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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

28 February 1977

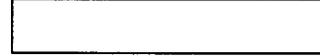
MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : William W. Wells
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Methodology
For Clarifying Themes and Goals in
Working Out Exercises and War Games

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal 'Military Thought'. This article emphasizes that clarifying the theme and training goals is important in determining the training problems and stages of an exercise and, when carried out prior to the working out of the exercise concept, it facilitates the preparation of documents and materials for its conduct. Examples are given showing how these training problems are derived from breaking down a general theme into smaller specific themes in which particular goals are to be achieved. The author also recommends using the graphic method to express the results of this clarification, inasmuch as it provides an easy-to-follow visual presentation. This article appeared in Issue No. 2 (87) for 1969.

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

William W. Wells

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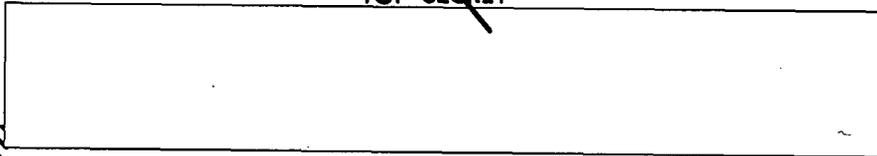
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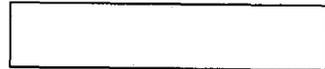
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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR



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SUBJECT

MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Methodology for Clarifying Themes and Goals in Working Out Exercises and War Games

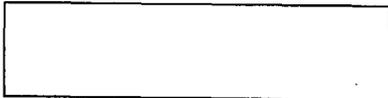
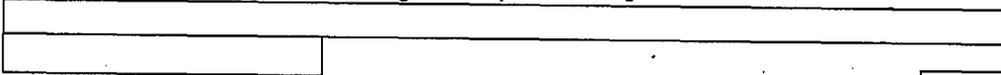
SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

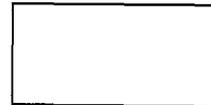
The following report is a translation from Russian of an article which appeared in Issue No. 2 (87) for 1969 of the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal 'Military Thought'. The author of this article is Colonel P. Gorelik. This article emphasizes that clarifying the theme and training goals is important in determining the training problems and stages of an exercise and, when carried out prior to the working out of the exercise concept, it facilitates the preparation of documents and materials for its conduct. Examples are given showing how these training problems are derived from breaking down a general theme into smaller specific themes in which particular goals are to be achieved. The author also recommends using the graphic method to express the results of this clarification, inasmuch as it provides an easy-to-follow visual presentation. End of Summary

Comment:

The author also co-authored with General-Leytenant of Tank Troops P. Govorunenko, Colonel P. Plotnikov, and General-Mayor I. Karev 'Meeting Engagements in the Initial Period of War' in Issue No. 2 (63) for 1962. The SECRET version of Military Thought was published three times annually and was distributed down to the level of division commander. It reportedly ceased publication at the end of 1970.



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Methodology for Clarifying Themes and Goals
in Working Out Exercises and War Games

by

Colonel P. Gorelik

Candidate of Military Sciences, Assistant Professor

The clarification of themes and goals is one of the most important stages in working out operational exercises and war games. It permits a more purposeful directing of the activities of a large collective engaged in the preparation of the concept, task, plan, and other materials necessary to the successful conduct of exercises (war games). To clarify the theme and training goals means to correctly understand the nature of the operational situation which is to be set up step by step during the exercise in order to achieve the training goals, and on this basis to determine the training problems and the stages of the exercise. It must be preceded by an in-depth study of the governing directives and orders relating to operational training, the formation's assignment, and the results of inspection and monitoring checks; by an analysis of the preparedness of the trainees and the shortcomings revealed during prior training sessions and exercises; and by the study of the necessary sections of the regulations and manuals.

The theme is usually designated by the director of the exercise. He may formulate it briefly or present it in expanded form, for example: "The initial offensive operation of a combined-arms army, conducted without nuclear weapons" or "Bringing army troops to full combat readiness, going over to the offensive and to a meeting engagement without employing nuclear weapons, participating in the delivery of the initial nuclear strike, attacking the enemy after he has gone over to the defense, pursuing the defeated enemy, and making an assault crossing of a large water obstacle from the march in cooperation with an airborne landing force". This type of expanded formulation is used in a number of military districts. Its advantage is that it contains the specific sequence in which the main training problems are to be solved. This substantially facilitates the clarification of the theme and more strictly regulates the development of the training materials so that they conform to the director's concept. However, we are concerned here with the first variant, since the second (expanded) results from the clarification of a previously formulated outline.

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While the theme in its concentrated form expresses the nature of the operational situation which is subsequently to be set up in the exercise (game), the training goals indicate the results the director wishes to achieve during the conduct of the exercise (the overall goals) or during its individual stages (the specific goals).

Clarification of the theme and training goals makes it possible to specify the training problems and the stages of the exercise. They are derived from breaking down the general theme into several small specific themes, and they express the nature of the operational situation in which it is planned to conduct any given episode of the exercise or to achieve any given goal.

