

THE EMERGENCE AND PROSPECTS OF NEW TACTICS FOR TACTICAL UNITS IN MODERN ARMED CONFLICTS

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Komil Yodgorovich Nasriddinov

Lecturer, Department of Military Security and Defense, University of Tashkent

Abstract

This article examines the formation of new tactical methods employed by combat units and their historical evolution. It analyzes the factors and causes contributing to the emergence of these new tactics, as well as their development in contemporary armed conflicts. Furthermore, the article explores the prospects for innovating tactical approaches in future warfare.

Keywords

tactics, units, combat operations, new methods, military technology, strategy, innovation.

Combat unit tactics have continuously evolved in response to the changing conditions of warfare and armed conflicts. New factors and technologies have consistently driven their emergence in each era. This article analyzes the formation and development of combat tactics of units, using historical and modern examples. Factors influencing the renewal of these tactics in future conflicts will also be discussed.

Combat tactics primarily arise in response to military conditions, technological advancements, and enemy strategies. Any new tactic can emerge as a direct response to the enemy's actions and due to the rapid shifts in dynamics within a combat situation. For example, the "testudo" (tortoise formation) tactic of Ancient Rome protected legionaries from enemy projectiles by forming a shield-like formation, proving to be one of the most effective approaches to warfare during that period. During the Napoleonic Wars, the tactic of massed line infantry formations enabled rapid and powerful strikes against enemy forces. Simultaneously, the tactic of trench warfare developed during World War I, strengthening defensive strategies on the battlefield.

Analyzing the factors and causes that give rise to new methods is the primary task when learning them. Several factors can influence the emergence of new tactical approaches:

1. Technological Advancement. The invention of tanks led to the development of the blitzkrieg (lightning war) tactic. Germany successfully employed this method in World War II. Modern weaponry, intelligence gathering tools, and communication technologies are among the most significant drivers shaping new battlefield tactics. The increasing role of drones and artificial intelligence is transforming military reconnaissance and air strikes, with unmanned technologies becoming increasingly prominent. For example, drone strikes and autonomous systems are enabling the precise and safe neutralization of enemy forces.

2. The Asymmetric Nature of Warfare. In armed conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war, there's a significant disparity in military power and resources between the parties involved. This asymmetry necessitates new approaches. In particular, rapid strike and swift withdrawal tactics, utilizing smaller, mobile units against larger military forces, are proving successful. In modern armed confrontations, the side with limited resources often employs deceptive and exhausting tactics to avoid traditional warfare, while also widely utilizing partisan methods. A prime example is the successful application of partisan tactics (guerrilla warfare) against the U.S. military during the Vietnam War.

3. Geographic and Strategic Conditions. The natural geography and infrastructure of the battlefield also significantly influence the formation of tactics. The expansive, open plains and urban infrastructure within Ukraine allow for the effective deployment of long-range weaponry (drones, missiles, and artillery). Conversely, in mountainous or forested terrain, we observe a greater emphasis on covert operations by smaller groups.

4. Information Warfare and Psychological Pressure. Alongside military operations during combat actions, an information war waged through social networks and media is increasingly becoming an important part of new tactical approaches. Information warfare is now recognized as a crucial factor in determining the fate of modern armed conflicts. For example, the use of disinformation and methods to demoralize the enemy's forces during combat operations is undeniably a form of information warfare and psychological pressure. Furthermore, warring parties are widely employing propaganda to garner international support and secure various forms of international assistance.

New tactics are being shaped in current armed conflicts, with drones, artificial intelligence, and cyber technologies playing a significant role. For instance, during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Azerbaijani armed forces utilized drones manufactured in Turkey and Israel, circumventing traditional defense systems. In

modern warfare, combatants are not only relying on physical strength but also learning to utilize cyber weaponry.

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 rapid destruction and recovery of enemy defenses by using many small drones at the same time. The factors that lead to the mass use of such various drones and unmanned aerial vehicles include:

- The use of drones on the modern battlefield has expanded with the decrease in the cost of technology;
- The accuracy and effectiveness of drones have increased with the help of GPS systems and artificial intelligence;
- Drones have become a convenient weapon for small and medium-sized military units in asymmetric warfare.

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 gaining ground. 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, and 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;
- Concentrate forces at strategically important points to minimize losses.

3. Small, mobile unit tactics. One of the most popular methods of combat is to quickly strike the enemy with small, mobile groups rather than large military operations and retreat. The Ukrainian armed forces are trying to break up large

units of the Russian army with this tactic. Small groups are used to conduct rapid reconnaissance for artillery and missiles. 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 to 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. Cyber attacks are being carried out on Russian infrastructure from the Ukrainian side. Disinformation and psychological pressure campaigns are being conducted on social networks. The following factors influence the formation of this method:

- The global scale of the conflict and the intensification of information warfare.
- The increasing importance of cyber weapons in modern wars.

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 assumptions 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 by attacking communication systems, control centers and economic infrastructure.

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

6. The main emphasis in future battles will be on reducing the human factor, i.e. human participation. In this, 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 performance 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 formed in order to adapt to and defeat the enemy's movements. Today, technologies, in particular drones and artificial intelligence, are further 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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