Northern Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Upgrade

OE Watch Commentary: There are not enough rubles to go around to buy new equipment for all of Russia's military services. Design bureaus work on future systems while factories and shipyards rebuild and upgrade reliable platforms. The Pacific Fleet is converting the ASW (Anti-submarine warfare) ship *Marshall Shaposhnikov* into an ASW Frigate (see "Soviet Era Frigate Update Includes Pantsir Air Defense System" *OE Watch*, August 2020, and "Going Blue by 2030: Upgrading and Refitting the Pacific Fleet," *OE Watch*, July 2020). The Northern Fleet's ASW Admiral Levchenko will also get an upgrade, but not the same upgrade as the *Marshall Shaposhnikov.* It will be upgraded to be a better ASW ship. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

"The Admiral Levchenko should conduct sea trials after the overhaul by the end of next year. Besides replacing the gas turbine propulsion engines, they will replace the cooling installations and valves and fittings."

Book Review: A Look Back and Forward at Turkey's "Strategic Depth" Foreign Policy Doctrine

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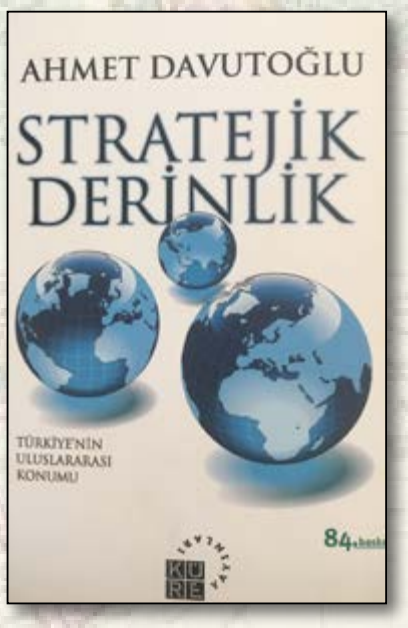
"Strategic Depth (Stratejik Derinlik)" is a Turkish book published in 2001. This was a time when international relations theorists were describing new frameworks of world order and security modalities following the end of the Cold War and bi-polar world. Works such as Francis Fukuyama's "End of History" and Samuel Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations" were icons of this intellectual period. It was in this context of a changing international system that Turkish International Relations Professor Ahmet Davutoğlu (who later served as Foreign Minister between 2009-2014 and Prime Minister between 2014-2016) attempted to define Turkey's position in his book "Strategic Depth." From around 2002 to 2012, the foreign policy that Davutoğlu outlined in his book was considered the doctrine and roadmap for Turkish foreign policy.



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Continued: Northern Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Upgrade

Source: Anton Lavrov, and Aleksey Ramm, "The Ministry of Defense has agreed to list the upgrade work on the Large Antisubmarine Warfare Ship Admiral Levchenko", *Izvestia*, https://iz.ru/1036506/2020-07-17/minoborony-soglasovalo-perechen-rabot-po-remontu-bpk-admiral-levchenko, 17 July 2020

The Ministry of Defense has agreed to list the upgrade work on the Large Antisubmarine Warfare Ship Admiral Levchenko

The Ministry of Defense has approved the list of work on the repairs of the Project 1155 Large Antisubmarine Warfare Ship (BPK) Admiral Levchenko. Plans are that it will sail again in 2021. Modernization will permit the extension of the service life of one of the Northern Fleet's largest and most active surface combatants. They will replace the ship electronics and equipment and cruise engines. Experts think that the restoration of the BPK's combat readiness will increase the Navy's capabilities to combat submarines.

A Major Repair

The Admiral Levchenko should conduct sea trials after the overhaul by the end of next year. Besides replacing the gas turbine propulsion engines, they will replace the cooling installations and valves and fittings. The shipborne electronics and firefighting equipment will be partially modernized. The last time this BPK put out to sea was in 2018.

