MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM: William W. Wells
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT: MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Dissertations
(for the Candidate's Degree)

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article contains 19 abstracts of about 150 words each of dissertations defended in three Soviet military academies in 1962; they deal with a variety of subjects - troop control, support, cooperation, use of atomic submarines, tank warfare, use of computers, border guards, and evacuation of cities. This article appeared in Issue No. 1 (68) for 1963, Russian language.

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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Summary:
The following report is a translation from Russian of an article which appeared in Issue No. 1 (68) for 1963 of the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article contains 19 abstracts of about 150 words each of dissertations defended in three Soviet military academies in 1962; they deal with a variety of subjects -- troop control, support, cooperation, use of atomic submarines, tank warfare, use of computers, border guards, and evacuation of cities.

Comment:
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.
Dissertations
(for the Candidate's Degree)

The editorial board is publishing these brief synopses in order to acquaint the readers of the journal with the thematic content of the dissertations, defended in the Military Academy of the General Staff, the Military Academy i/n M. V. Frunze, and in the Academy of the Armored Troops during the first half of 1962.

Operational Art


The dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters and a conclusion. In it are examined the main demands which the nature of modern operations make on troop control, the methods of work of the command and staffs and the methods of control, the means of mechanization and minor automation, the ways of improving the organizational structure of control organs, the technical base for an integrated automated system of troop control, the basic principles of constructing integrated automation, the employment of electronic computers in an automated system of control, the possible organizational structure of the field headquarters of the front (army) and the plan of organizing troop control of the front (army) in an operation, the organization of communications in an automated system of control, and the raising of the survivability and mobility of control organs.

In the conclusion the author indicates ways of introducing and mastering automation means.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters and a conclusion. In it are examined the control of groupings of allied troops based on the experience of the last war and post-war exercises, the special features of the work of the commander and staff of the army when there are allied troops in its composition, the organization of certain types of support and political work, and also prospects for improving the control of groupings of allied troops.

As a result of research on the indicated questions, the author arrives at the conclusion that within the framework of a combined coalition command there can be formations, large units and units of armies of various countries designated to carry out operational and tactical tasks. Control of these formations and large units will have its special features which the formation commanders (commanders) and staffs must take into consideration. Practical recommendations are given for improving the methods of controlling allied groupings, on the system of collecting, processing and issuing information, on organizational and technical questions, on exchanging the combat and operational training experience of the Warsaw Pact troops, and on a number of other questions.

3. The Disruption of Control of the Troops and Combat Means of the Enemy in an Army Offensive Operation. Lieutenant Colonel NEKRASOV V. P., Moscow, 1961, 206 pages + 20 diagrams and tables, Military Academy i/n M. V. Frunze. Typewritten.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. In it are examined the opinions of probable enemies on the conduct of operations of the initial period of a war; the system of troop control in large units and operations formations of ground forces; the system of control of fire means employing nuclear ammunition; the system of control of tactical aviation: the forces and means of troop reconnaissance in foreign armies; the organization of the security and defense of control posts and means; the destruction of staffs, control posts and technical means of the enemy; neutralization by active and passive jamming of the radioelectronic means of the enemy;
combatting his reconnaissance; preparing and planning measures to
disrupt the control of troops and combat means; directing the
forces and means allocated for these purposes; taking measures
for disrupting control of enemy troops and combat means during
the first offensive operation of the combined-arms army.

In the conclusion the author indicates a system of measures
which must be taken for disrupting control of the troops and
combat means of the enemy and for carrying out these tasks, and
provides recommendations for setting up in the army a special
organ for directing forces and means allocated for this purpose,
as well as for supporting the cooperation between the branch arms
and services which are carrying out this task.

4. Combat Actions of the Rocket Troops and Aviation of the
Front in the First Attack of the Initial Period of a War,
General-Mayor of Aviation POVARKOV V. V., Moscow, 1961, 177 pages
+ 8 diagrams, Military Academy of the General Staff.
Typewritten.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters
and a conclusion.

In the first chapter the methods of combat actions of the
probable enemy are examined, as are the possible grouping of his
forces and means in the Central European Theater of Military
Operations, the main installations of the army group against
which the initial strike by rocket troops and aviation of the
front should be delivered, the state of the enemy's air defense
and its influence on the effectiveness of the initial attack of
the front.

