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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

26 October 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : John N. McMahon
Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT : MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): The Use of
Border Guard Troops in the Initial
Period of War

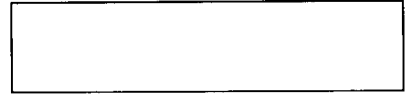
1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article describes the organization, function, limitations, capabilities, and actions of border guard troops at the outbreak of war. Though the initial actions of border guard troops are aimed at exploiting the results of the first missile/nuclear strikes, the article stresses conventional offensive and defensive actions and overlooks the nuclear environment. The second half of the article, which dwells on covering actions by border guard troops and combined-arms forces, apparently relates to the security of the USSR's Finnish and Asiatic border areas. This article appeared in Issue No. 1 (62) for 1962.

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

for John N. McMahon

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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF INFO. Early 1962

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26 October 1978

SUBJECT

MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): The Use of Border Guard Troops in the Initial Period of War

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an article which appeared in Issue No. 1 (62) for 1962 of the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article, written by General-Mayor M. Grekov and Colonel M. Kozichev, describes the organization, function, limitations, capabilities, and actions of border guard troops at the outbreak of war. Though the initial actions of border guard troops are aimed at exploiting the results of the first missile/nuclear strikes, the article stresses conventional offensive and defensive actions and overlooks the nuclear environment. It also discusses the actions of border forces in quiet areas and in gaps between axes of action. The second half of the article, which dwells on covering actions by border guard troops and combined-arms forces to guard the border against surprise or large-scale enemy attack, apparently relates to the security of the USSR's Finnish and Asiatic border areas.

End of Summary

[Redacted] Comment:

After 1962 the SECRET version of Military Thought was published three times annually and was distributed down to the level of division commander. It reportedly ceased publication at the end of 1970.

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The Use of Border Guard Troops in
the Initial Period of War

by

General-Mayor M. GREKOV
Colonel M. KOZICHEV

Recently we have published a large number of works examining the organization and conduct of combat actions in the initial period of war. However, in a considerable part of the published materials, in our opinion, the nature of combat actions near the border in the first hours of war has not been researched adequately and the use of border guard troop units upon the outbreak of military actions has not been treated at all.

In the aggressive military plans of the imperialists, much attention has always been paid to national borders and border areas. Preparing a surprise military attack on peace-loving countries, the imperialist predators have, as a rule, used their own border areas for the concealed concentration and deployment of invasion forces, and in the prewar period they subordinated the everyday activity of the border administration to the purposes of stepping up reconnaissance and subversive actions across the border. They showed increased interest in the system of guarding the national borders of peace-loving countries, attaching great importance to providing for the rapid overcoming of border guard lines and areas upon the outbreak of war.

In spite of the fact that a new world war may start with powerful missile nuclear strikes against the most important strategic targets and troop groupings located in the deep rear of the warring countries, combat actions near the national border and its security under conditions of war will unquestionably have great military and political importance.

The Soviet state at the present time has 13,710 kilometers of common border with fraternal socialist countries. This part of the border cannot be the target of a surprise military attack from the ground forces of imperialist aggressors. But a considerable part of the Soviet border is located directly within the possible theaters of a future war, and it cannot be ruled out

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that it will be in a zone of intense combat actions. Together with this, the Soviet Union cannot be indifferent to the military security of the borders of friendly socialist countries if they are subjected to attack by the imperialists.

The inviolability of the national border of our country is secured by the total might of the Soviet Armed Forces and first and foremost by modern missile/nuclear weapons. In peacetime the ground and sea border of the USSR is secured by the forces and means of the border guard troops with the participation of the local population, and only in cases of necessity with the allocation of Soviet Army and Navy subunits and units. The border of the USSR air space is guarded by the Air Defense Forces of the Country.

In the border guard troops the basic independent troop unit is the border guard (detachment), which, on the national border with a capitalist country, usually guards a sector 120 to 150 kilometers or more in length.