For example, in order to implement the theme "The initial offensive operation of a combined-arms army, employing means of mass destruction", on the condition that one of the training goals is to evaluate the ability of the command and staffs to prepare the initial nuclear strike and to organize the elimination of the aftereffects of enemy employment of means of mass destruction, two training problems may be formulated: the participation of army rocket troops in the delivery of the initial nuclear strike and the elimination of the aftereffects of the initial enemy nuclear strike against troops and installations of the army rear.

In this case the operational situation must enable the trainees to carry out the training problems consecutively: making the decision to employ nuclear weapons and assigning the tasks to the rocket troops, and then organizing the elimination of the aftereffects of the enemy nuclear attack. Obviously this sequence for working out the training problems requires that the exercise begin under conditions of a so-called period of threat and that action be initiated in the form of simultaneous nuclear strikes by the two sides.

If one of the exercise goals is "To give the command and staff experience in organizing an offensive when the enemy is employing nuclear weapons against troops and installations of the army rear", one of the training problems will be retained (the elimination of the aftereffects of the initial enemy nuclear strike), but the content of the second will be altered and may be formulated as "Organizing an offensive when the enemy is employing means of mass destruction". The participants must carry out these training problems not consecutively, as in the first case, but simultaneously, i.e., the exercise will begin not with the period of threat but with the delivery of nuclear strikes by the enemy. The combined working out of certain training problems involving combat actions carried

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out over a specified period of time and in a given area (or the organizing of such actions) will also constitute one stage of the exercise.

The result of the clarification of themes and training goals is usually expressed in the form of training problems and stages of the exercise shown on a concept map or in attached explanatory notes, and they are approved by the director at the same time that he approves the concept. Meanwhile, it is advisable that the concept itself should not begin to be worked out until after the theme and training goals have been fully clarified.

In actual practice, a large number of time-consuming documents must often be redone merely because the intentions of the exercise director were misunderstood, the training problems and stages were not accurately defined, the sequence of operational episodes was incorrectly outlined, or the time for carrying out each of them was not properly allocated. This can be avoided if the results of the clarification of the theme and training goals are coordinated before the working out of the concept is begun.

We recommend that the graphic method be used to express the results of the clarification of themes and training goals that have been checked during the working out of a number of exercises and games. This method substantially facilitates the work of the participants, makes it possible to cover a wide range of problems regulating the entire preparation of the exercise, and is also of assistance in reporting to the director (see the diagram) [not available].

The following director's instructions regarding the preparations of materials for a two-level, one-sided operational command-staff exercise are based on the proposed variant: theme -- troop control during the initial offensive operation of a combined-arms army; training goals -- to check the combat readiness of the field headquarters of the army and staffs of large units; to provide experience in organizing non-nuclear combat actions during a period of threat of limited duration; to train the command and staffs to carry out troop control while engaged in highly mobile combat actions in which only conventional means of destruction are employed and when going over to the employment of nuclear and chemical weapons; method -- a one-sided, two-level (army - division) command-staff exercise; time allocated for execution -- 15 May through 18 May (96 hours); enemy -- assumed as an army of the United States or the Federal Republic of Germany; participants -- the army field headquarters, the staff of the army missile

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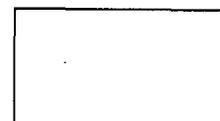
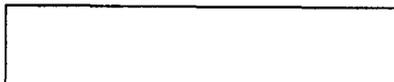
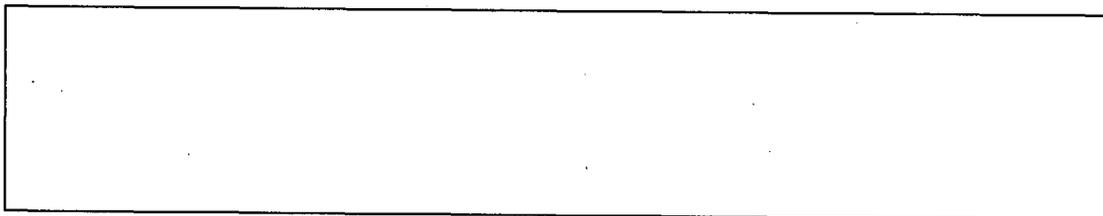


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brigade, a separate communications regiment, and the division staffs with their own communications means.

In addition to formulating the training problems and stages of the exercise, the recommended method makes it possible to work out the most favorable method for allocating the sidereal time required to work out each training problem and to determine the appropriate operational time for each problem, and the duration of the operational transitions, the designation of documents which have been drawn up for presentation to the participants, the order in which they are to be issued, and the time allocated for the participants to make their reports at a general meeting on the most important training problems. In the recommended variant three main problems have been singled out -- the meeting engagement in which only conventional means of destruction are employed, the elimination of the aftereffects of enemy nuclear attack, and the regrouping of troops onto a new axis.

The advantage of this method is that it not only provides a visual presentation, but also makes it possible to examine the different aspects of the initial data which go into the development of materials for operational exercises (war games), and the interrelationship of these aspects.



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