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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

28 November 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : John N. McMahon
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : USSR GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSONS :
Organizing the Control of Front
Troops in an Offensive Operation

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 involving front troop control through the proper organization, deployment, functioning, and maintenance of a front control post system during an offensive operation against NATO forces.

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.

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 28 November 1980

SUBJECT

GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSON No. 15: Organizing the Control of Front Troops in an Offensive Operation

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 used to instruct students acting as the chief of a front's operations directorate in the matters to be covered in planning and organizing troop control in a front offensive operation with conventional and nuclear weapons against NATO forces. The main points deal with the preparation, deployment, transfer and restoration of control, and the relocation of a front's control post system; measures for communications security, and types and deadlines of various periodic combat and summary reports. Also discussed summarily are the dissemination of warning data, methods of coping with intense electronic neutralization, and close monitoring of subordinate forces by the staff.

End of Summary



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Lesson No. 15

I. Lesson Subject: Organizing the control of front troops in an offensive operation. Preparing the plan for the organization of troop control.

II. Training objectives of the lesson:

-- to teach students to correctly determine the scope of measures and to work out the plan for the organization of troop control in a front offensive operation.

-- to train students to precisely report the plan for the organization of control of front troops in an offensive operation.

III. Training topics and time for their completion:

Item No.	Training topics	Time for completion		Total
		Group training period	Individual study	
	Theoretical matters....	10 to 15 min		
1.	Preparation and deployment of the <u>front</u> control system in the <u>departure</u> area for the offensive	40 min		
2.	Control of the <u>front</u> troops during performance of the main tasks of the operation	30 min		
3.	Principal measures to ensure stability and continuity of troop control during an operation	30 min		

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Item No.	Training topics	Time for completion		Total
		Group training period	Individual study	
4.	Measures to ensure secure troop control	20 min		
	Critique of the lesson.	5 to 10 min		
	Total:	135 min	135 min	270 min

IV. Method of conducting the lesson -- group exercise on maps in the classroom, with elements of a command-staff exercise.

V. Methodological recommendations on the students' preparation for the lesson:

At the start of the students' independent preparation for the lesson, the directors will conduct a briefing in the groups, during which:

- they will explain the procedure for preparing the sections of the explanatory memorandum for the plan of the organization of front troop control; students are to complete these sections independently;
- they will give the approximate schedule for reporting the plan for the organization of troop control.

VI. Procedure for conducting the lesson

1. Theoretical aspects of the lesson subject. Content and form of the plan for the organization of front troop control in the offensive operation.

2. Report of the chief of the operations directorate of the staff on the organization of front troop control in the offensive operation.

The operational time is 2200 hours 1 September. Students in the role of chief of the operations directorate of the Coastal Front staff will report the plan of the organization of front troop control in the offensive operation.

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PLAN OF THE REPORT

1. Preparation and deployment of system of control for front troops in the departure area for the offensive:

- a) Preparation and deployment of the system of control posts;
- b) Deployment and operating procedure of the communications system;
- c) Deployment and operation of the system for the collection and processing of data on the situation.

2. Control of front troops during decision of the main tasks of the operation. (Control of covering forces; control of front troops when bringing them to combat readiness and during movement out to the departure areas; control of on-alert forces and means and of forces and means during delivery of the initial nuclear strike. Control during commitment to battle of the front's second echelon).

3. Principal measures to ensure stability and continuity of troop control during the operation (ensuring the interchangeability of control posts, relocation of control posts, restoration of disrupted control, and troop control during intense electronic neutralization on the part of the enemy).

4. Measures to ensure secure troop control.
5. Organization of the provost and traffic control service.
6. Monitoring and rendering assistance to the troops.

CONTENT OF THE REPORT

1. Preparation and deployment of the front control system in the departure area for the offensive. (First training topic)

a) Preparation and deployment of the system of control posts in the departure area for the offensive.

