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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 : WARSAW PACT JOURNAL: The Navies of  
the Fraternal Countries

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on articles from a ~~SECRET~~ Soviet publication called Information Collection of the Headquarters and the Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces. This article is one of a number devoted to the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Pact. It briefly surveys trends in the development of US and NATO naval forces and then outlines the major achievements of the Warsaw Pact maritime countries since the mid-50s in improving the combat capabilities of their navies, with special emphasis on current combined operational and combat training measures designed to strengthen cooperation among the Pact's navies for the purpose of countering the NATO naval threat. This journal is published by Warsaw Pact Headquarters in Moscow, and it consists of articles by Warsaw Pact officers. This article appeared in Issue No. 19, which was published in 1980.

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. For ease of reference, reports from this publication have been assigned the [redacted] Codeword [redacted].

[redacted]  
John N. McMahon

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# Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRYUSSR/WARSAW PACT

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DATE 28 November 1980

SUBJECT

WARSAW PACT JOURNAL: The Navies of the Fraternal Countries

SOURCE Documentary  
Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an article from a SECRET Soviet publication called Information Collection of the Headquarters and the Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces. This journal is published by Warsaw Pact Headquarters in Moscow, and it consists of articles by Warsaw Pact officers. This article, part of a series devoted to the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Pact, was written by Admiral V. V. Mikhaylin, Deputy Commander-in-Chief for the Navy of the Combined Armed Forces. The author briefly surveys recent trends in the development of US and NATO naval forces and then outlines the main achievements of the Warsaw Pact maritime countries since the mid-50s in improving the combat capabilities of their navies. These include a major ship-building program and the introduction of new naval weapons and combat equipment. Special emphasis is placed on the operational and combat training measures being carried out in common by the national navies in order to strengthen cooperation among them for the purpose of countering the NATO naval threat. In particular, considerable attention is being paid by the Pact's navies to training for amphibious landing operations and to working out methods of repelling an enemy landing from the sea. This article appeared in Issue No. 19, which was published in 1980.

End of Summary

[Redacted box] Comment:

Admiral Vladimir Vasilyevich Mikhaylin has served in his current position since February 1979.

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The Navies of the Fraternal Countries

by

Admiral V. V. MIKHAYLIN  
Deputy Commander-in-Chief for the Navy  
of the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states



The personnel of the allied navies are greeting the 25th year of the Warsaw Pact Organization in an atmosphere of high combat and political activity. This glorious anniversary once again demonstrates to the entire world the triumph of Lenin's teaching on the defense of the socialist fatherland and bears witness to the enormous efforts of the communist and workers' parties in the struggle for peace, socialism, progress, and independence and security for all peoples.

As we solemnly celebrate the quarter-century anniversary of the Warsaw Pact Organization, we look back upon the victorious spring of 1945, when the final salvos of the great battle against fascism announced to the entire world that Hitler's Germany had been totally defeated.

Directing all its efforts to assisting the ground forces, the Soviet Navy made a large contribution to this great victory which took almost four years to achieve. Forty brigades, six separate regiments, and a large number of separate battalions of naval infantry -- a total of more than 400,000 officers, petty officers, and sailors of the USSR's Navy -- fought on the ground fronts. The Navy also conducted an intense struggle against the enemy at sea and supported the operational stability of the coastal flanks of the fronts, assisting the troops in defensive and offensive operations. The Navy smashed the enemy's sea power in all naval theaters

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adjacent to the coast. More than 1,200 combat vessels and over 1,300 transports of the enemy were destroyed by the strikes of ships and naval aviation in the war years. Throughout the war, the fleets and flotillas supported 114 amphibious landings in which nearly 250,000 men participated.

In the postwar period, true to their international duty, the sailors of the Baltic Sea and Black Sea Fleets rendered great assistance to fraternal maritime countries in eliminating the danger of mines in the Baltic and Black seas, particularly at the approaches to ports and naval bases. Tens of thousands of mines were swept up and deactivated by them.\*

The Soviet Union rendered invaluable assistance to the people's democracies also in establishing, forming, and developing their naval forces. It supplied them with ships and combat equipment, shared its combat experience, and helped organize the training of line officers and specialists.

Owing to the selfless assistance of the Soviet Union and the successes in building socialism, the national navies of the fraternal countries were reinforced with modern ships and were able in a short time to work out the organizational structure of units and large units, to prepare cadres of combat seamen, and to establish a system for the basing and control of forces.

