

**INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT**

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet Manual on the Combat Employment of Airborne Troops

DATE DISTR.

14 January 1959

NO. PAGES

86

REFERENCES

RD

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ

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the Manual on the Combat Employment of Airborne Troops, published by the USSR Ministry of Defense in Moscow in 1959. This document was classified SECRET by the Soviets.

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OSI - 1, NIC 1, OCI - 1, ORR - 1, ONF - 1													
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)													

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MANUAL ON THE COMBAT EMPLOYMENT  
OF AIRBORNE TROOPS

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NOTE: Several Soviet Army terms used do not have precise English equivalents. The following are some of these terms and an explanation of their treatment in translation:

- a. Soyedineniye refers to a corps, division, or brigade. The components may be of a single arm or of various arms and services. In this translation, soyedineniye has been translated as "large unit".
- b. Chast designates a unit of regimental or smaller size that is administratively self-contained and separately numbered, e.g., a rifle regiment, the engineer battalion of a rifle division, or a signal battalion. In this translation, chast has been translated as "unit".
- c. Podrazdeleniye refers to a subunit of a chast. It is a unit which cannot be identified numerically except by reference to the unit of which it is a component, e.g., a battalion, company, or platoon of a rifle regiment, a battalion or battery of an artillery regiment, or a company of an engineer or signal battalion. In this translation, podrazdeleniye has been translated as "subunit".
- d. Obyedineniye refers to an army or front, and has been translated as "formation".
- e. Sily i sredstva refers to personnel and the equipment or weapons associated with them, and has been translated as "forces and means", "forces and equipment", or "forces and weapons".
- f. Voyska has been rendered as "troops", except in the phrase sukhoputnyye voyska, which has been translated by the conventional phrase "ground forces".
- g. Komandir is generally used herein to refer to the officer in command of soyedineniye, chast, or podrazdeleniye, and has been translated "commanding officer". Nachalnik and komanduyushchiy are used to identify the officer in command of an obyedineniye. Both words have been translated "commander". When nachalnik is used to refer to the officers in command of a combat arm, it has been translated "commander", and when it relates to a service element, it has been translated as "chief".

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MANUAL ON  
THE COMBAT EMPLOYMENT OF  
AIRBORNE TROOPS

MILITARY PUBLISHING HOUSE  
OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE UNION OF SSR'S  
MOSCOW, 1959

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O R D E R  
OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
OF THE GROUND FORCES  
No. 081

9 November 1959

City of Moscow

The Manual on the Combat Employment of Airborne Troops  
is hereby put into effect.

Commander-in-Chief of the Ground Forces  
Marshal of the Soviet Union  
A. GRECHKO

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Airborne troops, when fulfilling combat missions in the rear area of the enemy, are guided by the statutes expounded in the field and combat regulations of the Soviet Army, and by this Manual which expounds instructions on landing of troops and special features of conducting combat operations with them in the enemy rear area.

When preparing and carrying out landings of large units, units, and subunits of other arms of troops, it is necessary to be guided by the requirements of this Manual.

The instructions contained in this Manual should be employed in strict conformity with the arising situation.

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Chapter One

THE BASIC PRINCIPLES

1. Airborne troops enter into the composition of the Ground Forces. They are intended for combat operations in the enemy rear area and, as a rule, they are employed in offensive operations for performing operational tasks.

Airborne troops are able to appear quickly and suddenly in the enemy rear area, to exploit the results of the employment of atomic, missile weapons and other means of mass destruction, to deprive the enemy of the opportunity to consolidate on favorable lines, to pin down his reserves, to limit the freedom of maneuver, to introduce disorganization into troop control and the work of his rear services, and thus contribute to the conduct of modern offensive operations at high speeds.

Subunits and units of the airborne troops, when performing combat tasks in the enemy rear area, must operate quickly, decisively, and aggressively; they must possess a strong offensive drive, stability and tenacity in defense, and great stamina when conducting combat while encircled.

Personnel of the airborne troops are required to have outstanding combat training and a high political-morale state, resourcefulness, combat cooperation and mutual help, firm discipline, endurance and readiness to perform the assigned task regardless of any difficulties or danger to life.

2. Airborne troops are employed in operations of the Ground Forces, the Navy, and, in some individual cases, also independently. Operating in the enemy rear area, they can perform the following tasks:

- to seize and hold important areas, bridgeheads and crossings at water lines and mountain passes and passes in mountainous areas with the goal of denying the withdrawal of enemy troops and the approach of his reserves from the depth, to support their quick crossing by advancing troops, and to also assist in encircling and



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destroying enemy groupings;

-- to seize or destroy important objectives, such as large headquarters, communications centers, airfields, means of mass destruction, bases, road structures; to attack enemy troops with the goal of disorganizing control, disrupting rear services work and frustrating the employment of weapons of mass destruction by the enemy;

-- to seize and hold airfields to support the landing of friendly troops and to base aviation;

-- to seize and hold sectors of the sea coast in the area of the amphibious landing, as well as important lines along the routes of approach of enemy reserves to the landing area;

-- to seize and hold islands and strait zones along sea routes.

Besides, airborne troops can carry out operations for the capture of important areas in the deep rear area of the enemy with their subsequent retention or the delivery of strikes against important enemy objectives from these areas.

Airborne troops may also be used to support and render assistance to guerillas.

3. Successful employment of airborne troops is achieved by:

-- the suddenness of their appearance in the enemy rear area;

-- the reliable neutralization of the enemy prior to the landing (drop); the comprehensive support of the troop landing, and necessary support of their combat operations;

-- the continuous cooperation of the airborne landing force with aviation, missile units, large units and units of the Ground Forces and the Navy;

-- the timely support of troops with necessary stocks of materiel supplies.

4. Surprise in employment of airborne troops is achieved by:

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— the concealment of preparation and the concentration of airborne troops and military-transport aviation, for the landing, in the departure area;

— the deceiving of the enemy concerning the actual landing areas;

— the carrying out of the landing within a short period of time, preferably at night;

— the swiftness and decisiveness of the actions in performing the task;

— the dropping (landing) of units (subunits) of the landing force as close to the objectives of their operations as possible.

5. Airborne troops consist of airborne large units and separate units. The basic combined-arms operational-tactical large unit of the airborne troops is the airborne division. It is made up of paratroop (parashyutno-desantnaya), artillery, and assault-artillery units, as well as units (subunits) of special troops,

An airborne division is usually employed at full strength. In cases of necessity, paratroop units (subunits) from its composition may be assigned for the independent performance of combat tasks.

6. The paratroop regiment is a combined-arms tactical unit. It is made up of paratroop battalions, regimental artillery subunits, and other subunits.

The paratroop battalion is a combined-arms tactical subunit. It is made up of rifle companies, a mortar and an artillery battery, and other subunits.

The rifle company is a tactical subunit.

7. The artillery regiment consists of two battalions of tube and rocket-launching artillery, and other subunits. As a rule, in combat, it is attached to paratroop regiments and battalions by battalions or batteries.

8. The assault-artillery battalion consists of assault artillery batteries and other subunits. It may be used by batteries or at full strength.



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In an offensive, a battalion (divizion) may be attached to battalions (batalon) (companies) by batteries, in the capacity of accompanying artillery.

In defense, the assault-artillery battalion is used to create antitank reserves of divisions and regiments, and also to reinforce the antitank defense of battalions (companies).

9. The antiaircraft artillery battalion is made up of anti-aircraft artillery batteries and other subunits. It may be employed at full strength or by batteries to cover troops from strikes of the air enemy, and also to destroy ground targets.

10. The sapper battalion is made up of sapper companies, a sapper-technical company, and other subunits.

The subunits of a sapper battalion are used to reinforce paratroop units(subunits), for operations as part of mobile obstacle detachments, reconnaissance subunits, diversionary groups, and also to perform other tasks.

11. The transport (perebroška) of troops by military-transport aviation into the enemy rear area for the performance of combat tasks is called an airborne operation (desantirovaniye).

An airborne operation includes the loading (suspending) of combat equipment and cargo, the boarding of the aircraft (helicopters) by the personnel, the flight, and the dropping (landing) of the airborne force.

Depending on the composition and the combat task of the airborne landing force and the capabilities of military-transport aviation, the airborne operation may be carried out in one or several flights during any time of the year and day.

12. The large unit (unit, subunit), participating in the airborne operation into the enemy rear area to perform combat tasks is called the airborne landing force (vozdushnyy desant).

Airborne landing forces, depending on the missions being performed and the combat composition, are subdivided into operational, tactical, and special purpose forces.

Operational - usually not less than an airborne division - employed to perform missions that result from the general concept of the front (fleet) operation and directed toward successful



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achievement of the goal of the operation.

Tactical - usually at the strength of up to a reinforced regiment - employed to perform various tasks mainly in tactical cooperation with troops operating from the front.

Special purpose - usually in the composition of up to a reinforced company - employed to perform tasks of a reconnaissance and diversionary nature.

13. Depending on the method of landing, airborne landings may be:

- parachute - when the personnel, the combat equipment, and the materiel supplies are dropped by parachutes from aircraft;

- landing - when the personnel, the combat equipment, and the materiel supplies are landed by airplanes or helicopters by the latter's landing on airfields or landing strips;

- parachute-landing - when part of the landing force is dropped by parachute, forming the paratroop group, and the other part alights from airplanes or helicopters, forming the landing group.

14. The duration of combat operations of an airborne landing force separated from friendly troops is determined by the senior commander and depends on the combat task, potentialities of materiel support, and general development of the operation (combat).

An airborne division provided with the necessary stocks of materiel supplies, is capable of conducting combat operations in the enemy rear area, separated from the troops of the front, for several days.

15. An airborne operation departure area is assigned to prepare troops for the airborne operation and combat operations, and also for concentration of military-transport aviation. It includes airfields (air strips) for military-transport aviation, areas of unit (subunit) disposition during the time when they are

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prepared for the airborne operation, and also waiting areas for the disposition of units (subunits) prior to their egress on to the airfields.

16. The area of the terrain in the enemy rear where the airborne landing force is dropped and landed to perform combat tasks is called the airborne operation area.

In the airborne operation area there must be sectors of terrain (drop zones) (ploshchadka prizemleniya), suitable for landing of paratroopers and (landing strips) (posadochnaya ploshchadka) for landing of airplanes and helicopters.

The size of the airborne operation area and the number of landing zones (ploshchadka) depend on the combat composition and the task of the airborne landing ... 3 or 4 words missing 7 days, tactical-technical data of the aircraft, and the adopted method and order of the airborne operation.

When carrying out an airborne operation with a single flight, airborne operation areas are designated: with 6 to 8 zones for a division and 2 to 3 zones for a regiment, the size of each area being 1.5 to 2 by 2 to 3 kilometers. A paratroop battalion, and in some cases a regiment, is landed on a single zone. In a night landing-force drop the number of zones for the landing of paratroopers is usually reduced.

17. An airborne division (paratroop regiment) may land and operate in the enemy rear, in one or in several areas, depending on the combat task. Having landed in a single area, units and subunits usually conduct combat operations with fire and tactical liaison between them.

Units and subunits that were landed in different areas may find themselves without fire and tactical liaison but they must operate according to the general plan of the senior commander. A division (regiment) airborne operation may be carried out simultaneously or consecutively.

The time of the drop (landing) of an airborne landing force into the enemy rear area is determined by the senior commander, depending on the goal of its employment, the task and combat composition of the landing force, and also on the situation that has arisen at the front.

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18. The combat task of an airborne landing force is determined by the senior commander and is usually subdivided into a series of tasks that are carried out in sequence.

The immediate task of an airborne division(paratroop regiment) is usually the destruction of the enemy in the airborne operation area and seizure of a selected area(objectives).

The subsequent task may be defense of the seized area (objective) or the delivery of strikes against the enemy with the goal of seizing new objectives or destroying them.

The follow-up task may consist of the delivery of strikes against the enemy jointly with troops advancing from the front.

The immediate task of a paratroop battalion consists of the destruction of the enemy within the landing area and the seizure of a selected objective. Subsequently the battalion may defend an assigned sector, or advance along an axis designated for it.

19. The combat formation of an airborne division (paratroop regiment) when operating in the enemy rear area must satisfy the concept of the forthcoming battle and must provide: the potentiality of attacking the objectives being seized from several axes; stability and aggressiveness in defense; the carrying out of a broad maneuver and the gradual increase of the force of the strike for swift and decisive action against the flank and rear area of the enemy; tactical independence of units and subunits; minimum vulnerability of troops to atomic weapons and other means of mass destruction, as well as the best utilization of terrain.

20. The combat formation of an airborne division (regiment) when operating in the enemy rear area, depending on the task and the situation, usually consists of combat formations of regiments (battalions) with means of reinforcement, operating, as a rule, along separate axes, reserves, the mobile obstacle detachment, the forward detachment if its employment is envisaged, the subunits assigned for protection of flanks and rear area, and sometimes even the artillery group.

The combat formation of a paratroop battalion is usually formed as one echelon and consists of combat formations of rifle companies, reserves, and fire weapons remaining under the direct subordination of the battalion commander.

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The combat formation of a rifle company consists of combat formations of rifle platoons, fire weapons, directly subordinate to the company commander, and, in individual cases, a reserve.

As a rule, there will be intervals between the units and subunits in a combat formation, the size of which will depend on the nature of the combat task and the terrain.

The intervals between units and subunits, the flanks, and the rear area of the landing force must be supported by continuous reconnaissance, artillery and small arms fire, disposition of reserves on the especially critical axes, and, in defense, also by obstacles.

21. Atomic weapons are employed to ensure an airborne landing and support the combat operations of the airborne landing force.

Antiair defense weapons and enemy reserves, that may be brought in to combat an airborne landing force, in the airborne operation area and close to it, are destroyed with atomic weapons.

In the course of combat operations, atomic weapons are employed against the enemy weapons of atomic attack, his approaching reserves, and combat formations.

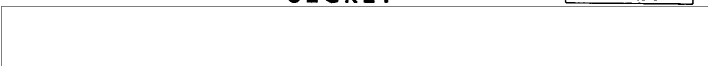
Atomic weapons are employed prior to the airborne operation and in the course of combat operations at the decision and with the means of the commander of the front (army) troops.

22. Aviation performs the following tasks in support of the airborne landing force:

- conducts aerial reconnaissance of the enemy;
- covers the airborne landing troops and military-transport aviation from strikes by enemy aviation in the departure area for the airborne operation during the airborne operation and during the course of combat operations;
- neutralizes the enemy in the airborne operation area and close to it;
- neutralizes the enemy weapons of antiair defense on the flight path of the military-transport aviation and in the airborne operation area;

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- supports combat operations of the airborne landing force;

- supports delivery of ammunition, fuel and rations and other materiel means to the airborne landing force, as well as the evacuation of the wounded, the sick, and of the equipment.

23. The front (army) artillery is brought in for the support of the airborne operation and combat operations of an airborne landing force, employing atomic, chemical munitions and munitions with conventional charges to perform the following tasks:

- neutralizes (destroys) personnel and fire weapons of the enemy in the airborne operation area and in areas adjacent to it;

- neutralizes enemy antiair defense weapons along the flightpath of military-transport aviation;

- neutralizes enemy weapons of atomic attack, artillery, tanks, and radar stations;

- neutralizes enemy reserves which may endanger the operations of the airborne landing force.

