A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TOWARD DEVELOPING ASW TACTICS BASED ON PLAUSIBLE SOVIET RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Robert Louis Peck

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# NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL Monterey, California



# THESIS

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by

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7.1

March 1974

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A Systematic Approach Toward Developing ASW Tactics Based on Plausible Soviet Resource Allocation

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by

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### ABSTRACT

This thesis relates the fact that, in the past, our ASW community has placed great (and justifiable) emphasis in detection and classification of submarines, while a serious lag in tactical procedures has developed. In order to alleviate this problem, it was felt that a systematic approach be taken which utilizes the principles of Operations Research.

By examining submarine warfare from the viewpoint of the Soviet Union, a resource allocation problem has been devised which compares the various submarine classes and the possible mission areas in which they may be assigned. Characteristics and available numbers of submarines were estimated, and the resulting allocation of forces was determined.

Although the analysis presented was based on hypothesized data, the strength in this approach lies in its flexibility and a wide range of applications. These features have been presented in Section III.

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1. SUBMARINE TYPES AND MISSION AREAS \_\_\_\_\_\_17

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## I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The threat of submarine attack has been, from the period of the United States Civil War to the present, one of the most perplexing problems in warfare. A continuing struggle has been waged to produce new and more sophisticated detection devices and weaponry to combat this threat. Yet, with the advent of each anti-submarine measure has come increasingly sophisticated submarines and their associated striking powers. Tactics, too, have followed this continual see-saw in an effort by each side to gain some slight advantage over the other.

Today, the anti-submarine warfare community finds itself in a position of having to contend with a large variety of modern nuclear and conventional submarines, each with special operating characteristics and tasked with distinct operational objectives.

It has been noted that, "our usual attitude is along lines of long, reliable detection ranges with excellent classification characteristics."<sup>1</sup> In essence, we have placed great (and justifiable) emphasis in detection and classification, while a serious lag in tactical procedures has developed. In view of the variety of undersea weapons platforms our potential adversaries are continually producing, we must take positive and carefully formulated corrective measures to alleviate this situation.

This paper utilizes the principles of Operations Analysis to direct our anti-submarine tactical methodology toward the specific threats we are most likely to face in our various naval operations. By accepting the premise that the Soviet Union has developed a systematic allocation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Anti-Submarine Warfare Laboratory Report No. NADC-AW-N5906, Future Detection and Classification Methods in Anti-Submarine Warfare (U), p. 1, 5 March 1959 (SECRET document).

of its submarine resources, we will be able to anticipate both the strength, and nature of the forces we may oppose in a wartime environment.

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#### A. DEVELOPMENT

It is the goal of this paper to provide a systematic approach toward examining Soviet submarine resources, the various mission areas in which these resources may be utilized, and ultimately, the allocation of these assets. With full realization of the rapidly expanding Soviet naval posture and the recent advances of their technology, it is reasonable to assume that they currently employ Operations Research/ Systems Analysis principles in much the same manner as do Western scientists. In this regard, Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union S.G. Gorshkov stated, "We have had to cease comparing the number of warships of one or another type and their total displacement (or the number of guns in a salvo, or the weight of this salvo), and turn to a more complex, but also more correct appraisal of the striking and defensive power of ships, based on a mathematical analysis of their capabilities and quantitative characteristics."<sup>2</sup>

Putting ourselves behind the desk of the top military decision makers in the Kremlin we will view the submarine warfare picture through "red colored glasses" and develop an optimal solution to the problem of submarine allocation. By adopting this method of analysis we will determine a rational approach we might expect the Soviet analysists to take in submarine mission assignments, and will therefore facilitate optimizing U.S. ASW tactics to counter our most likely opponents.

