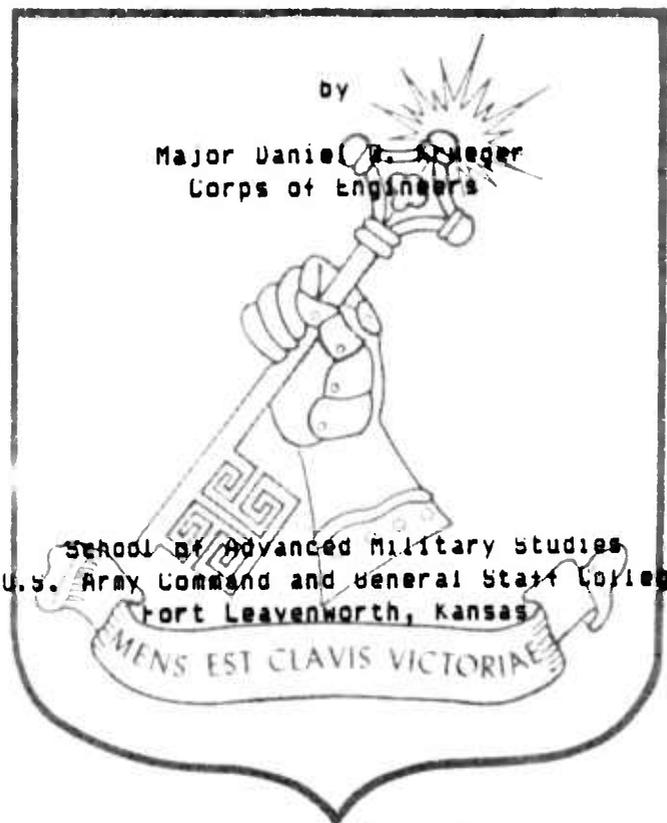


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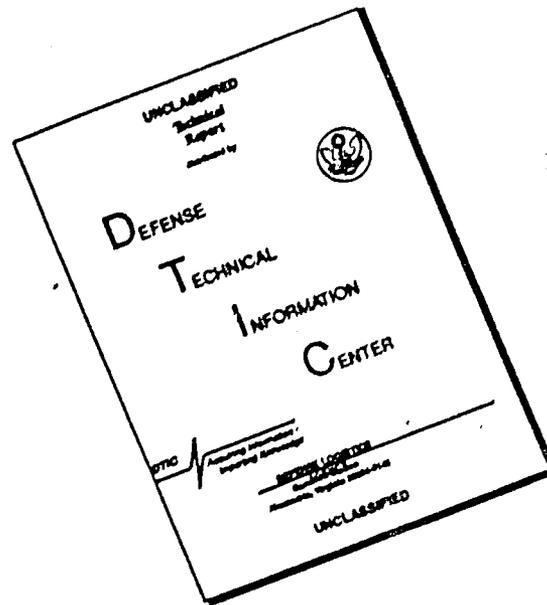


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This monograph concludes by offering four doctrinal improvements that are suggested by this comparative analysis. First, the principle of surprise needs to be given more emphasis in the context of our AirLand Battle doctrine. Second, we need to simplify and integrate efforts taken under the separate banners of deception, OPSEC, camouflage, and other programs related to the principles of security and surprise in our doctrine. Third, our doctrine needs to emphasize more easily attainable deception objectives that include inducing the enemy not to act, reinforcing preconceptions, and increasing ambiguities. Lastly, below the guiding principles of doctrine there is a need for specifics that will support the executability of deception by our Army.

Maskirovka--What's in it for Us?

by

Major Daniel W. Krueger  
Corps of Engineers

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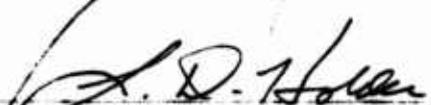
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## ABSTRACT

**MASKIROVKA--WHAT IS IN IT FOR US?** By Major Daniel W. Krueger, USA,  
47 pages.

Deception is a subject that has drawn increased emphasis in military studies in recent years. Within our Army we are undertaking concerted efforts to improve our capabilities in this area. In a broader arena, it is our most powerful potential enemy who has drawn attention and acclaim in the area of deception. Numerous authors have noted the increased emphasis of maskirovka in Soviet military thought and warned of the vulnerability of the western powers to such a practice.

This monograph studies evolving U.S. Army doctrine for deception and Soviet maskirovka doctrine in order to develop a comparative analysis of the two concepts. While appropriate manuals and regulations are drawn on to establish the essence of our doctrine, Soviet concepts are examined primarily through the numerous open source writings on this topic. Historical examples from the second World War are included for the illustration of U.S. and Soviet doctrinal concepts in execution. While the applicability of deception at all levels of war is recognized, this monograph focuses on deception at the tactical level.

This study finds that there are great similarities between U.S. Army deception doctrine and Soviet maskirovka. It also finds numerous subtle but significant differences between the two bodies of thought including differences in scale, emphasis, purpose, scope, planning techniques, attention to advanced technologies, and integration with broader doctrine. Differing U.S. and Soviet perspectives on the principle of surprise, and the place that surprise holds within the respective doctrines, are key to much of the contrast between our deceptive practices and Soviet maskirovka.

This monograph concludes by offering four doctrinal improvements that are suggested by this comparative analysis. First, the principle of surprise needs to be given more emphasis in the context of our AirLand Battle doctrine. Second, we need to simplify and integrate efforts taken under the separate banners of deception, OPSEC, camouflage, and other programs related to the principles of security and surprise in our doctrine. Third, our doctrine needs to emphasize more easily attainable deception objectives that include inducing the enemy not to act rather than act, reinforcing preconceptions, and increasing ambiguities. Lastly, below the guiding principles of doctrine there is a need for specifics that will support the executability of deception by our Army.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

"All warfare is based on deception." Sun Tzu

During the 4th century B.C., the Chinese general Sun Tzu established in the Art of War a doctrine for strategy and tactics that is founded on deception and rapid strikes at enemy vulnerabilities. Sun Tzu's concepts for deception included not only concealment of his own dispositions and intentions but also misleading of the enemy to false perceptions of these same elements. He wrote that "the ultimate in disposing one's troops is to be without ascertainable shape," and that "the enemy must not know where I intend to give battle."<sup>1</sup> Beyond the passive object of simply denying knowledge of his dispositions, he encouraged manipulating the enemy in accordance with the enemy's own desires and perceptions in order to set him up for a surprise strike, by such actions as to "pretend inferiority and encourage his arrogance," and to "entice him with something he is certain to take."<sup>2</sup> Measures to accomplish these aims included deliberately giving fabricated information to "expendable" secret agents. Finally, Sun Tzu recognized that rapidity of his own action and movement is what transformed confusion or misperception into exploitable surprise. "Speed is the essence of war. Take advantage of the enemy's unpreparedness.... This summarizes the essential nature of war.... and the ultimate in generalship."<sup>3</sup>

More than 2,000 years later Clausewitz considered deception and surprise in writing his treatise, On War. Clausewitz took his typically dialectic approach to this subject as he recognized the importance of surprise in theory, but was pessimistic toward its application in reality. According to Clausewitz, the desire to surprise is universal and "basic to all operations for without it superiority at the decisive point is hardly conceivable."<sup>4</sup> He cited secrecy and speed as the factors that produce surprise. Secrecy is

accomplished by being "cunning," and Clausewitz asserted that cunning is a key quality for commanders, but less important than fierce ambition, will power, and *coup d'oeil*. While dealing with the topics of surprise and cunning within the strategic context, he recognized that surprise impacts war at both the strategic and tactical levels, though differently. Surprise is one of the cited factors that yield an advantage to the defender at both the tactical and strategic levels. However, Clausewitz wrote that actually achieving surprise requires "favorable conditions which are not often present, and can rarely be created by the general."<sup>5</sup> He saw the time and space factors of the higher level of war as limiting the feasibility of achieving surprise and for this reason declared surprise as basically "a tactical device." Similarly, cunning actions taken only for appearances and to confuse the enemy "should not be considered as a significant independent field of action at the disposal of the commander."<sup>6</sup>