The artillery of the airborne landing force destroys enemy weapons of atomic attack and tanks, neutralizes and destroys his personnel and fire weapons. As a rule it is attached to paratroop units and subunits and operates as accompanying artillery in battalion centers of resistance, company strong points, and in anti-tank reserves.

When reinforcing a division with artillery, a divisional and regimental artillery group may be created in it.

24. The antiair defense of an airborne landing force is carried out:

- in the departure area for the airborne operation by troops of the antiair defense of the country or by troops of the antiair defense of the ground forces, in cooperation with fighter aviation of the front, covering the given area; the antiaircraft artillery of the airborne landing force may, in this case, be used for covering troops prior to the beginning of its egress onto the airfields for loading (boarding the planes);

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— during the flight to the airborne operation area - by specially assigned fighter aviation and by antiaircraft artillery of the troops, in whose zone the flight of the airborne landing force is taking place, and located on sectors adjacent to this zone.

— in the airborne operation area and while conducting combat operations - by fighter aviation assigned to cover the landing force, and also by antiaircraft artillery units and subunits of the landing force, and by small arms fire.

The landing force receives data on the air enemy from antiaircraft defense radar posts, or from the army post of anti-air defense (the main post of anti-air defense of the front).

Within the landing force the warning about an air enemy is carried out through the use of all means of communications.

25. Political work in the airborne troops, in a combat situation, must be directed toward the successful performance of assigned combat tasks. It is organized taking into consideration the nature and peculiarities of combat operations of an airborne landing force in the enemy rear area. Moreover, special attention must be given to:

— the explanation to the personnel of the significance of the combat task, the procedure and methods for performing it, the need to bring weapons and equipment into combat readiness immediately upon landing, skillful orientation in difficult situations, the decisive  $\sqrt{3}$  or 4 words missing/...independent operations in the enemy rear area, the display of personal courage and military skill, mutual support and help in combat, implicit execution of the orders of the commanders,

— the instilling in the military personnel of a sense of responsibility for the exact execution of the rules and requirements when packing parachutes, packing cargoes, loading equipment and arms into airplanes (helicopters), for the secure and qualitative execution of all other measures to prepare troops for the airborne operation and for the carrying out of the combat task in the enemy rear area;

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— the instilling in the military personnel of a faith in the strength and might of their weapons, of a sense of responsibility for the upkeep of arms, equipment, and paratroop equipment, of the ability to use munitions, fuel, and lubricants sensibly and economically, to skillfully use captured enemy arms, equipment, and other material means in support of combat;

— the instilling in the personnel of a burning hatred toward the enemy, high vigilance, discipline, an ability to maintain military secrets, protect their own subunit and unit from penetration by spies and diversionists; the exposing of hostile propaganda and enemy provocations; the barring of a panicky frame of mind and uncertainty in the performance of combat tasks;

— the maintaining of personnel in constant readiness to repel strikes by enemy tanks and infantry, endure staunchly and courageously all burdens and hardships of combat situations in the enemy rear area, and perform the assigned tasks with the full intensity of all moral and physical forces, under any conditions and at any price, including self-sacrifice;

— the manifesting of concern for maintenance of firm, flexible, and uninterrupted control of troops of the airborne landing force and the maintenance of continuous cooperation with aviation and troops operating from the front;

— the establishing and maintaining of correct relations of the personnel of the airborne landing force with the local population;

— the timely informing of personnel concerning combat successes of units and subunits of the airborne landing force and troops operating from the front;

— the manifesting of concern for the uninterrupted support of the landing force with all that is necessary for life and combat, especially with munitions and food, of medical assistance to the wounded and sick, their protection and timely evacuation from the combat operations area to the friendly rear area.

Political work in airborne troops must be conducted purposefully, continuously, and it should become more aggressive as the combat situation becomes more complex and tense.

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Chapter Two

THE CONTROL OF TROOPS OF AN AIRBORNE LANDING FORCE

26. Control of troops of an airborne landing force envelops the entire activity of commanding officers and staffs, the preparation of troops for landing, the combat operations, and their direction in combat.

Control includes:

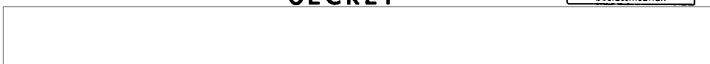
- the maintenance of constant combat readiness of airborne troops and the high political-morale condition of the personnel;
- the ensurance of secrecy of troop preparation for the airborne operation and combat operations and the surprise of a drop (landing) in the enemy rear area;
- the timely assignment of combat tasks to subordinates; the organization and maintenance of continuous cooperation;
- the continuous direction of troops and comprehensive support of troop operations, as well as control over the fulfillment of issued orders and directives.

27. The special features of the control of airborne landing force troops are conditioned by their deployment and conduct of combat operations along separate axes with units and subunits being considerably removed from each other, frequent and abrupt changes in the situation, the rapid transition from one type of combat to another, constant readiness to conduct combat when encircled, and also by the complexity of supporting an airborne landing force during operations in the enemy rear area, by aviation and troop artillery operating from the front, and the difficulty of supplying material means in combat. This requires continuity, firmness, and flexibility on the part of all commanding officers in their control of the troops.

Continuity of control is achieved by the maintenance of uninterrupted communications under any conditions, the dispersed placing of the staff in several aircraft during the airborne operation, the immediate establishment of communications with subordinates and the senior commander after landing, the provision for the possibility of establishing communications to the next lower level, the readiness of commanding officers of units (subunits) to take over

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control of the combat operations of the landing force (unit), the timely reporting up the chain of command and the continuous informing down the chain of command, and of adjacent units on the situation.

Firmness of control consists of rigidly putting into practice the decision adopted for the exact and complete performance of the combat task received.

Flexibility of control manifests itself in constant knowledgeability of the situation, in the ability to foresee and react to its changes in a timely manner, in defining a decision made earlier or making a new decision in accordance with the situation that has arisen after the landing and during the course of combat, in the need to exhibit intelligent initiative and make bold decisions in complex situations.

28. The commanding officer of an airborne landing force (unit, subunit) carries full responsibility for successful performance of combat tasks by the troops subordinated to him. He controls units (subunits) personally and through his staff, usually by means of issuing verbal combat orders and commands, making extensive use of technical means of communications, and also by dispatching staff officers to the units (subunits).

Control of troops by means of personal contact of the commanding officer with his subordinates has paramount significance, especially during abrupt changes in the situation in the enemy rear area.

29. The basic requirement when organizing control is the centralization of the planning of the airborne operation and combat operations, and also the secrecy of carrying out preparatory measures, and the expeditious informing of troops as to their missions. Moreover the following are taken into account: dispersed disposition of troops in the departure area for the airborne operation, the complexity of assembling and bringing units and subunits into combat readiness after they land, the limited time available for the elaboration of combat tasks, and the vagueness of the situation in the enemy rear area.

30. The basis of troop control is the decision of the commanding officer.

In the decision for an airborne operation and combat operations, the commanding officer defines;



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— the plan of action; which enemy and in what sequence he is to be destroyed, after the airborne operation and in the course of subsequent operations; the axis (sector) of the concentration of the principal efforts of the troops; the grouping of forces and means along the axes (objectives) and also the nature of the maneuver by the forces and means; the composition of the airborne operation and the order of its landing;

— the enemy objectives that are neutralized by atomic weapons and other means of destruction prior to the drop (~~landing~~) and in the course of combat operations;

-- the combat tasks for subordinate units (subunits) and the order of their landing, as well as combat tasks of aviation and artillery detached for the support of the airborne landing force;

— the troop cooperation procedure when performing assigned tasks, and their control.

In order to ensure troop combat operations the commanding officer plans measures for combat, engineer, materiel, technical, and medical support to ensure the secrecy of troop preparation for the airborne operation and the surprise of combat operations, and also on the organization of political work.

31. Before reaching a decision, the commander must size up the assigned task, appraise the situation, and envisage potential changes.

When sizing up the assigned task, the commanding officer of the division (regiment) must comprehend the concept of the senior commander, the place and role of his large unit (unit) in the task being performed by a higher formation (large unit), the procedure for employing atomic weapons in support of the airborne landing force and its influence on the performance of the combat task, the duration of combat operations in the enemy rear area, and conditions for cooperation with aviation, missile units, and troops approaching the large unit with the landing force.

Having sized up the task, the commanding officer determines what preparatory measures for the airborne operation and combat operations must be carried out immediately; calculates the time and issues the necessary preliminary instructions in order to allow the troops more time to prepare for the forthcoming operations.



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When appraising the situation the commanding officer studies:

- the forces, the grouping, and the potential nature of enemy operations in the airborne operation area and in areas adjacent to it, especially his tank troops; objectives subject to seizure, and the nature of their defense; the nature of antilanding obstacles; objectives which it is necessary to neutralize and destroy prior to the airborne operation and in the course of combat operations;
- the condition and the composition of troops being landed, their support and combat potentialities;
- the tasks and the nature of the operations of troops approaching the large unit with the landing force;
- the composition and the potentialities of military-transport aviation, and its distribution with the departure area for the airborne operation;
- the conditions of materiel, technical, and medical support after the airborne operation;
- the terrain from the standpoint of conditions for the airborne operation and performance of the combat task;
- the weather conditions, time of the year and day, and their influence on the airborne operation and the combat operations;
- the economic and sanitary-epidemic conditions of the area of forthcoming operations, social-political composition of the population, and its mood.

In appraising the situation the commanding officer uses all reconnaissance data, maps, aerial photographs, charts, and descriptions of the area of the forthcoming combat operations.

While studying the situation, the commanding officer determines what measures have to be carried out to remove the causes that complicate the performance of the task, or to reduce their negative effect.

Incomplete data concerning the situation does not free the commanding officer from reaching a timely decision.



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32. A combat order is issued concisely and clearly and usually contains:

- brief evaluation of the grouping and the possible nature of enemy operations in the airborne operation area and areas adjacent to it;
- the combat mission of the large unit (unit, subunit) and the concept of the commanding officer;
- the estimated time and axes of the egress of troops advancing from the front to the area of combat operations of the airborne landing force, or tasks of adjacent units, and, when necessary, also lines of demarcation between them;
- the order and time of employing atomic weapons and other means of destruction in support of the landing force;
- the combat tasks for the subordinate units (subunits), landing areas (drop zones), means of reinforcement and support;
- the tasks for artillery, including antiaircraft artillery, and for special troops;
- the tasks for aviation detached for the support of the landing force;
- the time of troop readiness for the airborne operation;
- the locations of control points when performing combat tasks.

The sequence of the setting forth of the order depends, in each individual case, on the situation.

In a division a combat order is usually issued in written form, and verbally in a regiment or battalion. A written combat order may be issued in a regiment in those cases when there is an adequate amount of time available to organize combat operations. If a combat order is issued verbally, it must be written down, or recorded on a map with a legend, and be distributed to units (subunits).

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After the airborne operation, and in the course of the battle, combat tasks are assigned or elaborated by the commanding officer's brief combat orders, transmitted through staff officers or by means of communications, as well as by traveling to subordinates.

Tasks, on the combat, engineering, materiel, technical and medical support, on the organization of communications, on the ensuring of the concealed preparation of the airborne operation and the surprise of combat operations, as well as on the political work, are conveyed to the troops by means of separate directives and instructions.

33. When organizing cooperation of the airborne landing force with aviation and troops operating from the front, the commander (commanding officer), at whose order the airborne landing force is being employed, usually defines:

-- the objectives and procedure for employing atomic weapons;

-- the enemy objectives subject to neutralization and destruction by aviation and artillery prior to the airborne operation, during the landing, and in the course of combat operations;

-- the procedure for covering the airborne landing force from strikes of enemy aviation;

-- the operations of the airborne landing force and troops advancing from the front, during their approach and joining together;

-- the procedure for supporting the airborne landing force by the artillery of troops operating from the front, lines (objectives) of artillery fire effect, and the procedure for requesting and controlling fire;

-- common signals for cooperation, methods and means of communications and mutual information.

In addition, when organizing cooperation with an amphibious landing and large units of the navy, a procedure is established for joint operations of the airborne and amphibious landing forces, and for the support of an airborne landing force with shipboard artillery fire.

34. The commanding officer of an airborne landing force and commanding officers of aviation large units detached for the support of the landing force, when organizing cooperation, elaborate:

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- enemy objectives subject to neutralization and destruction when seizing the airborne operation area and in the course of combat operations;

- the procedure for calling in aviation for delivery of strikes against the enemy in the area of combat operations of the airborne landing force;

- the composition of control groups of aviation large units (units) being landed jointly with the landing force;

-- the procedure for transmitting reconnaissance data to the landing force by aviation;

- the signals of mutual recognition and methods of target designation.

35. The commanding officer of the airborne landing force and the commanding officers of large units of the naval and of the amphibious landing force, when organizing cooperation, must:

- define the missions to be carried out by the airborne landing force in support of the amphibious landing force, the tasks of the amphibious force, and the missions carried out by large units of the navy in support of the airborne and amphibious landings;

- determine the objectives for neutralization and the procedure for requesting and adjusting shipboard artillery fire;

- coordinate troop operations for seizing coastal objectives;

- establish a procedure for the delivery of material means to the airborne landing force by sea;

- establish a procedure for mutual recognition, target designation, communications and mutual information of the airborne and the amphibious landing forces and the naval large units.

36. When organizing cooperation between units (subunits) of the airborne landing force the commanding officer must:

- coordinate actions of units (subunits) between them when destroying the enemy and seizing objectives in the airborne operation area, defending the seized area or capturing new objectives, and also when joining the troops advancing from the front (the amphibious landing force);

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-- indicate the methods of action of units (subunits) for the quick exploitation of the results of employing atomic and chemical weapons;

-- indicate the procedure for supporting the actions of units (subunits) by aviation and artillery when seizing the airborne operation area, and in the course of combat operations;

-- indicate signals for requesting the shifting and cessation of fire, target designation, mutual recognition, with aviation, with troops operating from the front, and other signals.

In order to ensure coordinated actions with troops operating from the front (amphibious landing force), the procedure for cooperating with them is explained to commanding officers of units (subunits); signals of mutual recognition and necessary radio data for establishing communications when they approach the airborne landing force are also established.

Cooperation is organized on terrain models with the use of maps and aerial photographs of the area of forthcoming combat operations.

37. The division (regimental) commanding officer and staff are situated in the airborne operation departure area in such a position as to ensure reliable communications with the senior commander, the commanding officers of subordinate units (subunits), and commanding officers of large units (units) of military-transport aviation.

During the airborne operation flight the commanding officer, the chief of staff, and the deputy commanding officer are located in different airplanes, and each has a group of staff officers with means of communications attached to him capable of providing control of troops after the landing if necessary.

38. For control of troops in the area of combat operations, a command post and a rear area control point are usually organized in a division; a command post in a regiment or battalion.

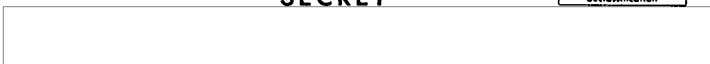
To provide the division commanding officer with control of troops operating along the main axis, a forward command post may be set up.

Locations for control points are selected in such a way as to ensure convenience of troop control, concealment of their disposition, and protection from enemy attack.



