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Central Intelligence Agency



24 June 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : USSR GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSON: Current Status and  
Forms of Operational-Strategic Employment of the Navy  
in Ocean and Sea Theaters of Military Operations

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series  
now in preparation, classified ~~TOP SECRET~~, prepared in 1985 for use in the  
Voroshilov General Staff Academy.

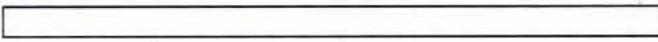
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2. [Redacted] this document  
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*Richard F. Stolz*

Richard F. Stolz  
Deputy Director for Operations



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## Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF  
INFO. 1985

DATE 24 June 1988

SUBJECT

USSR GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSON: Current Status and Forms  
 of Operational-Strategic Employment of the Navy in Ocean  
 and Sea Theaters of Military Operations

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of the text of a lecture at the Voroshilov General Staff Academy on the subject of the Soviet Navy. The text is fragmentary and poorly legible, but the first part does contain some information on current naval systems and capabilities as well as some anticipated developments over the next few years in the areas of submarine running depth and naval missile systems. Unfortunately, the major omissions seem to be in the area of the current inventory of submarine and surface forces, although naval aviation inventory is covered. The lecture concludes with a textbook-style treatment of some basic concepts of operational doctrine and organization in the form of definitions of organizational units and types of operations.

End of Summary~~SECRET~~~~TOP SECRET~~

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CURRENT STATUS AND FORMS OF OPERATIONAL-STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT  
OF THE NAVY IN OCEAN AND SEA THEATERS OF MILITARY OPERATIONS

The rapid buildup of US naval power, the concentration of more than half of its strategic nuclear means on sea-based platforms, and the continuous presence of strategic groupings of the naval forces of the United States and NATO, missile submarine groupings, and the Sixth and Seventh Fleets in their combat assignment areas -- all of this presents a serious threat to our state and to the countries of the socialist commonwealth, a threat from the direction of the ocean, and has compelled the Soviet Union to [three words illegible], to build a modern ocean-going nuclear missile fleet. Our Navy is currently capable of successfully opposing the combined naval forces of the probable adversary. In the shortest possible period of time the Navy can prepare and deliver a powerful reciprocal-retaliatory nuclear strike against any target and perform other major tasks in any areas of the world's oceans.

[First part of line illegible] of the the current status of the Navy, its mission and tasks in a modern war, organizational structure, and also [three words illegible] on the main forms of employment of the Navy in armed conflict at sea. We shall examine two topics: the mission, organization, and armament of the Navy; and the forms of operational-strategic employment of the Navy.

The postwar period of the development of the Soviet Navy can be divided into two stages. The first stage is the ten-year period following the war, 1945-1955. During this period the Navy [word illegible] and grew in size. Ship and aircraft armament [improved], but there were essentially no qualitative changes in the composition of the Navy's forces. According to the views on the utilization of the Navy which primarily evolved following the Great Patriotic War under the influence of victory over a very powerful continental enemy, the main purpose of the Navy was to support the actions of ground forces on coastal axes and to assist the ground forces by landing amphibious forces, providing fire support for the actions of ground forces, supporting sea lines of communication, and fighting enemy naval forces which were a threat to our troops.

In 1955 the Military Committee and the government decided to build a new ocean-going nuclear missile fleet. The main impetus for this was the development of the means of warfare and the invention of nuclear missile weapons. Within a very short period of time, literally within 15 years, a qualitatively and fundamentally new fleet was built.

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The Navy is a branch of the Armed Forces whose mission is to attack enemy targets of military and military-economic value and defeat enemy naval forces in ocean and sea theaters of military operations. In wartime the Navy must perform the following six main tasks.

