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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

2 February 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence  
FROM : John N. McMahon  
Deputy Director for Operations  
SUBJECT : MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Information  
Collection and Processing Posts

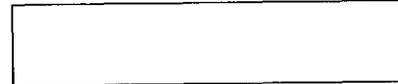
1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article deals with a military science conference held in the Turkestan Military District at which it was proposed to set up information collection and processing posts within each staff from the regiment level up to streamline the collection, processing, and reporting of situation data within a front. Also the use of mobile photo laboratories to reduce the time needed to receive aerial photography was discussed. This article appeared in Issue No. 1 (68) for 1963.

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

JOHN N. MCMAHON

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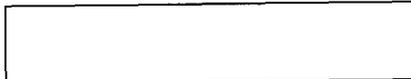




# Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR



DATE OF INFO. Early 1963

DATE 2 February 1978

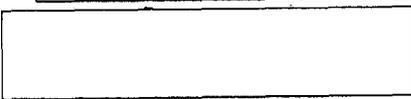
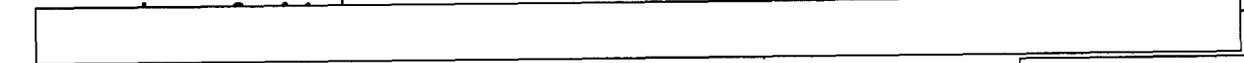
SUBJECT

MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Information Collection and Processing Posts

SOURCE Documentary 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". The authors of this article are Colonel I. GAPON and Colonel Ye. SAFONOV. This article deals with a military science conference held in the Turkestan Military District at which it was proposed to set up information collection and processing posts within each staff from the regiment level up, to collect and process situation data on a timely basis and report them immediately to the front commander, chief of staff, and to information posts of higher staffs. To implement this, technical means ensuring reliable communications over large distances are necessary, as are transport means with cross-country capability. Also the setting up of mobile photo laboratories in order to reduce the time needed to receive aerial photography was discussed. End of Summary

Comment:  
Colonel Saronov also collaborated with General-Major P. Maltsev on "Some Features of Preparing for and Conducting a Front Offensive Operation, Beginning Without the Employment of Nuclear Weapons, in Mountainous and Desert Terrain" in Issue No. 1 (80) for 1967



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Information Collection and Processing Posts

(Based on materials from a military science conference)

by

Colonel I. GAPON  
Colonel Ye. SAFONOV

The tenth military science conference of the Turkestan Military District considered ways of improving methods of controlling troops in a modern front offensive operation under conditions of mountainous-desert terrain.

The main emphasis at the conference was placed on the question of what must be done to enable the formation commander (commander) to carry out all of the processes of preparing an operation or battle and controlling troops with minimum expenditure of time.

The greatest interest was evoked by a proposal on setting up information collection and processing posts.

In the opinion of some conference participants (General-Leytenants ZALIZYUK and KAVRAYSKIY, General-Mayor BOLOGOV, and Colonels SHITOV and ZUDIN), the weakest link in troop control remains the collection and processing of situation data. Command-staff exercises conducted in the past year have shown that the collated situation data coming into the front staff describe the situation as it was three to five hours previously. This happens because the existing information system is obsolete; the majority of the data is redundant and often garbled as well. This being the case, much important information, especially intelligence, having come into the staffs of the branch arms, accumulates there without serving the purpose for which it was meant. In addition, a very large amount of information comes into the higher staffs which they do not need at the time and which overloads communications means and takes up much of their time for processing.

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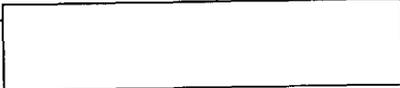
Reductions in information transmittal time, in the opinion of conference participants, can be achieved by having the front staff receive it directly from the staffs of divisions and, for the most important data, even from regiments. For this purpose it is proposed that there be an information collection and processing post within each staff from the regiment up. The task of such a post should be to collect and process situation data on a timely basis and to report them without delay to the formation commander (commander), to the chief of staff, and by collective-call method to the information posts of the higher staffs. They can be made responsible for passing information to all cooperating staffs and within each staff. The collection and processing posts can also be used as channels to transmit combat tasks to the troops. This will exclude duplication of the same data on different channels; staff officers and chiefs of branch arms and services will be freed from having to waste time on various kinds of information discussions with the higher staff, with subordinates, and with adjacent units.