Many analysts argue that Clausewitz's views on surprise may have been valid for warfare of his day but, unlike much of his other thought, have not stood the test of time to remain valid for warfare today. In his essay, "Clausewitz in the Age of Technology," Michael Handel examines Clausewitzian thoughts in today's context of war. Among his conclusions are that technology has transformed surprise "from a course of action highly attractive in theory to an ever-present possibility."<sup>7</sup> While technology has vastly increased our intelligence collection capabilities, reliance on these capabilities creates potential for surprise through cunning and deception. Technology has also increased the tempo of war to a point where reaction time can be as little as a few seconds to a few minutes over the range from tactical to strategic warfare. L.J. Dick recommends that if faced by the Soviets in war, Western armies today should accept that they will be surprised. "NAIU senior commanders would do well to plan on the basis that

they will (not may) be the victims of strategic surprise...As things stand at present, the Soviets will be able to impose their style of warfare on NATO.<sup>8</sup>

The amalgamated concept of camouflage, concealment, and deception is expressed by the Soviets with the term "maskirovka." While direct translations of the single word "maskirovka" may vary, the Defense Intelligence Agency considers "deception" as the closest single word English language translation.<sup>9</sup> Interestingly, the second edition of the great Soviet Encyclopedia parenthetically defines the term "maskirovka" as "military knitrost," a term for which Clausewitz's "cunning" would be an acceptable translation.<sup>10</sup>

While much of Clausewitz's treatment of surprise can be dismissed as possibly applicable in his time but not today, he addressed two issues that do seem relevant to our situation of today, facing a possible confrontation with the Soviets. The first is the concept of mutual surprises by the offense and the defense, "in which case the side will be justified and succeed that has hit the nail most squarely on the head."<sup>11</sup> The second is his assertion that use of cunning is more appealing to the weaker side.

The U.S. Army has historical experience in conducting deception operations and also has current doctrine that will guide our deception efforts in the next war. However, it seems to be the Soviet capability for deception that is touted as the factor to be reckoned with should war break out between the two nations. Whether this perception is justified or not, we should investigate the Soviet concept of maskirovka in order to evaluate our own deception doctrine and determine how we might improve it. This paper is focused on that purpose.

In pursuing this aim, I will firstly review U.S. Army deception doctrine, drawing from our current manuals and regulations for deception and related areas. In examining our doctrine for deception this study will focus

on the basic questions of how it is defined, what purpose it fulfills, how it fits into the context of broader doctrine, how it is accomplished, how it is planned, and how it is controlled. A historical example will be reviewed to illustrate our deception concepts in execution. The Soviet concept of *maskirovka* will then be examined in a similar manner, drawing primarily on recent Soviet open source writings on this subject. Selected Soviet historical examples will be reviewed also to illustrate the concept of *maskirovka* in execution. I will then continue with a comparative analysis of the two doctrines and finally offer conclusions as to what the study of *maskirovka* reveals about our own deception doctrine and how it suggests we might improve it.

Deception is a concept that is applicable across the levels of war. This monograph will focus on deception at the tactical level. According to our doctrine, tactical deception includes deception operations conducted at echelons corps and below (ECB). To maintain a similar perspective in examining Soviet concepts, the focus of this study concerning *maskirovka* will be at the equivalent command levels, army and below.

## 11. BATTLEFIELD DECEPTION--A U.S. Army Warfighting Capability

The United States Army doctrinally recognizes deception as a form of support to the execution of combat operations. The Army's current field manual for deception is FM 40-2, Tactical Deception, published in August 1978. In September 1985, the U.S. Army Combined Arms Combat Developments Activity published a Field Circular 40-2, Deception Operations Planning guide, to augment the field manual with emphasis on "how to." Both the manual and the circular will be superseded by a new FM 40-2, Battlefield Deception which has been completed in final draft form and is currently in the publication process. While the new manual contains significant changes in

terms of scope and approach, much of the content of the previous publications is incorporated in the new manual. In addition to the planning and execution guidance set forth in the deception manual, the Army prescribes policy for tactical deception in Army Regulation 525-21, Tactical Deception (IAL-U) Policy (Including Camouflage, Countersurveillance, and Concealment). From a broader perspective, the Army addresses deception within the context of AirLand Battle in its keystone warfighting manual, FM 100-5, Operations. Additionally, deception is addressed within AR 525-20, Command, Control, Communications Countermeasures (C3CM), which establishes policy for C3CM, of which deception is one of four components. These publications represent Army doctrine as it exists and is currently evolving with respect to deception at the tactical level.

The Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms (1986) defines "military deception" as:

action executed to mislead foreign decision makers, causing them to derive and accept desired appreciations of military capabilities, intentions, operations, or other activities that evoke foreign actions that contribute to the originator's objectives.

AR 525-21 narrows the scope of tactical deception to that portion of military deception that is (1) planned and executed by combat, combat support, and combat service support elements at corps echelon and below and (2) aimed at hostile elements collecting intelligence or information against these echelons. The regulation further identifies two roles of tactical deception. The first is activities which seek to "hide the real," the camouflage, counter-surveillance, and concealment component of IAL-U. The second seeks to "portray the false," the deception component.

The new FM 90-2 (Final Draft) defines battlefield deception as "those operations conducted at echelons theater (Army component) and below which purposely mislead enemy decision makers by distorting, concealing or falsifying indicators of friendly intentions, capabilities, or dispositions."<sup>12</sup>

Battlefield deception includes operations to deceive at both the operational and tactical levels of war. The manual delineates that operational deception is generally the purview of theater army components, army groups or field armies (echelons above corps (EAC)) while tactical deception is planned and executed at echelons corps and below. Our doctrine calls for deception to be applied in peace as well as war.

The purpose for battlefield deception, as outlined in our new manual, is delineated by a specific objective and then a range of general goals which are situationally applicable. The objective is "to induce enemy decision makers to take operational or tactical actions which are favorable to, and exploitable by, friendly combat operations."<sup>13</sup> This purpose is in close accordance with that reflected in the previously cited DoD definition for military deception. The goals of battlefield deception may be such functions as masking redeployment, blocking identification, distracting attention, overloading collection capability, creating illusions, or conditioning expectations. The end served by achievement of these goals is succinctly stated in AR 525-21. By minimizing the effectiveness of the hostile commanders' intelligence capability, our tactical commanders "can control and manage hostile commanders' perceptions of friendly capabilities and intentions."<sup>14</sup>

Deception is by nature closely related to the principles of surprise and security. The new FM 40-2 points out that, "deception, when properly employed, can help create surprise."<sup>15</sup> The guidance for tactical commanders contained in AR 525-21 is that in addition to accomplishing the assigned mission, surprising the enemy and keeping casualties to a minimum must be included in a commander's "basic strategy." In its discussion of the principles of war, FM 100-5 specifically cites deception as a means to promote both security and surprise, principles which are identified as largely

reciprocal concepts.

The role of deception within our broader doctrine for warfighting is described in our keystone manual, FM 100-5. Use of deception, along with terrain, weather, and OPSEC, is one of the ten imperatives of AirLand Battle. Also, deception is addressed as a major functional area of coordinated combined arms action. It is considered as a "vital part of tactical operations as well (as campaigns or major operations)."<sup>16</sup> In conjunction with command, control and communications countermeasures, deception is cited as a typical activity conducted as part of deep operations.

The role of deception as a component of USCM is emphasized within our currently evolving battlefield deception doctrine. "Deception should be understood to be a tool, which when synchronized with jamming, physical destruction, and operations security (OPSEC) activities, can be optimized to effectively counter enemy US capabilities."<sup>17</sup> The new FM 90-2 calls battlefield deception "an important foundation to the USCM strategy for AirLand Battle." The relationship of deception with OPSEC, another component of USCM, deserves special attention.

OPSEC is cited by the new FM 90-2 as one cornerstone of battlefield deception. It goes on to say that "OPSEC and deception are truly mutually supporting activities." OPSEC establishes the "base of secrecy" and is the "concealment aspect" necessary for all deceptions. The concept of mutual support between these activities is also expressed within AR 530-1, Operations Security, which conveys that deception can be used to support OPSEC as well as be supported by OPSEC. Specifically, OPSEC is necessary to guard against the enemy's discovery of the fallacious nature of deception operations while deception can be practiced to mislead the enemy concerning indicators which he may collect.