The immediate guarding of the border is done by border guard outposts and border guard posts having a numerical strength that ranges from a conventional rifle platoon to a rifle company and which are armed with light small arms. Widely used in the guarding of the border are various engineer technical means, including defensive structures. [Border guard troops also have their own reconnaissance organs, which continuously conduct reconnaissance in the interests of guarding the border.]

Flexible use of the forces and means of the border guard troops with the active assistance of party and public organizations, volunteer groups, and the entire local population ensures the reliable security of the Soviet national border in peacetime. However, the border guard troops, because of their limited numbers, dispersal over large spaces, and also lack of tanks, artillery, and other heavy weapons in their armament, have limited capabilities for repelling an armed invasion by regular enemy troops.

At the same time, border guard troops have a good knowledge of the probable enemy and of the terrain and population in their own and the adjacent border zone. They are trained to independently accomplish complex combat tasks with limited

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forces, especially to stop reconnaissance and sabotage actions of the enemy; they are experienced in the conduct of reconnaissance, they are noted for their high vigilance, and have practical skill in conducting surprise actions. All these qualities enable border guard troops to successfully resist superior enemy forces and accomplish a variety of important combat tasks. This is why it is advisable upon the outbreak of war to use units of border guard troops extensively during the first battles and engagements near the national border.

In order to find out more fully the nature of the combat actions near the border in the initial period of war, it is necessary first of all to briefly examine the possible conditions under which they occur and develop. These conditions will be radically different from the conditions under which combat actions developed at the beginning of past wars.

To repel and disrupt the attack of an enemy against the Soviet Union, our Armed Forces must inflict a crushing blow on him. This task will be accomplished primarily not by the ground forces in border operations as in past wars, but by rocket troops employing nuclear weapons.

Along with the massed use of missile/nuclear weapons against targets in the deep rear of both sides, in the theaters of military operations ground forces operations will undoubtedly develop from the first day of war. The nature of the ground forces combat actions near the national border upon the outbreak of war can now be foreseen only in general outline. [However, there are grounds for believing that each of the warring sides will, in the first operations of the ground forces, primarily endeavor to exploit to the maximum the results of their first missile/nuclear strikes.]

In the most important theaters of military operations and on operational axes, our ground forces will, upon the outbreak of war, in most cases immediately initiate offensive operations for the purpose of smashing the enemy's major operational-strategic groupings and seizing or destroying the bases of his nuclear and missile means. On other axes where the offensive of our troops at the outbreak of war is not contemplated, or where the enemy, after delivering powerful nuclear strikes, goes over to the offensive with large-scale forces, our troops may temporarily go

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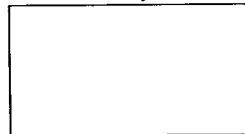
over to the defense.

In a number of large sectors of the national border (mainly on terrain not everywhere accessible and on the seacoast) there may not be any active combat actions at all upon the outbreak of war. However, even in these sectors, to prevent a possible enemy invasion it will be necessary to cover the most dangerous axes, to conduct continuous reconnaissance, and to actively oppose enemy reconnaissance and sabotage actions.

Undoubtedly the previously prepared first offensive operations, which must be distinguished by their decisive nature, large spatial scope, maneuverability, and high rates of advance, will have the greatest importance in the actions of the ground forces. During these operations, as the experience of exercises shows, it is necessary to devote much attention to the rapid crossing of the enemy's border zone in order to disrupt his border cover plans and the movement and deployment near the border of the troops of his first operational echelon.

Combat actions near the national border in the first offensive operations will, as a rule, be of short duration. However, not only the forces and means of our attacking first-echelon large units, but also the border guard troop units which are guarding the given sector of the border, must participate in the conduct of these actions.* Bringing in these units, as experience has shown, increases the effectiveness with which certain tasks are accomplished and makes it possible for the attacker to gain time and economize on forces and means.

* The border guard units located in a sector where military actions have begun, according to Article 16 of the "Instructions on the Interrelation and Cooperation of the Large Units of the Soviet Army, Naval Fleets (Flotillas), Air Defense Forces of the Country, and Border Guard Troops of the KGB Attached to the Council of Ministers of the USSR", are immediately placed in operational subordination to the commander of the military district (front, army), which thereafter ensures the security of the border in that area.

