

# The Core Contents and Inspiration of US Army's Wartime Political Work

Xi Yang<sup>1,\*</sup>, Chang Wang<sup>2</sup> and Peng Ma<sup>3</sup>

*1 Politics Section at Department of Military and Political Training, Bengbu Campus of Army Armored Force Institute*

*2 Center of Teaching and Research Guarantee, Bengbu Campus of Army Armored Force Institute*

*3 Department of Combat Support, Bengbu Campus of Army Armored Force Institute*

*\*Corresponding author. Email: xiaozhupeng83284@163.com*

## ABSTRACT

In modern wars, it plays a very important role for wartime political work in war mobilization, psychological attack, psychological defense and effective mobilization. By objectively analyzing of the core contents and methods of the US army's wartime political work in this paper, that is very helpful to strengthen the understanding of political work, which could also promote the research and innovation of army's wartime political work in PLA army.

**Keywords:** *US army, Intelligent warfare, Wartime political work.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

As an important part of the US Army's war operations, the political works in the war operations of US Army's refers to a series of political work carried out by the US Army, which aim to create a favorable political environment for battle operations, consolidate the morale of own army, stimulate the combat effectiveness of troops, break the enemy's will to confront, cooperate with the process of battle operations and finally achieve the combat objectives. The past regional conflicts show that the political work of the US Army in battle operations is mainly to play the role of "soft power" and strive for support and political influence[1]. whose characteristics include rich contents, diverse means and throughout the whole process. With the development of information warfare, the trend of information and integration in the political work of the US Army is obvious.

## 2. CONTENTS AND METHODS OF US ARMY'S WARTIME POLITICAL WORK

War is the continuation of politics. For any army, the final pursuit is aim to win in war. Therefore, all activities of the US Army, including political work, are bound to focus on consolidating its own morale and disintegrating the will of its opponents.

### 2.1. The Propaganda of Political Public Opinion is Aim to Prove the "Justice" and "Necessity" of War

In the history, it shows that each side waging a war strives to play a role at upholder of justice. At least, there are three main points of propaganda in American political opinion, such as:

#### 2.1.1. Publicizing the Necessity and Justice of War to Get the Support from Public

In order to propagandize the justice and necessity of war and cover up the real intention, the United States and other countries have been manipulating and controlling the media propaganda, such as the Gulf War, the Kosovo War and the Iraq War were not authorized by the United Nations. And in order to prove that they made support of justice, all above counties tried to play three roles: the first is the role of the defender of the world peace order; the second is the role of protector of weak nations and weak states; the third is the role of arbiter of international disputes.

#### 2.1.2. Safeguard of National Interests to Stimulate Officers and Soldiers' Sense of Mission

During the Gulf War, the United States strongly argued that the action of Iraq's annexation of pro-American Kuwait was aim to seize oil and threaten

economic of US, which pushed the national security of the United States at risk. George H.W. Bush repeatedly touted the Gulf War played a role as “establishing a new world order for ourselves and our children and grandchildren”. In addition, in accordance with the principles of Victory is king, by use of the international laws on war and various diplomatic, which means to win the sympathy and support of the international community, and increase the chips to defeat the other side, has become a very important means of war.

## ***2.2. Spiritual Education and Ideological Indoctrination***

### ***2.2.1. Military Values Education***

The US Army believes that the values of servicemen are the spiritual pillar of servicemen, and which influence and dominate at many factors about determining victory or defeat. The Army's values are simply stated: “Loyalty; Duty; Respect; Selfless Service; Honor; Integrity; and Personal Courage”.

### ***2.2.2. Patriotism Education***

The United States Army has made patriotic education on officers and soldiers as the first basic part of its ideological indoctrination. The patriotic education in the US Army include two characteristics, the first is the emphasis about “America is best”. The Army emphasized the American way of life, the superiority of political system and values; the second is importance of the pacification of prisoners of war, which console and encourage the returning captives and also set off an upsurge of patriotism at society.

### ***2.2.3. Military Traditional Education***

The military of western countries regard traditional education and military honor education as the motivation to unite troops and the means to encourage fighting spirit. The Army's traditional education emphasizes the most important of the principles, such as the tradition of service to the country; the tradition of loyalty; the tradition of readiness for war and the tradition of mission completion.

### ***2.2.4. Religious Education***

In the military of western countries, religious education plays a unique role, in which the pastor is kind, sincere and deeply trusted by the soldiers. At the U.S. Army, one pastor was distributed for every 700 soldiers, whose name was changed to “morale officer”.