To guide the execution of deception, our doctrine establishes principles

and recognizes specific methods and techniques for conducting battlefield deception. These principles, or maxims as they are called, could be summarized as the following:

- (1) exploit existing preconceptions.
- (2) exploit the tendency to infer from limited data .
- (3) exploit the susceptibility to conditioning.
- (4) combine the effects of various deception techniques and methods.
- (5) increase ambiguity or increase false conviction.
- (6) utilize assets at the right moment.
- (7) deter indicators of true intent as long as possible.
- (8) insure feedback.
- (9) recognize the possibility of undesired effects.
- (10) co-opt skepticism through subtle portrayal.

The principles, explained in detail within the manual, are drawn from historical experience, social science, decision analysis, and game theory.

With the essence of deception being to hide the real and portray the false, it follows logically that the means available to a deceiver include all the methods by which the enemy seeks to collect information on the battlefield. Thus, our doctrine includes visual, olfactory, sonic, and electronic methods for conducting deception. Visual deception efforts include the use of camouflage, smoke, and dummies and decoys. Our doctrine emphasizes that visual deception "must present a realistic and complete picture" that includes all normal indicators associated with an activity such as movement and evidence of troop occupancy.<sup>18</sup> Olfactory and sonic methods can also be used to reinforce a deception effort.

The final method, electronic deception, is so extensive as to warrant a separate manual which is currently being prepared. Our doctrine draws functional distinctions of manipulative, imitative, and simulative electronic deception and further recognizes that within each functional area, both communications and non-communications emissions offer opportunity for deceptive efforts. Manipulative electronic deception (MED) seeks to falsify information that the enemy may obtain from our own emissions by modifying the

technical characteristics and profiles of those emissions. Imitative electronic deception (IED) seeks to intrude into enemy systems to introduce transmissions that will deceive or confuse. Simulative electronic deception (SED) is the generation of emissions to represent false units or activities.

In addition to the four deception methods, our doctrine establishes four techniques for executing deception--the feint, demonstration, ruse, and display. Both feints and demonstrations are special purpose offensive operations conducted in order to divert the enemy. Feints are limited objective supporting attacks, normally executed by brigade or smaller units, and are designed to divert the enemy from the main attack. A demonstration differs in that it is a show of force intended to threaten attack but not to engage the enemy. Ruses are "tricks designed to deceive the enemy" and are "characterized by deliberately exposing false information to enemy collection means."<sup>19</sup> Displays intentionally present false information to the enemy's surveillance assets by simulating, disguising, or portraying. Simulation is the projection onto the battlefield of such things as field fortifications, weapons positions, supply dumps, airfields, or bridges. Disguises alter objects which are difficult to conceal completely. Portrayals present non-existent units to the enemy or present existing units as different types than in actuality. Of course, before any of these techniques can be utilized, a sound deception plan must be developed.

Our doctrine emphasizes that deception must be fully integrated with the true operation. In order to insure integration, deception must be considered and planning initiated early in the military decision making process for an upcoming mission. Deception should be included in the commander's planning guidance. The operations officer prepares a deception estimate that analyzes the situation and provides recommendations concerning the use of deception. Our doctrine calls for deception to be used "selectively."<sup>20</sup> The factors to

be considered when determining whether deception should be attempted are generally the information that would be collected into the situation analysis of the deception estimate, such as whether the enemy is susceptible to deception, the time available, and the resources available. Based on a consideration of these factors and the mission, our doctrine calls for deception to be utilized when there is an opportunity for success and when that opportunity justifies the expenditure of the required resources.

Given the decision to attempt a deception, our doctrinal planning process includes a framework of components that are common to all battlefield deception operations. These components are the deception objective, target, story, plan, and events. The objective is the ultimate purpose of a deception operation and specifies "what action or lack of action the enemy must be made to take at a specific place or time on the battlefield as a result of the friendly deception operation."<sup>21</sup> The objective is formulated during the estimate process and included in the deception estimate. The deception target is the enemy decision maker who has the authority to effect the objective. The target is identified in conjunction with development of the desired perception, the view that the enemy must hold if he is to act in accordance with the objective. The information which must be conveyed to the target to cause him to form the desired perception becomes the deception story. The deception plan then prescribes how the story will be presented in terms of specific operations and techniques. Events are detailed actions that convey the story in accordance with the plan. These last four components are developed during the preparation of the deception annex and are included in that document. Events will normally be listed in an implementing schedule which serves to identify specific responsibilities and coordinate the execution of the plan.

Planning may actually be conducted utilizing one of four techniques that

are included in our doctrine. The preferred technique is to use normal staff operations with the G3 having primary staff responsibility. Battlefield deception elements, currently being fielded at corps and division levels, will provide specialized deception expertise to the G3 to plan deception operations. When more security is needed planning may be conducted by one of three other techniques--commander only, close hold, or ad-hoc staff. The commander only technique provides the most secrecy but fails to capitalize on the expertise and manpower of the staff. Under the close-hold technique, planners from the various staff sections and perhaps subordinate units are detailed to the operations element to assist in the planning effort. An ad-hoc staff may be appropriate for smaller scale operations.<sup>22</sup>

Intelligence support is essential to deception planning and is cited as a cornerstone of successful deception operations.<sup>23</sup> Following Sun Tzu's maxim to "know your enemy," our doctrine emphasizes that deception planners must have detailed knowledge of the enemy situation and in particular, knowledge of his collection capabilities and command and control profile. During execution as well, intelligence support is required to provide feedback. Feedback is necessary to "gauge the enemy reaction to the deception" and "increases the chance for success in deception operations."<sup>24</sup>

Deception plans must be coordinated at the strategic, operational and tactical levels. Our new doctrine clearly delineates planning and control responsibilities for these levels by command echelon. Operational deception operations are an EAC, or in some cases corps, responsibility. They "most normally will be land component-specific, derivative slices of strategic deception plans," although these commands are not precluded from developing plans independently.<sup>25</sup> Likewise, tactical deception operations, conducted by corps and lower echelons, will "most normally be derivative slices of operational deception plans." Tactical deception plans must be deconflicted

at the operational level. Corps deception plans will usually target enemy army or front level commanders and may receive the deception story from higher command. Divisions will not normally conduct independent operations but will usually receive their deception story from the corps. Division deception operations will target regiment and division level enemy commanders but may aim as high as army level.<sup>26</sup>

While we may rewrite and improve our manuals, much of the substance of our doctrine can still be seen in our past experiences. A well documented historical example that reflects many facets of our current doctrine is the deception undertaken in conjunction with XX Corps's operations along the Moselle River in mid-September 1944 as part of the Third Army's Lorraine Campaign. XX Corps had advanced east and by 13 September had reached the Moselle north of Metz and had achieved a bridgehead at Arnaville, south of Metz. On 14 September the Corps ordered a concentration of its forces in order to renew the attack through the Arnaville bridgehead. As the Corps regrouped for its effort in the southern part of its zone, it ordered the 43d Reconnaissance Squadron of the 3d Cavalry Group to screen the Corps north flank in a 25 mile gap that existed between the Corps's 90th Division and V Corps, the southernmost element of First Army to the north. To assist in this sector the Corps planned to conduct a deception, code named Operation BELLEMBUUKB, that would portray an armored division occupying the area vicinity Wettebourg, Luxembourg.

By request, the Corps was supported by the 23d Headquarters Special Troops for the conduct of this deception. The 23d, a theater asset, was specifically organized to plan and conduct deceptions and consisted of a headquarters company, an engineer camouflage battalion, a combat engineer company, a signal company, and a signal service company. Half of the 1100 man group participated in Operation BELLEMBUUKB.

The objective was "to relieve pressure of the XX Corps bridgehead south of Metz by preventing the enemy from reinforcing in the Metz area and to draw enemy troops away from the Metz sector."<sup>2/</sup> The story, developed and assigned by XX Corps, was to portray the 6th Armored Division, less Combat Command B which actually was deployed in the XII Corps zone to the south, occupying the Bettenbourg area starting 15 September. The plan, developed by the 23d, broke out the elements of the 23d to portray Combat Commands A and K while the headquarters portrayed the division headquarters.