Command posts, alternate command posts, and rear control posts will be deployed in the front in the departure area for the offensive.

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Control posts of the front and armies (army corps) will be occupied according to a prescribed signal of the General Staff or by special orders.

-- Personnel of the front command post will move out to the deployment area in two echelons.

The first echelon of the front command post will be headed by the chief of the operations directorate. Movement will begin 25 to 30 minutes following the announcement of the instruction (issuing of the signal).

The second echelon of the front command post will be headed by the front chief of staff.

-- Personnel of the alternate command post will proceed in a single echelon headed by the deputy commander /of the front/. Movement will begin 20 to 25 minutes following the announcement of the instruction (issuing of the signal).

-- Personnel of the rear control post will move out to the deployment area in two echelons.

The first echelon of the rear control post of the front will move forward headed by the deputy commander -- the chief of the rear services of the front. Movement will begin 40 to 50 minutes following the announcement of the instruction (issuing of the signal).

The second echelon of the rear control post will be headed by the chief of staff of the rear services of the front.

Traffic control on the forward movement routes of the control posts will be handled by forces of the security regiment.

Engineer preparation of field control posts in the departure area for the offensive will be completed by 5 September.

During the offensive operation, control posts of the front and armies will be fitted out with shelters /providing/ fourth-class protection.

b) Deployment and operating procedure of the communications system (To be worked out at the lesson of the communications department).

c) Deployment and operation of the system for collection and processing of data on the situation.

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Reports of the General Staff. Combat reports of the front will be submitted to the General Staff twice a day -- by 0700 hours and by 1500 hours on the status as of 0500 hours and 1300 hours. A summary combat report /will be submitted/ once a day by 2300 hours on the status as of 2000 hours. Intelligence reports /will be submitted/ daily by 0700 hours and 1500 hours on the status as of 0500 hours and 1300 hours.

Reports about the combat actions (through the Chief Operations Directorate) /will be submitted/ every three hours.

Operational summaries /will be submitted/ daily by 0100 hours on the status as of 2000 hours.

Intelligence summaries /will be submitted/ daily by 0200 hours on the status as of 2000 hours.

The chiefs of branch arms, special troops, and services will submit their reports to the commanders-in-chief of the branches of the armed forces and to the chiefs of branch arms in accordance with the urgent reports timetable.

Situation data will arrive at the front command post from the staffs of the armies, army corps, the air army, and the large units of front subordination as follows:

-- combat reports /will be submitted/ to the front staff (operations directorate) three times a day (by 0600, 1400, and 1800 hours on the status as of 0500, 1300, and 1700 hours). A summary combat report /will be submitted/ daily by 2200 hours on the status as of 2000 hours. Operational summaries /will be submitted/ daily by 0100 hours on the status as of 2000 hours;

-- reports to the information center for situation data /will be submitted/ every three hours over technical means of communications;

-- intelligence reports from the staffs of the armies (army corps) will arrive at the intelligence directorate three times a day (by 0600, 1400, and 1800 hours on the status as of 0500, 1300, and 1700 hours).

Above-precedence combat reports will be submitted on bringing troops to increased (full) combat readiness, on the transmittal of combat tasks to the troops, on the arrival of troops at the departure areas, and on the employment of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction by the enemy or by our troops.

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The system for fixing nuclear bursts will be linked automatically with the center for the collection and processing of data on the situation. The data will be immediately transmitted as the fixes are obtained.

The staffs (directorates) of the branch arms, special troops, and rear services are to report new data to the information center at three hour intervals, and report important data immediately.

Procedure /for dissemination/ of information on the situation. /Dissemination of/ the pertinent parts of the information on the situation at the front command post, other front control posts, and the staffs of subordinate and cooperating troops is to be handled from the center for the collection and processing of data on the situation at the front command post as new data are received and upon request.

2. Control of Coastal Front troops during performance of the main tasks of the operation.

a) Control of the forces and means of the forward units sent out as cover and of the main forces of the front during repulse of an enemy surprise attack.

