

MILITARY SCIENCE:

A system of knowledge concerning the nature, essence and content of armed conflict, and concerning the manpower, facilities and methods for conducting combat operations by means of armed forces and their comprehensive support.

Military science investigates the objective laws governing armed conflict, and elaborates questions pertaining to the theory of military art, which is the basic component of military science, as well as questions pertaining to the organization training and supply of armed forces, and also deals with military historical experience.

Soviet military science is based on Marxist-Leninist teachings and is guided by the method of materialistic dialectics and historical materialism, taking into account and using the achievements of those other sciences which tend to promote continual development and progress in the military sphere.

MILITARY ART:

The theory and practice of engaging in combat, operations, and armed conflict as a whole, with the use of all resources of the service branches and Services of the armed forces, and also support of combat activities in every regard. Military art, as a scientific theory, is the main field of military science, and includes tactics, operational art, and strategy, which constitute an organic unity and are interdependent.

MILITARY STRATEGY:

The highest level in the field of military art, constituting a system of scientific knowledge concerning the phenomena and laws of armed conflict.

On the basis of the tenets of military doctrine, the experience of past wars, and analysis of the political, economic and military conditions of the current situation, military strategy investigates and elaborates on problems pertaining to the training of the armed forces as a whole and the individual Services and their strategic use in war; the forms and methods of conducting and directing war; and also problems pertaining to comprehensive strategic support to the combat operations of the armed forces.

At the same time, military strategy is a field of practical activity for higher military command in training the armed forces for war and providing leadership in armed conflict. Military strategy exerts an influence on the preparation of a country for war in such a way as to ensure victory.

STRATEGIC GOAL:

A goal of the hostilities, the attainment of which results in a radical change in the military, political, and strategic situation during a war as a whole, or in a theater of hostilities.

Strategic goals may be assigned to the armed forces of a country or to individual Services. They are achieved in the course of hostilities, in the first nuclear strike delivered by strategic means, or during some period of the war, or during a strategic offensive operation in a theater of operations (a strategic offensive in a theater of operations).

Depending on their nature and on the time they are achieved in the course of hostilities, strategic goals may be intermediate or final. On the way to attainment of a strategic goal, the armed forces fulfill, simultaneously or successively, a number of missions of strategic character and importance.

OPERATIONAL ART:

A component part of military art, dealing with the theory and practice of preparing for and conducting combined and independent operations by major field forces or major formations of the Services. Operational art is the connecting link between strategy and tactics. Stemming from strategic requirements, operational art determines methods of preparing for and conducting operations to achieve strategic goals, and it gives the initial data for tactics, which organizes preparation for and waging combat in accordance with the goals and missions of operations. Besides the general theory of operational art, each Service has its own operational art.

MILITARY TACTICS:

A special field in the theory and practice of military art which studies the objective laws of combat and develops methods of preparing for combat and conducting it, on land, at sea, and in the air. Military tactics occupies a subordinate position with respect to operational art and strategy, acting in their interests, and serving to achieve the goals set for it by the operational art. Each Service and each branch, by virtue of its intrinsic peculiarities, has its own theory and practice for the organization and conduct of combat and, consequently, its own tactics too, which are called Service tactics or branch (arms) tactics.