MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM: John H. Stein
Acting Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT: MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Dissertations

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article contains short synopses of dissertations on operational art and tactics which were defended at the M. V. Frunze Military Academy, the Military Academy of the General Staff, and the Military Academy of Armored Troops during 1959-61. This article appeared in Issue No. 4 (65) for 1962.

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

John H. Stein
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Intelligence Information Special Report

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MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Dissertations

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Summary:
The following report is a translation from Russian of an article which appeared in Issue No. 4 (65) for 1962 of the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article contains short synopses of dissertations on operational art and tactics which were defended at the M. V. Frunze Military Academy, the Military Academy of the General Staff, and the Military Academy of Armored Troops during 1959-61.

End of Summary

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

(Candidates')

To acquaint readers of the journal with the subject matter of dissertations on operational art and tactics that were defended at the Military Academy of the General Staff, the M. V. Frunze Academy and the Military Academy of Armored Troops in the years 1959-61, the editors present a short synopsis of each.

On Operational Art


This dissertation synthesizes the experience of offensive actions by troops in the initial period of the last war; reveals those particular characteristics that will affect the nature of offensive operations by a combined-arms army in the initial period of a future war; and examines the possible objectives and tasks of an initial offensive operation by a combined-arms army and the particular features of preparing and conducting it. The research on these questions was done with reference to conditions in the Western Theater of Military Operations.


The first chapter deals with airborne landings by the Soviet Union, Germany, Great Britain, and the US in World War II, and the postwar development of the theory and practice of their use in armies of other countries; prospects for the development of airborne troops and military transport aviation. The second chapter analyzes the role and place of airborne landing forces in an offensive operation by a front, their tasks, and conditions of their employment. The third chapter shows the forces and
means which may be brought in during coastal airborne landings and their possible use, and the basic measures involved in preparing airborne landing forces, controlling them, and providing them with materiel support.

The fourth chapter explores the general nature of actions by troops during a landing and their accomplishment of combat tasks in the enemy rear, as well as the procedure for using airborne landing forces to accomplish some of the most important tasks.

In conclusion recommendations are given on preparing airborne landing forces and on conditions of their use.


This dissertation discusses the role of tactical airborne landing forces and methods of employing them in army offensive operations, the work of commanders and staffs in preparing for the use of airborne landing forces, supporting their landing and combat actions, and particular problems of control.

The author reaches the conclusion that under modern conditions the opportunities for employing airborne landing forces are increasing. They will exert a decisive influence in increasing the rates of advance of the troops.


This dissertation explores the principal stages in the development of aviation rear services, and the organization of the rear services of an air army in an offensive operation; questions of materiel, technical, and medical support for an air army, and the control of its rear services; particular features in the organization and work of the rear services of an air army in a front offensive operation in the initial period of a war.

The first chapter contains an analysis of the conditions of deployment, of the organization and work of the rear services, as well as the status of the tactical rear services and of the rear services of combined-arms armies of border military districts and groups of forces. It examines the particular features of preparing and conducting operations of the initial period of a war, and the typical characteristics of an operational rear situation which determine the conditions of the organization and work of the rear services.

The second chapter explores problems involved in the early preparation of the rear services to support the troops in the initial period of a war; the third -- the organization and work of the rear services during the period of operational deployment of an army; in the fourth -- rear services support of large units of a combined-arms army of a border military district under conditions where movement toward the national border has begun in the period of immediate threat of war and ends only during military operations; the fifth chapter shows the particular features of the organization and work of the rear services of a combined-arms army during the initial offensive operation.

In conclusion the author sets forth the main results of his research and makes a number of practical recommendations on the organization and work of the rear services in an army offensive operation in the initial period of a war.


This dissertation examines the combat capabilities of modern means of attack by a probable enemy from the air, views on their use, preparation, and employment, the effect of modern means of air attack on the air defense of the country, the conditions of organizing and conducting air defense in the initial period of a war by an air defense army defending installations in a border zone, and the special features of the preparation and conduct of an air defense operation by an army.

This dissertation sets forth in detail views of our probable enemies on the use of carrier strike large units in the initial period of a war. It explores the nature of an operation by the navy to destroy them, and the basic principles of the combat employment of naval air forces in such an operation, as well as the preparation and conduct of combat actions by naval forces in conjunction with large units of long range aviation and submarines to destroy a carrier strike large unit and shore installations in the first days of the initial period of a war.