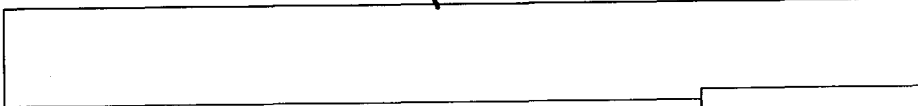


The border guard units, during the preparation and course of the first offensive operation, will, in implementing the strengthened guarding of the border, primarily have to actively combat the enemy's agents, reconnaissance and sabotage groups, and landing forces in the border zone, thereby promoting the achievement of concealment in the preparation of the operation and of surprise in the actions of the attacking troops.

With the start of an offensive, border guard troop units and subunits, besides fulfilling their basic task, can be successfully called upon to destroy or capture enemy strongpoints (border detachments, radar stations, bridges, etc.) located near the border, which will promote the rapid advance of the attacking first-echelon troops. In the past, border guard troops performed similar tasks more than once. Thus, border guard units, at the beginning of the offensive operations of 9 August 1945 of Soviet troops to smash the Japanese Kwantung Army, destroyed 225 enemy strongpoints near the border, a considerable part of which were equipped with concrete pillboxes and covered by a complex system of obstacles. This permitted the advancing Soviet troops to negotiate the line of the Manchurian border for the most part without delay. In the process, thanks to the superior knowledge of the terrain, careful previous reconnaissance, and comprehensive preparation of the border guard troops, success was achieved at the cost of little blood, the ratio of our losses to enemy losses being 1:16.

Under modern conditions, the border detachments of the enemy as well as his reconnaissance and counterintelligence posts established near the border must be destroyed, not only on the axes of attack of the combined-arms large units, but also in unattacked sectors. This will force the enemy to disperse his forces and means to cover the border and will lower his activity in the conduct of sabotage and reconnaissance actions on the flanks and in the rear of advancing troops.

Ground forces large units will usually go over to the offensive from the march (at times after a forced march to the border) and often at night or under conditions of limited visibility. To ensure the swift advance of troops on unknown terrain, it may be advisable to allocate border guard subunits who know the locality well to the advancing first-echelon large units and units, and especially to their reconnaissance organs,



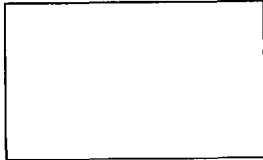
for the period of the night actions.

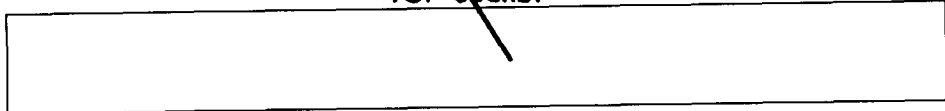
With our troops going over to the offensive, the enemy will endeavor to offer them all kinds of resistance, striving to exploit the slightest opportunity to shift combat actions to our territory. This is why the border guard subunits and units, in implementing strengthened guarding of the border as the attacking troops move forward into enemy territory, must be in constant readiness to occupy and hold their own strongpoints on the border. It is also necessary to assign reserves of combined-arms large units and formations to consolidate the line of the national border during an offensive operation.

During an offensive operation one can expect hostile landing forces to be dropped in the border zone, especially in the path of movement of the attacker's reserves. During the accomplishment of their tasks, border guard units and subunits must be in constant readiness to destroy landing forces.

By monitoring the border zone along the entire frontier, the border guard units have the capability of detecting in good time the drop (landing) of any enemy landing force in this zone and of reporting it to the staffs of combined-arms formations. Independent actions on the part of border guard troops are feasible only when they are destroying small landing forces up to a company in strength. Larger enemy landing forces must be blocked by the border guard subunits, but to destroy them will require bringing in part of the forces of the advancing troops.

