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10 April 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : COMBAT REGULATIONS OF THE SOVIET NAVY:
Joint Combat Actions of Naval Large Units
with Large Units and Units of Other
Branches of the Armed Forces

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is a translation of part of a 12-chapter book on Soviet Navy combat regulations, classified SECRET and published by the USSR Ministry of Defense in 1983. This seventh report in the series provides information on the combat actions of Soviet naval forces afloat and ashore when they are coordinating and cooperating with different branches of the Soviet Armed Forces in airborne and amphibious landing operations on maritime axes. The report goes into considerable detail about all aspects of landing an amphibious landing force.

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 Signature]

Clair E. George
Deputy Director for Operations

[Redacted Box]

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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF
INFO. 1983

DATE 10 April 1987

SUBJECT

**Combat Regulations of the Soviet Navy: Chapter 9, Joint Combat
Actions of Naval Large Units with Large Units and Units of Other
Branches of the Armed Forces**

SOURCE

Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of Chapter 9 of the SECRET 1983 edition of the USSR Ministry of Defense's combat regulations for the Soviet Navy. This chapter describes the combat actions of Soviet naval forces afloat and ashore when they are coordinating and cooperating with different branches of the Soviet Armed Forces (the Ground Forces, the Air Forces, Long-Range Aviation, the Air Defense Forces) in airborne and amphibious landing operations and in antilanding operations on maritime axes. The primary focus of the chapter is on landing and supporting an amphibious landing force. Depending on its size, a landing is characterized as operational, operational-tactical, or tactical. Detailed coverage is given of the various phases of the landing: staging, embarkation, and loading of the landing force onto ships; sea transit of the landing force; and the actual assault landing itself. Also described are the different types of naval forces which participate (landing-support forces, fire-support ship detachments, obstacle-clearing groups, landing ship detachments, etc.), the missions assigned, the dimensions of landing sectors and deployment areas, and the specifics of command and control responsibilities. The last part of the chapter includes information about the Navy's cooperation with troops advancing and defending on a maritime axis.

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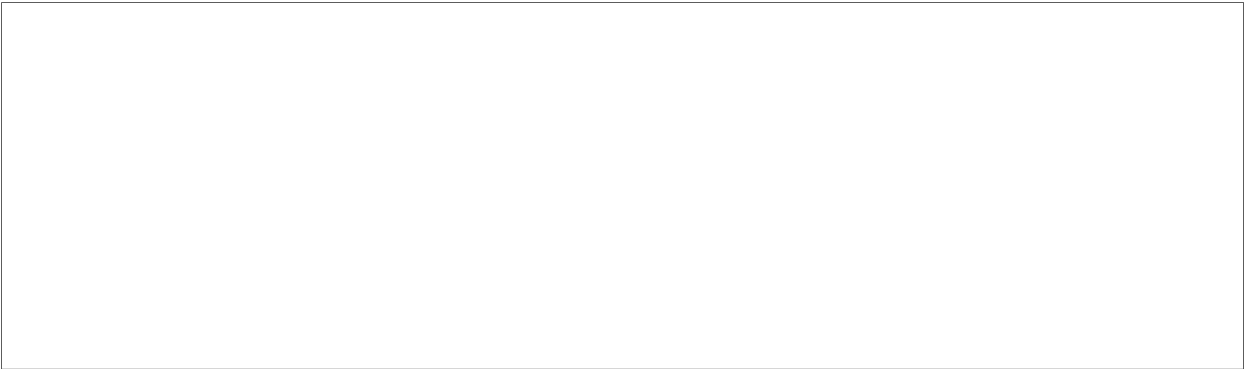


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Translator's comments appearing in the text of this report are enclosed in brackets.

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USSR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

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COMBAT REGULATIONS
OF THE NAVY

FOR

DIVISION, BRIGADE, REGIMENT, AND SHIP

Put Into Effect on 26 January 1983
as Per Order No. 039
of the USSR Minister of Defense

MOSCOW
MILITARY PUBLISHING HOUSE
1983

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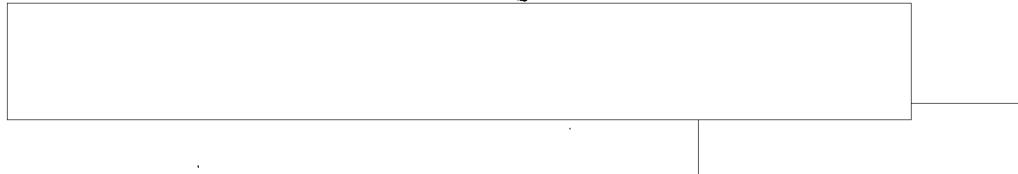
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*  Comment: Although Chapters 1-8 and 10-12 are not included in this report, their titles and subsection titles have been provided for information purposes.

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**CHAPTER 9: JOINT COMBAT ACTIONS OF NAVAL LARGE UNITS WITH
LARGE UNITS AND UNITS OF OTHER BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES**

412. Joint combat actions with large units [soyedineniya] and units [chasti] of the Ground Forces are conducted by large units and units of all types of forces of the Navy in naval operations, in airborne and amphibious landing operations, in antilanding operations, and also in the operations (combat actions) of formations [ob'yedineniya] when they are performing cooperation support tasks with front and army troops operating on a maritime axis. Cooperation support tasks are conducted independently or in cooperation with large units and units of other branches of the Armed Forces. In such actions naval forces do the following: destroy enemy naval forces operating against our attacking or defending forces; participate in the seizure of a straits zone controlled by the enemy; carry out and support the landing of amphibious landing forces and maintain a favorable operating regime in the landing area; destroy important enemy targets in the area on the maritime axis (or on islands) where an airborne landing is made, support combat actions after the airborne landing forces have been dropped (landed), and cover the airborne landing from enemy strikes from seaward; disrupt the enemy's sea transportation of troops and his delivery of materiel; participate in blockades to cut off from the sea enemy forces pinned down on the shore and cooperate with [ground] troops to destroy the enemy; provide fire support to troops advancing along the coast, support assault crossings of water obstacles (fjords); participate in combat against enemy amphibious landing forces; and carry out and support the transportation of troops and the delivery of materiel by sea.