This dissertation deals with the following questions: the scope of pursuit and ways of carrying it out; the combat employment of weapons of mass destruction, branch arms, and aviation during pursuit; the place and role of a combined-arms army and the grouping of its forces; the organization and conduct of pursuit. In conclusion data are given on an army's capabilities for pursuit (zone, depth, pace) and a number of practical recommendations are made on these questions.

9. Reconnaissance During an Offensive Operation by a Tank Army. V. P. BOGACHEV, Moscow, Military Academy of Armored Troops, 1950, 146 pages (typewritten).

The first chapter examines the conditions of organizing and conducting reconnaissance during an offensive operation by a tank army; the operational defense of a probable enemy; the nature of combat actions by a tank army and their effect on reconnaissance; forces and means of reconnaissance in a tank army and their capabilities.

The second chapter contains an analysis of the tasks of reconnaissance and the sources of obtaining reconnaissance data; the front, depth, and pace of conducting reconnaissance by reconnaissance units and subunits; the work of the commander and staff of a tank army in organizing reconnaissance; the organization of reconnaissance by forces of reconnaissance groups, as well as the conduct of radiotechnical, air, artillery, engineer, and radiation reconnaissance; the cooperation among
reconnaissance forces and means; the conduct of reconnaissance while preparing an operation.

In the third chapter the author deals with reconnaissance in a tank army during an offensive operation (when negotiating an enemy's tactical zone of defense, during pursuit, during a meeting engagement or an offensive against an enemy which has successfully gone over to the defense, and the assault crossing of a water obstacle when encircling and destroying enemy groupings).

In conclusion proposals are offered on the technical equipping of reconnaissance units and subunits, and on the need to have organic army reconnaissance aviation, on improving radio stations, and a number of others. The special features of conducting reconnaissance during the initial period of a war are pointed out.

The first chapter sets forth the views of the probable enemy on the conduct of operations in the initial period of a war in the Central European Theater of Military Operations, and the objectives of operations by fronts and their place in a strategic offensive. It gives the make-up of front formations, the tasks of branches of the armed forces in operations in a theater of military operations, and explores the principles of employing nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction, the nature of front offensive operations, the scope and forms of operational maneuver, and basic questions of operational support for operations.

In the second chapter the author shows what goes into a decision by the General Headquarters of the Supreme High Command to carry out front offensive operations in a theater of military operations, the deployment of front formations and the establishment of attack groupings, the organization of cooperation among forces and means, and the principles of command and control of troops.

The third chapter deals with organizing the repulse of an enemy attack, destroying his opposing groupings during an operational breakthrough of a defense, routing strategic reserves during the conduct of an operation, the principles of subsequent front offensive operations, the deployment and use of large formations of ground forces during the
development of operations, and, finally, the completion of offensive operations by operational formations of ground forces.

In conclusion the author sets forth his conclusions on the problems discussed and offers practical recommendations on how to improve the preparation and conduct of front operations.


The first chapter sets forth the conditions and factors which influenced the organization and conduct of strategic defensive operations during the Great Patriotic War. The second chapter deals with questions of organizing and conducting defensive operations by groups of fronts based on the experience of the past war. The third chapter explores the development of the theory of the strategic defensive operation in the postwar period (between 1946 and 1953, and from 1954 to 1960). In conclusion the author presents in generalized form a number of conclusions on the development of the strategic defensive operation.


The first chapter defines the concepts, function, and types of strategic regroupings on the basis of the experience of past wars, and examines the possible conditions for conducting strategic regroupings, the means for carrying them out and their significance in modern combat, as well certain questions of the technical and organizational preparation of transport to support the regroupings. In addition, the views of the US military command on the organization and conduct of regroupings are presented.

The second chapter contains an analysis of the organization and planning of strategic regroupings under modern conditions (principles, basic data; a specific example of a variant of planning is given). In the third chapter the author examines questions of support for strategic regroupings, and in the fourth -- the possible course of strategic regroupings, and questions of control and monitoring of the progress of regroupings by the Supreme High Command.
The general conclusions sum up the research done and contain a number of recommendations.


This dissertation explores the role and place of meeting engagements in the first offensive operation of a front, the conditions which lead them to take place, the nature and special features of the employment of nuclear and chemical weapons and combined-arms large units and formations, and the organization and conduct of meeting engagements.

In conclusion the author points out the increased role of meeting engagements -- particularly in the initial period of a war -- their decisive nature, and the fact that compared to previous wars they extend over a much larger area. He makes a number of recommendations on the use of means of armed combat and on methods of actions by combined-arms large units and formations.


