



Gerasimov on Future War and Modernization Priorities

OE Watch Commentary: The Chief of the General Staff, First Deputy Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation, General Valeriy Gerasimov, addressed the plenary session of the Academy of Military Sciences at the General Staff Academy about the nature of future war and Russia's modernization priorities, as described in the accompanying excerpted article from *RIA Novosti*. The keynote speech by the Chief of the General Staff has traditionally been the highlight of these events, and make it possible to understand what the "Russian Army's brain" is concerned with, which wars it considers most likely, and how it intends to prepare for those wars. In 2001, for example, the former Chief of the General Staff, Anatoliy Kvashnin, spoke about the conflict between supporting the conventional forces or strategic nuclear deterrent forces and was quoted saying "The Russian Army resembles a person whose one hand (the Strategic Rocket Forces) is pumped up, while the other one (the conventional forces) is short, weak, and withered." A few years later one of General Kvashnin's successors, General Makarov, would initiate the greatest reorganization of the Russian Armed Forces in over 100 years, resulting in a major modernization of the conventional forces.

In the article Gerasimov speaks about many of his previously discussed themes, including the fact that Russia's military is modernizing and continuing to develop non-nuclear deterrence capabilities. As in the past, there was also a mention of the trend toward the blurring of distinctions between peacetime and war. Gerasimov discussed how the boundaries of the theater of military operations are expanding and that "The adversary's economic facilities and state governance systems will be the primary targets for destruction." He also points out the importance of information and space by stating "In addition to the traditional realms of armed conflict, the information and space realms will be actively involved" and indirectly mentions the importance of electronic warfare by saying "countering communication, reconnaissance, and navigation systems will also play a special role."



Valery Gerasimov.
Source: Russian Defense Ministry, http://eng.mil.ru/en/management/info.htm?id=11113936@SD_Employee, CC 4.0.

The accompanying excerpted article from *TASS* lays out General Gerasimov's modernization priorities in four areas. The first is the development of a new Reconnaissance-Strike System (ROS), which may be a reference to the already fielded *Strelets* ROS, which has reportedly been quite capable. The new ROS is intended to reduce the cycle for completing fire missions by 2–2.5 times and increase the accuracy of targeting by 1.5–2 times. The second area is on improvements to command and control structures and information technology for precision weapons, which will reduce the time for preparing for the use of high-precision weapons by 1.5 times. The third area focuses on the continued development of counter UAV technologies, some of which will be based upon "new physical principles." The last modernization priority is the development of Reconnaissance-Strike UAVs, which will not only conduct reconnaissance missions, but will also be armed for combat missions. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)**

“The main distinguishing features of future conflicts will be the broad employment of precision and other types of new armaments, including robotic... In addition to the traditional realms of armed conflict, the information and space realms will be actively involved...”

(continued)



Continued: Gerasimov on Future War and Modernization Priorities

Source: “Генштаб: особенностью конфликтов будущего станет применение роботов и космических средств, (General Staff: Future conflicts will be characterized by the use of robots and space vehicles),” TASS, 24 March 2018. <http://tass.ru/armiya-i-opk/5062463>

...are being refined through the balanced development of the Armed Forces’ branches of service and branches of arms, and by increasing the level of equipment with state-of-the-art armaments and military equipment...

A New Reconnaissance-Strike System [Разведывательно-Ударная Система] for the Armed Forces

This should profoundly reduce the time cycle for completing fire missions by 2–2.5 times and increase the accuracy of targeting by 1.5–2 times...

Precision Weapons [Применение Высокоточного Оружия]

Improvements to command and control structures and information technology has made it possible to reduce the time for preparing for the use of high-precision weapons by 1.5 times...

Countering UAVs [Оснащение комплексами БПЛА]

The expansion of the use of unmanned aerial vehicles and difficulties of striking them by the existing air defense system require the creation of the efficient countermeasure system. The advanced systems of countermeasures to the use of UAVs, including the ones based on the new physical principles, are being developed and have already begun to be supplied to the Armed Forces..

Reconnaissance-Strike UAVs [Разведывательно-Ударные БПЛА]

The development of multi-purpose unmanned aerial vehicles, which conduct not only reconnaissance missions, but also combat missions is being conducted...

Source: “В Минобороны рассказали о ‘войнах будущего’ (Ministry of Defense Describes ‘Wars of the Future’),” RIA Novosti, 24 March 2018. https://ria.ru/defense_safety/20180324/1517183908.html

The main features of conflicts of the future will be the use of robotic complexes, the information realm, and sophisticated resources, the Chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, First Deputy Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation Valeriy Gerasimov, reported at a military conference at the General Staff Academy.

“Without question, every military conflict has its own hallmarks. The main distinguishing features of future conflicts will be the broad employment of precision and other types of new armaments, including robotics. The adversary’s economic facilities and state governance systems will be the primary targets for destruction. In addition to the traditional realms of armed conflict, the information and space realms will be actively involved,” Gerasimov said.

In addition, as he put it, “countering communication, reconnaissance, and navigation systems will also play a special role.”

“This is just an outline of the most likely war of the future. At the same time, the spectrum of possible conflicts is extremely broad, and the Armed Forces must be ready for any of them,” the Chief of the General Staff stressed.

He noted that the on-going building and training of the Russian Federation Armed Forces take into account these trends in the changing character of armed conflict. “The possibility of military conflicts arising simultaneously in various strategic sectors predetermined the creation of integrated groupings of troops and forces within the make-up of the military districts, which provide for the combat forces’ ability to wage combat operations effectively in both peacetime and wartime,” the Chief of the General Staff stressed...



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