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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

18 July 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence  
FROM : John N. McMahon  
Deputy Director for Operations  
SUBJECT : WARSAW PACT JOURNAL: Ways of Improving the  
Operational and Combat Training of the  
Allied Navies

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 emphasizes the importance of the combined training of senior naval personnel as the key to organizing cooperation and control of multinational naval forces during combined combat actions and operations. The establishment of combined naval forces in closed theaters and their organization under a unified command is considered advisable. 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. 16, which was published in 1978.

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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COUNTRY USSR/WARSAW PACT

DATE OF  
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18 July 1980

SUBJECT

WARSAW PACT JOURNAL: Ways of Improving the Operational and  
Combat Training of the Allied Navies

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 was written by Vice Admiral Vasil Yanakiev. This article emphasizes the importance of the combined training of senior naval personnel as the key to organizing cooperation and control of multinational naval forces during combined combat actions and operations, but is rather sketchy on the specifics of the training system other than to suggest the use of command-staff exercises on maps and with representational forces and operational-tactical exercises. The establishment of combined naval forces in closed theaters and their organization under a unified command is considered advisable. This article appeared in Issue No. 16, which was published in 1978.

End of SummaryComment:

Yanakiev still holds the title Commander of the Navy of Bulgaria.

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Ways of Improving the Operational and Combat  
Training of the Allied Navies

by

Vice Admiral V. YANAKIEV, Commander of the  
Navy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria

The combined operational and combat training of the allied navies occupies an important place in the training of formation commanders, commanders of large units, their staffs, and the forces as a whole. It enables admirals, generals, and officers to work out the control of naval forces, to organize cooperation among them, and to provide support for them in actual practice. In addition, it effectively facilitates the indoctrination of the personnel of the allied navies in a spirit of proletarian internationalism and aids in strengthening combat collaboration among the servicemen.

Given the tasks set for the naval forces by the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces and considering the experience of exercises conducted over the last two years, further improvement in the operational and combat training of the allied navies must, in our opinion, primarily provide for exploring the most effective methods of preparing and conducting modern naval operations and combined actions by naval forces involving comprehensive support. Given this, it follows that what is needed is a clearer delineation of methods of controlling the naval forces during operations and combined combat actions and a more detailed organization of cooperation among the forces of the allied navies themselves and with the operational formations and large units of other branches of the armed forces. In connection with this, the necessity arises to research and develop new methods for using multiple-arm large units and units in operations and for employing the modern combat ships and technical means being made available to the fleets. As before, of great importance in improving the operational and combat training of the allied navies is a thorough familiarization with the theater of military operations and a study of the organizational structure of the probable enemy, his views on naval operations and the use of particular types of forces, weapons, and technical means.

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The experience of the operational and combat training of the allied navies confirms that its effectiveness is enhanced under unified direction. In our view, it is advisable that the higher command, which may be charged with directing the naval operations of the allied navies, handle the combined operational and combat training. This command should be instructed to organize and hold the assemblies of senior personnel of the allied navies and to conduct the operational and operational-tactical exercises.

When conducting combined operational training the most varied of its forms and methods can be used. For example, when conducting training assemblies for the senior personnel of the allied navies, lectures, reports, seminars, group exercises and short operational-tactical problems, practical training sessions for studying new equipment, and demonstration exercises are acceptable.

This enhances the level of military theory among the participants in the assembly. In addition, we consider it advisable in future assemblies to more widely employ the training methods involving active participation: seminars, group exercises, and short operational-tactical problems. Such forms of instruction allow a more extensive treatment of matters of operational art and tactics and have a more significant influence on enhancing the level of operational training of command personnel.

Present-day aspects of the conduct of combined combat actions by the forces of the allied navies demand precision, teamwork, and efficiency in the functioning of the staffs. This is achieved through the high-quality training of staff officers and their ability to accurately and rapidly perform their functional duties: to assess the situation, perform operational-tactical calculations, maintain control of the forces, draft combat documents, carry out all forms of support, and so forth. The staffs and other control organs obtain such training at staff training practices and at staff and special exercises.

Practices for fleet staffs usually are conducted under the direction of the chiefs of staff in accordance with the plans of the national command. At these exercises, matters are worked out which are related to the participation of the naval forces in

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combined combat actions of the allied navies in a theater.

In our opinion, a form such as combined staff exercises conducted under the direction of the chief of staff of one of the fleets is sufficiently effective in the system of combined training for the staffs of the allied navies. Staff operations groups which are fully capable of performing all the functions of combat action control can be allocated for these exercises. In our view, combined exercises or training practices for staffs of the allied navies must be held regularly: if not annually, then in those years when there are no plans for combined operational-tactical or command-staff exercises of the allied navies with representational forces.

As is known, special exercises are conducted to improve the training of the staffs of the allied navies in the planning and conduct of combined measures for combat and special support of an operation. The systems of surveillance and communications, navigational and hydrographic support, radioelectronic countermeasures, camouflage, etc., are worked out at these exercises.