Control of the combat actions of the covering troops of the front (army) is to be exercised from fixed (protected) and forward control posts (PPU) of the front (army) and from field command posts of the divisions allocated for cover.

Control of the main forces of the front during repulse of a surprise enemy attack is to be exercised from fixed (protected) and field control posts. Control of air defense troops of the country is to be exercised from the command post of the air defense corps; /control/ of front air defense forces and means is to be exercised from fixed (protected) posts. Control of front aviation is to be exercised from the command post of the 1st Air Army and its combat control center and from the control groups of the armies.

b) When bringing the troops to full combat readiness and moving out to the departure areas.

Transmission of combat signals for warning is to be carried out over the operating inter-garrison radio nets, and wire and radio-relay communications links through the operations duty officers of the formations, large units, and units.

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The front commander will control the front troops when they are placed on combat alert for the first one and one-half to two hours after the combat alert is announced, from the permanent disposition area of the front headquarters and subsequently from the front's protected command post. With the introduction of increased combat readiness, an operations group from the front field headquarters will be sent out to the protected front command post. The front chief of staff will remain in the permanent disposition area until the front field headquarters has been totally brought to full combat readiness.

With the arrival of the front commander at the protected front command post, the chief of staff, with the permission of the front commander, will relocate together with the second echelon of the command post to the protected command post.

c) Control of on-alert forces and means following the occupation of the departure area for the offensive.

Control of the forces and means of front rocket troops and artillery (one missile battalion from each front and army brigade and one launch battery from each missile battalion of the first-echelon divisions) will be exercised by the chief of rocket troops and artillery from the combat control center.

For control of on-alert forces and means of the front rocket troops and artillery, special communications will be organized: from the front chief of rocket troops and artillery to the operational-tactical and tactical missile battalions; and radio-relay communications with all battalion commanders of the front missile brigades and army missile brigades.

The number of on-alert forces of the 1st Air Army will be as follows: during increased combat readiness, for fighter aviation in the daytime, in each regiment of the fighter divisions -- one flight in Readiness No. 1 and two flights in Readiness No. 2; for fighter-bomber aviation, in each regiment of the fighter-bomber divisions -- one squadron in Readiness No. 2 in the daytime and at night. Strike aviation with nuclear munitions will be placed on alert by special instructions (the receipt and suspension of the munitions will be by special instructions).

When increased combat readiness is introduced, the air control post will be deployed for combat operations (the control means and combat crews for them will be ready to control the aviation).

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Control of the air on-alert forces will be exercised as follows: during preparation of the operation, from the regimental command posts of the air divisions of the 1st Air Army in the permanent disposition areas. The command posts of the fighter divisions will carry out placing these means on alert. The takeoff of fighter aviation for airborne alert in the assigned areas will be by command from the command post of the 1st Air Army.

d) Control of troops during delivery of the initial nuclear strike and the repulse of enemy attacks.

Control of front rocket troops and aviation during delivery of the initial nuclear strike will be exercised personally by the front commander from the combat control center of the command post and through the front staff, front chief of rocket troops and artillery, the commanders of the 1st Air Army and the 4th, 7th, and 9th armies, and the commander of the 2nd Army Corps. The signal to deliver the nuclear strike will be transmitted over all communications channels, and the initiation of the transmission of the signal to the troops will be specified by the front commander. For the purpose of quickly receiving data from the 1st Air Army's reconnaissance aviation concerning the targets for the nuclear strike (especially the mobile targets), the command posts of the front, of the 4th, 7th, and 9th armies, the 2nd Army Corps, and of the first-echelon divisions and missile units are to have receivers in the communications nets of the reconnaissance aviation.

Control of the air defense forces and means during repulse of an enemy air attack will be exercised from the front air defense command post. Front rear services troops and facilities will also be warned about the air enemy from the front air defense command post. The command posts of the armies and divisions will organize the reception of reconnaissance data about the flights of enemy aircraft that are transmitted by radar posts to the front air defense command post.

e) Control of troops during commitment to battle of the front's second echelon.

