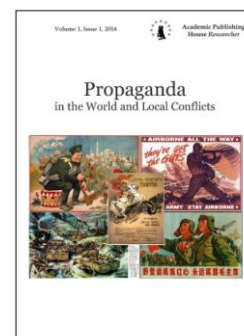


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## Technical Means of Propagandists

### Medium Powered Sound Broadcasting Station ZS-82 (“The Decorator”) as a Weapon of Propagandists

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#### Abstract

This article considers tactical and technical characteristics of a Russian army’s propaganda weapon – the medium powered sound broadcasting station ZS-82 (“The Decorator”) on a base of open sources.

The sources used for the compilation of this article were various open source data, such as official news websites, forums, educational and scientific literature.

Despite some thematic diversity, this topic is presented quite limitedly in the open access. We used general scientific methods, analysis and synthesis methods, concretization and generalization in solving research problems. The use of these techniques allowed us to create a complete picture of combat use of this technology in local conflicts at the end of XX – beginning of XXI centuries.

In conclusion, it is indicated that the Russian army arsenal possesses an effective means of advocacy – the medium powered ZS-82 “The Decorator”. Despite its limited combat use, practice showed that this equipment can be used for conducting negotiations (agitation), as well for performing disinformation activities.

**Keywords:** weapon of propaganda, ZS-82 (“The Decorator”), sound broadcasting station, the Russian army.

#### 1. Introduction

Sound broadcasting on the enemy territory is an essential part of psychological warfare. Sound broadcasting was used not only in the active phase of military confrontation, for example during World War II period (Mamadalyev, 2015: 59), but also during the Cold War, for example, between DPRK and ROK (Shiukashvili, 2015: 112-114). Oral (sound) broadcasting is an information-psychological effect, carried out by transmitting different messages and programs, which are directly perceived by the enemy soldiers, by civilian population and captives, through the sound broadcasting stations (Krys’ko, 1999: 81). The arsenal of the Armed Forces of the Russian

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army holds a range of sound broadcasting equipment, which task is the implementation of a psychological impact on the enemy in combat. Sound broadcasting stations are divided into several types: strong, medium and light. In this article we will cover medium powered sound broadcasting equipment, one of the models of which is a sound broadcasting station of medium power ZS-82 (“The Decorator”).

## 2. Sources and methods

2.1. The sources used for the compilation of this article were various open source data, such as official news websites, forums, educational and scientific literature. Despite some thematic diversity, this topic is presented quite limitedly in the open access.

2.2. We used general scientific methods, analysis and synthesis methods, concretization and generalization in solving research problems. The use of these techniques allowed us to create a complete picture of combat use of this technology in local conflicts at the end of XX – beginning of XXI centuries.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. The performance characteristics

The operating range of 3C-82 (“the Decorator”) is 6 km, capacity – 1000 Wt, and the operator, reading out the text, has the opportunity to be at a distance of up 500 meters from the armored vehicle with the device. This is the main propaganda weapon of modern Russian army, previously barely used. By using sound-amplifying equipment Russian officers in case of a military conflict can persuade the enemy to surrender ([Russia settled...](#)).



**Fig. 1.** ZS-82 (“The Decorator”) left side view.



**Fig. 2.** ZS-82 front view.



**Fig. 3.** ZS-82 (“The Decorator”) right side view.

ZS-82 (“The Decorator”) standard equipment set:

1. Chassis GAZ-41-14, in the complete set, tools and spare parts according to the inventory of the manufacturer;
2. Operator panel P02-01;
3. Amplifier P01-02, 2 pcs;
4. Device P04-02;
5. Loudspeaker P05-01, 2 pcs.;
6. Loudspeaker P05-02;
7. Microphone P06-01;
8. Line shield P06-03;

9. KS Connecting box;
10. Junction box;
11. Antenna switch P06-02;
12. Tripod;
13. Grounding pin;
14. Audio library case;
15. Case ID4.166.040 Sp;
16. Case Hg4.166.008;
17. Case Hg4.166.005;
18. Case, 4 pcs.;
19. Electric motor fan DV-3;
20. Radio receiver «Integral»;
21. Troop tape recorder VM-75K, set of 2;
22. Field telephone device TA-57;
23. Intercom R-124;
24. Battery 5NKLB-70, 4 pcs;
25. Summer tank headset TSH-0011, 2 pcs.;
26. Winter tank headset TSH-0013, 2 pcs.;
27. Type-TP-7 thermometer;
28. Telephone headsets TA-56M;
29. Cable coil No. 5;
30. Connection cable No. 39;
31. Connection cable No. 40;
32. Set of a single reserve asset;
33. ZIP in set: ZI-o-198, ZI-8, ZI-o-335, ZI-o-339, ZI-o-340, ZI-o-342, ZI-o-341, ZI-o-349.
34. MK-60 audiocassette, 20 pcs.;
35. Maintenance documentation set ([ZS-82 sound broadcasting station](#)).



**Fig. 4.** Interior equipment, tape recorder.



**Fig. 5.** Operating panel of ZS-82 (“The Decorator”).

### 3.2. Combat use

According to available data, an earlier version of the sound broadcasting station – ZS-72b in 1980 was in service of agitation troops (later – psychological action troops), 10 in number (1 for the border area and a group of troops) ([Schüschpanzers are in attack](#)). It was used in combat operations in Afghanistan by the agitation units of the 40th army.



**Fig. 6.** ZS-72b in a convoy in Afghanistan.

ZS-82 (“The Decorator”) was developed later. Military officers, interviewed by “RosBusinessConsulting” did not remember this particular equipment being used during military practices. During combat operations these machines are used to influence the blocked enemy forces, in aim to compel them to lay down their weapons and surrender. According to the military servicemen, sound broadcasting stations were not used in South Ossetia. They were used only in a few occasions during the counter-terrorist operations in Chechnya for negotiations with the rebels ([To the border with Ukraine...](#)).



**Fig. 7.** ZS-82 (“The Decorator”) in an open position.

Open press mentions the use of ten Russian ZS-82 sound broadcasting stations near the Ukrainian borders ([Russia settled...](#)).

As mentioned above the main purpose of ZS-82 (“The Decorator”) is agitation of the blocked enemy forces to surrender, however, the sound broadcasting station may perform other psychological impacts, including spreading disinformation or creating a misconception about the events. Thus, according to the head of the National Television Company of Ukraine, Zurab Alasania, the Russian sound broadcast station ZS-82 in August 2014 broadcasted a roar of heavy machinery on the march and a roar of the aircraft engines at the very border with Ukraine ([Russian army...](#)). This reference may indicate that the use of sound broadcasting stations may be multifunctional.

#### 4. Conclusion

Summing up, we can state that the Russian army arsenal possesses an effective means of propaganda – the medium powered ZS-82 “The Decorator”. Despite its limited combat use, practice showed that this equipment can be used for conducting negotiations (agitation), as well for performing disinformation activities.

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