1. Destruction and annihilation of enemy ground targets of military-economic importance.
2. Destruction of missile submarines, carrier groupings and other ship groupings of enemy naval forces.
3. Gaining supremacy in enclosed seas (such as the Black Sea), in seas adjacent to our shore (such as the Barents, Japan, and Baltic seas), and in operationally important areas of the ocean (such as the north and west Atlantic) and other areas.
4. Disruption, or in the best case, interdiction of the enemy's ocean and sea lanes of communications.
5. Defense of our own basing areas.
6. Assistance to the ground forces on coastal axes.

The Navy was established long ago precisely for the purpose of performing this last task, assisting the Ground Forces on coastal axes. However, with the development of the means of warfare came the capabilities for carrying out the tasks of war. This task has fallen to last place among all the other tasks, and the main task of the Navy is now....

[One or more pages of text missing.]

... one of the latest [?developments] is the heavy cruiser KIROV, Project 1144. It has 20 cruise missile launchers (range [500]-700 km) and 16 general-purpose surface-to-air missile complexes. They are called "general-purpose" because they can be used against surface targets as well.

This [word illegible] is equipped with two antisubmarine guided missile launchers, three depth-charge rocket launchers, two 100-mm turret-mounted guns, eight 30-mm turret-mounted guns, and torpedoes. The ship's full-load displacement is 25,000 tons. For a ship of this class, one might say that it is almost [word illegible]. It carries a crew of 100 officers, 102 warrant officers, and 400 enlisted men.

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Missile and gun ships are equipped with various types of missile systems, including [TERMIT] (range 80 km), MALAKHIT (range 130 km), [word illegible] (range 300 km), [word illegible] (range 400 km), GRANIT (range [?700] km); 30-mm guns; and [word illegible] torpedo tubes.

Amphibious warfare ships [desantnyye korabli], as their name indicates, are intended for transport and landing of amphibious assault forces on austere beach. They are divided into large, medium, and small amphibious warfare ships and amphibious warfare cruisers. The large amphibious warfare ship Project 1174 can carry 56 medium tanks and a landing force of up to 500 men. Small air-cushioned amphibious craft and [two words illegible] can play an important role in enclosed sea theaters and generally in landing amphibious forces at a relatively short distance from our fleet's basing areas. The small air-cushioned amphibious craft Project 1232 has a total displacement of 330 tons. It can carry five medium tanks and a landing force of 80 men. It has a speed of up to 115 km/hr. It can operate at a sea state of up to five. It virtually jumps over all mine obstacles and antilanding obstacles in the approach to the landing sector. It can land an assault force not only by dropping the men in the water, but also at any distance from [word illegible] [of water] on dry land, whether 20 km or 100 km. It is not intimidated by either swamp or [sand]. It can negotiate obstacles up to one and a half meters in height. The second [word illegible], operating [two words illegible] in this version, has already been [developed], and will land the first assault waves of an [amphibious landing]. The range is up to 600 km, so that the radius of these craft is not very large, on the order of 240 km.

One of the most important branch arms of the Navy is naval aviation. Naval aviation is subdivided into six components: naval missile-carrying aviation, antisubmarine aviation, attack aviation, fighter aviation, reconnaissance aviation, and special-purpose aviation (which includes transport, electronic warfare, communications, refuelling, and spotter aircraft).

Naval missile-carrying aviation. The inventory of naval missile-carrying aviation includes the Tu-16, which we still have, and the Tu-22M-2. The Tu-22M was supposed to be called the Tu-26. It was [word illegible] when the Tu-22R was built, and was called the Tu-22M. It has an operational radius of 2800 km, and since this exceeds 2000 km, the Americans count it as a strategic aircraft. The maximum speed is 2300 km/hr. It can remain in the air for up to six hours. It carries one, two, or three cruise missiles with nuclear or conventional warheads with ranges of 120 to 500 km, or it can carry 21 tons of bombs or 18 naval mines.

Antisubmarine aviation. The mission of antisubmarine aviation is to seek out and destroy enemy submarines. The inventory of antisubmarine aviation includes the Be-12, Il-38, and Tu-142 long-range aircraft and the Mi-14, Mi-8, and Ka-25 shipborne and land-based helicopters.

