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O. Solomytskyi



O. Semenenko



Yu. Kliat

THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF FORECASTING ORGANIZATION MILITARY AND POLITICAL SITUATION

The article presents the main stages of developing a forecast of the military-political situation. The authors raises the important issue of the frequency of forecasting the military-political situation. To ensure the adequacy of the built models and the reliability of the developed forecasts, an approach to the organization of experts' work is proposed. If implemented, the recommendations will allow for a more thorough organization of forecasting the military-political situation, make this process continuous and cyclical, and streamline the work of experts in developing forecasts, which will positively affect the reliability of the forecasts being developed.

Keywords: military-political situation, military-political relations, forecasting, military security.

Statement of the problem. In the 21st century, military security is no longer seen only in the preservation of state sovereignty and territorial integrity, as it was before. Now, in the context of globalization, it is necessary to protect national interests beyond the zone of territorial control and preserve national identity and value system. Supranational organizations with their own interests are being formed, and the value plane is changing. Military occupation and victory have ceased to be significant and the main goals in the military policy of states. In the modern system of military-political relations (MPR), the military-political situation in the regions has become purely individual. To achieve their goals, states use new military-political technologies that form a complex and dynamic military-political situation (MPS).

In this regard, it can be stated that the problem of analysing and forecasting the development of the MPS in the world and in the region is very important. The armed conflicts of the last decade have shown that there has been a turning point in MPS, and new potential threats have emerged. This may be due to global processes leading to further aggravation of the military and political situation.

However, it should be noted that there is still no unified approach to the organization of MPS assessment and forecasting. Such forecasts are often developed on an ad hoc basis, with some important stages of forecasting not being completed at all. That is why the development of a formalized approach to the organization of MPS forecasting is an urgent task.

Analysis of recent research and publications.

Many works are devoted to the theoretical aspects of MPS assessment and forecasting, for example [1–7]. However, the actual procedure for MPS forecasting organizing is not considered, which leads to a decrease in the reliability of the forecasts obtained, given the lack of cyclicity and situational nature of forecasting.

The proposed procedure for MPS forecasting organizing is based on the main provisions of the conceptual framework for forecasting the military-political situation and the cognitive-dynamic method of forecasting the military-political situation [8].

The purpose of the article is to outline the general theoretical aspects of the organization of forecasting the military and political situation.

Summary of the main material. Taking into account the general theoretical provisions on MPS forecasting and the main provisions of the cognitive-dynamic method of MPS forecasting [8], the following procedure for organizing and conducting MPS forecasting is proposed (Figure 1).

The main stages are, respectively:

- definition of the task of MPS forecasting;
- pre-prognostic analysis;
- research (search);
- programmatic (normative);
- organizational.

The task for MPS forecasting specifies the scope of the forecast, goals and objectives of the forecast, the lead time, the required confidence interval or the probability of the forecast being realized. The task also defines the procedure for developing the forecast. At the same time, experts with the required level of competence in the relevant areas are selected.

