

UDC 811.111:355.1

THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE COMBAT ORDERS LANGUAGE

Kit N. V. / Кіт Н. В.

с.philos.s. / к.філос.н.

ORCID: 0000-0002-7934-9138

Odesa Military Academy, Odesa, Fontanska Doroha 10, 65039

Abstract. *Combat orders as the means of effective communication between superiors and subordinates are analyzed in the article. The attempt is made to study out the main features of the language of combat orders to improve the understanding of the commander's intent.*

Key words: *combat order, communication, term.*

Introduction.

The most valuable sources of information about the situation, intentions and actions of the friendly forces and enemy forces are combat orders. The information received as a result of processing the enemy combat orders may significantly influence the decision-making and the outcome of the whole operation or battle.

Knowing the structure, contents and purpose of combat orders, as well as their timely and concise processing, is not only an important duty of commanders and staffs but also plays a noticeable role in preparing, planning, and executing combat tasks when conducting an operation. Knowing the features of the combat orders language produces effective communication between commanders and subordinates and among subordinate units.

An order is one of the means of communication between superiors and subordinates that conveys instructions in a written form, orally or graphically. Effective orders greatly contribute to effective communication which plays a vital role for the military personnel on the battlefield. The more effective is the communication, the better results the superiors will achieve.

Main text.

The nature of circumstances on the battlefield sets the accessible culture of communication among servicemen who are limited in time for decision-making and responding to the changing situation. Information and instructions are usually communicated in affirmative form, by requests or commands. All this is reflected in combat orders that “set forth the details of tactical operations and administration in the field, and are absolutely critical to mission success” [1, p.185].

Among the main characteristics of effective combat orders, mentioned in the field manuals and other combat documents, order authors list general requirements for writing combat orders and instructions for avoiding misunderstanding and confusion. We consider it necessary to distinguish the main features of the language of combat orders that may improve the understanding of the commander's exact, intended meaning.

The language of combat orders is characterized by authoritative and positive expressions, and avoiding of qualified directives [1, p.186]. Subordinates are told in direct and unmistakable terms exactly what the commander wants them to do. So the language is direct and affirmative, with doctrinally correct terms and symbols, avoiding jargon and unnecessary details. Usage of meaningless expressions (e.g., *as*

soon as possible), unnecessary modifiers (*violently attack*) and redundant expressions (*delay while maintaining enemy contact*) makes the language of combat orders vague and ambiguous that may lead to uncertainty and lack of confidence.

The language of combat orders is surely full of special military terms and military-technical terms. Terms have exact meanings and precise semantic outlines, thus they contribute to the accuracy of information transmitted in orders. Terms bring unambiguity and brevity to the text of orders to eliminate opportunities for misinterpretation of information and instructions.

Clarity, brevity and simplicity are among those characteristics of combat orders that are recommended to be regarded with special attention. They are expressed by short sentences and paragraphs, set expressions, terms, avoiding obsolete words and phrases (archaisms), dialectal words and phrases. Abbreviations and acronyms are used to save time and space if they do not cause confusion. The word order should be direct in the sentences, so they are easier to read and remember. Introductory words are used at the beginning of sentences, only when necessary. If the volume of the text is considerable, only the main information and instructions should be addressed in the order. Other detailed information is revealed in attachments as required.

Among other essential characteristics of combat orders order writers distinguish flexibility (ability to adapt quickly to changing circumstances during operations), completeness (containing all the information and instructions necessary to coordinate and execute the operation), timeliness (sending orders to subordinates in adequate time to allow them to plan and prepare their own actions), assumptions, balance, coordination, etc. [2, p. 235], that concern the linguistic aspect of combat orders less but do not eliminate it totally.

Summary and conclusions.

Considering combat orders as the means of effective communication between superiors and subordinates we suppose that knowing the main features of the combat orders language as well as the structure, contents and purpose of combat orders is specifically important for the military personnel when conducting operations. The prevalence of authoritative and positive expressions and avoiding of qualified directives, the abundance of special military terms and military-technical terms are greatly maintained in the texts of combat orders. The maintenance of clarity, brevity, simplicity, completeness, timeliness and other characteristics is ensured by commanders and their subordinate leaders to minimize misunderstanding of the commander's intent, to coordinate the execution of an operation and to achieve the desired end state.

References:

1. FM 5-0. Army Planning and Orders Production. Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC, 2005. 328 p.
2. FM 6-0. Commander and Staff Organization and Operations. Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC, 2014. 392 p.

The article was sent: 25/01/2023

© Kit N. V.