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The Tu-142 antisubmarine aircraft can remain in the air for 18-20 hours, and operates at distance of up to 7000 km from its basing area. Using all of its onboard means it is capable of monitoring a water area of up to 100,000 square kilometers. Using only sonobuoys, the "search" [poiskovyy] version, which carries 540 sonobuoys, can monitor a water area of 14,000 square kilometers at a distance of 4500-5000 kilometers from our coast over a period of five hours. The "strike" [udarnyy] version of the aircraft can carry eight torpedoes; the "search and strike" version usually carries buoys in addition: two or three torpedoes, one or two nuclear depth-charge bombs, and up to 440 sonobuoys.

The Il-38 and Tu-142 antisubmarine aircraft are on a par with present-day foreign counterparts with regard to their tactical-technical characteristics (range, etc.).

Attack aviation. The purpose of attack aviation is to support the actions of a landing force during debarkation and when it is operating on shore, as well as for search and destroy [missions] against enemy surface targets, particularly small mobile targets. The inventory of attack aviation includes the land-based Su-17M and the shipborne Yak-38.

The Su-17 has a maximum speed of 2150 km/hr and an operational radius of 630 km when it carries a load of two [full] fuel tanks and 18 100-kg bombs. It can carry rockets and guided missiles, bombs, and incendiary tanks totalling two and a half tons, and it has two 30-mm guns. The amount of time it remains in the air is limited (40-50 minutes) by the fuel supply. This is sufficient to perform such tasks as are required in support of landing operations [line illegible]. It is a very effective aircraft for combatting missile and torpedo cruisers, as well as tanks and combat vehicles, that is, small mobile targets, on land.

The Yak-38 is a carrier-based VTOL aircraft with an operational radius of 380 km from the aircraft carrier [several words illegible]. It can remain in the air up to [1.5] hours and carries rockets and guided missiles, bombs, and incendiary tanks totalling up to one ton. It has a 23-mm gun and can carry another.

Reconnaissance aviation. The inventory of reconnaissance aviation includes the Tu-16RM, Tu-22R, and Tu-95RTs aircraft ("RTs" stands for reconnaissance and target designation). The Tu-95RTs is similar to the Tu-142, that is, it is based on the Tu-95. It has an operational radius of 7000 km and can remain in the air for 19-20 hours. It is equipped with radars, radiotechnical sets, and camera equipment. It is capable of detecting a group of ships at a distance of 400 km, and in ship surveillance [two words illegible] ship will be visible on the radar screen from a distance of 320 kilometers. In addition, the aircraft is capable of transmitting target designation data [word illegible] to missile

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submarines, missile ships, and coastal missile units, thus supporting a [acronym illegible] complex to almost 800 km and target designation to 420 km. [Two lines illegible.] It has been in operation since 1963. [Employment of] missiles is supported not only by the Tu-95RTs, but also by the Ka-25Ts helicopter, a helicopter for target designation on missile ships, so that the ship can sight [word illegible] distant targets up to 1700 km. In addition to fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, there is the system of naval space reconnaissance and target designation (MKRTs). Now [two words illegible], which also support target designation to all the missile ships, missile submarines, and coastal artillery units. These are the reconnaissance-strike complexes [of the current] [several words illegible].

Naval infantry is utilized in the first assault waves of an amphibious landing to break through the enemy's antilanding defense, seize sectors of enemy-occupied coast, and support the landing of the main assault landing force. The main assault landing force can [only] be [two words illegible]. Naval infantry, [word illegible] in armaments, does not differ in any way from motorized rifle troops; they have the same weapons and the same appearance. Naval infantry differs in morale; naval infantrymen are trained in fine naval traditions. It also differs somewhat in training for transport by sea, landing in water, etc.

