

" STUDY AND ASSESSMENT OF THE TERRAIN BY THE UNIT COMMANDER"

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Annotation

This article provides information on study and assessment of the terrain by the unit commander.

Keywords: terrain, exploration of the area, combat task, observation.

The ability to study, correctly and quickly assess the terrain, navigate it well and use it competently when performing combat missions is one of the indicators of the maturity of commanders, the level of their practical training.

The study of the tactical properties of the terrain consists of studying its roughness and its camouflage properties, the possibility of conducting observations on it, determining the mutual visibility of points, the conditions of patency and the protective properties of the terrain.

According to the degree of intersection with obstacles restricting the freedom of movement and maneuver of troops, the terrain is usually divided into heavily intersected, medium-intersected, weakly intersected and non-intersected.

The heavily intersected terrain is replete with a large number (over 30% of the total area) of impassable natural obstacles (gullies, ravines, rivers, lakes) that limit the maneuver and speed of movement of units and military equipment. Such terrain allows the use of heavy military equipment only in certain areas or requires significant engineering work.

On medium-terrain terrain (less than 30% of obstacles), the massive use of military equipment is possible, but it is difficult in certain areas.

On lightly crossed (up to 10% of natural obstacles) and uncrossed terrain, although the speed of movement is reduced, however, it is possible to use a maneuver in any direction. However, there are no natural shelters for protection from artillery fire and nuclear weapons in such an area.

According to the conditions of camouflage and surveillance, the terrain is divided into open, semi-closed and closed.

The open area (the area of natural masks up to 10% of the total area) does not provide natural masks for camouflage, up to 75% of the area is visible from command heights, i.e. it provides a good overview and shelling.

In semi-closed terrain (the area under natural masks is up to 20% of the total), camouflage when located in place is almost completely provided by natural masks, about 50% of the area is visible from command heights.

A closed area (the area under natural masks is more than 30% of the total area) provides complete camouflage, less than 25% of the area is visible on it. Closed areas include mainly forest, mountainous areas and areas with a dense network of settlements. In such an area, the covert movement and maneuvering of troops is ensured.

As a result of determining the general nature of the terrain, they conclude that the area and its individual directions are accessible to units and equipment, and also outline objects and sites that should be studied in detail on the map, aerial photographs and direct inspection.

Conditions of observation and camouflage properties of the terrain.

Observation conditions are the properties of the terrain that contribute to obtaining information about the enemy. They are determined by the degree of visibility of the surrounding area, the viewing range and depend on the nature of the terrain, vegetation cover, the presence of settlements and other objects that hinder the view of the terrain.

The masking properties of the terrain are the properties of the terrain that allow hiding the location and movement of personnel and military equipment from the enemy. They are determined by the presence of natural shelters formed by landforms, vegetation, settlements and other local objects, as well as the general nature, color and spotting of the terrain (the more diverse the color scheme, the better the camouflage conditions).

Rough terrain with forests and numerous settlements has good masking properties. So, hollows, gullies, ravines create favorable conditions for the shelter of the unit.

The most convenient natural shelters for subdivisions are forests. Their masking properties are determined mainly by the height of the trees, the closeness of the crowns, the composition of the rocks and the presence of undergrowth. Determining the visibility of objects and the boundaries of terrain areas that are not visible from ground observation posts requires, although not always, special calculations and constructions,

When two points are located on the same slope and there are no local objects between them, the visibility of the target depends on the shape of the slope: there is no visibility on a convex slope, there is on a flat and concave one.

The mutual visibility of points is more often determined by comparing their heights. On the map, along the direction that is supposed to be monitored, hills or local objects that can block visibility (shelters) are determined. Determine the absolute heights of the observation post, the

target and the possible shelter. If the height of the shelter is less than the height of the NP and the height of the target, then the target is visible, if more, then there is no visibility.

By constructing a triangle, you can accurately determine the visibility of the target from an observation post. To do this, the points of NP and C are connected by a straight line and a possible point Y (shelter) is applied on it. Determine the absolute "heights of all three points and their excess over the lowest point (NP or C).

