# WAR REPORTING HANDBOOK FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

2024

Government of the United States

CSD

სტრატეგიული კომუნიკაციების ცენტრი - საქართველო
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS CENTER - GEORGIA

StratCom Academy

# WAR REPORTING HANDBOOK FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

2024

This handbook was prepared by the Strategic Communications Center - Georgia and Stratcom Academy, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense of Georgia within the framework of the project „Strategic Communications for a Better Future," funded by the U.S. Department of State.

The project in Georgia is carried out by the U.S. Embassy's Public Diplomacy Section in cooperation with the Center for Strategy and Development.



## AUTHORS:

EREKLE SHUBITIDZE

GIORGI MOLODINI

TAMAR AVALIANI

ALEKSI AKHALAIA

ARCHIL MARSHANIA

MARK LAITY

GRIGOLI INASHVILI

ISBN 978 - 9941-8-7021-7

# CONTENTS

# INTRODUCTION

Reporting war is the peak of most journalistic careers. For all the dangers – in part perhaps because of them – many are called to head towards the sound of the guns, to make their name and try their skills in that most challenging of environments. I know, I have done it.

But to succeed and survive, requires knowledge and understanding, and that is what this handbook can help with. For where you are going is just dangerous, but it is also complex and confusing, requiring quick judgment and decision-making. Learning on the job under fire is not an option.

Let me also add one lesson for you – never forget, no one can file a story if they are dead. Obvious? Maybe, but I have lost friends and colleagues, some more experienced than I, who forgot that and pushed too hard at the wrong time and place and paid the price.

So, remember, never forget your responsibility for your own safety. Also never forget your responsibility to your profession and those you report on – information in the wrong hands can be fatal. This booklet contains essential information to help you both do your job well and safely. What you do is essential to our societies and the values we all hold dear. Good luck.

**Mark Laity, former BBC Defence Correspondent, Chief Editor of the Handbook**

# CHAPTER 1: HOW TO MAINTAIN RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF THE ADVERSARY DISINFORMATION STORM

BY EREKLE SHUBITIDZE

## THE ROLE OF INFORMATION IN MODERN CONFLICTS

We live in the information age. The internet and social media have made receiving, processing, and exchanging information an integral part of everyday life. At the same time, effective democracies still rely on the human decision-making process. Therefore, valid or invalid information has a critical influence on the well-being of not only individual humans but societies and countries in general.

In the twentieth century, the advancement of electronic communications allowed limited numbers of journalists, opinion makers, and politicians to communicate with millions of people directly. These few privileged professionals were employed by well-funded organizations, allowing them access to substantially large audiences, and giving them significant influence in the media field.

Social media has democratized information by providing platforms that allow individual humans to access significantly larger audiences with significantly less vetting. Traditional media no longer have a dominant place in the information space, and today, every individual with a smartphone and internet connection can cover any event, crisis, or war. The information space is now free for all. This, along with the anonymity provided by the internet and social media, creates fertile soil for malicious actors to influence the opinions and behavior of the masses, operating under plausible deniability.

Anonymity allows various actors to weaponize information and influence both domestic and international audiences before, during, or after conflict. While conflict in the physical realm has a beginning and end, conflict in the information realm is constantly ongoing. The goal of information influence activities, such as disinformation campaigns, can vary, however, very often those methods are used to try to undermine opponents' domestic and international alliances and weaken the political and military will of the target groups. With this, the adversary is attempting to weaken countries and international alliances and win the conflict even before starting it. If left unattended and unstudied, journalists, experts, and politicians may become unwitting accomplices in this process, helping the adversary to get closer to their goal.

For actors such as Russia, due to the widespread distrust of that country, it is difficult to openly establish a meaningful presence in the Western or Georgian information environment. Furthermore, Russia doesn't control any of the popular non-Russian social media or news outlets that would allow them to have uninterrupted access to Western and Georgian audiences. Therefore, Russia often relies on anonymous and dubious channels in the hope of deceiving already established journalists, opinion makers, and people who generally have access to large audiences, into voicing their narratives and amplifying messages beneficial to Russian communication objectives.

**As a journalist who works on covering crisis and war, you should always remember that you are a target.**

In the field, journalists can be targeted in several ways. Always remember that journalists are prime targets because they benefit from increased trust from their audience, especially if they are working on covering emotional and tense events such as crisis or war. The information trusted journalists give the audience is more likely to be perceived as true. Therefore, adversaries will actively try to make you say something that will support their communication objectives. This can include providing anonymous tips, juicy exclusives, rumors, and half-truths. An adversary will look for the most suitable circumstances to provide you with the desired information. Those circumstances are often when something significant or emotional happens and official information about the event is overdue. In such cases, an adversary might try to provide desired information to journalists through anonymous tips, falsified documents, or unreliable eyewitness accounts. Consequently, journalists need to be aware of their value to the adversary and critically evaluate the information that they are provided with.

The second way journalists might get targeted by the adversary is more physical. As journalists are usually involved in interviewing important people, adversary intelligence might be looking out for the signs of journalistic gatherings to identify valuable targets. If adversary intelligence sees a large group of journalists working in the field together, they will have no way to check the purpose of the activity but will see it as indication of a potential worthwhile target. Therefore, always be mindful of your position in the field and avoid large gatherings.

The third way journalists might get targeted by the adversary is relevant both to conventional and non-conventional conflicts. Some state and non-state actors are keen on using terror to sow panic. Therefore, various actors might target journalists and civilians with the intention of harming them and use this to inspire fear. Therefore, working as a war reporter or a freelancer in conflict should be well evaluated and considered, as it comes with certain dangers and responsibilities. This can, all too often, be a dangerous profession.

## GOALS OF THE ADVERSARY INFORMATION INFLUENCE ACTIVITIES

Information influence activities become most active during crisis and direct armed confrontations. In such cases, adversary informational-psychological operations units start actively disseminating information tailored to their desired audiences to achieve specific goals. During a direct military confrontation, the relevant units can be assigned the following tasks:

- Sowing fear, hopelessness, and uncertainty in the population.
- Deepen distrust between the government and the local population.
- Inciting mistrust between the population and the armed forces of their country.
- Break the will and desire of the population to fight.
- Discredit the armed forces of the target country domestically and internationally.

Achieving those tasks is desirable for the adversary so that they can dominate the information environment of the target countries and achieve their political and military objectives. Actors, and certainly Russia, have very large financial and human resources dedicated to information activities. There are dozens of bot farms operating both under governmental structures and under private entities, working, sometimes in cooperation and sometimes independently, towards the goal outlined by the military-political leadership. This results in Russian information activities having four distinctive features[1].

- High-volume and multichannel;
- Rapid, continuous, and repetitive;
- Lacks commitment to objective reality;
- Lacks commitment to consistency.

In short, during a crisis or conflict, actors such as Russia produce a massive volume of information that can be disseminated through a multitude of channels that share both contradictory and repetitive information, creating a disinformation storm.

[1] For more information about the nature of Russian disinformation (Eng.): Christopher Paul and Miriam Matthews, The Russian "Firehose of Falsehood" *Propaganda Model: Why It Might Work and Options to Counter It* (Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2016), https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PE198.html.

## HOW TO PROTECT ONESELF FROM INFLUENCE

The most important part of becoming resilient against information-influence activities is being aware of the methods and intentions of the adversary. Disinformation has become an inseparable part of everyday life. This is not a temporary challenge. **Disinformation is here to stay**. Therefore, people, especially journalists working on covering crisis or war, should be aware of the problem and should try to stay up-to-date with the developments in the field [2].

[2] Additional resource about the methods of information activities (Geo): Erekle Shubitidze; (2021) Transformation of information war methods in modern communication in the context of capacity building

# CHAPTER 2: «ACCURACY ALWAYS COMES FIRST. IT'S BETTER TO BE LATE THAN WRONG»

BY GIORGI MOLODINI

*Reuters News Agency*

During the coverage of armed conflicts and other types of crisis, the audience receives and disseminates information with special attention, emotionality, and interest. This process is prone to subjective interpretations and perceptions of the messages covered by the media. All this has its rationale and is closely related to the concept called "crisis psychology".

In emotionally tense situations, even a slight mistake might increase the probability of creating the worst scenarios of the crisis. Hence, the most significant challenge for modern journalism is that today's fast-paced information environment creates a dilemma for the media: speed vs credibility.

When we talk about the acceleration of the information environment, it is important to understand that each day more information is published than any one human being can process in their lifetime[3]. For example:

- Number of daily Google searches: 8.5 billion[4];
- Number of active social media users: 4.62 billion[5];

Furthermore, social media has opened the way for "citizen journalism". Now any citizen armed with a smartphone equally could have an exclusive story and the means to disseminate this story promptly on any media outlet. The struggle for "to be first" creates a serious challenge for accuracy to Western standards, when speed and accuracy are an inseparable function of modern journalism as modern technology creates ever shorter deadlines.

What advice does the best journalism give us to deliver information as quickly and accurately as possible, even from the hottest spots?