With only a platoon of light tanks from the 43d to augment their organic resources, the 23d undertook its task by employing radio (SEC), decoys, sonic deception, and special effects. Using its organic signal assets, the 23d became an active station on the Corps command and intelligence nets and the 3d Cavalry Group command net. It also established a false 6th Armored Division command net with its subordinate commands and a liaison net with 90th Division. The two "combat commands" emplaced a total of 23 inflatable M4 tank decoys but these were removed after one day for fear of discovery by local enemy agents. With loudspeaker systems, tank noises were broadcast for four nights.

A variety of actions were taken under the category of "special effects." Vehicles were painted with 6th Armored bumper markings. Soldiers wore 6th Armored shoulder patches and were given a short division history to study. Groups of soldiers were purposely sent into the surrounding villages for showers and church services and to coincidentally spread civilian awareness of the "division's" presence. Vehicular movements were staged, specifically utilizing the light tank platoon from the 43d and some organic half-tracks from the 3132d Signal Service Company. Engineers were outfitted as divisional military police and established traffic control along movement routes. The deception efforts continued up to 22 September.

The results of the deception were inconclusive by account of the 23d's own historical records. They did report that additional forces, the German 36th Division, appeared to their front. Earlier in the month the 36th Volksgrenadier Division had in fact been ordered for deployment to that area to reinforce the 553d and 554th Divisions.<sup>28</sup> The 23d detected increased German patrolling activity and aerial reconnaissance over the 6th Armored Division area. Apparently the German theater command, OB West, was deceived by this effort, as their maps depicted the "14th Armored Division" in the Bettembourg area at this time although there was no such unit in theater.<sup>29</sup> However, XI Corps's offensive out of the Arnaville bridgehead was stopped at the Selle River, six miles east of the Moselle. It is speculated that reinforcements for the Selle River defenses probably came from a regiment of the 554th Division, withdrawn from north of Metz on 20 September.<sup>30</sup>

While the results of this effort may have been inconclusive, the example does present aspects of our current doctrine in action. There was a clear deception objective, story, and plan, though a target was not specified. Planning was accomplished by normal staff procedures augmented by the expertise of a special deception organization. An array of methods was used to convey the deception story to include visual, sonic, and electronic methods. The techniques of display, specifically portrayal and ruse, were creatively applied in this effort. The use of a special organization to plan and conduct deceptions is a concept that was resurrected for consideration in the mid-70's and is now being fielded in the 80's, though at a much smaller scale than the 23d, in the form of our new battlefield deception elements.<sup>31</sup>

### III. MASKIROVKA--IN CONCEPT AND IN EXECUTION

"To surprise is to conquer." A. V. Suvorov

Before maskirovka is examined, it is important to establish the basis of

what constitutes *maskirovka* "doctrine." Rather than manuals and regulations as is the case for our doctrine, the Soviets have expressed their concept of *maskirovka* in a number of articles and books that speak to the role of *maskirovka* in military art, specifically as a means to achieve the principle of surprise. These articles, mostly written within the last decade, establish a common concept for the subject of *maskirovka*.

There are three threads of continuity that wind through almost all these Soviet writings. These are an emphasis on historical experience, recognition of changes in warfare since that experience, and importance of *maskirovka* in current military art. Soviet *maskirovka* experience during World War II provides a baseline for their current doctrine. Their experiences were both numerous and extensive and over the years they have studied them rigorously. However, the Soviets recognize that warfare has changed, thus this experience must be placed in context. The three major developments that impact on their *maskirovka* doctrine of today versus their war experience are more advanced means of reconnaissance, the growing number of weapons, and the higher tempos of attack.<sup>32</sup> Lastly, without exception, Soviet authors emphasize that these changes have made *maskirovka* more, not less, important.

The Soviet Armed Forces' Dictionary of Basic Military Terms (1965) defines *maskirovka* as:

a form of support for combat operations, its purpose being to conceal the activities and disposition of friendly troops, and to deceive the enemy with regard to the grouping and intentions of such troops.

A somewhat more current definition is included in the Soviet Military Encyclopedia (1978) which renders the following:

a form of security for the combat actions and daily activity of the forces; a complex of measures, directed at deceiving the enemy relative to the presence and location of forces (the fleet), various combat objectives, their status, battle readiness and action, and also the plans of the command.

Levels of *maskirovka* are distinguished by the echelon of command at which it is directed and by variations in scale and focus commensurate with each level. Strategic *maskirovka* includes actions ordered by the supreme command and focuses on maintaining the "secrecy of preparations for strategic operations and campaigns and also disorientation of the enemy relative to true measures and actions of the armed forces." Operational *maskirovka* is conducted by fronts and armies and "is directed at securing the secrecy of preparations for operations." Tactical *maskirovka* is conducted by divisions and lesser units and is oriented to "concealing preparation for combat or the presence of objectives."<sup>33</sup>

The immediate purpose of *maskirovka*, as stated by the first definition, is to conceal and deceive. Although "mislead" or "disorient" or "delude" are all commonly used in lieu of "deceive" the combined concepts of concealment and deception is reflected invariably as the crux of *maskirovka* by the wide number of Soviet authors who have recently written on this subject. While concealment and deception are the essence of *maskirovka*, they are not ends in themselves. The ultimate purpose of *maskirovka* is to achieve *vnezapnost*-- surprise.

Surprise, for the Soviets, is a principle of military art. The above cited Dictionary states that "surprise makes it possible to inflict heavy losses upon the enemy in short periods of time, to paralyze his will, and to deprive him of the possibility of offering organized resistance."<sup>34</sup> Soviet writers have given this topic, as well as *maskirovka*, considerable attention. Recent writings have examined the basic psychological and cognitive factors that are involved in surprise, its implications for military units in combat, and how surprise may be achieved. As with *maskirovka*, Soviets recognize that surprise is applicable to all levels of war and distinguish tactical, operational, and strategic surprise. Soviets also recognize the effect of

time with regard to surprise and emphasize that it is a temporary condition that quickly dissipates through reaction and adjustment. Soviet doctrine stipulates that once achieved, surprise must be exploited to the maximum extent. As elements of surprise are achieved and exploited during battle, commanders must continually seek to achieve new elements of surprise.<sup>35</sup>

While not the sole means, *maskirovka* constitutes the most important means of achieving surprise.<sup>36</sup> Measures to achieve surprise include maintenance of secrecy of the aim of upcoming combat, misleading of the enemy as to true intentions, preparing secretly, and camouflaging to deny enemy reconnaissance efforts. All of these are integral to the concept of *maskirovka*. Additionally, striking with speed, striking where unanticipated, striking with new weapons or varied tactics, along with resourcefulness and boldness on the part of the commander are other measures prescribed for the achievement of surprise.<sup>37</sup> However, it is *maskirovka* that is cited as the "primary" means for achieving surprise.<sup>38</sup>

Soviet doctrine includes four principles that must govern for successful *maskirovka*. Though the exact terminology may vary slightly from one article to another, these principles are activity, conviction, continuity, and variety. Activity refers to persistent and diligent execution by units of the entire complex of measures aimed at deceiving the enemy.<sup>39</sup> Conviction refers to the convincing quality or believability of deception measures. This principle is also expressed as plausibility or naturalness. Continuity calls for constant and timely execution of measures in preparation for and during the course of combat operations.<sup>40</sup> Variety recognizes that *maskirovka* must be undertaken by different measures, developed with resourcefulness and cunning for the particular situation and planned combat operation. Patterns are to be avoided.