The first chapter examines the conditions for conducting a front's first offensive operation in the initial period of a war; the role and place of a tank army in this operation; views of our probable enemies on conducting a defensive operation in the initial period of a war in the Central European Theater of Military Operations; the objective, tasks, and scope of the operation and the combat strength and capabilities of a tank army; the employment of missile/nuclear and chemical weapons, aviation, airborne landing forces, and air defense troops in the first offensive operation.

The second chapter contains an analysis of the organization of the first offensive operation by a tank army. The third chapter examines the movement forward, deployment, and going over of a tank army to the offensive, the destruction of reserves in meeting engagements, pursuit of the enemy, negotiation of zones of radioactive contamination and destruction, and the assault crossing of water obstacles.
The conclusions contain practical recommendations on major subjects contained in the study, and present considerable specific data on the capabilities of a tank army, its combat strength, reinforcement, etc.


The author examines the conditions in mountain-desert areas which affect troop combat actions, the special features of employing missile/nuclear weapons when conducting offensive operations in mountain-desert terrain, the role of an army corps in a front operation and its place in the operational disposition of the front, and the combat tasks, make-up, and combat capabilities of a corps and its requirements for nuclear munitions. He also discusses questions of preparing and conducting offensive actions by an army corps.


This dissertation explores questions of engineer support of an operation by a combined-arms army of a border military district (group of forces) in the initial period of a war in the Western Theater of Military Operations; engineer support of the deployment and of the antiaatomic protection of the troops of an army in disposition areas, when moving toward the national border and deploying; operational camouflage of the operation; engineer support of the conduct of the operation, of actions by rocket troops, of a meeting engagement, and of the negotiation of zones of radioactive contamination and water obstacles; road support measures for the operation; planning engineer support of an offensive operation and the employment of engineer troops. Finally, conclusions and proposals are given on these matters.

This dissertation examines the conditions under which air defense forces and means cooperate; the essence of cooperation among air defense forces and means; the procedure for its organization and planning; cooperation of air defense forces and means of a front with air defense forces of the country and with air defense means of the navy and of an adjacent front; cooperation among air defense forces and means of a front; and the organization of control of cooperating air defense forces and means.

In the general conclusions the most important problems of cooperation of air defense forces and means are raised, and suggestions are offered on the procedure and methods of cooperation, on how to improve the system of air defense of the troops, and on the broad use of methods of mathematical analysis and modeling in solving problems of organizing the system of air defense and the cooperation of air defense means.


The author explores questions of organizing and conducting air defense when submarine forces are being withdrawn from combat and from points of dispersed basing, are crossing seas, or are forcing antisubmarine lines in the initial period of a war; the forms and methods of employing air defense forces and means when waging combat against an air enemy; questions of control of and cooperation among air defense forces and means when covering the deployment of submarine forces. All actions are examined as they pertain to the Northern and Pacific fleets.


This dissertation investigates the means and methods of a possible enemy attack; the combat properties and capabilities of fighter aviation and surface-to-air missile troops to destroy air targets; the organization of cooperation between fighter aviation and surface-to-air missile troops when repulsing a raid by enemy aviation and cruise missiles, the covering of troops and installations of the front's rear; and the organization of control.
In conclusion the author makes a number of practical recommendations on the use of fighter aviation of the air army of a front.


The first chapter examines the content and significance of the initial period of a war, the views of probable enemies on the conduct of operations by ground forces, possible conditions for the development of combat actions by an army of a border military district, and its tasks and composition in the first offensive operation.

The second chapter analyzes the nature of preparing and planning the operation, training troops and staffs to perform their tasks, and certain questions of materiel and technical support. The third chapter explores the movement of troops toward the border, the carrying out of an invasion, and the development of an offensive; combat against enemy reserves, assault crossings of water obstacles during the operation, and certain problems of disrupting enemy control; maintaining continuous control of troops during the operation.

In conclusion measures are suggested to ensure the success of the operation and proposals are made on the organizational structure of troops and staffs.


The first chapter shows the importance of high rates of advance to the progress and outcome of an operation, and the effect of the main weapons of destruction of a combined-arms army on achieving high rates of advance. In analyzing these questions considerable use is made of the experience of the offensives of combined-arms and tank armies in the Great Patriotic War. The second chapter examines the effect of increased troop mobility and the mobility of control of them on the rate of advance of an army, and also examines ways of increasing the mobility of tactical and army rear services. The third chapter deals with the most important methods of achieving high rates of advance and methods of making non-stop assault crossings of water obstacles.
In conclusion the author shows the principal ways of increasing the rates of advance, using the most advantageous techniques and methods of conducting a battle and operation, and increasing troop mobility and mobility of control. He also sets forth a number of requirements for certain models of missile weapons and combat equipment.