In the second chapter the substance of the initial nuclear
strike of the front is disclosed, the role and designation of
forces and means participating in it are shown, and the minimum
requirement of forces and means for delivering the initial attack
is specified; in the third chapter the organization of combat
actions of the rocket troops and aviation of the front and
measures directed toward achieving constant combat readiness of
the troops is investigated; in the fourth chapter the combat
actions of the rocket troops and aviation of the front when
delivering the initial nuclear strike are analyzed.
In the conclusion the author makes a number of recommendations for preparing and carrying out the initial strike, neutralizing the air defense system of the enemy, destroying the missile means and carriers of nuclear weapons, preserving our own forces and means, and other things. It is emphasized that the initial attack of the front -- an integral part of the strategic attack -- is also the beginning of the initial operation of the ground troops; it is proposed to carry out the operational disposition of the forces and means of the front when the initial attack is delivered.


The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion.

In the first chapter a brief sketch of the development of chemical weapons, an operational assessment of the chemical weapons of the Soviet Army and the role and importance of employing them in an offensive operation of the front are given; in the second chapter questions of organizing the employment of chemical weapons in an offensive operation of the front are examined; in the third, the employment of chemical weapons in the course of the operation is examined.

In the dissertation the author designates tasks which ought to be carried out with chemical weapons, explains the methodology of the work of the front command, the chief of staff and the chief of the chemical troops in employing chemical weapons and proposes drawing up and publishing an official guide for the staffs of military districts (groups of forces) for the employment of chemical weapons in an operation and battle and also the methodology of simple operational-tactical calculations for the destruction of various installations. The author also examines certain requirements on individual types of toxic substances and on the instruments for their employment.

Academy of the General Staff. Typewritten,

The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. In it are examined the conditions of the situation and demands on reconnaissance when preparing the initial offensive operation of the front, the tasks of reconnaissance, the forces and means and their capabilities, the organization of reconnaissance (agent reconnaissance, deep reconnaissance, radio and radiotechnical and aerial reconnaissance), the processing of reconnaissance data and information, and cooperation in the work of reconnaissance organs; the main problems in conducting the reconnaissance of missile/nuclear weapons are investigated, as are ways of hastening the collection and processing of reconnaissance data and the possibilities of employing electronic computers for this purpose.

In the conclusion the author indicates ways of automating and mechanizing the collection and processing of reconnaissance data about the enemy and proposes introducing these means into the various reconnaissance organs. He also makes proposals regarding the equipping and arming of reconnaissance personnel operating in the enemy's rear, the development of new camera equipment, the setting up of special units for interpreting photographs and a number of other things.

7. An Investigation of the Problem of Organizing and Implementing the Airlift of a Motorized Rifle Division from the Rear of the Country to the Front in Operations During the Initial Period of a War, General-Mayor of Aviation PROSTOSERDOV, A. S., Moscow, 1962, 141 pages + 11 diagrams, Military Academy of the General Staff, Typewritten.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters and a conclusion. In the first chapter the use of air transport in past wars for airlifting troops is examined, as are the conditions for employing military transport aviation in operations of the initial period of a war and the main positions on airlifting troops; in the second chapter the decision for transferring a division, the planning of it, and the organization of control, communications and cooperation are discussed; in the third chapter are analyzed questions of the support of the transfer of a division, as well as questions of the selection of
waiting areas and of the movement of the troops in them, the covering of the division and military transport aviation from possible strikes of the enemy, aerial reconnaissance, electronic countermeasures, operational camouflage and special support; in the fourth chapter the procedure for concentrating military transport aviation at airfields and loading troops, combat equipment and trucks onto aircraft and for implementing the transfer is indicated.

In the conclusion it is proposed to standardize the special motor transport of the division, and the composition of military transport aviation and the demands on it are also pointed out.


The dissertation consists of an introduction, six chapters and a conclusion. In it are shown the importance of the strait zone in an offensive on a coastal axis and the conditions of combat actions of the troops of the front and naval forces, views of the probable enemies on defending a strait zone, the organization of combat actions and their conduct in seizing a strait zone of a sea, the combat capabilities of the fleet forces, the decision of the fleet commander, the support of actions of the naval forces, the combat actions of the fleet before the approach of the front troops to the coast of the sea straits, the actions of the fleet while the strait zone is being seized by the front troops.

In the conclusion the author indicates the tasks of the fleet forces to assist the troops of the front in seizing a strait zone, and proposes the composition of fleet forces and means needed to carry out the tasks and the measures for organizing the combat actions and supporting the naval forces while assisting the ground troops in seizing the straits.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, nine chapters and a conclusion. In it the following questions are examined: elements indicating the possibility of an enemy attack in the ocean with atomic submarines and the special features of their movement during the attack; the expediency of employing atomic submarines in groups during an enemy attack in the ocean; the combat capabilities of operational large units of atomic submarines; the planning of combat actions of atomic submarine large units in naval operations; organizing the guidance of large units of strike atomic submarines to the enemy in the ocean with the forces of atomic submarines for guidance support; organizing control of large units of atomic submarines and their materiel and technical support during actions in the ocean; the conduct of combat actions by large units of atomic submarines.