There are four basic methods for the conduct of *maskirovka*--

concealment, simulation, demonstration, and disinformation. Concealment "includes the elimination or cutting down on revealing signs of the forces (military objectives) and their activity."<sup>41</sup> The immediate purpose of concealment measures is to cause enemy intelligence efforts to obtain false data with regard to the disposition of forces. Concealment measures are "to be carried out by units (subunits) of all arms or services in any situation without special instructions of the higher command."<sup>42</sup>

Soviet *maskirovka* doctrine recognizes and considers the capabilities of enemy reconnaissance and the activity indicators of their own troop units. The various detection means such as sight, sound, radar, heat, and radio intercept are considered, along with the limitations of each and possible countermeasures. While they give heavy emphasis to use of terrain and poor weather conditions, technical means are additionally used to hinder enemy surveillance efforts. Visual reconnaissance is countered by use of terrain, vegetation, night, and weather. Additionally camouflage nets, screens, and smoke are employed to hinder visual surveillance. Use of terrain, vegetation, and local structures as well as extensive use of corner reflectors and interference or shielding screens are emphasized for hindering radar surveillance. Taking advantage of weather, heat shields, and use of false heat sources are advocated measures for countering thermal detection. Radio silence is prescribed to preclude detection by radio intercept. In his manual on concealment, Beketov recognizes the advanced technological capabilities of U.S. reconnaissance assets but confidently addresses how each of these capabilities can be mitigated.<sup>43</sup>

To insure effectiveness when employing concealment techniques, Soviets emphasize strict camouflage discipline and supervision. Units are expected to strictly enforce movement restrictions, weapons fire discipline, light discipline, sound discipline, and radio communications restrictions. Use of

stoves or other heat sources may be prohibited to avoid generating a thermal signature. In reviewing World War II experiences, instances are described of officers being posted for every 3-5 kilometers of road and NCU's every 1-2 km for the purpose of insuring traffic regulation and camouflage discipline during covert movements.<sup>44</sup> Aircraft checked column movements and unit positions and dropped pennants to the units on the ground if camouflage measures were violated. Soviet doctrine calls for concealment measures to be thoroughly and constantly checked through all media utilized by enemy reconnaissance.

Simulation is the "reproduction of disclosing signs present at actual objectives."<sup>45</sup> Also referred to as imitation, simulation includes the establishment of false positions, be they weapons positions at the tactical level or assembly areas for mobile reserves at the operational level. Soviet writings emphasize the use of equipment mock-ups to establish decoy positions. Engineer units may be employed to construct these mock-ups based on simple standardized designs. Mock-ups are incorporated with false engineer works to portray defensive positions, located to portray false attack groupings, or combined with other elements to depict such activities as river crossings, logistical activities or even airfields. Soviets place emphasis on "animating" or "livening-up" decoys by use of some actual equipment, and use of other means to generate the indicators appropriate for the objective being simulated. Explosives, smoke, sound, radar reflectors, and radio transmissions are means commonly used for animating decoys and false positions.

Demonstration is the "preconceived display by real units (subunits) of the movement of troops (forces), the concentration of groups, the carrying out of combat and other actions for the purpose of creating in the enemy a false representation of the intentions of the command in combat

(operations).<sup>46</sup> Typical demonstrations or diversionary actions in Soviet experience include actions such as strengthening defensive positions when planning an attack, withdrawing though intending to attack, conducting feints away from the axis of the main attack, and conducting reconnaissance along broad fronts to avoid showing interest in one zone. Demonstrations are usually conducted by limited forces, assigned the appropriate combat mission for the desired effect but unaware as to the true role of that mission.<sup>47</sup>

Disinformation is the intentional dissemination of false information and is conducted by making false reports via the press, radio and television broadcasts, and other means. Soviet experience and writings show that while the enemy is the ultimate target audience for disinformation, the local populace and even their own troops may be the immediate targets to effect deception. Command information channels and unit newspapers were commonly used during the War for disinformation. Another typical technique was the staging of various activities specifically for consumption by the populace.

In addition to these four basic methods, some authors have delineated other categories in which the measures for the conduct of *maskirovka* can be placed. Matsulenko states that *maskirovka* is conducted by application of operational and engineering measures.<sup>48</sup> The former include demonstration actions while the latter consist of concealment and simulation activities. Beketov offers that measures can be broken down into groups of organizational or technical means.<sup>49</sup> Organizational measures include use of terrain and weather for concealment, camouflage discipline, and measures to protect military secrets. Technical means are those applied by engineer and technical troops and include concealment and simulation activities such as painting, screening, mock-up construction, and smoke generation.

A delineation of *maskirovka* means into active and passive measures is also recognized by several Soviet authors although from differing

perspectives. Vashevskiy describes active measures as those that require or evoke immediate response by the enemy while passive measures do not.<sup>50</sup> Demonstration and simulation activities would be grouped under the former while concealment and disinformation activities would be included under the latter. Shchedrov states that active measures are focused at deceiving the enemy as to true disposition and intention while passive measures are focused on concealing true dispositions.<sup>51</sup> Within his active/passive context, demonstration, simulation, and disinformation activities would generally be considered active while concealment is passive.

While the purpose, principles, and methods of *maskirovka* as discussed here are applicable for all levels, the distinction between operational and tactical *maskirovka* as stated by the definitions given earlier is clarified by contrasting the immediate aims and the means utilized. By virtue of scale and the command level involved, operational *maskirovka* is clearly focused on deception to insure secrecy of intention for major operations. Concealment of true dispositions is a larger component of *maskirovka* at the tactical level. However, *maskirovka* at the tactical and operational level is interdependent and cannot be regarded separately. Although the emphasis may be different at the tactical and operational levels, effective operational *maskirovka* is dependent on effective tactical measures and conversely, though to a lesser extent, operational measures will also impact on tactical effects.<sup>52</sup> Having examined the purpose, principles, and methods of *maskirovka*, let us turn to see how *maskirovka* actions are planned and controlled.

Soviet doctrine continually emphasizes the importance of centralized control of deception efforts. As noted previously, all units are expected to take passive-type concealment efforts without specific orders from higher commands. However, active deception measures taken without orders or

coordination are viewed as a serious potential cause for disruption of the higher level operation. In his 1980 article on *maskirovka*, Dashevskiy renders a 1942 historical example of an Army commander who executed *maskirovka* on his own, the author's point being to show "how independent initiative on the part of the commanding general, displayed without coordinating deception measures with front headquarters, frustrated the front offensive operation plan."<sup>53</sup> Dashevskiy advocates that deception efforts must be integrated even among fronts in order to be successful. In reviewing experiences in the Great Patriotic War, Matsulenko concludes that by the end of the war, front commanders were making the decisions and plans to execute *maskirovka* according to the intent of the Supreme High Command. Even at army level, the role was one of execution.<sup>54</sup>

In developing plans for *maskirovka* efforts, Soviet writings call for consideration of the mission of the true operation, the intent of the deception, the enemy, the terrain, and the resources available in terms of both troop units and technical means. With respect to the enemy, knowledge of his capabilities and plans are considered as important as specific consideration of his reconnaissance capabilities. In addition to consideration of these factors, Soviets emphasize that commanders must display creativity, resourcefulness, and initiative in devising plans for *maskirovka* in accordance with the principles listed earlier.

Several Soviet articles describe the development of a staff system for the planning and supervision of concealment, camouflage and deception. At the outset of World War II, responsibilities for planning and supervision laid with the chief of engineers within a command in accordance with Field Service Regulations and a specific command directive of that time.<sup>55</sup> During the second period of the war, special staffs at army and front level were organized to develop concealment and deception plans. These staffs were

comprised of personnel from the various staff sections of the headquarters as well as representatives from technical service units. By the third period of the war, the front staff had emerged as the primary organizer of *maskirovka* efforts, with this planning being done in a "close hold" manner of strict secrecy.<sup>56</sup> For current application, Dashevskiy advocates that organization and conduct of *maskirovka* efforts are a command responsibility and should not be relegated to the engineer or any one particular staff agency.<sup>57</sup>

Soviet writings commonly include examples of strident measures taken during the War to insure secrecy while planning operations. There are no hints that such measures would not be applicable today. Planning documents would be drawn up by hand in only one copy. Commanders would be told only their specific missions without knowledge of other aspects of the operation. Division commanders were given orders verbally only two days prior to an operation. Support elements were sometimes excluded from planning and logistical actions would be handled by the operations section conducting the planning.<sup>58</sup> Restrictions were placed on communications with use of telephones being forbidden. If necessary, plans were communicated by courier. In the case of the 2d Ukrainian Front and the Iasi-Kishinev operation of 1944, only five personnel had any knowledge of the operation up to four days prior to its initiation--the commander, the military council member, the chief of staff, and the chiefs of operations and artillery.<sup>59</sup>