The first chapter examines the methods of disrupting an offensive based on the experience of World War II, views of probable enemies on disrupting an offensive during its preparation, possible means of destruction of the US Army and its capabilities for reconnoitering military targets to support a counterpreparation; the role of sabotage and reconnaissance activity in disrupting an offensive that it is being prepared.

The second chapter analyzes the role of modern means of armed combat in achieving surprise in an offensive, and explores measures to conceal the preparation of an operation (reducing the preparation time, keeping the battle organization concept secret, combating enemy aviation and air reconnaissance, and destroying his control posts).

In the third chapter the author spells out the sequence of missile strikes to disrupt counterpreparation, and methods of reconnaissance against enemy installations to disrupt his counterpreparation. He indicates the capabilities of a combined-arms army for destroying enemy installations and measures to protect troops from nuclear and chemical weapons.

In conclusion it is pointed out that the increased yield of means of destruction makes it possible for the enemy to disrupt an offensive by an army as early as the preparation period. At the same time, by taking appropriate measures it is possible to totally paralyze the enemy's actions and prevent him from impeding the preparation of an offensive operation.

The author of this dissertation examines the development of methods of encircling and destroying an enemy prior to the introduction of nuclear weapons, the role of combat actions of encirclement, and their nature in a modern army offensive operation; the capabilities of a modern combined-arms army to conduct combat actions of encirclement, the choice of axes of attacks, groupings of forces and their tasks, particular features of the neutralization by fire of an encircled grouping, characteristic features of organizing and carrying out cooperation among the troops conducting combat actions to encircle and destroy the enemy, the possible launching of combat actions by the troops carrying out the encirclement and destruction of the enemy in the tactical and operational depth of his defense, and their progress and outcome.

On the basis of an analysis of historical experience, the author traces interesting patterns in the conduct of combat actions to encircle and destroy an enemy which are typical of each stage in the development of armed combat and of the armed forces.

Colonel DRUZHININ comes to the conclusion that a combined-arms army of modern organization can not only take part in an operation to encircle enemy groupings as part of a front, but can also encircle them independently during an offensive, and that nuclear weapons have now become the principal force in the destruction of an encircled enemy. He also offers recommendations on how to prevent the enemy from breaking out of an encirclement.


The first chapter examines the principal factors which make actions by reconnaissance and sabotage groups and detachments necessary and possible in the enemy rear, the tasks and basic principles of their employment, the forces and means used to make up these groups, and control of them. Some conclusions are drawn concerning actions by reconnaissance and sabotage groups and detachments in the enemy rear during offensive operations in the Great Patriotic War.

The second chapter explores questions of the employment of reconnaissance and sabotage groups and detachments, and shows the nature of their actions when carrying out tasks in the enemy rear (reconnaissance of nuclear weapons, destruction of means of nuclear attack, disruption of
control of troops and combat means, and combat against reserves on transportation lines). The third chapter analyzes the airlifting of reconnaissance and sabotage groups and detachments into the enemy rear, their training, and their support of combat actions.

In conclusion the author makes a number of practical recommendations on the make-up of reconnaissance and sabotage groups and detachments, the planning of their actions, and on techniques and methods. Of interest are his suggestions on the employment of new technical means of combat in the enemy rear, aircraft used for transport, and radio equipment with increased resistance to jamming and great operating range.


The first chapter defines the dependence of the combat employment of missiles on the nature of the enemy offensive in a defensive operation of an army as a whole, as well as on the capabilities of the missile units and subunits; substantiates the possible length of the front of defense depending on the quality and quantity of rocket troops allocated to support the combat actions of large units and formations, and on the operational-tactical requirements for missiles; and analyzes the effect of nuclear weapons on the organization of missile units and subunits and of combined-arms large units.

The second chapter examines the tasks, combat strength, and grouping of rocket troops of an army in a defensive operation, and indicates the forces and means to carry out counterpreparation, the role of counterpreparation and the conditions under which it is carried out, and the required expenditure of nuclear-armed missiles. The third chapter explores the existing forces, means, and organizational structure of artillery reconnaissance, topographic and meteorological support of combat actions by rocket troops, and the deployment of missile units and subunits. The fourth chapter contains an analysis of methods of planning and control of missile large units and units (subunits).

In conclusion proposals are formulated on how to improve the organization of missile units and subunits, and on the need for a drastic change in the system of organizing the supply of an army with tactical and operational-tactical missiles, and on how to improve means and methods of reconnaissance, topographic and meteorological support, and methods of the combat employment of rocket troops in an operation.