The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion.

In the first chapter the conditions of combat actions of the air army in an offensive operation of the front and the tasks of aviation engineer support are examined; in the second chapter questions of ensuring a high level of combat readiness of aviation and missile equipment are analyzed (the organization of technical maintenance and timely and highly skilful repair of it, the support of movement of aviation large units, units and subunits and repair organs, the organization of anti-atomic protection of personnel, aviation equipment and means of servicing, the planning of work and direction of the aviation engineer service, the improvement of methods of aviation engineer support).

In the third chapter questions of ensuring the most effective combat employment of aviation large units and units are examined: determination of the possible number of sorties, of equipment beyond economical repair, of the removal of aviation equipment for repair, and of the amount and times required to replenish it; the methodology of operational assessment of the tactical radius of action when landing at other airfields;
calculations for the destruction of targets by nuclear weapons, including determination of the number of cruise missile launchers to fulfill the tasks; and the capabilities of negotiating the enemy's air defense and repulsing his air strikes.


The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion.

In it are examined the possible nature of the development of combat actions in the European Theater in the initial period of a nuclear war, the role, tasks, composition and means of reinforcement of a field army of the USA, the planning of the operation, the organization of troop control, the operational and rear services support, the setting up of groupings, preparatory fire, an attack against a successfully occupied defense, a meeting engagement and battle, pursuit, and the assault crossing of water obstacles in the course of an offensive operation.

Based on an analysis of the opinions existing in the US Army on the methods of preparing and conducting an army offensive operation, the trends in development of these methods in the near future are disclosed in the dissertation. Pointed out in particular are the increase in the mobility and combat capabilities of units and large units, the possibility of their large scale equipping with small sized nuclear weapons, the setting up of an offensive grouping of the field army within a short time period, the reduction of the duration of preparatory fire and a number of other things.

Tactics

1. The Development of the Tactics of Artillery During the Great Patriotic War and the Tactics of the Rocket Troops and Artillery in the Postwar Period. Colonel SOLOVYEV I. T., Moscow, 1961, 300 pages + an album of diagrams. Military Academy i/n M.
V. Frunze. Typewritten.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters and a conclusion.

In the first chapter the main factors exerting influence on the development of the tactics of ground artillery in an offensive, artillery equipment, the organization of artillery, operational art and tactics, and the enemy's means and methods of combat are examined.

The development of the tactics of ground artillery in an offensive during the Great Patriotic War are analyzed in the second chapter (massing artillery on the axis of the main attack, the grouping and control of it, the development of methods of artillery preparation and support of the attack when accompanying the infantry and tanks during the battle in the depth of the enemy defense). In the third chapter factors determining the tactics of the rocket troops and artillery in present-day conditions are investigated. In the fourth chapter an analysis is given of the tactics of the rocket troops and artillery in the postwar period and the tendencies for its development are shown.

In the conclusion the author makes a number of practical recommendations on questions of the combat employment of the rocket troops in an offensive battle and operation and on the organization of units and subunits and shows the prospects of development of this organization.


The dissertation consists of an introduction, two chapters and a conclusion.

In it are examined: special antitank means and general-purpose means of destruction, the development of methods of the combat employment of artillery and antitank means, the demands on modern means for combating tanks, a system of antitank fire in defense, the maneuvering of antitank means, the need for antitank means, the destruction of enemy tank groupings
prior to the initiation of the attack when they go over to the attack in front of the forward edge and in the depth of the defense.

In the conclusion the author formulates present-day methods of combatting tanks and the tendencies for their further development, enumerates some tactical-technical requirements for antitank means and lists the T/O&E requirements of a motorized rifle division for antitank means and their allocation for combatting tanks.


The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion.

The goals, means and capabilities of the probable enemy in creating zones of radioactive contamination, the destructive elements of a ground nuclear burst, the characteristics of the zones of radioactive contamination and their influence on the actions of a tank division in an offensive are examined in the first chapter.

In the second chapter the conditions of the operational-tactical situation arising with the creation of zones of radioactive contamination and the capabilities and methods of negotiating these zones by a tank division are analyzed. In the third chapter the organization and methods of negotiating zones of radioactive contamination by a tank division are shown.

In the conclusion the author sets forth certain requirements on the combat equipment, armament and organizational structure of a tank division.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion.

In the first chapter the conditions of the occurrence of an encirclement, the operational-tactical views of the US Army command in West Germany on encirclement and the destruction of the encircled enemy, the actions of combined-arms large units against encirclement and the characteristic features of their combat actions when encircled are examined; the system of measures taken by the commanders and staffs directed toward eliminating the threat of encirclement is also discussed.

