FTD-TT- 64-996

TRANSLATION

REVOLUTION IN MILITARY SCIENCE, ITS IMPORTANCE AND CONSEQUENCES
MILITARY ART ON A NEW STAGE

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English Pages: 12

SOURCE: Krasnaya Zvezda (Russian), Nr. 203, Aug. 28, 1964, pp 2-3

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By
V. Sokolovskiy and M. Cherednichenko

The central problem of modern military art is the development of new methods of conducting armed conflict. In this field took place the most deepest, in full sense of the word revolutionary changes, due to two main factors: radical military-technical reequipping of Soviet Armed Forces, when called up into service at the army and navy,a doldier much better prepared for all eventualities.

Where do revolutionary changes in methods of conducting armed conflict lead?

First of all the object of action of armed forces has changed as well as the tendency of their basic forces. Classical military art was based on the fact that the main object of the conflict were armed forces, groupings of ground forces, aviation, navy in theaters of military actions. An armed conflict was brought to mutual inihilation of the armed forces at the theaters of military actions. An armed conflict was brought to mutual inihilation of the armed forces at the theaters of tactical action (ground and sea theaters), which appeared to be the only means of attaining victory in war. The situation today has changed radically. For rockets with nuclear missiles, a front line saturated with troops is no longer an obstacle. Distance no longer plays the same role as before. The system of state control, economics, strategic nuclear weapon, armed forces—all this is now open for new combat media. The presence of atomic and thermonuclear shells and carriers of these missiles allows for instantaneous inihilation of any given target situated on enemy territory as well as whole states. Rocket-nuclear strikes against an enemy is the fastest and most reliable way toward victory in a modern war.

War ideologies of imperialism keep on predicting that a thermonuclear war

will be principally no different than all other wars, with the exception of somewhat greater losses. Much is being said about a "controlled" nuclear war, about the use of nuclear weapons only against military targets, against armed forces. The concept of a controlled nuclear war is a demagogy, hypocricy of militaristic imperialistic circles.

Aggressive imperialistic forces do not intend to use their nuclear weapons only against military targets, this is absolutely impossible, because military objectives are situated close to populated points. They plan to employ this weapon first of all for strikes against cities, against the economy, against the population of socialistic countries, as well, it is understood against rocket, aviation and naval bases, against installations of armed forces. This is openly declared by military theoreticians and leaders, especially by secretary of defense of the USA MacNamara and French war minister Pier Mesmer. These are the practical intentions of the imperialistic states.

The center of gravity of an armed conflict shifts into depth of the territories of warring nations, although at the theaters of action will also be conducted a bitter armed conflict. The main, most reliable force are strategic rocket troops. They decide the main problems of the war.

The general formula of conducting thermonuclear war develops concretely, depending on the circumstances, upon the fact, who of the aggressors and how he incites a war, where the main enemy is situated etc. It is unnecessary to bring in troops into all regions to occupy enemy territory. Strategic rocket troops can also independently solve the problems in a nuclear war. They are capable of inflicting such a powerful strike against any one region that the bringing of troops into that region will be unnecessary and even impossible.

Rocket-nuclear weapons and other new war media have sharply increased the possibility of sudden attack. But suddenness under modern conditions is

not fatal. The possibilities for timely detection of a starting attack are growing.

In a modern world war of special importance is its initial period. Military leaders of imperialistic blocks plan a basic mass of nuclear missiles to be sent in the first three diurnal periods and with this predetermine its outcome in their favor. Military theoreticians of the west assume that this will constitute the initial period of global thermonuclear war. During this time is planned to make a so-called nuclear offensive or aerial-cosmic operation about which more and more is being said in foreign press. Then, depending on the condition of radiation and offensive will be made by ground troops or realization of liquidation measures as result of nuclear attacks. This, in their opinions will be the subsequent period of war.

Thanks to long range politics of the Communist Part and the Soviet government, the Soviet Union has all the necessary means necessary to disrupt the aggressive plans of the imperialists at the initial period of the war. Modern means of detection and warning assure timely infliction of a crushing responsive nuclear blow, reliable repulsion of sudden enemy attack and disruption of his criminal intents.