Coastal missile and artillery troops (BRAV) are used to hit enemy combat surface ships and vessels near our coast at the operating range of their weapons, and to provide cover for our lines of communication and fleet basing areas. The coastal missile and artillery troops are equipped with stationary and mobile missile systems with a range from 80 km (the [word illegible] line of the [TERMIT] missile) to 350 km, the [?-50] missile, the UTES [cliff] [two words illegible] missile system, and 100-mm to 305-mm stationary and mobile coastal artillery with ranges of 22 km [word illegible] to 46 km [two words illegible].

#### Developments in the Navy over the next five to seven years

Submarines. If the maximum speed of submarines is now 38 knots for ASW submarines, in the near future their speed will be 50-80 knots. The normal operating depth is now 400 meters on the average; on certain submarines, for example, the 705 [word illegible], it is now 600 meters. In the near future the running depth will be 1000-1200 meters. However, in the first [word illegible] the running depth is already 1200 meters for BARRAKUDA-type submarines. This depth makes it possible, first of all, to achieve a substantial increase in the protection of submarines against surface ships and aviation. It is difficult to hit submarines at this depth; there is as yet no antisubmarine weapon which detonates below 300 meters. Another advantage is the increase in range of detection of surface ships. For instance, at a running depth of 800 meters, the range of detection of a group of surface ships is three times that at a running

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depth of 400 meters. This is why such a [word illegible] is necessary. The cruising endurance is 60-90 days; in the near future this will be doubled to 120-180 days.

Submarines are now equipped with torpedoes, ballistic and cruise missiles, antisubmarine rocket-torpedoes, and mines. In the near future they will be equipped with general-purpose surface-to-air missile systems for use from underwater against ASW aircraft and ASW surface ships, with antimine systems for protecting the submarines against ASW mines, and with underwater missiles. The Americans have been working on underwater missiles for a long time, but they are still in the [two words illegible] stage. Underwater missiles are projectiles which move underwater, but with a speed of 200 knots and more, that is, 400 km/hr and more. We will have underwater missiles in the near future, but we have actually had them since 1963. They are used without the usual torpedo tubes. Only a small number of submarines have them. [Several lines illegible.] There is no need to calculate any lead angles, as is the case with torpedoes. The [two words illegible] simply reports that there is a target at a certain bearing, and the commander issues the order to fire against the target at that bearing. The speed is tremendous. [Word illegible] they are equipped with nuclear warheads, the minimum detonation range is 5300-5500 km for safe [word illegible]. They can be used successfully not only against submarines, but against [large units] of surface ships. It is sufficient to fire one of these underwater missiles to take out a carrier group.

Surface forces. The development of surface forces will largely follow the course of further improvement of existing classes of ships. Missiles will continue to be the main weapon of surface ships: surface-to-air, antisubmarine, antiship. [Line illegible.] ... range in the near future up to 1000-1200 km and 3500 km. This was in response to the appearance of the Harpoon antiship [missiles]; we have [word illegible] up to 500-[700] km. They are now putting Tomahawks out with a range of 550 km, and have already placed series missiles on submarines. We made [missiles] with a range of 1000 km [two words illegible]. They will put out Tomahawks with a range of 2500 km, and we will put out [missiles] with a range of 3500 km; and so on. TU-22M-2 aircraft [several words illegible], TU-16R, TU-22[R], and so forth, Mi-14 and Mi-8 helicopters, that is, through improved [line illegible].

Organizationally, the Navy consists of formations, which include fleets (operational-strategic formations), flotillas and fleet air forces (operational formations), and squadrons (operational-tactical formations); naval bases (which are neither formations nor large units); and separate large units, units, and facilities.

A fleet is an operational-strategic formation which is designated to perform strategic, operational-strategic, and operational tasks in its assigned operational zone. These tasks amount to destroying important land targets in

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the depth of enemy territory and defeating enemy naval forces, that is, gaining sea supremacy. Fleets include diversified forces which are combined into flotillas, fleet air forces, squadrons, naval bases, and separate large units and units. All formations have a variable composition which depends on the operational zone of the formation, the tasks assigned the formation, and various [other] factors. All large units and units have a permanent table of organization. In peacetime we have four fleets: the Northern Fleet, Baltic Fleet, Black Sea Fleet, and Pacific Fleet. In wartime there would be more.