The *maskirovka* efforts conducted by the 1st Ukrainian Front during the Lvov-Sandomierz operation of July and August 1944 provide a typical example of deception doctrine as it had developed by the third period of the Great Patriotic War. It is also representative of the type experience from that war that has drawn renewed Soviet interest and examination within this decade. In July the front was deployed from the south edge of the Pripet Marshes across the Dniester River and was assigned seven combined arms armies

and three tank armies. The front, with Field Marshal of the Soviet Union Ivan S. Konev commanding, had the mission of attacking in the direction of Kava-Muskska and Lvov to destroy the German Northern Ukraine Army Group and liberate the Western Ukraine. To support the operation, the front planned, organized and conducted a deception to portray the main axis of advance toward Stanislav, on its left flank, while concealing the true directions on which its operational formations were to be committed. The front ordered its southernmost units, the 1st Guards and 18th Armies, to simulate the concentration of a tank army in each of their zones. As these simulations were conducted, the front's mobile groups, the 1st Guards tank, the 3d Guards tank, and the 4th tank Armies actually regrouped for attack on the front right flank and center. The experience of the 18th Army provides an excellent example of a Soviet simulation.<sup>60</sup>

The 18th Army planned and directed the maskirovka efforts by forming a special staff operational group which reported to the Chief of Staff, General F.P. Uzerov. The group consisted of eight officers from the various staff sections and included engineer, artillery, signal, political, transportation, and chemical representatives. It was headed by the deputy chief of army staff operations department, Colonel Soloveykin. The front provided a full time representative and advisor, an engineer major by the name of Momotov.

Front allocated 18th Army 100 men of the Defensive Construction Administration, a platoon of the 22d Camouflage Company, two platoons of a reserve engineer battalion and 126 tank mock-ups as a start. The Army utilized three engineer battalions, two rifle battalions, a tank destroyer squadron, two self-propelled artillery batteries, an anti-aircraft artillery regiment, and three signal companies of various function. Additionally, twenty trucks, three tractors, two trains, and several loudspeaker sound units were utilized.

The simulation was conducted during the period of 4-20 July and included rail movement of the forces, unloading at two stations, movement from the unloading points to the assembly area, occupation of the assembly area, and finally, movement into attack positions. The rail movement and unloading was conducted with tank mock-ups on flat cars which were moved at night to the unloading stations but deliberately displayed to German aerial reconnaissance in the morning. Movement to the assembly areas was primarily portrayed by the tank destroyers and self-propelled guns. Day movements would be conducted so as to display the activity to aerial reconnaissance. Night movements were also simulated using dismounted troops with flashlights to look like headlights of vehicles. The lights were deliberately lit long enough to attract aerial reconnaissance and then "blacked out" when the aircraft approached for a closer look. Loudspeakers were used to broadcast sounds of moving equipment.

Within the area for concentration of the tank army, positions were designated and mock-ups set up for separate brigades and regiments. A total of 453 tank mock-ups, 612 gun mock-ups, and 200 vehicle mock-ups were deployed. Mock-ups of 45 field kitchens were also constructed. A false airfield was built and six aircraft mock-ups were displayed. A garrison of troops was assigned to each assembly area to animate and guard the displays. Radio nets were also established to support the notional concentration. From 4-12 July, only communications checks were made. From 13 July on, transmissions were imitated. On 18 July, signal stations were moved forward in preparation for the "attack." Radio procedures were conducted by standard methods with call signs from the Army's existing code.

On the night of 19 July, "tank" regiments were simulated moving into forward attack positions, just prior to beginning the actual attack. On 21 July, 1st Guards and 18th Armies actually did attack in the southern part of

the front zone toward Stanislaw. However, the frontal offensive was already well developed by this time. First echelon armies to the north had commenced the offensive as early as 13 July. The three tank armies forming the true operational reserve had been committed on 16 and 17 July.

While simulation was certainly the essential means of deception in this operation, the other three methods were employed as well. Disinformation of the local populace was conducted in order to convince them of the authenticity of the simulated regrouping using the Army newspaper and staged activities for public consumption such as tank crews asking for directions to the assembly areas. Concealment was essential to effect the simulated regrouping with the limited resources. Vehicles made reverse movements at night, bypassing populated areas so that they could simulate forward movements again the next day. Concealment was also extensively employed to hide the true areas of concentration for the three tank armies. Matsulenko claims that the regrouping of the 1st Guards Tank Army and the 10th Tank Corps of the 4th Tank Army was undetected. Actual regrouping that was detected caused confusion among German intelligence.<sup>61</sup> Demonstration actions also supported the deception. Several reconnaissance in force missions were conducted by 18th Army forces to indicate preparation for a mechanized offensive within that zone.

Dashevskiy claims that the combined maskirovka efforts of the 18th and 1st Guards Armies were successful in fixing four German reserve divisions in their area of the front zone.<sup>62</sup> In any case the success of a deception can only be reflected in the accomplishment of the true mission. In this case, the 1st Ukrainian Front encircled and destroyed the German XIII Corps vicinity Brody, subsequently advanced to and crossed the Vistula River, and secured a key bridgehead vicinity Sandomierz which was later to serve as a jump off point for the Vistula-Uder Operation.

The Lvov-Bandomierz Operation demonstrates many facets of Soviet *maskirovka* doctrine. First, it was a typical deception operation of the Great Patriotic War in that it emphasized a simulation effort to mislead the enemy as to where mobile reserves were being concentrated, thereby concealing their true intentions. Soviet deception efforts for this operation demonstrated the four methods of *maskirovka* as well as the four principles, but especially plausibility, activity, and continuity. The deception effort was planned in strict secrecy by a small operations group. Measures directed for the effort were very detailed and very extensive in terms of scale. This operation was not atypical in terms of the type and amount of resources dedicated to the deception effort.

The same principles applied at the front and army level can be seen at the tactical level in *maskirovka* applied by divisions. Sverdlov recounts an example of the 26th Guards Rifle Division which conducted a crossing of the Neman River in 1944. The division established a decoy assembly area for an assault crossing with two rifle battalions, a tank company, three artillery and mortar batteries, a combat engineer company, and two radio stations. After the decoy units had moved to their area, the remainder of the division moved under concealment to an actual assembly area 15 kilometers away. The next morning the division conducted a successful crossing while the decoy elements fought heavy German resistance.<sup>60</sup>

The Soviet emphasis on their World War II experiences in *maskirovka* is not at all an indication of a failure to realize the new challenges that today's technology poses for deception operations. Articles recounting these experiences of more than forty years ago invariably recognize the vastly increased capabilities of today's reconnaissance means. However, it is the recognition of today's and tomorrow's capabilities that has inspired their focused study of their historical experience due to the perception that

technology has increased the importance of maskirovka in war. It is obvious by some articles that not all leaders in the Red Army are completely sold on the effectiveness or executability of maskirovka. However it is the views of those that are sold that continue to make it to the press in Moscow.

#### IV. ANALYSIS

Properly planned and executed deception operations will make it possible for operational and tactical commanders to "hide the real" and display the false." FC 90-2

...during the years of the war two main trends in deception, as it were, evolved: to conceal that which is, and to show that which is not.  
I. Sverdlov

The preceding surveys of U.S. Army battlefield deception doctrine and Soviet maskirovka reveal much similarity. Both battlefield deception and maskirovka are forms of support for combat operations that contribute to the security and survivability of forces as well as the achievement of surprise. Both focus on a central theme of hiding the real and portraying the false. While techniques and methods may be categorized differently, both concepts recognize the same tools for conducting deception operations. Both concepts also recognize that deception efforts must be coordinated at higher levels of command if they are to be effective and that the big payoff for deception is actually at the operational rather than the tactical level. Both the United States Army and the Soviet military consider deception applicable in times of peace and preparation for war as well as during war. Lastly, both armies face training deficiencies and leader skepticism concerning the subject of deception despite their advocacy of its virtues.<sup>64</sup>

If we are to see potential improvements for our own doctrine, however, it is the differences and not the similarities that are important. As with the similarities, comparison of the two concepts reveals some obvious differences. Others are more subtle but nevertheless significant. The purpose here is to review these differences, examine them in detail, attempt

to explain them, and establish their significance.