413. Large units of surface ships transport and land the landing force; provide protection and cover to landing ship detachments [desantnyye otryady] from strikes by enemy submarines, surface ships, and air attack means; search for and destroy mines along the landing force's transit route and in the forming-up and landing areas; clear lanes in antilanding obstacles and in the water; participate in nuclear and fire destruction of the enemy during the assault landing; conduct reconnaissance on the enemy and land reconnaissance-sabotage groups on his coast; lead amphibious landing means [desantno-vysadochnyye sredstva] and units (subunits) of landing forces when they are moving toward the shore in their own landing craft [plavsredstva]; deliver materiel and evacuate the wounded and sick; cooperate with large units and units of the Ground Forces in assault crossings of water obstacles; support the combat actions of large units and units of the Ground Forces on the seacoast with artillery fire and missile strikes and cover them from strikes by ships and the air enemy; and participate in repelling an enemy amphibious landing on our coast.

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Large units of submarines, independently or in cooperation with naval aviation and surface ships, destroy enemy submarines and surface ships (auxiliaries) at sea and in ports and bases, conduct reconnaissance on the enemy, and put reconnaissance-sabotage groups ashore.

Large units and units of fleet air forces, independently or in cooperation with large units of surface ships and large units and units of long-range and front aviation, destroy the enemy's nuclear attack means and his surface ships (auxiliaries) and submarines at sea and in bases, participate in neutralizing enemy antilanding defenses, provide ASW and air defense protection to landing ship detachments and ships (auxiliaries) in sea transit, conduct reconnaissance on the enemy, and provide target designation to our own troops and forces.

Large units and units of naval infantry, together with motorized rifle (tank) large units and units, form the basis of the amphibious landing force and are used, as a rule, as the lead detachments [peredovyye otryady] in the first echelon on the main landing axis or for independent actions to seize sectors of the seacoast, individual islands, ports, basing points, and the enemy's important coastal installations and to destroy his antilanding troops, nuclear attack means, control posts, and communications centers. In certain cases they assist in the defense of important coastal installations, including naval bases, sectors of the coastline, and individual islands.

Large units and units of coastal missile-artillery troops destroy enemy surface ships, landing ship detachments, and convoys within their effective range; cover fleet basing points and shore installations, coastal sea lines of communication, and groupings of troops operating on a maritime axis from strikes by enemy surface ships; assist in destroying enemy basing points and ports and the ships and transports located in them, in covering landing forces in sea transit, and in neutralizing antilanding defenses.

414. Large units and units of the Ground Forces, when operating jointly with large units, units, and ships of the Navy, perform the following: conduct combat actions as part of the amphibious landing to support troops advancing along the coast, to destroy the enemy on the coast, and to seize and hold islands (groups of islands), naval bases, straits, and other important targets on the coast; defend the seacoast, islands (groups of islands), and fleet basing points against enemy amphibious and airborne landings; assist in organizing the basing of naval forces on territory seized from the enemy and cover coastal [sea] lines of communication from strikes from seaward; neutralize and destroy the main antilanding defense installations and control posts; destroy enemy aviation at airfields; inflict damage on his reserves; destroy naval bases, ports, and other installations; support overflights of our own naval aviation; together with the Air Forces and formations of the Air Defense Forces, provide air defense [protection] for fleet basing points and for the combat actions of fleet large units (ships) to the range limits of their means; and participate in

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the destruction of the enemy's naval forces and his amphibious landing forces.

415. Large units and units of airborne troops, [operating] together with amphibious landing forces or independently, seize designated areas, islands, naval bases, ports, airfields, and other important objectives on the coast and in straits zones; occupy and hold amphibious landing sectors; deny the approach of enemy reserves; and perform other tasks.

416. Coastal formations and large units of the Air Defense Forces, together with front and fleet air defense troops and forces, conduct combat actions against the air enemy and provide cover from air strikes to front troops, fleet forces, airfields, basing points, ports, and airborne and amphibious landing forces in departure areas (embarkation points), during sea transit (air transit), during the landing, and during combat actions on shore.

417. When organizing joint combat actions by fleet forces and the Ground Forces, groupings of mixed forces are set up to cover the coastal flank of the Ground Forces from strikes from seaward.

The composition of a grouping of mixed forces may include submarines, surface ships, naval aviation, and coastal missile-artillery units. Operating independently or in cooperation with other branches of the Armed Forces, they perform tasks with regard to destroying enemy surface ships, submarines, and air attack means in order to prevent strikes against our Ground Forces by carrier-based aviation, cruise missiles, and artillery.

418. As a rule, in order to provide air defense for an amphibious landing, an air defense grouping is set up which provides cover to the amphibious landing from strikes and reconnaissance by the air enemy in embarkation areas, during sea transit, and in landing areas. Such a grouping includes units of land- and ship-based fighter aviation, large units and units of front air defense troops and of the Air Defense Forces, radar picket ships and aircraft with fighter aviation guidance posts, the anti-aircraft weapons of the landing force, and screening ships.

Combat Actions to Land Amphibious Landing Forces

419. Combat actions to land amphibious landing forces are the aggregate of actions coordinated as to target, place, and time and are conducted on the basis of a unified concept and plan of the actions of the large units and units of a front (army), fleet (mixed force flotilla, squadron, or division of amphibious landing forces), the Air Defense Forces, the Air Forces, and by airborne forces to land amphibious landing forces on territory defended by the enemy and to perform tasks on shore.

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420. The purpose of amphibious landings in offensive operations on a maritime axis is to assist troops which are advancing along the coast, defeat opposing enemy groupings, and seize straits zones, large islands, naval bases, and other important coastal objectives.

Depending on the targets and the composition of the participating forces, amphibious landing forces may be operational, operational-tactical, or tactical. An operational amphibious landing force may include a motorized rifle (tank) division reinforced by naval infantry units or a naval infantry division reinforced by motorized rifle units and also by units of branch arms, naval forces, and special troops.

An operational-tactical amphibious landing force may include a naval infantry brigade reinforced by motorized rifle units.

A tactical amphibious landing force may include motorized rifle (tank) units and subunits and also reinforced naval infantry units.

The landing of operational and operational-tactical amphibious landing forces is usually organized and conducted according to the decision of the front commander (or fleet commander in chief).

Combat actions with regard to landing a tactical amphibious landing force are organized and conducted according to the decision of the commander of an army or the commander in chief of a mixed force flotilla.