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39. The communications of the airborne landing force commanding officer (staff) in the airborne operation departure area, with the commander (staff) of the front (army) troops, commanding officers (staffs) of cooperating troops and the military-transport aviation headquarters, are organized and maintained by the order and means of the front (army) headquarters.

The communications of the commanding officer (staff) of the airborne landing force with commanding officers(staffs) of subordinate units (subunits)are ensured:

- in areas of their disposition by the forces and means of the airborne landing force, and on communications lines allocated by order of the front (army) headquarters;

- upon arriving at the waiting areas and the airfields (landing strips)-- through signal centers of military-transport aviation, and by mobile means.

Use of radio communications for control of troops in the airborne operation departure area is forbidden.

40. Communications of the airborne landing force commanding officer with commanding officers of subordinate units (subunits) and with the commanding officer of the military-transport aviation large unit (unit), in flight, are maintained through radio stations of the airplanes (helicopters), in which they are located.

41. When conducting combat operations in the enemy rear area, the communications of the commanding officer (staff) of the airborne landing force and the commanding officers (staffs) of subordinate units (subunits), headquarters of the front (army), headquarters of cooperating troops and materiel supply airfields are maintained by radio, airplanes, and helicopters.

In combat the basic means of communications of airborne landing force troops is the radio.

When organizing communications with subordinate units (subunits) the possibility of maintaining communications is envisaged: in a division-- with regiments, battalions, and independently operating companies; in a regiment-- with battalions (companies) and sometimes with independently operating platoons. Besides, regimental headquarters (battalion headquarters in case the landing force is employed in regimental strength) ~~should have~~ the opportunity to establish communications with the commander employing the airborne landing force.

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Communications with aviation allocated for support, and the large units (units, ships) of the Navy is carried out through officers of the cooperating large units (units) being landed jointly with the airborne landing force. Besides, communications with the Navy are set up on special radio networks.

Communications with motorized rifle, and tank large units and troop artillery operating from the front are effected by order of the front (army) headquarters on special cooperation radio networks, and also by reciprocal entry of radio stations into the radio networks of appropriate large units (units, subunits). Besides, communications of the airborne landing force with the supporting artillery are carried out through the radio stations of fire adjustment groups (fire adjustment posts) landed together with the airborne landing force.

42. For the communications of the airborne landing force with the front (army) headquarters and cooperating units (large units) specially prepared documents (dokumenty) of secure troop control are used.

Plain text radio transmissions are permitted in units and subunits of the airborne landing force when transmitting commands, orders, and reports in battle, and also when warning about an air enemy and about the danger of his atomic and chemical attack. Within a division, plain text transmission of certain orders is permitted at the order of the division commanding officer when the situation is such that use of documents of secure control may lead to the untimely transmission of orders and reports.

In all cases of plain text transmission, numbers and designations of units (subunits), duty assignments and names of commanding officers, areas and terrain features must always be coded.

43. The commandant's service is organized by the airborne landing force headquarters for the purpose of maintaining general order during disposition and movement of troops, traffic control, control of troops in regard to observing camouflage, and also for maintaining necessary controls over the local population both in the airborne operation departure area and in the area of combat operations.

Commandant's service in the area of combat operations is planned before the airborne operation and is elaborated after the drop (landing).



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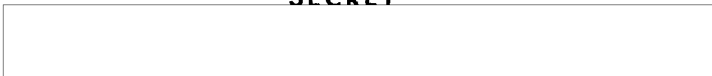
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Chapter Three

THE PREPARATION OF TROOPS FOR THE AIRBORNE OPERATION AND COMBAT OPERATIONS

44. Preparation of airborne large units (units) for the airborne operation and combat operations is carried out on the basis of the assigned combat task. When a mission is assigned to the commanding officer of an airborne landing force, the following are usually indicated:

- the airborne operation area and data on the enemy in it and in the adjacent areas;
- the mission of the airborne landing force, and procedure for cooperation with troops advancing from the front;
- the composition of the military-transport aviation allocated for the landing operation;
- the airborne operation departure area, airfields (strip), the time and the procedure for concentrating the airborne landing force and military-transport aviation in it;
- the objectives and the procedure for employing atomic weapons and other means of destruction in support of the airborne landing force;
- the tasks of aviation and artillery of the front in ensuring the airborne operation and support of combat operations of the airborne landing force;
- the procedure for maintaining communications with the airborne landing force;
- the measures for materiel, technical, and medical support;
- time of readiness for the airborne operation.

45. Preparation of troops for the airborne operation and combat operations includes:

- study of the enemy in the airborne operation area and areas nearest to it;
- reaching a decision concerning the airborne operation and combat operations, planning of same, and the assignment of combat tasks to the troops;



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- the organization of cooperation between units (subunits) of the airborne landing force, and also the elaboration of the procedure for cooperation with aviation allocated for support, and troops operating from the front (amphibious landing force);

- the organization of control and communications;

- the organization of combat, engineer, materiel, technical, and medical support;

- the readying of personnel, combat equipment and materiel for the airborne operation and the performance of the combat task;

- the concentration of troops and materiel means toward the airfields of the airborne operation departure area,

The sequence of troop preparation for the airborne operation and combat operations is determined by the commanding officer of the airborne landing force in accordance with the situation and time allotted for these purposes. The division (regiment, battalion) staff selects the basic airborne operation and combat operation measures ~~word missing~~ for preparation and execution.

46. Measures for preparing troops for an airborne operation and combat operations are conducted in secrecy with all camouflage measures being observed. For this, it is necessary to:

- use a limited group of personnel for the planning of the airborne operation and the combat operations;

- issue instructions and orders concerning the organization of the airborne operation and troop combat operations mainly by personal contact or through staff officers;

- issue topographic and special maps, charts, aerial photographs, descriptions, and other documents on the area of the forthcoming combat operations within time limits necessary to prepare troops for the performance of combat tasks;

- isolate the troops from the local population and from personal contact with servicemen not belonging to the composition of the landing force;

- move the troops to the airfields and disposition areas during the night or under other conditions of limited visibility;

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- when the troops are disposed in the airborne operation departure area, carefully fulfill necessary measures of camouflage, take full advantage of concealing and protective features of the terrain, and also make extensive use of organic as well as improvised means of camouflage;

-- transport parachute-landing equipment, covered and preferably during the night, and carry out packing of parachutes, and loading of materiel ~~supplies into parachute containers in areas~~ concealed from aerial observation... [1 to 3 words missing];

- reduce to a minimum the amount of time the troops have to spend in the waiting areas and at the airfields (landing strips).

When landing in the enemy rear area, it is forbidden to take along operational and combat documents which would disclose the plan of the operation in which the airborne landing force is employed.

The carrying out of special measures to camouflage, and to mislead the enemy is effected in accordance with the plan of the front (army) troop commander.

47. Study of the enemy in the airborne operation area and in areas adjacent to it is carried out systematically during the entire preparation for the airborne operation and the combat operations. Prior to the airborne operation, the large unit (unit) staff files requests with the higher headquarters for the conduct of reconnaissance. Immediately prior to the beginning of the airborne operation, the staff of the airborne landing force receives precisely defined data on the enemy and the meteorological conditions.

With the beginning of the drop (landing), reconnaissance is conducted by the forces and means of the airborne landing force.

Reconnaissance tasks are assigned prior to the beginning of the airborne operation and are elaborated in the course of combat operations. Subunits assigned to reconnaissance may be dropped in the immediate vicinity of the objectives of their operations, or dispatched from the airborne operation area.

48. Reconnaissance in support of the landing force, during preparation for the airborne operation and combat operations, is organized and conducted at the order of and with the means of the front (army) troop commander.

Reconnaissance must establish:



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- the forces, composition, grouping, and nature of enemy operations in the airborne operations area and areas adjacent to it, especially of tank troops;

- the forces and means of enemy antiair defenses, their grouping along the flightpath of military-transport aviation, and in the airborne operation area;

- the nature of the terrain and the condition of roads, the availability of airfields and landing strips suitable for a drop (landing) of an airborne landing force, the presence and nature of antilanding obstacles;

- the political mood of the population, the medical-epidemic condition, the conditions of water supply, the availability of foodstuffs, fuel, lubricants and transportation in the airborne operation area and in areas adjacent to it.

Besides, the commanding officer of the airborne landing force is furnished data on weather conditions and expected changes of same in the area of the airborne operation and combat operations.

49. In order to study the enemy and the terrain, large-scale aerial photography of the area of the airborne operation and combat operations is carried out at the request of the airborne landing force staff calculated to have the aerial photographs reach the company (artillery battery) commanding officer.

For artillery units and subunits, photomaps and rectified aerial photographs with grids are prepared.

In cases of necessity the airborne landing force is also provided with oblique and stereoscopic aerial photographs.

50. Planning of the airborne operation is carried out by the staffs of large units and units of the airborne landing force with the participation of the staffs of large units and units of military-transport aviation. Planning of the landing operation is based on the decision of the airborne landing force commanding officer.

While planning the airborne operation the staff of the airborne landing force, jointly with the staff of the large unit (group) of military-transport aviation, works out an airborne operation timetable which is signed by the commanding officers and chiefs of staffs of the airborne landing force and the large unit (group) of military-transport aviation, and confirmed by the front (army) troop commander.

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The airborne operation timetable indicates: which wave in the composition of which group (paratroop, landing); from which airfields, in which large units (units) of military-transport aviation (indicating the number and type of airplanes, helicopters); into which area (on which strips/zones); in what combat composition, the units (subunits) are landed; take-off time; drop altitude; beginning and end of drop (landing) of units (subunits) on each strip/zone.

Subordinate units (subunits) may be given excerpts from the airborne operation timetable of the airborne landing force.

When working out the airborne operation timetable, a planned landing schedule, the boundaries of drop zones (landing strips) and the disposition of units and subunits of the airborne landing troops and military-transport aviation in the airborne operation departure area, are elaborated.

In all cases, aviation reserves and emergency airfields are provided.

51. The landing of artillery is planned for those landing strips/zones of those paratroop units and subunits that it is attached to, or that it supports.

In some cases, landing of artillery by the parachute method is permitted, during which the control platoons with the means of reconnaissance and communications are dropped by parachute on the zones of the paratroop units (subunits), and the personnel of fire platoons and the combat equipment are landed on other landing strips (airfields) by the landing method.

Commanding officers of artillery batteries always land together with the combat equipment of their batteries.

52. For the airborne operation, communications subunits are distributed along the airplanes (helicopters) by sections (teams, crews) with communications equipment and are landed on the same strip as the large unit (unit, subunit) staff.

Radio stations of commanding officers, chiefs of staffs and chiefs of arms of troops and services are located in the same airplanes (helicopters) that these persons land in.

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53. When organizing an airborne operation in several waves, the composition of troops for each wave is determined by the combat task of the airborne landing force, the situation, and the capabilities of military-transport aviation.

The composition of the first wave usually includes paratroop units (subunits), reinforced by antitank and antiaircraft artillery and engineer subunits, capable of seizing the airborne operation area and ensuring the landing (drop) of troops of the second wave.

The commanding officer and staff, the artillery commander, and chiefs of the airborne division services are, as a rule, landed with the first wave. To control landing of troops, of the second and subsequent waves, a group of staff officers is appointed, usually headed by the deputy commanding officer of the division, which is landed in the last wave.

As a rule, troops of the second wave are scheduled to land in the seized area. Emergency strips/zones are provided in case of an abrupt change in the situation, which may be outside the boundaries of the area seized by the units (subunits) of the first wave.

As a rule, units (subunits) of the second wave become airborne from other airfields.

54. In the case when an airborne operation is carried out following a nuclear strike, it is necessary to take into account:

- the presence of radioactive contamination of the terrain in the area of the atomic burst and along the path of movement of the radioactive cloud with high levels of radiation;
- the sharp change in the outward appearance of the terrain;
- the creation of centers of fires, obstructions, floods, and landslides.

Drop zones (landing strips) of units and subunits are selected at the distances from ground zero of the atomic burst which would ensure levels of radiation at the landing strips, so that, at the start of the drop (landing) of the airborne landing force, the levels of radiation at the strips/zones would not exceed permissible norms. Reserve strips/zones are designated in case of deviation of ground

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zero of the atomic burst.

The elapsed time between the atomic burst and the beginning of the drop (landing) of the airborne landing force must be the minimum permissible.

55. The following are determined in accordance with the airborne operation timetable by commanding officers of units and subunits of the airborne landing force jointly with commanding officers of units of military-transport aviation for each airfield:

- the location on parking aprons of airplanes and helicopters, when loading personnel, combat equipment and cargo;
- the initial positions for boarding of personnel and loading of combat equipment, and cargo, and measures for their camouflage;
- the procedure and signals of loading and boarding;
- the organization of the commandant's service.

Besides, commanding officers of units (subunits) of the airborne landing force conduct reconnaissance of the waiting areas and routes of troop movement to airfields (strips), to the initial position for the boarding (loading).

The initial position for the boarding (loading) is designated in the immediate proximity of the airplane (helicopter) parking aprons within the boundaries of the airfield (strip).

The loading and boarding plan for units and subunits at each airfield is formulated in the form of a diagram with a legend.

56. When planning the airborne operation and combat operations, the time is calculated from the established time of the beginning of the drop (landing) of the airborne landing force (H-hour).

The starting of the drop or landing (H-hour) is determined by the commanding officer of the troops of the front (army) and is reported to the commanding officer of the airborne landing force taking into account the time necessary for the movement of troops to the airfield for the loading (suspending) of combat equipment and cargo, for the boarding of personnel, and the flight of the military-transport aviation to the airborne operation area.



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57. After the airborne operation timetable has been worked out, the staff of the airborne landing force compiles a chart for the movement of troops to the waiting areas. The chart shows the routes for movement of units and subunits, the order for proceeding, the measures for combat support of troops, commandant's service measures, and the time for concentration in the waiting areas.

58. The order and the time for concentration of military-transport aviation at the airfields of the airborne operation departure area are determined by the front (army) troop commander. Moreover, the duration of the presence of aviation on airfields, prior to the airborne operation, must be an absolute minimum.

The responsibility for the timely and concealed concentration of military-transport aviation is assigned to the commanding officer of the military-transport aviation group (large unit).

59. The military-transport aviation flight plan and profile for an airborne operation are determined by the commanding officer of the military-transport aviation group (large unit), taking into account the nature of the terrain, the enemy groupings, his means of antiair defense, the distribution of drop zones and their removal from the front line, the weather conditions along the flight path and in the airborne operation area, and also the altitude of the drop. The flight plan and profile are confirmed by the front (army) troop commander.

60. When time is available, while preparing the airborne landing force for the performance of its forthcoming combat task, the carrying out of training and instruction with commanding officers, staffs, and troops is envisaged, based on the nature of the forthcoming combat operations.

In order to conduct exercises and instruction in the airborne operation departure area, sectors of terrain, similar to the area of the forthcoming combat operations, are selected and prepared, or models and large-scale relief maps of the terrain are prepared.