Even in the first hours and days of the war, the combat actions of the advancing troops will be shifted to enemy territory tens and hundreds of kilometers from the Soviet national border. Nevertheless, pockets of hostile resistance may remain near the border. In breaking out of an encirclement or getting out to rejoin their own troops, individual enemy units, subunits, and groups will try to carry out sabotage actions in the rear of our troops, primarily against their transportation lines, to conduct reconnaissance (especially of nuclear means), to disrupt the work of the rear, etc. The indicated enemy actions, in conjunction with the spontaneous displacement of the population caused by the use of nuclear weapons, may produce an extremely complex situation in the border zone and in the rear of the advancing troops.





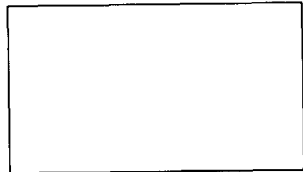
In such a situation, it will be incumbent upon the border guard troops not to permit the penetration of hostile groups across the border and to actively stop the enemy's sabotage and reconnaissance actions not only at the border but also in the border zone. To this end, routine monitoring of the passage of troops and cargoes across the border is organized, for which border guard checkpoints are established on the transportation lines of the troops in the field. In a number of cases, it may become necessary to clear occupied areas of individual small enemy groups. This will be required, for instance, in areas intended for the deployment of the combat formations of missile units and large units, for control posts of formations, and in areas where nuclear weapons bases and depots are to be located.

In the initial period of war, on individual axes and in secondary sectors, as has already been indicated, the conduct of defense is not out of the question. The first defensive operation, when initiated from the line of the national border, as the experience of wars shows, is conducted on a broad front using limited troop forces positioned in the border area and the immediate rear and with large gaps between the defending units and large units. A matter of key importance for the success of the operation, especially when repelling a surprise enemy attack, is to gain time by conducting combat actions at the border line and in the border zone.

The lack of enough forces and means, usually characteristic of the first defensive operation, as well as the unique situation surrounding its occurrence and development, coupled with the armed invasion of the enemy into our territory across the national border, make it necessary for the border guard units that were guarding the given sector of the border before the war to actively participate in the combat actions together with the defending troops of the Soviet Army.

Units and subunits of border guard troops in a defensive operation can accomplish various combat tasks, both in cooperation with the main forces of the defense as well as independently.

When the defensive operation is organized beforehand and our troops are concentrated at the border while still at peace, the border guard units, in carrying out intensified guarding of the

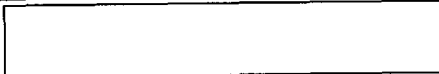


national border, must prevent any possible penetration of it by enemy agents and sabotage and reconnaissance groups and thereby promote the total concealment of the defensive measures carried out by the command. To reinforce the security of the border in this period, support detachments allocated from combined-arms large units to help the border guard units can be called upon. At the same time, in the interests of securing and defending the border, aggressive reconnaissance of the enemy on the contiguous territory must be conducted with the means of the border guard units.

With the start of the enemy offensive, the border guard subunits and units will, on those axes where our ground forces launch their actions, conduct battles to retain their strongpoints near the national border, repelling the attempts of forward enemy units to invade our territory. It must be noted that aggressive combat actions at the line of the national border, even with small forces of defending troops, will make it possible to delay the enemy, gain time, and -- what is especially important -- set for all personnel the first examples of steadfastness and courage in the battles for the homeland. Therefore, combat actions to retain strongpoints at the border, regardless of the border's distance from the forward edge of the battle area of the main forces of the defending troops, must be supported by artillery fire and air strikes.

When there is a forward security zone, border guard subunits and units, as a rule, will participate with the forward detachments of the defending troops in the combat actions to retain this zone. Experience shows that stubborn combat actions in the forward security zone can seriously hinder the enemy offensive and enable us to gain time to organize the defense. For instance, by conducting skilful steadfast actions in the defense of a forward security zone 40 kilometers deep on the Loukhi-Kestenga axis (Karelian Front), in June 1941 the Third Battalion of the 242nd Rifle Regiment and subunits of the 72nd Border Guard Detachment held this zone for 20 days and inflicted great losses on the advancing enemy.*

* Central State Archives of the USSR Red Army, archive 32880, inventory list 5, file 48, sheet 52.