The front commander will exercise troop control from the front forward control post during the commitment to battle of the front's second echelon, the 6th Army. The chiefs of the operations and intelligence directorates of the staff, the front chief of rocket troops and artillery, the chief of air defense troops, and the commander of the 1st Air Army will be at the forward control post with the front commander.

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Decision-making by the front commander on the commitment to battle of the 6th Army and specific formulation of the tasks for other front troops will be carried out at the front command post, and the forward movement of the 6th Army to the line of commitment will also be monitored from there.

3. Principal measures to ensure stability and continuity of troop control during the operation (third training topic).

a) Interchangeability of control posts. In the event the front command post is rendered inoperative, the alternate command post will take over troop control upon a signal from the front command post; and in case the transmission of such a signal is not possible, it will be done according to the decision of the deputy commander of the front.

When the command post and alternate command post are simultaneously rendered inoperative, the front's rear control post will assume control of the front's troops. The commander of the 7th Army will also be ready to do this.

When the rear control post is rendered inoperative, control of the rear will be exercised from the front command post. When the command post and the rear control post are simultaneously rendered inoperative, the headquarters of the forward rear base will assume control of the rear.

To ensure the capability of controlling the troops, the alternate command post and rear control post will have copies of the commander's decision for the operation, the front's operational directive and instructions on the types of support, the combat control signals, the tables of call signs for the communications centers and of important officials, and secure troop control documents.

Information about the condition, new tasks, and the nature of the actions of our troops and also of the enemy will come from the front command post.

To organize communications from the command post of the 7th Army, the following will be sent to the staff of that army by the close of 3 September: a copy of the front's radio operating data, a diagram of the radio-relay and wire communications, the instructions concerning the reinforcement of the army with communications means, and the orders on the procedure to ensure communications with the General Staff, the 4th, 7th,

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and 9th armies, the 2nd Army Corps, the 1st Air Army, and the front reserves.

b) Relocation of control posts during the operation.

The front command post will be relocated on orders of the front commander with the permission of the General Staff. The command post will relocate in two echelons. During relocation, the commander will control troops from the airborne control post, which is to have on board an operations group consisting of the chiefs of the operations and intelligence directorates, the chief of rocket troops and artillery, the chief of air defense troops, and the deputy commander of the air army with a small group of officers.

The alternate front command post will relocate according to the order of the front commander or the front chief of staff. The alternate command post will relocate to a new area in a single column headed by the deputy front commander.

The rear control post of the front will relocate upon the order of and with the permission of the front commander or the front chief of staff. The rear control post will relocate in two echelons.

c) Measures to restore control which has been disrupted as a result of an enemy nuclear strike.

The collecting of data on the status of the control posts will be organized.

In the event that a front control post is hit by an enemy nuclear weapon, rescue and recovery work of the destroyed control post will be carried out and its remnants will be moved out to reserve areas. In a reserve area, contaminated personnel and equipment will be decontaminated and the losses in personnel and in means of control, communications, and transportation will be replenished from the reserves of the front commander and of the Supreme High Command.

In case the front command post is destroyed, the alternate command post (the rear control post or the command post of the 7th Army) will assume control of the front troops. Principal important officials will be appointed by orders to replace those who have become casualties, and the communications system will be restored using the front's supporting communications centers and communications reserves.

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d) Control of troops during intense electronic neutralization on the part of the enemy.

In order to attain high reliability in the functioning of radio and radiotechnical means under conditions of intense enemy electronic neutralization, provisions will be made for the following: the organization of radio communications with the 2nd and 3rd front missile brigades and the 1st Air Army simultaneously over several radio nets and radio links; operation on secure radio nets following a special signal to be transmitted from the front command post; the integrated employment of the various means of radar reconnaissance; the diversionary employment of dummy emitters, of electromagnetic oscillations, and other special means of deceiving the enemy. The destruction of the enemy's radio jamming means will be provided for by the plan for the use of the rocket troops and artillery in the operation and by the plan for the combat employment of the 1st Air Army.