A retaliatory strike is the main gist of the initial period of thermo-nuclear global war. The basic means of carrying out a retaliatory nuclear strike, apparently, will be strategic rocket troops, as well as atomic rocket submarines and long range aviation. In a retaliatory nuclear strike, apparently, will be strategic rocket troops, as well as atomic rocket submarines and long range aviation. In a retaliatory nuclear strike can also pertake operational-tactical rocket troops, front line and sea (naval) aviation, rocket carrying surface ships and shore rocket installations of naval units. The actions of all these forces and means should be carried out by one single plan and under a single strategic leadership.

Simultaneously with the retaliatory nuclear strike can be put into action forces and means of antiaircraft defense and anti-rocket defense, which have been called out to repulse rocket and aviation attacks of the enemy, to protect the pupulation, cities, economy, armed forces units against nuclear attacks. Following a retaliatory nuclear strike it is possible to land airborne troops for immediate use of results of nuclear strikes and depending on the radiation situation to employ ground troops to innihilate enemy military groupings at theaters of war. At the same time active tactical actions will begin at ocean and sea theaters for the purpose of destroying the enemy navy, to strike nuclear blows against shore objectives, disorganizing sea shipping and cooperation with ground forces in carrying out operations at maritime points.

All these actions constitute the essence of the initial period of global war. A characteristic feature of this period will be the conduct of active decisive military actions from the very outbreak of war with the envelopment of maximum possible number of ready forces and means and utilization of nuclear weapons accumulated in peace time. The initial period of global war appears to be a period which may predetermine the development and outcome of particular importance now to maintain a high degree of constant readiness of armed forces especially rocket troops and AAA troops.

Differently evidently, should be solved the problem of the duration of the war. In a new global war, if the imperialists do incite it, the decisive importance for victory will be time. These problems which in the past were solved in months and in years will be solved in a rocket-nuclear war within several minutes, hours, several days.

Hence is evident, in our opinion that the unalterable conclusion is: thermonulcear war cannot last for long. That is why it is necessary, in our opinion, to be ready above all for a short war.

In this connection we cannot exclude the possibility of origination and

relatively prolonged war. This may pertain to war in which no nuclear weapons will be employed (e.g. local war capable of expanding into a global conflict). That is why we should not disregard training for a relatively long war.

An entirely new and difficult task is the determination of methods and forms of employing strategic nuclear weapons in a war.

In the USA strategic rockets, strategic aviation and atomic rocket submarines are in essence combined into one strategic force, intended for global thermonuclear war. The actions of these forces pertain to aerial-cosmic operations. It is called aerial because strategic aviation participates in it (as well as aircraft carriers and tactical aviation), and cosmic because intercontinental rockets are employed in it. The Soviet Union is absolutely opposed to using the cosmos for war purposes. The term aerial-cosmic operation is not used as designation of our strategic nuclear forces. We are forced to ready forces for retaliatory actions against imperialistic aggressions, i.e. to define the purposes of employing these forces, to mark objectives on enemy territory designated for striking, to prepare definite means. In case of aggression these forces will inflict rocket-nuclear and aviation nuclear blows, which will be of a purposeful and organized nature. In essence these will be operations on strategic scale-operations of strategic nuclear forces.

The component part of these operations will also be retaliatory strikes of operational-tactical nuclear forces. Blows can be inflicted against an enormous number of objectives and regions, practically over all territories of a country included in the aggressive imperialistic war blocks. The results of carrying out such operations can hardly be imagined at present time with full authenticity. It is perfectly possible that many countries (governments), including large ones, will cease to exist already in the first hours of the conflict.

There is also a very difficult problem concerning the methods of attacking with strategic forces. It is necessary to take into consideration the continuously growing possibilities of anti-rocket defense. MacNamara appearing at a session of the senate committee declared that intercontinental rockets of the USA to overcome antirocket defense of the enemy should be forced in salvoes, to launch simultaneously a greater number of rockets. To the salvo of strategic rockets of the aggressor, the Soviet Union is capable to carry out a no less powerful salvo of its own strategic rockets, and not just a single rocket.