421. Combat actions to land an amphibious landing force include: the gaining of sea and air supremacy in the combat action area; the embarkation (loading) of the amphibious landing force onto amphibious transports; sea transit of the landing force; neutralization of the enemy antilanding defense before the landing; the amphibious assault; execution of on-shore tasks by the landing force; and the conduct of combat actions by the large units and units supporting amphibious landing actions.

Combat actions to land an amphibious landing are organized and conducted in phases. The main phases may be: the staging, embarkation, and loading of the landing force onto ships; sea transit of the landing force; the assault landing; the conduct of combat actions by the landing force to carry out assigned tasks.

The tasks of gaining sea and air supremacy will usually be performed during the combat actions which precede the amphibious landing.

In a number of cases, when the intent is to gain sea and air supremacy only during the amphibious landing and in its combat action area, the combat actions for execution of these tasks constitute the first phase of combat actions to land the amphibious landing force.

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422. The success of combat actions for the amphibious landing is ensured by: carefully planning them and comprehensively preparing the participating troops, forces, and means; gaining sea and air supremacy in advance and maintaining it; destroying the enemy's nuclear attack means and reliably neutralizing his antilanding defense in the landing area; maintaining high tempos and good organization during the embarkation, sea transit, and landing of the landing force; ensuring surprise of actions and reliably covering the landing force from enemy strikes from seaward and from the air; having the landing force exploit in a timely manner the results of nuclear and fire destruction of the enemy's antilanding defense; acting decisively to complete the defeat of the enemy in the landing area and to carry out the tasks assigned to the landing force on shore; carefully organizing and continually supporting close cooperation between all the large units participating in combat actions; conducting active political work for mobilizing personnel to carry out their assigned tasks; organizing all types of support; and organizing centralized, stable, and reliable control of all the large units and units participating in combat actions.

423. The following groupings are set up in order to conduct combat actions for the amphibious landing: a landing troop grouping [gruppirovka voysk desanta], landing-support forces [sily vysadki], and covering forces; missile troop groupings, air defense troops, and aviation carrying out tasks from our own coast; and reserves of troops and forces.

Tactical airborne landings are usually a component part of the amphibious landing. In a number of cases airborne forces may comprise an independent grouping and be incorporated into the amphibious landing force after landing or joining up with it.

424. Motorized rifle and tank large units and units, together with large units and units of naval infantry, form the basis of the amphibious landing force. They destroy the enemy on the coast, seize assigned objectives and lines, inflict damage on enemy reserves, develop success prior to joining up with troops attacking frontally, and hold beachheads (areas, islands, objectives, and lines) that have been seized.

425. The purpose of landing-support forces is to support the sea transit of the amphibious landing force, its landing, and its actions on shore. The landing-support forces include landing ship detachments, a fire-support ship detachment [otryad korabley ognevoy podderzhki] (OKOP), ship strike and search-strike groups, minesweeping and other support groups, a large unit (group) of offshore defense ships, a group of landing force support auxiliaries, diversionary and decoy groups of ships (auxiliaries), and a landing base [baza vysadki].

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426. Landing ship detachments [desantnyye otryady] transport landing force units by sea and land them on the coastline occupied by the enemy. They consist of landing ships, transports (auxiliaries), screening ships, and support ships. The number of landing ship detachments depends on the composition of the landing force and its echelonment. Three to five landing ship detachments are created to land a division-size landing force, two to three for a brigade-size landing force, and one or two for a regiment-size landing force. As a rule, each of them transports units (subunits) being put ashore in one of the landing force echelons and in a single landing sector.

In order to disperse the landing force during the sea transit and amphibious assault, the landing ship detachments are divided into landing ship groups, each of which must transport not more than one reinforced battalion to be landed at a single landing point.

427. As a rule, the purpose of a fire-support ship detachment composed of strike groups of missile-gunnery ships or small combatants (depending on the number of landing sectors) is to fire against the enemy during the amphibious assault.

428. The purpose of ship strike and search-strike groups made up of missile-gunnery, air-capable, and ASW ships is to defend landing ship detachments during the sea transit and in the landing area.

429. The purpose of minesweeping groups made up of minesweepers and mine-countermeasures helicopters is to clear lanes in minefields during the sea transit and in the landing area.

Depending on the concept of the actions and the situation, other support groups are set up during the sea transit and in the landing area.

The purpose of reconnaissance and surveillance groups composed of submarines, surface ships, and aircraft (helicopters) is to detect air and surface targets in a timely manner and issue target designations to our strike forces.

The purpose of radioelectronic warfare groups composed of surface ships, aircraft, and helicopters equipped with radioelectronic warfare means and of fleet radioelectronic warfare subunits and units is to suppress the radioelectronic means of control of the enemy's forces and weapons during sea transit and in the landing areas.

The purpose of obstacle-clearing groups composed of subunits of combat engineers and frogmen detailed from naval engineer units and the landing force and of ships (small combatants, helicopters) equipped with mine clearing gear is

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to clear lanes in antilanding barriers in the water and on shore at landing points.

The purpose of hydrographic groups composed of fleet and landing force hydrographic service auxiliaries and subunits is to support the embarkation, the sea transit, and the landing and also the activities of the fire-support ship detachments (OKOP), minesweeper groups, and mine-countermeasures helicopters.

Diversions and decoy groups proceed in the landing-support force cruising formation or independently and have the task of diverting the enemy in false directions.

The purpose of a group of landing-support auxiliaries (naval weapons transports, hospital ships, repair ships, and others) is to replenish supplies of materiel and provide medical and technical support to ship groups during sea transit and in the landing area.

430. The purpose of a large unit (group) of offshore defense ships formed from the landing force screening ships and ASW aviation is to provide antiair, ASW, anti-small-combatant, mine-countermeasures, and counter-swimmer defense for ships and auxiliaries in the landing area.

431. A landing base is established to support the landing of follow-on landing force echelons. It cooperates with the rear services of the landing forces to replenish them with all types of materiel and personnel, evacuate the wounded and sick and damaged equipment and weapons, and maintain supplies of materiel. A landing base is established in a sector seized by the landing force and has a width of up to 30 km for a division, up to 10 km for a brigade, and up to six km for a regiment. It is equipped with piers, depots, access roads, and navigational buoyage. As a rule, the landing base forces include: traffic control and special subunits; landing base rear services; surveillance, communications, and hydrographic groups; and other special troops and services of the fleet. When necessary, and upon the order of the senior officer in charge, subunits of the Ground Forces and naval infantry, an offshore defense large unit (group), and coastal missile-artillery units are included in the landing base forces to defend its offshore waters.

