



The 15th International Scientific Conference
**“DEFENSE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
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THE IMPORTANCE OF NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION IN THE MILITARY ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract:

The nonverbal communication is essential for people and we can not talk or we can not work as a military officer without this type of communication. It is very important for an officer to understand the feelings of people under his command. In this presentation I will also explain the importance of this type of communication in military environment. In military, to understand your team body is a matter of live or die. One misunderstand and you and your team are dead.

1. Introduction

Non-verbal communication is the communication that does not use words and expresses feelings, emotions, attitudes. Even without words, we communicate through what we do: how we stand or how we walk, how we shrug off or do a gesture, how we dress, how we drive a car or sit in the office, each of which has meaning and communicates a idea. The meaning of this communication depends on the context and the relationships between individuals.

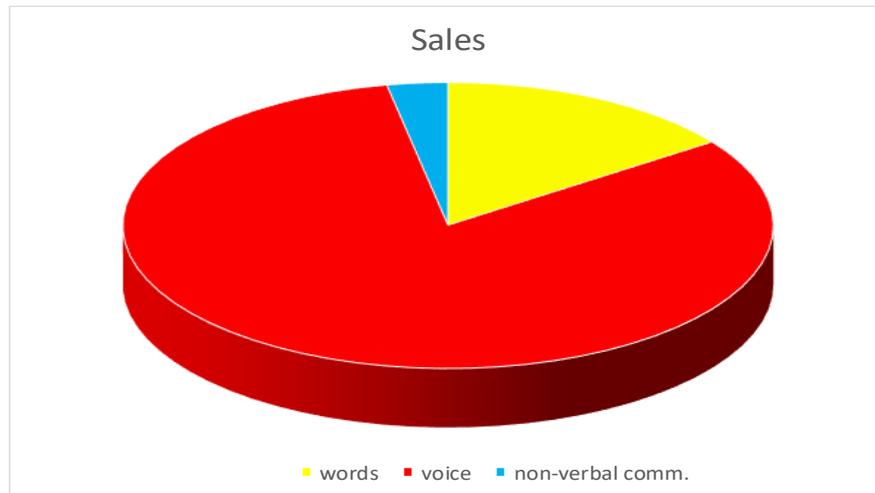
A. Verbal and non-verbal communication: theoretical approaches

Non-verbal communication is particularly important at the social level. Body movements (including eye movements) is another important element in non-verbal communication in order to intensify, mask or neutralize certain emotions. Non-verbal communication is a type of natural, continuous communication, has an important role in formation of first impressions (science talked about that: the first 30 seconds of the meeting with a person are decisive in evolution of future interaction with it);

Seven percent of a dialogue structure it is represented by verbal aspects, thirty eight percent it is characterised by the way we send the message, the intensity of the voice, how fast we talk and how clear we are. And the rest it is represented by the facial expressions. We can understand from the facial expression when a person is sick, tired, happy, angry or nervous.



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Research in this area, undertaken by Paul Ekman, highlighted the existence of a special category of expressions facial expression named micro-expression. This is a fragment of a expressions, almost imperceptible (lasting between 1/15 and 1/20 second), which can provide valuable information about mood of the interlocutor.

It is impossible to communicate without nonverbal elements like :

- Body movement;
- Personal space;
- Touch;
- Voice;
- Environment;
- Artifacts.

This Physical characteristics are very important in a dialogue and these elements bring people closer to each other.

Paralinguism (intonation, pauses, tone, frequency speech) is another indicator of how to conducts a communication. Equally silence becomes a significant aspect and can be interpreted in different ways (fear, emotion, restraint, confusion etc.).

The fizical characteristics represents another element of the nonverbal communication, very important for the first impression.

B. Applications of verbal and non-verbal communication in the military environment

The body language is also a very important aspect in the military environment and it is used daily by every soldier, officer or warrant officer. First of all, we express our respect for somebody by the way we control our body language in front of him. For exemple, when a superior officer talk to us, we stand on our feet, or if we stand on a chair, we get up quickly to



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salute him. The way someone pulls your hand can show what that person feels about you. The hand shake represents a close friendship or a sign of gratitude. When a military does something good, or when he is promoted, the superior officer expresses his respect by the handshake.

Most important military hand signals are:

Standardized Hand Signals For Close Range Engagement (C.R.E.) Operations				
One	Two	Three	Four	Five
Six	Seven	Eight	Nine	Ten
You	Me	Come	Listen or I Hear	Watch or I See
Hurry Up	Stop	Freeze	Cover This Area	Go Here or Move Up
Enemy	Hostage	Sniper	Dog	Cell Leader
Column Formation	File Formation	Line Abreast Formation	Wedge Formation	Rally Point
Pistol	Rifle	Shotgun	Ammunition	Vehicle
I Understand	I Don't Understand	Crouch or Go Prone	Breach(er)	Gas
	Door	Window	Point of Entry	

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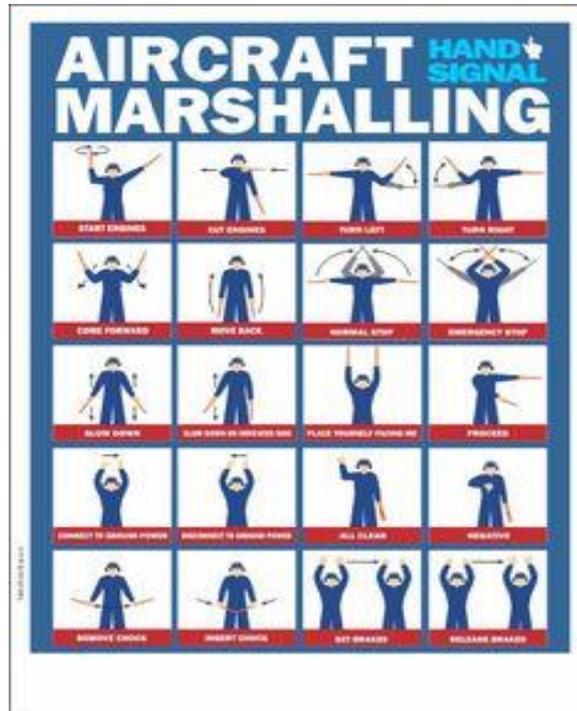
It is very important how clearly we send a message in the military environment. We must pay attention to our colleagues to completely understand the message. For example, as an air traffic controller it is very important how is the message understood by the pilot. If a pilot doesn't understand the message completely, crash may occur. On 27 March, 1970, two airplanes Boeing 747 collided in Tenerife and around 600 people died. The main reason was the misunderstanding between the pilot and the air traffic controller.



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Some of this signals are:



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The artefacts are another important element for the army, especially the clothing. The military uniform shows the institution and the country of the military soldier. The way we wear the uniform shows the respect we have for the institution we represent

In order to conclude , the nonverbal messages are present in all communication, provide information, but may have positive or negative effects in the process of communication. Also, in military environment non- verbal communication have a decisive role in combat or day-by-day activity.

References:

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