Project 1155 combat ships constitute the base of the Russian Navy's antisubmarine warfare forces and will be kept service. Tests of the first improved Project 1155M BPK Marshal Shaposhnikov [which was upgraded to an ASW/Frigate] are underway in Pacific Ocean. The other BPK ships including the "Admiral Levchenko" will preserve their specialization - combating submarines - for the time being.

The Marshal Shaposhnikov has already been in service 30-35 years and will serve for at least another 5-7 years according to Admiral Valentin Selivanov, the former Navy Main Staff Chief. "Our Navy doesn't have enough capital ships right now. The Project 1155 BPKs possess good performance qualities, which permit them to remain far from their native coasts for a long time. They have not exhausted their potential. The BPK Vice-Admiral Kulakov of this same project recently arrived in St. Petersburg to participate in the Main Naval Review, although it was sailing on the Mediterranean Sea under my command already in 1985. Good and dependable antisubmarine warfare weapons- torpedoes and depth charges - are installed on these ships. During modernization, the BPKs will get strike missiles, which can destroy both naval surface and also ground targets. That set of weapons will permit them to be confident on the high seas.

The improved BPKs are much-needed by the Navy. Not very many capital ships have been built and transferred to the Navy during the last 30 years. For example, they are launching Project 22350 frigates into series production right now. But they are not in operation now and the Project 1155 antisubmarine warfare ships will substitute for them.

The Antisubmarine Warfare Family

The USSR built a total of 12 BPKs based upon Project 1155 "Udaloy" from 1977 through 1991. One more, the Admiral Chabanenko, was put into operation in the improved variant with the designation 1155. It is the only ship in the family that has received "Moskit" supersonic anti-ship missiles in its inventory.

These ships are designed to hunt for enemy nuclear submarines both in packs and also solo. Their great seaworthiness and autonomy distinguished them. But they did not possess powerful strike potential and serious air defense weapons.

The primary mission was to combat nuclear submarines. Eight "Rastrub-2" antisubmarine rocket-propelled torpedo systems with a range of up to 90 kilometers were installed on each ship. The 533-millimeter quadruple torpedo tubes and rocket-propelled depth charge launchers could be employed to destroy submarines. Two Ka-27PL helicopters were based in the hangars onboard.

The powerful "Polinom" hull-mounted azimuth search sonar was installed on the Project 1155 to detect submarines. This is also installed only on the Navy's largest ships - on the Aircraft-Carrying Cruiser "Admiral Kuznetsov" and the Heavy Nuclear "Orlan" Class ships.

Two "Kinzhal" air defense missile systems with a range of up to 12 kilometers and four AK-630 six-barrel rapid fire gun mounts provide the BPK's air defense.

Eight ships of this project remain in operation today. They are one of the Navy's largest combatants and lag only behind cruisers based upon their displacement, while surpassing American and Russian frigates.

The "Khameleon" Project

The Project 1155 ships can be transformed into formidable multipurpose combatants. This was demonstrated by the in-depth modernization of the BPK Admiral Shaposhnikov to the Project 1155M level in the Pacific Fleet. This improved ship mounts the universal missile launch complex (UKSK) with 16 vertical launchers for anti-ship and "Kalibr-NK" cruise missiles. It is also equipped with eight canisters of Kh-35 anti-ship missiles. The 100-millimeter gun mount of the primary armament was replaced, and other improvements were conducted. Izvestiya previously reported that the latest "Tsirkon" hypersonic missiles will also become part of the BPK's allowance of ammunition. Now the "Admiral Shaposhnikov" is capable of destroying not only submarines but also surface combatants, and also of conducting precision-guided strikes against land targets. This has permitted its reclassification from BPK to frigate.

Project 1155 BPKs could be equipped with the "Pantsir-M" state-of -the-art missile-gun complexes in the future. They should significantly improve its capabilities for self-defense from anti-ship missiles and other threats from the air.

In the future, the Navy plans for the in-depth modernization of three other ships of this project in the Pacific Fleet. A similar program for the three Northern Fleet BPKs has not yet been announced.