Collection and processing posts will be able to accomplish their assigned tasks only if they are adequately supplied with technical means ensuring the maintenance of reliable communications over large distances. This is particularly important for the conditions of mountainous-desert terrain.

Using the existing communications system and means, the receipt of data by the collection posts can be accelerated by the retransmission of information, proceeding from the lower levels upward. Reports which go, for example, from the division (regiment) to the front must be specially marked and must be transmitted through the communications centers of corps (divisions) as through traffic, without processing (decoding). It is expected that the load on communications means will increase with such a method of information transmission, but this is compensated for by ensuring the timely receipt of important situation data by the senior chief.

However, as commented by General-Mayor of Communications Troops CHERNOUS, under the conditions of the Middle East Theater of Military Operations, the existing communications means cannot fully ensure the transmittal of urgent data being forwarded from the regiment to the corps or even to the front. In view of the

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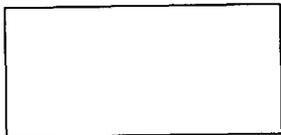


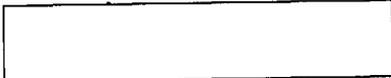
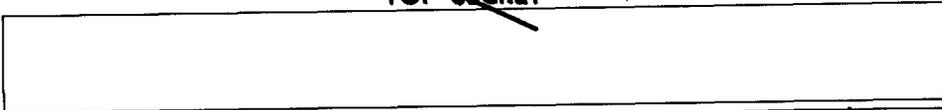
considerable distances between command posts, the front will not always be able to pick up division radio means. In fact, the method of monitoring corps radio nets in order for the front to receive information from the divisions is virtually excluded at the present time.

Proceeding from this, the most acceptable solution to the problem of the timely receipt of information through channels is retransmission within the division and the corps. For this purpose, the post should include officers of all specialties, with the capability to orient themselves rapidly in a fluid situation, pick out its salient points, collate the information, and make correct conclusions. In addition to communications means, information collection and processing posts must be provided with the necessary transport means with cross-country capability.

In the opinion of conference participants, information collection and processing posts can become centers at which integrated automated troop control systems can be based. In essence, the function of the proposed posts must be as follows: the regimental collection post, having processed situation data, immediately reports them to the regiment commander and simultaneously to the division collection post. The latter reports processed data from regiments, adjacent units, and reconnaissance to the division commander and the corps collection post. The work of the posts must be based on wide use of signal tables, standardized documents, and a well thought out system for transmitting information. The importance and urgency of information must be determined by the chief of the collection post.

In this connection, conference participants consider that all incoming information should be divided into two categories: the first is information which must be transmitted to higher staffs immediately, clear up to the front staff. This category should include data on detected enemy nuclear attack means, on sharp changes in the radiation or chemical situation, and on the moving up of enemy counterthrust or counterattack groupings, as well as other data requiring the formation commander (commander) to take immediate measures. The second category includes all remaining information, which can be transmitted after appropriate processing and collation.





In order to reduce the time required to receive materials from aerial photography, Colonel UDALTSOV proposed setting up mobile photo laboratories at the command posts of combined-arms and missile large units, placing them on GAZ-69 general-purpose vehicles. Operating experience of the photo laboratory available in the air army shows that it can process up to 20 meters of aerial film dropped from an aircraft (helicopter) in a cassette, interpret the wet negatives, make up to 20 prints, and assemble one or two photo mosaics. It takes an average of 40 minutes for three laboratory technicians to accomplish this work, which is a more than threefold reduction in the time required to receive data from aerial reconnaissance.

Regarding the structure of staffs, conference participants pointed out that the staff of a corps is so organized that without reconnaissance means and support elements, it will be unable to carry out all troop control tasks under the conditions of the Middle East Theater of Military Operations, where, as is known, a corps must operate on an isolated operational axis in almost all instances.

During the conference, other questions were also considered, in particular, the planning of an operation; control posts and dispersal of their elements in mountainous-desert terrain; and party-political work in operations of the initial period of a war.

The conference participants were familiarized with exhibits from the exhibition of means of mechanization and minor automation which were used by the staffs of the various branch arms for control and document processing at the exercises, and they expressed their opinion on the individual items.