The first postwar decade, characterized by insignificant evolutionary changes within the framework of the traditional directions of building naval forces, gave way during the next two decades to an extensive introduction into the navies of the newest types of weapons which fundamentally changed their mission.

The US and its allies have devoted a great deal of attention to the development of their naval forces. Nowadays they are concentrating heretofore unprecedented naval power in the world's oceans. Its basis now consists of a strategic nuclear grouping of naval-based forces which has 49 nuclear missile submarines (the US has 41 and Great Britain and France have four each) carrying 784 ballistic missiles.

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\* Throughout World War II, the opposing sides laid out a total of 78,000 mines in the Baltic Sea and 45,000 mines in the Black Sea.

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Unremitting attention is being paid to the development of carrier forces, which comprise the backbone of the general-purpose forces and the reserves of strategic nuclear forces. At present, the US and NATO carrier forces include 15 multipurpose and attack aircraft carriers having nearly 1,300 aircraft and helicopters on board.

The amphibious forces, which are capable of simultaneously transferring across an ocean and landing up to two expeditionary divisions of naval infantry on an unprepared shore, are an important component of the naval power of the probable enemy.

An extensive program is being carried out for constructing new types of multipurpose submarines and surface ships and for increasing the state of technical equipping of a navy's forces with the latest systems of weapons and combat and technical means.

One feature in the development of shipborne weapons is the beginning of a massive introduction into service in the navies of NATO countries of the antiship general-purpose Harpoon cruise missiles, with which it is planned to arm surface ships, nuclear submarines, and strike aviation.

Considerable attention is also being paid to developing and improving artillery and torpedo weapons, as well as radioelectronic and communications means. Great efforts are being undertaken also to develop mines which can be widely used in both the Baltic and Black seas in offensive and defensive minefields.

The US and NATO are steadily building up their military presence in the Mediterranean Sea, where the American Sixth Fleet, the principal instrument of the expansionist policy of imperialism in that region, continues to play the main role in increasing the danger of war.

Besides the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea with the straits is viewed by the probable enemy as a springboard for carrying out aggression against the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries.

The NATO command attaches great importance to the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and straits zone, and also the Indian Ocean, considering these areas extremely important for the US and West European countries from the military-strategic and economic standpoint.

The training of naval forces is being carried out in accordance with US and NATO naval policy and has a clearly expressed aggressive orientation

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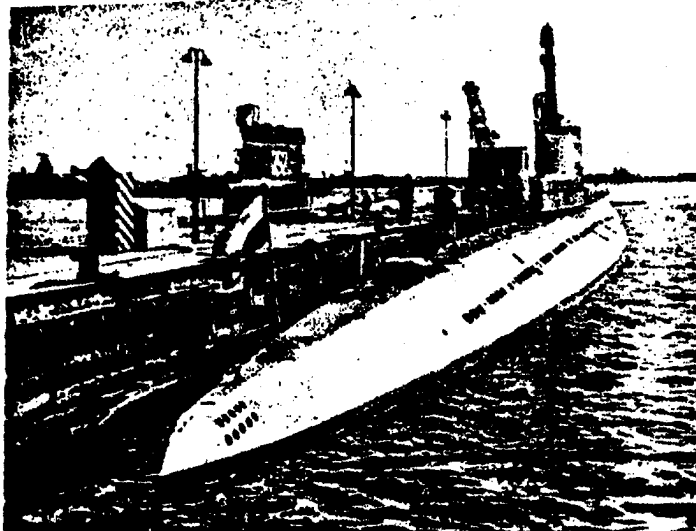
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against the socialist states.

Operational and combat training measures are being worked out by NATO naval forces with a high level of intensity. In the European and Atlantic theaters, scores of national exercises and as many as 20 combined exercises involving naval forces and means are conducted each year. In these exercises they primarily work out matters concerned with gaining supremacy at sea and with the putting ashore of amphibious landing forces, the support of seaborne transportation, and the blockading of the naval forces of the Warsaw Pact member states at their bases and the prevention of their egress through the straits. Matters concerning the employment of missiles and mines and the use of tactical aviation occupy an ever larger place in the exercises.

The improvement of the system for controlling the naval forces of the North Atlantic bloc countries is continuing. The leadership of the North Atlantic bloc countries has already established in peacetime a permanently operating organizational structure of the highest strategic military organs in order to control NATO's allied armed forces, including the allied naval forces, in the European theater of war.