## ***2.3. The Implement of Special Preferential Policies to Improve Material and Cultural Living Conditions***

### ***2.3.1. Adjust to Personnel Policy and Improve Welfare***

The U.S. Army stipulates that:

(1)The promotion of military officers is not limited by the requirements of cultural studies, and those who have performed well could also be promoted ahead of time.

(2)Excellent soldiers could be promoted to military officers, and those who have not been naturalized in the United States could be naturalized in advance.

(3)To increase the allowances for dangerous tasks, family life and separation of husband and wife for officers and soldiers.

### ***2.3.2. Improve the Operational Environment and Garrison Conditions***

The U.S. Army is very well resourced. Washing, drying, hairdressing and bathing are well equipped at field tents, at which one set of washing equipment can wash 1500 people's clothes one day, and air conditioning and telecommunications are also equipped within. Chickens, dogs and other small animals are allowed to be raised in the camp. Because they believe that it is helpful to stabilize the mood of soldiers to see the living creatures.

### ***2.3.3. Improve Food Life and Increase Cultural and Entertainment Facilities***

During the Gulf War, the U.S. Army spent \$4.5 million one day on food supply to ensure that three meals were hot. More than 100 radio and television stations across the country serve were supplied to enrich the cultural life of the theater region. Special military post office has been set up to ensure the rapid and safe delivery of mail. In addition, more than 800 telephone line outlets have been established to provide 24-hour services for front-line officers and soldiers.

### ***2.3.4. Equipped with Advanced Field Medical Rescue Equipment***

According to relevant records, the US Army was equipped with two large medical ships, three naval fleet hospitals, 44 army hospitals and 16 air force hospitals, with a total of more than 9200 medical personnel and 18530 beds during the Gulf War, all of which to reflect the scientific and technological achievements of the world.

## ***2.4. Pay Attention to the Psychological Offensive Against the Enemy and Strengthen Their Own Psychological Protection***

The U.S. Army has listed psychological warfare as the fourth type of combat, which is different from land, air and sea warfare, which has been widely used in actual combat to strive to increase the enemy's fear, weaken the enemy's will, resist and reduce the enemy's overall combat capability by through psychological warfare[2]. The following contents focus on the five characteristics of US Army psychological warfare:

### ***2.4.1. Specialized Psychological Warfare Force***

The US army already own a highly specialized psychological warfare force with one active and three reserve psychological warfare groups, 12 psychological warfare battalions, 22 psychological warfare companies and a psychological warfare strategy research center.

### ***2.4.2. Intelligent Psychological Warfare Equipment***

On the one hand, the US Army continues to use traditional psychological warfare equipment and make them intelligent; on the other hand, it attaches more importance to the use of high-tech equipment and intelligent equipment to enhance the attack power of psychological warfare.

### ***2.4.3. Comprehensive Psychological Warfare Methods***

The integration of psychological warfare methods mainly refers to the combination of "soft attack" and "hard attack". "soft attack" means to win the hearts and minds of the enemies by means of broadcasting propaganda, distributing leaflets and treating captives favorably. "hard attack" is the use of precision fire strikes to create terror.

### ***2.4.4. Full-time Psychological Warfare Time***

Mental warfare against the enemy is not limited to battle, but runs through the whole process of the war. Even at peacetime or even after a military victory has been won, psychological warfare is always going on.

### ***2.4.5. Widespread Scope of Psychological Warfare***

The widespread scope of psychological warfare is reflected in various aspects. From the perspective of the field of implementation, it has broken through the boundary of military struggle and expanded to political, diplomatic, economic, cultural, religious and other fields. From the point of view of the object of

implementation, it is no longer limited to the army, but includes all the citizens of the other country, even the friendly countries and international social organizations of the other country. From the perspective of space, it has broken through the airspace of direct engagement, which not only pays attention to enemy, but also pays attention to the domestic people in the rear and strives to win the support of the international community.

## ***2.5. Good Job in Family Work to Relieve the Worries of Officers and Soldiers***

The Western military generally believes that, at peacetime and wartime, the proper settlement of the welfare and difficulties of military families are great important. The approach can be summarized in several aspects:

### ***2.5.1. Strengthen the Work of "Military Family Support Center" at All Levels to Solve the Problems of Family Members***

The "military family support center" of the U.S. Army can provide support to family members of army, such as buying cheap goods, enjoying public medical care, provided by various information consultation and life services, and helped to solve various problems.