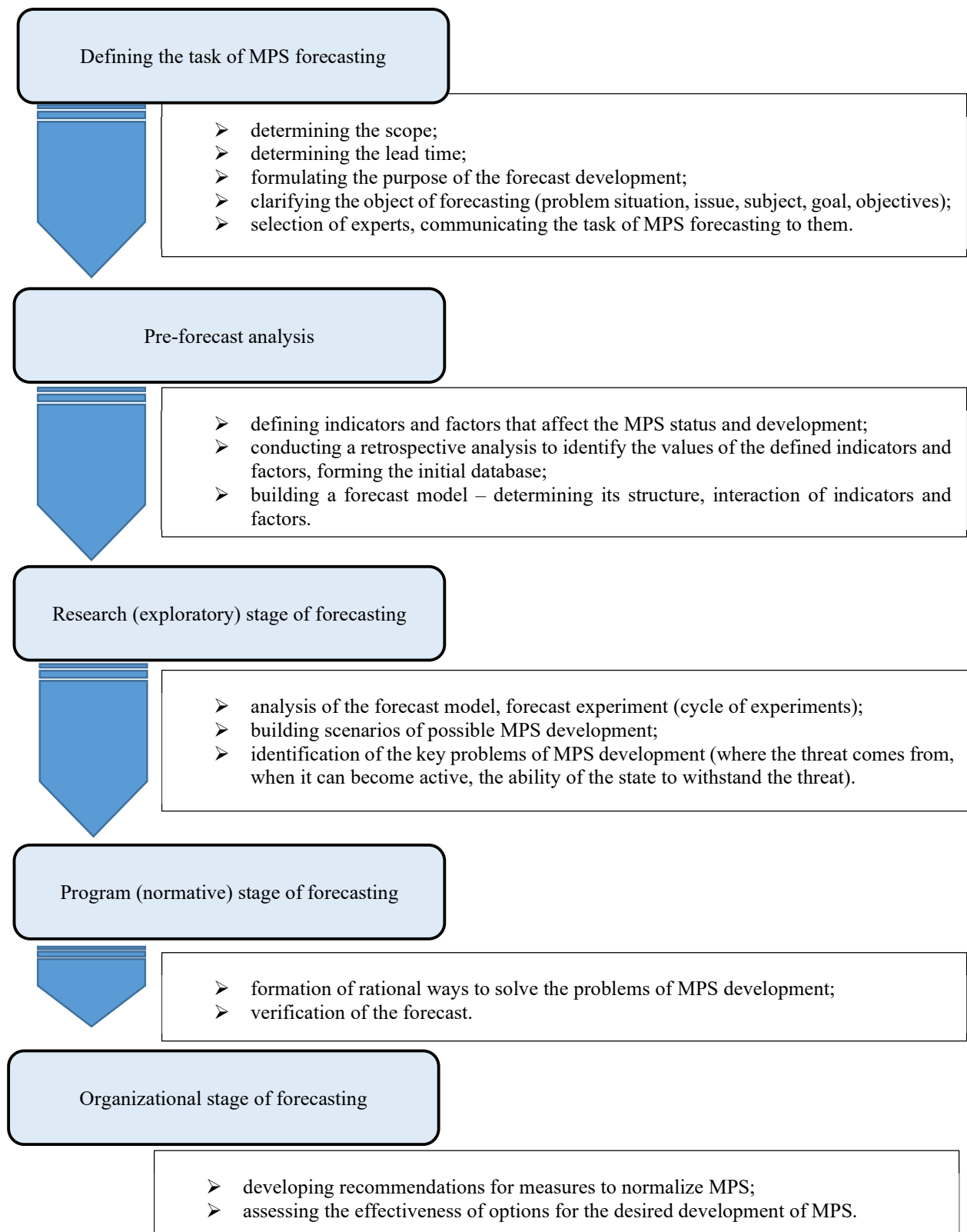


Figure 1 – Main stages of MPS forecasting development

At the stage of pre-forecast analysis, the MPS is studied, indicators and factors of its development are identified. To identify the values of indicators and factors in the past, a forecast retrospective is conducted – a study of the history of MPS and MPR development and the forecast background to obtain a systematic description of them. The next task is to identify the structure of the mutual influence of indicators and factors. This task is solved within the framework of the prognostic diagnosis, which studies the systematic description of MPS and the prognostic background to identify the trend of their development and select (develop) prognostic models.

A prognostic model provides information about possible future states of MPS and/or ways and timing of their realization [8]. The forecast model determines the laws of MPS development and is based on the identification of interdependencies between factors and indicators on which MPS depend. It can be presented in the form of a verbal or mathematical description of the factors and their interaction, a table or graph showing these relationships.

Proceeding from the fact that the essence of MPS forecasting is the decomposition of complex military – political processes into hierarchical components with their subsequent evaluation and aggregation to obtain a forecast, the research (search) stage involves the analysis of the forecast model and forecasting experiments. A forecasting experiment is a study based on forecasting models by varying the characteristics of the forecasting object included in the model to identify possible acceptable and/or unacceptable forecast options and alternatives for the development of the forecasting object. As a result of the research, trends and scenarios of the forecasting object's development are identified.

In this case, development trends may be forecast options or forecast alternatives. A forecast option is one of the forecasts that make up a group of possible forecasts. A forecast alternative is one of the forecasts that make up a complete group of possible mutually exclusive forecasts.

The research stage of the forecast also identifies the key problems of the forecasted object's development under different scenarios.

