

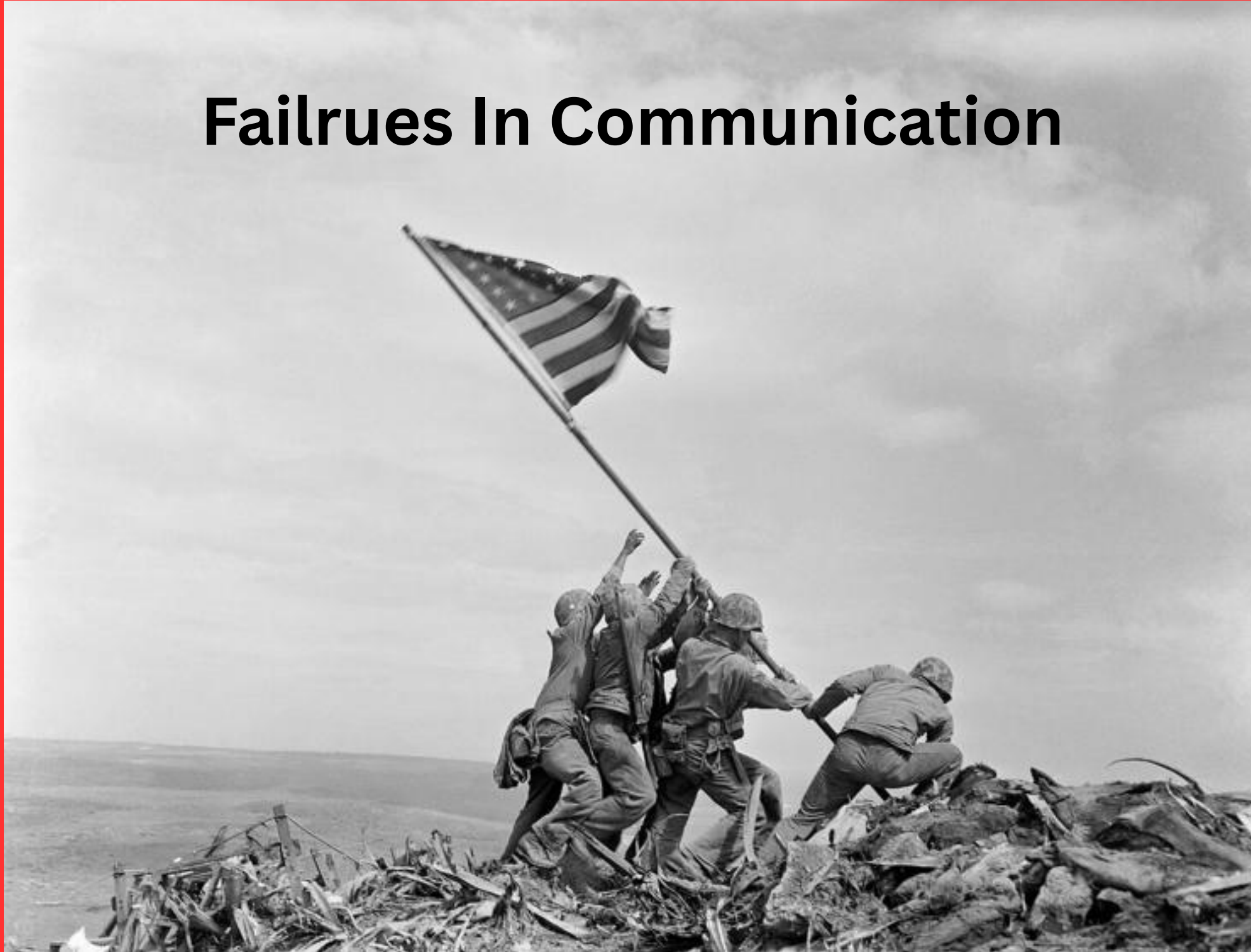


# **The Challenges of Communication Despite the Mastery of Language**

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## **Failures In Communication**



**What are the primary reasons for miscommunication even when we have mastered the language?**

- **Cultural**
- **Professional**
- **Generational**

**Example: The above image ‘The Flag Raising On Iwo Jima, though famous in the United States, is not well known to the rest of the world.**