Visualize, if you will, Admiral Gorshkov calling to his office, the leaders of the Soviet Navy. He has before him, two charts; one showing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Gorshkov, S. G., "Navies in War and in Peace," United States Naval Institute Proceedings, Vol. 100, Number 1, p. 19-20, January 1974.

the sixteen submarine types currently serving the fleet, and the other showing the ten missions on which these submarines are likely to be employed. Figure 1 lists the submarines and missions under consideration. To the leaders assembled before him, Admiral Gorshkov assigns the task of determining an "optimal" allocation of the submarine fleet. The scenario he prescribes is one in which the U.S. has refused to heed numerous grave warnings issued by the Soviet Union. As a result of repeated U.S. threats to the freedom of the Soviet people, all-out war is close at hand.

Upon leaving Admiral Gorshkov's office, the leaders decide to present this problem to their military analysists.

After several weeks, the Naval Analysis Branch presents to the leaders, a report containing several alternatives from which Admiral Gorshkov and his staff select the linear program discussed below.

### B. LINEAR PROGRAM

Table I displays a resource-mission matrix<sup>3</sup> in which the pertinent submarine capabilities and limitations have been examined in order to determine which of the mission areas each type of submarine would be likely to be assigned. This table shows that four of the original six mission areas have been subdivided. The anti-convoy mission has been expanded to include missions whose sole objective is to sink merchant vessels, and missions tasked with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> It is important to note that to preclude the necessity of security classification, submarine characteristics and total numbers available have been approximated, and are presented for purposes of illustration. These numbers are consistent with those currently available in unclassified sources.

destroying specific cargos (petroleum, steel, armament, etc.). The anti-United States Task Group mission area has been subdivided into missions aimed at placing aircraft carriers out of commission, and missions designed to destroy carrier defenses. The missions designed to strike continental U.S. targets have been divided into those to strike industrial areas and those to strike SAC bases. Barrier patrols have been redefined to be patrols to counter the submarine threat, and barriers to counter the surface ship threat.

The characteristics for each submarine type listed in Table I were used to determine possible missions for each submarine class. Ranges have been divided into short (S), medium (M), and long (L). Speeds are listed as slow (S) for those whose maximum submerged speed is less than, or equal to sixteen knots, and fast (F), for those capable of submerged speeds in excess of sixteen knots. The category of power was divided into conventional (C), and nuclear (N). Weapons loads for the various submarines are torpedoes (T), guided missiles (G), and ballistic missiles (B). Notice that, in all cases, those classes of submarines which are armed with missiles also carry torpedoes. In addition, because it is unreasonable to expect that all submarines are available at any given time, the number of each submarine type available has been chosen to be eighty percent of the totals.

In Table I, an X represents the decision that a submarine of type i would be a reasonable choice to fulfill mission j. For example, a Z class sub might be assigned to counter merchant shipping, but due to the submarine's characteristics, would be a poor choice in a role against U.S. Task Groups.

The decision was made to formulate a linear program which maximized the utility of the submarine fleet, subject to the constraints that all

mission areas were to be fulfilled, and that the number of submarines of each type was not to be exceeded.

In order to meet this objective, each class of submarine was compared with a reference class (in this case, the Y class was chosen). The subjective determination was then made as to the "value" of a submarine of type i. Based on the age of each class and its overall contribution toward insuring the security of the U.S.S.R., these values were assigned to the classes as shown in Table II. For example, one Y class submarine is "worth" nine E class subs. Another way of viewing these values is to answer the question; "The loss of how many E class submarines is equal to the loss of one Y class sub?" Due to the nature of the objective function, and in order to facilitate computations, a base value of one was chosen for the Y class submarines.

Next, the marginal utility of each submarine in its possible mission areas was determined. By examining the requirements of each mission, and by knowing how much a given submarine contributes toward the mission, these quantities were calculated. Marginal utility values are shown in Table II. For example, each H class submarine represents three percent of the total requirement needed against U.S. SAC bases. Stated in different terms, using only H class submarines to counter U.S. SAC bases, 33.3 subs would be needed.