61. Preparation of subunits for the airborne operation includes:

- the issuing of equipment to personnel;
- the packing and fitting of parachutes, equipment and gas masks;
- the packing of cargo parachutes;

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-- the checking of the serviceability of combat equipment and preparing it for loading and suspending;

-- the packing of the armament and materiel means into air-drop containers and the marking of the containers;

-- the loading of combat equipment and munitions into cargo compartments (onto cargo platforms), and the rigging of parachute systems (montazh parashyutnykh sistem);

-- the carrying out, when necessary, of training exercises for the loading (suspending) and unloading of combat equipment and materiel means, and the boarding of personnel into airplanes (helicopters);

-- the jump training of personnel designated for parachute drops.

62. The commanding officer of an airborne landing force subunit, when preparing for the airborne operation and combat operations, is guided by the instructions in para. 35 through 39). In conformity with these articles he must:

-- study the enemy and the terrain in the area of the landing strip and the combat operations;

-- determine the combat formation of the subunit;

-- select the objectives of the operations for the subordinate subunits and the order and axes of their advance from the landing strip;

-- select the tasks for the fire weapons;

-- determine the cooperating procedure of subunits when performing the assigned task, as well as measures of combat support;

-- determine his own position in the combat formation, signals for assembly after the landing, organize control of subordinate, attached, and supporting subunits;

-- distribute personnel, weapons, and ammunition among the airplanes (helicopters), appoint supervisors (jumpmasters) in each airplane, and crews for loading arms and cargo.

The company commanding officer issues a combat order prior to the departure for the airfield.

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63. NCO's and enlisted men are usually informed of the combat task in the waiting area prior to the departure of the unit (subunit) for the airfield to board the airplanes (helicopters).

The combat task must be explained on models of the terrain, on maps, and plans. NCO's and enlisted men must study the terrain and landmarks in the area of the drop zone, the signals and the order of assembly, the data concerning the enemy, and the section, platoon, and company combat task.

64. Engineering preparation of the airborne operation departure area includes: construction of slit trenches for personnel and shelters for combat equipment, munitions, and other materiel means; construction of water supply points and headquarters structures; preparation of roads, and the camouflage of troops.

65. Local security is organized by the units (subunits) of the airborne landing force when located in the airborne operation departure area. In case of a threat of an enemy attack, sentry security is organized in the form of individual sentry outposts and outguards dispatched along the most probable axes of enemy movement toward the disposition area of the airborne landing force.

66. The readiness of an airborne landing force for an airborne operation is determined by the completion of the preparation of troops for the performance of assigned combat tasks in the enemy rear area and their concentration in the waiting areas.

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Chapter Four

THE AIRBORNE OPERATION

67. The airborne operation of the airborne landing force is carried out by military-transport aviation capable of dropping (landing) airborne landing forces in the enemy rear area within short periods of time and of supplying them by air with everything necessary for conducting combat operations, as well as evacuating the wounded and sick.

Operations of the military-transport aviation must be reliably supported by other arms of aviation, missile weapons, and the forces and means of antiair defense.

68. Success of an airborne operation is achieved by:

- designating a departure area for the airborne operation which provides the necessary conditions for basing military-transport aviation large units, ensures concealment of troop preparation for the airborne operation and concealment of boarding and loading;
- reliable air cover for the airborne operation departure area, especially from the time that military-transport aviation is concentrated in it, and along the path of its flight with the landing force;
- neutralizing enemy means of antiair defense along the military-transport aviation flight path;
- neutralizing the enemy in the landing area and in areas nearest to it;
- establishing the drop (landing) procedure of the landing force that ensures its combat readiness immediately after the landing, for performing its combat task in accordance with the commanding officer's decision;
- timely and precise boarding (loading) of the landing force and its equipment into the airplanes (helicopters) and the quick release (unloading) of same during the drop (landing);
- organizing uninterrupted communications between the large units (units) of military-transport aviation and the airborne troops, and within them in the airborne operation departure area.

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69. The commanding officer of military-transport aviation is responsible for the proper loading of airplanes (helicopters), the precise and timely drop and landing of units and subunits of the airborne landing force at the designated speed and altitude of the drop onto designated strips/zones. The commanding officer of the airborne landing force is responsible for the timely and concealed movement of troops to the airfields and for well organized and timely boarding and loading.

70. Units (subunits) of the airborne landing force move out of the waiting area to the departure area for loading and boarding at the order of the airborne landing force commanding officer after they are given the time (H-hour) of the start of the drop (landing).

Units and subunits of the airborne landing force, upon arriving at the airfields (strips) and until the moment when they leave the airplanes (helicopters) during the drop (landing), in respect to 2 or 3 words missing behavior at the airfields and in airplanes (helicopters), obey the orders of the commanding officers of the military-transport aviation.

71. Loading (suspending) of combat equipment, transport vehicles, munitions, and other materiel means begins at the signal of the commanding officer of the military-transport aviation large unit (unit) and is carried out by teams or specially allocated subunits of the airborne landing force under the supervision of the crew chiefs (kom-andir ekipazha).

Parachutes are put on by personnel at the command of the commanding officer of the unit (subunit) of the airborne landing force, taking into account the time necessary to check the fitting of parachutes, the fastening of arms and equipment, and to move personnel to the airplanes (helicopters) for boarding.

The boarding of personnel into airplanes (helicopters) begins at the signal of the commanding officer of the military-transport aviation large unit (unit) "Board the aircraft" ("Po samoletam"). At this signal subunits go to the airplanes (helicopters) and execute the boarding.

Upon completion of the boarding of personnel, the crew chief, jointly with the commanding officer of the subunit of the airborne landing force, checks to see if the personnel and cargo are properly distributed in the aircraft, and gives the members of the airborne force a practical demonstration of the signals: "Ready" ("Prigotovitsya"), "Jump" ("Poshel"), and the order of the drop.



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72. The airplanes (helicopters) take off at the signal of the military-transport aviation unit (subunit) commanding officer after he receives the crew chief reports that the loading (boarding) has been completed.

73. The military-transport aviation proceeds to the airborne operation area along one or several paths, depending on the number of airplanes (helicopters) participating in the airborne operation, the situation, and the adopted decision.

74. The airborne operation of an airborne landing force begins with the drop of the paratroop group at the head of which paratroop subunits are dropped.

When dropping arms and cargo from the same aircraft as personnel, at the "Ready" signal the personnel prepare cargo for the drop near the doors (hatches) opened by order of the crew chief, and approach the doors (hatches) in accordance with the established procedure.

At the "Jump" signal the cargo is dropped from the airplanes, and immediately after the paratroopers jump.

75. Landing of airplanes (helicopters) is usually carried out right after the landing of the parachute group onto seized airfields and landing strips cleared of the dropped equipment, cargoes, and parachutes. Helicopters can land on the fringes of the landing strips or in places cleared of parachutes.

Unloading of combat equipment and materiel means from airplanes (helicopters) is carried out by crews (teams) immediately after their landing.

76. Units (subunits) of the subsequent waves are usually dropped (landed) in the area seized by the units of the first wave. In conditions where this is not possible due to the existing situation, the airborne operation may be carried out outside the boundaries of the seized area in places that ensure the landing of troops beyond effective enemy fire. In this case the airborne operation areas (drop zones) of units (subunits) are elaborated by the commanding officer of the airborne landing force prior to the takeoff of the military-transport aviation.

In order to ensure organized and expeditious assembly of units (subunits) landed in the second wave and their movement to the designated areas, the staff of the airborne landing force allocates guides and indicates routes of movement.



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77. In the case when the airborne operation is effected in an area against which atomic weapons are employed, the data concerning the results of the atomic strike are received by the commanding officer of the airborne landing force from the senior commander.

Radiation reconnaissance during the flight of the landing force is conducted by specially assigned aircraft. Radiation reconnaissance data are transmitted by radio to the commanding officers of military-transport aviation units and to the units (subunits) of the airborne landing force.

When high-level radiation is detected at the drop zones (landing strips), the subunits assigned for the drop (landing) on them are landed on reserve zones/strips.

Means of antichemical protection, except for gas masks, are put on by the personnel prior to boarding the airplanes (helicopters) and gas masks are put on at the command of the airplane (helicopter) crew chiefs when approaching the drop zones (landing strips), and also with the detection of [2 to 5 words missing].

78. During the airborne operation the aviation and artillery allocated for the support of the landing operation neutralize enemy means of anti-air defense along the flight path, destroy and neutralize personnel, fire means, and other important objectives in the airborne operation area, and also denies approach of enemy reserves to the area. Fighter aviation provides cover for the columns of the military-transport aviation carrying the landing force.

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Chapter Five

COMBAT OPERATIONS

1. The Principles of Combat Operations

79. Combat operations of an airborne landing force in the enemy rear area are characterized by high combat activity, independence of units and subunits when they perform combat tasks, rapid transition from one type of combat to another, when called for by the situation, with the carrying out of a daring maneuver for strikes against enemy flanks and the rear area.

Determined and sudden strikes against the enemy in an offensive, tenacity and firmness in defense, ability to conduct combat in encirclement against superior enemy forces, are the fundamental qualities of the airborne landing force units and subunits.

Combat operations of an airborne landing force take place on enemy territory; therefore, the personnel of the airborne landing force are required to have strict discipline, display initiative, bold actions, and unswerving desire for victory.

80. When operating in the enemy rear area, units and subunits of the airborne landing force must:

- quickly bring themselves to a state of readiness for conducting combat after the landing;
- skillfully exploit the results of atomic strikes against the enemy;
- attack and destroy the enemy swiftly and suddenly;
- defend the seized areas and objectives tenaciously and firmly and conduct combat in encirclement;
- operate from ambushes, put up obstacles, and carry out demolition work;
- carry out surprise raids against enemy objectives and destroy them;
- carry out concealed and swift movements in the enemy rear area during day and night and on any kind of terrain;
- employ weapons and equipment seized from the enemy in combat.



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81. The airborne landing force (units and subunits of the airborne landing force), depending on the task and the situation, employs an offensive or a defense, and also carries out raids against enemy objectives and sets up ambushes.

82. The offensive of an airborne landing force is conducted with the goal of destroying the enemy in the airborne operation area, seizing favorable lines, bridgeheads, water crossings, mountain passes (passes) and other important objectives.

Deep, as well as close, envelopments effected for delivery of strikes against the enemy flanks and rear area are the most typical operations of units and subunits of the airborne landing force.

Units and subunits of an airborne landing force mainly advance along separate axes, with intervals in the combat formation, with the goal of carrying out a maneuver when attacking and destroying designated objectives or strong points.

An offensive in the enemy rear area is organized within a short period of time; as a rule, the attack is carried out from the march.

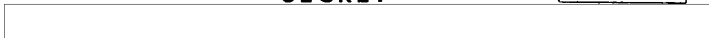
83. Speed in bringing the troops into combat readiness after the landing and the immediate start of combat operations by them has decisive significance in the performance of the combat task by the airborne landing force. This is achieved by:

- the dropping (landing) of airborne landing force units (subunits) on drop zones designated for them at the prescribed time;
- the immediate establishment of communications between commanding officers of units and subunits;
- the swift bringing of weapons and combat equipment into combat, especially the antitank weapons;
- the organized assembly of subunits, combat equipment and cargo, and the swift assuming of combat (approach march) formations by subunits (units);
- the timely movement of the reconnaissance and the security detachment (covering force) onto the threatened axes.



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84. Upon landing, the subunits and units of the airborne landing force operate according to the plan outlined prior to the airborne operation, taking into account the situation that has arisen.

The personnel of the subunits quickly bring themselves to combat readiness and assemble at the signals of battalion and company commanding officers. While assembling, subunits assume combat (approach march) formations, with security and reconnaissance measures, from the march and move out to selected objectives.

Subunits allocated to cover the airborne operation area are immediately moved out to threatened axes and assume advantageous positions.

Armament and combat equipment dropped by parachutes is collected by crews, is brought into combat readiness, and are sent to their subunits and units.

Subunits and units, landed by airplanes (helicopters) quickly unload and assume their positions in the combat (approach march) formations from the march.

On those strips/zones where the enemy offers resistance, platoons and companies, after landing, without waiting for orders from the senior commander, independently attack and destroy centers of resistance nearest to them, after which they switch to the performance of previously assigned tasks.

In order to conceal the zones from enemy observation from the air, the parachutes and parachute drop containers must be camouflaged after the landing.

85. After the landing the subunits designated for reconnaissance must first of all establish the strength, composition, and the nature of enemy operations in the landing area, and discover the approach of his reserves, especially tanks, in a timely manner.

Reconnaissance in the airborne operation area is conducted by separate reconnaissance patrols, sent out from the paratroop regiments and battalions.

For reconnaissance of the nearest enemy reserves and weapons of mass destruction, independent reconnaissance patrols, reconnaissance groups, and, in individual cases, reconnaissance detachments are dispatched (dropped) from the airborne division (regiment) along the major axes.



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Besides, reconnaissance is conducted by observation, radio-technical posts, and from helicopters.

86. Combat with enemy tanks after the landing of the airborne landing force is first conducted by the weapons that are being landed on the drop zones of the paratroop subunits and units. Artillery and assault guns are employed in combat with tanks as they are unloaded from aircraft (compartments, helicopters).

Unit and subunit commanders must take all necessary measures for bringing the landed antitank weapons into combat readiness and moving them to the threatened axis as promptly as possible.

87. Objectives (lines) in the airborne operation area of the subunits (unit) are seized directly from the drop zones or after approaching them.

The enemy must be approached rapidly and secretly, with reconnaissance and security measures, and along the axes leading to the flank and the rear area of the enemy. As a rule, the subunits move in combat formations. Part of the subunits, with the goal of enveloping the enemy or forestalling his assumption of a defense, may be moved forward in motor vehicle transport or borne on assault guns.

The combat tasks for subunits are elaborated as they approach the objectives to be seized.

The leading detachments establish slightly manned or unmanned sectors of defense by aggressive actions, seize the tactically important objectives, and hold them until the arrival of the main forces.

The main forces of the airborne landing force, exploiting the success of leading detachment operations swiftly move forward toward the selected objectives and with the support of artillery fire and aviation strikes, attack them from the march.

The attack is usually carried out from different axes.

In the course of the attack, units and subunits destroy personnel, fire weapons, and combat equipment of the enemy and move forward to objectives or to lines designated for them.

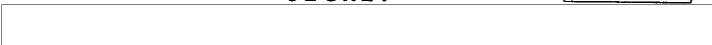
In the course of the offensive the reserves (second echelons) are used to gradually increase the forces of the strike and the development of the success, in order to secure the open flanks and the rear area of the advancing airborne troops, to repel enemy counterattacks, and for the performance of other tasks.



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In order to secure the operations of the main forces, along the route of possible movement of the enemy onto the flanks and into the rear area of the landing force, cover subunits are sent out. As the main forces of the landing force move forward, the cover subunits move to new lines.

The cover units and subunits are reinforced by tank-destroyer artillery, assault guns, and mortars.

Sudden, daring and bold operations, even by small subunits, and the display of great initiative by all commanding officers, acquire special significance in an offensive.

88. When an airborne landing force is advancing against the enemy from the rear in cooperation with troops advancing from the front, the axis of the airborne landing force's main strike is usually determined by the senior commander.

In this case, the commanding officer of the airborne landing force is given:

- the tasks, axes, and time of the operations of troops advancing to meet the airborne landing force;

- the targets (objectives) to be neutralized by troop artillery advancing from the front prior to the drop (landing), and in the course of the offensive, and also the procedure and the methods for requesting and ceasing fire;

- the signals for cooperation and procedure of mutual recognition and identification of the lines that have been attained;

- the nature of the airborne landing force operations after joining with the troops operating from the front, and the procedure for shifting the airborne landing force to a new command.