### ***2.5.2. Mobilize the Strength of All Sectors of Society to Care for the Soldiers and Their Families***

It includes calling on people to donate money and materials, mobilizing people to write letters of condolence, organizing children of candidates to carry out activities to reduce the burden on parents.

### ***2.5.3. Ensure the Livelihood of the Injured and Wounded Officers and Soldiers and Their Families***

It mainly includes: large increase in the life insurance premiums of the war participants, the casualty expenses of the war zone personnel and various other subsidies. Arms and bases also raise funds to provide subsidies to the casualties and their families.

## **3. IMPORTANT ENLIGHTENMENT TO OUR ARMY'S WARTIME POLITICAL WORK**

Through the research and analysis of the main contents, methods and methods of the US Army's wartime political work, the following enlightenment can be obtained for our army to carry out targeted work:

### ***3.1. With the Deepening of War Informationization, the Means of Wartime Political Work Would Become More and More Intelligent***

The new military revolution in the world has made the informationized war as the main form of war. The political work of the armed forces of the major countries in the world is constantly adapting to this change, whose methods and means are expressed an informationized situation.

Firstly, the use of information means in the war of political propaganda and psychological attack and defense tend to be frequent, which has an impact through the dissemination of information media such as radio, television and the Internet. Secondly, the control and countermeasures of the information carrier of political work in wartime tend to be fierce, at which the precision attack and information suppression would get the complete control of the political and military initiative on the battlefield; Thirdly, the challenges brought by new media have become increasingly prominent. With the rapid development of network and digital information technology, the use of new media will greatly affect the implementation of wartime political work. The countermeasure of the US Army's use of media advantages would take the effectiveness of wartime political work.

### ***3.2. With the Quickening of the Pace of Local War Operations, the Planning of Wartime Political Work is Strengthened***

Informationized and intelligent warfare is characterized by short progress, fast pace and fierce confrontation. Compatible with military operations, the predisposition of political work in war operations is bound to be further enhanced. Firstly, the pre-war political work forces will be further strengthened in advance planning[3]. Secondly, the transition between peacetime and war would be flexible, and the predisposition of ability preparation would be more significant. From personnel organization to capability training, the U.S. Army must focus on setting and planning in advance the contents and requirements of political work in peacetime and wartime transition. Finally, in future regional conflicts, US army's military political work would put more emphasis on pre-preparation and careful planning.

### ***3.3. With the Improvement of the Transparency of War Operations, the Dispute of Wartime Jurisprudence Tends to be Fierce***

With the universal recognition of the international community to the law of war and the law of armed conflict, it has become an inevitable and important

development trend of political work to use the international law of war to carry out legal and rational contention, to win the sympathy and support of the international community to the greatest extent, and to increase the bargaining chip to defeat the other side.

Firstly, striving for the legitimacy of war has increasingly become the focus of foreign military political work. With the improvement of war transparency, the influence of gaining legitimacy and winning the hearts of the people on the process of war and the outcome of war is further increased, at the same time, the naked force strike means must be difficult to achieve political purposes. Therefore, how to obtain the support of the United Nations and war authorization is the great concern to governments and militaries around the world. The Army's 2018 revision of its Operational Docs specifically emphasizes a shift from high-intensity offensives to low-intensity and steady operations.

Secondly, the contest of legal theory in wartime will become more intense. Thorough with international law, both sides have expounded their positions around the basis, purpose, policy and means of the war to the international community, which in order to win the understanding and support of the international community.

### ***3.4. With the Asymmetry of War Action, the Challenges to the Effectiveness of Wartime Political Work Tend to Increase***

Restricted by the purpose and nature of the war, the justice and legitimacy of the war embodied in the political work in wartime will be questioned intensively. In future, the dissymmetry of political work between the belligerents would become more obvious due to the great disparity in their comprehensive national strength and military strength, and the application of their methods and means would be questioned more. Military power, with its strong economic and military power, who must manipulate the main channel of war propaganda and implement of news blockade, even block and destroy enemy various publicity channels, would get more questioned by the international social justice forces and the opposition.

## **3. CONCLUSION**

Psychological warfare of the U.S. military is the most representative and research value. With the acceleration of the process of information war, some new characteristics would be presented to the psychological warfare training of the U.S. military, and which also showed a certain transformation trend in recent local wars of psychological warfare combat style. In this paper, it is very important by tracking the development trend of the theory and practice of American Psychological Warfare, examining and

learning from the experience of American Psychological Warfare, and strengthening the construction of our army's psychological warfare in combination with practice.

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