When the landing force being landed is a regiment-size landing force, a landing base may not be established. In this case, the tasks assigned to it [the landing base] are carried out by subunits assigned from the landing-support forces and the landing troops.

432. As a rule, the commander of a squadron (division) of the amphibious landing force or of another fleet formation [ob'yedineniye] (large unit) is designated as the commander of the landing-support forces. He is responsible for the following: the embarkation, sea transit, and landing of the landing

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force in the assigned area; fire support for the deployment of the landing-support forces, fire preparation and fire support for the landing, and close fire support [ognevoye soprovozhdeniye] for landing force actions on shore; the defense and protection of the landing force during sea transit and during the landing; the delivery of materiel; the evacuation by sea of the wounded and sick and of damaged weapons, combat equipment, and other equipment; and the organization of the search-and-rescue service.

In order to ensure control of the landing-support forces, a landing-support forces staff is set up.

433. The following persons are subordinate to the commander of the landing-support forces: the landing ship detachment commanders, who are, as a rule, selected from the commanders of landing ship large units; the commander of the fire-support ship detachment, who is selected from the commanders of the ship large units participating in the fire destruction of the the enemy during the amphibious assault; the commanders of ship strike and support groups; the landing force commander (the commander of a division, brigade, regiment, or battalion) from the time the senior officer in charge gives the order to embark the troops onto ships up to the time the main forces of the first echelon of the landing force have been put ashore; the commanders of tactical airborne landing forces which have been landed from air-capable ships; the commander for the offshore defense of the landing area, who is selected from the commanders of large units of ASW ships or minesweepers; the commander of the landing base, who is selected from the commanders (chiefs of staff) of the fleet large units (units) supporting the landing (unloading) of the landing force on shore, supplying the troops with all types of materiel and personnel, and evacuating the wounded and sick; and the commanders of diversionary and decoy groups of ships (auxiliaries).

434. The landing force commander (the commander of a division, brigade, regiment, or battalion) is responsible for the preparation of [...]

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[...] supporting forces when embarking troops onto ships, during transit to the landing area, during the amphibious assault, and after landing the landing force right up until it has carried out its task on shore.

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The senior officer in charge, upon whose decision the amphibious landing force is landed, organizes cooperation in support of the forces operating on the main axis. This involves coordinating the following: the procedures for joint actions by front troops, fleet forces, large units and units of aviation, and air defense forces and means to gain supremacy on the sea and in the air; the delivery of nuclear and conventional strikes against the enemy's antilanding defense; actions by the landing force and the landing-support forces during all phases of the amphibious landing; joint actions by amphibious and airborne landing forces; actions by amphibious and airborne landing forces and the troops and forces supporting (covering) them during the execution of tasks on shore; the organization and conduct of air defense; the procedures for linking up amphibious and airborne landing forces with troops attacking frontally and for their joint actions; all types of support measures; and the organization of control. At the same time, procedures are set up for the mutual exchange of information and the identification of our own troops and forces at sea and on shore, and a unified system for warning and target designation is established.

439. In order to embark a division, an embarkation point which includes several regimental sectors is designated. In each regimental sector two or three main embarkation points and one or two alternate embarkation points are selected so that not more than one reinforced battalion is being embarked simultaneously at each of them.

The distance between adjacent embarkation points must, as a rule, be great enough to preclude the possibility of two embarkation points being hit with one medium-yield nuclear warhead.

In order to ensure precise organization of the embarkation (landing) and the maintenance of order, the commander of the landing-support forces designates embarkation (landing) officers [komendanty punktov posadki (vysadki)], and officers from the landing force are detailed to assist them.

During embarkation, landing force subunits and their means of reinforcement, without disruption of their organizational integrity, are loaded onto ships, and the order in which they will be committed to battle is taken into account. The landing force's antiaircraft means that can be fired from landing ships and transports (auxiliaries) are placed, as a rule, on the upper deck. The order in which the landing force subunits are embarked (loaded) must be the reverse of the order in which they are landed (unloaded).

During embarkation, the commander of the landing-support forces exercises control over the landing-support forces and the landing force units from his command post on board ship or from a control post on shore that is equipped with radio, radio-relay, and landline communications means.

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440. The sea transit of the landing force is carried out in a dispersed manner, observing all cover-and-deception measures, and, as a rule, is done at night. The transit formation must ensure that all forces arrive at the landing area by the assigned time, in the prescribed order, and in highest readiness to execute the assigned combat tasks.

The sea transit may be carried out in a single cruising formation or independently in separate detachments, depending on the conditions of the situation, the mine threat, and the troop echelonment adopted for the landing.

441. The senior officer in charge organizes coverage of landing-support forces from strikes by enemy ships and aviation and neutralization of enemy airfields and missile launchers within effective range of where the transit of the landing force is being carried out.

Close and distant screens [blizhneye i dal'neye okhraneniye] are set up to protect landing ship detachments in sea transit from strikes by submarines, surface ships, aviation, and antiship missiles and to provide them with a mine-countermeasures defense. Surface ships form a close screen for landing ship detachments to provide them direct cover. A distant screen (ship or airborne) is provided, as a rule, to cover the entire cruising formation of the landing-support forces.

442. In waiting areas and embarkation points, landing troops are protected against weapons of mass destruction by the landing force in cooperation with a flotilla of mixed forces (or a naval base) in the operational zone (zone of responsibility) where the landing force embarkation is to take place. The commander of the landing-support forces organizes protection against weapons of mass destruction when the landing force is being embarked onto ships, during its sea transit, and during the amphibious assault.

443. When the landing force is in sea transit and when the first echelon is being landed, the following are located at the command post of the landing-support forces: the landing force commander, his command post, and his aviation combat control group which is detailed to support the landing forces.

The deputy commander of the landing-support forces and the deputy commander of the landing force (division, brigade, regiment, or battalion) with a group of staff officers are located on another ship, where the alternate command post is set up.

Communications for the division (brigade, regiment, and battalion) commander when troops are being embarked onto ships, during sea transit, and during the landing are organized through the communications means of the fleet, and after the landing they are organized through their own means.