The commanding officer of the airborne landing force, in his decision for the offensive, determines:

- the forces and means designated for the offensive, and the combat tasks of the units (subunits);

- the composition of the leading detachments (if they are detached) and the order of their operations;



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— the forces and means designated for covering the flanks and the rear area of the landing force cover positions, and the order for assuming them;

— the order of using artillery and aviation for support of the advancing cover (security) units and subunits;

— the composition of reserves, their disposition areas, axes of probable operations, and lines of deployment.

89. After the airborne landing and assembly, artillery subunits move forward to their designated firing position areas and deploy in combat formation.

A large part of the artillery batteries operate in the combat formations of paratroop subunits and units and destroy the enemy by direct fire.

Artillery designated for conducting fire from concealed fire positions neutralizes personnel and fire means of the enemy in centers of resistance. Observation must be all-around. Fire positions are prepared for firing with large deflection shifts from the basic axis.

Fire control and the artillery maneuver are organized within a short space of time and must ensure timely performance of fire tasks. Artillery units and subunits must, in all cases, be ready to neutralize new targets.

90. Assault gun subunits are used for the direct accompaniment of the offensive of infantry subunits, the reinforcement of their antitank defense, and in the composition of antitank reserves. Part of the assault guns may be allocated for reinforcement of the leading detachments and subunits operating in the covering force.

91. After the airborne operation, antiaircraft artillery subunits move out to their designated areas and cover units and subunits operating along the main axis, and command posts. In those cases when the airborne operation is carried out in several waves, the antiaircraft artillery subunits may deploy in areas of drop zones (airfield) to cover troops that are being landed in the subsequent waves.

92. Sapper subunits conduct engineer reconnaissance, make passages through enemy obstacles, set up mine-demolition barriers and carry out demolitions along the most probable routes of enemy movement toward the combat operations area of the airborne landing force, prevent demolition of objectives, by the enemy, which may be used by the airborne landing force or the troops advancing from the front. In cases

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of necessity, special demolition groups are formed from sapper subunits.

93. Protection from atomic weapons and other means of mass destruction after the airborne operation is ensured by rapid and concealed dispersal of units, by use of protective features of the terrain and means of protection, by camouflage, by conducting radiation and chemical reconnaissance, and the timely warning of troops.

Partial sanitary processing of personnel, decontamination and degassing of weapons, equipment and clothing is carried out at the order of the subunit commanding officers, without interrupting the performance of the combat task.

94. Control of units (subunits) of the airborne landing force after the airborne operation is effected from command posts, which are usually deployed in the disposition areas of reserves or second echelons.

Upon landing, the commanding officer of the large unit (unit, subunit) immediately establishes radio communications with the senior commander and commanding officers of subordinate units (subunits), organizes assembly of personnel and cargo, brings the units (subunits) into combat readiness, clarifies the situation, organizes reconnaissance and security, and elaborates the combat tasks.

During an offensive the division commanding officer maintains control from a command or forward command post deployed on the axis of the main strike.

During the course of combat operations, the commanding officer of the airborne landing force elaborates on the area and the tasks for the support of landing of troops of the second wave.

95. The airborne operation and the combat operations of an airborne landing force at night are its usual type of combat operations.

Night is conducive to the sudden appearance of the landing force in the enemy rear area and to confusing him concerning the actual airborne operation area and the strength of the landing force, and also to the fulfilment of tasks with fewer casualties.

At the same time, night complicates the assembly and orientation of the members of the landing force on the terrain after they land.



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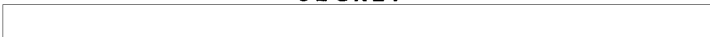
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The airborne operation and combat operations at night require that the personnel be highly skilled, especially thorough training and organization, and the support of the continuous cooperation of the troops, and the skillful alternating of combat operations of subunits and units of the landing force with rest periods.

The use of the technical means of reconnaissance, observation, warning, and target designation under night conditions, when operating in the enemy rear area, acquires special significance.

96. When carrying out the airborne operation at night, as a rule, the units and subunits move to the assembly areas after the landing.

The assembly areas are selected near the drop zones of the subunits on the axis of their movement toward the objectives subject to attack and, when possible, in places where there are landmarks that are clearly visible at night.

The assembly of personnel and equipment is carried out with the use of radio-technical means and means of night vision (sredstvo nochnogo videniya) and also by using light and audio signals.

Route markers visible at night may be set out to indicate the routes of movement.

In the assembly areas, battalion and company commanding officers bring the subunits into combat readiness, elaborate the tasks and dispatch the reconnaissance and the covering force. The presence of subunits in the assembly areas must be of short duration.

The subunits move toward the objectives of attack under the cover of the security detachment, with the observation of camouflage measures.

During the course of the attack the subunits must strictly adhere to their designated axes, making extensive use of night vision devices.

97. Defense is employed by the airborne landing force to hold seized areas, lines, bridgeheads, mountain passes and passes, airfields, and also important objectives in the enemy rear area until the arrival of friendly troops. It is based on holding

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the most [2 or 3 words missing] sectors of terrain, favorable in the tactical sense, and intercepting the major axes, in combination with aggressive operations of diversionary groups, separate subunits from ambushes, and by counterattacks against the enemy flanks and rear area.

The defense of a landing force must be of an all-around nature; it must be of a sustained nature, capable of repelling enemy strikes, especially of his tanks, from any axis; at the same time, the main efforts are concentrated on the most important axes.

Maneuver by fire of all weapons and by subunits, as well as the speed of setting up mine-demolition obstacles on the threatened axes, are the most important conditions that ensure the stability of the landing force defense.

98. For defense, the airborne landing force is assigned an area or a line. The length of the frontage of the defense, along the forward wedge of the defended area (line), and the depth of the combat formations, are determined by the task of the landing force, its composition, the nature of the terrain, and other conditions of the situation.

As a rule, in defense, the combat formation of a division or regiment is one echelon with the allocation of strong reserves.

The reserves and the artillery must be prepared to carry out a broad maneuver.

99. The defense of an airborne landing force is usually organized as separate battalion centers and company strong points with intervals between them.

A battalion defense center is composed of company and sometimes, also, separate platoon strong points.

A company strong point is composed of platoon positions and positions of antitank weapons, adapted to all-around defense.

In order to create defense centers and strong point commanding heights, road junctions and other objectives important from a tactical standpoint are used. Each defense center and strong point must be adapted to the all-around defense, and, when possible, be located in fire coordination with the neighboring defense centers (strong points).



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100. The size of the intervals between the defense centers and strong points is first of all determined in accordance with the task and the nature of the terrain.

The intervals, depending on their sizes, are covered by rifle and artillery fire. They may be occupied by small sub-units. Besides, obstacles are arranged in these intervals, and ambushes and patrolling are organized.

101. The transition to defense is effected under conditions of limited time for its organization. This requires that the commanding officers brief their units (subunits) on the final details of the combat tasks and carry out combat security measures while organizing defense.

Initially the defense is established by a part of the landing force that, immediately after landing, seizes tactically important lines and points of terrain. Subsequently, as the enemy in the airborne operation area is destroyed and the designated objectives are seized, the remaining forces of the airborne landing force pass to the defense.

The selection of the forward edge takes into account all natural lines, in order to reduce the amount of time expended for engineer preparation of the positions and local features that facilitate the organizing of a system of fire and observation.

102. The antitank defense constitutes the basis of defense; therefore its organization is one of the most important duties of all commanding officers. It is organized throughout the entire depth of the area defended by the landing force.

Units and subunits on the defensive along the tank-threatened ("tankopasnoye") axes are reinforced by gun artillery and assault guns.

The basis of the antitank defense is made up of artillery fire and aviation strikes against enemy tanks on the approaches to the defense, antitank fire in front of the forward edge and in the depth of the defense in combination with antitank obstacles and natural obstructions, maneuver by fire, by antitank reserves, and by obstacles in the course of combat.



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The antitank defense system of the airborne landing force usually includes: separate company antitank strong points; company antitank strong points organized into battalion antitank centers; anti-tank reserves and mobile obstacle detachments; artillery and assault guns, placed along tank-threatened axes; and antitank obstacles.

Fire positions of gun artillery batteries are selected on the tank-threatened axes. Mine-demolition antitank obstacles are set up in front of the forward edge and in the depth of the defense.

Division and regiment antitank reserves are primarily made up of assault guns and tank-destroyer artillery. They are located near disposition areas of the reserves, on the tank-threatened axes. Mobile obstacle detachments are usually located together with anti-tank reserves and operate either jointly with them or independently.

103. In order to gain time and wear down the enemy along the axes of his possible approach to the defensive area, forward detachments, usually in the composition of a reinforced company, may be dropped, at the order of the commanding officer of the landing force, from airplanes, in the course of the airborne operation, as far as 10 km from the forward edge, or sent out after the landing.

The forward detachments, with the approach of the enemy, operating from ambushes, by raids, and by defending tactically advantageous lines, deliver strikes against the approaching enemy and wear him down on the approaches to the landing force defense.

104. In defense, control points are set up in areas that are difficult of access for tanks, and are thoroughly camouflaged. The forward division command post is deployed at a point that provides control of troops on the axis of the main enemy strike.

The division (regimental, battalion) command post is usually deployed in the disposition area of the reserve.

For [one word missing] of control points, depending on the situation, alternate sites are prepared from an engineer standpoint in advance.

Control of troops is effected primarily by radio, personal contact of the commanding officers and also with the aid of mobile means of communications. Only radio is used for communications with reconnaissance, security detachments, forward detachments, and for

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artillery fire control, as well as for transmitting warning signals.

105. The following tasks are assigned to the landing force artillery in defense:

- neutralization and destruction of the enemy on approaches, in areas of concentration, during his deployment and assumption of the departure area for the offensive, as well as during his attack against the forward edge and combat in depth;
- destruction of tanks and armored personnel carriers by direct fire;
- neutralization of observed enemy artillery and mortars;
- covering intervals, joints, and flanks of the paratroop units and subunits with fire;
- supporting the combat of forward and combat security detachments;
- support of counterattacks.

Antiaircraft artillery in defense covers units and subunits, operating on the main axis, and control points. It assumes fire positions taking into account the possibilities of conducting fire against ground targets.

106. Engineer preparation of terrain begins immediately upon passing to the defense and goes on continuously in a sequence that ensures constant readiness of troops for combat and their protection from atomic and chemical weapons. The sequence of engineer works and their completion schedule are determined by the commanding officer of the landing force, depending on the situation, and availability of forces, equipment, and time.

First of all, mine-demolition obstacles are set up along the most threatened axes in front of the forward edge of the defense, on flanks, and in the intervals; demolition is carried out on the approaches to the defense; local features are adapted for defense; separate trenches are dug, which are then connected by communications trenches to platoon positions, trenches for guns, mortars, and assault guns; and structures are set up for control points and medical posts.



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Subsequently, positions of rifle subunits and fire positions of artillery and assault guns are developed and improved; alternate trenches for machine guns and recoilless guns are prepared; personnel shelters, alternate positions for artillery and assault guns and lines of the antitank reserve deployment are prepared; water supply points are set up; a system of obstacles is developed; outfitting of the control point is improved, and routes are prepared for the maneuver of troops.

The camouflage of rifle subunits' positions and fire positions of artillery is carried on from the moment that the troops pass to the defense, and is carried on continuously in the course of fulfillment of all engineer work.

When preparing positions, maximum use is made of the protective features of the terrain, of local features, of the defensive structures of the enemy, and also seized materiel and engineer means.

107. Combat against the enemy approaching the defensive area of the airborne landing force usually begins on distant approaches, with aviation strikes, fire of artillery of troops advancing from the front, and, under favorable conditions, also by fire of the airborne landing force artillery.

Leading detachments, by successive seizure and holding of advantageous positions, must delay as much as possible the advancing enemy, force him to deploy, wear him down and inflict losses.

When withdrawing, the leading detachments, using part of their forces, organize ambushes along the routes of enemy movement and carry out raids against his columns.

108. It is the duty of the commanding officer of the airborne landing force to take timely measures to frustrate enemy attempts to break into the defense from the march.

For this it is necessary to:

- conduct ground and air reconnaissance continuously, and discover in good time the axis of the main enemy strike;
- deliver strikes against enemy columns preventing their simultaneous approach to the airborne landing force defense;
- reinforce security of intervals, junctions and flanks;

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- prevent the deployment of the enemy for an attack from the march by aviation strikes, artillery and mortar fire, and also by atomic and chemical weapons;

- inflict losses and frustrate the enemy attack by the fire of all weapons against his combat formations;

- carry out measures for preparation of maneuver by forces and weapons to the threatened axes.

109. With the beginning of the enemy attack the main mass of fire by all weapons is first of all concentrated to repel enemy tanks.

Artillery and the supporting aviation deliver strikes against the combat formations of the advancing enemy, his second echelons, and reserves.

Infantry destroys enemy tanks with all weapons, isolates the enemy infantry from the tanks, and destroys it by fire.

In case the enemy breaks into the landing force defense, the commanding officer must stop, by fire of all weapons and by obstacles, his spreading along the front and into the depth, secure his own flanks, and prevent the approach of reserves.

The enemy that broke into the defense is destroyed by fire and counterattacks.

110. Units and subunits of the airborne landing force must be ready to conduct sustained combat in encirclement, supporting the performance of the common combat task by their aggressive operations.

The great stamina of the personnel, initiative and decisiveness of all commanding officers, firmness, tenacity, and aggressiveness in operations, are the decisive conditions for the success of combat in encirclement.

When part of the airborne landing force is encircled by the enemy, the commanding officer of the landing force supports it with artillery fire and aviation strikes. In cases of necessity, troops break out of the encirclement. The procedure for troops to break out of the encirclement is determined by the commanding officer of the airborne landing force and is carried out mainly at night.



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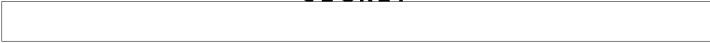
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111. The airborne landing force uses nighttime for carrying out counterattacks against the enemy forces that broke through, for regrouping, for conducting reconnaissance and for diversionary operations in the rear areas of enemy combat formations, for supplying materiel means and for the evacuation of the wounded.

112. Subunits of the airborne landing force, when conducting combat operations in the enemy rear area, make extensive use of raids and ambushes.

The raid is a sudden short strike against the enemy, delivered with the goal of inflicting personnel losses, combat materiel losses, and destroying objectives.

It is advisable to carry out the raid at night or under other conditions of limited visibility.

Platoon to company strength subunits armed with light weapons are usually allocated to carry out a raid.

The combat formation of the subunit when carrying out a raid may consist of attack groups, support groups and a reserve.

The raid is preceded by thorough reconnaissance of the objective and of the concealed approaches to it.

The commanding officer of the subunit, when organizing the raid, must determine: the axes of approach to the objective; the composition, the tasks of attack and support groups, and also the order of their operations; the axes and the procedure for moving to the assembly area, and the signals.

The ambush is the timely and concealed placing of a subunit on the most probable routes of enemy movement for a surprise attack against him. The purpose of an ambush is to destroy enemy personnel and equipment, and to disorganize his movement.