A permanent large unit of naval forces in the Atlantic and a large unit of mine-sweeping forces in the English Channel strait zone are directly subordinate to the supreme commander-in-chief of NATO's allied armed forces.



A submarine of the Polish Navy prepares for a cruise

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Taking into consideration the postwar alignment of forces in the world arena, the direction of development of the imperialist states' armed forces, and the threat to the socialist countries and the cause of peace and progress in the entire world, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet government from the mid-1950s have carried out major work in creating a powerful ocean-going, missile/nuclear navy. We can say that such a qualitatively new ocean-going navy has been established by the efforts of the Soviet people.

The implementation of the ship-building program, the construction of nuclear-powered, missile-carrying submarines and of missile-carrying surface ships and ships armed with modern antisubmarine, antimine, and antiaircraft weapons, the establishment of highly mobile units of naval infantry and coastal missile units, and also the development of missile-carrying aviation have sharply increased the combat capabilities of the Soviet Navy to effectively defend our maritime borders against the intrigues of any imperialist aggressors.

The establishment of the Soviet ocean-going navy put an end to the centuries-old supremacy of the imperialist powers' naval forces on the oceans and seas and eliminated the myth about the invulnerability of transoceanic territories and the possibilities of unpunished aggression. Soviet submarines, surface ships, and aircraft are constantly on duty in the oceans and seas to defend the interests of the socialist commonwealth countries.

The navies of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, and the Socialist Republic of Romania are the object of concern of our parties and governments.

Throughout the years that the Warsaw Pact Organization has been in existence, the allied navies have undergone considerable changes in their development. Their combat capabilities to accomplish the tasks of repelling an attack by a seaborne enemy have been increased. The navies have been reinforced with new combat ships and boats, aircraft and helicopters. Their missile, artillery, antisubmarine and mine-torpedo weapons, as well as means of radioelectronics and automation are constantly being improved. The support of naval activities has also become qualitatively new. The tankers, transport and salvage vessels, tenders, and ship repair facilities belonging to the navies enable combat vessels to stay for a long time in those areas where the interests of the socialist countries require it.

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Everything which is available to the navies of the Warsaw Pact countries at the present time is the result of the latter's scientific-technical achievements and increased economic capabilities.

At the same time, taking into account the constant buildup of the military potential of naval forces being carried out by the NATO command, the allied navies cannot stop at the successes achieved and fall behind all the more in their development. Therefore, they are constantly being improved. The sea-going forces are being renewed and naval aviation, coastal missile units, and naval infantry are being strengthened. Advanced, standardized weapons and combat equipment are being widely introduced, the effectiveness of control is being increased, and the system of communications, basing, and comprehensive support is being improved. All of this improves the qualitative condition of the navies and enhances their combat capabilities.

The strength and power of the allied navies, however, do not only consist of modern combat equipment. Of most importance are the people who know their job well, have a high ideological-political consciousness, and are boundlessly devoted to the great cause of socialism and communism. Thanks to the concern of our parties and governments, the navies of the allied countries are manned mostly by young but well-prepared command-political and engineering-technical personnel, the absolute majority of whom have a higher military education, have received good technical training, and are members of our parties or communist youth organizations.

Strong fraternal bonds of friendship and combat camaraderie unite the sailors of the Warsaw Pact member states. Together they accomplish the tasks facing them. The most important of these are, above all, to effectively repel enemy aggression from the sea under any conditions in which war starts, to inflict a defeat on the enemy's main groupings of naval forces, and to assist the ground forces in conducting operations on coastal axes.

The command of the allied navies is devoting particular attention to maintaining the high combat readiness of control organs and forces for repelling enemy aggression from the sea. The historical experience of past wars and local conflicts indicates that the sudden initiation of military operations was the principal method by which wars were unleashed by an aggressor.

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The modern development of the means of armed combat has significantly expanded the opposing sides' capabilities of delivering surprise strikes against the forces of a fleet at sea and against their basing points. In addition, the negligible distances of the basing areas of the probable enemy's tactical aviation and its brief approach time to the main installations of the allied navies in the Baltic and Black seas, as well as the possibility that NATO naval forces will use the straits to secretly build up and deploy their shipborne strike groupings, impose extremely high demands on the combat readiness of our navies.

