

## **Research on the Design Method of Equipment in Service Assessment Subjects**

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**Abstract:** Combined with equipment activities such as combat readiness, training, exercises and management, it is proposed that the design of equipment in-service assessment subjects should follow the principles of combination, stage and operability. Focusing on the design of equipment in-service assessment subjects, a design method for in-service assessment subjects based on the combination of trial and training mode is proposed. Based on the actual use of high-equipment use management and training and the established indicator system, the army's bottom-level equipment activity subjects and bottom-level assessments are combined. The indicators are mapped and analyzed. Through multiple rounds of iterations, the mapping relationship between in-service assessment indicators and military equipment activity subjects is established. Finally, the equipment activity subjects whose data is collected (reflecting the underlying assessment indicators) are generated inservice assessment subjects. The orthogonal test method is used to optimize the samples in the assessment subjects to form an in-service assessment implementation plan. Taking a certain type of armored infantry fighting vehicle as an example, the sample optimization design of the initially generated in-service assessment subjects is analyzed. It provides methods and ideas to carry out in-service assessment work.

Keywords: Equipment; in-service assessment; subject design; mapping

#### **1** Introduction

The equipment in-service assessment subject is the basic unit and important basis for the organization and implementation of in-service assessment. It is an in-service assessment activity mainly carried out in combination with military combat readiness, training, exercise and equipment management. Assessment indicators, military equipment activities, assessment data sources and other related core contents shall establish corresponding relationships with assessment subjects. Therefore, the design of equipment in-service assessment subjects is the key link to convert in-service assessment indicators into in-service assessment contents. By solving the relationship between test and training, a scientific and feasible assessment subject is formed [1–4]. This paper mainly studies the combined inservice assessment subjects combined with military equipment activity subjects. In the current



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research results, there is no in-depth research on what the equipment in-service assessment subjects based on the combination of trial and training are, what the contents are and how to combine them. It is urgent to clarify the internal relationship between in-service assessment and military training activities, and form the internal logic and method of in-service assessment subject design.

Subject design research is mainly reflected in the optimal design research of experimental samples. Optimal design of experimental samples refers to the planning and design of experimental factors, factor levels and combinations of experimental factors, and the specific and usual arrangements for experimental subjects. At present, a large number of design methods about factor level combinations have been studied, and methods such as orthogonal experimental design, uniform experimental design, sequential design, and Bayesian design are applied to the field of equipment test identification. Cao Yuhua focuses on the basic principles and scope of application of comprehensive test method, single factor test method, orthogonal experimental design method and uniform experimental design method, as well as specific applications in the field of equipment testing [5]. Wu Xiaoyue studied the selection and level of equipment test variables in equipment statistical experimental design, focusing on the specific application of four methods: orthogonal experimental design, uniform experimental design, statistical verification experimental design, and sequential experimental design. The selection of equipment in-service assessment variables and its level design provide a reference [6]. Chang Xianqi analyzed the statistical design methods in weapon equipment experiments, focusing on the statistical problems encountered in the experimental design, such as parameter estimation, hypothesis testing, and regression analysis [7]. He Yingping analyzes and studies the statistical methods of experimental design in the field of polymer material testing, focusing on statistical inference, variance analysis, orthogonal experimental design and regression analysis. Problem handling has reference significance [8].

#### 2 Principles and Ideas for the Design of In-service Assessment Subjects

#### 2.1 Design Principles

Combined in-service assessment subject design is an orderly test process carried out in combination with military equipment activities. The purpose is to obtain collectable data that meet the evaluation requirements with less test sample size on the basis of not affecting the normal equipment activity process of the military. Therefore, the design of combined in-service assessment subjects should follow the following principles:

- 1. Binding. Combined in-service assessment generally does not set assessment subjects separately, but is organized and implemented in combination with military combat readiness, training, exercise, equipment management and other activities. Therefore, the design of assessment subjects should be based on the thinking of "integration of trial and training", closely combined with military equipment activities, and form scientific and reasonable assessment subjects through the mutual mapping between assessment indicators and military equipment activity subjects.
- 2. Phased. The equipment activities of the army include not only continuous activities (such as daily combat readiness, equipment management, etc.), but also phased activities (such as training, exercises, etc.). Therefore, the design of assessment subjects follows the phased principle and forms phased assessment subjects in combination with military equipment activities, so as to obtain relevant data on the basis of assessment subjects and complete inservice assessment tasks.