At the programmatic (normative) stage of the forecast, the scenarios of the forecast object's development are specified and the key problems (goals) for the forecast period are selected. Then, the problem area is structured and priorities in solving the problems are identified. The main content of this stage is the formation of alternative ways of solving problems (achieving goals) and selection of the best (rational) ways from this list.

After the forecast is made, the verification of its search and regulatory parts is carried out. Forecast verification is an assessment of the reliability and accuracy or validity of a forecast. Verification refers to the a priori assessment of the forecast – the quality assessment immediately after its development before the end of the warning period. There is also an a posteriori assessment, which is an assessment of the accuracy and reliability of the forecast after the end of the warning period. It is performed by comparing the forecasted events with the events that occurred.

The last stage of the forecast is organizational. At this stage, a list of organizational measures to achieve the goals included in the best development paths (in accordance with the regulatory forecast) is formed: the timing of the implementation of the best ways to achieve the goal, the necessary resources, the composition of executors and a list of specific measures are specified. The effectiveness of the required development options is also assessed.

An important issue is the frequency of MPS forecasting. The unpredictable development of the political situation and crisis processes in the world significantly complicate, and in some cases make it impossible, to develop an objective long-term (12-year) MPS development forecast. It should be noted that the issue of justifying the frequency of forecasting the level of threats has received little attention, except for the statement that with its growth, the frequency should decrease. Usually, it is only emphasized that monitoring the level of military threat is a prerequisite for identifying its critical values and timely implementation of a set of political, diplomatic, economic, and military measures to prevent and contain military conflicts, but the essence of "permanence" is not formalized. Justifying the frequency of MPS forecasting can be considered a separate task. One approach is proposed in [9]. According to this approach, the threat with the shortest growth period is preliminarily determined, hence the frequency of the assessment should be less than the period of change of the dynamic threat itself. Considering this approach, it is advisable to conduct forecasting once every 3–6 years. At the same time, the optimal option is once every three years, given that destabilizing influences accompanying socio-political processes are usually characterized by relatively long-time intervals of emergence, accumulation, and attenuation, which makes them inertial over long time periods. The three-year cycle will allow us not to forecast MPS, but to limit ourselves to refining some estimates (characteristics).

To ensure the adequacy of the models built and the reliability of the forecasts developed, it is necessary to carefully organize the work of experts. When forecasting according to the above schemes (Figure 2), it is proposed to organize the work of experts as follows.

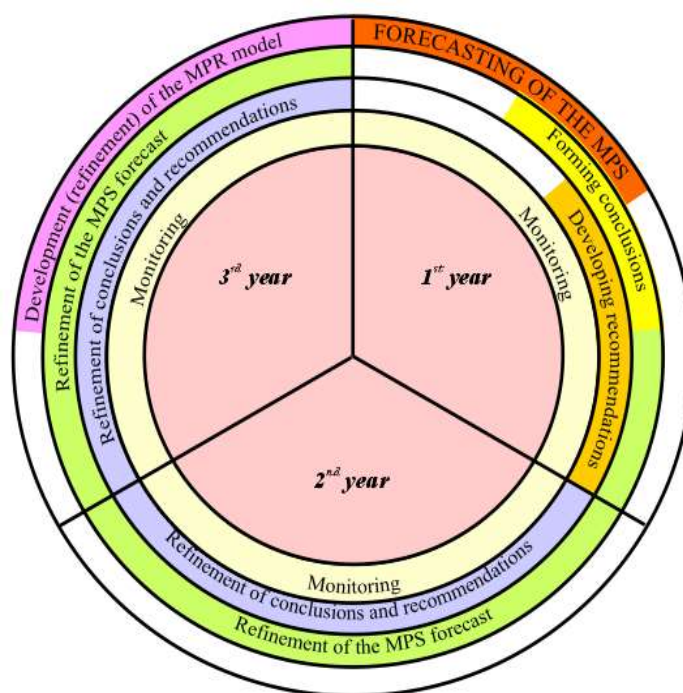


Figure 2 – Schema of the MPS forecasting cycle

Stage 1. Selection of experts: based on the method proposed in [9], considering the specifics of the forecast task and all additional conditions for conducting research, a group of experts (or one expert) is selected (with or without using formal procedures for assessing their competence and number).

