



Northern Fleet Will Receive Automated C&C System Integrating Air, Land and Sea

OE Watch Commentary: The Soviet Union and, later, Russia made serious efforts to develop an operational-level reconnaissance strike complex which could identify and destroy threat targets in near-real time. There were significant difficulties in integrating air and ground reconnaissance to develop a comprehensive intelligence picture and targeting matrix. Russia has now realized that capability at the tactical and operational level and is expanding this to also integrate naval surface intelligence into the comprehensive, common display as the accompanying excerpted article reports. Artificial intelligence will process data and recommend systems to eliminate threats across the vast Arctic. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

“Presently, the Northern Fleet is saturated with state-of-the-art reconnaissance systems.”

Source: Aleksandr Kruglov and Aleksey Ramm, “Холодный интеллект: военные накроют Арктику сплошным полем наблюдения (Cold Intellect: Military personnel will cover the Arctic with a solid surveillance field),” *Izvestia*, 21 December 2018. <https://iz.ru/823286/aleksandr-kruglov-aleksei-ramm/kholodnyi-intellekt-voennye-nakroiut-arktiku-sploshnym-polem-nabliudeniia>

Ministry of Defense spokesmen ...stated that the effectiveness of the advanced automated command and control system is being tested jointly with representatives ...of the defense industry. They plan to transfer the system to the Northern Fleet in 2019.

Presently, the Northern Fleet is saturated with state-of-the-art reconnaissance systems. Navy, ground forces, and air force formations have their own command and control systems, where information, which is received from their own systems, is accumulated. Lack of cross-service integration does not permit the full realization of their potential.

Now all weapon systems will receive centralized command and control. They will receive information from the Fleet’s combat ships, Naval Aviation aircraft, radio-technical and radar sites, unmanned aerial vehicles, and airborne early warning and control aircraft. The intelligence information will converge and will be processed in real time with the use of artificial intelligence. Its mission is to determine possible enemy operations and to transmit potential decisions to commanders.

All of the information will converge at the combat information post and will be displayed on a special screen. All ground-based, airborne, and naval surface targets, and, in the future, the situation on the “underwater” front – information about enemy submarines and unmanned submersibles will arrive from sonar stations - will be plotted on the screen in real time. The system will instantaneously determine the type of detected targets, the threat level, speed, altitude, and direction of movement. If necessary, the C&C system will issue target designations. It will permit the establishment of the continuous exchange of information among all of the users, which will provide the capability to instantaneously react to a change in the combat situation.

Now a commander of any level will obtain a complete picture of enemy operations and recommendations for their destruction. That information will permit the adoption of a precise and effective decision at all command and control levels. And it will also help rationally assign subordinate men and equipment. For example, if necessary it could send additional ships to an area to provide security of navigation in the water areas of the Northern Maritime Route. The system could also expeditiously make decisions about the employment of strike weapons, including cruise missiles.

That system is needed not only in wartime but also in peacetime, taking into account the enormous expanses, which one needs to monitor in the Arctic. Russian Federation Admiral Selivanov, the former Chief of the RF Navy Main Staff, stated that “The experiments on the introduction of a similar system were conducted approximately 30 years ago. It was initially called the air and naval situation illumination system. That C&C system is urgently needed in the Northern Fleet. We have to track enormous expanses in this region. This year a new mission has appeared – monitoring the Northern Maritime Route”.

The Northern Maritime Route – is the shortest route between Russia’s European portion and the Far East. It has been defined by Russian Federation law as Russia’s historically developed national single transportation line of communications in the Arctic. Foreign military ships will be able to sail along the Northern Maritime Route only after the notification of Russian authorities.

Reconnaissance-in-Force Russian Style

By Lester W. Grau

“Integrated fires, rapid detect-destroy systems and the controlled, merciless onslaught of smaller robot tanks and assault vehicles may rip through robust defenses to determine the true nature of the defense and prepare the main attack to totally dismantle it. To the Russian way of thinking, the reconnaissance-in-force remains a viable method of tactical intelligence. Learning how to employ it optimally is the current challenge.”

This paper was originally published in *Armor* journal’s Winter-Spring 2018 edition.

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