

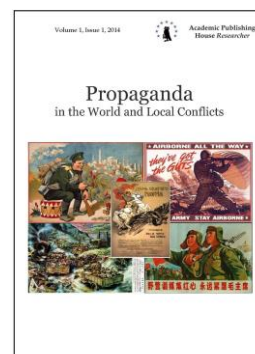
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Weapons of Propagandists

Sound Broadcasting as a Source of Military Propaganda

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Abstract

The article deals with sound broadcasting equipment that is at the disposal of various countries of the world. Attention is paid to lightweight, portable, vehicle and helicopter sound stations.

Open Internet sources as well as specialized literature were used as materials. In terms of methodology, comparative and typological methods were used in the article, which made it possible to compare such weapons of propaganda as sound stations from the standpoint of typology.

In conclusion, the author notes that there is an almost full range of sound equipment in the arsenal of the Armed Forces today, and it allows broadcasting at various distances from several hundred meters (portable complexes) up to 5 km (helicopter complexes). Broadcasting on an even greater territory is carried out with the help of special sound broadcasting stations, which, due to their size, cannot be placed on military equipment or transported by personnel.

Keywords: typology, portable, vehicle and helicopter sound stations.

1. Introduction

Sound broadcasting equipment is regarded as one of the most effective weapons at the disposal of military propagandists.

There is a large number of sound broadcasting equipment that is at the disposal of the armed forces of different countries of the world.

The sound broadcasting equipment can be classified by the following principle:

1. Portable sound broadcasting stations;
2. Vehicle sound broadcasting stations;
3. Helicopter sound broadcasting stations.

These stations differ in their power capacity ([Table 1](#))

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Table 1. Maximum power capacity of sound broadcasting stations

Equipment	Maximum power capacity	Radius of action
Portable sound broadcasting stations	Up to 350 Watt	700–1000 m
Vehicle sound broadcasting stations	Up to 1000 Watt	1200–1800 m
Helicopter sound broadcasting stations	Up to 2700 Watt	3200–4800 m

2. Materials and methods

Open Internet sources as well as specialized literature were used as materials.

In terms of methodology, comparative and typological methods were used in the article, which made it possible to compare such weapons of propaganda as sound stations from the standpoint of typology.

3. Results

Let us consider the various modifications of sound broadcasting stations.

1. Portable sound broadcasting stations

1.1. Lightweight sound broadcasting station.

It is designed to enhance speech and music broadcasts (Fig. 1). There are portable (more commonly used) and mobile versions of it. The station is transported by “UAZ-469”. It is important to note that the analogues of this station were used during World War II (Zharkov, 2009; Zharkov, 2010).

Power capacity – 100 Watt, broadcast range is up to 2 km, 1 person in the crew.



Fig. 1. Lightweight sound broadcasting station – OZS-78

1.2. Portable sound broadcasting station.

It is designed to enhance speech and music broadcasts (Fig. 2). The station has two fixed power capacities of 75 and 30 Watts. It is equipped with a device for mounting loudspeakers on military equipment. Its’ broadcast range is 100 meters. Radio remote control is possible at a distance of up to 225 meters. It is possible to combine several such stations into a single system to cover large areas. Battery powered (up to 2 hours of continuous work). Broadcast is conducted from a microphone or audio cassette. 1 person in the operating crew.