The battle of large units when encircled, the dimensions of the areas in which combat actions develop, the defense disposition, the work of commanders and staffs in organizing a battle and troop control during it are analyzed in the second chapter. Also the special features of political and rear services support of the encircled troops are shown.

In the third chapter questions concerning the restoration of the position and breaking out of the encirclement by the combined-arms large units are investigated.

As a result of research the author arrives at the conclusion that encirclement may arise in any type of battle and operation; and he makes a number of practical recommendations for opposing encirclement, holding an occupied region and eliminating the front of the encirclement, organizing a system of fire, troop control, norms of the magnitude of the area of encirclement, the depth of tasks, and the duration of the battle, and also indicates measures for cooperation with troops conducting combat actions outside of the front of the encirclement.


The dissertation consists of an introduction, five chapters and a conclusion. Based on an analysis of the existing control system of combined-arms large units, the demands made on it by the advanced development of means and methods of armed combat, and the latest achievements of science and technology, the
reasons which necessitate the automation of control processes in a division are given in the dissertation; a brief description is provided of the current and projected technical means; possible ways are shown for automating the stages of collecting, processing and issuing the necessary reports about the situation; the main tasks which can be carried out by means of automation means in the staff of a division are examined; the methodology of carrying out the information task of collecting, processing and issuing reports about our troops on an electronic computer of the combined-arms large unit is given; and, the operational-tactical requirements for an electronic computer of the indicated level of control are specified.

In the conclusion the author draws a number of theoretical conclusions about the possibilities of using an automated system of control at the tactical level.

Other Questions


In the dissertation (consisting of two chapters and a conclusion) the experience of actions of the Soviet border guard troops on the Northwest Theater of Military Operations during the Soviet-Finnish and Great Patriotic Wars is summarized and the possible tasks of the border guard troops in this theater in a future war are specified.

The author arrives at the conclusion that the main conditions determining the content of the tasks of the border guard troops and the methods for accomplishing them were the military-political situation, the nature of actions of the enemy and of the troops of the Soviet Army, the grouping and state of the forces and means of the border guard troops and the changes in them in the course of combat actions, and also the physical-geographic conditions of that theater. Examined in detail are such measures as reorganizing the guarding of the
state border where aggressive actions of sabotage and reconnaissance contingents and agents are expected, increasing the density and depth of border guarding, guarding the most important military installations, organizing combat actions with special contingents and subunits of regular troops during their movement to sabotage targets or after the completion of the sabotage, purging individual areas which had been most heavily infiltrated by hostile elements, and maintaining public order. In the dissertation there are a number of interesting practical recommendations on organizing border guard reconnaissance, combatting the sabotage and reconnaissance and other subversive enemy activity, on covering the state border and the participation in battles of the border guard troops, on guarding the rear and supporting routine measures, and on controlling the border guard troops in the course of combat actions.


The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. The author examines the following matters: weapons of mass destruction in the military plans of imperialist governments; the possible aftereffects of their employment by the enemy; the forces and means for protecting the population of major cities; the main measures for sheltering, evacuating, and warning the population about the danger of attack; the preparation for protection and the elimination of the aftereffects of an enemy nuclear attack in a major city.

In the conclusion are formulated the main methods of protecting the population and the principles of using forces and means when assisting the casualties in the city, and also a number of practical recommendations are given for raising the stability of control, for training specialists of civil defense organs, and for operational planning.

3. The Offensive of a Combined-Arms Army Reinforced with Tank and Mechanized Large Units and Units in a Marshy Woodland, Based on the Experience of the 39th Army of the Kalinin Front in the Smolensk Operation (August to October 1943). Colonel GETMANOV S. I., Moscow, 1961, 258 pages + an album of diagrams.
The dissertation consists of an introduction, six chapters and a conclusion.

In the first chapter the conditions of preparing and conducting the offensive operations of the 39th Army of the Kalinin Front on the Dukhovshchinsk-Smolensk axis are examined; in the second, the preparation of the operation and reasons for the loss of surprise are discussed (24 July to 12 August, 1943); in the third the reasons for the army's failure to carry out a breakthrough of the enemy's defense are disclosed (13 August to 6 September, 1943), and the lessons which should be learned from this operation are also indicated; in the fourth chapter the author examines the preparation of a new offensive operation of the 39th Army in a short period of time (7 to 13 September 1943); in the fifth he discusses the breakthrough of the defense on the Dukhovshchinsk axis, the development of the attack and the pursuit of the enemy (14 September to 2 October, 1943); in the sixth chapter the operations of the army are summed up, and the forms and methods of armed combat in a marshy woodland which can be used in modern conditions are shown.