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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

2 January 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : John N. McMahon
Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT : MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Dissertations

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article contains short synopses of the dissertations on operational art and tactics which were defended at the M. V. Frunze Academy, the Military Academy of the General Staff and the Academy of Armored Troops in 1960-1961. This article appeared in Issue No. 5 (66) for 1962.

2. Because the source of this report is extremely sensitive, this document should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis within recipient agencies. For ease of reference, reports from this publication have been assigned

John N. McMahon

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SUBJECT

MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Dissertations

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Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an article which appeared in Issue No. 5 (66) for 1962 of the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article contains short synopses of the dissertations on operational art and tactics which were defended at the M. V. Frunze Academy, the Military Academy of the General Staff and the Academy of Armored Troops in 1960-1961.

End of Summary

[redacted] Comment:

After 1962 the SECRET version of Military Thought was published three times annually and was distributed down to the level of division commander. It reportedly ceased publication at the end of 1970. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Dissertations

(Candidates')

To acquaint readers of the journal with the subject matter of dissertations on operational art and tactics which were defended at the M. V. Frunze Academy, the Military Academy of the General Staff and the Academy of Armored Troops in 1960-1961, the editors present a short synopsis of each.

On Tactics

1. Breaking Through a Prepared Enemy Positional Defense from the March by Combined-Arms Large Units. Colonel N. N. LUKHTA, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1959, 219 pages plus 7 diagram inserts (typographic edition).

The first chapter deals with the nature of a modern prepared enemy defense; the necessity and possibility of breaking through it from the march; the conditions for establishing a grouping of troops for the breakthrough; the combat tasks of large units, the width of the offensive zone, and the disposition of the battle formation of a division; the use of weapons of mass destruction, artillery, aviation, and tank and engineer troops when breaking through a defense from the march; the disposition of first-echelon combined-arms large units of an army attack grouping before they begin to move up to the line of attack.

The second chapter examines the preparation and organization of a breakthrough from the march of a prepared enemy defense. The third chapter analyzes the movement forward of troops and the special features of a breakthrough. In conclusion the author makes a number of recommendations on the conduct of a battle by a division when breaking through a defense from the march.

2. Combat Against Enemy Reserves in an Offensive Battle and Operation. Colonel I. D. POMBRIK, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1959, 220 pages plus 4 diagrams (typographic edition).

The dissertation deals with the function and use of reserves in a defensive battle and operation according to the views of the US Army; principles of the use of modern forces and means; certain operational and engineer support measures for the combat actions of troops; possible ways of increasing the efficiency of control of the forces and means allocated for combat against enemy reserves; the destruction of enemy reserves in concentration areas and the interdiction of a maneuver by them before the start of and during an offensive; the disrupting and repulsing of counterattacks and counterthrusts; preempting enemy reserves in occupying defensive lines in the depth and routing them as the offensive develops.

In conclusion it is pointed out that combat actions by attacking troops in combat against reserves will be extremely mobile and intense in nature. The decisive means of combat against enemy reserves will be nuclear weapons.

3. The March by a Motorized Rifle Division over Great Distances. Colonel Yu. V. USOVICH, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1959, 180 pages plus 8 diagrams (typographic edition).

The author examines in sequence: the place of marches over great distances in present-day operations and the conditions under which they are carried out; the march capabilities of a motorized rifle division and ways of increasing them; the organization and conduct of a march. Lastly the author concludes that an increase in the march capabilities of large units may be accomplished by the greatest possible use of transport equipment, increasing the speed of movement at night, training relief drivers, and the skilful organization of other measures.

4. Ways of Increasing the Stability and Aggressiveness of Defense by Combined-Arms Units and Large Units Defending on the Main Axis. Colonel A. D. VINOGRADOV, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1959, 228 pages plus an album of diagrams (typewritten).

The first chapter deals with modern means of armed combat and their effect upon conditions of conducting a defensive battle (operation), the change in the methods of breaking through a defense according to the tactics of the armies of our probable enemies, and the nature of a modern defense.

The second chapter examines the basic principles of setting up a defense of units and large units, and their content and forms of employment under modern conditions. The third chapter contains an analysis of measures to preserve a high degree of stability in the defense of units and large units when the two sides go over to aggressive combat actions, and the nature of actions by units and large units to repulse an attacking enemy and destroy one who has penetrated the defense.