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444. The amphibious assault landing includes tactical deployment of the landing-support forces, fire destruction of the enemy, the clearing of lanes in minefields and antilanding barriers in the water and on shore on the approaches to embarkation points, the sweeping of [mines from] the maneuver areas of the landing ship detachments and the fire-support ship detachment, the landing of the landing force on shore, and the defense of forces in the landing area.

445. When approaching the landing area and during the landing, the commander of the landing-support forces may, together with the landing force commander, change the landing points within the limits of the designated area, based on enemy opposition and the tasks assigned to the landing force and taking into account the speed and ease of landing the landing force. The final decision on changing the landing points (or landing point) is made by the commander of the landing-support forces.

446. Tactical deployment is carried out on orders from the commander of the landing-support forces. The area selected for deployment must lie outside the effective range of fire from the shore. During deployment the situation in the landing area is updated, fire support for the deployment is provided, enemy radioelectronic means are suppressed, picket ships on the approaches to the coast are destroyed, fire-support ships occupy their assigned maneuver areas, aviation groups are concentrated in waiting areas, and all ships and transports (auxiliaries) occupy their assigned places in combat formations.

447. Landing ship detachments begin to form up into combat formation upon a signal from their commanders when they approach the tactical deployment line. This includes dividing the landing ship detachments into landing ship groups, forming them up into waves [v volny], and having ships take up close fire support positions on the flanks of the first waves of landing ships (landing craft).

448. Landing ship detachments must be completely formed up by the time the first wave of landing ship detachments approaches the departure line, which should be well-equipped with visible markers (buoys, spar buoys). A small combatant with a control officer [ofitser-regulirovshchik] aboard is positioned on the departure line to synchronize the approach of successive waves.

449. Fire destruction of the enemy during the amphibious assault includes: fire support for the deployment of landing-support forces; fire preparation for the landing; fire support for the landing; and close fire support for the landing force's actions on shore. This is accomplished by the weapons of fleet forces, aviation, and landing troops.

Fire support for the deployment of landing-support forces usually begins when the landing force approaches the deployment area [rayon razvertyvaniya] and it continues until fire preparation for the landing begins. It is carried out

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through the delivery of strikes by missile troops, front and long-range aviation, and fleet forces against the enemy's nuclear attack means, his coastal missile-artillery units, long-range artillery, airfields, and air defense installations and also against his most important antilanding defense installations. When nuclear weapons are employed, massed nuclear strikes may be delivered against the enemy prior to deployment.

Fire preparation for the landing begins upon a signal from the commander of the landing-support forces and, as a rule, is carried out by aviation and the fire-support ship detachment before the amphibious landing craft with the subunits of the lead detachments (or the first echelon) approach their landing points. Those targets that can take counteractions against the deployment and actions of minesweepers, lead detachments, and tactical airborne landing forces are destroyed first. At the same time, strikes are delivered by missile troops and aviation against enemy groupings and installations in the depth of his defense, and his systems and means for controlling troops and weapons are radioelectronically suppressed.

Fire support for the landing begins when the amphibious landing craft reach the line where the enemy can effectively operate against the forward subunits of the landing force by using his weapons at the front edge of his defense (two to three km) and continues until the landing force seizes the main strong points in the enemy's antilanding defense (the first position) at a depth of three to five km, sometimes even more. It is carried out by aviation detailed to support the landing force and by shipboard and landing force artillery, with the main efforts concentrated on directly hitting the enemy on shore and in the immediate depth of his defense.

Close fire support for the landing force's actions on shore is conducted over the entire depth of the tasks assigned to the landing force through uninterrupted fire using the landing force's artillery and shipboard guns and also by delivering concentrated, grouped, and single strikes using aviation and missiles with conventional warheads against the enemy's defending troops, reserves, and other targets.

450. Lanes are cleared in minefields in the water on the approaches to landing points and in the maneuver areas of the fire-support ship detachment (OKOP) by groups of minesweepers and mine-countermeasures helicopters as the landing force moves toward its landing points. Lanes are cleared in antilanding barriers in shallows by specially designated obstacle-clearing ships and detachments from engineer units and from subunits of the landing-support forces which are landed from air cushion landing craft and helicopters. Lanes are cleared on shore by the landing troops and on beaches in the forward edge of the defense by obstacle-clearing detachments from the landing-support forces.

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451. The amphibious landing force is landed on an unprepared beach, in a port, or simultaneously on a beach and in a port. The landing may be carried out by the "shore-to-shore method" (i.e., without transferring troops from auxiliaries to landing means), by the "ship-to-shore method" (i.e., transferring troops from auxiliaries to landing means such as landing craft or helicopters), or by a combination of these methods, whereby the first echelon of the landing force is landed by the "shore-to-shore method" and the second and subsequent echelons by the "ship-to-shore method."

452. The assault landing must be completed rapidly and at the assigned tempo in accordance with the landing force commander's decision on the conduct of combat actions and must ensure the rapid seizure of landing points and the successful performance of tasks on shore.

As a rule, the task of the amphibious landing force is divided into the immediate task and the subsequent task.

The immediate task consists of seizing sectors of the coast and establishing a beachhead for the landing, defeating the first echelon units of the enemy's antilanding defense, and developing the offensive into the depth by reaching lines which ensure the conduct of further combat actions.

As a rule, the subsequent task consists of developing the offensive, defeating approaching enemy reserves, and seizing and holding areas (lines) which ensure the execution of tasks assigned to the landing force.

In favorable conditions the overall depth of the landing force's combat task may extend as far as 50 km for a division, 40 km for a brigade, and 30 km for a regiment.

453. A division (brigade, regiment) is usually landed in several echelons, the number and composition of which depend on the assigned task, the landing conditions, and the availability of amphibious transports. To seize landing points, the first-echelon regiments of the landing force will, as a rule, send in lead detachments, each as large as a reinforced battalion; a division (brigade) may also send in a tactical airborne landing force.

The lead detachments proceed on fast amphibious transports, including air cushion vehicles, wing-in-ground-effect vehicles [korabli ekranoplany], and helicopters and are put ashore, as a rule, after the enemy's antilanding defense has been reliably neutralized at the landing points. In this case, air cushion vehicles and wing-in-ground-effect vehicles proceed to the landing area, as a rule, as independent detachments (groups).