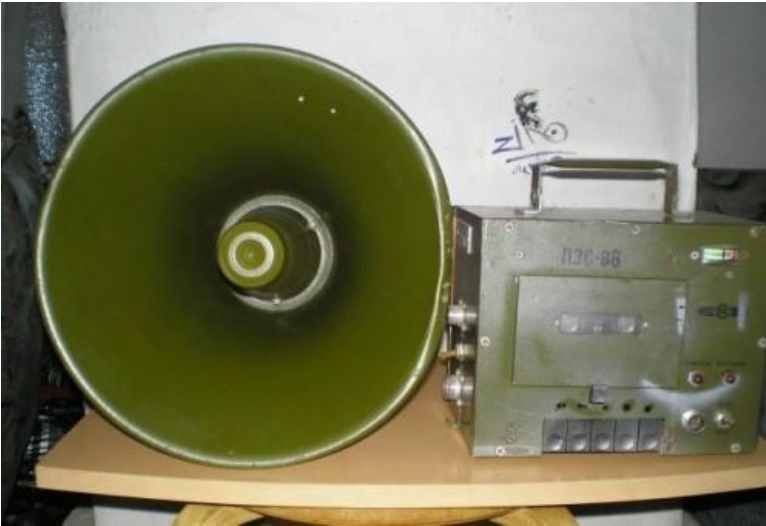


Fig. 2. Russian-Soviet portable PZS-86

1.3. Portable sound broadcasting station (power capacity 250 Watt).

It is installed on automobile and armored vehicles, as well as on boats and ships. The broadcasting range is 400–600 meters (depending on the terrain and climatic conditions). The station is powered by battery. Broadcast is conducted from a microphone or audio cassette. Operating crew consists of 2-3 people.

1.4. Portable sound broadcasting station with increased power capacity (power capacity 350 Watts).

It is installed on automobile and armored vehicles, as well as on boats and ships. Broadcasting range is 700–1000 meters (depending on the terrain and climatic conditions). The station is powered by battery (up to 3 hours of continuous operation). Broadcast from a microphone or audio cassette. Operating crew consists of 2-3 people.

2. Vehicle sound broadcasting stations

2.1. Vehicle sound broadcasting station. Vehicle sound broadcasting station is based on “Hummer” off-road vehicle (**Fig. 3**) (can also be installed on helicopters, boats and ships). Power capacity – 450 Watts. Broadcasting range of 1000–1500 meters (depending on the terrain and climatic conditions). Broadcast from a microphone or audio cassette. Operating crew consists of 3 people.



Fig. 3. Vehicle sound broadcasting station based on “Hummer” off-road vehicle.

2.2. Vehicle sound broadcasting station of increased power capacity.

The station is installed on the base of the American "Hummer" off-road vehicle, as well as Russian BRDM-2 and BTR (Fig. 4; 5) (can also be installed on helicopters, light aircraft, boats and ships). Power capacity of the station is 700–1000 Watts.

The broadcasting range is 1200–1800 meters (depending on the terrain and climatic conditions). It is powered by car battery or autonomous battery (up to 6 hours of continuous operation). Broadcast is conducted from a microphone or audio cassette. Operating crew consists of 3 people.



Fig. 4. Russian-Soviet sound broadcasting station ZS-82 based on BRDM-2 (Romanchuk, Mitiukov, 2016: 39)



Fig. 5. Russian-Soviet sound broadcasting station ZS-88 based on the armored personnel carrier

3. Helicopter sound broadcasting stations

3.1. Helicopter sound broadcasting station.

It is installed on multi-purpose helicopters (Fig. 6; 7) (on a special panel that is bolted to the floor of the cargo compartment). With the transitional equipment it can also be installed on the

vehicles and other equipment. Power capacity 2100–2700 Watts. The range of broadcasting, depending on the terrain and weather and climatic conditions is 3.2–4.8 km. The station is powered by helicopter onboard power supply. Broadcast from a microphone or audio cassette.



Fig. 6. Soviet sound broadcasting station placing in a helicopter



Fig. 7. American sound broadcasting station placing in a helicopter

It is important to note that the broadcasting on larger territory was carried out due to the portable sound broadcasting complexes, which, due to their size, could not be installed on military equipment or transferred with station personnel. Such complexes were used, for example, by South Korea for broadcasting on the territory of North Korea. (Shiukashvili, 2015: 113).

At a fundamentally new technical level is the following source of long distance sound broadcast equipment. This is a plane EC-130E Commando Solo (Fig. 8). In fact, it is a flying television tower; the aircraft is intended for conducting television and radio broadcasting in a combat zone. During the flight, which can last up to 12 hours, the aircraft tunes in to local frequencies, releases a towed antenna, and begins broadcasting propaganda materials to military units of the enemy, as well as to civilians. Moreover, the aircraft can also act as a receiver, receiving information via satellite communications. In addition, according to some data, the EC-130E Commando Solo can also work as a flying Wi-Fi router. These machines were actively used during all major military operations of the American army, since the 1980s.



Fig. 8. EC-130E Commando Solo plane

4. Conclusion

Summing up, it is important to note that there is an almost full range of sound equipment in the arsenal of the Armed Forces today, and it allows broadcasting at various distances from several hundred meters (portable complexes) up to 5 km (helicopter complexes). Broadcasting on an even greater territory is carried out with the help of special sound broadcasting stations, which, due to their size, cannot be placed on military equipment or transported by personnel.

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