---

3 Statistics can be found here: How Many People Use Social Media in 2024?" *Oberlo*, June 2024, https://www.oberlo.com/statistics/how-many-people-use-social-media; Josh Howarth, "Alarming Average Screen Time Statistics (2024)," Exploding Topics, June 24, 2024, https://explodingtopics.com/blog/screen-time-stats.

4 Rohit Shewale, "Google Search Statistics 2024 (No. Of Searches Per Day)," *DemandSage*, January 18, 2024, https://www.demandsage.com/google-search-statistics/.

5 "How Many People Use Social Media in 2024?" *Oberlo*, June 2024, https://www.oberlo.com/statistics/how-many-people-use-social-media.

- Asking oneself the question – “fast dissemination of information or accuracy?” is invalid. This is never the case. Your credibility as a journalist and the accuracy of your information are always more important[6] ;
- Be skeptical of any information that reaches you, and check your sources. It is not excluded that the interested party(ies) will deliberately try to provide you with disinformation (to discredit you and/or another target);
- Try to ensure maximum transparency of your sources. The adversary, whose task may be to intentionally distort your information, is also actively listening to you. Transparency of the source(s) will be an effective way to prevent the adversary from discrediting you as a reliable journalist;
- When covering crisis, it is preferable not to rely on only one source of information. Try to have at least two sources, find eyewitnesses, and cross-check sources for information verification. Also, try to verify the information you have with the responsible persons from the relevant state agency.
- Try to stay in communication with your editors and agree in advance on a protocol for verifying or disseminating information from the scene of the crisis.
- Use modern technologies to verify/confirm information. For example, technical means for specifying geolocation and others;
- When covering a crisis, you can try, in the right circumstances, to verify the information with your colleagues. Explain the needs and challenges you face, and don't be afraid to compete. This decision can be agreed upon in advance with editors or producers, taking into account the fact that colleagues are also competitors;
- In the modern information age, no one is immune from mistakes. Therefore, it is advisable to explain the mistake made immediately and as clearly as possible to the audience to maintain the trust of the listeners, readers, or viewers.

As for working with anonymous sources, the approach of "Reuters" to anonymous sources is very relevant. The standards developed by the broadcaster state that the organization prefers journalism based on open sources, but they also state an exception rule for the use of anonymous sources.

6 More information can be found here: Reiko Saisho, "Speed vs Accuracy in Time of Crisis," *Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism*, University of Oxford, accessed July 17, 2024, https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/our-research/speed-vs-accuracy-time-crisis

The rule states that "Reuters" will use information provided by an anonymous source that is of high public interest if there are no records of said information anywhere else. However, the guideline adds, "Only we are responsible for the accuracy of this type of information and its dissemination." [7]

If a journalist is planning to publish information based on an anonymous source, the journalist is obliged to take all measures to protect the anonymity of the source. However, the journalist is responsible for the accuracy of the information and must provide the audience with as much information as possible about the source in a form and method that will neither reveal the identity of the source nor cause the audience to mistrust the source.

Also noteworthy is the entry in the "Reuters" broadcasting guide, which refers to the respondent's quotes and is directly related to the accuracy during broadcasting. Quotes are sacred. They should not be changed except in cases where removing a word and/or phrase from a quote does not change the overall content of the same quote. The selective use of quotations can lead to unbalanced journalism. A journalist's job is not to beautify the respondents and show their elegance through "cleaned up quotes", but neither is it their job to humiliate them by publishing incorrectly, unbeautifully said quotes. Sometimes such problems can be solved by paraphrasing. All this indeed requires time, but we must remember that «Accuracy always comes first. It's better to be late than wrong».

The media directly participates in the scenarios of crisis development in one form or another, because information determines the audience's behavior and response to crisis. It is advisable to remember the anatomy of "crisis psychology" to clearly see the importance of accurate media coverage during an emergency:

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are four forms (ways) [8] of receiving/processing information during a crisis.

01. Under intense stress and possible information overload, people tend to miss the nuances of health and safety messages. **Therefore, use simple messages.**

02. People often find the calls to take specific actions during a crisis to be illogical and incompatible with their pre-existing beliefs/intuitive feelings. **Therefore, use a credible source to deliver the message.**

7 Reuters News Agency. "Reuters Standards and Values." Accessed July 17, 2024. https://www.reutersagency.com/en/about/standards-values/.

8 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "CERC: Psychology of a Crisis." Last modified 2019. https://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/ppt/CERC_Psychology_of_a_Crisis.pdf.

03. During a crisis/extreme situation, the call/information made for specific actions is often not enough, and people continue to look for more information and convincing evidence. **Therefore, use consistent messages.**

04. The speed of response/feedback during a crisis is often critical, as the information vacuum creates opportunities for adversaries to fill the gaps in the information space with rumors and half-truths, which will then conflict with the real, truthful, credible, but already delayed response to the crisis. Therefore, getting first-hand and reliable information is especially important for an audience in crisis. **Therefore, release accurate information as soon as possible.**

Although the information above is intended for government agencies to effectively communicate with the public during crises, the important role of the media in all four forms of receiving/processing information by the audience during the crisis is evident nonetheless. If the information you disseminate is not easy to understand, consistent, reliable, and verifiable, then you, in addition to risking your professional reputation, might become complicit in the development of worst-case scenarios for people in crisis.

# CHAPTER 3: PROTECTION STANDARDS AND MECHANISMS FOR JOURNALISTS

BY TAMAR AVALIANI

## INTRODUCTION

Journalists enjoy considerable rights, but these rights are not primarily derived from the special status of journalists but from their status as civilians. They are protected by various resolutions guaranteeing the free exercise of their journalistic activities.

The International Declaration on Protection of Journalists summarizes international principles relating to the protection of journalists covering events in dangerous environments and victims of human rights violations. The Declaration emphasizes the obligations of the state authorities involved in this field.

UN resolutions are also important tools for the protection of journalists' rights. The UN Security Council Resolution #2222 condemns violence against journalists and violations of their rights. It defines the obligation of states to respect and protect journalists as civilians when covering armed conflict. The UN Human Rights Council Resolution on the Protection of Journalists Safety (2012) prohibits attacks on journalists and establishes guarantees for the safety of journalists by the state. International instruments protect journalists both against the effects of hostilities and against arbitrary measures taken by a party to an armed conflict when they fall into a party's hands, either being captured or arrested.[9]

Along with certain rights, journalists covering crisis and conflicts also have certain obligations. Journalists are obliged to have a good understanding of their impact on the events they are covering, the lives of people involved in the events, and the safety and security of the journalist's audience. In short, journalists are obliged to be self-aware of the fact that what they say and do has implications.

### International humanitarian law and protection of journalists

International humanitarian law contains important rules providing for a special status for journalists in situations of international armed conflict. When covering hostilities, journalists are under the protection of the international humanitarian law.

### Two statuses of journalists according to international humanitarian law

International humanitarian law defines two statuses of journalists when covering international armed conflicts: "War Correspondents" and other journalists.

[9] law-enforcement bodies, security forces, judicial authorities

## I. "WAR CORRESPONDENTS" AND GUARANTEES OF THEIR LEGAL PROTECTION

### Who are "war correspondents"?

"War Correspondents" cover the armed conflict directly from the conflict zone, are accredited to the armed forces of the states participating in the war, and have the right to travel with the armed forces.[10] "War Correspondents" who are captured while covering international armed conflicts, have the status of Prisoner of War (POW)[11] and are subject to detainment until the hostilities are over. In effect, although not combatants, they have the rights, privileges, and status of captured combatants.

It should be noted that the formal status of War Correspondent is increasingly rare in practice, and the obligations it places on journalists mean it is not something that should be lightly offered or accepted.

### Benefits of Being a War Correspondent

One of the advantages of being a War Correspondent is the enhanced opportunities to go to the combat zone, engage with people on active duty, and document the war from the frontlines. Also, they are usually early on the scene with privileged access.[11] They are likely to also have more insight into the activities or forces they are attached, although this might be balanced by more restrictions on their reporting.

### Rights of Captured War Correspondents

As stated above, captured War Correspondents are treated as POWs and therefore have significant rights[12]. The relevant conventions give an exhaustive list, but they include:

- To be protected from torture, inhumane, and degrading treatment;
- It is forbidden to use the act of reprisals against prisoners of war;
- To treat all POWs equally, regardless of race, nationality, religion, political views, or other characteristics;

[10] "Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War," Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, accessed July 17, 2024, https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/geneva-convention-relative-treatment-prisoners-war.

[11] Journalists with the status of POW are protected by the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.

[12] The Third Geneva Convention defines the rights of prisoners of war and guarantees their protection (article 13, article 14).

- To be provided with adequate food, housing, clothing, hygiene, and medical assistance.

**Obligations of War Correspondents**

Journalists are obliged to first and foremost ensure the safety and security of themselves and the people around them. Usually, War Correspondents are working on the frontlines with friendly forces. Journalists should be aware that their actions have consequences not only for themselves and their crew but also for the friendly forces they are working with. Therefore, journalists are obliged to educate themselves on relevant safety and security issues such as First Aid, cyber, and information security. Journalists working as “war correspondents” should make sure they know their rights and are ready to accept their obligations.