Perhaps the most striking difference between the Soviets and us with regard to deception is that of scale. Current writings emphasize the very extensive efforts that were given to camouflage, cover, and deception during the Great Patriotic War. Employment of hundreds and even thousands of tank, vehicle, and gun mock-ups for an operation was not exceptional. Matsulenko reports of 240 kilometers of vertical mask being constructed to conceal troop concentrations in the Sandomierz bridgehead prior to the Vistula-Uder operation.<sup>65</sup> Melnikov describes complete smoke screens across an army front as typical by 1945.<sup>66</sup> While these particular examples are at the level of major operations, rather than battles, they illustrate the prominence of *maskirovka* in Soviet military art and indicate Soviet willingness to commit great effort to its accomplishment.

U.S. experience does include deception operations of some magnitude. Operation FUKIILIUDE, for the cross-channel invasion in June 1944, and Operation VIKSEEN, for the Rhine crossing in March 1945, are both examples of deception operations of considerable scale. These were exceptional, however. The experiences of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops, which was involved in most of the major deception operations in the European theater during World War II, show that Operation BELLEBUURG was more typical in terms of scale than were these other operations.

This higher degree of importance rendered to deception in Soviet military thought is also reflected in the difference as to when deception will be conducted. Our doctrine offers considerations for whether or not deception efforts should be undertaken. To the Soviets, however, success of an operation is inconceivable without *maskirovka*.<sup>67</sup> *Maskirovka* measures "must be accomplished in all forms, in any situation."<sup>68</sup> As resource justification is one of our concerns in determining whether deception should be employed,

greater availability of resources for the Soviets may be considered as one factor contributing to this difference. However, contrasts in scope, content, and purpose also contribute to the disparity as to when *maskirovka* or deception should be applied.

It is clear from the surveys that our deception doctrine and Soviet *maskirovka* have significant differences in terms of content and scope. *Maskirovka* consists of a complex of coordinated measures which include those that we would categorize under the programs of deception, camouflage, and UP&L. Despite the considered opinion of the DIA that "deception" is the closest single word translation for "*maskirovka*" the fact remains that "camouflage" is the single word translation that is most commonly used. This is certainly not inaccurate as *maskirovka* entails all of the measures that we call camouflage, but much more as well. While we think of camouflage in terms of masking individual weapons systems or positions, Soviets think of camouflaging operations. AK 530-1 defines UP&L as "the process of denying adversaries information about friendly capabilities and intentions by identifying, controlling, and protecting indicators associated with the planning and conducting of military operations and other activities." *Maskirovka* integrates all these measures within a unified effort directed toward a single purpose.

Another perhaps more subtle way in which the content and scope of Soviet *maskirovka* varies from our deception doctrine is with regard to focus. While our doctrine is actually a rather generic treatment of the subject, it is clear from the Soviet authors that they are focused on mid- to high intensity conflict against the United States in particular and the western powers in general. Their World War II experiences in Europe and Manchuria serve as a baseline for their current *maskirovka* doctrine below the strategic level. When changes from this baseline are discussed, the discussion commonly

includes specific reference to U.S. or western capabilities and doctrine. Although they have fought a series of lesser conflicts since 1945, their recent discussions of operational and tactical *maskirovka* do not spend attention on these experiences nor have their operations such as in Afghanistan typified their doctrinal *maskirovka* measures at the operational and tactical levels.

A detailed look at how Soviets conduct *maskirovka* also reveals some significant differences when contrasted with our deception doctrine. These differences are seen specifically in the areas of attention given to modern technology and its impacts, development of norms and quantitative standards for deception efforts, organization of staff effort for planning, and supervision and monitoring of the execution of deception operations.

The use of such technologies as radar and infrared detection have been key to much of our recent efforts for developing and fielding intelligence collection capabilities. We recognize that Soviet collection capabilities are technologically comparable to ours but our doctrine for deception and camouflage pay little attention to modern technology. Neither the 17/B version or the new FM 90-2 address these areas specifically. Our current field manual on camouflage, published in 1968, includes a one paragraph discussion of both radar and infrared detection. While the Soviets are certainly not giving away all their detailed secrets, their open source writings on the topic of camouflage and deception give much more attention to modern technologies and how they will utilize them or frustrate the enemy's use of them. FM 90-2 categorizes our deception measures as visual, sonic, olfactory, and electronic. The Soviet Military Encyclopedia differentiates *maskirovka* measures as optical, thermal, radar, radio and electronic, sound, and hydroacoustic. Shchedrov's 1966 article on "Camouflaging Troops During Regrouping and Maneuver" shows that these technologies have had considerable attention for some time now. The conclusion here is not that there is any

gap in development of these technologies for intelligence collection or for deception, but that there is a gap in treatment of these technologies in our doctrinal literature.

Soviet guidance for the conduct of *maskirovka* also varies from our doctrine in that they have typically applied a quantitative approach in analyzing their past experience and developing norms or standards on which future planning could be based. Shchedrov develops a "coefficient of camouflage volume" which he advocates as a useful measure for comparison of natural camouflage along various movement routes and a basis for estimating additional camouflage effort needed. Beketov includes a table that quantifies the capacity of forests to conceal troop units. Matsulenko quantifies World War II experience for capacities of forests and villages to provide natural cover for densities of troops. These same sources also include experience based data for the effort required to install and remove mock-ups and to prepare false positions. A quantitative orientation of this type is absent from our current doctrine for deception, OP&EC, or camouflage.

There are also significant contrasts with regard to how planning of deception is accomplished. Our doctrine lays out a very complete and logically sequential process for proceeding from receipt of a mission to completion of a deception annex and implementing schedule. Soviet writings are not as explicit in how plans are developed but do indicate that *maskirovka* plans, like our deception annex, are support plans based on "the commander's decision for the operation (battle) and his instructions on the type of support in which he assigns the missions and designates (resources)."<sup>64</sup> Examples of Soviet plans from World War II show that they are similar in terms of type information presented to our implementing schedules.

Command and staff roles in preparing deception plans are different. While our doctrine emphasizes normal staff procedures for developing plans,

they clearly emphasize close hold procedures for developing operations and camouflage plans. Soviet writings indicate that in order to preserve secrecy, planning will be conducted by a select group, similar to the operational groups of the Great Patriotic War, that will be supervised by the chief of staff.<sup>10</sup> The degree of secrecy routinely practiced by the Soviets during the War contrasts sharply with our emphasis on *auftragstaktik* and decentralized leadership based on commander's intent. It is also interesting to note that while our deception doctrine stresses intelligence support (and is largely developed by our intelligence branch), the Soviet staff groups during the War often did not include an intelligence staff member. Recent writings however, have indicted this shortcoming and now emphasize the necessity of intelligence.<sup>11</sup>

As plans are completed and execution begins, both the Soviets and we address the importance of monitoring progress of the deception. There is divergence, however, in where these monitoring efforts are focused. Our doctrine emphasizes close monitoring of enemy reactions to our deception efforts through intelligence collection and feedback. What is emphasized, however, in Soviet writing is constant, strict and systematic supervision of their own efforts. Supervision and inspection includes checking efforts with the same type of collection assets that will be employed by the enemy. While both doctrines consider both aspects and neither doctrine considers either unimportant, the emphasis in our doctrine is clearly on watching the enemy while the emphasis in Soviet writings is on watching themselves. This difference is an indicator of a broader difference in emphasis.