Ambushes are organized by subunits in the composition of a squad, a platoon, or company, reinforced with recoilless weapons, assault guns, and engineers with means for installing obstacles.

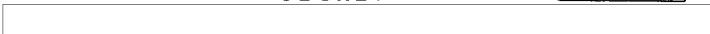
The commanding officer of the subunit, when organizing the ambush, must determine the locations for setting up the ambush and the obstacles, the order for opening fire, the axis and the procedure for withdrawal, the assembly point after the performance of the combat task, and the signals.



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Locations for setting up ambushes are usually selected in areas of defiles, near sections of roads where a detour is difficult. They must provide good conditions for observation and for conducting fire on flanks and crossfire, concealed disposition from enemy ground and air observation, and also for concealed withdrawal after performing the task. Alternate positions are selected for maneuver.

While waiting for the enemy, the subunit must not allow itself to be discovered in any way. In case the ambush is discovered by the enemy, the subunit must immediately change its position,

Fire is opened suddenly at the commanding officer's command (signal), at a minimum range. Having performed its task, the subunit which operated in the ambush secretly withdraws to the designated assembly point.

When effecting assaults and ambushes, it is necessary to try to capture prisoners and documents.

113. With the approach of troops operating from the front, the commanding officer of the airborne landing force establishes communications with commanding officers of units and large units arriving at the combat operations area of the landing force, elaborates the combat tasks, the time and the procedure for meeting them, and mutual recognition signals.

After joining the front troops, the landing force performs the tasks assigned by the senior commander.

2. Seizure and Retention of Bridgeheads at Water Barriers

114. Bridgeheads at water barriers are seized and held with the goal of assisting the troops, advancing from the front, to overcome them abruptly.

In conditions when the enemy has not assumed a defense at the water barrier, the landing is made on a sector of the terrain adjacent to it, and if the enemy has assumed the defense beforehand, the landing is made at some distance from it, with the subsequent delivery of a strike against the rear area and flanks of the enemy defending the water barrier.

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In the case when atomic strikes are delivered against the enemy assuming the defense of the water barrier prior to the drop (landing) of the airborne landing force, all the forces of the landing force or part of them may be landed directly on the bridgehead.

115. The area of the bridgehead to be seized is determined on the basis of its intended use, the conditions of terrain, the composition of the airborne landing force, the duration of independent combat operations, and the possibility of supporting the airborne landing force with troops advancing from the front.

The size of the bridgehead must ensure protection of troops from direct fire of enemy artillery and enemy machine gun fire, and ensure their deployment for carrying out combat operations.

The terrain in the bridgehead area must be conducive to organization of stable defense, and the water barrier sector must be convenient for organizing crossings.

When there are crossings at the water barrier, the drop and landing of the landing force is, as a rule, carried out on both its banks; moreover the main forces are dropped to seize the bridgehead.

Forward detachments may be dropped (dispatched) from the airborne landing force onto the probable axes of enemy approach to the bridgehead.

In order to seize existing crossings at the bridgehead and to prevent their destruction by the enemy, subunits are dropped (landed) in the immediate proximity of the crossings.

116. The division (regimental) commanding officer, in his decision to seize and hold the bridgehead, in addition to the usual matters, determines:

- the units (subunits) designated to seize objectives at the bridgehead and crossings;
- the composition of forward detachments dropped (dispatched) on threatened axes, and their tasks;
- the contour of the forward edge of the bridgehead and the procedure for passing to the defense;



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- the measures to prevent the enemy from blowing up the crossings, and to combat his flotilla;
- the water crossing means needed by the airborne landing force, and the landing procedure.

117. In the course of combat operations, when seizing a bridgehead, the main efforts of the airborne landing force are concentrated for the expeditious capture of commanding heights, dams, stone structures, and defense installations which are situated along the bank and the loss of which will deny the enemy the possibility of keeping the crossings under fire.

When attacking the enemy, the landing force must strive to break through to the water barrier at least on a limited sector. Strong centers of resistance, are, as a rule, blockaded and by-passed; they are destroyed after the landing force subunits reach the water barrier.

As the tasks of destroying the enemy are being completed, the landing force units and subunits pass to the defense of the bridgehead in areas assigned to them.

After landing, the subunits assigned the task of seizing the crossings, swiftly break through to them, attack and destroy the security guards, seize bridges, moorings, ferry boats, and other amphibious means, consolidate, and prevent their destruction by the enemy.

118. The defense of a bridgehead, when no crossings exist, is usually organized on one bank of the water barrier. When there are crossings in the area of the bridgehead, bridgehead positions are set up on both banks of the water barrier.

When defending a bridgehead and bridgehead positions, special attention is given to antitank defense, and also to flank security. In order to increase the stability of the defense, the flanks must adjoin the water barrier and be protected by obstacles.

The most important condition of successful combat to retain the bridgehead is great troop aggressiveness, availability of strong mobile reserves, and swift maneuvering with subunits and fire weapons to the threatened axes.

119. The system of fire when defending a bridgehead and a crossing must ensure the destruction of the enemy before the forward edge of defense of the bridgehead, especially on flanks adjoining the water barrier, and also on the approaches to the bridgehead positions.

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In order to combat ships of the enemy navy flotilla, subunits of gun artillery are assigned, and the creation of floating and underwater obstacles and the employment of antitank reserves is provided for.

Antiaircraft artillery takes up fire positions at the bridgehead, calculated in such a way as to ensure cover for the main grouping of the landing force, and for the crossings.

120. Engineer subunits, besides performing their usual tasks in support of combat operations of an airborne landing force, perform the following:

- participate in the seizure of existing crossings, prevent their demolition by the enemy, and maintain them in serviceable condition;
- conduct engineer reconnaissance of the water barrier and its approaches for the purpose of discovering sites where crossings by troops advancing from the front may be arranged conveniently;
- prepare and mark approaches to the water barrier and prepare the banks to set up crossings;
- collect local means of crossing for the needs of the airborne landing force and to send the troops advancing from the front across;
- organize security and protection of bridges from floating mines and other means of destruction.

When the enemy has a navy flotilla at its disposal, the engineer subunits are assigned tasks to arrange obstacles in the river.

121. Prior to the approach of the troops advancing from the front, the commanding officer of the airborne landing force gives them information concerning the enemy, the nature of the water barrier and its approaches, the condition of the seized crossings, and local means of crossing, sectors convenient for arranging crossings, including underwater crossings for tanks, and routes of approach to them.

As the leading units of the advancing troops reach the bridgehead, the airborne landing force assists them in their crossing and subsequently, depending on the situation, takes part in expanding the bridgehead or performs other tasks assigned by the senior commander.

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3. Seizure of Crossings at Water Barriers

122. Water barrier crossings are seized with the goal of holding them until the arrival of friendly troops, or of destroying them.

The composition of the airborne landing force is determined on the basis of the purpose of the seizure, the significance, and the nature of the crossing, the enemy system of defense and his strength.

The combat formation of the landing force operating with the goal of seizing the crossing consists of seizure, cover and reserve groups.

In order to destroy a crossing, if this is necessary, a demolition group is appointed.

123. When making his decision for landing on and seizure of the crossing, the commanding officer of the airborne landing force takes into account the strength and composition of the enemy, the organization of the crossing defense, the nature of defensive structures and obstacles and the disposition of reserves, the organization and preparation of the crossing, the terrain, the nature of the water barrier and of the hydrotechnical structures.

In his decision the commanding officer of the airborne landing force determines:

- the composition of the seizure, cover, and reserve groups, and their tasks;
- the routes and the procedure for moving subunits from the landing strip to the attack objectives;
- the cooperation procedure for subunits (groups);
- the measures to prevent destruction of the crossing by the enemy;
- the organization of the defense of bridgehead positions.

When performing the tasks of destroying a crossing, the commanding officer of the airborne landing force assigns demolition groups, determines the procedure for demolishing the crossing and for withdrawing after the performance of the task.

124. Depending on the situation, the drop (landing) of the airborne landing force is carried out either in the immediate proximity of the crossing or to the side of it on one or on both banks.



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In order to achieve surprise it is expedient to carry out the drop (landing) of the airborne landing force at night.

125. Upon landing, the seizure group subunits move toward the crossing secretly, suddenly attack the guards, and seize the crossing. It is advisable to launch the attack against the crossing from both banks. The subunits assigned to the cover group first destroy the external means of communication of the crossing and assume positions along the routes of enemy approach, isolating the troops guarding the bridge.

During the course of combat, engineer reconnaissance is conducted and measures are taken with the goal of forestalling demolition of the crossing by the enemy.

After seizing the crossing, the subunits, depending on the assigned task, either pass to the defensive or destroy the crossing.

126. When organizing defense, bridgehead positions are created, taking into account the repulsion of enemy attacks both from the front and from the flanks. The distance between bridgehead positions and crossings must secure the crossing from ground observation and from the fire of enemy infantry.

In defense, enemy defensive structures are extensively used and local features are adapted.

Destruction of a crossing is carried out by specially assigned engineers under the cover of rifle subunits. After the task has been performed, the subunits arrive at the assembly area (point) in a concealed manner and operate in accordance with the assigned task.

4. Support of Amphibious Landings and Seizure of Islands

127. When supporting an amphibious landing, the airborne landing force, depending on its composition, the nature of enemy coastal antilanding defenses, and the disposition of his reserves, may perform the following tasks:

-- seize and hold sectors of the seacoast in the area designated for the landing of the amphibious landing force;

-- deny the approach of enemy reserves to the amphibious landing area.

The drop (landing) of the airborne landing force is carried out simultaneously with the beginning of the landing of the first echelon subunits of the amphibious landing force, or immediately prior to it.



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128. When seizing sectors of the seacoast, the objectives of the airborne landing force attack are:

- the strong points and defensive installations located on shore;
- the mooring points for ships;
- the control points and communication centers;
- the positions and individual tactically important points on the approaches to the landing area of the amphibious landing force;
- the positions of the launching mounts and coastal artillery.

129. When reaching the decision to seize and hold a sector of the coast, the commanding officer of the airborne landing force takes into account:

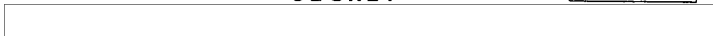
- the nature of the enemy coastal defense and the grouping of his nearest reserves;
- the tasks of navy large units to neutralize enemy coastal and antiair defense and to support combat operations of the airborne landing force;
- the procedure for employing atomic weapons in support of the landing force;
- the tasks of aviation delivering strikes against the sector of the coast being seized by the airborne landing force, and against objectives in the depth;
- the tasks and landing points of the amphibious landing subunits of the first echelon;
- the tasks of the amphibious landing force and the procedure of joint action with it as it is landing.

130. When performing the task of seizing a coastal sector, the airborne landing force swiftly attacks enemy strong points with its main forces, first of all destroying the fire means impeding the landing of the amphibious landing force.



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Simultaneously, part of the airborne landing force seizes and holds lines that cover the approaches to the landing sector of the amphibious landing force.

Seizure of coastal launching mounts, missile weapons, coastal artillery batteries, and permanent enemy defense installations is carried out by subunits reinforced with assault guns, self-propelled assault guns, and also by engineers with explosives and incendiary means.

131. In order to ensure the approach of amphibious landing force ships to the designated landing points the airborne landing force may be assigned the task of installing reference markers (orientir) and coastal navigation aids (stvora). In this case, the commanding officer of the landing detachment assigns hydrographic groups into the composition of the airborne landing force.

132. The artillery of the airborne landing force, jointly with the shipboard artillery, neutralizes enemy coastal defenses, combats approaching reserves, and repels enemy strikes from the sea.

Artillery support ships may be brought in for support of the airborne landing force at the order of the senior commander. Assignment of tasks and requests for shipboard artillery fire are handled by the senior artillery commander of the airborne landing force through fire adjustment points of artillery support ships that are landed in the composition of the landing force.

133. The aviation, prior to the beginning of the drop of the airborne landing force, neutralizes enemy launching mounts and batteries of coastal and antiaircraft artillery, his strong points and reserves that endanger the landing of the airborne landing force; subsequently, in accordance with the situation, it supports the combat operations of the airborne and the amphibious landing forces.

Fighter aviation covers combat formations of the airborne landing force from strikes by the air enemy.

134. Engineer subunits conduct engineer reconnaissance, make passages in enemy obstacles on shore at the landing points of the amphibious landing force first-echelon subunits, participate in the seizure of objectives, and also install obstacles along the routes of movement of enemy reserves.

135. After the landing of the amphibious landing force first-echelon subunits on the shore, the airborne landing force continues to hold the seized sector of the coast, supporting the landing of subsequent echelons,



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or performs other tasks assigned by the senior commander.

136. Prohibition of the approach of enemy reserves to the landing sector of the amphibious landing force is effected by seizing and holding lines in the depth of the coast on the main enemy movement routes. For this purpose the commanding officer of the airborne landing force determines:

- the sectors of terrain for the retention of which the main efforts of the airborne landing force are concentrated, and also the forces and means for their retention;
- the axes of operations and the composition of the forward detachments dispatched (dropped) on the probable routes of approach of enemy reserves, the procedure for supporting them with aviation and artillery, and the axes of withdrawal;
- the measures for installing obstacles along the approach routes of enemy reserves, and the procedure for the demolition of road and bridge structures;
- the procedure for using reserves for countering enemy deep envelopment actions.

137. Seizure of islands is accomplished by the airborne landing force either jointly with an amphibious landing force or independently, depending on their size, the strength of the enemy, and the nature of his defense.

When operating jointly with the amphibious landing force, the airborne landing force is used to seize individual commanding heights and road junctions in the depth of the island or on its coast with the goal of preventing the maneuver of enemy reserves, and also to support the landing of the amphibious landing force.

138. When seizing an island, the grouping of forces and means of the airborne landing force must first of all provide for the quick seizure of the most important objectives, the loss of which by the enemy may substantially disorganize his defense as a whole.

When dropping (landing) units (subunits) to seize the main objectives of the island, it is expedient to simultaneously land small subunits (groups) with the task of disrupting communications, demolishing road structures, creating panic, and for other diversionary and reconnaissance actions.



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139. In the course of combat operationsto seize the island, the commanding officer of the airborne landing force effects a broad maneuver by forces and means. He must strive to separate and isolate individual enemy garrisons (groups) on the island and subsequently destroy them piecemeal.

As the airborne landing force seizes objectives and destroys the enemy on the island it passes to the defense. The defense of those areas where landing of enemy amphibious and airborne landing forces is most probable is organized first and is made the strongest.

On coastal sectors that are difficult of access, security and continuous observation are organized.

Special attention is devoted to the preparation of the maneuver by forces and means in order to destroy enemy airborne and amphibious landing forces.

Positions prepared directly on the coast, may be occupied, prior to the disclosure of enemy intentions, by only part of the forces. In this case, the main forces of the landing force are located in the depth of the island, ready to assume a defense on sectors of probable landing of enemy landing forces, and to execute counterattacks. Patrolling and observation are organized on sectors that are not occupied.

In order to hold the seized island the airborne landing force may be reinforced with coastal artillery and by means of antiair defense.

