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Increasing the Effectiveness of the Initial Nuclear Strike  
of a Front During an Offensive Operation

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The success of an offensive operation by formations of ground troops will be determined above all by the effectiveness of the initial nuclear strike of their rocket troops aimed at gaining immediate superiority over the enemy from the very first minute of the transition to nuclear operations.

The present article will consider several ways of increasing the effectiveness and shortening the duration of an initial nuclear strike by rocket troops of a front during an offensive operation. These include in particular: uninterrupted maintenance of high combat readiness of rocket troops for a nuclear strike and for rapid transition to the condition of highest readiness; raising the efficiency of the control of rocket troops; and increasing the operating reliability of gyroscopes of missile guidance systems.

The effectiveness of the initial nuclear strike depends to a significant degree on the readiness of rocket troops to mount the strike in the shortest possible time after receiving the radio signal ordering them to do so. But this does not mean that the strike readiness of all rocket troops must be the same throughout the whole period of non-nuclear operations. It is obviously most expedient to increase their combat readiness as information is received indicating enemy preparation for the immediate use of nuclear weapons, with the transition of rocket units to a higher degree of readiness taking place as rapidly as possible upon receipt of the appropriate radio signal, which will be broadcast over all communications channels.

At the present time there are concepts defining the combat readiness of rocket troops in peacetime (routine, increased, and full) and also the combat readiness of launch batteries in the preparation of nuclear strikes (No. 3, 2, 2A, and 1). There is presently no concept reflecting a higher degree of combat readiness of rocket troops than "full".

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