Stage 2. Forecasting tasks: we consider the characteristics of the forecast object, the required level of its detail, the possibility of experts using the information already available, specify the warning time (horizon forecasting), and the conditions of forecasting studies.

Stage 3. Organizational and methodological preparation of forecasting studies: in accordance with the tasks, conditions of forecast development and the chosen method, the form of work with experts is established, all organizational issues are resolved, and all methodological support for the studies is developed. Survey programs and survey documents are prepared.

Stage 4. Conducting expert forecasting studies: work with experts is carried out according to previously established procedures based on developed programs and survey documents.

Stage 5. Processing and analysing the results of forecasting studies and developing recommendations: based on the methodology developed in stage 3, which includes formal (quantitative) and informal

procedures, the results of the examination are processed, a generalized opinion of the group of experts is formed, and a reasoned justification and assessment of the original individual judgments of experts is provided. Based on this analysis, forecast recommendations are made.

Conclusion

Thus, the proposed procedure for organizing the MPS forecasting process determines the general sequence of forecasting, the content of its stages and options for verifying the forecasting results, the frequency of forecasting and its cycle, which is designed for 3 years and determines the sequence of main activities during forecasting, the procedure for experts' work, which corresponds to the MPS forecasting procedure, and the content of each stage. If implemented, such a procedure will allow for a more thorough organization of MPS forecasting, make this process continuous and cyclical, and will streamline the work of experts in developing forecasts, which will positively affect the reliability of the forecasts being developed.

Areas for further research could include developing recommendations on the procedure for forming conclusions based on the results of forecasting the military-political situation.

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О. І. Соломицький, О. М. Семененко, Ю. О. Клят

ТЕОРЕТИЧНІ АСПЕКТИ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ ПРОГНОЗУВАННЯ ВОЄННО-ПОЛІТИЧНОЇ ОБСТАНОВКИ

Актуальність статті обумовлена необхідністю розроблення формалізованого підходу до організації та проведення процедури прогнозування воєнно-політичної обстановки для забезпечення стабільності отримання результатів. Викладено порядок організації та проведення прогнозування воєнно-політичної обстановки.

Порядок організації прогнозування розроблений з урахуванням основних положень концептуальних основ прогнозування воєнно-політичної обстановки та когнітивно-динамічного методу прогнозування воєнно-політичної обстановки.

Наведено основні етапи розроблення прогнозу воєнно-політичної обстановки. Надано детальний опис кожного етапу. Запропоновано визначення термінів «прогнозний варіант» та «прогнозна альтернатива». порушено важливе питання періодичності проведення прогнозування воєнно-політичної обстановки. З огляду на результати практичних розрахунків подано цикл прогнозування воєнно-політичної обстановки, який розраховано на три роки, наведено його схему.

Для забезпечення адекватності побудованих моделей та достовірності розроблених прогнозів запропоновано підхід до організації роботи експертів. Він складається з таких етапів, як добір експертів, завдання на прогноз, організаційна й методична підготовка прогнозних досліджень, проведення експертних прогнозних досліджень, оброблення й аналіз результатів прогнозних досліджень, а також вироблення рекомендації. Кожний етап детально описано.

У разі запровадження рекомендації дадуть змогу більш ґрунтовно організувати прогнозування воєнно-політичної обстановки, зробити цей процес безперервним та циклічним, а також упорядкувати роботу експертів під час розроблення прогнозів, що позитивно вплине на достовірність прогнозу, який розроблятиметься.

Напрямом подальших досліджень може бути розроблення рекомендації щодо порядку формування висновків за результатами прогнозування воєнно-політичної обстановки.

***Ключові слова:** воєнно-політична обстановка, військово-політичні відносини, прогнозування, воєнна безпека.*

Solomytskyi Oleksii – Doctor of Military Sciences, Senior Researcher, Chief of Section – Deputy Head of Department Central Research Institute of the Armed Forces of Ukraine
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8061-8895>

Semenenko Oleh – Doctor of Military Sciences, Professor, Deputy Head of the Central Research Institute of the Armed Forces of Ukraine for Scientific Work
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6477-3414>

Kliat Yurii – Candidate of Technical Sciences, Associate Professor, Head of the Central Research Institute of the Armed Forces of Ukraine for Scientific Work
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8267-3748>