Landing force units (subunits) supplied with amphibious armored equipment and individual landing craft and trained for actions in at-sea conditions may

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cover short distances under their own power under favorable hydrometeorological conditions and may operate on an independent axis as a separate landing group or within the lead detachment (first echelon) of an amphibious landing. Lead ships, screening ships, and search-and-rescue ships (small combatants) are detailed to support a separate landing group.

454. The purpose of lead detachments is to seize landing points and support the landing of first echelon units (subunits). The following are put ashore with a lead detachment: reconnaissance subunits, obstacle-clearing groups, chemical reconnaissance patrols, shipboard gunnery fire correction posts, aviation guidance posts, hydrographic and search-and-rescue subunits, and also subunits for the establishment of the landing base.

In order to ensure the rapid seizure of landing points, a portion of the subunits of the lead detachment (first echelon) may be put ashore from helicopters. These helicopters take off from coastal airfields (helipads), from air-capable ships, or from specially equipped ships (auxiliaries).

455. Prior to or simultaneously with an amphibious landing a tactical airborne landing force may be dropped (landed) to seize and hold landing points, seize important areas on the coast and in the depth, or it may prevent enemy reserves from advancing to the amphibious landing area, and perform other tasks. Tactical airborne landings are usually a component part of an amphibious landing.

456. Once the first echelon subunits have been put ashore they do not pile up in the coastal area, but promptly deploy into combat formation, and with support from aviation strikes and fire from ships, tanks, and artillery they go over to the attack, destroy the enemy on shore, and develop the offensive in depth. Subunits attacking in the direction of the airborne landing force's combat action areas rapidly move to link up with it and continue joint combat actions.

As the landing force's missile unit, artillery, and air defense subunits are unloaded, they occupy launch and firing positions and support the combat actions of the landing force troops that have been landed.

457. At the time the first echelon of the landing force is put ashore, a forward control post is deployed to control the landing force and its supporting forces and means. Then the command post, the alternate command post, and the rear control post are deployed. An aviation combat control group and operations groups from the staff of the landing-support forces and from the fire-support ship detachment, along with communications means, are located at the command post of the landing force commander. During the landing of a regiment-size landing force, a command post and a rear control post are deployed.

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458. As a rule, the second echelon units and subunits of the landing force begin to land right after the first echelon at all landing points. Auxiliaries, as a rule, are unloaded in areas which have been swept for mines and which lie outside the effective range of the enemy's antilanding defense fire means. When the enemy's defense has been neutralized, the unloading areas of auxiliaries may be moved closer to shore.

459. During the amphibious assault, ships and aviation provide fire support and then close fire support for the landing force's actions on shore, cover the landing area from strikes by enemy ships and aviation, prevent enemy reserves from approaching, cover the landing base from strikes from seaward, supply the landing force with materiel, and evacuate the wounded and sick.

460. After the islands in the outer fringe of skerries have been seized, in order to reach the mainland an amphibious landing is made in a skerry area and it consists of a series of repeated crossings from island to island, making extensive use of division (brigade, regimental) amphibious crossing means, amphibious tanks, infantry combat vehicles (armored personnel carriers), tanks with individual water crossing equipment, landing ships, landing craft, and helicopters.

Cooperation with Troops Advancing along a Maritime Axis

461. Offensive combat actions are conducted on maritime axes through the joint efforts of large units and units of the Ground Forces, the fleet, and airborne troops in cooperation with coastal large units and units of the Air Defense Forces with centralized control over all large units participating in the combat actions. The main features of these combat actions are: the conduct of combat actions simultaneously against groupings of enemy ground forces, aviation, and naval forces; the conduct of an offensive by a portion of the forces along a seacoast (ocean coast) when there is an exposed coastal flank; extensive employment of amphibious landings; the repulse of enemy strikes from the sea; and the execution of tasks connected with the assault crossing of estuaries, bays, and straits and with the seizure of straits zones and islands.

462. When a large unit of the Ground Forces is conducting an offensive along a seacoast or the bank of a large river, ships (small combatants), coastal missile-artillery units, and naval aviation may be allocated to participate in the fire preparation, fire support, and close fire support for the offensive; to cover the large unit from strikes by enemy surface ships and small combatants; to prevent the evacuation and resupply of enemy troops by sea; and to support the delivery of materiel and the evacuation of the wounded and sick.

463. Fire support for Ground Forces large units advancing along a seacoast or the bank of a large river is carried out by a fire-support ship detachment

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formed especially for this purpose, by individual ships and small combatants, and, in some cases, by aviation and coastal missile-artillery units.

464. Tasks for participation in fire preparation, fire support, and close fire support are received by the commanders of the fire-support ship detachment and the aviation and coastal missile-artillery units from their senior officer or directly from the commander of the Ground Forces large unit which is being supported. At the same time, they receive all the necessary data on the targets of fire, the anticipated enemy countermeasures, the nature of the terrain, and other information necessary for successful performance of the assigned tasks.

The commander of the fleet large unit (unit) informs the commander of the Ground Forces large unit of the combat capabilities of his forces and the most advantageous conditions for their combat employment.

In order for the fleet large unit (unit) to cooperate with the Ground Forces large unit (unit) which is being supported, the following are established: common reference points [edinyye oriyentiry], mutual identification signals, signals for requesting, transferring, and ceasing fire, and the methods of target designation.

465. Artillery reconnaissance, final reconnaissance of targets, and correction of fire during battle are carried out by the artillery observation forces and means of the Ground Forces, by reconnaissance aircraft (spotter aircraft), and spotting posts. As a rule, fire is corrected by the spotting posts of the forces being supported or by spotting aircraft (helicopters). The shipborne spotting posts of fire-support ship detachment strike groups may also be used to perform these tasks. The posts are landed with the forward subunits of the landing force (when the amphibious force lands) or proceed within the combat formations of the Ground Forces receiving fire support. Spotting posts may be put ashore with deep reconnaissance groups.

466. When cooperating with Ground Forces crossing wide water obstacles (large rivers, straits, and bays), fleet (flotilla) large units and units may be used to provide fire support for troops making assault crossings, to transport troops and cargo, to cover crossings from strikes by enemy ships and combat swimmer forces and means, to assist in clearing lanes in barriers set up in the water, to provide search-and-rescue support on water, and to land landing forces for the seizure of crossings, bridges, islands, and sectors of the coast in support of the actions of the Ground Forces.