Lastly, the author concludes that a defense must be built on the principle of highly mobile actions by troops in conjunction with the tenacious holding of certain areas and lines.

5. Engineer Support for Successive Assault Crossings of Several Rivers by Combined-Arms Large Units from the March in an Offensive Operation of a Combined-Arms Army. Colonel B. V. KOZLOV, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1959, 200 pages plus an album of diagrams (typewritten).

The first chapter deals with the effect of rivers on combat actions of troops, the defense of rivers as seen by our probable enemies, the nature of combat actions of large units of an army in an offensive (the assault crossing of rivers from the march, the status and prospects of developing water-crossing equipment, and the methods by which troops make an assault crossing of a river).

The second chapter examines engineer support of assault crossings of a number of rivers by combined-arms large units from the march in an army offensive operation. The third chapter contains an analysis of the work of commanders, staffs, and unit engineers in organizing engineer support for assault crossings of rivers from the march by combined-arms large units.

In conclusion the author makes a number of recommendations on questions of engineer reconnaissance, negotiating barriers and swampy floodland sectors, supporting a crossing at the pace of a modern battle, on maneuvering using crossing means, and others.

6. The Work of the Staff of a Combined-Arms Large Unit in Controlling Troops in an Offensive Battle. Colonel V. A. TUMAS, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1960, 143 pages plus 12 diagrams and tables (typewritten).

The author sets forth in sequence the content of the requirements involved in troop control and in the work of the staff of a large unit; the effect of the nature of a modern offensive battle on the development of means of control; the methods of operation of a staff in collecting and processing information on the situation, the necessary memoranda, and calculations on the conveying of combat tasks to the executors, and ensuring cooperation among the troops, both with existing means of control and with those which may come into use in the near future; the requirements of control posts and of the organizational structure of the staff of a division; possible ways of improving the methods of operation of a staff in introducing means for automating troop control.

In conclusion the author deals with new troop control requirements resulting from the development of means and methods of armed combat (the need for control on the march, when troops are operating along axes, etc.), ways of improving means and methods of troop control on the basis of mechanizing and automating labor-consuming processes; and he makes practical recommendations on how to speed up the drafting of combat documents, on the organizational structure of staffs and control posts, and on a number of other matters.

7. Training Combined-Arms Staffs for a Combat Situation. Colonel V. P. SAVELYEV, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1959, 200 pages plus 17 diagrams (typewritten).

The dissertation sets forth the requirements for training staffs; the content, forms of organization, and methods of training staff officers; the planning of the training of staff officers; the training of officers during practical work; the organization and conduct of short training assemblies; the special features of organizing and conducting practical exercises with staff officers in operational-tactical training; and the special features of staff service training for officers in the process of practical training exercises.

8. Antilanding Defense of a Seacoast by Combined-Arms Large Units. Colonel V. M. KONEV, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Adacemy, 168 pages plus 15 diagrams (typographic edition).

The author examines the following questions: the operational-tactical conditions for combined-arms large units to go over to an antilanding defense of a seacoast; the effect of military-geographic conditions on an antilanding defense, on its nature, and on the requirements made of it; the setting up of an antilanding defense by combined-arms large units; and the organization and conduct of the defense.

9. The Use of a Second-Echelon Tank Division of a Combined-Arms Army in an Offensive Operation. Lieutenant Colonel A. Ye. DENISOV, Moscow, Military Academy of Armored Troops, 1960, 192 pages plus an album of diagrams (typewritten).

The first chapter deals with: the nature of operational defense according to the views of the American command; the tasks of second echelons in an offensive operation by a combined-arms army; the conditions for committing a tank division to battle, its combat tasks, and the width of the zone of actions; the areas and lines of the division, and its battle and march formation when being committed to battle.

The second chapter sets forth the organization for committing a tank division to battle; the working out of the plan and assigning of combat tasks; the organizing of cooperation; the use of nuclear weapons, artillery, aviation, and engineer troops, and control posts; and communications and provost and traffic control service. The third chapter contains a possible sequence for moving a tank division up to the line of commitment to battle and its actions on being committed to battle.

Lastly, the author presents conclusions and recommendations on a number of questions pertaining to this subject. He defines the tasks of a tank division, the concentration areas and their size and distance from the enemy, its battle formation when being committed to battle, and ways of improving control.

