

MILITARY NO LONGER FUNDING TOWED ARTILLERY SYSTEMS IN FUTURE OPERATIONS

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Abstract: *The history of combat conflicts knew three main parts of army units. Infantry, cavalry and artillery. After cold war important defense planners predicted new conflicts, where artillery is not that important, as it was in the past. On the table there were asymmetric warfare, expedition operations, and peacekeeping missions, which did not appear to be the ideal environment for heavy artillery. There was also a huge boom of howitzers on wheeled chassis, also much lighter than previous ones. Towed artillery and self propelled artillery or only self propelled howitzers? There is no need to fund towed artillery systems in the future operations.*

Keywords: *Towed artillery, Self propelled artillery, Speed, Protection, Accuracy*

БЪДЕЩЕ НА БУКСИРНИТЕ АРТИЛЕРИЙСКИ СИСТЕМИ В ПРЕДСТОЯЩИТЕ ОПЕРАЦИИ НА АРМИЯТА

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Towed artillery takes an important role in the history of field artillery. It is an indispensable part of any military conflict in the past and nowadays. But what about relevance of towed artillery in future operations. This is significant question on which I will try to give an answer showing pros and cons of it.

Everyone in the army knows that "artillery is the god of war." Is it so? To answer the question, you must have a general knowledge of military history. And it points out that there is no battle from antiquity to the present day that has not been won without the help of artillery. Its beginning dates back to the 12th century when the Son dynasty in China first used gunpowder. Then they used bamboo guns. Later, they were replaced with bronze. After a few centuries, to this day, steel monsters come.

The key role of artillery in overcoming strongholds became clear during the Balkan War of 1912 - 1913. The accumulated knowledge and experience from the beginning of the war led to a radical new tactics of the Bulgarian troops in the Adrianople attack in

March 1913. In the attack of the main defense line for the first time the Bulgarian army used the so-called " fire shaft" (barrage). In this battle the main use was on towed artillery.

Yes now reading this historical part from the battle, maybe you are starting to ask a question why I'm retelling that. The main reason is why I want to show how significant is towed artillery in the past. But something significant in the past maybe it will be significant in the future.

I'm going to make a comparison between towed artillery and self-propelled artillery using this main points: speed and places where can be used, protection, accuracy.

Towed artillery can be transported everywhere by helicopter, because it is lighter than self-propelled artillery. It is more easy to shoot with towed artillery in wood because the size on it is no so big. But using helicopter on the battle field is very expensive and no each army has enough helicopters and resurses to use them in such as operation. The small size and weight are the only priorities on towed artillery versus self-propelled artillery.

FM 1 says: "*speed is the ability of land forces to act rapidly. Rapid maneuver dislocates the enemy force and exposes its elements before they are prepared or positioned. Rapid action preempts threats to security. It reduces suffering and loss of life among noncombatants or victims of disaster by restoring order and essential services. At the strategic level, speed gives Army forces their expeditionary quality. Speed allows Army forces to keep the initiative. It contributes to their ability to achieve shock and surprise.*"

Self-propelled artillery is faster than towed artillery. It has better mobility. This is very important advance. Shooting and moving fast means more longer life on the battle field. If your maneuver is slow you will be a good target for the enemy artillery.

The crew is better protected in the self-propelled artillery. In the U.S howitzer Palladin M109A6 soldiers inside the howitzer are protected against nuclear, biological and chemical warfare.

For the other comparative point accuracy. "*The cannon battalion is a principal means of fire support to the maneuver commander. The agility, flexibility, and employability of cannon batteries enhance the cannon battalion's ability to deliver responsive and accurate fires throughout the depth of threat formations.*"

There is no so big difference between towed artillery and self-propelled artillery. Maybe the only distinction is that in the self-propelled artillery are using automotive systems for shooting which give them better speed.

All this points on which I paid attention gave us the answer of our question and it is that towed artillery will be no longer fund and there isn't relevance on it in future operations. But we don't have to forgot the past and old battles because sometimes good learn past is better future.

References

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