**"Prisoner of War" behavior during interrogation**

Captured accredited correspondents are considered Prisoners of War. A POW is obliged to provide the captor state during interrogation only their name, surname, rank, and date of birth. During interrogation captured journalist might be asked to provide additional, sensitive information. In such cases, journalists have the right to refuse to give military information, such as information on the forces they have been reporting on.

**Internment of prisoners of war and prisoners' rights**

Except for disciplinary and criminal cases, it is not allowed to place prisoners of war in cells or closed buildings. They should be placed in a special camp and must be repatriated to their homeland when hostilities end.

**Protection of prisoners of war from "public curiosity"**

To protect the safety of prisoners of war, it is not allowed to disclose their images and personal data to the public.

## II. RIGHTS OF JOURNALISTS WITH THE STATUS OF "CIVIL PERSONS" AND GUARANTEES OF THEIR PROTECTION

**Who are considered journalists with the status of "civilian persons"?**

Journalists who are not accredited to the armed forces and are working in conflict zones have the status of "civilian persons".[13] This is overwhelmingly the status of most journalists operating in a combat zone.

[13] The rights of a journalist with the status of a "civilian person" and security guarantees are provided for by the Additional Protocol of 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, "On the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts".

**Rights of journalists with the status of "civilian persons".**

Journalists with the status of "civilian person" should not become targets of attack. An act of violence or threat of violence, the main purpose of which is to instill fear in "civilians", is prohibited. "Civilians" enjoy protection corresponding to their status, if they are not involved in hostilities. **In other words, journalists and the equipment they use have no special status. They benefit from the general protection enjoyed by civilian persons and objects.**

**Benefits of journalists with the status of "civilian persons."**

Journalists with "civilian status" and their equipment should have a high level of immunity and protection. The former as civilians, and the latter because of the general protection that international humanitarian law grants to civilian objects. Media buildings are considered civilian objects that benefit from the protection of the Additional Protocol of 1977 (Article 48).

**The right to receive a special certificate.**

Journalists with the status of "civilian persons" who are working in armed conflict zones have the right to receive a special certificate. The certificate is issued by the state of citizenship of the journalist, or in whose territory the journalist lives permanently, or in whose territory his employing news agency is located, and confirms the status of the representative as a journalist.[14]

**Responsibilities of journalists**[15]

- Adherence to professional and ethical standards to provide the public with timely, accurate, and comprehensive information.
- Journalists should exercise vigilance in covering conflict situations where objective and quality journalism and reporting are key tools in countering propaganda and disinformation.
- Journalists should exercise vigilance in covering conflict situations.

[14] Article 79 of the Additional Protocol envisages special measures for the protection of journalists and guarantees all the rights that a person with a civil status has under international humanitarian law.

[15] Journalism in situations of conflict and aggression, principles, and other international standards: Council of Europe, "Compilation of COE Standards Relating to Journalism in Situations of Conflict and Tension," accessed July 17, 2024, https://rm.coe.int/compilation-of-coe-standards-relating-to-journalism-in-situations-of-c/1680a5b775.

**International Mechanism for protecting Journalist's rights:**

International mechanisms receive and consider individual complaints or communications from Journalists. Additionally, Journalists can seek legal help from human rights groups and organizations. Journalists can apply to several bodies for protecting and restoring their rights. See below[16]

**Conclusion**

International law quite clearly outlines the rights of the journalists working under various statuses on covering the war. It is up to the individual journalists to analyze the benefits and dangers of each according to the work they desire to do. However, all journalists should be aware that, despite the existence of the various rights of journalists, these rights cannot be assumed to be accepted and followed by the adversary. Therefore, the obligation to operate safely and responsibly remains with the individual journalist.

[16] The UN Human Rights Council; The UN Human Rights Committee; The UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women; The UN Committee against Torture; The UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances; The European Court of Human Rights.

# CHAPTER 4: ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR COVERING SENSITIVE INFORMATION IN ARMED CONFLICTS

BY TAMAR AVALIANI

## INTRODUCTION

Journalists working on covering such emotionally charged events as conflict or war usually have to deal with unprecedented ethical pressure. Journalists working in such conditions will often face the challenges of balancing governmental interests, public interests, and journalistic responsibilities. It is a challenging and high-stakes job that requires vigilance and a strong sense of responsibility. Always remember that, first and foremost, a duty of a journalist is to report fairly and accurately.

Conflict sensitivity is the ability to understand one's impact on the conflict and the people involved in it. Conflict Sensitive journalism, in turn, means that the journalist is self-aware of their professional impact on the conflict and the people involved in it. Conflict-sensitive journalists report in depth, focus on fair and accurate reporting, and take thoughtful actions to avoid feeding the flames of conflict.[17]

### The importance of the "do no harm" principle in reporting armed conflicts

The principle of "do no harm" is of particular sensitive importance in media coverage of armed conflicts. The principle of "do no harm" has specific expressions in the media, which acquires even greater importance in the coverage of war:

- **When covering the war, the media should refrain from disseminating unconfirmed information.** A journalist should not endanger people's vital interests, health, and lives while reporting on hostilities.
- **The media should be aware and sensitive about the issues of vulnerable groups** (displaced persons, minorities, soldiers, and their families) during hostilities.
- **The media should not stigmatize those social groups and individuals who are negatively affected by the war.**
- **The media must not be propagandists** but recognize that their prime duty as journalists is to report as fairly and accurately as possible to inform their publics and audiences.

[17] International Media Support, Conflict-Sensitive Journalism Handbook, 2004, accessed July 17, 2024, https://www.mediasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/ims-csj-handbook-2004.pdf.

## REPORTING INFORMATION ABOUT PEOPLE KILLED, WOUNDED, TAKEN HOSTAGE, AND DETAINED

While reporting on sensitive news, it is important to understand that the information journalists are disseminating to the public for information purposes might drastically affect individuals involved in the conflict and their loved ones. For example, simply reporting that a soldier involved in a peacekeeping mission has died, without their name or the information if the family has been notified already or not, can drastically affect families, whose loved ones are deployed in peacekeeping operations. This might contribute to alarm and distress in the involved families. Unfortunately, incidents like this have happened more than once. Therefore, below is the list of advice that could help journalists avoid similar situations.

- Avoid sharing information about people being killed, wounded, detained, or taken hostage if their families have not been notified yet. If families have been notified, please include this information to make sure that other families involved have a full understanding of the situation.
- The release of imagery of battlefield casualties requires exceptional sensitivity. Even if you have confirmed information that the families of the deceased have been informed, identifiable imagery would be highly distressing. In general, avoid identifiable images of casualties, and be prepared to delay release.
- While covering information on the incidents and casualties, please try to rely on the official information. If you have firsthand information from the battlefield about casualties, try to double-check with the official sources.
- While taking imagery of people involved in conflict, war, or incident, wherever possible, obtain the consent of the involved parties before showing their faces. This is an absolute requirement when interviewing military personnel involved in the conflict.
- Make sure that people you are interviewing or photographing during war or conflict have a full understanding of the purpose and use of the material.
- Make sure that journalist's visit to military installations, hospitals, or other relevant installations during war and conflict is well coordinated with the respective authorities, including appropriate clearances.

**Please avoid disclosing the following information:**

Below are guidelines and advice to make sure that the information disseminated by journalists doesn't affect friendly forces, journalists, or the lives of people who are involved in the war/conflict. So, avoid disseminating information about:

- The number of units of the troops that are subordinate to the military corps.
- Friendly troop movements.
- Future operations and plans.
- Photographs of military deployment sites and camps showing the level of security.
- Specific orders, rules of engagement, or tactics adopted by friendly forces.

**And refrain from:**

- Broadcasting live from airfields, on land, or in water in a way that could reveal sensitive locations or ongoing operations, e.g. backdrops that show layouts or aircraft departing on operations.
- Disseminating photographs, videos, or other identifiable characteristics of POWs or other persons detained by combatants.

These guidelines and recommendations are broad, and their precise application might vary on a case-by-case basis. Consequently, journalists working on covering conflict should always be aware of the possible consequences of their actions, which can be critical, and evaluate the context of both their information and materials. Keep in mind to double-check your sources and treat official information and guidance seriously, especially on operational security and casualty reporting.

**Conclusion**

Covering the armed conflict may be the most dangerous assignment for journalists. Reporters lacking conflict sensitivity and self-awareness may create risks for themselves and other people involved in the conflict. For this reason, it is critical that journalists approach coverage of armed conflicts with a mindset of "do no harm" and work fairly and accurately.

# CHAPTER 5: HOW TO "STAY ONLINE" ALL THE TIME

BY ALEKSI AKHALAIA

This chapter is devoted to the proper use of communication tools that a journalist may need in a war zone. These include mobile phones, satellite phones, and portable radios (walkie-talkies). All of them have specific uses, advantages, and disadvantages, so it can be useful to have access to a variety.

Firstly, though, a warning. Modern warfare is conducted not only with "traditional" weapons, but also with electronic weapons, such as radio jammers, signal interference, and many others.