3. Operability. The design of in-service assessment subjects should consider factors such as the actual operation of the army and the demand for data collection. It should not only collect comprehensive evaluation data, but also affect the process of army operation. Therefore, the formed in-service assessment subjects need to be operable, so as to facilitate the implementation of in-service assessment on the basis of not affecting the military equipment action and ensure the smooth completion of in-service assessment subjects.

#### 2.2 Design Ideas

The general idea of the design of equipment in service assessment subjects is: through the analysis of the activities and tasks of a certain type of equipment, including the analysis of non confrontational activities and tasks (such as daily combat readiness, basic training, equipment management, etc.) and confrontational (exercise) activities and tasks, the lower level equipment activity subjects of the army are obtained; Combined with the constructed index system of operational effectiveness, operational applicability, system applicability and in-service applicability, the indicators are gradually decomposed from the key problems of in-service assessment to the bottom assessment indicators [9–12]; Map the lower level equipment activity subjects that can collect data (reflecting the lower level assessment indicators) into in-service assessment subjects, and finally optimize the samples in the assessment subjects by using the orthogonal experimental design method to form a highly operational in-service assessment implementation scheme. The general idea of in-service assessment subject design is shown in Fig. 1.

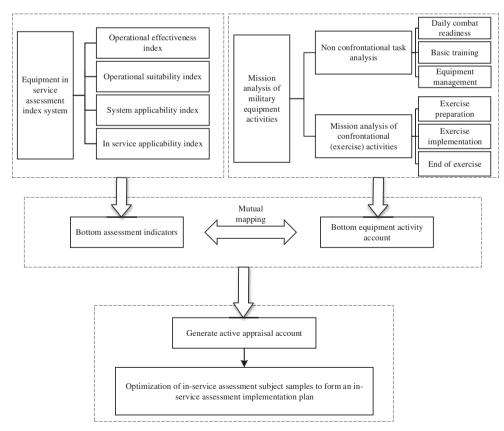


Figure 1: Design ideas for in-service assessment subjects

# **3** Design Method of In-Service Assessment Subjects Based on the Combination of Trial and Training Mode

After equipping the troops, it is necessary to carry out a series of activities such as daily combat readiness, training, confrontation exercises and management, so as to ensure that the equipment performance is in good condition, improve the training level of man-machine integration and comprehensive support ability, so as to achieve the purpose of improving combat effectiveness. Military equipment activity is the carrier of combined in-service assessment, which provides real and reliable original data for in-service assessment. In-service assessment uses these data to obtain useful information of in-service equipment. Therefore, the in-service assessment based on the combination of trial and training mode is carried out in combination with military equipment activities.

#### 3.1 Establish the Mapping Relationship Between In-service Assessment Indicators and Military Equipment Activity Subjects

After analyzing the military equipment activity tasks and decomposing the multi-level military equipment activity subjects, it is necessary to map the in-service assessment indicators with the underlying military equipment activity subjects, determine the data collection source and form the in-service assessment subjects. There are many mapping relationships between the assessment indicators and the equipment activity subjects of the underlying forces, such as one to many, many to one or one to one [13]. As shown in Fig. 2, the constructed assessment indicators are mapped one by one with the underlying equipment activity subjects. After the mapping is completed, analyze whether the mapped indicators are clearly understood and easy to collect, and further decompose the indicators according to the content of equipment activity subjects that can map to assessment indicators and collect data can be used as in-service assessment subjects [14–16].

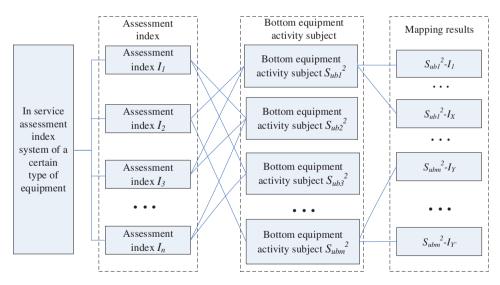


Figure 2: The process of mapping between in-service assessment indicators and underlying equipment activities

For example, the mapping relationship between combat readiness and assessment indicators. Combat readiness work is mainly divided into four secondary equipment activity subjects: equipment use, equipment maintenance, equipment storage and equipment inspection. According to the characteristics of equipment combat readiness work, it mainly corresponds to the indicators for assessing operational applicability in service, including environmental applicability, equipment safety, equipment testability, equipment maintainability, equipment reliability, man-machine adaptability, etc. The specific mapping relationship is shown in Tab. 1.

