



Russian Combined Arms Armies Are Implementing Automated C2 System

OE Watch Commentary: The Russian Federation has long been interested in developing an Automated Command and Control System (ASU) and has fielded several such tactical systems. Automated command and control is a particularly good option for Russian commanders in tactical situations due to the somewhat ‘commander-centric’ Russian military decision making process, that functions not by the commander’s staff developing courses of action, but by the commander himself simply choosing the course of action early in the decision making process, and then making adjustments as necessary. ASUs facilitate this process by reducing the Russian decision making cycle, so that the Russian observe, orient, decide, and act (OODA) loop would be faster than potential adversaries, such as the US. According to Russian military expert Viktor Murakhovskiy, well implemented ASUs can reduce the decision making cycle by up to 2.5 times. ACUs are seen as essential elements of reconnaissance-strike loops, as they facilitate rapid reconnaissance, planning, and most importantly, action.

The accompanying excerpted article from *Izvestiya* discusses the capabilities of the *Akatsiya-M* ASU, a new system that will be fielded in Russia’s operational-level Ground Forces’ commands (12 Combined Arms Armies and 4 Army Corps). The system will not only provide C2 and situational awareness for the operational commander regarding his own directly subordinate units, but will also allow for liaising with, or command and control of, attached subordinate units of the Navy, Aerospace Forces, and Airborne Troops. In addition, the *Akatsiya-M* will be integrated with the Russian National Defense Control Center. Although not mentioned in the article, the fielding of the *Akatsiya-M* is likely closely tied to a variety of new communications systems (satellite, tropospheric/HF, fiber optic) that have been or are being fielded in the Combined Arms Armies or Army Corps, as the *Akatsiya-M* likely requires a resilient communications backbone to operate. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)**

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Source: Aleksey Ramm and Aleksandr Kruglov, “Минобороны развернет «Акацию» за 21 млрд: Общевойсковые армии перейдут под автоматизированное управление в режиме реального времени (The Defense Ministry Will Deploy Akatsiya for 21 Billion: Combined-Arms Armies Will Transfer to Automated Command and Control in Real Time),” *Izvestiya*, 5 July 2018. <https://iz.ru/761052/aleksei-ramm-aleksandr-kruglov/minoborony-razvernet-akatciuu-za-21-mlrd>

Commanders will receive data on the combat situation and be able to give orders in real time. The Ministry of Defense is implementing the Akatsiya-M automated command and control system, which will be in each combined-arms army by the end of 2019. The Defense Ministry has already allocated more than 21 billion rubles for their purchase. The system provides the army commander and his staff with online information about the combat situation, including the status of our own troops and actions by the enemy. Based on these data, the commander will be able to give orders directly via Akatsiya to subordinate troops. According to experts, the new system will significantly outpace an enemy in decision-making and implementation on the battlefield.

Izvestiya was told by the Ministry of Defense that the Akatsiya-M technically consists of staff cars with special equipment based on KamAZ all-terrain four-axle trucks. This provides the system with high mobility. It can be deployed in minutes in any direction. Manufacture of the Akatsiya-M will begin this year and will go on until 2019. The Akatsiya-M will be in each combined-arms army and army corps. In total, more than 21 billion rubles have already been allocated for the creation of the system...The Akatsiya system was already deployed in the field in 2011. It supports the daily life of the military in peacetime. For example, through this system, the rear services keep records of stocks and the issuance of food, fuel and lubricants, and clothing.

But the Akatsiya-M is a combat system. It is designed for combat, peacekeeping and special operations. The automated command and control system uses closed radio and satellite communication channels to create a single information field that ensures continuous exchange of information between command posts and headquarters. The automated command and control system also has integrated reconnaissance devices, including satellites and UAVs.

The Akatsiya-M continuously receives and analyzes data on the ongoing situation in real time: information on enemy actions and the aerial, ground, interference, radiation, chemical, and bacteriological environment. Also, data is disseminated on the combat readiness of our own troops’ equipment, the availability of ammunition, fuel and lubricants, and even information about the moral and psychological state of personnel...The processed data is displayed in real time on an electronic chart. In that way, the commander can assess the situation in real time and make a decision in a few minutes. If there is a need, the commander can even give orders to a detachment of soldiers.

The Akatsiya-M interacts with automated command and control systems of other military arms and branches. Thanks to this, the commander and army headquarters will be able to easily manage groups of troops which include Navy units and formations, Aerospace Forces, and Airborne Troops. The Akatsiya-M also exchanges information with the National Defense Control Center in real time...