The allied navies are constantly improving the system for shifting to full combat readiness and are performing combat duty and combat alert in common.

The training of the navies to accomplish tasks by combined efforts is being carried out according to the plans of the Combined and national commands.

In the course of carrying out operational and combat training measures, the command, staffs, and personnel of the large units, units, and ships of the allied navies work out the methods of conducting naval operations and the tactics of conducting a battle in present-day conditions and strive for high indices in the use of weapons and combat equipment.

The measures being carried out in common are, moreover, a good school of military and international indoctrination for personnel.

In jointly carrying out tasks in the exercises, the sailors, officers, and admirals of the allied navies get to know one another better and are imbued even more with a feeling of friendship and respect, as well as mutual trust and mutual understanding.

The combined command-staff exercises of the allied navies occupy a special place in the operational training system. These exercises primarily consist in preparing for and conducting naval operations and combat actions to repel an enemy invasion from the sea, in participating in the anti-landing defense of the seacoast, in inflicting a defeat on the strike groupings of an aggressor's naval forces, and in assisting the ground forces in conducting operations on coastal axes.

In the exercises, the commanders of ships and boats as well as the crews of aircraft and helicopters accomplish complex tasks. Officers and sailors improve their high morale and fighting qualities and ability to

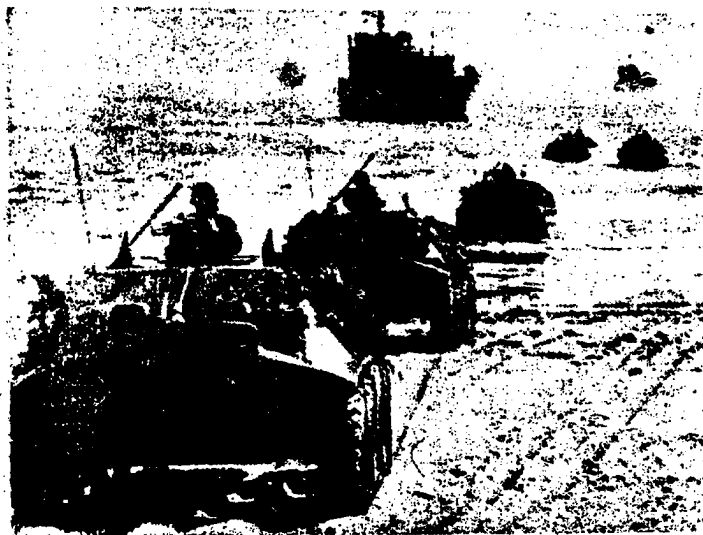
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handle weapons and equipment with skill, as well as display great will power, initiative, and perseverance.

The command of the allied navies, the admirals and officers, thoroughly understands that, however soundly and minutely the operational decisions and plans are worked out, however well-prepared are the staffs for commanding the forces in operations, in the final analysis victory in a war at sea will be achieved in a battle where large units, tactical groups, surface ships and submarines, aircraft and helicopters, coastal missile units and naval infantry are engaged. The outcome of combat against the enemy at sea will depend largely on the state of the professional and naval training of commanders and crews, on their initiative and decisiveness, on their ability to arrive at a quick and correct decision, and on the amount of their training for combined actions in unified combat formations of multinational and multiple-arm groupings of forces. In this connection, the allied navies are devoting much attention to the combined tactical training of the forces. Cruises of multinational detachments of combat ships from the allied navies are being practiced more and more often to work out joint navigation, methods of conducting a naval battle, and the defense of a large unit in a sea passage.



Debarkation of an amphibious landing force

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An important role in further improving the tactical training of the forces and staffs is played by the training practices dealing with the control of the multinational naval forces, as a result of which the tactics of conducting a naval battle with surface ships, submarines, and naval aviation have been enriched with new, effective methods of delivering rapid missile, artillery, and torpedo strikes, of searching for and destroying enemy submarines, of supporting ground forces and the debarkation of amphibious landing forces, and of combating the enemy's means of air attack and the danger of mines in the theaters.

In the combat training and practical activities of the allied navies, a large place is allotted to improving methods of cooperation with other branches of the armed forces, above all with the ground forces and air defense forces of the Warsaw Pact countries.