The first chapter examines the nature of a defensive operation by an army, the influence of modern conditions on the combat employment of the air defense troops of a combined-arms army, and the tasks of air defense and the requirements levied on it. The second chapter analyzes the capabilities of existing air defense means of an army, how they measure up to modern requirements of combat against enemy means of air attack, and possible methods of combat employment of existing and prospective means of air defense of an army. The third chapter explores problems of control of air defense troops of an army, the organization and maintenance of cooperation between surface-to-air guided missiles and fighter aviation when repulsing raids by an air enemy.

In conclusion it is pointed out that the principal means of combat against an air enemy in an army are surface-to-air guided missiles of various classes. The author lists a number of requirements for means of combat against an air enemy and for means of reconnaissance against air targets, and also offers recommendations on the organization of air defense troops in the light of combat equipment presently in service or expected to be in the future.

27. Combat Against Enemy Sabotage and Reconnaissance Activities During the Initial Period of a War. Colonel I. G. LOZHKIN, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1960, 185 pages plus an album of diagrams (typewritten).

The first chapter explores the effect of some of the particular characteristics of the initial period of a war on the tasks and nature of combat against enemy sabotage and reconnaissance activities, and on the enemy's preparations for these activities. The second chapter discusses enemy measures for combat against sabotage and reconnaissance activities (reconnaissance, guarding the border -- the demarcation line -- troops, and military installations, preemptive actions, radioelectronic countermeasures, clearing out individual areas, and maintaining public order and security). In addition, there is an analysis of certain questions of the direction of combat against enemy sabotage and reconnaissance activities and of methods of destroying sabotage and reconnaissance contingents when they are discovered.
In conclusion the author notes that in view of the great scope of preparations by our probable enemies for conducting sabotage and reconnaissance activities, combating them has become a form of support of an operation.


The first chapter examines the capabilities of a defender in terms of radioactive and chemical contamination, and the operational-tactical conditions which determine the nature of the radiation and chemical situation in an army offensive operation. The second chapter analyzes the system of collecting information on the radiation and chemical situation (prediction, radiation and chemical reconnaissance, dosimetric monitoring). The third chapter explores the impact of the radiation and chemical situation on the actions of troops, and gives methods of assessing and accounting for it when working out a decision. The chapter also describes ways of achieving high rates of advance and ensuring freedom of maneuver under conditions of radioactive and chemical contamination of the terrain.

In conclusion the author proposes establishing a system for collecting and processing information on the radiation and chemical situation and makes recommendations on the use of these data when working out a decision.

29. Reconnaissance of the Enemy by Combined-Arms Formations (Large Units) and Border Guard Troops During a Period of Threat and in the Initial Period of a War. Colonel A. I. TSVEIKOV, Moscow, M. V. Frunze Military Academy, 1961, 221 pages plus an album of diagrams (typewritten).

This dissertation examines in sequence the following basic questions: the possible nature and methods of actions of probable enemies on the eve of a war and during the initial operations; the organization and conduct of reconnaissance by combined-arms formations and border guard troops in peacetime, during a period of threat, and during the first operations in the initial period of a war; the reconnaissance information of combined-arms formations (large units) and border guard troops.

In conclusion the author outlines ways of improving the organization of reconnaissance, and trends in the development of methods of conducting it, and offers recommendations on how to further increase the capabilities of reconnaissance forces and means of combined-arms formations (large
units) and border guard troops, as well as on the organizational structure and technical equipping of reconnaissance subunits, units, agents, and staffs.


The first chapter contains an analysis of the basic principles of conducting defense according to the views of the American and British commands, and indicates the characteristic features of a modern offensive operation, and the conditions under which it may be necessary to reinforce an army by air. The second chapter examines the work of the commander and staff of a front in planning and organizing the reinforcement of a tank army by air, the capabilities of military transport aviation in carrying means of reinforcement into designated areas, and the work of the commander and staff of a tank army in organizing the receipt of means of reinforcement sent in by air. In the third chapter the author shows the procedure for transporting the troops by air, and in the fourth -- the organizational structure of the troops armed with combat equipment and the military transport aviation required to maintain the delivery of various forces and means by air. [Last sentence largely illegible.]

In conclusion certain conclusions are drawn and suggestions offered on further reinforcing a tank army by air, and on the required organizational structure, armament, and combat equipment of the troops being flown in and the requirement for military transport aviation, on the requirements of planning the airlift, and a number of others.