# Cultural Disconnects



**Certain phrases and sayings develop inside a culture that are unique to that culture. Without the cultural frame work, understanding these phrases and sayings creates challenges in communication.**

**Photo: Artist's rendition of the storming of Chapultepec. This work depicts the United States Marine Corps' assault on Mexican Fortress. This event is a cultural milestone for the Marine Corps. Due to the high casualty figures of NCOs (Non-Commissioned Officers), it is the reason the Marine NCO wears a Red Strip (Blood Strip) on their Dress Uniform Trousers**

## Professional Language



**In every profession, as mastery develops, a specific language and use of language develops for that profession. This creates a barrier to understanding between those in the profession and those outside of it.**

**Examples: The image above shows the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon 'At Ease'. This phrase, when heard by outsiders, makes it seem that the Marines are just 'hanging around' waiting. But to those inside the profession, it means that they are attentive yet standing in a posture that allows them to maintain their bearing and attention to what is being presented.**

# The Generational Gap



A prime example is when grandchildren communicate with their grandparents using their generational phrases. Sometimes, Grandma thinks they are crazy.

As cultures age, generation-specific language tends to develop over time. This language is usually specific to that generation and is misunderstood or maligned by previous generations. This can create difficulties when communicatin across generational lines.

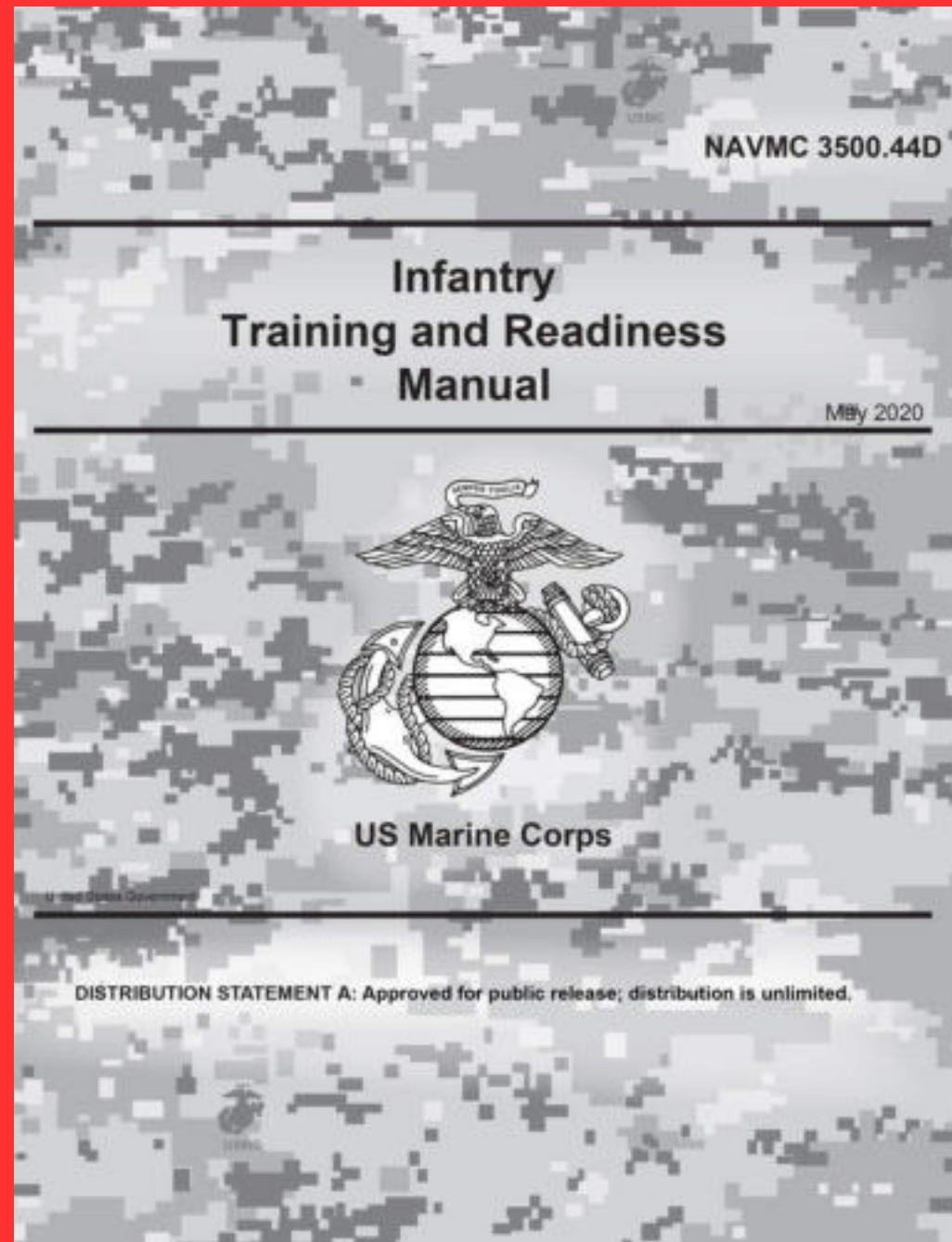
# The Barriers In Communication When Instructing Ukrainian Soldiers, using Marine Corps Doctrine