Following th salvo of rockets, the long range bombers will go into attack. The actions of long range aviation will acquire the form of an aerial operation. But the methods of carrying out such an operation do change considerably in comparison with the past war. The presence of air-to-ground and air-to-ship rockets with powerful nuclear warheads changes the tactics of action of long range aviation. Done away with is the necessity of flying larger masses of aircraft in one formation to execute war missions. In our opinion, flights will be made in small groups consisting of aircraft-rocket carriers and protecting aircraft, and single aircraft as well. The blows will be inflicted first of all by aircraft-rocket carriers from a maximum possible distance, without approaching the active AAA zone of the enemy. Following this can come long range bombers with bomb loads having nuclear warheads. The actions of long range bombers will be greatly affected by the enemies AAA defense, which may appear not entirely destroyed as result of rocket strikes, and also the complex radiation situation along the flying routes of the aircraft.

Of greater importance for the attainment of war goals will be the actions of AAA units and anti-rocket units. In recent years AAA units of the country have been totally reequipped and provided with new tactical devices.

The actions of PVO and PRO units of the nation will be intended for disruption of aerial-cosmic operations of the enemy, total destruction of rockets and aircraft trying to break through or which have broken through our air space, to assure the vital activities of the government and armament for the armed forces. These actions are reduced to the following. With the beginning of launching rockets and take off of aircraft is realized the seizing of targets, tracking, continuous following and vectoring to the target of active means. For this is employed a variegated technique. Radio-electronic, radio technical, radar, infrared etc. Then go into action the active antirocket forces and means, intercepting and destroying ballistic rockets over various sections of the territory. The level of development of anti-rocket means allows already presently to face and successfully solve such complex problems as destruction of attacking ballistic enemy rockets.

Then go into action the AAA units, long range AAA systmes and fighters are capable of intercepting and destroying aircraft and aircraft-missiles at the far of approaches to defensive regions or state boundaries even before the aircraft have time to launch air-to-ground rockets. Aircraft and aircraft missiles which penetrated the defense lines are destroyed by fighters and antiaircraft rockets along the flight paths of targets or in defensive regions of the objective. The high effectiveness of antiaircraft combatting means allows to solve successfully problems of eliminating all attacking aircraft and winged enemy rockets.

In the process of operations tactical actions of PVO and PRO units of the nations will be distinguished by high activity, rapid action, continuity. It is important to assure continuous action against attacking rockets and enemy aircraft until they are totally destroyed under any conditions. This can be attained by clear cooperation of all forces and means.

The aggressive block of imperialists—NATO keeps in constant readiness

large concentrations of ground troops and tactical aviation, equips same with nuclear weapons and is getting ready to conduct tactical actions with the use of nuclear weapons. In case a war is started by the imperialistic aggressor nuclear strikes will be directed against these groups. Then will come decisive offensive actions of ground forces and front aviation for final annihilation of enemy forces in the theater, to seize enemy territory, not to permit penetration of enemy armies into the territory of socialistic countries. Over the ground theaters will develop offensive operations on strategic scale (strategic offensive operations with the participation of several combinations of other types of armed forces). It is quite possible, that in individual directions will be employed a defense as a forced and timely form of military actions.

The main means of armed convlict over ground theaters will be the nuclea weapon, employed with the aid of rockets of medium range and long range aviation, as well as operational tactical rockets and front line aviation. Tank and motorized combinations and units, as well as airborne units will utilize the results of nuclear blows to complete the defeat of enemy military groupings and to move into the depth of its territory. The objectives in armed conflict in the theater will be equally enemy nuclear means, its tank, airborne and motorized or infantry units and components.

Characteristic will be the absence of solid fronts. Military actions will develop simultaneously over a large area in front and in depth, these actions will be characterized by high tempo and maneuverability of the troops, with greater bitterness. The military units will have to operate under conditions of greater destruction, fires inundations, high levels of radioactive contamination of localities.

Special mention should be made about operational tactical rocket troops. They should not be considered in the role of a medium giving fire protection for troops as artillery. This is the basic means in the hands of the commanding

officer or commander, with the aid of which they solve major battle problems and operations: destruction of strategic rockets which survived nucle r attacks, destruction of nuclear means, units and components in regions of concentrations, during the development and in tactical formations during offense or defense, control points, rear bases etc. The basic method of employing rocket troops of operational tactical designation will be rocket-nuclear strikes—massed ones, group and single ones. To this type of new military outfits are not applicable methods of employing artillery, such as artillery barrage and artillery support of advancing troops (fire wall, subsequent fire concentrations).