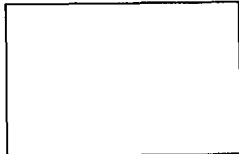


If a forward security zone is not established or the enemy has overrun it, then border guard units can be used to combat enemy landing forces and reconnaissance and sabotage groups, as well as to secure the flanks of the defending troops and the boundaries between them. Besides that, border guard troops can be called on for reconnaissance and sabotage actions in the enemy rear in temporarily given-up border territory.

Combat actions near the national border in those sectors where enemy ground forces will not be advancing in considerable force should be discussed separately. These sectors, according to views of the American command, may amount to ten or more kilometers between the axes of attack of adjacent divisions and several dozen kilometers between the axes of attack of adjacent army corps. At the line of the national border, upon the start of combat actions, such sectors will be guarded by border guard subunits ranging from one to several outposts. It is these subunits, reinforced with tanks, artillery, and combat engineers, and united under a common command, that must secure the gaps between the defending troops. Their actions may be of a varied nature.

Upon the outbreak of war, the border guard subunits must, in the unattacked sectors, occupy their strongpoints at the border and, continuing to guard the key axes, conduct aggressive reconnaissance of the enemy. This reconnaissance can be carried out in the ordinary ways typical for border guard troops, and also by reconnaissance groups and patrols which must be sent out into the enemy's territory (to a depth of 10 to 20 kilometers or more) and into the flanks of his advancing large units so as to find out in good time the enemy's attempts to shift the main efforts of his advancing troops to the unattacked sector.

If the enemy uses reconnaissance detachments (groups, patrols) in the unattacked sectors, then they must be destroyed by the border guard troops in the combat to retain the border strongpoints. In order to prevent enemy reconnaissance detachments operating in tanks and armored personnel carriers from breaking through across the border, tank-accessible sectors of the terrain and roads near the border have to be covered by mixed minefields and effective antitank means must be positioned at the strongpoints on the border.





We cannot rule out that in some unattacked sector enemy ground forces will not undertake any active operations whatsoever. Under these conditions, the border guard subunits in this sector must focus their main attention towards the conduct of reconnaissance in support of higher staffs and towards putting a stop to the spying and sabotage actions of agents and the actions of enemy field reconnaissance groups.

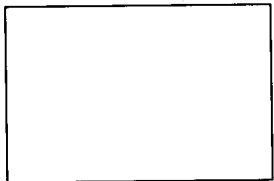
When securing large gaps between the axes of combat actions of the main forces of the defending troops in a complex, uncertain, and fast-changing situation, the border guard units and other units must show great resistance and tenacity. The withdrawal of border guard units from the line of the national border in unattacked sectors can be done only on the decision of senior commanders in the event of the forced retreat of the defending troops.

When the defending troops go over to a counteroffensive, dependable security must be restored at the line of the national border and all the forces and means of the border guard units must be directed towards combating the enemy's agent and sabotage and reconnaissance actions in the border zone.

In examining the use of border guard troops in combat actions near the national border of the USSR in the initial period of war, one must not overlook the important matter of the cover of the border.

The conduct of massed missile/nuclear strikes by both sides in the first minutes of a new war and the immediate launching of operations for decisive purposes have radically changed the previously held notion about the purpose and nature of the cover of the national border by ground forces.

In the experience of wars, the cover of the national border was regarded as a most important strategic task of the armed forces. Cover was organized for the purpose of supporting the mobilization, concentration, and deployment of the main forces of the active army. To cover the border, the main forces of the peacetime ground forces were usually employed. For instance, before the start of the Great Patriotic War, the make-up of the armies covering the western border of the USSR consisted of





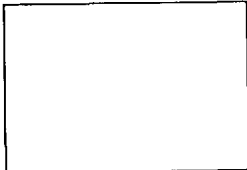
approximately two-thirds (107 divisions) of all the forces of the western border military districts.* Upon the outbreak of war these forces were to accomplish the task of covering the national border by means of the stubborn defense of the border fortified areas and field fortifications. In case the border was violated by large motor-mechanized forces of the enemy, the idea was to use, in addition to the covering armies, all the forces at the disposal of the commanders of the border military districts to repel the attacks.

