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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

26 September 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : John N. McMahon
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : USSR GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSONS : Engineer Support
of the Movement Forward and Commitment to Battle of
the Front's Second Echelon Involving the Crossing of
Nuclear Minefields and Demolitions

[Redacted]

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on a collection of 29 lessons, classified TOP SECRET, prepared in 1977 for use in the Soviet General Staff Academy. The lessons are broken down into two parts: the first 19 lessons deal with the staff preparation of a front offensive operation with conventional and nuclear weapons, the remaining 10 lessons deal with the conduct of an offensive employing conventional weapons at first with a transition to the use of nuclear weapons. This report is a translation of the lesson outlining the tasks to be accomplished by engineer troops in support of the movement forward and commitment to battle of the tank army constituting a front's second echelon in an offensive in the northern area of West Germany.

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.

[Redacted]
John N. McMahon

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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR

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DATE OF
INFO. 1977

DATE
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SUBJECT

GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSON No. 26e : Engineer Support of the Movement Forward and Commitment to Battle of the Front's Second Echelon Involving the Crossing of Nuclear Minefields and Demolitions

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of a lesson, classified TOP SECRET, prepared for use at the General Staff Academy of the Armed Forces of the USSR. This lesson is for the instruction of students acting as front chiefs of engineer troops in the tasks, allocation, and capabilities of engineer troops supporting a tank army's movement forward through nuclear and conventional minefields and across rivers as it is committed to battle. Emphasis is placed on engineer reconnaissance, interdiction of NATO nuclear land mines, and bridging. The specific areas for bridging are identified, as well as the axis where nuclear land mines may be expected. Radioelectronic warfare units are to have a role in locating and neutralizing NATO's nuclear land mines.

End of Summary

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LESSON No. 26e

1. Subject: Engineer support of the movement forward and commitment to battle of the front's second echelon involving the crossing of nuclear minefields and demolitions.

2. Content: Organizing the engineer support of the 10th Tank Army's movement forward and commitment to battle.

3. Time:

Group Exercise	Individual Preparation	Total
2 hours	2 hours	4 hours

4. Training objectives:

-- to teach the students to determine and formulate the principal tasks of engineer support and to organize their accomplishment in supporting the movement forward and commitment to battle of the front's second-echelon army;

-- to study how to organize the crossing of massive mixed minefields and demolitions when an army moves forward and is committed to battle and when developing the offensive.

5. Method: group exercise on maps.

6. Methodological recommendations:

For individual study the instructors will recommend to the students that they arrive at conclusions from an assessment of the enemy, the terrain, and the situation and capabilities of the 10th Tank Army's engineer troops. The principal tasks of engineer support and the organization of their accomplishment are to be determined on the basis of the decision for the movement forward and commitment to battle of the front's second-echelon army and the decision of the 10th Tank Army

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commander for the conduct of the offensive operation. The procedure for accomplishing the tasks will be shown on a map.

7. The principal training topics and the estimated time:

Training topics	Time (minutes)
1. Initial data for the organization of engineer support:	35
-- the <u>front</u> commander's orders	10
-- conclusions from the engineer assessment of the terrain and the enemy	15
-- engineer troop grouping	5
-- the principal tasks of engineer support	5
2. The organization of the accomplishment of the principal tasks of engineer support:	50
-- preparation of the routes and crossings	10
-- support of the 10th Tank Army's deployment	10
-- engineer reconnaissance and interdiction of the enemy's employment of YaMZ /nuclear minefields/	10
-- crossing of obstacles and demolitions when the 10th Tank Army is moving forward to the line of commitment to battle	10
-- crossing of obstacles and demolitions when the 10th Tank Army is being committed to battle and developing the offensive	10
/3./ Concluding remarks	5
T O T A L	90

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VARIANT OF THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEER TROOPS OF THE COASTAL FRONT

1. The enemy may use up to 20 combat engineer companies and 15 to 20 booby trap teams to prepare obstacles on the axis of the 10th Tank Army's commitment to battle. With these forces, by the morning of 13 September, 15 to 20 nuclear land mines may have been installed, demolitions may have been prepared for 6 to 8 road axes, and mixed minefields may have been set up with a density of 1 to 1.5 on the main tank-accessible axes. By employing remote minelaying means, the enemy can mine in short periods of time the army's forward movement routes and line of deployment when being committed to battle.

The terrain in the 10th Tank Army's zone of advance and commitment to battle is flat and swampy with a thick network of rivers, canals, and ditches. Essentially, it is difficult to traverse off the roads.