10. The Nature of a Modern Defensive Battle and Operation and Trends to Develop Them Further. General-Mayor V. Ya. PETRENKO, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1960, 187 pages plus 7 diagrams (typewrittten).

The first chapter deals with the following matters: modern means of combat and their effect on the nature of defense; the role and significance of fire; the role and nature of the interdependence between tactical and operational forces and means in combat actions; views on the organization and methods of conducting an offensive in the US Army; the objective of modern defense and the conditions under which it may be employed; and some of its characteristic features.

The second chapter analyzes views on setting up a defense, methods of concentrating the main efforts and the increasing counteraction, the grouping of forces and means, tasks of engineer support, and the maneuvering of troops in a defense. The third chapter examines certain matters of the organization and conduct of a defensive battle and operation.

In conclusion the author formulates the characteristic features and objective of defensive actions on an operational and tactical scale, the forms of setting up and methods of conducting a modern defense, and points out that achieving the objectives of defense under present-day conditions is possible only by drastically increasing its mobility and aggressiveness, that in form a defense must consist of a system of areas which are equipped in the engineering aspect and are occupied by the least possible amount of forces and means; in content it must combine powerful fire strikes by troops carried out under the cover of firmly held defensive areas.

11. Eliminating the Aftereffects of a Nuclear Attack in a Defensive Battle and Operation. Colonel S. V. RODKIN, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1960, 214 pages plus an album of diagrams (typewritten).

In the first chapter the author sets forth measures for eliminating the aftereffects of a nuclear attack (restoring the combat readiness of units that have been subjected to nuclear attack, rescue and medical-evacuation operations, decontamination treatment and radioactive decontamination, dosimetric monitoring, and extinguishing fires), as well as the requirements for carrying out these measures in a defensive battle and operation.

The second chapter examines the following subjects: restoring disrupted control and determining the combat effectiveness of units (subunits), the battle (operational) disposition of troops which have suffered losses from nuclear weapons, the system of fire, engineer structures, and routes for movement, supply, and evacuation; resupplying troops with ammunition and other materiel needed to conduct battle.

The third chapter deals with special measures to eliminate the aftereffects of a nuclear attack (rescue work and medical-evacuation measures in areas of nuclear bursts, decontamination treatment, dosimetric monitoring, and extinguishing fires).

12. Actions of a Motorized Rifle Division as an Amphibious Landing Force to Capture Coastal Islands in Cooperation with an Airborne Landing Force and Units and Subunits of the Navy. Lieutenant Colonel S. M. NASONOV, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1960, 168 pages, plus an album of diagrams (typewritten).

The first chapter discusses the conditions of landing on an island (the military-geographic position of the islands, the nature of enemy actions when defending them) and the nature of an amphibious landing operation. The second chapter sets forth in detail questions of training a motorized rifle division for landing actions to capture islands. The third chapter analyzes the actions of a division in this operation. Primary attention is devoted to landing units of the division onto ships and supporting this landing, moving landing forces into the landing area, and conducting combat actions to capture coastal islands.

In conclusion the author points out that preparations and movements over water must be carried out covertly, in dispersed formation, and the landing must be carried out from various directions.

On Other Subjects

1. The Combat Employment of Mechanized Corps of the Soviet Army in the Initial Period of the Great Patriotic War. Lieutenant Colonel M. P. DOROFEYEV, Moscow, Military Academy of Armored Troops, 1960, 209 pages plus an album of diagrams (typewritten).

The first chapter examines: military-theoretical views on the combat employment of large mechanized large units of the Soviet Army on the eve of the Great Patriotic War; the status of the mechanized corps of border military districts at the start of the war; the grouping of German fascist troops and their tasks according to the plan for waging war against the Soviet Union; the grouping of Soviet troops of western border military districts at the start of the war; the combat function of mechanized corps; and a military-geographic description of the territory of the western border military districts.

The second chapter analyzes questions concerning the employment of mechanized corps in the initial period of the Great Patriotic War on the northwestern, western, and southwestern strategic axes. The third chapter contains the lessons and conclusions drawn from the experience of using mechanized corps in the initial period of the Great Patriotic War, and the reasons for shortcomings which occurred when using them.

In conclusion the author offers suggestions which may be used in the practical activity of commanders and staffs to maintain high combat readiness among the troops, for better deployment, to equip areas for stationing troops when they are moved out of their permanent locations, and a number of others.

