***Robert Rybak, PhD***

**The United Baltic Fleet of the Warsaw Pact: a forgotten history**

 One of the few stories remembered today is the story of the united naval forces of the Warsaw Pact, which operated at the Baltic Sea for 36 years. It was a fleet that consisted of the Soviet Navy, the GDR Navy, and the Polish Navy. The united naval forces trained together and conducted joint naval operations. They jointly supervised the zone of territorial waters and remote regions of the Baltic Sea and the North Atlantic. The conducted training was to ensure the readiness of the Warsaw Pact states to defend themselves against an attack by NATO. The main force in the joint fleet was the Navy of the Soviet Union.

 The fleets operated on the basis of the Soviet art of war. Joint operational training was conducted on the basis of Soviet war experiences and newly developed solutions. An important element of the operational training conducted was cooperation with other types of armed forces such as the air and land forces.
The main element of the joint operational training was to conduct a defensive and offensive operations with simultaneous sea landing. Warships of various classes took part in naval operations, including submarines, frigates, corvettes, destroyers, missile ships and more. The fleet had large landing forces, which included tanks and combat vehicles and several thousand marines. It operated on the basis of common procedures.
 The United Baltic Fleet was to be used mainly to support land forces, but also to conduct a strategic operation. The United Naval Forces of the Warsaw Pact were one of the most advanced methods of military cooperation and were characterized by high operational efficiency. They were the only fleet of this kind in the world. Therefore, it is worth remembering them and conducting research, especially on the Soviet art of war.