Jamming systems are usually mostly indiscriminate, not specifically targeting but simply blanketing a fairly large coverage area. For example, a jammer can completely cover an area with a diameter of 50 kilometers. It would not permanently damage your smartphone, but it is guaranteed to leave you without a connection, even if you are not on the front lines.

Unlike jamming systems, Direction Finders (DF - systems that find the physical location of a radio signal source) are quite accurate. Even at a distance of 30-40 kilometers, coordinates can be determined with an accuracy of 1-2 meters. That, of course, includes your phone, and take into account that these systems do not distinguish between civil and military targets. During operations in a combat zone, such a signal from the other side's territory will usually be assumed to be hostile. Therefore, once the DF operator fixes the physical coordinates of the source of the signal, it is unlikely it will be analyzed further - it will simply be fired on, and the source of the signal will be destroyed. Therefore, in the area of combat operations, electronic communications should be used with great care.

Depending on the means of communication, fixing its coordinates is possible from the following distances, the ranges varying according to the terrain the system used.

- Ultra short wave radio stations (so-called handheld radios), mobile phones - 2-5 kilometers.
- Shortwave radio stations - 5-30 kilometers.
- Satellite phone, Internet terminals - 30-50 kilometers.

To better understand the issue, let's make a brief overview of the common means of communication - the positive and negative qualities, limitations, and specifics of use of each of them.

**Mobile phone** - the most common means of communication; using it you can not only establish a connection but also transmit audiovisual information (videos and texts). The negative features include, first of all, low resistance to external factors, such as signal suppression and listening devices. Also, mobile phones do not work without base stations ("masts"), and in any military conflict, opposing sides try to damage such communication infrastructure first.


**A satellite phone**[18], unlike a mobile phone, does not require base stations for its operation, and it is relatively difficult to jam and listen to. But it has other negative features - a high price, both for the device, as well as subscription and usage fees. Also, most satellite phones are physically quite large and, in many cases, require time to set up and connect.

Satellite Internet is an excellent means of communication, using which it is possible to get Internet access (and therefore, to establish an audio or visual connection) practically anywhere in the world (coverage of a specific region, speed, and prices depend on the operator). In Georgia, depending on price and speed, "Starlink" is optimal.

[18] A satellite phone Image Source

## A WARNING

**Satellite internet**[19] terminals are highly visible by electronic means and a priority target for belligerent missile or artillery strikes. No one can nor will tell if you are a journalist or a military drone operator when using a terminal. ***Modern technical means reliably allow the detection and destruction of a satellite Internet terminal at a distance of up to 30-40km. So, the use of this type of communication closer than this to the front line is very risky. For safety reasons, its utility for journalists is therefore limited.***

**Ultra short-wave radios, so -called "Walkie-talkies",**[20] work well at a short distance (several km), do not require a base station, and are small and cheap. The downsides include short range, the need for a direct line of sight between the users (therefore, it performs poorly in hilly areas and ravines), and the ease of listening and jamming. Walkie-talkies, of course, also cannot send imagery etc.

**A short-wave radio station**[21] differs from an ultra-short-wave one by having an increased radius of operation (depending on the model and antenna, 10-200 km) and improved resistance to interference and listening in. Cons include size and price.

[19] Satellite Internet Image Source

[20] Ultra short-wave radio Image Source

[21] A short-wave radio station Image Source

Noting the above, we offer a set of recommendations:

- If you can, bring multiple mobile phones with SIM cards from different operators, since operators may work differently in the same place. It may be useful if at least one of your mobile phones is a traditional, push-button type since their autonomy is higher than that of modern smartphones.

- Seems obvious, but turn off the phones you are not using to save battery, if you know you are going to be out of touch for a while. It will be optimal, if you remove the battery from the phone altogether. Also, it is useful to have at least one water-resistant phone, but ensure you have a waterproof case, which is readily available these days.

- Again, it may seem obvious, but experience tells us otherwise – have a number of "Power Banks" as modern data-hungry phones use lots of energy. Also, seize any chance to keep them charged.

- If you are having trouble with a signal, then move, especially towards higher ground, where terrain is less of an issue.

- Temperature can be an issue. At zero degrees, a battery can be one-tenth as effective, so in cold conditions, keep batteries and battery-powered devices out of the cold, for instance, in inner pockets. Conversely, heat does not affect performance, but they can become dangerous in extreme heat, so do not leave them too long in the open sun or a car in the open sun.

- If you drive a vehicle supplied by your employer, it would be good if this car had a short-wave radio. You will be able to connect with the car at a distance of 20-30 kilometers or more and relay messages if you are in an area with problematic cellphone signals.

- Due to the mountainous terrain of Georgia, the use of an ultra-shortwave radio station in the vicinity of a combat area is not recommended both from a practical point of view (it will most certainly be jammed) and from a safety point of view. Locating UHF radio stations is quite easy, and you could be targeted.

Therefore, if it is planned to go to or near the combat zone, please note the above, and do your checks, make sure your kit is working, and that you have backups and chargers. Also, think about safety. Do you need your phone on all the time? Can it wait? Never forget that when your phone is on, the other side can detect you. Also, in this era of always being connected, be mentally prepared to cope with being disconnected. In previous times, an earlier generation of journalists managed without 24/7 connections, and so can you, and at times it may even be safer.

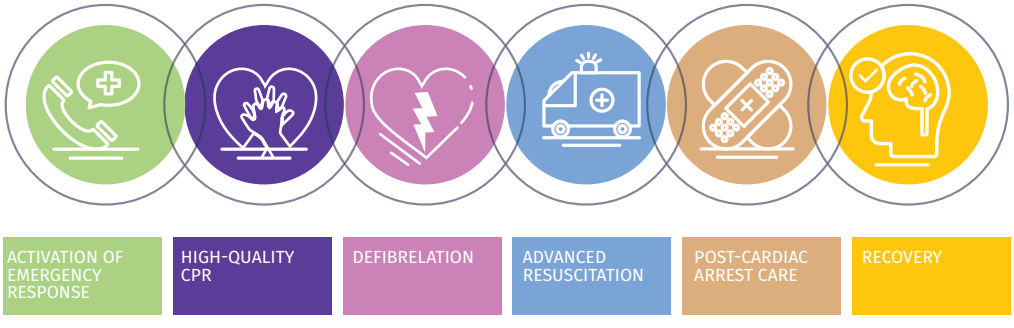
# CHAPTER 6: PERSONAL SAFETY AND FIRST AID

BY ARCHIL MARSHANIA

This topic provides a basic understanding of first aid measures and does not replace the need for safety and first aid training. Safety is more important than any job, therefore, before going into any risky area, safety training must be taken by journalists, such as first aid training (basic or advanced), Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT), Hostile Environment First Aid Training (HEFAT) or similar, and in case of need, steps must be taken according to the training guidelines.

All these training courses will help journalists encourage changes in their preparations (such as carrying first aid kits) and greater overall safety awareness.

## CHAIN OF SURVIVAL




The 6 steps in the out-of-hospital Chain of Survival are (1) recognition of medical emergencies, ensuring safety, and activation of the emergency response system, (2) cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) (3) defibrillation (if available) (4) advanced medical care (5) post-cardiac arrest care (6) recovery.

## DRCAB

DRCAB is the correct prioritization of steps in any situation, where there is someone injured and requires help:

01. **D** – DANGER – Safety is the highest priority. Make sure you are safe and the scene is safe. Before approaching the casualty, always make sure the area is safe and there is no imminent threat to you and the victim. Different areas can have different risks and safety precaution rules as well as plans. The most effective safety measure is to get first aid training before going in any area, and once in a location, task and area-specific risk assessment must be performed by local authorities;

02. **R** – RESPONSE – check if a person is awake and breathing normally. Shout for help and request AED if possible;

03. **C** – COMPRESSIONS – if a person is unconscious and not breathing, start CPR at a rate of 30:2 (30 compressions, 2 breaths);

04. **A** – AIRWAY - Once 30 chest compressions have been delivered, open the airway by performing a head tilt chin lift;

05. **B** – BREATHING - If trained, provide mouth-to-mouth ventilation: make a seal over the victim's mouth and pinch their nose, then deliver two rescue breaths. Each breath should take around a second.

## CPR – CARDIO-PULMONARY RESUSCITATION

CPR is a lifesaving emergency procedure to manually preserve brain function and maintain blood circulation until advanced help arrives. It must be performed as soon as possible for a person who is unconscious and not breathing. Its main purpose is to restore the partial flow of oxygenated blood to the brain and heart.

Although CPR consists of chest compression as well as mouth-to-mouth ventilation, hands-only CPR can be performed if the rescuer has no first aid training bedground. Push at least 5 cm and fast (100-120/min) in the center of the chest and allow complete chest recoil, minimize interruptions in compressions, and change the compressor every 2 minutes or sooner if fatigued.