The Soviets and we both recognize that the crux of the issue is hiding the real and displaying the false. Comparatively, however, the Soviet concept of *maskirovka* emphasizes the former while our deception doctrine emphasizes the latter. On our part, the emphasis on portraying the false can

largely be explained by the distinction we have drawn between UPSEC and deception. From the Soviet view, portraying the false is undertaken because modern technologies make it impossible to totally hide the true, as reflected in the following:

Indeed it is hardly possible to conceal the locations of troops completely when the enemy has modern reconnaissance equipment. That is why it is necessary to organize diversionary operations skillfully and set up dummy installations.<sup>12</sup>

This difference in emphasis is also reflected in the results that both armies look for as a result of their deception efforts. Battlefield deception seeks to induce the enemy to take an action which is favorable to or exploitable by us. In order to induce this action it is necessary for us to "control and manage hostile commanders' perceptions of friendly capabilities and intention."<sup>13</sup> While Soviet writings convey that they like to achieve such results from maskirovka, their efforts are focused on maintaining the secrecy of their own dispositions and intentions. If this can't be achieved through denial, then distraction and diversion will be added. Shchedrov points out that while modern technologies have made passive measures alone inadequate, the main effort now is to confuse the enemy. Confusing the enemy, or increasing his uncertainty, is clearly easier to achieve than is inducing the enemy to take a specific desired action. The latter requires not increasing the enemy's uncertainty but increasing his conviction of a falsehood.

These more limited results sought from maskirovka are wholly in line with its purpose--to contribute to the achievement of surprise. Colonel J. Zeltowski offers the following definition for surprise:

a phenomenon produced by unexpected vigorous action by the enemy, action which exerts a powerful psychological effect, disrupting one's inner equilibrium and thus depriving one of the ability to react quickly and effectively to a threatening danger."<sup>14</sup>

In addition to the psychologically disorganizing and incapacitating

effects mentioned, Soviets also look to surprise to cause fear, weakened morale, and perhaps panic. Combat operations conducted in accordance with the principles of mobility and high tempo, creation of the necessary superiority, and concentration of effort will provide the "vigorous" action. *maskirovka*, in conjunction with the other means of achieving surprise, must insure that these vigorous action are unexpected.

In the end, it is this difference in the role and prominence of the principle of surprise that explains many substantive differences in how the Soviets approach *maskirovka* and how we approach deception. While our doctrine recognizes the importance of surprise, it does not emphasize this principle as do the Soviets. According to Iaktika (1984), "the element of surprise has long been the most important principle of the art of war."<sup>5</sup> Beyond the degree of emphasis for surprise as a principle, there is difference in the role surprise holds within the two doctrines. Clausewitz cites the utility of surprise as twofold--as a means to gain numerical superiority and as a means to effect the enemy psychologically.<sup>6</sup> Our doctrine is more focused on the first of these effects while consideration of the psychological aspects is far more evident in Soviet thought.

#### V. CONCLUSIONS.

The study of Soviet *maskirovka* reveals by contrast some distinct differences in how they approach deception and how our doctrine treats deception. The question at hand, then, is how this study suggests that we might improve our doctrine. The value of the study in answering this question is not limited to seeing specific pieces of *maskirovka* which we should borrow and incorporate into our doctrine. Rather, the value of the study is in the examination of our doctrine from a different perspective. From that different perspective, areas for improvement do become apparent.

The first improvement we could make would be to increase our doctrinal emphasis on surprise and its effects. The first tenet of our AirLand Battle doctrine is initiative and our keystone manual states that, "initiative requires a constant effort to force the enemy to conform to our operational purpose and tempo while retaining our own freedom of action."// This clearly indicates that initiative is not merely exercised but, due to the interactive nature of war, is something which must be seized and maintained. Surprise, "a phenomenon produced by unexpected vigorous action," can provide the opportunity for seizure of the initiative. It is a key in being active as opposed to reactive. In discussing initiative, FM 100-5 mentions surprise for the attack. Surprise is also addressed as a characteristic of all successful offensive operations. Surprise is not addressed with regard to the defense, as it should be noted, Soviets do. In the sections where it is addressed our treatment of surprise tends to be somewhat negative or at least reserved as indicated in the following:

To sum up, surprise can be a vital ingredient of successful offensive operations. But it can never be guaranteed, and even when achieved, rarely lasts.<sup>78</sup>

Total surprise is indeed very difficult to achieve, as our doctrine recognizes. Partial surprise, however, can still be effective and can be achieved more easily. The effects of surprise are by nature temporary but present lucrative opportunity when aggressively exploited. The principle of surprise has increased in importance with the advent of AirLand Battle doctrine and needs to be given more emphasis and positive treatment.

The second area suggested for improvement concerns our complex of programs and functions that are related to the elements of surprise and security. In pursuing these two principles, our doctrine seems to have violated a third principle--that of simplicity. Despite the fact that these programs are mutually supporting, that deception can support or be supported

by UPSEC, the fact remains that these are two separate programs that develop two separate annexes for our operations plans. When we turn to the UPSEC annex as presented in AR 630-1, we find that protective measures under UPSEC may include deception, jamming, camouflage, or physical destruction. These, less camouflage, are the components of L3CM, a strategy covered by a third regulation and defined as the integrated use of UPSEC, military deception, jamming and physical destruction.<sup>19</sup> What is clear in this confusion is that the same measures are involved in different programs, that any hierarchy is cloudy at best, and that the mere complexity can jeopardize efforts being placed most efficiently toward the true purpose.

Our own experience provides a possible basis for improving this situation. Prior to the 1978 Field Manual 90-2, Tactical Deception, our doctrine included the integrated concept of tactical cover and deception.

Cover was defined as:

Measures designed to provide security to a plan, operation, or activity. Cover includes special measures taken to shield the real plan, operation, or activity as well as to intensify normal security and passive defense measures.

As an integrated concept, cover and deception measures were defined as:

those passive measures intended to withhold information from the enemy as through security and concealment (cover) coupled with those active measures accomplished with the intention that the enemy will detect them (deception).

UPSEC was clearly a basic element subordinate to tactical cover and deception.<sup>20</sup> While the tactical cover and deception estimate and annex presented by our old manuals do not show the detail developed in our current publications, the fact that they called for only one planning effort to be accomplished would seem to yield simplicity as well as integration. The similarity between the above definition for cover and deception measures and the Soviet distinction of active and passive *maskirovka* is also noteworthy.

The third area suggested for improvement in our doctrine is related to

what we expect from deception. In surveying deception failures as well as successes, our new FM 90-2 points out that unreasonable expectations are a common reason for failure of deception efforts. In reviewing our own doctrine, however, it becomes evident that perhaps we tend to set our expectations for deception unreasonably high. As pointed out in the preceding analysis, our deception doctrine seeks to induce the enemy to take a specific action which is favorable to or exploitable by us. The examples given in our manuals bear out that our deception objectives will be very specific on what it is that the enemy is expected to do. Consequently, these objectives are very difficult to achieve. Our doctrine recognizes that there are some deception objectives that are easier to achieve than others. These include objectives which call for the enemy not to act rather than act, which reinforce preconceptions, or which confuse the enemy by overloading his collection system. Our doctrine could be improved by increasing the emphasis on these types of more reasonable deceptions and decreasing the emphasis on trying to make 'Red Army 51st BN commander give the command to move the majority of his battalion's troop, armor, and AUA assets from hill 456 to hill 123 no later than 48 hours prior to the commencement of blue offensive. 81 This is not to say that the latter type of deception objective is unreasonable, but that the other types will be more frequently appropriate to enemy situations and availability of resources. Our doctrine includes an excellent methodology for development of deception plans. We need to insure our objectives are attainable.

Lastly, we need to provide our Army with more specifics with regard to deception. Skepticism is likely to remain in much of the army until it sees that deception is indeed executable. While doctrine itself is only intended to provide guiding principles and operational concepts, there remains a void in our training and literature with regard to specific techniques,

capabilities of deception equipment, effects of terrain and weather, signatures of various activities, and capabilities of various surveillance means. While classification of some information would obviously be restrictive, laying out some hard facts and planning factors through such media as training circulars could give leaders and planners throughout the army a better grasp of how to see, how to hide, and how to mislead. The result would be a lot more confidence in the viability of deception and our ability to execute it.

The U.S. Army is heading in the right direction with regard to deception. We have an overall doctrine within which deception can truly be a vital element. Good efforts are being made in developing equipment and fielding force structure that will enhance our capability to perform battlefield deception at the tactical level. Our new battlefield deception manual sets deception within a coordinated framework at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels. These suggestions for improvement can assist in developing a deception capability that will help us to achieve surprise, seize the initiative and defeat the enemy in the next war.

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