140. Navy units and large units may perform the following tasks in support of the airborne landing force:

- neutralize coastal defense objectives of the enemy during the landing and combat operations of the airborne landing force;
- cover seized coastal sectors (island) from strikes by naval forces and amphibious landing forces of the enemy;
- blockade ports not occupied by the landing force, ship anchorages and sectors suitable for the landing of enemy landing forces;
- render assistance to paratroopers in cases of emergency jumps from planes over the sea (rescue service);

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- deliver materiel means and combat equipment to the airborne landing force and to evacuate the wounded and the sick.

5. Seizure of Airfields

141. Seizure of enemy airfields by an airborne landing force is effected with the goal of ensuring the landing of troops, transported by air, for basing aviation, or demolishing airfield structures and destroying aircraft.

142. The composition of the airborne landing force is determined in accordance with the goal of the airfield seizure, the enemy forces, the nature of the defense, and the terrain adjacent to it. To seize and hold an airfield, an airborne landing force of paratroop battalion to paratroop regiment strength may be used. Landing forces of lesser strength may be used for demolition of airfield structures and destruction of aircraft.

143. The operating method of the airborne landing force for seizing an airfield depends on the condition of its ground and antiair defense, as well as on the degree of its neutralization prior to the landing. Correspondingly, airfields may be seized by:

- units (subunits) dropped (landed) directly on the airfield;
- units (subunits) dropped (landed) at a distance from the airfield with a subsequent approach;
- units (subunits) dropped (landed) simultaneously both on the airfield as well as at some distance from it.

144. When seizing an airfield, subunits for attacking objectives at the airfield, cover subunits, and reserves are allocated; their strength is determined in accordance with the situation.

The most important objectives when seizing an airfield are: means of ground and antiair defense of the airfield, aircraft, control points, communications centers, radiotechnical means, flight-technical personnel, and ammunition and fuel dumps.

145. When reaching the decision to seize an airfield, the commanding officer of the airborne landing force takes into consideration:

- the nature of the defensive structures, disposition of fire weapons, and the strength of the airfield garrison;

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— the composition, disposition, and routes of possible movement of enemy reserves which may offer resistance to the landing force during the seizure of the airfield;

— the size of the airfield, the number of aircraft and their hard stands, as well as locations of other airfield objectives;

— the nature of terrain adjacent to the airfield.

146. Prior to the drop (landing) of the airborne landing force, aviation and artillery deliver strikes, at the order of the senior commander, against antiaircraft artillery, areas of disposition of personnel, strong points of the airfield ground defense, and enemy reserves.

147. Subunits allocated to seize the airfield, immediately upon landing move forward to designated objectives and quickly seize them by an all-out attack.

When seizing airfields, assault gun subunits operate as platoons and as individual guns in combat formations of rifle subunits. The main attack objectives of assault guns are enemy fire means and aircraft.

Subunits assigned for cover seize advantageous points of the terrain along the approach routes of enemy reserves to the airfield.

148. When organizing the defense of a seized airfield, maximum use is made of enemy defense installations [circa 7 words missing].

On the most probable axes of enemy approach, battalion defense centers and company strong points are created.

Removal of subunits on the defensive from the airfield must ensure the safety of the take-off and landing of aircraft from enemy machine gun fire.

149. The commanding officer of the airborne landing force allocates engineer and rifle subunits with the necessary means to carry out the preliminary work to prepare the airfield for the landing of friendly aircraft.

First, the filling-in of small shell holes, the clearing of the runway of damaged materiel, the erecting of barriers and the marking of large shell holes, etc, are carried out.

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Further work on restoration of the airfield and its maintenance in a good state are effected by the forces and means of engineer-airfield units (inzhenerno-erodromnaya chast).

150. When an airfield is seized with the goal of destroying it, the commanding officer of the airborne landing force indicates the order and methods for destroying (demolishing) the objectives, areas for the assembly of units (subunits) after the performance of tasks, and the order of subsequent operations.

At airfields, depending on the task received, control points, means of communications, radio-technical means, enemy aircraft, runways, and fuel and ammunition dumps are destroyed or rendered unserviceable.

In order to destroy (demolish) objectives at the airfield, in subunits allocated for.../1 line missing/ ... destruction), the composition of which includes rifle subunits (squad, platoon) and engineers with explosive and incendiary means.

#### 6. Seizure and Destruction of Atomic Weapons and Other Means Of Mass Destruction

151. The seizure and destruction of atomic weapons and other enemy means of mass destruction may be carried out by airborne landing forces specially allocated for this purpose, and also by landing forces performing other tasks in the enemy rear area. Destruction of atomic weapons and other means of mass destruction must be envisaged in all cases when airborne landing forces are dropped or landed.

Operational objectives of airborne landing forces may be:

-- artillery means of atomic attack, guided and free nuclear missiles, delivery aircraft, and cruise missiles.

-- depots and bases for the assembly and storage of atomic munitions and other means of mass destruction, fuel components for missiles, and also launching pads (mounts) for missile weapons;

-- radiotechnical means to control missile weapons.

152. The composition of an airborne landing force for seizing and destroying atomic weapons and other means of mass destruction is determined on the basis of the nature of the objective, its defense, its location and distance from /2 to 4 words missing/ ... and also on the degree of enemy neutralization by supporting aviation and artillery.

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It is necessary to include specialists on dismantling (destroying) atomic munitions in the composition of units (subunits) allocated for the destruction of atomic weapons.

In order to achieve simultaneous or consecutive destruction of enemy means of atomic attack, the airborne landing force, depending on its composition, may be assigned one or several objectives.

153. In the decision to seize and destroy enemy means of atomic attack, the commanding officer, besides the usual questions, determines the composition of the seizure and destruction groups, the cover groups, and the reserves, as well as their tasks, and also the assembly points (areas) after performing the task and the order of subsequent operations.

154. Upon landing, subunits, designated for seizure and destruction of atomic armament objectives, swiftly and secretly move toward the designated objectives and attack the enemy from the march. The seized materiel of atomic artillery, launching mounts, fuel components, launching pads and atomic charges, is rendered useless or is blown up in case there is no possibility of saving it and turning it over to friendly troops.

Upon landing, subunits designated for cover seize advantageous lines (points) along the possible routes of approach of enemy reserves.

After destroying the objective the subunits move to the assembly areas (points) on their own.

The airborne landing forces effect the seizure and destruction of atomic weapons and other means of mass destruction while being moved (transported) by sudden actions from ambushes and by raids.

7. Seizure and Destruction of Enemy Command Posts and Means of Control

155. Destruction of command posts, headquarters, signal centers, aviation and missile weapon control points, as well as of various enemy radiotechnical means, is effected by airborne landing forces specially allocated for this goal or by landing forces performing other combat tasks.

156. The strength and composition of airborne landing forces for destruction of enemy command posts and means of control are determined depending on the significance of the objectives, their defense system, and the nature of the terrain.

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Airborne landing forces up to rifle company strength may be used to destroy small control points, signal centers, radiotechnical means, aviation and missile weapon control points.

Airborne landing forces up to battalion strength, and sometimes larger, may be assigned for destruction of large control points.

157. Indicated, when assigning a combat task to the commanding officer of the airborne landing force, are:

- the areas of combat operations;
- the objectives and the sequence of their destruction (demolition);
- the procedure for cooperating with other landing forces operating in the enemy rear area;
- the methods for supporting combat operations of the airborne landing force;
- the procedure for materiel support when performing tasks in the enemy rear area;
- the nature of subsequent operations or the procedure for joining friendly troops.

158. Seizure and destruction of enemy command posts and means of control are organized and effected depending on their significance, composition, disposition, security, and defense.

In his decision the commanding officer of the airborne landing force determines:

- the objectives subject to seizure and destruction;
- the composition and the tasks of subunits allocated for the seizure and destruction;
- the composition of the subunits allocated for cover, for the reserve, and their tasks;
- the order of movement of subunits from the landing strips to the objectives, and cooperation between them;
- the order of movement to the assembly area (point) after fulfilling the task, and the nature of subsequent operations.

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159. Depending on the situation, in order to perform tasks of destroying enemy control points and means, the airborne landing force is dropped either near the objectives or to the side of them.

In order to achieve greater surprise, airborne landing forces are, as a rule, dropped by night or during twilight.

160. A command post is seized by a surprise simultaneous raid on its security guard and its basic objectives from different axes. After the landing, the subunits that participate in the raid on the command post arrive at the designated enemy objectives in a concealed manner and suddenly attack them. First, external communications are destroyed, and measures are employed to separate the individual elements (objectives) of the control point and to destroy them individually. Specially allocated groups break into the enemy's quarters in order to destroy (capture) the enemy and seize documents.

During the operation of subunits inside dugout shelters, blindages, and other duty buildings of the headquarters, it is necessary to leave part of the forces outside to repel a possible enemy attack.

Silent weapons (kholodnoye oruzhiye) and grenades are used extensively for destruction of the enemy inside the buildings.

After performing the task the groups and subunits move to the assembly areas (points), on their own, or at the directive of the commanding officer.

8. Disruption of the Work of Enemy Rear Services

161. Disruption of the work of enemy rear services is a constant task in all types of combat operations of airborne landing forces. In some cases, primarily in offensive operations, airborne landing forces may be dropped (landed) with the special task of disrupting the work of enemy rear services.

The strength and composition of airborne landing forces is determined on the basis of the significance of objectives, the nature of the enemy defense, and conditions of the terrain.

Combat operations of an airborne landing force for the disruption of the work of enemy rear services are characterized by high maneuverability and extensive use of nighttime.

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162. Disruption of the work of enemy rear services is achieved by the destruction (demolition) of the most important objectives of his rear services, depots, materiel supply bases, railroad centers, bridges; by damaging railroads and highways, lines of communications, industrial enterprises, power installations, pipe lines, fuel and lubricant dumps and other objects, as well as by disrupting the movement of traffic along enemy communications routes.

163. When reaching a decision to seize and destroy rear services installations, the commanding officer of the airborne landing force takes into account the nature of the significance of each objective, the organization and composition of the security guard (defense), the location of the objective on the terrain, and the availability of concealed routes to approach it.

When organizing an attack, subunits are usually allocated to seize (destroy and demolish) the objective, the order of their approach from the landing strips and operating methods are established. The procedure for destroying external communications and for isolating the garrison of the objective are determined and areas (points) of assembly after performance of the task are designated.

The composition of the units assigned for destruction and demolition includes engineers with explosive and incendiary means.

164. Depots with explosives or ammunition are usually blown up. Depots with chemical, engineer, quartermaster and various technical materiel, fuel and lubricants are destroyed by burning or by damaging the seized materiel.

A seized depot is blown up or burned at the signal of the commanding officer of the airborne landing force after the subunits are removed to a safe distance or into a shelter.

165. Disruption of the work of a railroad center (station) is achieved by destroying its most vital objectives.

Destroyed first are:

- the entry and exit switches, frogs, and rails adjacent to them;
- the railroad bridges, viaducts, drain pipes, and tunnels;
- the communication, control and signalling equipment;

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- the power networks and electric substations;
- the water pumping station, the water tower and traveling hydraulic cranes.

In order to put a railroad station out of commission for a longer period of time, simultaneously with destruction of its main objectives, its service structures and tracks are mined with delayed-action mines. Depots and rolling stock, depending on the equipment found in them, are either blown up or burned.

166. War industry enterprises and power installations are put out of commission by means of destroying or damaging power plants, basic mechanisms, and other vitally important units.

Destruction of pipelines is achieved by first of all destroying the pumping and distributing stations, and by damaging the pipes of the main lines.

167. On super highways and surfaced roads, bridges, drain pipes, gasoline reservoirs, fueling points, stations, repair shops, lines and means of communications, and other structures are demolished. Sectors of surfaced roads subject to destruction must be selected in narrow spots that hinder their repair and detour.

In order to disrupt enemy traffic along the roads, units and subunits of the airborne landing force must set up ambushes and carry out raids against his troops and transport, as well as to preclude the repair of damaged sections of the roads.

9. The Maneuver of the Airborne Landing Force in the Enemy Rear Area

168. The maneuver of an airborne landing force (its units and subunits) in the enemy rear area is usually carried out with the goal of:

- performing new tasks that arose in the course of conducting combat operations;
- leading troops out from under an enemy strike, or forced quitting of an occupied area;
- joining troops operating from the front.

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A maneuver for performing new tasks is effected ...<sup>5</sup> or 6 words missing<sup>7</sup> ... depending on the situation, at the decision of the commanding officer of the airborne landing force.

Leading of subunits and units of an airborne landing force out from under an enemy strike is employed in those cases when it is necessary to avoid losses from atomic weapons and other means of mass destruction, or to lead friendly troops out from under the strike of superior enemy forces and to abruptly change a situation that has become unfavorable for the airborne landing force.

The maneuver for joining troops operating from the front is effected when there is no possibility of the latter reaching the combat operations area of the airborne landing force. It is carried out at the order of the senior commander, who determines the time and the axis of the movement, and also organizes its support by aviation and artillery.

The maneuver, depending on the situation, the combat task, and the composition of the airborne landing force, may be carried out by all the forces of the airborne landing force or by part of the forces.

169. The maneuver must be executed rapidly, secretly, as a surprise to the enemy and, as a rule, at night and in conditions of limited visibility. It may be carried out in conditions of contact with the enemy, or without it. In case of contact with the enemy, the maneuver begins by the disengagement of troops from combat.

Withdrawal from combat is carried out under the cover of specially allocated units (subunits) which remain in the positions that they occupy for the length of time designated by the commander of the airborne landing force.

170. The grouping of forces and means when carrying out a maneuver must ensure independence of units and subunits in case of an encounter with the enemy while on the move.

The movement is, as a rule, carried out along several routes, by-passing large road junctions and inhabited localities, making use of natural terrain features and natural cover.

In order to speed up the movement, all types of available transport are used, including that seized on enemy territory, and also, when possible, airplanes and helicopters, especially for rapid transfer of leading detachments and subunits allocated for reconnaissance and security guard.

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171. When organizing a maneuver the commanding officer of an airborne landing force determines:

- the grouping of forces and means to execute the maneuver;
- the composition and tasks of the reconnaissance detachment (separate reconnaissance patrols) and subunits allocated for security guard and cover;
- the tasks of units and subunits, routes of movement, lines of deployment, and time of arrival at the designated area;
- measures to protect troops from weapons of mass destruction.

Besides, the commanding officer indicates the procedure for mutual cooperation of troops in case of deployment and in combat when encountering the enemy, and also issues instructions concerning the comprehensive support of the maneuver and the organization of control and communications.

172. By the start of the maneuver, reconnaissance must establish the location, strength, and makeup of the enemy grouping and the nature of his operations on the axis that the airborne landing force is moving on.

When carrying out a maneuver, subunits and units organize security guard and protection from the front, the flanks, and the rear area.

The composition of the security guard depends on the nature of enemy operations, the adapted procedure for movement and conditions of the terrain.

173. Sapper subunits conduct engineer reconnaissance of roads, crossings, bridges, and gorges in the zone of movement, ensure the passage of troops over sections of roads and terrain that are difficult of passage, organize water crossings, install obstacles, and carry out demolition along the routes of enemy movement, especially on the flanks.

174. When carrying out a maneuver the commanding officer and the staff of the airborne landing force proceed with the main forces. Moreover, special attention is given to ensuring communications with subunits assigned to reconnaissance, security guard, and cover.