In mathematical notation, the linear program is as follows:

Maximize  

$$z = \sum_{j=1}^{10} \sum_{i=1}^{15} v_{ij} X_{ij}$$
Subject to  

$$\sum_{j=1}^{10} X_{ij} \leq b_i \forall i$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{15} a_{ij} X_{ij} = 1 \forall j$$

 $x_{ij} \geq 0 \quad \forall i, j$ 

where  $V_{ij} \equiv$  the value of a submarine of type i on mission  $j^4$ ,

- X<sub>ij</sub> ≡ the total number of submarines of type i used on mission j,
  - b. = the total number of type i
     submarines available,
- a<sub>ij</sub> = the marginal utility of type i

Note that the expression  $\sum_{i=1}^{2^{5}} a_{ij} X_{ij} = 1 \forall_{j}$  is the constraint that all missions be fulfilled<sup>5</sup>.

With the objective function and the constraint equations listed above, and the marginal utilities and values shown in Table II, a computer program was written to determine an optimal allocation of the available submarines. Table III illustrates the values determined.

It was seen that in several instances two or three classes of submarines were similar in that they were capable of performing the same missions, and had been assigned similar values and marginal utilities.

To simplify the linear program, a revised matrix utilizing combined marginal utilities, and averaged values was determined. This matrix is shown in Table IV. Table V displays the corresponding solutions to the linear program. It is readily seen that combining classes of submarines

<sup>4</sup> While each submarine type has been assigned a value, it must be noted that  $V_{ij}$  is zero in many cases. For example, the value of a Z class sub against merchant shipping is 20, while its value against CVA's is zero.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> In the context of this analysis "fulfilled" means that the missions are to be accomplished to some input degree. For example, to fulfill the convoy mission does not necessarily mean that all convoy ships are sunk. The actual value of the target amounts would then constitute different Soviet Strategies.

affected the solution very little.

The computer analysis used in the preparation of this paper was conducted using the Mathematical Programming System (MPS-360) package in conjunction with an IEM-360 computer. It is felt that MPS-360 is an excellent tool in such analyses, and has special merits, in that the capability to perform sensitivity analyses is incorporated into the system. A listing of the computer program and output follows Section III. Also, see Ref. 4 for detailed instructions concerning the use of MPS-360.

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#### III. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

It is recognized that in formulating the linear program described in Section II from the viewpoint of the Soviet Union, a rather "simplistic" approach was taken. Obviously, by utilizing detailed intelligence information as inputs, outputs more closely approximating the real world could have been obtained. In addition, by defining marginal utility to mean "missions per submarine," some economists might argue that it is unreasonable to expect that each submarine added to a particular mission area contributes the same amount toward fulfilling the goal of the mission as did the previous submarine (i.e., is it reasonable to assume that marginal utilities are constant?).

Often, we have been content to rely on World War II methods which were successful before the emergence of the nuclear submarine. From these outdated tactics we have devised tactics for implementation in today's Navy. Our current tactical publications consist of numerous procedures limited in scope, and general in nature. Is it not reasonable to expect that with the specialized nature of our current naval missions we may anticipate encountering adversaries equally specialized? Such a redundant question should certainly point towards devising new tactics designed to meet a modern challenge.

A closer examination of the methods presented in this paper reveals that through the use of the linear program we are able to conduct meaningful sensitivity analyses. By fixing one input we may examine the range of other variables for which a given solution remains unchanged. For example, we may ask the question, "Assuming that the characteristics of the other classes of Soviet submarines do not change, how will the adversaries we may expect to face vary as a particular class of

submarines is phased out of service, or new classes are introduced? "

In addition, we may use the outputs generated by this model to evaluate current tactics. For example, by analyzing a given tactic we may be able to predict the type of submarine characteristics most vulnerable to that tactic. Then by determining on which of our missions we would be most likely to encounter those submarines, we will be able to conduct more specific training to strengthen our capabilities. In recent years there have been encouraging results from experimental tactics evaluated during fleet exercises<sup>6</sup>. Certainly, the information resulting from this linear program can serve to amplify our belief that these new tactical methods have merit in given circumstances, and we will be able to evaluate alternative courses of action.