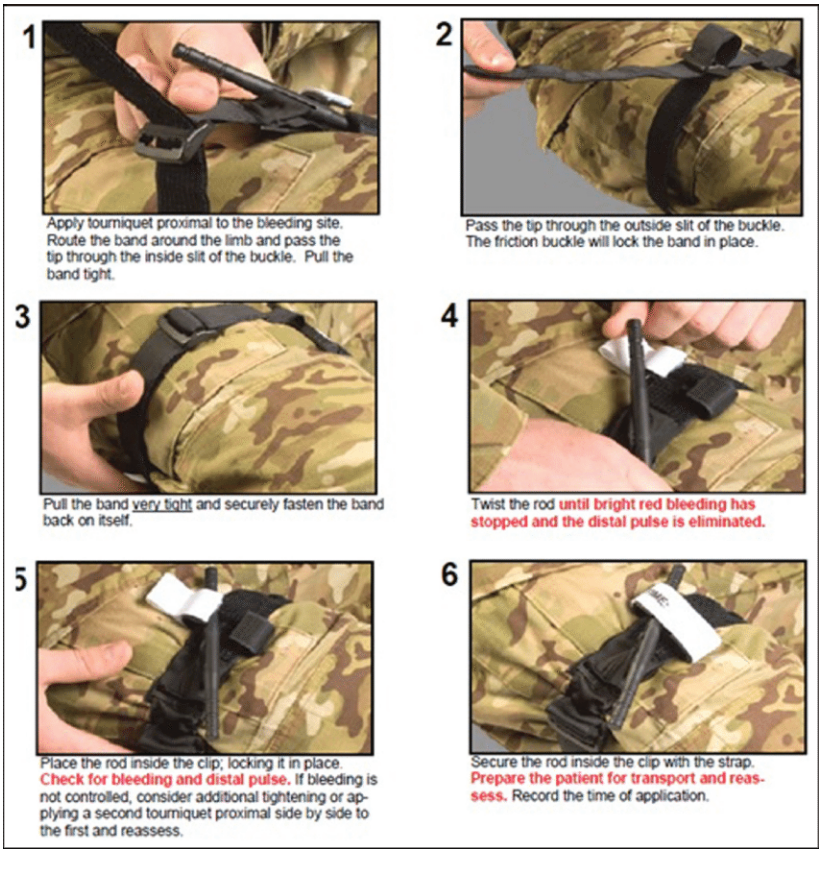
## BLEEDING

Bleeding is the loss of blood from the circulatory system. Severe bleeding is the highest priority during treatment. Causes can range from small cuts and abrasions to deep cuts and amputations.[22]

First aid for severe external or internal bleeding is critical to limit the loss of blood until emergency medical aid arrives. First aid actions to manage external bleeding include applying direct pressure to the wound, and maintaining the pressure using pads and bandages.

If you don't have a dressing, you can ask the casualty to do this themselves.

If the wound is covered by the casualty's clothing, remove or cut the clothes to uncover the wound.




[22] The Source for the visual aid

If there's an object in the wound, don't pull it out. It may be acting as a plug to reduce the bleeding. Instead, apply pressure on either side of the object to push the edges together and try to fix it with a bandage.

If bleeding cannot be controlled with direct pressure (arterial bleeding – pulsatile, or steady bleeding from the wound), use a Combat Application Tourniquet (CAT) and apply, making sure it's clearly above the bleeding site. If you are not sure about where the bleeding site is on the extremity, apply "high and tight" (as much as possible) and tighten until the bleeding is controlled.

Steps:

01. Insert the injured limb through the loop;
02. Pull the band tightly and fasten it back on itself;
03. Twist the rod (until the bleeding stops);
04. Snap the rod inside a clip and lock it;
05. Put the band over the rod, and record time of application.

## BURNS

Burns are damage to the skin caused by thermal, electrical, chemical, or electromagnetic energy. Open flame is the leading cause of burns.

Burns are generally classified as first-, second-, or third-degree, depending on the severity of the skin damage.

First-degree burns affect only the outer layer of the skin. The burn site is red, painful, dry, and has no blisters.

In second-degree (partial thickness) burns, the burn site appears red, blistered, and may be swollen and painful.

Third-degree (full-thickness) burns may also damage the underlying bones, muscles, and tendons. When bones, muscles, or tendons are also burned, this may be referred to as a fourth-degree burn. The burn site appears white or charred. There is no feeling in the area since the nerve endings are destroyed.

### First aid

The first step is ensuring safety and moving the injured person away from the heat source to stop the burning process;

Remove any clothing or jewelry that's near the burnt area of skin, to prevent secondary injury after swelling, but do not move anything that's stuck to the damaged skin;

Cool the burn with cool or lukewarm running water for 20 to 30 minutes – do not use ice, iced water, or any creams or greasy substances like butter, oil, etc.;

Make sure the person keeps warm by using a blanket, for example, but take care not to rub it against the burnt area;

After cooling the burn, cover the burn by placing a layer of cling film or a clean plastic bag over it (do not wrap the cling film around the burn as the area needs space to swell), and if available, use painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen to treat any pain;

If it's an acid or chemical burn, carefully try to remove the chemical and any contaminated clothing, and rinse the affected area using as much clean water as possible.

## WOUND CARE

For wound care in pre-hospital settings, the priority is to assess the wound and control bleeding.

Wound cleansing – it helps to reduce bacterial load and decreases wound infection rates. In addition, it also helps to remove external contaminants. If a first-aid bag is available, irrigation of the wound with normal saline should be carried out before dressing. If normal saline is not available, the use of tap water as a wound cleanser can also help to reduce bacterial colonization.

Always consider the mechanism of injury; for example, a wound to the chest or abdomen may be an indication of internal organ damage, and transportation should not be delayed.

## IMMOBILIZATION

A fracture is an indication that a person has received high energy impact and might have other, hidden injuries. A bone fracture can also cause internal bleeding.

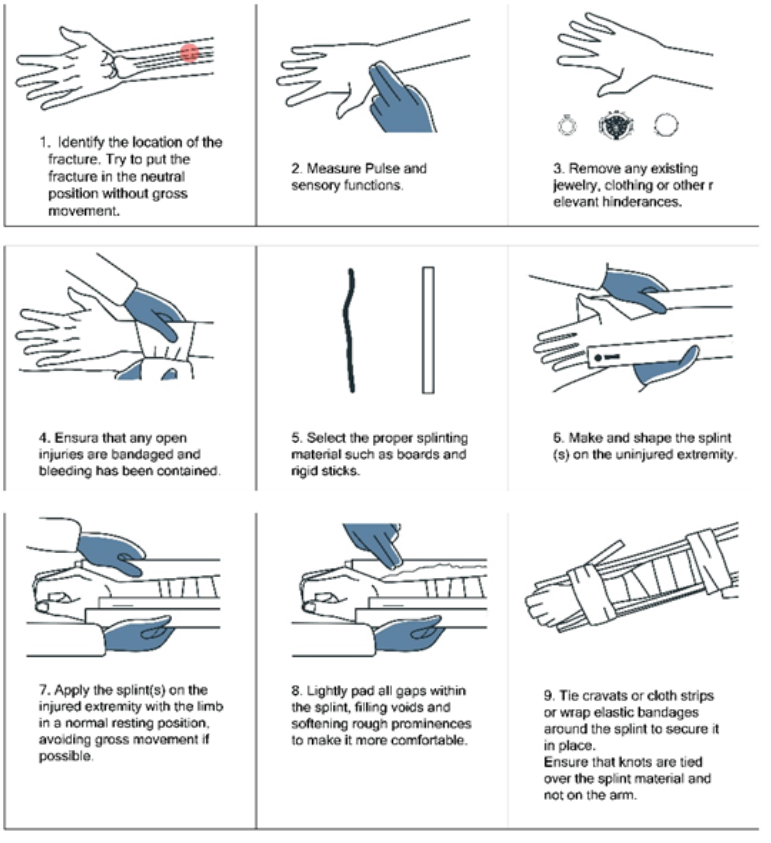
If a fracture or dislocation is suspected, a splint should be placed - this will stabilize the injury for patient transport, preventing further damage.

There are many types of splints and immobilization tools, such as arm slings, shoulder immobilizers, traction splints, SAM splints, air or vacuum splints, rigid splints, etc. Use whatever is available, and you are familiar with, or create an improvised splint.

The golden rule of immobilization: Immobilize the joint above and the joint below the fractured area, which is to be kept straight and without motion. For example, a forearm fracture will require immobilizing the wrist and elbow joints.

Technique:

- Take appropriate precautions for body fluid or infection exposure. Expose - remove clothing and debris from the site.
- Ask someone to manually stabilize/immobilize the affected limb to improve comfort during examination and splint application.




- Assess the lower part of a limb, injuries may result in damage to the surrounding tissues;

- Next, splint the extremity. If you encounter resistance to limb alignment, splint the limb immediately and avoid further manipulation.

**First aid kit:**

Although a well-stocked first aid kit is a handy thing to have and can be game-changing during critical situations, there is no "one fits all" rule for assembling the kit, as in ideal situations the list of equipment and/or medications is made according to several criteria: (1) who is using it; (2) with what degree of knowledge; (3) how many people will use the kit, and (4) in which situation/location it is used.

To be prepared for emergencies the best plan is to get training and consultation from the training facility to create a suitable list.