Troops crossing a water obstacle and the fleet (flotilla) forces supporting them are supervised by the large-unit (unit) commander of the Ground Forces. The fleet (flotilla) forces detailed for cooperation are subordinated to him for a specified time or operate as support forces.

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Cooperation with Troops Defending on a Maritime Axis

467. The defense of a seacoast or island (group of islands) is organized and carried out by large units and units of a maritime front (army) in cooperation with large units and units of a fleet (flotilla) to repel enemy strikes from the sea, repel amphibious landing forces, and hold (defend) important coastal installations.

Combat actions to repel an enemy amphibious landing force are the aggregate of actions coordinated as to target, task, place, and time and are conducted by large units and units of a maritime front (army), large units and units of a fleet (flotilla), and also by large units and units from other branches of the Armed Forces to defend the seacoast and engage amphibious landing forces.

468. In order to conduct combat actions to repel an enemy amphibious landing the following are organized: the antilanding defense of the coast, which includes groupings of troops and forces formed in accordance with the concept of the combat actions; a system of prepared defense lines and positions; a system of integrated fire destruction of the enemy in nearshore waters and on shore; engineer obstacles, air defense, and airborne landing countermeasures.

The main efforts are concentrated on holding the basing areas of fleet forces, ports, and sectors of the coast suitable for amphibious landings. At the same time, large units and units of the Ground Forces and fleet forces must also be ready to repel amphibious landings on other axes.

Depending on the concept of the battle, the nature of the terrain, and the navigational conditions in the offshore zone, the forward edge of the defense may lie right along the coast or some distance away from it. When the forward line of the defense is moved into the depth, a forward position is set up at the water's edge. The main forces defending the seacoast are usually deployed in the depth in readiness to maneuver along [amphibious] landing threat axes; a portion of the forces may occupy defensive positions right on the coastline.

The basis of the organization of the antilanding defense on the seacoast must be the concentration of forces on the main landing threat axes by decisively maneuvering troops, forces, and means onto these axes. A high-density defense is set up, as a rule, in sectors and on axes most accessible to amphibious landings. A limited number of troops and forces are detailed onto other axes. Only patrolling, observation, and reconnaissance may be organized on axes and in sectors where an enemy amphibious landing is unlikely.

469. A system for integrated fire destruction of the enemy is organized so as to deliver fire strikes against the enemy landing forces from maximum range

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and to increase the effect of fire as the enemy approaches the defended coast. It includes: previously planned strikes by missile troops, aviation, and coastal missile-artillery units; massed and concentrated artillery fire against the most important landing force groupings; rolling barrage fire [podvizhnyy zagradytel'nyy ogon'] on the routes along which the enemy's amphibious landing craft move toward the shore; and standing barrage fire [nepodvizhnyy zagradytel'nyy ogon'] along the water's edge and in the depth of the defense; artillery and direct tank fire; and a system of fire by antitank (antiship) means and small arms.

Missile troops and aviation prepare strikes against areas where amphibious transports may be concentrated, against landing force embarkation points, and against landing force ships and transports (auxiliaries) in sea transit; in the areas where landing-support forces are deployed and where troops and equipment are loaded onto landing craft; and on the approaches to possible landing sectors. Artillery prepares fire against enemy landing forces and ships, beginning at the limits of its range. As the landing forces approach the shore, the intensity of artillery fire should increase. Guns, tanks, and guided-antitank-missile subunits detailed for direct fire are, as a rule, in readiness to maneuver to previously prepared firing positions and lines to destroy enemy landing craft and amphibious tanks when they approach the shore.

The system of fire is closely coordinated with the system of obstacles in the water and on shore.

470. The system of engineer obstacles includes a complex of minefields in the sea on the departure, movement, and deployment routes of landing forces and also antilanding, antitank, and antipersonnel obstacles set up in the water near the defended coast, on shore, and in the depth of the defense. Fleet forces set up antilanding obstacles in the water at depths greater than five meters, and engineer troops (units) from Ground Forces large units set up obstacles at depths less than that.

471. As a rule, a 360-degree defense is set up for islands, naval bases, and ports.

When defending a group of closely spaced islands or a skerry area, a Ground Forces large unit (unit) may be reinforced with amphibious crossing means, which are employed to support the movement and [water] crossing of units (subunits) in order to reinforce the defense on islands in case they are under threat of enemy seizure.

472. Large units (groups) of surface ships and units of naval infantry, coastal missile-artillery troops, naval aviation, and other fleet forces may be designated to participate in joint combat actions with large units (units) of the Ground Forces defending a seacoast. While combat actions are being

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conducted, the above [naval forces] are made operationally subordinate to the commander of a Ground Forces formation, and sometimes to the commander of a Ground Forces large unit. They conduct reconnaissance at sea, oppose enemy reconnaissance, destroy troop-carrying amphibious transports, deliver strikes against enemy ships, lay minefields on the most probable axes for a landing force's movement and landing, assist defending forces in destroying amphibious forces and airborne landing forces that have landed, and also support the transport by sea of our own troops and the delivery of materiel.

473. When making a decision on combat actions to repel an amphibious landing, the large-unit commander responsible for the defense of a sector of the coast determines the following: the concept of the combat actions, the area and time for delivering the main strike, and which forces will deliver the main strike; the methods for inflicting damage on the amphibious landing force in its concentration and embarkation areas, when it is in sea transit, and when the landing is being repelled and combat actions are being conducted on shore; the procedures for nuclear and fire destruction of the enemy; the combat formation of the large unit; the tasks assigned to attached and supporting large units and units; the procedures for cooperation and support; and the organization of control.

474. Based on the decision of the large-unit commander responsible for the antilanding defense and on the tasks assigned to him, the commander of a fleet large unit (unit) makes the decision on combat actions to repel an amphibious landing. It specifies the following: the concept of the actions; the methods for delivering strikes against the landing force and the covering forces; the procedures for nuclear and fire destruction of the enemy; the combat formation of the large unit (unit); the tasks assigned to units and ships; the procedures for cooperation and support; the organization of control, including the system for monitoring the situation, and the organization of communications and identification; and also common reference points for the defending troops and the fleet forces.