Perhaps even more importantly, use of these methods will enable us to evaluate the overall effects of a change in tactics in a given area. For example, a new CVA screening tactic cannot be expected to result in greater survivability of the CVA if the enemy elects to commit proportionally greater submarine assets to the anti-CVA mission. In this case, the value of the new screen tactic will be manifested in increased survivability of the target of some other submarine mission. The identity of this target, and the magnitude of the savings might be estimated from this program.

Application of the linear program presented here is not restricted to the all-out war scenario described, nor is it limited to the characteristics of the submarines listed. In a limited war in which one or more missions described in the analysis are not applicable, the linear program may easily be modified. Similarly, as new submarine classes are

<sup>6</sup> See Ref. 2.

established or as new missions are foreseen, this approach may also be used.

Without question there are many avenues yet to be examined in regard to the implementation of such an approach to our ASW. In particular, devising new tactics suggested by the output of the linear program will require detailed development of the input variables. When assigning actual marginal utilities to submarine missions, the scope and nature of the missions must be very thoroughly analyzed. For example, by stating that 20 submarines of type i are required to fulfill mission j, we must be willing to estimate both the mission objectives and the submarine capabilities in considerable detail.

It has not been the intent of this paper to provide "the" answer to the difficulties facing our current ASW endeavors. Rather, the methods presented here are offered as one logical approach to ASW, designed to eliminate some of the guesswork and outmoded bases which now serve as foundation for much of our efforts.

Used as a tool, the linear program and extensions of the methods presented here will enable our policy makers to take a fresh look at the many and varied apsects of Anti-Submarine Warfare.
STRIKE CONTINENTAL U.S. TARGETS ANTI-MERCHANT SHIPPING ANTI-U.S. TASK GROUP DEFEND HOMELAND BARRIER PATROL MISSION AREAS ANTI-CONVOY W (conv) SUBMARINE TYPES д щ Μ ₽ D ð ⊳ മ н z ტ 띠 ſ۳ υ Ъ

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SUBMARINE TYPES AND MISSION AREAS

Figure 1



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	)NV	330	ME	ЧЭ	110	114/	mer-	CONV	voy	task-	group	cont	. U.S.	defend	an ti-t	arrier
SUUNCE	/ <b>님</b>	JS	ЪС	M	)T	\A	ship	hulls	cargo	CVA	DD's	SAC	indus.	USSR	sub	surf.
a	S	S	U	H	01	8		X	×							×
В	Σ	S	υ	F	5	4		×						×		×
W	Σ	S	U	T	35	32		Х						×		×
R	Σ	S	O	Т	15	12		Х						×		Х
Z	ر	S	ပ	Т	10	8	×	Х	×							
Ľ.	_	S	U	Ч	50	40	×	X	×							
W(conv)	Σ	S	U	G/T	5	4				×	×			×		×
Ŋ	L	S	U	G/T	15	12				×	×			×		×
G	ب_	S	U	ВЛ	20	16						×	×	×		×
z	L	Ľ.	z	F	15	12			×		×			×	×	×
>	ر_	ш	Z	Н	15	12			×		×			×	×	×
ш	لــ	ш	z	G/T	25	20				×			X	×		
P/C		Ŀ	Z	G/T	20	16							×			
Н	L	ш	Z	<b>B/T</b>	10	8						×	×	×	×	×
٢	L	Ŀ	z	B/T	40	32						×	×			