An important role in an armed conflict in a theater of action will be played by frontal aviation. It is capable of destroying enemy aviation, rockets, artillery, antitank media and troops, employing nuclear weapons and conventional means of destruction, to carry out tasks of AAA, reconnaissance shifting of troops by air. The equipping of front line aviation with supersonic jet aircraft carrying air-to-ground and air-to-air rockets radically changes the tactics of action of this aviation. Flights of larger masses of aircraft have gone into history, and so did low hovering of aircraft over the field of battle. Now we have maneuvering actions of small groups of aircraft, pairs and single aircraft, acting at low altitudes and employing complex methods of attacking with diving etc.

A change is coming over the actions tactics of tanks and motorized units. Advances (offensives) will be made mostly on tanks, armored vehicles and even on helicopters and all this will developed in basic directions. An attack in infantry formation will be a rare sight. In view of the fact that advancing troops will always be under the threat of nuclear enemy attack, they should act deconcentrated, maneuver, as a matter of fact be on the move all the time, and also constantly keep the protective means of protecting themselves against

light rays in readiness, against radiation, use motor vehicles and sections of localities against shock waves. In the process of tactical actions these troops finish off the enemy groupings stricken by nuclear blows. In this connection, they must be ready to battle individual enemy garrisons with the aid of ordinary (conventional) weapons.

Broad application will be found by airborne troops dumped at the rear of the enemy by helicopters. In role of such units is possible to employ motorized riflemen and other sub units. This will be a peculiar advance by air also a new phenomenon in modern military art.

There is a sharp rise in the role of airborne troops in solving problems of armed conflict in a theater. These troops are capable of immediately utilizing the results of nuclear strikes. Possibilities are opened for carrying out deep airborne operations in connection with the unavoidability of disrupting AAA systems of the enemy as result of massed nuclear attacks.

To attain goals of rocket-nuclear war, it is important to have actions of military-sea forces. Providing our fleet with atomic submarines with rocket armament, rocket carrying long range aviation and nuclear weapons has sharply increased its striking power. This allows to change from the execution of tactical problems along the shoreline to cooperations with ground troops to individual and decisive actions over the enormous stretches of the oceans.

Changed are the nature and methods of battling at sea. Into history went squadron engagements, artillery duels of battleships, cruisers and other surface vessels. The new class of large surface vessels—aircraft carriers introduced by the American-English war school, vessels which fire not missiles but aircraft, is also reaching age. It has become vulnerable, in a nuclear war it can no longer play the decisive role in armed sea conflict. Armed sea conflict, this is above all actions of submarines, their rocket and torpedo-nuclear strikes against naval groupings, convoys, and transports, against

naval bases and important objects on the continent, as well as actions of rocket carrying aviation, its nuclear strikes against the very same targets. In this lies the essence of armed con lict at sea in a thermonuclear war. Thi too is a new phenomenon in military naval art.

The main mission of combat activities on ocean and sea theaters will be the annihilition of atomic rockets of submarines. The American press boasts a lot about the American subm rines carrying Polaris rockets and declares same as being invulnerable. The fact that these ballistic rockets have considerable deficiencies: low power of tactical charge, low reliability and accuracy of guidance system and hence the low firing accuracy. Polaris missiles are quite vulnerable; they can be combatted successfully, which the Americans themselves are forced to admit. Rocket submarines can be destroyed at bases by strikes of rocket troops, submarines and aviation. Such tactical means as atomic submarines, aviation, and also helicopters, surface antisubmarine vessels, after having detected an enemy sub are capable of rapidly destroying same. It is mentioned in American press that submarines are highly sensitive to underwater nuclear explosions.

An important problem in ocean and sea battles is the defeat of enemy aircraft carrier striking units. They can be destroyed at the bases by nuclear attacks of rocket units, submarines and aviation. An effective means of combatting aircraft carriers and other surface vessels at sea are atomic submarines with self guided rockets and torpedoes and aircraft with air-to-ship rockets with nuclear warheads. Not fading in importance are Diesel-electric submarines with modern armament.

Considerable changes in methods of solving such naval problems, as disruption of enemies sea and ocean communication lines, cooperation with friendly ground troops, landing of seaborne troops, antilanding defense of shores and protection of communications.

In this way, radical revolutionary changes have taken place in all important fields of military art.

Since the possibility of an outbreak of a rocket-nuclear war under modern conditions is not excluded, it is necessary to develop and adopt further new military arts, arts for conducting a rocket-nuclear war.

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