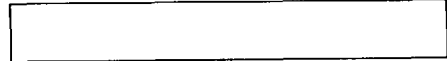
This organization of the cover of the USSR's national border did not work out. Its most characteristic defect was the fact that, to cover the border, provision was made only for a defensive method of actions and the covering troops were distributed evenly along the border without properly concentrating their main efforts on the main axes of enemy attack. At the present time, this kind of cover for the national border is totally unacceptable.

Since the main role in war is assigned to nuclear weapons, for the strategic cover of the national border crushing blows against the enemy with missile means and aviation in conjunction with an effective air defense of the most important installations and all the territory of the country against enemy air strikes will have decisive importance. The first missile/nuclear strikes against the enemy must be so planned that they destroy, along with the most important targets in his rear, the main groupings of hostile troops intended for the invasion.

In connection with this, the cover of the national border by ground forces in a modern war is, in our opinion, an operational-tactical measure. Its use is possible in the event we have to repel the surprise attack of the ground forces of an enemy who has preempted our troops in deploying and going over to decisive combat actions upon the outbreak of war.

* Operations of the Soviet Armed Forces in the Great Patriotic War, 1941 to 1945, vol. 1, Military Publishing House, 1958, page 98.





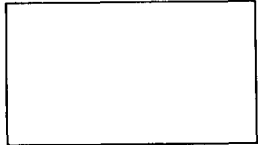
Cover of the border must be provided for and organized primarily on the key axes. On these axes, it must ensure time is gained and conditions are established for the movement and deployment of the ground forces designated to conduct the first offensive or defensive operation. The land border may also be covered on those secondary axes in danger of an enemy invasion. On the sea border, individual sectors of the coast can be covered where the landing of enemy landing forces is possible.

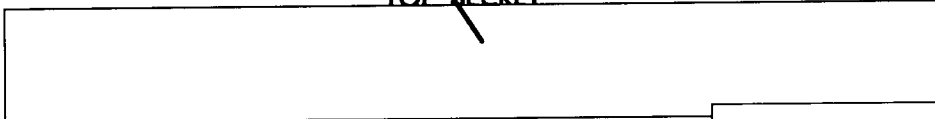
Depending on the conditions under which military actions break out, different forces and means can be allocated to cover the national border. Taking into consideration the inclination of the probable enemies to advance by axes, it is to be assumed that to cover the national border on the key axes it will be enough to deploy one tank (motorized rifle) division in the zone of an army's impending combat actions. However, this division must be supported by the necessary amount of missile/nuclear weapons, artillery, special troops, and aviation. In any situation, covering of the border must be carried out with the participation of border guard troops.

For the successful covering of the national border in case of its surprise violation by an aggressor's ground forces, not only will the timely allocation and deployment of the minimum necessary forces and means be very important, but also the method of action chosen by the covering troops.

In many journal articles and even in major theoretical works published in recent years, the combat actions of ground forces large units and units covering the border are regarded only as defensive actions. And, unlike defense under ordinary conditions, defense by the troops designated to cover the national border is treated as being less active and less firm, as one that allows considerable loss of territory.