Much attention is paid by the allied navies to training for actions in amphibious landing operations, and the combined training of troops and naval forces is being conducted to prepare for antilanding actions. A whole set of questions is being worked out pertaining to the cooperation of a navy's multiple-arm strike forces with the front aviation, rocket troops, and front combined-arms large units which participate in repelling a landing.

During the training of the allied navies, account is taken of the fact that US and NATO naval forces have had experience in conducting amphibious landing operations during World War II. Over the last 10 years, NATO armed forces have conducted more than 120 exercises and maneuvers in which the debarkation of an amphibious landing force was worked out.

During the Korean War the US, taking advantage of the underestimation of antilanding defense by the command of the Korean People's Army, put ashore an amphibious landing force composed of an army corps in the area of the port of Inchon, which exercised a considerable influence on the subsequent course of military operations.

The success of combat actions and the maintenance of the combat stability of the strike, landing, antisubmarine, and mine-sweeping groupings of the naval forces are unthinkable without effective air cover for them and without the achievement and retention of air supremacy by our aviation.

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In view of this, the allied navies are energetically working out effective methods of combat against the probable enemy's means of air attack both independently and in cooperation with the air defense forces and means of the coastal fronts as well as with the air defense forces of the Warsaw Pact countries.



At a shipboard command post during an exercise of the East German, Polish, and Soviet navies

Cooperation among the allied navies is not confined to matters of combined training; it is constantly being developed and covers a very wide range of problems. In recent years a great deal of fruitful work has been performed by specialists of the allied navies with respect to cooperation in military-scientific projects and in the construction of new ships and armament and with respect to the elaboration of coordinated views on international legal questions connected with the use of the world ocean and the protection of civilian shipping, as well as on joint oceanographic research and the publication of maps.

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The holding of annual operations assemblies for the command personnel of the allied navies has been included in the combined practice of work. At them, unified views are worked out on employing the forces of the allied navies and on organizing cooperation among and control over them; an exchange of opinions and experience occurs concerning a wide range of questions on naval development and construction and on personnel training and indoctrination; and new training tasks and measures are planned.

A well-organized exchange of the experience gained in party-political work contributes to the successful accomplishment of the tasks facing the navies. Through coordinated plans, measures are carried out which are aimed at the indoctrination of personnel in a spirit of boundless devotion to the cause of socialism, and also at propaganda dealing with the revolutionary and combat traditions of our peoples.

Numerous contacts and meetings make it possible to improve cooperation among the political organs of the navies and to more quickly introduce into practice everything progressive. Party and youth organizations are waging a persistent struggle for personal exemplariness among communists and Komsomol members in mastering complex weapons and raising their combat proficiency, as well as for fostering among sailors a love for weapons and equipment, and faith in the power, high effectiveness, and reliability of the weapons. The number of sailors who have excelled in combat and political training and of qualified specialists who have fully mastered the new equipment and the procedures for using it is increasing from day to day in large units, units, and on ships.

The high morale and political qualities of the personnel on board the ships of the socialist commonwealth countries are strikingly displayed during their friendly visits and calls at the ports of the various states. Our sailors bring to the inhabitants of these cities the truth about the socialist countries and their ideology and way of life, as well as the ideas of the peaceful and international policy of the communist and workers' parties. Through their model behavior and ideological steadfastness they contribute to strengthening the authority of the Warsaw Pact member states, as well as the armed forces of these states.

Reciprocal visits by ships to the ports and naval bases of the allied countries are turning into a stirring demonstration of international friendship. As examples, one can cite the visit of East German and Polish ships to Tallin, the visit of Soviet and Polish ships to Rostock for participation in the 30th anniversary celebration of the German Democratic Republic, the visit of Sevastopol by Bulgarian ships in 1979, and the calls

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paid to Varna by Soviet ships and to Constanța by a Soviet submarine in 1979.

The creation of an atmosphere of friendship, profound trust, and businesslike mutual understanding among the command, staffs, and all personnel categories of the allied navies is decisively influenced by the commonality of their aims and tasks with respect to defending the gains of socialism in our countries and by the unity of their views on the operational-tactical training of the navies and on the combat employment of the navies for accomplishing assigned tasks by combined efforts.

The sailors of the allied navies are greeting the 25th anniversary of the Organization of Warsaw Pact member states within the unified ranks of the Combined Armed Forces, in readiness to give a crushing rebuff to imperialist aggressors if they dare to disrupt the peaceful labor of the peoples of the Warsaw Pact countries.



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