Very often in practice it is necessary to determine not so much the visibility of two points, as the areas of the terrain that will be viewed from this point or will not be viewed, i.e. to determine the fields of invisibility.

In this case, the fields of invisibility, after drawing their borders, are shaded with parallel lines with a simple pencil, while trying not to obscure the topographic basis of the map.

The conditions of masking when observing from the enemy's NP are determined by similar constructions for the enemy.

Terrain conditions. Terrain patency is a property of the terrain that facilitates or hinders the movement of units. It is taken into account when choosing the direction of concentration of the main efforts of the unit, determining the width of the offensive front, the possibility and ability to use various types of military equipment, as well as when organizing a maneuver, choosing ways to bring ammunition and materiel.

The main factor determining the patency of the terrain is the road network. The more developed the road network and the higher their class, the more accessible the terrain is for the actions of all branches of the armed forces. Paved roads allow traffic to move in any weather. The patency of dirt roads is determined mainly by the nature of soils and soils, terrain, time of year and weather conditions.

The role of the road network is further enhanced in wooded, swampy, desert and mountainous areas, where the movement of units off the roads is extremely difficult. The importance of the road network increases dramatically during the spring and autumn thaw. In such conditions, paved roads acquire the importance of the most important directions along which the main efforts of the units are concentrated, both in the offensive and in defense.

The passability of the terrain off the roads is determined by its roughness. Terrain with ravines, steep slopes and cliffs, rivers and swampy areas, with large areas of woodlands significantly reduces the patency of combat vehicles and tractor vehicles on it.

Protective properties of the terrain. The protective properties of the terrain are the properties of the terrain that weaken the effect of the damaging factors of nuclear and conventional weapons. The correct definition and use of the protective properties of the terrain facilitates the organization of the protection of personnel and military equipment from the damaging factors of various types of weapons.

The protective properties of the terrain are determined, first of all, by the nature of the relief, vegetation cover, the presence of various natural and artificial shelters on the ground that can fully or partially provide protection for units.

Various forms of relief can enhance or significantly weaken the impact of shock waves, light radiation and penetrating radiation. So, on the front (facing towards the nuclear explosion) slopes of the hills, the pressure of the shock wave increases noticeably. It is recommended to solve the problem by building terrain profiles.

To do this, you need:

on the map, mark a point on a hill and from it draw the boundaries of the sector in which you need to conduct surveillance;

in the observation sector from the observation post, draw a number of profile lines and number them, starting from the right border of the sector;

build profiles along all the lines drawn and draw the direction of the rays of vision through all obstacles on each of them from the observation point. It is better to build profiles on a single sheet;

the invisible sections obtained on the profiles should be transferred to the corresponding profile lines on the map and shaded slightly;

draw the boundaries of the fields of invisibility on the map, connecting with smooth curves, according to the terrain, all the boundaries of individual invisible sections obtained on profile lines;

shade the invisibility fields.

The masking properties of the terrain are characterized mainly by the presence of natural masks. Natural masks are elements of the terrain that contribute to the camouflage of troops from enemy observation from the NP or air.

The main natural masks are: forests, shrubs, gardens; settlements; deep folds of relief (ravines, gullies, etc.).

The heights of masks that limit visibility should be taken into account when building terrain profiles and applying invisibility fields. The success of the battle largely depends on the thoroughness of the study and assessment of the terrain, on the ability to identify difficulties and favorable conditions created by it for the actions of units.

The commander studies the terrain in the direction (area) of the actions of his and neighboring units to the depth of the assigned combat task. The completeness and detail of the study of individual terrain elements and their properties are determined by the nature of the upcoming actions and the resulting combat mission. So, when organizing defense in a city, it is important to determine the nature of its layout and development, to identify strong buildings with basements and underground utility structures. In the case when the route of the movement of

the unit passes through this city, then there is usually no need to study the features of the city in such detail in the interests of making a march.

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