## Translation Difficulties:

- Acronyms
- Phrases
- Words (specific to Marines)

# Marine Corps Acronyms



- **BAMCIS (The basic steps for creating a plan)**
- **MAGTF (Marine Air-Ground Task Force)**
- **MOS (Military Occupational Specialty)**
- **MRE (Meal, Ready to Eat)**
- **NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer)**
- **FiST (Fire Support Team)**
- **KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid)**
- **POG (Persons Otherthan Grunt)**

**The Marine Corps loves its Acronyms**

# Marine Corps Phrases



- ‘Talking Guns’
- ‘Smoking Lamp’
- ‘Kill’ (used as an affirmation of understanding)
- ‘Die M\*\*\*\*\* F\*\*\*\*\* Die / Run Fuzzy Bunny Run’
- ‘Devil’ (A friendly reference to another Marine)
- ‘Backblast’ (Has more than one meaning)

Just like every professional organization, the Marine Corps has had 250 years to develop a very unique language that it uses

# Marine Corps Words



- **Moto**
- **‘Bravo Foxtrot’**
- **Grunt**
- **Leatherneck**
- **Boot**
- **Field Day**
- **Working Party**
- **‘Float’ (MEU reference)**

**Because communication is HIGHLY emphasised in the Marine Corps, our language has become quite unique over generations. Each word that we use has a meaning that all Marines will immediately understand.**

# How Can We Overcome the Obstacles In Communication?



- **Simplification of the Subject**
- **Use Common Experiences**
- **Simply take the time to explain**

# Subject Simplification



**We can solve communication issues simply by communicating in a simpler manner. By excluding sphere-specific language and using common language, we are able to explain the subject more clearly. (Please note, that when we do this we must be sure to avoid using language that would require even more explanation)**

**In the Marine Corps, we have a phrase ‘Break it down Barney-Style’, which references the childrens character Barney that would explain complex ideas to children. When we use this phrase, we are saying to explain the subject to me like I am 5 years old.**

# Utilizing Common Cultural or Personal Experiences



**We can use common experiences that nearly every person has had in their lives to help break communication barriers. By using references in Sports or Entertainment we can express ideas more clearly. We can also use personal experiences related to family, friends, and community to create a rapport with others.**

**We have all had experiences that are common across cultures, by tapping into those experiences, we can communicate on a more personal level**

# Patience is Key, So take your time.



**When we are willing and able to take our time and explain clearly and simply, our ideas or concepts, we find that there is a lot less misunderstanding. By putting in the effort, we will find it much easier as time goes on to communicate clearly.**

**When we develop the habit of communicating efficiently and simply, we find that we are able to express complex ideas in a way that is easy to understand. In the Marine Corps, we pride ourselves on efficient communication because when the bullets begin to fly, we do not want to waste time explaining ourselves.**

# Questions and Comments