RESOURCE-MISSION MATRIX

TABLE I



														1			-
	arrier	surf.	.03	.04	.05	.05			11.	.13	.07	60.	60.			.06	
	anti-b	sub										.05	.07			.08	
	defend	U.S.S.R.		.03	.04	.05			01.	.12	.08	.07	.07	.06		.08	
	. U.S.	indus.									.04			.03	.03	.06	27
-	cont	SAC									10.					.03	40
ISSION	group	DD's							01.	01.		60.	.08				
Σ	task-	CVA							01.	.12				21.			
	107	cargo	.02				.06	.05				.11	01.				
	conv	hulls	.03	.04	.05	.06	.08	.06									
	mer -	ship					.05	.04									
Эſ	זרו	<b>4</b>	25	24	23	23	20	20	17	17	17	15	13	თ	2	5	_
' L L		20000	a	В	M	R	Z	u.	W(conv)	<b>ر</b>	უ	z	>	ш	P/C	н	≻

MARGINAL UTILITIES TABLE II

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ж	ראמ	s	I	I	1	I	1	1	I	I	1	1	ł	I	1	1	29.63
a	ISE	١	8	4	32	12	8	40	4	12	16	12	12	20	16	8	2.37
•	IIAV	A	ω	4	32	12	8	40	4	12	16	12	12	20	16	ω	32
	arrier	surf.			7.80	12.00										71.	
	anti-b	gns										12.00	5.71				
	defend	USSR		4.00	13.56								2.54	2.67			
	U.S.	indus.												17.33	16.00		
	cont.	SAC									16.00					7.83	2.37
ISSION	group	DD's								7.00			3.75				
W	task-	CVA							4.00	5.00							
	оу	cargo	8.00				8.00	7.20									
	CONV	hulls			10.64			7.80									
	mer-	ship						25.00	1								
L D	SOLIRCE		ø	۵	W	Я	Z	L	W(conv)	Ŋ	ა	Z	>	ш	P/C	н	7

Z = 3842

OPTIMAL ALLOCATION TABLE III



r $convoy$ $task-qroup$ contphuliscorgoCVADD'sSAC.03.02PPPP.03.02PPPP.05.05PPPP.05.05.05.05PP.06.05.05.05PP.01.01.12.10.01.10.12.10.08.01.10.12.12.08.01.10.12.12.08.01.11.12.12.08.01.11.12.12.08.01.11.12.12.08.01.11.12.12.08.01.11.12.12.08.01.13.12.12.08.08.14.12.12.08.08.15.11.12.12.08.15.11.12.12.08.15.11.12.12.08.15.11.12.12.08.15.11.12.12.08.15.11.12.12.08.15.15.11.12.12.16.11.12.11.12.17.11.12.11.12.18.19.11.12.11.19.11.12.11.12			Z	<b>NOISSIN</b>	-7				
hulis         cargo         CVA         DD's         SAC           .03         .02         .02         .02         SAC           .05         .02         .02         .01         .01           .05         .05         .05         .05         .01           .06         .05         .05         .02         .01           .06         .05         .05         .02         .01           .01         .12         .10         .01         .01           .10         .12         .08         .01         .01           .10         .12         .08         .01         .01           .10         .12         .08         .01         .01           .12         .12         .08         .01         .01           .12         .12         .08         .01         .01           .12         .12         .08         .01         .01           .12         .12         .01         .01         .01           .12         .12         .01         .01         .01         .01           .12         .12         .12         .01         .01         .01         .01		convoy	task-	-group	cont	. U.S.	defend	anti-b	arrier
.03       .02       .02         .05       .05       .05         .06       .05       .12         .06       .05       .12         .10       .12       .01         .12       .10       .01         .12       .10       .01         .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01         .13       .08       .01         .14       .08       .01         .15       .08       .01         .15       .08       .01         .15       .08       .01         .15       .08       .01         .15       .08       .	Ē	ulls cargo	CVA	DD's	SAC	indus.	USSR	gns	surf.
.05       .05       .05       .01         .06       .05       .12       .10         .12       .10       .01       .01         .10       .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .08       .01         .10       .12       .08       .01         .10       .12       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01       .01         .12       .08       .08       .01         .12       .08       .01       .08         .12       .08       .01       .08         .12       .08       .08       .01         .08       .08       .08       .08         .08       .08       .08       .08	0,	33 .02							.03
.06       .05       .12       .10         .12       .12       .10       .01         .10       .10       .08       .01         .110       .08       .08       .01         .12       .08       .08       .01         .12       .08       .08       .01         .12       .08       .08       .01         .12       .08       .08       .01         .12       .08       .08       .01         .12       .08       .08       .01         .12       .08       .08       .08         .12       .08       .08       .08         .08       .08       .08       .08         .08       .08       .08       .08	0,	55					.04		.05
.12       .12         .12       .10         .10       .10         .10       .01         .10       .08         .11       .08         .12       .01         .13       .01         .14       .01         .15       .08         .16       .08         .17       .01         .18       .01         .19       .08         .11       .08         .12       .08         .08       .01         .08       .08         .08       .08         .08       .08         .08       .08         .08       .08	0.	05 .05				•			
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.08 .08 .03 .03 .03 .03 .03 .03 .03 .03 .03 .03					10.	.04	.08		.07
.08		01.		.08			.07	90.	60.
80.			.12			.03	.06		
.08						.03			
					0.8	.06	.08	.08	.06
60.					60.	.07			