Equipment activity subjects	Assessment index	Underlying indicators
Equipment use	Equipment safety	Safety during transportation and use
	Equipment reliability	Mean time between failures, continuous normal working time
	Equipment testability	Fault isolation rate
	Man machine adaptability	Convenient operation, friendly interface, reasonable layout, etc
Equipment maintenance	Equipment maintainability	Maintenance convenience and mean time to repair
Equipment storage	Equipment environmental adaptability	Storage environment adaptability
	Equipment safety	Security in stored procedures
Equipment inspection	Equipment testability	Fault detection rate, false alarm rate of fault inspection and convenience of test

**Table 1:** Combat readiness work and evaluation index mapping table

### 3.2 Generation of In-service Assessment Subjects

After the military equipment activities are decomposed into specific equipment activity subjects, the mapping relationship between the in-service assessment indicators and the underlying equipment activity subjects is determined by mutual mapping method. The designers of the in-service assessment subjects convert the equipment activity subjects into in-service assessment subjects, which is also the basis for the military to implement the in-service assessment tasks. The main contents of in-service assessment subjects include: assessment subject name, purpose, content, assessment conditions and requirements, assessment methods, assessment indicators, data collection methods, evaluation standards, etc. For example: a certain type of armored infantry fighting vehicle generates in-service assessment subjects in the maintenance and repair support as shown in Tab. 2 below.

Name of assessment subject	Maintenance and repair assessment of an armored infantry combat vehicle
Assessment purpose	To assess and test the ability of an armored infantry combat vehicle to facilitate maintenance and repair, the effectiveness of supporting support resources and the applicability of technical data.
Assessment content	Maintenance and repair guarantee.
Assessment conditions and requirements	Training ground, maintenance room and repair room; Timely carry out maintenance and repair in combination with the above items.
Assessment method	Use the opportunity of equipment weekly maintenance and use maintenance (preparation before use, inspection during use and maintenance after use) to track and assess according to equipment maintenance requirements; Equipment maintenance shall be carried out in combination with equipment failure, and equipment component replacement training shall be carried out in combination with equipment repair training.
Assessment indicators	Storage environment adaptability, maintenance convenience, test convenience, fault detection rate, average fault repair time, supporting resources, etc.
Collection method	Manual collection, questionnaire survey, etc.
Evaluation criteria	The maintenance is simple, the workload is small, the support resources provided (onboard tools, spare parts, accessories, technical data, etc.) are applicable, and the maintenance tasks can be completed within the specified time according to the specified number of people, the specified tools, the specified operating procedures, and the technical data force has good applicability.

Table 2: Main contents of in-service assessment subjects

### 4 Sample Optimization Design Based on Orthogonal Design

After the assessment subjects are initially generated, the relevant factors (assessment factors) that affect the collection results of the assessment indicators in the in-service assessment activities can be analyzed based on the corresponding assessment indicators in the underlying assessment subjects, so as to lay the foundation for the optimization of assessment samples. After determining the relevant assessment factors of the assessment indicators corresponding to the assessment subjects, it is necessary to further study the combination of factor levels (the value of assessment factors), so that the assessment indicators correspond to one or more factor level combinations. Through the design and research of factor level combinations, the assessment subject samples are optimized to reduce the assessment times and scale as much as possible Shorten the assessment cycle and form more specific, targeted and operable assessment subjects.

At present, a large number of design methods of factor horizontal combination have been studied at home and abroad, such as orthogonal experimental design, uniform experimental design, block experimental design, Latin square experimental design and so on [17–21]. The most commonly used methods are orthogonal experimental design and uniform experimental design. When the number

of assessment factors is small, the orthogonal experimental design method is preferred; When there are many levels of assessment factors, the uniform test design method is preferred. The equipment in service assessment is organized and implemented in combination with the army's daily combat readiness, training, exercise and equipment management. The assessment factor level number is less, and the orthogonal experimental design method can be used preferentially [22–25]. The general steps of equipment in-service assessment sample optimization method based on orthogonal design are:

(1) Determine assessment factors and levels

The factors affecting the value of assessment indicators mainly come from two aspects: first, uncontrollable factors, which come from the changes of external environment of equipment action, including terrain environment, weather environment, threat environment, etc; The second refers to controllable factors, which come from the limitations of assessment methods and conditions, such as gun firing angle, firing state, target distance and target motion state. In the equipment in service assessment, in order to control the assessment scale, the assessment factor is usually taken as level  $2\sim3$  [26–28].