A flotilla is an operational formation designated to perform operational-strategic, operational, and operational-tactical tasks in the [word illegible] operational zone. Flotillas are divided into diversified force flotillas, strategic missile submarine flotillas, and multipurpose submarine flotillas.

A diversified force flotilla is like a small fleet. The operational zone of a diversified force flotilla is from 700-800....

[Several lines illegible.]

... naval aviation based on Kamchatka [word illegible] is operationally subordinate to it; the Sakhalin flotilla with its headquarters in Sovetskaya Gavan'; and the Primorskiy flotilla with its headquarters in [word illegible] Vladivostok. The operational zone of the Kamchatka flotilla extends to 1500 km from the coast of Kamchatka in the Bering Sea and Pacific Ocean. The operational zone of the Sakhalin flotilla covers the Sea of Okhotsk and the eastern Kurile Islands. The operational zone of the Primorskiy flotilla is the Sea of Japan.

The purpose of strategic missile submarine flotillas is to perform tasks within the context of a naval operation, [several words illegible]. They are employed at the discretion of the Supreme High Command. They include three to five divisions of strategic missile submarines. Each division has 10-15 submarines, as well as units and rear services facilities of the flotilla.

Multipurpose submarine flotillas have approximately the same composition, that is, three to five divisions, units of special troops, and generally [two words illegible] of the flotilla.

Fleet air forces perform operational and operational-tactical tasks throughout the entire operational zone of the fleet. They perform these tasks independently and in coordination with other naval formations. Fleet air forces include naval missile-carrying air divisions (the only divisions are naval missile-carrying aviation) and regiments of all the other types of naval aviation.

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A detachment of fixed-wing aircraft consists of three aircraft; a flight of helicopters consists of four helicopters. A squadron consists of three detachments or three sections and the commander's aircraft.

[Unknown amount of text missing.]

... with a squadron of amphibious assault landing forces or conducts amphibious assault landing operations or combat actions. Finally, naval operations can be conducted by a specially created diversified force grouping made up from various formations [word illegible]. Thus the main forms through which Navy formations perform tasks, or the main forms through which naval forces perform tasks in general [word illegible] are operations and combat actions. Operations are conducted to perform one or several major operational or operational-tactical tasks. Combat actions [line illegible]. Combat actions are carried out over a prolonged period of time, [several words illegible]. They are conducted to destroy or neutralize enemy forces, etc., but in the course of actions to perform particular tasks. However, operational-tactical and even operational goals are achieved by conducting combat actions in the course of [two words illegible].

Operations are divided by kind [vid] into offensive and defensive operations, by time into initial and subsequent operations, [as] in general [word illegible], and by type [tip] into fleet combined-arms [obshcheflotskiy] and independent operations.

Fleet combined-arms operations are conducted by naval formations in full strength, with all forces participating, and, in addition, in cooperation with formations, large units, and units of the other branches of the Armed Forces. Depending on the kind of formation which is conducting the operation, fleet combined-arms operations are divided into fleet operations, operations by a diversified force flotilla, operations by a diversified force squadron, operations by an operational squadron, and operations by an amphibious landing force squadron. In the course of these operations a set of major tasks are performed which as a whole are directed at defeating groupings of enemy naval forces and gaining sea supremacy.

Independent operations are conducted by submarine flotillas or squadrons in particular areas. For example, a multipurpose submarine flotilla could be tasked with disrupting the enemy's ocean lines of communication in the south Atlantic. Independent operations also include naval operations which, depending on the goals of the tasks being performed, can be operations to destroy missile submarines, operations to destroy enemy carrier groupings, operations to destroy important ground targets of the enemy, operations to disrupt the enemy's ocean and sea transportation, operations to destroy the enemy's antisubmarine warfare forces, and so forth. Thus, a single major task is performed in a naval operation by groupings of diversified forces specially [two words illegible].