TABLE IV

MARGINAL UTILITIES (MODIFIED)



ж	)A_	IS	1	ł	I	1	I	1	I	1,45	1	29.78
D	BS	n	8	48	48	16	16	24	20	14.55	8	2.22
• 7	IIA	\A	8	48	48	16	16	24	20	16	8	32
	arrier	surf.		20.00								
	anti-b	sub						16.67				
	defend	USSR		15.44				4.42	1.22			
	U.S.	indus.							18.78	14.55		
	cont.	SAC					16.00				8.00	2.22
ISSION	group	DD's				7.67		2.92				
N	task-	CVA				8.33						
	γο,	cargo	8.00		16.80							
	con	hulls		12.56	6.20							
	mer-	ship			25.00							
		SOURCE	a	B,W,R	Z,F	W(c), J	ი	N,V	ш	P/C	H	۲

TABLE V

OPTIMAL ALLOCATION (MODIFIED)

Z = 3468



Intron       (OPTIMAL)         ME = 0.90 MINS. ITERATION NUMBER = 43         Intron ME         Intro ME	S-PTF4	EXECUTOR.	MPS/360 V2-M	10
IME = 0.90 MINS. ITERATION NUMBER = 43        NAME         FUNCTIONAL         3482.37222         VALUE         RESTRAINTS	SOLUTION	(OPT IMAL)		
•••NAME•••ACTIVITYDEFINED ASFUNCTIONAL3482.37222VALUERESTRAINTSALOTI	FIME-=0.	90-MINSITER	ATION-NUMBER-	
FUNCTIONAL 3482.37222 VALUE RESTRAINTS ALOTI	• •	• NAME • •	••• ACTIVITY •••	DEFINED AS
RESTRAINTS ALOTI	FU		3482.37222	
	RE	STRAINTS		ALUII
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	• DUAL ACTIVITY 2.24.6640400 2.23.2559265 2.22.2559265 1.22.2559265 1.22.2559265 1.25.649969 1.15.664988899 1.15.6649869 1.15.6888899 1.1.7.8888899 1.1.8888899 1.1.8888899 1.1.8888899 1.1.888889 1.1.88889 1.1.888889 1.1.88889 1.1.8888889 1.1.8888889 1.1.8888889 1.1.8888889 1.1.8888889 1.1.8888889 1.1.8888889 1.1.8888889 1.1.888888889 1.1.888888888888889 1.1.888888888888888 1.1.8888888888888
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- 10	SLACK AGTIVITY 3482.37222- 29.62778
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X118 X118	VALUE	13.00000	SUB11	1.00000
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X121 X122	SUB12	1.00000		
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submarine classes and the possible mission areas in which they may be assigned. Characteristics and available numbers of submarines were estimated, and the resulting allocation of forces was determined.

Although the analysis presented was based on hypothesized data, the strength in this approach lies in its flexibility and a wide range of applications. These features have been presented in Section III.