(2) Select the appropriate orthogonal table

Orthogonal table is generally represented by  $L_n(k_1 \times k_2 \times \cdots \times k_m)$ , "n" represents the number of trials, "m" represents the number of influencing factors, " $k_1, k_2, \cdots, k_m$ " represents the change level of each influencing factor. When  $k_1 = k_2 = \cdots = k_m = k$ , the orthogonal table is called a horizontal orthogonal table, denoted as  $L_n(k^m)$ ; when  $k_1 \neq k_2 = k_3 = \cdots = k_m = k$ , the orthogonal table is called a hybrid orthogonal table, denoted as  $L_n(k_1 \times k^{m-1})$ . According to the assessment factor and the number of levels to select the appropriate orthogonal table, the steps are as follows:

() Check the number of assessment factor levels. If the number of assessment factor levels is all 2 or all 3, choose  $L(2^*)$  or  $L(3^*)$ ; If the levels of assessment factors are different, the appropriate mixed orthogonal table is selected.

 $\bigcirc$  Check whether the number of columns in the orthogonal table can accommodate all appraisal factors and the interaction between appraisal factors. Usually, an appraisal factor is used as a column; The number of columns occupied by the interaction between the assessment factors is related to the number of levels. If the number of levels is I, then the column occupied by the interaction is (I - 1) column.

(3) The equipment in service assessment is organized and implemented in combination with the army's daily combat readiness, training, exercise and equipment management. The assessment scale needs to be controlled, and the smaller orthogonal table meeting the requirements is usually selected. The number of rows of the selected orthogonal table (the number of assessments) "n" is:

 $n \ge \sum f_{Assessment factor} + \sum f_{Interaction} + 1$ , Among them,  $\sum f_{Assessment factor}$  is the degree of freedom of the assessment factor;  $\sum f_{Interaction}$  is the degree of freedom of the interaction.

For example, A certain assessment has 4 factors and 3 levels. Without considering the interaction between assessment factors, the number of assessments is  $n \ge 4 \times (3 - 1) + 1 = 9$ , and the optional orthogonal table is  $L_9(3^4)$ ,  $L_{27}(3^{13})$ , and the scale of the assessment needs to be controlled, and the  $L_9(3^4)$  orthogonal table should be selected.

#### (3) Orthogonal table header design

The header design is to reasonably arrange the evaluation factors and interactions on the appropriate columns of the orthogonal table. There are two main assessment aspects: first, the interaction between assessment factors needs to be considered. First, the assessment factors with interaction are arranged, and then the assessment factors without interaction are arranged on the remaining columns; Second, without considering the interaction between the assessment factors, the assessment factors can be arbitrarily arranged on the columns of the orthogonal table.

(4) Clarify the assessment scheme

Organize and implement appraisal according to the appraisal samples composed of the columns of appraisal factors. The number in the column (without interaction) of each assessment factor in the orthogonal table is replaced with the horizontal value of the assessment factor, so as to form the implementation scheme of orthogonal assessment.

#### 5 Example of Optimal Design of In-service Assessment Samples

Taking an armored infantry combat vehicle as an example, this paper analyzes the sample optimization design of in-service assessment subjects.

(1) Initially formed in-service assessment subjects

For example, an armored infantry combat vehicle generates an in-service assessment subject (long-range transportation assessment) from the equipment action subject (long-range tactical mobility) during the exercise. The specific content is shown in Tab. 3.

Assessment subject	Remote transportation assessment of an armored infantry combat vehicle
Assessment purpose	To assess and test the convenience of railway and highway transportation of a certain type of infantry combat vehicle in plateau area.
Assessment content	Railway transportation and highway transportation.
Assessment conditions	Members of a certain type of infantry combat vehicle team shall complete
and requirements	the assessment by using railway platform, flat car and 50 ton flat trailer.
Assessment method	Get on and off the railway flat car from the top platform and fix it on the railway flat car; Get on and off the car flat trailer, which is equipped and fixed on the car flat trailer.
Assessment indicators	The time of getting on and off the railway flat car or car flat trailer, the time of fixed equipment, the time and distance of transportation, the problems found in the assessment and the feelings of personnel, etc.
Collection method	Manual collection, questionnaire survey, etc.
Evaluation criteria	Be able to get on and off the railway flat car and car flat trailer smoothly, and arrive at the designated place according to the time requirements without safety problems.