One cannot agree with such views. In our opinion, the combat actions of troops covering the border can take different courses. In some cases, the covering units and large units may take up the defense, exploiting the favorable lines of the terrain and its engineer preparation and employing aggressive forms and methods of conducting a defensive battle. Under other conditions these large units and units may immediately go over to the attack, fulfilling the specific task of seizing an



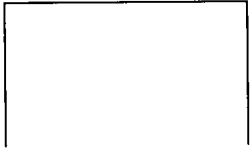


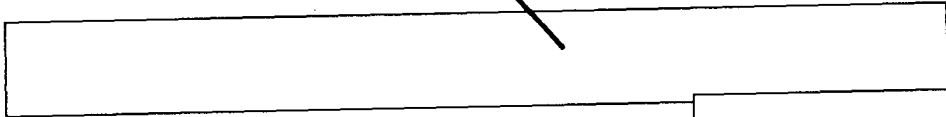
advantageous line (a large water obstacle, defile, etc.) so as to subsequently conduct combat actions for its retention, thus supporting the deployment of the main forces. The covering units must force the enemy to concentrate and deploy his main forces in a limited space before invading Soviet territory and thereby create conditions for us to deliver massed strikes with nuclear weapons against him. In all cases, the covering large units and units must be sure to aggressively reconnoiter the enemy and combat his reconnaissance and sabotage activity in the border area.

In an invasion of our territory, the enemy will strive to neutralize the covering units with nuclear weapons and then develop the offensive along separate axes with armored and motorized division forces. The covering troops, in spite of their limited numbers, will, from the very beginning, have to employ aggressive maneuvering tactics, placing great emphasis on delivering missile/nuclear strikes against the enemy and on developing combat actions not only against the front but also against the flanks and rear of his troops. In order to prevent the breakthrough of mobile enemy large units across the border zone, it is advisable to provide, along with powerful strikes of missile means, for air strikes and the conduct of all types of fire with the use of chemical munitions, and also to make wide use of engineer and chemical obstacles.

In the situation of a war beginning by surprise, border guard subunits and units operating at the line of the border will most probably be the first to begin combat actions against the invasion troops of the enemy. Simultaneously with this, according to the decision of the commander of the military district (front, army), missile/nuclear strikes must be delivered against the main troop grouping of the enemy's first echelon moving up to the border or invading our territory, against the major control posts, and also against road junctions and the key transportation lines in the enemy border zone. The large units designated to cover the border must immediately send out detachments to support the border guard troops* (usually at

* Allocation of these detachments is provided for by the "Instructions on the Interrelation and Cooperation of the Large Units of the Soviet Army, Naval Fleets (Flotillas), Air Defense Forces of the Country, and Border Guard Troops of the KGB Attached to the Council of Ministers of the USSR", 1968, pages 11, 13.





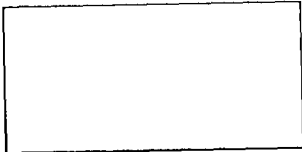
reinforced motorized rifle or tank battalion strength) and use the main forces to initiate aggressive actions on the invasion axes of the main enemy forces.

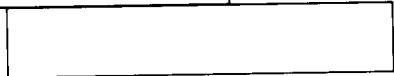
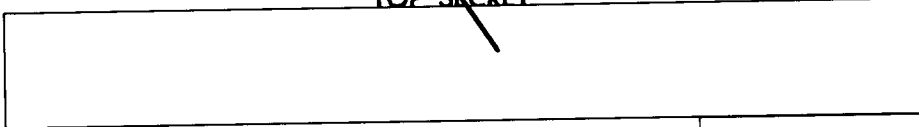
In the interests of covering the border, border guard troop units will accomplish a variety of different tasks. As has already been indicated, they will participate directly in repelling the surprise invasion of enemy ground forces. This participation, depending on the specific situation, may be characterized by combat actions to retain border guard strongpoints at the line of the national border in cooperation with the units of the covering troops, and sometimes also independently, or actions to capture strongpoints of the enemy's border security on the contiguous territory if the covering troops are going to go immediately over to the offensive.

Border guard units must participate with all forces and means in the combat actions to cover the border until the main covering troops enter into battle on the given axis. Then they may conduct combat actions as part of the covering troops. However, in most cases it is advisable to use the main part of the border guard units for combat against the enemy's reconnaissance and sabotage groups and small landing forces and to have them in readiness to restore the security of the national border as soon as the front line is shifted onto enemy territory. In case the covering troops temporarily withdraw, individual subunits of the border guard troops, reinforced by combat engineers, may be left behind for reconnaissance and sabotage activities in the border zone in the enemy rear.