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A fleet operation is a set of coordinated and interconnected (in objective, place and time) operations by flotillas and squadrons, naval operations and systematic combat actions conducted according to a unified concept and plan and under a unified command.

The objectives of the initial operation are to interdict or blunt enemy strikes from maritime axes, gain supremacy in the assigned operational zone, and provide assistance to ground forces on coastal axes. These objectives are attained by performing the immediate and subsequent tasks.

The immediate task of a fleet operation includes the destruction of the enemy's missile submarines and carrier groupings, or more precisely, the first echelon of the strike groupings of the enemy's naval forces for the purpose of thwarting or blunting nuclear missile strikes and nuclear airstrikes by the enemy against targets on our territory and against fleet targets; destruction of groupings of enemy naval forces which threaten our naval forces, etc., for the purpose of gaining sea supremacy; operations and combat actions of a diversified force flotilla in its operational zone (a diversified force flotilla gains supremacy in its operational zone, establishes favorable conditions for deploying fleet forces, and supports the actions of the ground forces on a coastal axis); the combat actions of a multipurpose submarine flotilla or squadron in a particular assigned area; naval operations to destroy enemy missile submarines and carrier groupings; and operations of operational squadrons in remote areas.

In the course of carrying out the immediate task of an initial fleet operation, supremacy should be gained to a distance of 700 km from our coast (the task performance line [rubezh vypolneniya zadach]). The amount of time required to perform the task is six to seven days or perhaps more, depending on how the situation shapes up.

The subsequent task is performed to a distance on the order of 800 km and even farther, and requires eight days or more. Thus, the objectives of an initial fleet operation should be achieved in the course of 14 to 15 days and sea supremacy should be gained to a depth of 1500 km from our coast. However, in performing certain tasks such as destruction of enemy missile submarines and carrier groupings, combat actions will take place far beyond these task performance lines, and will encompass virtually the entire operational zone of the fleet. For example, the operational zone of the Northern Fleet includes not only part of the Arctic Ocean, but also the entire Atlantic; the operational zone of the Pacific Ocean Fleet includes part of the Arctic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and the Indian Ocean. In other words, these tasks will be performed throughout the entire operational zone of the fleet, so that gaining supremacy up to a certain line is, generally speaking, an arbitrary and relative concept.

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The second fleet operation is also conducted to approximately the same depth, 1500 km, but its duration is somewhat longer, up to 20 days and sometimes even longer. The objectives of the second fleet operation will be to complete the defeat of the enemy's strike groupings, missile submarines and carrier groupings, interdiction or disruption of the enemy's ocean and sea transportation, that is, [supply movements] [word illegible] to continental theaters of military operations, and gaining sea supremacy to a greater depth. Thus, by the end of the second fleet operation, sea supremacy should be gained to a distance on the order of 3000 km from our coast.

In view of the possibility of a sudden attack by the enemy, the Navy must be in a state of very high readiness in order to carry out its tasks successfully. This requirement is met by continuous performance of combat service by the allocated complement of naval forces (on the order of one fourth), that is, by the constant presence of certain groupings of naval forces in all the necessary areas of the world's oceans, above all as an opposing presence. For instance, if there is an American carrier grouping in the Indian Ocean, our forces should also be there, ready to neutralize this carrier grouping and destroy it. Our Eighth Operational Squadron has a variable strength; if it is something on the order of 20 ships and vessels now, in two weeks it could be 70 ships and vessels, depending on how the situation evolves and on the strength of enemy forces.

The main forms of performing combat service are:

1. patrolling by missile submarines carrying ballistic and cruise missiles and mines and by submarines carrying Spetsnaz groups;
2. probing and reconnaissance actions, tracking enemy forces which are already deployed in their combat assignment areas; and
3. combat duty in special areas and at bases by naval forces which are in readiness to put to sea to perform combat tasks. Thus, combat service is the best way to maintain the combat readiness of the Navy to conduct combat actions at sea, and it is the main form of actions by fleet forces in peacetime.

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