The baseline should include: a list of emergency contact numbers and plan; sticky tape; gauze pads and bandages; antiseptic wipes; CAT tourniquet; permanent marker; triangular bandages; CPR mask; scissors; eye shield; splint; burn dressing; examination gloves; safety pins; painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen.

**Reliable resources on medical care:**

https://www.mayoclinic.org

https://www.heart.org

https://www.nhs.uk

https://www.firstaidcenter.ge

# CHAPTER 7: EMBEDDING AND ACCREDITATION

BY MARK LAITY

Conflict reporting is complex, challenging, and sometimes dangerous, and at its heart, there is always one critical component – engaging with the combatants. They provide much of the vital information needed to inform reporting, and by their actions, they can provide security or increase the risks for journalists. The capabilities they hold - communication, transport, and control of the combat zone - can either aid or frustrate reporting. At the same time, the military's need for security often means they require secrecy, while the journalist wants transparency. At other times, they want to manage the information to gain an advantage.

All this means journalists must put the highest priority on managing relationships with the military, balancing their needs with the media's need to provide fair, objective, and informative reporting.

A core component of this relationship is what's often loosely called EMBEDDING. Mutually agreeing on what each party understands by this, especially agreements on how information gathered can be used.

In this sense, an embed can take various forms, all of which have their own requirements, but they basically fall into two categories: a War Correspondent, or temporary embed, where a journalist stays with or works inside a military unit.

## WAR CORRESPONDENT

The term is often used loosely, as a journalist reporting on war, and journalists sometimes call themselves War Correspondents in this broad sense of the word. However, importantly, it also has a very specific meaning under the Geneva Convention. This is covered in more detail in Chapter 3 of this handbook.

However, in summary, a reporter who becomes an accredited War Correspondent will wear a uniform and have the status of a military officer. They are still not actual combatants, but if captured, they will be regarded as Prisoners of War. Such a status gives the journalists exceptional access as well as the protection and support of the military, but at the same time, their material will be subject to review and censorship, and most likely, such review and potential alterations will be more intensive. If taken as a PoW, then detention could last as long as hostilities.

In these circumstances, becoming an accredited War Correspondent is a serious decision to make and one that should only be taken with full discussion between the appropriate military authorities, the employer, and the journalist. It will in practice only be a sensible option in the event of major hostilities where more conventional reporting becomes too dangerous or normal journalistic access becomes impossible.

In recent times, this kind of journalistic engagement with the military has, within Western nations, very much become the exception rather than the rule. This also reflects the changing nature of war, with combat more often taking place in the so-called 'grey zone'.

## COMMON FORMS OF EMBEDDING

As with 'War Correspondent', the term 'embed' is used rather loosely and can be applied to a variety of engagements with the military, from a one-day facility to much longer periods, sometimes involving active military support such as transport and accommodation. In these circumstances, what is expected of the journalist can vary. However, with almost all engagements with the military, a starting point will be accreditation. See below for further details on this.

In terms of embeds, the golden rule is clarity on both sides as to expectations and obligations. A short facility can be a little different from one in civilian life, but one where you spend overnight or longer with a military unit needs a different approach.

The journalist should expect accommodation, food, travel, and support in case of injury or other emergency. These need to be clearly agreed upon before the embed starts. There also needs to be agreement on the review of the material gathered and any censorship of output. The rules can only take you so far, and a good relationship will mean sensible negotiation on output can produce better results.

Unlike an official 'War Correspondent', the status of an embedded journalist is essentially no different from that of a civilian. Chapter 3 gives more details on the exact status, but if captured or detained by a different, adversary military, it is wise to emphasize your civilian rather than journalistic status. When on embed, you are not part of any unit but are reporting on them.

## ACCREDITATION

Dealing with the military in conflict requires mutual trust, and a core element for achieving this is formalizing mutual expectations with accreditation. Different militaries have their own accreditation systems, but mostly, they have similar requirements before a specific press card is issued, usually for a limited period.

So, before going into a conflict zone, you must contact the relevant ministry (usually Defence, but it can be Interior) and find out what they need. They will certainly require documentary proof of personal identity, contact details, and journalistic credentials, including from media employers.

Along with the press card, there may be expectations of what journalists are expected to provide for themselves. This could include a first aid kit, protective equipment, journalist markings on vehicles, and clothing.

Beyond that, there will be further rules about the gathering and use of material. These can and will vary depending on the particular nation. These can include advance information on travel plans within the conflict zone, and showing material gathered from military facilities. Journalists who used to operate independently and without restrictions can find them unnecessarily intrusive. It cannot be emphasized enough that no rules can cover eventuality, and a sensible balance of security and press freedom also depends on building good relationships and mutual understanding.

## CONCLUSIONS

- The golden rule is to do your homework in advance. Understand what you need and what's expected, ensure clarity on your status, what you can report, and any restrictions, including clearances of material.
- Build good relationships. The rules are the basis for building trust, and trust is personal.
- Be aware of and negotiate the inevitable tension between the military's need for secrecy and your desire for transparency.
- Never let your reporting or your actions put the military you are reporting on in danger.
- Remember, you both, soldiers and journalists, want to come home safely!

# CHAPTER 8: A SHORT REVIEW OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT

BY GRIGOLI INASHVILI

This chapter is not comprehensive and does not contain exhaustive information on military formations or military equipment. The purpose of this chapter is to provide the reader with general information on military units and equipment, and to demonstrate the purpose, importance, and use of various types of equipment.

**Purpose and formations of military forces**

**Armed/Defence Forces** - is a strictly structured military organization established by the state. Its primary purpose is to protect the sovereignty and interests of the country, which is carried out by the defence forces in peace and war situations through direct combat operations or indirect methods. There are three key elements.

**Ground Forces** - the main and oldest type of troops, conduct offensive and defensive operations on land. Main branches are: infantry, mechanized and motorized infantry, tank, artillery and rocket troops, Air Defence Troops of the Ground Forces, Air Assault troops, special forces.

**Ground troops form the core of the armed/defence forces.**

**Infantry:** The oldest type of troops
lightly armed.
Adaptable to the terrain.
Mobile and manoeuvrable.

**Mechanized**- Motorized rifle troops:

Armoured

More mobility

High firepower

Long-range fire

Ability to operate at long distances.

**Air force -** conducts operations in the air, supports the operations of ground troops. In peacetime, it controls and protects the state's airspace. Main branches are: fighter aviation, bomber aviation (front-line, long-range, strategic purpose), attack aviation, reconnaissance aviation, transport aviation, military aviation, air special forces.

**Air defence troops** - included branches are: fighter aviation, Anti-aircraft missile troops, radio technical troops. The direct purpose of this type of troops is continuous control and protection of the airspace of the state. The system normally consists of passive and active components.

**Passive** - management and control of airspace by radio-technical and other means.

**Active** - in case of violation of airspace, expelling the enemy target, Destruction, radio electronic suppression.

**Navy** - conducts seaborne operations on a local or global scale, including amphibious operations. In peacetime, it carries out protection and control of marine territory. Main branches are: Surface Fleet, Submarine Fleet, Naval Aviation, Coast Guard Missile-Artillery Troops, Marines, Naval Special Forces.

**Strategic missile troops** - a special type of troops, does not clearly contain any specific formations. The direct purpose is the operation of strategic nuclear missile systems. These types of troops are found only in the armies of nuclear states.

**Composition of forces - units**

Armed/defence forces with different types and formations of troops are structurally composed of groups of different sizes, units and subdivisions systematically subordinated to each other.

| | |
|---|---|
| **A DIVISION** | is a large tactical formation consisting of 6,000 to 25,000 personnel. It consists of regiments of brigades and separate battalions. |
| **BRIGADE** | a tactical level formation consisting of 3000 to 5000 people. consists of battalions. Infantry and mechanized brigades are widespread in the ground forces. |
| **REGIMENT** | a tactical level formation consisting of 1000 to 3000 people. Most of the time it is part of divisions, it can be in the form of a separate regiment. It consists of battalions and separate companies. |
| **BATTALION** | the largest tactical level unit consisting of 300 to 1000 people. Included in divisions, brigades and regiments. There can also be a separate independent battalion. In various branches, for example, in artillery and air defence troops, a battalion-sized unit is called - division. |
| **COMPANY** | is a tactical level unit consisting of 100 to 250 people. Usually included in battalions, can be separate. In various branches, for example, in artillery and air defence troops, a company-sized unit is called - battery. |
| **PLATOON** | a small tactical unit consisting of 20 to 50 people. It is part of the companies and operates depending on the company's tasks. |

**SQUAD** the smallest unit consisting of 6 to 12 people. It is part of the platoon.

**Types of military equipment and their identification**

**Armoured vehicles of ground troops:** Units within the Ground Troops family use the following main types of armour. A common mistake is to refer to all armoured vehicles as tanks – this is wrong. All tanks are armoured vehicles, but all armoured vehicles are NOT tanks!

**Tank** - a heavily armoured combat vehicle, is a means of universal fire support for infantry and mechanized forces. The direct purpose of the tank is to destroy the enemy's combat equipment, personnel, and firing points in offensive and defensive operations. Modern tanks are structurally similar. A 360° rotatable turret is mounted on the tracked heavy undercarriage, in which its main armament, a cannon, is mounted.