Table 3: Remote transportation	assessment of an armored	d infantry combat vehicle
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There are many factors affecting the value of assessment indicators in the remote transportation assessment subject of an armored infantry combat vehicle, which mainly comes from the change of external environment, including terrain environment, day environment, weather environment and threat environment. As mentioned above, the value of the time to get off the railway slab is different during the day and night, so the impact of the day and night time environment should be considered. The assessment factor matrix is shown in Tab. 4.

**Table 4:** Assessment factor matrix of long-distance transportation assessment subjects of an armored infantry combat vehicle

Test factor	Factor level
Topographic environment	Above 3 km, below 3 km
Weather environment	Day and night
Weather environment	Sunny and rainy days
Threat environment	Threat, no threat

#### (3) Optimal design of assessment samples

Taking a certain type of armored infantry fighting vehicle remote transportation assessment subject as an example, the sample optimization design is carried out, and the assessment sample point is selected. If all assessments are carried out, at least  $2^4 = 16$  assessments need to be carried out, as shown in the following Tab. 5.

 Table 5: Overall sample of long-distance transportation assessment subjects of an armored infantry combat vehicle

Serial number	Topographic environment (2 levels)	Weather environment (2 levels)	Weather environment (2 levels)	Threat environment (2 levels)
1	Above 3 km	Day	Sunny	Threat
2	Above 3 km	Day	Sunny	No threat
3	Above 3 km	Day	Rain	Threat
4	Above 3 km	Day	Rain	No threat
5	Above 3 km	Night	Sunny	Threat
6	Above 3 km	Night	Sunny	No threat
7	Above 3 km	Night	Rain	Threat
8	Above 3 km	Night	Rain	No threat
9	Below 3 km	Day	Sunny	Threat
10	Below 3 km	Day	Sunny	No threat
11	Below 3 km	Day	Rain	Threat
12	Below 3 km	Day	Rain	No threat
13	Below 3 km	Night	Sunny	Threat

(Continued)

	Table 5: Continued				
Serial number	Topographic environment (2 levels)	Weather environment (2 levels)	Weather environment (2 levels)	Threat environment (2 levels)	
14	Below 3 km	Night	Sunny	No threat	
15	Below 3 km	Night	Rain	Threat	
16	Below 3 km	Night	Rain	No threat	

The orthogonal experimental design method is used to optimize the design of the sample. After the  $L_{s}(2^{4})$  orthogonal table design is selected, as shown in the following Tab. 6, the formed sample can be evaluated for 8 times. Compared with all the evaluations, the sample size is reduced by half.

	•	•	•	
Serial number	Topographic environment (2 levels)	Weather environment (2 levels)	Weather environment (2 levels)	Threat environment (2 levels)
1	Above 3 km	Day	Sunny	Threat
2	Above 3 km	Day	Rain	No threat
3	Above 3 km	Night	Sunny	No threat
4	Above 3 km	Night	Rain	Threat
5	Below 3 km	Day	Sunny	No threat
6	Below 3 km	Day	Rain	Threat
7	Below 3 km	Night	Sunny	Threat
8	Below 3 km	Night	Rain	No threat

Table 6: An assessment sample of orthogonal optimization design for a certain type of armored infantry fighting vehicle long-distance transportation assessment subject

#### 6 Conclusion

Firstly, the principle and idea of in-service assessment subject design are put forward, and the relationship between assessment index and equipment activity subject is logically clarified; Secondly, the task of typical armored equipment activities in the army is decomposed to form multi-level equipment activity subjects; Then, a mapping relationship is established with the assessment indicators. According to the mapping relationship between the assessment indicators and the underlying equipment activity subjects, the equipment activity subjects that can collect data are preliminarily generated into inservice assessment subjects; Finally, the orthogonal test method is used to optimize the samples in the assessment subjects to form the implementation scheme of in-service assessment, which provides a reference for the research on the design of equipment in-service assessment subjects.

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