on the structure of combat morale remains partially addressed, which this study aims to fill.

At the same time, modern researchers emphasize that technological innovations and the integration of unmanned aerial vehicles into combat formations require a fundamental revision of mechanisms for preserving soldiers' mental health. Empirical materials published in recent years indicate a sharp increase in the number of military personnel exhibiting symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) [5, p. 210]. However, a systematic analysis of the psychogenic impact of specific factors of the Russia-Ukraine conflict (such as "drone fear" and the constant radar transparency of positions) on the structure of combat morale remains partially addressed, which determined the purpose of this study [6].

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METHODS

During the research process, methods of systemic analysis, comparative comparison, logical generalization, and military-tactical modeling were utilized.

Comparative-Analytical Method: The 14 standard "Battle Drill" rules of the US Army, the "6 Section Battle Drills" (PAWPERSO mnemonics) system of Great Britain and Commonwealth countries, the SOP blocks of the People's Liberation Army of China, the "Manga Muharebe Esaslari" based on Turkey's asymmetric combat experience, and tactical algorithms of the Armed Forces of Ukraine adapted to FPV drone and artillery conditions were comparatively studied.

Empirical Observation and Analysis: The combat cohesion of small groups was evaluated based on open analytical reports of modern local conflicts and methodological manuals of military instructors.

RESULTS

The analysis of foreign military experiences showed that each country has shaped its "Battle Drill" elements distinctively, stemming from its military-geographical conditions and real combat experience:

1. The Standardized System of the US Army

The US Army ground forces doctrine formalizes 14 core "Battle Drills," including:

React to Direct Fire.

Conduct a Platoon/Squad Assault.

Break Contact.

React to Ambush.

Knock Out a Bunker.

Enter and Clear a Room/Trench.

React to Indirect Fire, etc.

2. Great Britain and Commonwealth Countries ("6 Section Battle Drills")

Instead of complex, lengthy lists, the British military school relies on 6 fundamental combat drills for an infantry section:

Drill Preparation for Battle: Ensuring pre-combat readiness. This process is carried out via the famous PAWPERSO acronym: Protection, Ammunition, Weapons, Personal Camouflage, Equipment, Radios, Special Equipment, Orders.

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Drill Reaction to Effective Enemy Fire: The "Three R's" rule against accurate enemy fire — Return Fire, Take Cover, Retaliate/Report.
Drill Locating the Enemy & Suppressing: Locating the enemy and suppressing them using the GRIT method (Group, Range, Indication, Type of Fire).
Drill The Attack & Reorganisation: Executing the attack and regrouping according to the PACESS algorithm (Protection, Ammunition, Casualties, Equipment, Prisoners of War).

3. Experience of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK)

The Turkish army has enriched NATO standards with anti-terrorist and asymmetric combat experience in mountainous and urban environments in the Middle East. They place special emphasis on the independent actions of small groups:
Ateş Altında İlerleme Usulleri: Advancing via short bounds ("Sıçrama") through the mutual coordination of fire and maneuver groups.
Baskından Çıkış: A tactic of launching an aggressive counter-attack (assault) rather than retreating when caught in close-range ambushes.

3.4. Modern SOP Standards of the Armed Forces of Ukraine

Under frontline conditions, Ukraine fundamentally updated Western standards and introduced the following unique practices:
Trench Clearing: Capturing trenches using grenades via coordinated actions of paired duos and trios with drone support.
Counter-UAS (Anti-Drone Reaction): Standards for dispersion, utilizing special nets and shotgun-type weapons against FPV drone threats.
Rapid Dismounting from Armored Vehicles: The tactic of jumping directly into enemy trenches without going to the ground upon vehicle stoppage.

DISCUSSION

The obtained analytical results indicate that success in modern warfare for small units depends on how automatically they execute Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). While US and NATO standards rely on a strict algorithmic approach, Ukrainian and Turkish experiences demonstrate that in a highly volatile combat environment, independent decision-making by small unit commanders based on the principle of Mission Command is of decisive importance.

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The permanent integration of drone operators into assault groups within traditional infantry tactics has fundamentally enriched the concept of "Battle Drill." This ensures that personnel maintain their mission capabilities even under extreme psychological and physical loads.

CONCLUSION

The "Battle Drill" system is the most effective tool for standardizing the combat actions of small units, ensuring that every military serviceman clearly knows their role and acts proactively.

The experience of leading foreign countries demonstrates that standardized combat drills should develop rapid intra-group coordination, mutual insurance, and fire superiority maintenance skills rather than rigid molds.

It is appropriate to gradually introduce new "Battle Drill" elements associated with modern threats (FPV drones, urban and trench warfare) into the combat training programs of small units.

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