If, while covering the border, combat actions are shifted over to enemy territory, the main forces of the border guard troop units will continue guarding the national border, aggressively combating enemy agents, reconnaissance and sabotage groups, and small airborne landing forces.

To successfully conduct combat actions against invasion troops while covering the national border, border guard units and subunits must be reinforced with artillery, tanks, and combat engineers on the instructions of the appropriate commanders of combined-arms large units. If these units have to accomplish independently the tasks of covering separate axes, they must also be supported by artillery fire and air strikes. In so doing it





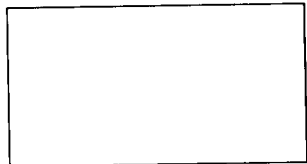
is necessary to avoid excessive fragmentation of the border guard troop units, and to maintain centralized control of them through the existing command and staffs of the border guard districts; and to ensure closest cooperation with the covering troops, it is advisable to locate the control posts of the border guard commanders near the command posts of the combined-arms commanders.

We have already pointed out above the necessity of monitoring the large sectors of the national border located between the most important operational axes (up to several hundred kilometers wide) on which large-scale ground forces will not engage in combat initially. It is not advisable to expend forces and means of the Soviet Army ground forces, especially missile/nuclear weapons, in covering these sectors of the land border as well as the seacoast sectors that are favorable for amphibious landings. To avert surprise actions on these sectors, only operational-tactical missile strikes against them should be prepared and only mobile reserves of senior commanders should be directed there.

The gaps between the active sectors of the front, in our opinion, must be covered by the forces of border guard troop units which gained high recommendation in the Great Patriotic War in the performance of analogous tasks. Thus, during that war, in the northern sector of the Soviet-German front, which stretched for 1,000 kilometers, active combat actions were conducted only in individual sectors extending approximately 240 kilometers in all, while the remaining front stretching over 750 kilometers was covered by the forces of border guard units.

The nature of combat actions in the sectors to be covered will depend on the activity of the enemy and the importance of the existing axes. Most often, combat actions will take the form of armed clashes against enemy groups and detachments trying to penetrate into our territory to carry out sabotage and reconnaissance tasks, or against regular units attempting to break through to our rear. Border guard units, along with this, will have to aggressively reconnoiter the enemy and employ sabotage actions extensively in his rear.

Of significance in this respect are the combat actions of the 82nd Border Guard Detachment, which, in 1941 to 1942, on the



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orders of the commander of the 14th Army, covered a gap of over 200 kilometers between the Murmansk-Kirkenes and Kandalaksha-Rovaniemi axes. In June-July 1941, subunits of the detachment monitoring the indicated gap routed the Finnish Petsamo battalion, which had been specially equipped for actions in the rear of our troops and to which the enemy had assigned the task of cutting the Kirovsk railroad, seizing the supply station of the 14th Army, and thereby of assisting the troops that were advancing frontally to capture Murmansk. Several small enemy reconnaissance groups were also destroyed. At the same time, using forces of the 82nd Border Guard Detachment, sabotage and reconnaissance groups were systematically sent to the rear of the enemy, and detachments in company to battalion strength penetrated from 70 to 100 kilometers into enemy territory. These detachments and groups destroyed several Finnish garrisons and depots and collected valuable data about the enemy.*

In monitoring the large sectors of the border not occupied by troops, border guard units must show especially high aggressiveness in conducting reconnaissance. It must be carried out by ground forces and means to a depth of 100 to 200 kilometers or more in order to detect in good time the possible deployment of operational-tactical missiles and the approach of large-scale enemy ground forces. Undoubtedly, to accomplish this and other tasks, border guard troop units at the outbreak of war will have to be reinforced with armored personnel carriers, antitank means, and, in individual cases, with tanks and other combat equipment.

[Redacted]

* Central State Archives of the USSR Red Army, archive 32880, inventory list 5, file 4, sheets 95-96; file 118, sheet 21.

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