In the jamming of the enemy's radioelectronic means during the offensive operation, provisions will be made for measures that preclude the interference neutralization of our own radio and radio-relay communications, especially the communications of the front command post with the command posts of the 4th, 7th, and 9th armies, the 2nd Army Corps, the 1st Air Army, and the 2nd and 3rd front missile brigades, as well as the radar means of the front's air defense and rocket troops and artillery.

4. Measures to ensure secure troop control.

(fourth training topic)

Security of front troop control in the offensive operation will be attained through the employment of cipher, secure communications, and coding equipment, and also by using manual coding documents (coded procedure tables and signal tables) in combination with coded maps and tables of call signs of stations and important officials.

In the period of preparation for the operation, operational directives and other important documents which specify the grouping of troops and their tasks, the organization of combat actions, and the employment of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction, can be communicated verbally and through the delivery of combat documents. Enciphered communications can be used to clarify individual matters.

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The operation of radio communications before the start of combat actions is forbidden, with the exception of garrison radio stations and the communications with special reconnaissance and with air defense means, which will continue to function in the previous mode.

For communications traffic over non-secure channels of communications, the chiefs of the front staff directorates and departments and of the branch arms and services will develop the necessary procedure tables and signal tables (if they have not been previously developed).

All secure troop control documents that are worked out will be submitted for approval to the front chief of staff, and following that, they will be issued and distributed to the troops with a view to providing them to all front troop control posts and all cooperating formations and large units.

The secure control documents will be ready by the close of 3 September.

The procedure for organizing secure troop control will be defined in separately issued instructions concerning secure troop control.

5. Organization of provost and traffic control service.

Provost and traffic control service in the offensive zone of the Coastal Front will be organized in accordance with the plan and instructions regarding provost and traffic control. There are to be four provost and traffic control areas in the front zone.

Traffic control for troops on the forward movement routes will be accomplished by the instructions of the formation commanders.

Provost and traffic control services in the departure area for the offensive will be ready by 2000 hours 5 September.

6. Monitoring and rendering assistance to troops.

The monitoring of troop fulfillment of tasks will be organized by the front operations directorate with the involvement of officers of the staffs (directorates) of the chiefs of branch arms and special troops, and officers of the political directorate and the rear staff.

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Responsibility for the timely organization of monitoring and troop assistance is placed on the front chief of staff.

The monitoring and troop assistance tasks are as follows:

1) During preparation for the operation:

a) verifying the readiness of the on-alert missile and aviation large units and units for the launching of missiles and the take-off of aviation;

b) monitoring the receipt by the troops of front directives and the organization by the armies and large units to fulfill the directives;

c) /checking/ compliance with the measures of operational camouflage, with the regulations for secure troop control, and with the measures for protection against weapons of mass destruction;

d) /checking/ the fulfilment of the measures regarding the covert forward movement and occupation of the departure position for the offensive by large units of the 4th, 7th, and 9th armies;

e) /monitoring/ the supply situation of front troops.

2) /Monitoring/ during the operation:

a) the fulfilment of prescribed tasks by the troops of the 4th, 7th, and 9th armies, and the 2nd Army Corps;

b) the reliability of control and compliance with the measures of radio discipline;

c) the timely submission of reports and other summary documents to the front staff;

d) the conformity of the decisions made by army commanders with the combat tasks of the front.

VII. Critique of the lesson.

The lesson director will describe the subject and training objectives of the lesson and discuss how they were achieved during the lesson.

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He will rate the students' reports and discuss the positive and negative aspects in the reports.

He will give orders on the elimination of the deficiencies detected at the lesson; when necessary, he will give individual assignments to particular students.



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