The allied navies have acquired experience in conducting combined exercises and practices in communications on a regular basis. We feel that the experience gained in this activity may be used in conducting special exercises to work out particular types of support for the forces which take part in naval operations.

In our opinion, command-staff exercises on maps, command-staff exercises with representational forces, and operational-tactical exercises should be considered the basic forms of combined operational training. During these exercises, the practical skills of formation commanders (commanders), their staffs, and other control organs in the planning, organizing, support, and conduct of naval operations in cooperation with other branches of the armed forces are worked out and improved.

Such exercises aid the senior personnel of the allied fleets in more thoroughly assessing the military-political situation in the theater and allow them to observe the flow of events, to picture the possible nature of future operations at sea and the conditions for beginning and conducting them, and to determine

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acceptable methods for the combined accomplishment of tasks, We feel that it is advisable to conduct these kinds of exercises of the allied navies under the direction of the higher command. This will permit a more comprehensive treatment of matters of staff work as well as the actions of the forces of the allied navies and the organization of cooperation with other branches of the armed forces.

In individual instances, one of the formation commanders of the allied navies may be charged with the direction of the exercise when the particular tasks of a naval operation are being worked out.

The experience of the combined training of the allied navies testifies to the advisability of establishing a combined fleet in enclosed theaters, since this will increase the effectiveness of controlling the forces of the allied navies when they are carrying out combined combat tasks. Organizing a unified command will bring about conditions favorable to the centralized planning and efficient conduct of operational training for the allied navies, which in the final analysis will have an effect on the growth of the combat power of their forces.

In this case, conditions for the combined combat training of the allied navies will be more favorable, which is fully confirmed by the very useful experience which has been gained. In combined combat training, all the possible forms and methods of training seamen, petty officers, and officers of the staffs and the forces of the allied navies as a whole are acceptable.

Experience has shown that within the general system of combined combat training of the allied navies, particular attention must be devoted to tactical training, working out the organization and methods of the use of forces and weapons by large units (units) and organizing the cooperation and control of forces and means in the preparation and conduct of combined combat actions.

In general, the tasks of combined tactical training of large units and units of the allied navies should be: improving their staffs as organs of control of the forces when preparing and conducting combined combat actions; working out the operating methods of the forces when they are fulfilling combined combat

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tasks under various situational conditions; improving the organization of cooperation and control; working out the organization of all types of support during the preparation and in the course of combined combat actions; working out tactics for the employment of weapons, ships, large units, and units in battle.

The experience of combined combat training of the allied navies indicates that the tasks enumerated are best worked out at roadstead assemblies of the ships of the allied navies. Usually when doing this, the tactical groups of antisubmarine ships and minesweepers, missile and torpedo boats, and submarines from the particular navies assemble in a roadstead in the operational zone of one of the navies, where they carry out intensive combined combat training under the direction of the naval commander in whose zone the ship assembly is being conducted.

At assemblies aimed at /establishing/ methodological consistency, combined actions are worked out for ships in groups of a single nationality, in single- and multiple-arm groups, and independently of and in conjunction with aviation, and combined exercises are conducted for the strike, antisubmarine, and minesweeper forces of the allied navies.

The final stage of the combined combat training of large units of the allied navies at roadstead assemblies is, as a rule, a combined tactical exercise. All the forces participating in the roadstead assembly are brought into the exercise and one possible variant of combined combat actions in a theater by multiple-arm forces of the allied navies is played out against a tactical background.

Combined combat training within the system of roadstead assemblies of ships of the allied navies has fully justified itself, since it possesses a number of advantages.

This form of training creates conditions for the sequential and parallel working out of combined actions for ships and tactical groups under different variants of the situation, while at the same time improving the training and raising the combat proficiency of the seamen, petty officers, officers, and staffs as a whole.

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Assemblies of the ships of the allied navies create conditions which are conducive to the employment of all the diverse forms of combat training, from combined practices at battle stations of seamen to short tactical problems for command personnel. As a rule, following a combined assembly of the ships of the allied navies, significant growth in the professionalism of all categories of servicemen and an increase in the combat effectiveness of all the ships and branch arms of the navies are noted. When there is no possibility of bringing in a large number of multiple-arm forces, it is advisable to conduct the assembly by classes of ships.

The allied navies already also have experience in conducting combined practices in the control of strike forces, during which the combat use in combined combat actions of weapons and equipment as well as of boats and groups is worked out. In doing this, the commanders and staffs of large units and units master the art of their combined combat use.

In order to share experience in conducting combined operational and combat training of the allied navies, it is probably advisable to systematically disseminate it among the fleets of the Baltic and Black Sea theaters.

In conclusion let us note that combined operational and combat training promotes further strengthening of comradeship-at-arms and cooperation among the personnel of ships and units of the allied navies, and enhances the fighting spirit and readiness of all personnel of the friendly armies of the Warsaw Pact member states to fulfil their patriotic and international duty.

Continuously improving the organization, forms, and methods of combined operational and combat training of the allied navies undoubtedly helps to enhance the combat power of our navies and their readiness to repel any aggressor.

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