As a result of the assessment of the enemy and terrain it is necessary:

-- to plan and carry out measures with radioelectronic warfare forces and means for the disruption of the enemy's employment of nuclear minefields;

-- to have the forces of the front and the 6th Army conduct reconnaissance of the enemy's preparation to employ obstacles and demolitions;

-- to have obstacle-clearing detachments in the battalions of the first echelon in the march formation, and when the 10th Tank Army is deploying and going over to the offensive.

2. The principal tasks of engineer support for the 10th Tank Army's movement forward and commitment to battle are:

-- to support the movement forward and deployment of the army's troops on the line of commitment to battle and involving the crossing of the ALLER, LEIKE /sic -- LEINE/, and WESER rivers, and massive mixed and nuclear minefields and demolitions;

-- to support the development of the offensive of the army's first-echelon large units upon crossing nuclear and conventional minefields and demolitions under swampy terrain conditions.

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3. The movement forward of the army's troops to the line of commitment to battle will be supported on five routes. Routes F2 and F3 and the bridges on them are to be prepared by the 1st and 4th battalions of the 6th Engineer Road and Bridge Brigade; routes F4 and F5 by the 2nd and 5th battalions of the 6th Engineer Road and Bridge Brigade; and the supplementary KLOTZE, CELLE, SULINGEN route by the forces of the 3rd Battalion of the 6th Engineer Road and Bridge Brigade. This same battalion will prepare bypasses of the demolitions in the disposition area of the 29th Motorized Rifle Division on routes F4 and F5. The routes up to the LEIKE /sic -- LEINE/ River are to be ready at 2400 hours 12 September, and up to the WESER River at 0400 hours 13 September. The deployment routes for the army's troops on the west bank of the WESER River are to be prepared by the forces of the 10th Engineer Road and Bridge Regiment and the 6th Engineer Road and Bridge Brigade by 0700 hours 13 September. Composite bridges across the WESER River in the BARME, SCHWERINGEN, DRAKENBURG, NIENBURG, LANDESBERGEN, and STOLZENAU areas will be constructed by 0600 hours 13 September by the forces of the 10th Engineer Road and Bridge Regiment and the 22nd Pontoon Bridge Regiment. In case the bridges are demolished, floating bridges will be laid by the forces of the 1st Battalion of the 22nd Pontoon Bridge Regiment which will be concentrated in the NIEDERNSTOCKEN, BORDENAU areas by 2300 hours 12 September. On the ALLER River in the WESTEN, RETHEN section, and on the WESER River in the BARME, SCHWERINGEN section, bridges will be built by the forces of the 10th Engineer Pontoon Bridge Regiment, which by 2400 hours 12 September will be concentrated in the HAMELHAUSEN area. Bridges will be built over the WESER River in the DRAKENBURG, STOLZENAU area by the 2nd Battalion of the 22nd Pontoon Bridge Regiment. The 10th and 27th assault crossing battalions are to be in reserve in readiness to prepare assault crossings over the WESER River.

4. Engineer reconnaissance of enemy measures to establish nuclear minefields and demolitions on the BASSUM, VECHTA; SULINGEN, DIEPHOLZ; and UCHTE, BRAMSCHE axes is to be conducted by reconnaissance groups of the front and the 6th Army. Upon arrival of the forward detachments of the 10th Tank Army's first echelon at the line of deployment, reconnaissance will be conducted by engineer-reconnaissance patrols of the 15th and 22nd tank divisions and the engineer-reconnaissance company of the 10th Combat Engineer Regiment.

The interdiction of the enemy's employment of nuclear minefields has been organized by the forces of the reconnaissance groups, which will damage the detonation control cables, and also by the radioelectronic warfare units of the army and front.

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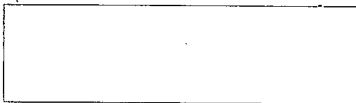


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To overcome obstacles and demolitions, obstacle-clearing detachments are to be established and included in the first-echelon battalions; in a tank division they are to be made up of an obstacle-clearing platoon and a mine-clearing platoon; in a motorized rifle division /they are to be/ an obstacle-clearing platoon and a combat engineer platoon. Such a detachment is capable of destroying two to three nuclear land mines, of making two to three lanes, and of constructing a cross-country route for one battalion.

5. Cover for the 10th Tank Army's flanks on the line of commitment to battle on the OLDENBURG, SULINGEN axis is to be provided by the forces of Mobile Obstacle Detachment No. 1 -- the 1st Battalion of the 20th Combat Engineer Regiment together with the 4th Antitank Artillery Brigade; on the OSNABRUCK, SULINGEN axis by Mobile Obstacle Detachment No. 2 -- the 12th Engineer Obstacle Battalion together with the 5th Antitank Artillery Brigade.



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