01. The main tank of the Russian army **T-72B3**

02. The main tank of the US Army **M1A2 Abrams**

03. Israeli heavy tank **Merkava MK4**

**Infantry fighting vehicle (IFV)** - is a light or medium armoured combat vehicle, the purpose of which is to transport infantry directly to the battlefield and provide fire support. Infantry fighting vehicles are used together with tanks in general operations. IFVs are mostly tracked, although wheeled models are also common. The main armament of these types of vehicles is small-calibre automatic cannons, which, with their high rate of fire and fragmentation projectiles, pose a particular threat to unarmoured infantry. Some infantry fighting vehicles are amphibious in design and can swim.




01. Russian infantry fighting vehicle **BMP-2**

02. US Army infantry fighting vehicle **M2 Bradley**

03. Chinese **ZBD-04/Type 04**

**Armoured personnel carrier** - light or medium armoured military transport, the purpose of which is to bring the motor rifle/motorized unit to the battlefield. Compared to the infantry fighting vehicle, it has lighter armament. In modern models, the line between infantry fighting vehicles and heavy armoured personnel carriers is often blurred. General purpose armoured personnel carriers are most common in 6X6 and 8X8 with wheeled chassis, although tracked models are also available. The main weapons are heavy machine guns, automatic grenade launchers. It is possible to be equipped with an automatic cannon. Some models are of amphibious construction and can swim.




01. Soviet-Russian modernized armoured personnel carrier **BTR-82** armed with a 30 mm automatic cannon.

02. American tracked armoured personnel carrier **M-113**

03. Soviet armoured universal tracked transporter **MT-LB**, in the photo is without weapons, but dozens of different types of weapons can be installed on it.

**Army tactical armoured vehicles** - this type of armoured vehicles is found in the largest number on the modern battlefield. It is an intermediate means between full-fledged armoured personnel carriers and motor vehicles. Mostly spread with 4X4 chassis. Due to the multi-functional design, such vehicles are used in the armies of practically all branches with various modifications, including patrol, reconnaissance, communication, special purpose, command and control, and others.




01. American army armoured vehicle **HMMWV.**

02. The latest American military armoured **vehicle JLTV.**

03. Russian army tactical armoured car **Tyger-M.**

**Ground Army Artillery:** The primary purpose of artillery is to provide heavy direct and indirect fire support to friendly forces. Direct fire is shorter-ranged with the projectile going in a straight line to a visible target in line of sight. Indirect fire has a much longer range, being fired at a higher elevation and going on a ballistic arc to a distant target that cannot be seen.

There are two main types of artillery systems: barrel and rocket.

**Barrel Artillery: Cannons/Howitzers and Mortars.**

**Cannon/Howitzer** - the main type of barrel artillery systems. Can be towed or self-propelled. The firing distance depends on the calibre, the length of the barrel and the type of ammunition. Modern howitzers shoot up to 40 km with conventional projectiles. With active-reactive and rocket-accelerating projectiles, and in some cases up to 60-70 and even 110 km. ***Self-propelled guns are often characterized by a tank-like construction, although their armour is much weaker.*** The undercarriage can be found both with caterpillar tracks and with wheels.




01. American 155 mm towed howitzer **M777.**

02. Soviet-Russian 152 mm self-propelled howitzer **2S3 Akacia** with tank-like construction.

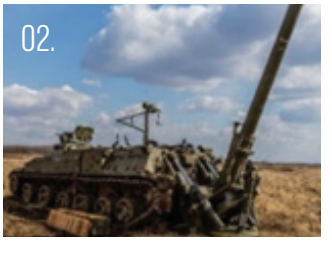
03. French 155 mm self-propelled howitzer **CAESAR** on a wheeled chassis with an open combat section.

**Mortars** - one of the oldest types of artillery installations. Its purpose is to destroy the enemy's manpower and firing points. All mortars are fired with a high-angle plunging trajectory fire. The mortar is the simplest artillery piece in construction, the most common type of artillery weapon on the battlefield, and comes in portable and self-propelled configurations.



01. American portable 81 mm mortar M 252

02. Soviet-Russian portable 120 mm mortar 2B11



01. Soviet 120 mm self-propelled mortar **2S9 Nona-S**

02. Soviet-Russian 240 mm heavy self-propelled mortar **2S4 Tyulpan**

03. Mobile 120 mm automated mortar armoured vehicle based on **JLTV.**

**Rocket Artillery: Multiple Launch Rocket System**

Multiple Launch Rocket System - the most powerful type of artillery systems, its purpose is to destroy the enemy's group and point targets at close, medium, and long distances, using the method of area bombardment or precision strike. Multiple Launch Rocket Systems use unguided and guided missiles of various calibres.




01. Soviet 122 mm multiple launch rocket system **BM-21 Grad**

02. Soviet-Russian **BM-30 Smerch** 300 mm heavy multiple launch rocket system.

03. American 227 mm multiple launch rocket system **M-142 HIMARS**

Tactical and operational-tactical ballistic missile launch systems are also included in the arsenal of artillery and missile troops in many countries. Such missiles are sometimes integrated into multiple launch rocket system. Their firing distances range from 120 to 500 km.



01. Soviet operational-tactical ballistic missile complex **9K79 Точка-У**

02. The American-made multiple launch rocket system **M-270 MLRS** fires the **MGM-140 ATACMS** type ballistic missile.

**Air defence systems:**

The armament of the air defence forces includes short, medium, and long-range anti-aircraft missile complexes and radar stations operating at a range of several hundreds of kilometres.

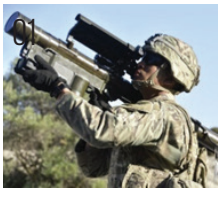



01. Ukrainian-made long-range radar station **36D6**

02. The American long-range anti-aircraft system **MIM-104 Patriot** can shoot down targets at a distance of up to **160 km.**

03. Russian long-range anti-aircraft system **S-400**

Thermal targeting portable anti-aircraft systems and anti-aircraft artillery are especially actively used, which can shoot down various types of aircraft at distances of up to 5 km.






01. American portable anti-aircraft missile complex **FIM-92 Stinger.**

02. Soviet Russian military anti-aircraft missile-artillery installation **2S6 Tunguska.**

03. **AVENGER** mobile anti-aircraft missile system of the US Army.

**Aircraft and their identification:**

**Helicopters** – are used in various branches of military. There are two main types of military helicopters: transport and attack. There are also multi-purpose helicopters that perform many different functions, including reconnaissance, radio-electronic warfare, command and control, and others.

The purpose of **transport helicopters** is to transport personnel and equipment on the battlefield or in the rear. It is also used in airborne operations. For defensive purposes, transport helicopters are often armed with machine guns. Given their function, transport helicopters are designed to maximise internal volume. Transport helicopters are an ideal means of transportation in mountainous terrain, given the can land in small spaces and can also use terrain masking to avoid being seen and hide from radar.




01. American utility helicopter **UH-60 Black Hawk.**

02. American heavy twin-screw transport **Boeing CH-47 Chinook.**

03. Russian **Mi-8** type medium category transport helicopters are one of the most common in the world.

The purpose of **attack helicopters** is to destroy manpower and combat equipment located on the front line and in tactical depths, with unguided/guided missiles and automatic cannons. Due to the ability to fly at low altitude, combat helicopters are an effective means of destroying enemy air defence systems although also vulnerable to return fire. Most such helicopters are lightly or heavily armoured to protect the crew from anti-aircraft machine guns and cannons.




01. American **AH-64 Apache** is considered the best in this class.

02. Modern Russian attack helicopter **KA-52 Alligator.**

03. Russian heavily armoured **Mi-28.**

**Special helicopters** - in addition to the two main types, dozens of different auxiliary special purpose helicopters are designed and used as the basis of various multi-purpose helicopters.




01. Soviet radio electronic warfare helicopter **Mi-8PPA.**

02. Airborne early warning and control helicopter **Ka-31.**

03. American observation and reconnaissance helicopter **OH-58D** Kiowa Warrior.

**Military aircraft.** A key feature of modern aircraft is their versatility, and so often they are multirole. A fighter can often therefore be able to both fight other aircraft or carry bombs and missiles to attack ground targets. The categories below therefore need to be seen as guidelines.

**Fighter/fighter-bomber** - one of the main types of combat aircraft. The direct objective is to gain air supremacy by shooting down enemy aircraft. Fighter aviation in operations supports all other types of specialized aircraft to safely perform their duties. Fighter planes are characterized by high speed and high manoeuvrability. Many can also operate in the ground attack role.




01. American 4th generation fighter **F-15C**

02. Russian 4th generation fighter **Su-30**

03. American 5th generation multipurpose fighter **F-35**

**Attack aircraft (Close Air Support)** – the means of close fire support for ground troops. The purpose of the attack aircraft is to destroy the enemy located on the front line with unguided and guided missiles, bombs and aviation cannon launched from low altitude.

One of the primary targets of fighters are tanks and other armored vehicles. Fighter planes are characterized by lower speed than fighters and high endurance.