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Chapter Six

SPECIAL FEATURES OF EMPLOYING AIRBORNE  
LANDING FORCES DURING THE WINTER,  
IN MOUNTAINS, AND IN DESERTS (PLAINS)

1. Employment of Airborne Landing Forces During the Winter

175. When preparing troops for an airborne operation and combat operations during the winter, besides the usual measures, the following are envisaged:

- providing the entire complement with special warm clothing;
- preparing heated shelters for the warming up of personnel and shelters for equipment in the airborne operation departure area;
- measures to protect personnel from frostbite;
- providing units and subunits with special camouflage means and the painting of combat equipment to match the color of the terrain;
- providing armored cars and tractor equipment with means of increased cross-country ability and heating (insulation);
- measures to maintain constant combat readiness of armament, combat equipment, and .../2 to 6 words missing/.
- providing units (subunits) with skis and ski mounts for transporting armament and munitions.

176. Deep snow cover hampers assembly of personnel, combat equipment and cargo; therefore, the airborne operations of artillery subunits must be effected near roads or directly in the areas of their fire positions.

Upon landing, rifle subunits usually put on skis, assume combat formations while moving, and with a swift attack seize the designated enemy objectives.

Support of the attack by rifle subunits is effected by the fire of mortars, recoilless weapons, and assault guns operating in the combat formations of advancing subunits, as well as by the fire of artillery as it assumes readiness after the landing.

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Long winter nights, snowfalls, snow storms, and fogs should be exploited for aggressive operations with extensive use of deep and close envelopment and diversionary-reconnaissance operations.

177. In the defense of an airborne landing force, wide-scale use is made of obstacles that are difficult for enemy infantry and tanks to surmount (deep snow, ravines, steep banks of water barriers). The defense is organized on the basis of holding the points that intercept roads and tank-threatened axes.

A large part of the artillery is located as close to the roads as possible, making wide-scale use of fire maneuver.

During engineer preparation of the terrain, trenches and fire positions, that are thoroughly camouflaged, are dug in the snow, and also buildings and other structures are prepared for the defense.

2. The Employment of Airborne Landing Forces in Mountains

178. In mountains, airborne landing forces are employed primarily for seizing and holding important mountain passes, defiles (gorges), commanding heights, and other tactically important areas (points) in the enemy rear area, with the goal of assisting the troops advancing from the front in their rapid surmounting, and also to deny the approach (withdrawal) of the enemy through them.

Subunits of the airborne landing force, when operating in mountains, must be capable of performing combat tasks independently for a prolonged period of time. For this purpose they are reinforced by sappers and artillery and are provided with additional stocks of materiel means.

Besides, units (subunits), designated for the seizure of mountain passes and defiles are usually provided with special mountain equipment and clothing.

179. The drop (landing) of an airborne landing force in the mountains is effected on a limited number of drop zones. Gentle mountain slopes, mountain plateaus, valleys, and in winter conditions also frozen lakes, may be used as landing strips.

When the drop zones are below the area of combat operations, heavy cargoes may be dropped directly into the area being seized, after the landing force subunits have entered it.

In mountains, landing forces landed by helicopters will be employed extensively.

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180. The landing of an airborne landing force to seize a mountain pass (defile) is effected directly on it or in areas adjacent to it.

After landing, subunits (units) quickly bring themselves into combat readiness and without delay seize designated commanding heights in the area of the mountain pass (defile).

181. Defense in the mountains is organized on the basis of holding the commanding heights adjacent to mountain passes and defiles, and the approaches to them, by means of creating a system of strong points, setting up obstacles and carrying out demolition along the routes of possible enemy movement.

When organizing defense it is necessary to have the flanks of the units (subunits) of the airborne landing force rest against sectors of mountainous terrain that are difficult of access. Intervals between strong points are protected by obstacles and, in addition, during the night combat outposts are set up and ambushes are created. In addition, ambushes are widely employed in narrow places, along the routes of enemy movement.

182. Helicopters may be widely employed in the course of combat operations for maneuvering of individual subunits to important axes, for communications between isolated areas, for supplying landing force units and subunits with materiel means, and for the evacuation of the wounded.

183. Use of artillery during combat operations in the mountains depends on the possibility of its landing and deployment in the area of combat operations.

As a rule, artillery subunits are landed directly in the areas of designated fire positions.

Advancing units (subunits) are supported mainly by the fire of weapons allocated for fire by direct-laying and by mortar fire.

In defense a large part of the artillery is located in the combat formations of rifle subunits.

When organizing the artillery fire system, special attention is allocated to flanking and cross-fire in front of the forward edge of the line and in the intervals between centers of resistance (strong points), and to covering entrances and exits of defiles and gorges.



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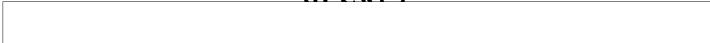
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With this goal, part of the platoons (weapons) are placed on peaks of commanding heights and on slopes facing the enemy.

3. Employing Airborne Landing Forces in Deserts (Plains)

184. In deserts and plains, airborne landing forces may be employed both to perform ordinary tasks as well as to seize, hold or destroy wells, water reservoirs and oases, and also hydrotechnical structures.

The flat terrain in deserts and plains permits extensive use of both parachute landings and aircraft landings.

185. The airborne landing force personnel designated for combat operations in deserts and plains must be able to:

- set up artificial orienting points for target designation;
- strictly observe water discipline;
- prevent sunburns, heat and sun strokes, and give medical first aid to the stricken;
- find sources of water by local indicators.

186. It is most expedient to carry out the landing operation and the seizure of objectives in deserts and plains at night.

Nighttime is widely used for maneuver, regrouping of troops, and also for supplying materiel means and for the evacuation of the wounded. In order to facilitate orientation at night, troops move on roads and paths.

187. When organizing and conducting defense, special attention must be devoted to all-around observation, reliable support of flanks and gaps by fire, and the organization of maneuver by antitank means.

It is necessary to take into account covering of gaps between the centers of resistance and the strong points of subunits when locating reserves. Supplies of ammunition, water, and food are created in the subunits.

Reconnaissance is organized and conducted on a broad front and to a great depth.



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188. During operations in deserts and plains a large part of the artillery is attached to the rifle subunits. Strong antitank reserves are created in units and large units.

All artillery is readied for maneuver to the threatened axes.

189. The flat nature of the terrain, lack of natural camouflage, and looseness of the ground, increase, to a considerable degree, the volume of engineer work, and require additional support of the troops with the necessary amount of camouflage means.

The problems of engineer support of defense in deserts and plains, besides the usual ones, are:

- reconnaissance for and the obtaining of underground water, and distilling of salt water;
- preparation and marking of routes for maneuver;
- setting up of additional orientation points;
- reinforcement of trench slopes, connecting trenches, other structures and their protection from drifting sand.

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Chapter Seven

SPECIAL FEATURES OF EMPLOYING TACTICAL AIRBORNE LANDING FORCES LANDED BY HELICOPTERS

190. Tactical airborne landing forces landed by helicopters are employed to assist advancing troops in the simultaneous break up of the enemy defense over its entire depth, to ensure high tempos of the offensive, for rapid surmounting of large areas of radioactive contamination, and also to support the landing of amphibious forces.

Tactical airborne landing forces, when breaking through enemy defense, can perform the following tasks:

- prevent the enemy from closing gaps formed as a result of atomic strikes;
- seize and hold important sectors, commanding heights, and other objectives in the depth of the enemy defense until the arrival of the advancing troops;
- deliver strikes against the enemy in the direction of advancing friendly troops;
- seize and hold important objectives along the route of enemy withdrawal (road junctions, gorges, individual sectors at intermediate defense lines, bridgeheads, crossings and bridges over water barriers, mountain defiles, passes, and various narrow spots);
- destroy control points, radar posts, and signal centers;
- disrupt the work of the enemy rear services.

In addition, tactical airborne landing forces can forestall the enemy seizure and advantageous lines (objectives) in a meeting engagement and hold them until the arrival of the main forces of the advancing large units.

In some cases tactical airborne landing forces are employed for the seizure and destruction of enemy weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

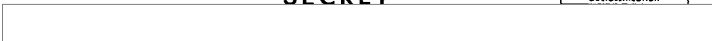
Usually motorized rifle subunits (units) of advancing large units, and in some cases subunits (units) of airborne troops, are used as tactical airborne landing forces. As a rule, in the



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tactical depth of the enemy defense, motorized-rifle subunits are used as airborne landing forces.

191. Tactical airborne landing forces are usually employed at the decision of the army commander or corps (division) commanding officer who has the necessary number of helicopters placed at his disposal.

During the landing of a tactical airborne landing force with employment of atomic weapons against the airborne operation areas or areas adjacent to them, the take-off of helicopters must begin after the shock wave of the atomic burst has passed.

192. The airborne operation departure area is selected in locations concealed from enemy observation.

The airborne landing force moves to the landing strips immediately prior to the boarding and loading of the helicopters. Helicopters are called in with the calculation that they be located on the landing strips only long enough to refuel and have the landing force board them.

Personnel and combat materiel are distributed among the helicopters in accordance with the decision of the airborne landing force commanding officer and the plan of forthcoming operations after the landing.

193. The time of the landing of the airborne landing force depends on the reliability of neutralization and destruction of the enemy in the flight path and in the airborne operation area, the capability of the landing force to conduct combat operations independently until it joins the troops advancing from the front, and also on the weather conditions. It is advantageous to carry out the landing of the landing force in a sector against which atomic weapons have been employed as soon as possible after the moment of the atomic strike.

In breaching the enemy defense, a landing force usually lands at the initiation of the attack against the forward edge.

194. The flight path to the airborne operation area is selected with consideration for the terrain, the nature of the enemy defense, and the degree of its contemplated neutralization. It is plotted along landmarks that are easily visible from the air, and over enemy dispositions it is also marked to smoke shells (mortar shells) and other means.

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195. The artillery of the army and corps (division) performs the following tasks with the goal of supporting the flight, landing, and combat operations of the airborne landing force:

- neutralizes (destroys) and blinds enemy fire means in the flight zone and in sectors adjacent to this zone;
- neutralizes (destroys) enemy personnel and fire means in the airborne operations area, and also his reserves located close to that area;
- supports combat operations of the airborne landing force by fire.

The artillery fire is conducted in such a manner as to avoid striking the helicopters.

For this purpose a definite order for conducting fire and signals for lifting and renewing fire, while the helicopters pass, is established.

For direct support of combat operations of the landing force, artillery is assigned from the composition of army (corps) and divisional artillery groups.

196. Aviation delivers strikes prior to and during the landing against the nearest enemy reserves and also against his antiaircraft artillery batteries.

Fighter aviation in accordance with the plan of the front (army) headquarters covers the landing in the airborne operation departure area, along the flight path, and in the area of the airborne operation and of combat operations.

197. When organizing cooperation between the landing force, the troops advancing from the front, and aviation allocated for support of the landing force, the following are determined:

- the objectives against which [one word missing] delivers a strike in the airborne operation area, and the procedure for delivering the strike;
- the operations of the airborne landing force after the landing;
- the flight path of helicopters, their altitude and duration of their flight over the combat formations of friendly and enemy troops, and coordinating signals between artillery and aviation;

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-- the procedure for covering helicopters during their flight for the airborne operation and back;

-- the installations of the enemy defense which are neutralized (destroyed) by artillery and aviation in the flight path of helicopters, in the airborne operation area and in areas adjacent to it, and the procedure for calling for and lifting fire;

-- the axes of operations of forward detachments and units of the advancing troops, the estimated time of departure and the procedure for conducting fire when approaching the combat operations area of the airborne landing force;

-- the procedure for employing smoke to screen enemy observation and strong points, and the blinding of his fire means in the course of the airborne operation and the combat operations;

-- the mutual recognition signals and the procedure for maintaining communications.

For timely calling and adjustment of artillery fire and for delivery of strikes by aviation, the commanding officer of the landing force must have with him, officers with means of communications, from the artillery subunits and aviation units designated for the support of the landing force.

198. Helicopters fly to the airborne operation area in combat formation which ensures the simultaneous landing of the landing force subunits [one line missing].

During the flight and the landing, the rocket launchers and machine guns of the helicopters conduct fire against the enemy, and primarily against his antiaircraft means.

In case the enemy opens fire against the landing force while the helicopters are landing, the fire means of the helicopters support the landing and the deployment of the airborne landing force for combat operations.

199. The commanding officer of the airborne landing force and the commanding officers of subunits, after disembarking from the helicopters, must spell out the reconnaissance and security guard tasks, take energetic measures for the rapid assembly of personnel, armament, combat equipment, and cargoes, and for

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bringing them to combat readiness. Combat tasks are elaborated on the terrain during the course of moving toward the designated objectives of the attack.

Upon landing, the airborne landing force subunits carry out assembly and deploy into combat formation at once. They boldly exploit breaks and gaps in the enemy combat formation, and by attacking his flanks and his rear area, destroy him. After being unloaded, artillery and mortar subunits attached to the rifle companies are moved into the combat formations of the rifle subunits and support the seizure of objectives.

The artillery of the troops advancing from the front supports the combat operations of the landing force, neutralizes enemy reserves, and ensures the consolidation of captured lines.

Aviation neutralizes (destroys) enemy reserves, especially tanks, hinders their approach to the landing area of the landing force, neutralizes artillery and covers the landing from enemy air strikes.

When landing in the zone of an atomic burst the airborne landing force subunits may enter into combat with the approaching enemy in the course of their advance. In this case the commanding officer of the airborne landing force must forestall the enemy in occupying advantageous lines and prevent the enemy from closing the gap formed as the result of the atomic strike.

200. Operations of the airborne landing force having the goal of preventing the enemy from closing a gap that was formed as the result of an atomic strike must be bold and decisive. Subunits of the landing force, exploiting the results of the atomic strike, swiftly seize the designated lines (objectives) from the march and organize their defense.

When organizing defense, remaining enemy defense structures are used first, and local features are adapted for defense. Special attention must be devoted to the organization of a system of fire, especially antitank fire.

201. When advancing toward friendly troops with the goal of assisting them in breaking through the defense or forcing a water barrier, the airborne landing force must act swiftly, boldly and decisively, delivering strikes against the enemy flank and rear area. The axis of the main efforts of the airborne landing force must ensure the swiftest joining of the troops advancing from the front, at least in a narrow sector.

With the arrival of troops advancing from the front, the landing force operates at the direction of the senior commander.

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Chapter Eight

MATERIEL, TECHNICAL, AND MEDICAL SUPPORT

202. Materiel, technical and medical support of airborne landing force large units and units is organized by order of the commander who is employing the airborne landing force. Their supply is carried out: when preparing for an airborne operation--from the nearest front (army) or central depots; in the course of combat operations--from depots deployed in the area of materiel support airfields (aerodrom materialnogo obespecheniya).

203. The expenditure quotas of munitions and other materiel means are established by the senior commander. A rigid rate of expenditure of all types of materiel means, and first of all munitions, is determined. All commanding officers must take measures for economical expenditure of munitions and for the maximum use of captured combat equipment, munitions, goods and materiel means.

The supply of materiel means required by the airborne landing force to perform a combat task must, as a rule, be landed directly with it. Besides, in order to replace losses suffered during the airborne operation and also to supply...

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