475. In general, the combat formation of a fleet large unit must include reconnaissance groups, strike groups to deliver strikes against the enemy on the approaches to his landing area and while he is landing, and groups for laying minefields, for radioelectronic warfare, and for other supporting actions.

Coastal missile and artillery units are dispersed in frontage and depth, taking into account their ability to move their fire onto a threat axis and change positions on the march to such an axis. When this is done, units located in one area, as a rule, unite into a coastal strike group [beregovaya udarnaya gruppa].

476. Strikes against an enemy amphibious landing begin at the moment when enemy forces come within range of the operational-tactical missiles of the

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Ground Forces and the coastal missile units of the fleet. The strikes must increase as the landing forces get closer to shore. Maximum damage is inflicted, as a rule, in the deployment area of the enemy landing ship detachments.

During a battle to repel an amphibious landing, nuclear strikes are delivered first against troop-carrying amphibious transports in the areas where they are most concentrated.

477. When an enemy amphibious landing force approaches the shore, fire from all the antilanding defense's means is concentrated against the enemy's amphibious transports, his landing ships and helicopters, amphibious tanks, and infantry combat vehicles (armored personnel carriers) in order to prevent them from approaching the shore, landing his landing force, and consolidating it on shore.

Airborne landing forces are destroyed by those units in whose sectors they land, by antilanding reserves, and by the second echelon of the defending division (regiment).

A unit of the enemy's amphibious landing force that has landed on shore is blockaded by sea and from the air.

Units and subunits defending on that axis must not allow the enemy landing forces to advance into the depth, consolidate their forces, combine the beachheads seized by them, or link their amphibious landing forces up with their airborne forces.

Enemy forces that have landed are destroyed by the fire weapons of defending Ground Forces units (subunits) and surface ships, by strikes from missile units and aviation, and by decisive counterattacks from the depth of the division's second echelon.

In these actions the main efforts of ships and aviation are concentrated on delivering strikes against the enemy in order to prevent the follow-on echelons of his landing forces from approaching the landing area.

The defeat of the amphibious landing force is completed by moving troops onto the shore to prevent the [enemy] landing force from withdrawing toward evacuation embarkation points and by delivering strikes by aviation, surface ships, and coastal missile-artillery units against withdrawing amphibious landing forces and their support ships.

478. When repelling an amphibious landing in a skerry area, surface ships, aviation, and units of coastal missile-artillery troops deliver strikes against enemy ships as they approach the skerries, preventing the advance of troop-

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carrying amphibious transports into the depth of the skerry area along internal channels, and they also destroy landing ships and auxiliaries loaded with troops comprising the landing force's follow-on echelons.

479. When defending a seacoast and repelling an amphibious landing, the commander of a Ground Forces large unit (unit) exercises control over subordinate units (subunits) from control posts deployed in locations from which it is possible to observe the sea and the coast in the sectors where an enemy landing is most probable and from which reliable communications are maintained with subordinate and cooperating units and subunits.

Communications between a fleet large unit, the units (subunits) of coastal missile-artillery troops, and ships, as a rule, are set up over liaison radio nets [po radiosetyam vzaimodeystviya] through [naval] officers sent with their own communications means to the command post of the Ground Forces large unit (unit), or over the radio nets of the fleet and of units of coastal missile-artillery troops. Radio-relay and landline communications are set up with the means of the Ground Forces, using the existing communications lines and centers on the seacoast and the mobile means of the Ground Forces and cooperating units (subunits).

In the event the defense of a sector of the coast is assigned to the commander of a fleet large unit, representatives from cooperating large units (units) of aviation and the Ground Forces must be stationed at his command post with their own communications means.

When organizing control it is necessary to precisely define who commands what forces when and where and also to define the procedures for subordination and resubordination of large units and units.

480. Troops are transported by sea in order to regroup them on maritime and other axes, to deliver materiel to isolated sectors of the coast and islands, and also to evacuate troops and materiel from isolated sectors of the coast and islands.

As a rule, the transport of troops and materiel is carried out by convoys or individual auxiliaries. In certain cases, large units of landing ships, large units of support auxiliaries, and surface ships may be used to perform this task.

481. The evacuation by sea of a large unit (unit) of the Ground Forces or a large unit (unit) of naval infantry from an isolated sector of the seacoast (or an island) is conducted after they have executed their assigned task in order to regroup troops or withdraw them from possible enemy strikes, occupy more advantageous lines, and gain the time necessary to prepare active follow-up combat actions.

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The evacuation of troops is conducted only upon the order of the senior officer in charge and is carried out in a well-organized and covert manner.

The responsibility for directing an evacuation is assigned to an officer from the Ground Forces or the Navy.

Depending on the assigned task, the enemy opposition, the availability of amphibious transports, and the possibilities of concentrating them, the evacuation may be conducted in one or several phases, and sometimes in the form of a crossing.

482. In order to evacuate troops, evacuation forces are formed from the composition of the naval forces. The evacuation forces include landing ship detachments, a fire-support ship detachment, ship search-strike groups, minesweeping groups, and other support groups.

The commander of a large unit of ships is designated as the commander of the evacuation forces. He is responsible for concentrating amphibious transports at the evacuating troops' embarkation points in a timely manner, organizing their loading and accommodation on ships and auxiliaries, covering their embarkation and transit from strikes from seaward, providing fire support from the fire-support ship detachment for the troop withdrawal, and unloading troops in the assigned area (or points) in a timely manner.

483. In his combat order the commander of the evacuation forces specifies the following: the composition and tasks of the landing ship detachments, of the fire-support ship detachment, and of the other large units and units included in the evacuation forces; the embarkation sectors and points for the evacuating troops; the embarkation officers; the sequence, times, and procedures for embarking the troops and loading armament and equipment; the procedures for forming detachments (groups) after the embarkation; their routes and [cruising] formation to the landing area; the times and the organization for landing (unloading) the troops; the measures for all types of defense, cover and deception, and support at embarkation points, during sea transit, and in the landing area; and the organization of control.

484. The commander of the large unit (unit) of the evacuating forces exercises control over the evacuation until the main forces have completed the embarkation. After the main forces have embarked, the large-unit (unit) commander boards ship, and control over cover for embarkation (loading) is transferred to the commander of the evacuating forces. The commanders of the covering, obstacle [-laying], and demolition units (subunits), as well as the embarkation officers, are the last to board ships with their subunits.

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