01. American attack aircraft **A-10** Thunderbolt II.

02. Soviet-Russian attack aircraft **Su-25**.

**Bombers** - There are two main types of bombers, operational and strategic.

Operational level bombers- commonly referred to as Strike Aircraft, their purpose is to destroy key targets in the areas of concentration of enemy troops and in the deep rear with unguided and guided bombs. One of the main purposes is to destroy the

components of the enemy's air defence system. Front-line bombers operate from medium and high altitudes. Modern models also include the functions of a Fighter. They can use air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles.




01. American 4th generation multipurpose fighter **F-15E Strike Eagle**

02. Russian front-line bomber **Su-34.**

03. Russian front-line bomber **Su-24.**

**Long-range bomber** - purpose - to bomb particularly important targets in the deep rear of the enemy. Destruction of naval groups with anti-ship missiles.

**Strategic bombers** - the purpose of this type of bombers is to hit the strategic depths of the enemy by direct flight or by launching cruise missiles from long distances. Strategic Bombers are one of the components of the nuclear triad. In the arsenal of strategic bombers owned by nuclear states, the main place is occupied by nuclear aviation bombs and nuclear cruise missiles.


01. Russian long-range bomber **Tu-22M3**



01. American strategic bomber **B-1B Lancer**

02. Russian strategic bomber **Tu-160**

03. American strategic bomber **B-52 Stratofortress**

**Military transport aircraft** - the direct purpose is to transport personnel over short and long distances, transport heavy equipment and cargo, or conduct airborne operations by dropping paratroopers and paratroopers' combat equipment with parachutes.




01. US Air Force Lockheed **Lockheed C-130 Hercules**

02. UK Royal Air Force **A400M Atlas**

03. Russian Air Force **IL-76**

**Airborne early warning and control** - is a remote radio technical reconnaissance and control system built based on a transport aircraft. It can detect air and ground targets at a distance of several hundreds of kilometres and target fighter and bomber aircraft at them for managing air operations. Classified by NATO as AWACS (Airborne Warning And Control System), AWACS-type aircraft are easily identified by the large round or oblong antennas on the fuselage of the aircraft.




01. US Air Force Boeing **E-3 Sentry (AWACS).**

02. **A-50U** of the Russian Air Force.

03 South Korean Air Force Boeing **E-7 Wedgetail.**

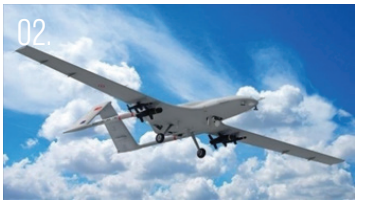
**Air, Ground, and Naval drones**

For the last four decades, various types of air, land and naval drones have been more and more active on the battlefield saturated with modern technologies.

**Unmanned aerial vehicles/drones**

**Reconnaissance drones** can be controlled at short and medium distances in live mode from the ground control centre with direct connection, and at strategic depths from several thousand kilometres with satellite control and communication systems. The main function is optical and radio-technical intelligence. Often used to target artillery and precision weapons.

Both expensive high-tech unmanned platforms and very low-cost commercial quad-copters and sports FPV (First-person view) drones are currently used in **attack and kamikaze configurations. Kamikaze** drones are disposable, they destroy targets at short and medium distances by direct impact. A distinctive type of kamikaze drones are barrage drones, which barrage over the combat area for a certain time and, after detecting and identifying the target, fall on it at high speed.



01. Russian optical and radio technical reconnaissance drone **Orlan 10.**

02. Turkish intelligence-strike drone **Bayraktar TB2.**

03. A commercial FPV drone with a cumulative anti-tank projectile that destroys various armoured vehicles with a direct hit.

Unmanned land and sea vehicles are mainly used as reconnaissance and weapon delivery platforms. With the help of a ground-based drone-robot, it is possible to deliver ammunition to the front line of fire and to evacuate the wounded.


01.


02.

The purpose of naval base drones was initially the control and reconnaissance of marine waters, and in recent years, especially in the Russia-Ukraine war, kamikaze drone-boats have also appeared, which can swim several hundreds of kilometres in autonomous and satellite control mode and destroy large-sized naval vessels by direct collision.

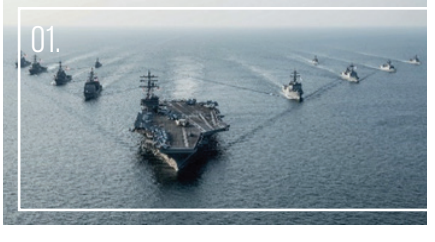
01. Ukrainian-made kamikaze boat **Magura.**

02. Estonian-made fire support ground robotic drone **THeMIS.**

**Naval Vessels**

The following types of ships can be found in the arsenal of large and small naval fleets of different countries:

**Aircraft carrier** - the largest type of naval warship, the purpose of an aircraft carrier is to transport a fleet of attack planes, fighter jets and helicopters to any part of the planet. The combat potential of one aircraft carrier often exceeds the potential of the entire air base. Aircraft carriers operate as part of aircraft carrier groups, where they are supported by several dozen surface and submarine ships of various purposes. There are several types of aircraft carriers: heavy supercarriers, medium multi-purpose aircraft carriers, and light aircraft carriers.


01.


02.

01. US fleet aircraft carrier group.

02. **USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71)** nuclear aircraft carrier of the US fleet.

**Cruiser** - long-range heavy naval ship. Missile cruisers can control the airspace at a distance of several hundred kilometres and destroy enemy naval vessels with conventional and nuclear warheads. Their primary targets are aircraft carriers. By its function, cruisers are offensive type naval ships and are designed to gain naval dominance in the oceans and large seas, their armament includes missiles with nuclear warheads.



01. US Navy **Ticonderoga**-class missile cruiser

02. Heavy missile cruiser **Varyag** of the Russian fleet

**Destroyer** - a multipurpose medium-weight ship for the protection of naval groups, including aircraft carriers. Modern Destroyers accommodate a wide range of functions, including launching cruise missiles, anti-submarine warfare, air defence and anti-missile shielding around both land targets and naval formations. Destroyers are equipped with powerful radar stations operating at several hundreds of km.

**Arleigh Burke**-class American Destroyer.

**Landing ships** - the purpose of this class of ships is to transfer the landing force and heavy equipment to seashores. as well as transporting a large amount of military equipment and military-logistic cargo over long distances. Modern universal landing ships can also be used as light aircraft carriers, on which various types of helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles are based. Landing ships operate as part of naval groups and need protection from other heavily armed ships.

01.

02.

01. **Mistral**-class French universal large landing craft

02. **775 Ropucha**-class Soviet-Russian large amphibious assault ship

**Submarines** - light, medium and heavy category ships of underwater operation. There are two types of diesel powered and nuclear powered submarines.

**Nuclear submarines** are characterized by high autonomy. Nuclear submarines are primarily armed with torpedoes, cruise missiles, and strategic nuclear missiles. **Diesel powered submarines** are mostly armed with torpedoes and cruise missiles. Submarines operate both independently and as part of large naval groups. In the fleets of nuclear countries, nuclear submarines have a special place as platforms carrying nuclear missile weapons.

01.

02.

01. **Ohio**-class American nuclear submarine.

02. **941 Akula**-class Russian nuclear submarine.

**Land mines**

A mine is a factory-built or homemade explosive device whose main components are an explosive charge and a detonator. Mines are used to damage or destroy manpower, land, sea, and air vehicles. They are a huge threat to journalists operating in combat zones.

There are several variants, all designed to destroy particular targets, they are:

01. Anti-personnel mines

02. Anti-tank mines

03. Naval mines

04. Subversive / special mines


We will see such warning signs in the vicinity of mined areas!

Anti-personnel mines - anti-personnel mines are designed to mine a specific area and are designed against the enemy's manpower. There are three types of anti-per

sonnel mines: blast, fragmentation, and bullet inserted land mines. Blast and bullet inserted land mines only damage the infantry in contact with them. Fragmentation mines, on the other hand, damage the living force in its fragmentation zone.

**Some types of anti-personnel mines.**


Anti-tank mines - the purpose of anti-tank mines is to detonate tanks and other heavy equipment. Compared to anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines are characterized by large dimensions and weight. There is anti-bottom, anti-track, off-route, and various smart anti-tank mines. Anti-tank mines are effective even if a vehicle passes over it.

**Some types of anti-tank mines.**

**Cluster munitions** - In modern wars, opposing sides often use cluster munitions, which are designed to damage manpower and heavy equipment. When standard cluster munitions are scattered on land, there is a high chance of some munitions being misplaced, which then poses a great danger to civilians. Cluster elements are

mostly scattered by air bombs and jet artillery rockets, ***if found do not under any circumstances touch the objects listed below or similar in shape.*** In many cases, the detonators of such ammunition are very sensitive and may be triggered by a simple actuation.

In standard use, up to 30% of cluster munitions remain unexploded.

**Various cluster munitions**

CENTER FOR STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT

MTSKHETA STREET 48/50, TBILISI, GEORGIA | +032 2 222 667 | CSD@CSD.ORG.GE | WWW.CSD.ORG.GE