2. Airborne Landings by the US Army and Their Employment in a Modern Battle and Operation. Colonel B. A. KLYPKIN, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 20 pages plus 13 diagrams (typewritten).

The dissertation examines: the function and types of airborne landings and the forces and means for carrying out airborne landing operations; organizing the combat employment of operational and tactical airborne landing forces; planning a landing; materiel-technical support for airborne landing operations and evacuation of the wounded; the concentration and preparation of landing forces for combat actions; the landing and regrouping; combat actions of airborne landing forces.

In conclusion the author sets forth recommendations on measures to be taken by an army commander in combat against airborne landing forces, how to use various weapons in combat against landing forces, and the most advantageous techniques and methods.

3. The Role and Place of the Technical Means of a Combined-Arms Integrated Automated System of Control and the Automation of Processes of Control of Rocket Troops and Artillery. Colonel D. D. NIKANOROV, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1960, 199 pages plus 6 diagram inserts (typewritten).

The first chapter contains an analysis of the content of measures for the control of missile weapons and artillery, examines the conditions of their being carried out, and on this basis defines the role and place of combined-arms and missile-artillery organs of control in directing the preparation and conduct of combat actions by missile and artillery units, the structure of a specialized system of control, principles of coordinating the activities of control organs of combined-arms and

specialized systems, and possible changes in the methods of operation of various command levels of control.

The second chapter defines the goals of automating operations at various levels of control and the sequence of introducing technical means. It gives the reasons for the need to automate the processes of control of missile and artillery units in two stages: the first -- integrated mechanization and partial automation; the second -- integrated automation.

The third and fourth chapters examine trends in developing the most essential and promising technical means in the first and second stages. They define the overall operational-tactical requirements for the qualitative condition and organizational affiliation of technical means of control.

Lastly there are proposals on ways to improve the system of control of missile and artillery units, and specific recommendations are made on certain aspects of the subject.

4. Automation of the Processes of Collecting and Processing Intelligence Information Using an Electronic Computer. Lieutenant Colonel Sh. I. KITOSHVILI, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1961, 189 pages plus an album of diagrams (typewritten).

The first chapter deals with existing means and methods of collecting and processing intelligence information and their conformity to the requirements of a modern battle and operation, and raises the question of the need to automate this work. The second chapter examines possible ways of automating the collection and processing of intelligence information using electronic computers. The third chapter sets forth the theoretical principles of processing intelligence information on electronic computers. The fourth chapter cites experimental data on the processing of intelligence information on a URAL computer and the methods used in solving a problem. The fifth chapter examines the effect of an automated information collection and processing system on the structure of intelligence departments (sections) and on the means of obtaining information.

Lastly the author cites the results of research and concludes that the problem of present-day collection and processing of intelligence information can be solved by using electronic computers.

5. Military-Geographic Conditions of the Kamchatka Peninsula and the Kurile Islands and their Effect on the Combat Actions of Troops. Colonel A. V. AKIMOV, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1961, 225 pages plus an album of diagrams (typewritten).

The first chapter contains an analysis of the physio-geographic conditions of Kamchatka and the Kurile Islands and shows the effect of these conditions on the combat activity of troops. The second chapter deals with the status of preparation of the territory of Kamchatka and the Kurile Islands in the operational sense and cites the measures taken to improve it. The third chapter contains an analysis of the special features of organizing the detection and interception of an air enemy, the organization and conduct of an antilanding defense, and the concentration of forces and means to carry out amphibious landing operations from the territory of Kamchatka and the Kurile Islands.

6. Building the Soviet Army in the Pre-War Years (1936 to June 1941). Lieutenant Colonel V. G. KLEVTSOV, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1961 (typewritten).

The first chapter examines the increasing threat of military attack against the USSR, its struggle to collectively repulse the fascist aggression and strengthen the security of its borders, and the entry of the USSR into a new historical phase of development -- the completion of the building of socialism and the gradual transition to communism.

The second chapter describes the overall state of our army in 1936 and the need to further strengthen it. It deals with measures taken by the Communist Party and the Soviet government in the area of military construction.

The third chapter contains an analysis of the basic instructions given by the party and the government for the further building of the Soviet army, as well as the system of measures designed to strengthen discipline among the troops, improve the organizational structure of all echelons of the army, rearm it with combat equipment, and radically restructure the entire system of combat and political training.